



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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



Chalice Communicator

July 28, 2020

Number 7

Interim Senior 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

Zola McClish

Karen Powers

Lora Schueller

Guy Stone

Marilyn Strong

Karen Thompson

What's for Dessert?

Rev. Connor L. Thompson

Interim Senior Pastor

I recently stumbled upon a resource from the United Methodist Church called "Chuck Knows Church: The Committee." I would like all of you to click [THIS LINK](#) and watch the video on hospitality.

They talk about the church as a meal, and people who have a favorite restaurant love dessert and probably know the owner. They also recommend it to their friends. When we think of First Christian Church, we have the entrée, we have worship every Sunday morning with a committed team who supports that worship, to bring it the most meaning possible, and to make it a valuable and moving time to share together. But, I ask you what is our

dessert? What makes us stay? What might make someone else stay? What makes you invite your friends? If you do not, what could be done differently to encourage you to invite your friends?

As we start another month, think about what is our dessert we offer as a church after the entrée? How do you invite friends to join you? Why will you invite friends to join you?

SEE YOU ON SUNDAYS

Worship – 10:30 a.m.

STATISTICS: Attendance Offering

6/30	Online giving	\$1,195.00
7/05	24	\$1,249.00
7/12	20	\$2371.00
7/19	33	\$ 949.36
7/26	26	\$1,273.00

Pastor Jeff's assessment fund- \$ 610.00

Coins For Camp- \$ 33.56

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-chairs

Karen Powers (513) 539-7286

Sharon Amburgey (937) 746-9120



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, 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

Good news to share from Sue Tarbox:

Good news to share from Sue Tarbox:

“Carl is doing well. Praise God! He received clearance from the doctor as he is virus free and getting more strength back everyday. We thank the congregation for all the prayers, thoughts and cards for support with our Dad. We hope to be back soon. We've been watching online and enjoying the sermons and services.

ELDER MOMENT

Our Elder meetings continue to be held on the third Monday of each month. We met on July 20th and were only partially challenged by Zoom technology. During this fiscal year, Karen Powers and Sharon Amburgey

will serve as Elder co-chairs. Karen and Zola McClish are welcomed additions as they fill our two vacancies. We are extremely thankful for the many years of elder service we received from David Lombard and Cliff Thompson as they rotated off for a short term.

We are proud of our members and leaders as we continue to move forward in the days of Covid-19. To be open for services as well as provide online services is huge! We not only found a way to hear God's word each week, we enjoy beautiful music selected by our Music Director, Michael Hefner. Our communication lines are open as we continue to reach out to members via phone calls, text messages, emails, cards and especially this newsletter.

As we welcome Pastor Connor and Pastor Jeff to their new positions on our staff, we are looking forward to a year of great teamwork.

Blessings to each of you,

OUTREACH

We encourage you to support the upcoming drive-thru food drive sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Middletown. The event will be held at our Church this Saturday, August 1st from 1:00-3:00 pm. Drop offs will be made at our carport and will help those in need throughout our community. If you have nonperishable food items to drop off prior to Saturday, please contact Pastor Connor (513) 594-0070 the Church office (513) 422-2853. They are seeking the following individually wrapped items that have a long shelf life: such as raisins, fruit cups, peanut butter crackers, granola bars, fruit bars, peanut butter, sunflower seeds/peanuts, sealed nuts, oatmeal packets, crackers, graham crackers, tuna packets, chicken pouches, beef jerky or other dried meats, Vienna sausages. These are items that are in short supply.

We want to send out a huge thank you to SanMar for again providing our Church with new clothing and to Pastor Jeff for picking up the largest quantity we have received in one shipment. This was a very big project but all went well with many helping hands. Distribution was made to 25 families plus the Middletown City Schools, The Rise After School Program, C.B.I at the Sonny Hill Community Building, 3R Development, and The Read Project at Freedom Court. What a blessing this is for our Church to be able to reach out to so many in our community! The good news is that plans are being made to do this again before the end of the year.

CWF NEWS

Sarah Circle plans to go to dinner at 6:00 pm on August 6th at O'Charley's in Middletown. Please call Karen Powers if you plan to attend. We will begin our regular meetings for the fall on Sept. 3rd. We will probably have our meeting at the church and will have more information later if our plans change.

Esther/Rebekah Circle is scheduled to begin their fall meetings on Sept. 2nd at the church. If plans change, circle members will be contacted.

Our concern for everyone's health is important during this time. If you feel you should remain in your home for the time being, please connect with us by watching our live-streamed services online. Also, you may call the ministers, elders, or the church office for any assistance that you need or for prayer requests that you may have.

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!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020 COVID EDITION!

Pastor Jeff and the Membership Team are planning a virtual Vacation Bible School for two days during the second week of August. Families are being asked to let Pastor Jeff know what days would work for the Zoom meetings. All youth who would like to participate for two days are invited to participate. Choices are: Monday and Tuesday, August 10th and 11th from 6 to 7 pm or Friday and Saturday, August 14th and 15th from 6 to 7 pm, or either.

Children will zoom in and take an adventure back to the time of Jesus and learn about Jesus directing our path. Matthew will visit and tell us about the day Jesus asked him to follow him on his path.

As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew (Levi) sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "Follow Me (as My disciple, accepting Me as your Master and Teacher and walking the same path of life that I walk)." And Matthew got up and followed Him.

We will also learn what King David meant when speaking, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Each youth participating will receive supplies to make two stepping stones, one to keep and one to bring back to the church to place around our community garden when we are able to worship together again. We will provide snacks in a box for both days, including cookies to take communion with.

We will have special visits by King David and Matthew from the Bible!

There will be videos from former Vacation Bible School teachers and members of our church.

And an in-home scavenger hunt that you can participate in to win prizes.

Each participant will receive a First Christian Church Vacation Bible School Diploma for participating.

To register, please send an email reply to FCCmiddletownoh@gmail.com. Include the days you can join us and how many children will need boxes, as well as a drop off address for a porch drop off.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Congratulations to our Elder Guy and his wife Jackie who were recognized for Guy's 50th year as a member of Kiwanis International.

Guy was presented with a Proclamation from Middletown Mayor Nicole Condrey and Councilman Tal Moon, a Certificate of Appreciation by the Kiwanis Governor of Ohio, and the Legion of Honor from the Kiwanis District 5 Lieutenant Governor Michael Rudolph.

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!



A huge thank you to each and every one of you for all that you continue to do around our property. Pulling weeds, washing windows, spraying weeds, cleaning carpets, watering flowers, cutting grass, mopping floors and the list goes on! You make it possible for us all to be proud of God's house and keep it ready for us to invite our friends to participate in worship and fellowship activities. There are always tasks on the list of things to get done. Window washing (we have a bunch of them), screen repair, painting, battery replacement on emergency lights, wax removal, kitchen cleaning, and the list goes on. As the security people say, if you see something, do something or ask someone to help you get it done if it bigger than a 1-person job. Keep up the good work on making God's house look good while we live in it!

"FEED MY SHEEP" GARDEN UPDATE

Pastor Connor conducted a dedication of our 'Feed My Sheep' garden project on Sunday, 19 July 2020. Most, who were in attendance for worship walked out for this service. All were quite surprised at just how big everything is. Everything is quite BIG and we are experiencing very good yields. As of 27 July 2020, we have had 137 radishes of varying kinds, 69 yellow squash totaling 69#, 83 zucchinis totaling 142#, 114 cucumbers totaling 38#, 23 green peppers totaling 5.5#. Not counting the radishes, that's 330.5## of produce thus far in July. The green beans will be picked soon. Likewise, assuming the winds does not blow it down, the first planting of corn should yield some sweet corn very soon. Most of our product has been donated to the Salvation Army here in Middletown for their Free Food Store. We were able to give a small amount of cucumbers, zucchinis, and yellow squash and green peppers to the food pantry at the Monroe Nazarene church just this week, as well. As we initially intended, all yields from our garden have been given away.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JEFF

First Christian Church worships the God who never changes, his inspired word has not been changed or altered and is 2000 years old. That's some serious long-term consistency. But the way that permanent message is delivered always changes.

Traditions that we think of as longstanding or unchanging were new and radical at some point – and that point was almost always far more recent than we realize. Change is scary. And a change in a place where people go for stability, and comfort, our home church, can be terrifying. In a time of transformation, there is Good news! The fact that the message we are living and preaching from the unchanging Word from an unchanging God is spiritual transformation – in other words, change. We are asking our newest members and people giving their life to the Lord to accept change. Can you remember when that happened for you? We may see new ways to bring people to our church and even new ways that we deliver the unchanging message but in the end, we are transforming lives and bringing about Change. As God entrusts us with these new members and a new way to bring his flock into the fold, we have an opportunity to teach our new family members our rich history, our values, and our ways of worshiping and honoring our Father for bringing about CHANGE in our lives. As we move forward in Gods calling and with our church family let us remember when we see small things change in the way we operate that God has given us the opportunity to see his hand move in new ways to bring people to First Christian Church, so we can help them through the transformation of his unchanging word as it changes their lives. Let us start to see opportunity where once we saw fear or problems. And finally, let us see that God and his unchanging word First Christian Church serves, is the catalyst for CHANGE in our community. With love,
Pastor Jeff

WILL, GIFTS & MEMORIALS

The Wills, Gifts & Memorials committee would like to remind everyone that an additional way to support First Christian Church is through a Memorial donation to the WG&M Fund.

The donation could be a Gift for a project or a Memorial to honor a friend or loved one, or having The Church remembered in your Will.

These gifts help sustain the Church and its' projects in God's community. You may specify a project mission of the Church or your donation will be added to the unspecified fund of the committee.

Please address your donation to First Christian Church attention **WG&M** Committee 4520 Rosedale Rd. Middletown, OH-45042.

Thank you for your consideration

August, 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						August 1 Kiwanis Food Drive 1-3 PM
2	3 Linda Poynter	4	5	6 Sarah Circle Lunch at O'Charley's 6 PM	7	8
9 Janice Kash	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Guy Stone Elder Mtg. 7 PM	18	19	20	21 Sue Tarbox	22
23 Board Mtg.	24	25	26 Brian Tarbox	27 Karen Thompson Navy Address	28 Cliff Thompson	29
30 Esther Saxbury	31					

