



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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

Chalice Communicator

October 26, 2020

Number 10

Interim Senior Pastor:

Rev. Connor Thompson

Assoc. Pastor: Minister Jeff Wilder

Music Director: Michael Hefner

Moderator: Roger Byrd

Elders: Sharon Amburgey

Natalie Byrd

Zola McClish

Karen Powers

Lora Schueller

Guy Stone

Marilyn Strong

Karen Thompson

SEE YOU ON SUNDAYS

Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study-Tuesdays

@ 1 PM & 7 PM

STATISTICS: Attendance Offering

10/04	27	\$1,325.00
10/11	21	\$1,874.25
10/18	18	\$ 780.00
10/25	21	\$4,315.47

Week of Compassion \$100.00

Important numbers/emails:

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

Connor's Corner

Can you believe that October is nearly over?

Thanksgiving is only weeks away!

I hope you will stop by with your kids and grandkids, nieces and nephews, and send your friends to our Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat on Saturday October 31st at 7pm. The following morning, November 1st, we will recognize the saints among is we have lost with our annual All Saints Day observance in worship.

The weekend of Thanksgiving happens to be the first week of Advent this year, I hope you will join us as we remember the coming of Jesus the Messiah. We have lots of exciting things on tap for Advent, including an Advent study entitled "Incarnation" by Rev. Adam Hamilton, we will have a Blue Christmas Service, A Lessons & Carols service with a couple of other congregations, as well as our usual beautiful Christmas Eve service.

As we begin to enter the extended holiday season to finish the year, I know it will fly by! I want to thank all of you for your continued support. In a time when many churches have lost touch with the majority of their members, the FCC family remains strong. Your commitment to caring for each other, even at a distance is to be admired greatly. So as we enter the season of thanks, I ask that you give thanks for each other as I do for you everyday.

As winter comes, remember, if you have a need, reach out to your church family, and I promise we will do everything in our power to help!

Blessings,
Pastor Connor





Prayer List:

Health: Mike Blevins, Coni Finrock, Linda Neanover, Allen Stone, Guy Stone, Jennifer Watson

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

TRUNK OR TREAT

We will continue our 3rd year of Trunk or Treat in the form of a drive-thru! Tell your friends and neighbors, they can drive-thru our carport, get a picture taken in the car, and receive some candy shot through a pipe. We look forward for this to be a way for us to continue to serve our community, while maintaining social distancing. We also will have members of the Middletown Youth Coalition and Scouts BSA Troop 250 with us to dress up and wave and greet the families as they pull through. The drive-thru will open at 7pm and will run until we run out of candy.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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

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

ELDER MOMENTS

When giving thought to this writing this message, I discovered a new way to spend an evening. My latest discovery is that there are hundreds of inspirational sayings on the computer. This brought back memories of reading Reader's Digest and always beginning by reading the short quotes. I find it beneficial to tune out the 24/7 news of elections, Covid-19 health concerns, friendly and unfriendly protests and just take a spiritual break. For our own safety, our activities are limited and we want everyone to remain safe. We pray for individuals and families touched by the pandemic. We pray for the medical teams who are on the front lines and putting themselves at risk. We pray for teachers and students who are desperately trying to make it through the school year. We pray for those who want to work but were told their jobs no longer exist. We pray for our church, community, country and world. The list goes on. In getting back to my original thought of inspirational words, I found this from Author Leo Buscaglia: "The fact that I can plant a seed and it becomes a flower, share a bit of knowledge and it becomes another's, smile at someone and receive a smile in return, are to me continual spiritual exercises." Be blessed and take a spiritual break!

Sharon Amburgey

We pray that all are well as we continue to cope with this new life we are leading. Know that our Lord is with each one of us. He is our hope and our salvation for a safer future. Keep praying and keep in touch with each other.

Karen Powers

OUTREACH

As a result of the SHALOM program being put on hold this year, we were made aware of a homeless camp in our community. Many of these men and women are the same individuals we would be hosting throughout the winter, along with other churches in our area. We were told of a need for blankets, wash cloths, towels and socks and we answered that call. We were able to purchase many of these items and Pastor Jeff will make sure they are delivered to those in need. If anyone has blankets or towels they would like to add, we will make sure they are included. They do not have to be new items and may be dropped off at the Church or you may call the Church Office.

We are also joining our members in supporting our Community Trunk or Treat Drive thru on Saturday, October 31st.

CWF NEWS

Sarah Circle met on Oct. 1st at the church. We worked on the tied fleece blankets which we are giving to foster children. At our next meeting on Nov. 5th at the church, we will again work on our blankets. Please bring scissors and ruler if possible. The meeting will begin at 7:00 and any ladies in the church are invited to join us. Judy Lemmert will provide our dessert. If anyone would like to help us with this project, please call Marilyn at 513-292-0095. We have also had several monetary donations to this project and we thank those who have given to us.

In our weekly Bible Study (which is open to the whole church), we have been studying Abraham, Sarah, Esau, Jacob and his twelve sons including Joseph. Our study has taught us that God “loves to take the broken and weak things of the world and make them beautiful for His glory.” We will begin the study of Exodus and the Promised Land next week. Thanks, Pastor Jeff, for leading our study group.

NOTES FROM FINANCE- 2020

This year taxpayers are entitled to a charitable contribution deduction even if they don't itemize their deductions. Usually there is no tax benefit for giving to charity unless you itemize your deductions on Schedule A of your tax return. The CARES Act (passed by Congress earlier this year) created an above-the-line deduction of up to \$300 for charitable contributions from taxpayers who don't itemize.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

This year we will celebrate All Saints Sunday on November 1st in worship.

All Saints Day grew out of the early church's practice of remembering the martyrs of the church. Special days to recognize Saints developed over time. By the late 300s general observance of a day to honor all Saints was in place. In the 400s such a day was often held on the Sunday after Pentecost. By the middle 700s, All Saints Day became connected with November 1. In time All Souls Day was celebrated on November 2 in order to recognize the faithful who had died but did not have the distinctive title, “Saint.” With the coming of the Protestant Reformation, many reformers had grown uncomfortable, not so much with All Saints Day but with their perception of the way Saints were venerated. It seemed to many that the Saints were worshipped in place of God. Lutherans and Anglicans held on to the celebration of All Saints Day; seeking to refocus the worship toward God. Early leaders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) concerned with “restoring the New Testament Church” and with “Bible names for Bible things” would have found little justification for All Saints Day. Only in the past 30 years have Disciples found a place for All Saints Day in congregational life. It was compelled by the opportunity to enhance the ministry of the church. Halloween and All Saints Day have a confused connection. Suffice it to say that the end of October was a special time in pre-Christian religious understanding. Halloween literally is The Evening before All Hollows Day or All Saints Day; the day on which all the Saints are hallowed. In some Christian traditions, a vigil of prayer is conducted on All Hollow's Eve to prepare for All Saints Day. Thus, the Christian who is focused on God can enjoy Halloween's fall fun as an occasion to celebrate that in Christ the “devil” is ultimately defeated.

This year, I invite you to bring a picture of anyone of your "Saints" that you are missing, and would like to honor. We will have a special time for you to bring that picture forward and honor them by placing it on the banquet table.

This will be a great time of worship and I hope you will join us in person or on live-stream.



November, 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>November 1</p>	2	<p>3</p> <p>Dorice Perkins Charlotte Steele</p> <p>Bible Study</p>	4	<p>5</p> <p>Sarah Circle 7 PM</p>	6	7
8	9	<p>10</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 1PM & 7 PM</p>	<p>11</p> <p>THANK YOU VETERANS</p> <p><small>Veterans Day - November 11</small></p>	12	13	<p>14</p> <p>Tim Powers</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Thanksgiving Special Offering</p> <p>RECYCLE DAY</p>	16	<p>17</p> <p>Judy Lemmert</p> <p>Bible Study 1 PM & 7 PM</p>	18	19	<p>20</p> <p>Peggy Byrd</p>	21
<p>22</p> <p>Thanksgiving Special Offering</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Elder Mtg. 7 PM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Debbie Wells</p> <p>Bible Study 1 PM & 7 PM</p>	25	26	27	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Board Mtg. following church</p>	30					

