

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

## Chalice Communicator

August 25, 2020 Number 8

**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

#### **SEE YOU ON SUNDAYS**

Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study beginning Sept 8<sup>th</sup>
@ 1 PM & 7 PM

STATISTICS:	<u>Attendance</u>	Offering
8/02	23	\$2,724.00
8/09	19	\$2,333.00
8/16	26	\$ 995.00
8/23	26	\$1,323.00

## Important numbers/emails:

Pastor Connor Thompson (513) 594-0070 pastorconnorlthompson@ gmail.com

Assoc. Pastor Jeff Wilder (513) 594-5431 mastermasonieff@gmail.com

mastermasonjeff@gmail.com

Elder Co-chairs Karen Powers (513) 539-7286 Sharon Amburgey (937) 746-9120



## **The Mission Continues....**

Rev. Connor L. Thompson, Interim Senior Pastor

Here we are six months into living in a world overcome by the COVID-19 virus. But never the less, the mission Continues. In the course of the virus, you as a congregation have provided clothes to those in need through a donation of 178 boxes of clothes from SanMar. You have provided fresh produce to local food pantries at the Middletown Citadel Salvation Army and Monroe Nazarene Church from our Feed My Sheep Garden. You have provided a place of celebration for lives lived and lost during the virus, as well as a place to celebrate achievements such as graduations. You have provided a venue to offer affordable healthcare screening to those in our community. Most importantly, you provide a venue in which to share God with our brothers and sisters in this community, in a time of unknown, cautious optimism, and fear.

This is the mission, spreading the love and the word of God beyond our doorsteps, even when the world says it is not safe. Will the world be exactly as it was before March 2020? It probably will not. Does the mission change? NO! The Mission still continues, and I admire your ability to continue to work our mission, in a time when so many churches are unable. As we continue to work our mission look for new and exciting opportunities this fall, and join us! Join us for worship, bible study, outreach, and so much more.

An essential piece of continuing the mission is to be able to be responsible stewards of resources, so, if you have not filled out a pledge card for our finance team, please do so, even if you cannot afford to pledge, please fill one out and send it to the church. It would be amazing to get 100% of pledge cards turned in, to show 100% of our membership is engaged in continuing our mission. Remember, the mission continues.



#### Prayer List:

**Health:** : Coni Finfrock, Allen Stone, Guy Stone and all those recovering from recent surgeries and procedures, along with their caregivers

Special Needs: Barbara Cessna, Jean Greathouse, Lois Murphy 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

# THANK YOU FROM KIWANIS:

On behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Middletown, we would like to thank you for allowing us to use your facility to conduct our drive-thru food drive on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Through your generous donations as well as many others in our community we were able to collect over 400 pounds of food in less than 2 hours. This would not have been possible without support. This allows Access Counseling to provide shelf stable food to clients they serve who do not have housing, or a place to be able to cook food.

The mission of Kiwanis International is to be a global community of clubs, members and partners dedicated to improving the lives of children one community at a time.

As Kiwanians we want to express our deepest appreciation for the congregations support.

In Service,

Elder Guy Stone, Asst.
Secretary/Treasurer
Pastor Connor Thompson, Member

### **INVITATION TO BIBLE STUDY**

In early September, we invite you to join Pastor Jeff as he leads us in a new Bible Study class. To do this we need to gauge interest and take orders for materials for our study, Seamless - Bible Study: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story by Angie Smith. Gentleman of the church, this is an opportunity for us to not only support the women in our lives but to look at God from a new vantage point. As this is a study written by and about women, the content will help and educate all. It will also give us a new way to interact and worship with the women we love and cherish. Seamless is available on Amazon for \$14. We will order the books for you and get them to you via delivery and you can reimburse us when we deliver or you may order online yourself. Either way, we are asking that you respond by email to the church no later than September 1. This gives us enough time to order the material and get it to everyone in a timely manner. The email should simply state that you are interested in participating and that you would like us to order a book for you or whether you are ordering the book yourself. We hope to start the study on September 8. Our study will be on Tuesday at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm each week. The way we plan to do so is we will have an in-person study that will be broadcast live like Sunday service and a Zoom meeting as well. You will have three choices on how to attend. All we ask is that you truly help us seek God for our church by participating. When we finish this study, our hope is that the group as a whole will then choose the next study we share with one another. As a church this allows us to dive deeper into God's word in addition to giving us an opportunity of fellowship.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions on the bible study please reach out to me and we can discuss them.

God bless, Pastor Jeff Wilder

#### **ELDER MOMENT**

As we continue through this "new normal" in our lives, the Elders pray for strength and faith for all of our family at FCC. We encourage all to continue to reach out to one another, especially those of our congregation who are homebound. Let us all pray constantly for those who have not accepted Christ into their lives.

#### **OUTREACH**

We are saddened to announce that the SHALOM program has officially been canceled for this Winter season due to Covid-19. Here is a quote from Bill Fugate regarding the Board's decision: "This was a difficult decision to make but there does not appear to be any manner in which our churches and volunteers could safely shelter the homeless during this pandemic."

We successfully completed 18 years of hosting homeless guests with the help of numerous churches and thousands of volunteer hours in our community. This was a major event for our Outreach program each year and we sincerely thank everyone who participated. Many blessings resulted, not only by being able to assist those in need, but also by being able to work with volunteers from many congregations and organizations. Volunteering has enriched our lives.

### **CWF NEWS**

Sarah Circle will meet at 7:00 pm at the church on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Esther/Rebekah Circle will not be meeting in person for the time being.

All CWF members (as well as church members) are invited to a Bible study on the book "Seamless" by Angie Smith. The Bible study will start on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> and details are in Pastor Jeff's article in this newsletter.

CWF sponsored an apartment warming for Kaitlin Thompson on Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> as she is going to move to Columbus later this month.

#### **LOVE GIFT**

In last month's newsletter, you were given the opportunity to contribute toward a Love Gift to help Jeff toward the cost of his **Pastor** Psychological/Vocational Assessment. He is actively working toward becoming a Commissioned Minister in the Disciples of Christ. This assessment is one of the requirements he must meet in this process. The cost of this is ~\$1100.00 plus some travel expenses. Some of you have sent in your contributions and we thank you. However, there is still a need and time for you to contribute toward this to help Pastor Jeff is short. If you want to contribute, please get your money or check to the church soon as his assessment will be done soon. It would be very helpful if we have all monetary contributions by the end of the Labor Day weekend. Thanks, in advance, for your help.

## 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

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Lifeline Screenings will be returning to FCC to serve our Middletown community on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 8:15am-6:00pm.

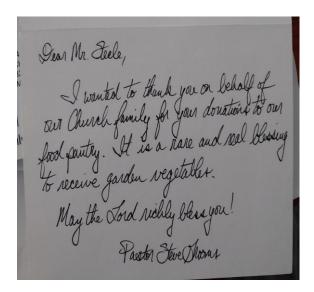
These screening go beyond regular checkups to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up.

#### Screenings include:

Carotid Artery/Plaque Screening
Heart Rhythm Screening
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening
Osteoporosis Risk Assessment

## "FEED MY SHEEP" MINISTRIES THE GARDEN

Our Garden project seems to, truly, be on 'blessed ground'. This project has been very fruitful. In our July 2020 newsletter, we reported that it had yielded 330.5# of produce. As of 21 August, our yields now exceed 900#. While the zucchini and yellow squash have slowed significantly, we have this month picked 44# of Blue Lake green beans and 210 ears of Ambrosia sweet corn. As we reported last month, the majority of our produce has been given to the Salvation Army Free Store with a small amount, also, given to the food pantry at the Monroe Nazarene Church. The Nazarene Church is very grateful to have received this fresh produce because they rarely get any fresh produce. We, recently received the following note from their pastor:



## **UNEXPECTED**

I happened to be cutting grass a couple weeks ago with Cliff. I arrived a little earlier than he did (If you know me, this is an accomplishment in itself!) A

volunteer sent me a text that she cut "some" of the front area, which turns out she did it all! As I opened the garage, I noticed a yellow squash laying by the side of the garage. I thought to myself, this isn't a good sign. I looked over at the garden and was amazed at the growth of all the crops. I also noticed that the volunteer had cut the grass inside the garden fence as well. As I was cutting the back "40" as I call it, I picked up several more that were randomly in the yard. Cliff arrived and started pressure washing the sidewalks along the church entrance. I kept mowing and was about 2/3 of the way done when I looked up and saw a group walking the perimeter of the parking lot. It was an elderly lady in a back brace, a middle-aged women pushing a stroller, a young female adult and a small boy riding a scooter. As they neared the back of the property, I drove the mower closer to the curb and greeted them. I let them know about our services online and the youth broadcast on Friday's. She let me know that she had been watching the garden grow on her walks. She was amazed to hear the 2 dedicated gentlemen had raised over 800lbs (at that time) which had been donated to the community. She then asked me if I was the Pastor. I had to chuckle. I answered, "No I am just a member of the congregation that happens to be cutting grass today." Her name is Jill. I had the pleasure of meeting her, her daughter, and her grandchildren. She said she wanted to check us out online and she reads our sign to see what we are doing each week. So even during a pandemic, we may not have many visitors in the pews, but we have new people in the parking lot. Oh, and the yellow squash that I thought vandals had raided out of the garden turned out to be cucumbers that Larry Steele threw in the yard to be chopped up when we mowed. Unexpected experiences can be such a blessing!

September, 2020 Birthdays								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday September 1 Frances Hollan	Wednesday 2	Thursday  3  Sarah Circle 7 PM	Friday  4  Libby Benson	Saturday  5  Landen Lovin		
Joann Grimes	Celebrate the work of our hands Labor Day	BIBLE Study 1PM & 7 PM	9	10	11	12		
13	14	Bible Study 1 PM & 7 PM	16	17	18	19		
20	Elder Mtg. 7 PM  ZeDay  ZeDay  ZeDay, ZeDay, org	Bible Study 1 PM & 7 PM  CAR FREE DAY M & Q R	23	24	25	26		
Heather Hardewig  Reconciliation Special Offering Sunday  Roard Mta	Lora Schueller	Bible Study 1 PM & 7 PM						

(Disciples of Christian Church 4520 Rosedale Rd., Middletown, OH 45042 513-422-2853