



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

4520 Rosedale Road
Middletown, OH 45042
513-422-2853
www.fcc-middletown.org

Chalice Communicator

June 30, 2020

Number 6

Assoc. Pastor: Rev. Connor Thompson

Assoc. Pastor: Minister Jeff Wilder

Music Director: Michael Hefner

Moderator: Roger Byrd

Elders: Sharon Amburgey

Natalie Byrd

Beth Heinkel

John Heinkel

Dave Lombard

Lora Schueller

Guy Stone

Marilyn Strong

Cliff Thompson

Karen Thompson

SEE YOU ON SUNDAYS

Worship – 10:30 a.m.

STATISTICS: Attendance Offering

5/31	20+18 online	\$3,285.00
6/07	21+20 online	\$1,770.00
6/14	16+21 online	\$1,402.00
6/21	22+20 online	\$ 666.00
6/28	24+20 online	\$1,113.00

Important numbers/emails:

Assoc. Pastor Connor Thompson

(513) 594-0070

pastorconnorlthompson@gmail.com

Assoc. Pastor Jeff Wilder

(513) 594-5431

mastermasonjeff@gmail.com

Elder Co-chair David Lombard

(937) 361-6452



LOVE, PRAY, SERVE

"Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality."

Romans 12:9-13 (The Message)

Here we are, the end of June, wow, where has the first half of the year gone? So many things have occurred for First Christian Church in the year 2020. If you would have told me a year ago, what all we would encounter, I would not have believed you. But nevertheless, we *don't quit in hard times*. The last three months of the COVID-19 pandemic have been a challenge for everyone. It has created circumstances for the church not seen in the last century. Nevertheless, we *don't quit in hard times*. We made the tough decision to cancel in person events, we focused on providing live-stream services for you at a time when many churches our size were still learning what live streaming was. We have seen a change in pastoral staff, from 0 pastors to 4 pastors, then 2 pastors, but still we *don't quit in hard times*.

If you would have told me 3 years ago that I would be serving on the pastoral staff here at FCC, I would have emphatically denied it. Despite having been encouraged by the likes of Rev. Harris, Rev. Roe, Rev. Dinges and Rev. Siegman through the years.

As we start to find a new normal for this time, I want to thank you all for the *inventive hospitality* you show, and the *love from the center of who you are*. Pastor Jeff and I are ever proud to be able to serve God alongside you and continue to do so in a different world. As the world has changed, so have we, as a church, as individuals, and we will continue to change.

Pastor Jeff and I in consultation with our Elders and Board and continue to guide the ship through a time of challenge. We ask for your continued support and prayers as we guide this church to do God's work in our community in new and ever-changing ways for a new and ever-changing world.

It is my privilege and pleasure to show *love from the center of who I am*, to serve you.

Blessings, Rev. Connor L. Thompson

Healing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray that You will lay
your healing Hands upon all those who are
sick. We beg You to have compassion on all
those who are suffering so that they may be
delivered from their pitiful circumstances.
In Jesus, we pray.
Amen.

Prayer List:

Health: Becky Brodt, Peggy Byrd,
Jim Cassidy, Sandra Cassidy, Coni
Finrock, Allen Stone, Guy Stone
Carl Tarbox

Special Needs: Barbara Cessna,
Jean Greathouse, Lois Murphy,
Janet O'Neal

Other: All those affected by
disasters and pandemic.
Caregivers, first responders, the
homeless, heroin epidemic,
racism and all human rights, our
Country & World, war, violence,
our church, congregation and
church leaders



"You all made my 95th birthday
so special. Thank you for all the
cards, balloons and roses. I really
enjoyed seeing everyone and only
wish that I could have hugged
each one of you!"

Thanks,
Jean Greathouse

thank you!

We extend our thanks to Proctor
& Gamble and their donation to
the United Way of Greater
Cincinnati, as they were able to
provide us with a donation of 200
Disposable Masks and 36 Bottles
of Hand Sanitizer. This will allow
us to work to ensure a healthy
environment for all, as we begin
to return to the building.

ELDER MOMENT

As our congregation nears the end of another fiscal year,
Elders sincerely hope that we have served our church
family well. Along with our Board, we have worked to
navigate through the challenges that the church has
faced over the last twelve months. May we all look upon
the next fiscal year with hope, charity and enduring faith.

Blessings,

Cliff Thompson and Dave Lombard, Elder Co-chairs

CONGRATS TO THE GRADUATES IN THE CLASS OF 2020!

We extend our congratulations to Kobi Wilder, who has
graduated from Middletown High School and Butler
Tech, receiving his *Diploma* and a *Certificate in Culinary
Arts*. Kobi plans to begin his undergraduate education at
Cincinnati State, and finish at Johnson & Whales
University.

We extend our congratulations to Pastor Connor, who
graduated from Miami University, receiving a *Bachelor of
Science in Nonprofit and Community Studies*. Connor is
continuing his studies toward a *Certificate in Pastoral
Ministry* at Phillips Theological Seminary.

OUTREACH

We joined with our Membership Team on June 25th and
participated in a caravan and outside visit to celebrate
Jean Greathouse's 95th birthday. After recovering from
recent surgery and spending weeks in isolation during
rehab, Jean was elated to see 19 members of her Church
family, in addition to a local police cruiser with lights
flashing, parade by her home. Keeping our safe
distances, we were able to join her in her yard, sing
Happy Birthday and wish her well. God gave us a perfect
day and the turnout and support from our congregation
was amazing!

Additionally, we were informed that the local Clothing
Depot, which was operated by Church Women United
volunteers at the Church of the Ascension, has
permanently closed. This is a loss for our community and
in researching other possible donation sites, we've
learned of at least two established distribution centers in
Middletown. We will continue seeking additional
information.

FCC HOSTS CENTRAL ACADEMY

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic the Middletown City Schools were closed by order of the Governor. This left many end of year traditions up in the air for schools.

Staff and members of T.E.A.M. Parent Organization contacted FCC about hosting a drive in retirement party as well as 6th grade graduation. We were excited to be able to accommodate both events. This created an opportunity for some important end of year traditions to be observed, as well as honoring the governors order for schools to be shut down.

This provided an opportunity for the Staff of Central Academy to celebrate the retirement of two teachers. A much deserved celebration, even considering the unusual ending to the school year.

This also allowed the 6th grade class to be able to have a drive through and see their teachers one last time, and receive their certificate as they finish their time at Central Academy.

This is a community church supporting its neighbors, this is a small part of being a mission oriented Church.



CWF NEWS

Sarah Circle enjoyed an evening out at O'Charley's Restaurant on June 8th. We enjoyed catching up with each other since it had been several months since we last met. We will meet again at O'Charley's on July 2nd at 6:00 pm.

Esther/Rebekah Circle did not meet this month. They hope to resume meeting in the fall at the church.

If anyone in the church is in need of a cloth face mask, you may contact Zola McClish, Judy Lemmert, or Marilyn Chamberlain. We are making these for our church members free of charge as a service project.

JEAN GREATHOUSE TURNS 95

Jean Greathouse celebrated her 95th Birthday last week. Several of our members along with an officer from the Franklin Police Department formed a parade past her house, then we presented her with cards and balloons, and sang Happy Birthday. Thank you to David Lombard, Karen Powers, Cliff Thompson, Karen Thompson, Kaitlin Thompson, Pastor Connor, Pastor Jeff, Kelly Wilder, Kobi Wilder, Kingsten Wilder, Maggie Staggs, Natalie Byrd, Marilyn Chamberlain, Lynda Poynter, Zola McClish, Marilyn Strong, Daria Dearth, and Angel Dearth for taking part and Sharon Amburgey for organizing the event.



LOVE GIFT

We have been blessed with the calling of Pastor Jeff to our congregation. Prior to the Corona virus, we had a renewing of wonderful youth activities. Second hour was growing, scouting activities returned to the church and a new involvement with the Middletown Youth Coalition. Associate Pastor Jeff Wilder is actively engaged in the commissioning process that Pastor Connor recently completed. This will allow Pastor Jeff to have the credentials within the Ohio Region of the Disciples of Christ church for standing as a Reverend in our denomination. Along with the educational requirement, Pastor Jeff will have to complete a psychiatric profile and evaluation. This process costs around \$1,100 plus some travel time for meetings. We are asking for a love offering from our congregation to assist Pastor Jeff with this expense. Pastor Jeff has been “volunteering” with us for over 6 months as our youth leader. He has been sharing messages from the pulpit on Sunday mornings and has been regularly visiting with members while we have been quarantined. Gifts may be dropped off at church, mailed or online donations as we have a new tab on Givelify specifically to support this effort. The church is willing to collect these love gifts over the next few months to assist in this expense.

Thank you in advance for your continued generosity

"FEED MY SHEEP" GARDEN PROJECT UPDATE

Our Garden is beginning to take shape. We are quite late with everything due to the unseasonably cold and WET spring. (We pray that there is not an early fall to reduce our harvest.) However, corn has sprouted. Radishes are coming up. Squashes – zucchini & yellow -- are looking good. Green peppers are healthy. Due to our cucumbers not all surviving transplanting, we just put in 16 hills of cucumbers alongside the few plants that we have. Bush green beans are looking good. We have just put in a second, late planting of corn. Dave & Larry's Three sisters plot is taking shape -- Corn and acorn squash have sprouted. As soon as the corn gets a bit bigger, we will put in the pole beans at the base. Dave, Aidan McMonigle, & Larry did some weeding this past week and, believe it, or not, we actually had to water as the garden area had become quite dry. With summer upon us, we're going to need volunteers for weeding and watering. Please contact Larry or Dave to sign up. Also, even if you're not attending worship services, do drive by and take a look at everything that is growing in this small plot.

FCC T-SHIRT SALE

Get some FCC Swag, we will be selling T-Shirts to show our love for FCC. Have a beautiful shirt in Royal Blue with our beautiful Stained Glass Window on it. Show off who your church family is as you enjoy summertime weather! T-Shirts are \$10.00. We have a limited number already at the church, and will order additional shirts. Contact Pastor Connor if you would like a shirt!



VIRTUAL CAMP

Dear Ohio Region,
In late April, we shared the tough news of the decision to close Camp Christian for summer 2020 for the health and safety of all of those who are involved with our camping program. It was a devastating decision, but we knew it was what was right for us to do.

Since then, we have been hard at work developing programming and options to make available to the region. The directors and ADs from the various camps have been meeting and talking through what some of our alternative options could be and we are very pleased to announce that we will be able to provide online camp alternatives for all of our camp programs!devastating decision, but we knew it was what was right for us to do.

Our directors have done an incredible job of brainstorming, sharing resources, and coming up with some creative alternatives so that anyone who wants to will be able to share in our programs this summer! Using a virtual-camp portal, we will be sharing in camp songs, lessons, quest groups, keynotes, evening vespers services, and even hoe-downs, talent shows!

We will be following the condensed camp schedule that was provided at the beginning of April when we were exploring alternative options for camp this summer. It is as follows:

CYF – July 5-11 (STARTING THIS SUNDAY!!)

Chi Rho – July 12-18

Jr. Camp – July 19-25

Advance – July 26-August 2

Most of the programming provided for the week of camp will include videos, music, and documents that will be available for you to use and view at your leisure, or even after the week is done. However, some of the activities will be held at specific times and dates (i.e. a zoom small group gathering or cabin meeting) so it will still be important to try and be available for your specific week of programming.

Those who have already sent in an RSVP to camp have already received this email. If you have not previously RSVPd, you will need to email adicken@ccinoh.org with the following information:

- ***Camper Name***
- ***Grade the Camper just completed (or age if you are out of high school)***
- ***Email address that is best to send log-in information for the virtual camp portal***

When you send in that information, you will be registered on the virtual-camp portal. You will be sent an email to confirm your log-in information so that you can take part in the activities. You will also get a follow up email from the director(s) of your particular week to welcome you to your specific week of online programming. If there are any questions or if you need help with any part of this process, please reach out to Alan at adicken@ccinoh.org.

We know that it will not be the same as being at Camp Christian. But we also know that the spirit of Camp Christian is the Holy Spirit and that the ministry of Camp is not tied to the place, but tied to our hearts and our spirits of love and compassion.

In that spirit, we hope to see you all this summer. We hope you will share this opportunity with your friends. We hope the love of God that we know through Jesus Christ, which we come to feel at Camp Christian will still find its way into your heart in 2020. And we pray for continued health and strength that we may all be back together again next summer.

Peace and Love,
Rev. Alan Dicken
Regional Program Director
Christian Church In Ohio

LIFE LINE SCREENING

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be in our community on Thursday, July 9, 2020 at First Christian Church. Ultrasound screenings to Identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include; **Carotid Artery** (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), **Peripheral Arterial Disease** (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a **Heart Rhythm Screening** (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an **Osteoporosis Risk Assessment** for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early.

Register online TODAY at
www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or call

1-866-229-0469 to receive your discount and preferred appointment time.

July, 2020



Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			July 1	2	3	4 <div></div>
5 <div></div> Larry Back	6 <div></div> Natalie Byrd Karen Powers	7 <div></div> Kelsey Byrd	8	9 <div>Lifeline Screening</div>	10	11 World Population Day <div></div>
12 <div></div> Sharon Smith JoAnn Hoelle	13 <div>Elder Mtg.</div>	14	15	16	17 <div></div> Don Dixon	18
19 <div>Board Mtg.</div>	20 <div></div> Zola McClish	21 <div></div> Helen Morgan	22 <div></div> Peggy Burgess	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

