



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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



# Chalice Communicator

November 30, 2020

Number 11

**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

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## SEE YOU ON SUNDAYS

Worship – 10:30 a.m.  
Bible Study-Tuesdays  
@ 1 PM & 7 PM

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## STATISTICS: Attendance Offering

11/01	25	\$1,974.30
11/08	21	\$2,010.00
11/15	21	\$ 285.00
11/22	28	\$1,400.00
11/29	24	\$ 980.00

Thanksgiving \$250.00

## Important numbers/emails:

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

Assoc. Pastor Jeff Wilder  
(513) 594-5421  
mastermasonjeff@gmail.com

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



## WELCOME TO ADVENT!

Can you believe we have made it to December and Advent? I know I can't believe it. We have eaten our Thanksgiving turkey, although we have gathered with fewer people than some of us are accustomed to. Nevertheless we have many things to be thankful for. I wanted to let you know I am thankful for you! I am thankful for your trust in me. I am thankful for your support. I am thankful for your flexibility. I am thankful for your love and care for me, and for the countless ways you give to continue to support the ministry of First Christian Church.

I ask you kindly to continue or even increase your support if possible, whether your support comes in time, talent, or treasure. We have been able to upgrade some of our technology as some of you will be joining us digitally for a little while longer. We are replacing a heater this week to maintain our building as it continues to reach the age to begin repairs. But, we have continued our worship, our study, and our service to our community. For all of these things, I give thanks.

As we proceed through this Advent, I ask you to look for the Unexpected Gifts in your life this year. They are there, even when you think they are not.

In His Service,  
Pastor Connor

## ELDER'S MOMENT

Amazingly the year is close to an end, and we have wound our way through the scary months of a health pandemic. As we approach the Advent Season, we turn to the celebration of Jesus' birth and all that promises for Christians throughout the world. Let us look to him who watches over us always, to guide our future. Always worship Him with abandon, faith, hope, and love. Show gratitude to Him while sharing His love to others. Merry Christmas to all of you, and may we walk into 2021 with joy, hope, peace, and love.

Karen and Sharon



**Prayer List:**

**Health:** Mike Blevins, Coni Finfrock, 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



Thank you, Pastor Connor, for your thoughtfulness in providing me with an Advent Devotional

I look forward to reading the daily devotionals and also look forward to when we can all return to worship together.

In Christian Love,

Janice Kash

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Elders and Members of East Dallas Christian Church have lifted your congregation in a prayer of Thanksgiving for the care you have given to two precious sheep in our flock. "They will know we are Christians by our love" is truly evident in your response to our need.

Thank you and continued blessings!



Join us for Advent! We have started the season of Advent. In a year of the unexpected, we look for the gifts in the unexpected. Join us as we look at the unexpected gifts from God as we prepare to celebrate THE unexpected gift of God in the form of his son.

I invite you to join us for worship via livestream on our YouTube Channel (FCC-Middletown) and our Facebook page and on [fcc-middletown.org](http://fcc-middletown.org). I am excited for these weeks as we travel through the most unusual Advent any of us have encountered.



Join us as we begin our Advent study. We will gather with zoom access available by contacting Pastor Connor. We will meet at 1pm and 7 pm. Incarnation is a study by Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection. This study focuses on the names and titles of Jesus. So join us for this four week study.

**CWF NEWS**

Sarah Circle will meet at 6:30 Thursday Dec. 3rd at the church. Please bring an appetizer or dessert. We may have a few fleece blankets to work on.

Thanks to all who have worked on our blanket project. Eight fleece throws have already been delivered to the My Very Own Blanket organization that gives free blankets to foster children. We have made 12 more and they will be delivered soon.

- Marilyn Chamberlain

## **OUTREACH**

This holiday season is one like no other and, as a result, our normal Outreach activities have been "changed up." Rather than collecting nonperishable food donations for the holidays, we made a monetary donation to the Salvation Army food pantry. Rather than asking our congregation to shop for Christmas gifts, we will be providing gift bags to all the residents at the Close to Home Assisted Living Community in Middletown. In working with Pastor Jeff, we have also identified two local families we hope to help during Christmas. In partnering with our Membership Team, Karen Thompson continues as our coordinator with Central Academy Elementary School. We cannot visit to help wrap gifts this year, but we have been requested to provide gift bags for the students. They will be taking on the task of wrapping gifts for their families. We hope to drop off holiday bags by Thursday, December 3rd. (As of today, the local elementary schools are still in session.)

Most recently, we were contacted by the Senior Minister of the East Dallas Texas Christian Church. Two of their members were in Middletown and while here, they contacted COVID. We were able to reach out, provide support and make new friends as they recovered and came out of quarantine.

As always, we are thankful for your support of Outreach and pray that you remain safe as we continue our journey through this pandemic.

## **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

**It is our prayer this Thanksgiving that you and your families are blessed and thankful this holiday season. Even during this time of concern it is still effortless to recognize how blessed that we truly are and how very much we have to remain thankful for.**

**Philippians 4:6-7 reminds us, "Do not be anxious (worry) about anything, but in every situation by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus".**

**Romans 8:18 reads, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us".**

**1 Peter 5:7 says, "Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you".**

**From your friends at  
SHALOM HOMELESS**

## **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.

## **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.



**Merry Christmas**

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# December, 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		December 1  <b>Bible Study</b> <b>1 PM &amp; 7 PM</b>	2	3  <b>Sarah Circle</b> <b>6:30 PM</b>	4	5  <b>Angel Dearth</b>
6  <b>Peace</b> <b>Sunday</b>	7	8 <b>Bible Study</b>  <b>1PM &amp; 7 PM</b>	9	10	11	12  <b>Carl Tarbox</b>
13 <b>Christmas Special Offering</b>	14	15  <b>Bible Study</b> <b>1 PM &amp; 7 PM</b>	16	17	18	19
20 <b>Christmas Special Offering</b>	21 <b>Blue Christmas Service</b> <b>7 PM</b>	22  <b>Cameron Fowler</b>  <b>Bible Study</b> <b>1 PM &amp; 7 PM</b>	23	24  <b>Dave Lombard</b> 	25 	26
27	28	29	30	31 		

