

#### First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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



Senior Pastor:Rev. Connor ThompsonAssoc. Pastor:Minister Jeff WilderMusic Director:Michael HefnerModerator:Roger ByrdElders:Sharon AmburgeyNatalie ByrdZola McClishKaren PowersLora Schueller

**Marilyn Strong** 

Karen Thompson

#### SEE YOU ON SUNDAYS

Worship – 10:30 a.m. Modern Worship – Every other Thursday @7:30 PM

STATIST	ICS:	<u>Atter</u>	<u>idance</u>	<u>0</u>	ffering	
5/02			33	\$2,	810.00	
5/09			37	\$1,	,532.00	
5/06 Mo	odern S	Service	31	\$	59.00	
5/16			28	\$1,	192.00	
Givelify				\$1,229.10		
Memoria	I			\$	100.00	
Easter				\$	10.00	
Garden		\$	68.97			
Disciples Missions				\$	76.93	

#### 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

#### **CONNOR'S CORNER**

<u>When Possessions become a Prison</u> Jay E. Adams writes that under the roof in his backyard hangs a hummingbird feeder that he keeps filled with sugar water. There are four openings in it from which birds may suck the nectar. Yet, day after day, from early morning until after dusk, the feeder is the source of their own private version of star wars. One bird chases all the others away.

"As I said," Adams writes, "there is room for four birds at a time, and fully that number attempt to feed. But the top dog (excuse my use of this metaphor for a hummingbird!), who now 'owns' the feeder, will not let them. All day long he sits on the branch of a nearby apricot tree guarding 'his' feeder and defying others to transgress on what he has established as 'his' territory.

"This ongoing slice of life confronts us throughout the day as green and red hummers streak across the yard, the king hummer in hot pursuit of an intruder. While the chase is on, others sneak a sip or two, only to be driven off when he returns.

"The whole business has become a sort of parable for our family. Here is an example of grace: I bought the feeder; I supply the sugar water. The birds do not earn it; they receive it all FREE. Yet, day after day, they fight over who may enjoy it.

"How like the people of God! All we have or are that is worthwhile is the gift of God's pure grace. And yet we can be proud, self-centered, envious, and quarrelsome. Often, we fight over God's good gifts rather than expressing our gratitude in humility and sharing what we have been given with others. Just as I am confronted daily with rivalry in my yard, even so God is confronted daily with rivalry in His."



Prayer List:

*Health:* Allen Stone *Special Needs:* Barbara Cessna, 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

### **CWF NEWS**

Sarah Circle met on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the church. We did some planning and have decided that our study will be the book Pearls from Proverbs by Valerie Wilson. We are continuing to make our tied fleece throws for the My Very Own Blanket organization. This organization gives blankets to children in foster care. We worked on our blankets at our meeting and we now have 10 blankets ready to be delivered.

Our next meeting will be at 1:00 pm June 3<sup>rd</sup> at O'Charley's in Middletown. Please call Mary Back if you plan to attend. The restaurant doesn't take reservations, but it will help us to know how many are coming so that we can request a large enough table when we arrive at the restaurant.

We plan on meeting monthly through the summer and into the fall. Our July meeting will be at 1:00 pm on July 1<sup>st</sup> at the church. We will have a study and we will continue to work on our tied fleece blankets. In August we will help out at the Summer Fair craft show to be held at the church.



Join us for Pentecost Sunday!

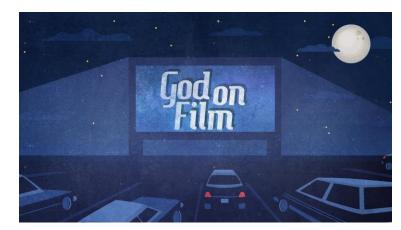
THIS SUNDAY, May 23rd at 10:30 AM Pastor Connor will bring his message "Spirit for All!"

Wear your Red!

#### **ELDER MOMENT**

As we mentioned last month, the Easter Season began on Easter Sunday and continues for seven weeks or fifty days and ends on Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is recognized as the birthday of the early Christian church and in 2021 it falls on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. After the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit appeared before the Apostles and other disciples. Many people wear red on Pentecost Sunday and we recognize this day as the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world. May we praise God for this most holy day and always work towards the mission of the church throughout the world.

#### **Upcoming Sermon Series:**



God on Film

June 20th-July 11th

In the midst of our summer fun, Pastor Connor will take us on a look at *Wonder Woman 1984*, *Mulan, Onward*, and *Guardians of the Galaxy 2*.

Join us for this fun summer sermon series.

Marilyn Chamberlain CWF President

#### 2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



Over recent weeks we have been in our stewardship series, Faithful, Hopeful, Loving. As we learn how to be faithful, hopeful, and loving Christians, as a church in our world and in the community. Look for a mailing to come in the near future, as we prepare and plan for the next year of this congregation.

#### DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

We have several issues of *The Secret Place* in the pamphlet rack in the narthex. Since many of our members were worshiping online during covid, there was not an opportunity to pick up a copy. Please help yourself to any issues you would like and we have a few extra copies in the office if needed.

# AS A REMINDER

We continue to collect empty ink cartridges which we recycle each month at Staples. This not only helps with our efforts to "go green," it also gives us rewards from which we purchase office supplies. There is a drop off bin on the wall near the restrooms if you would like to contribute.

# SUMMERFAIR 2021

FCC Middletown is sponsoring a new unique outdoor Summer event. SummerFair (yes, all one word) is scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to 3PM. (Rain date is August 21<sup>st</sup>) It is open to any type of vendor, crafter or non -profit guests who would like to participate. The fee for vendors is \$25 for a 12-foot by 12-foot designated area on the South lawn. We will not be able to furnish any other amenities such as electric or tables. Non- profit groups will not be charged a fee. Each participant may offer any type of items that they wish including flea market finds, home crafted items or branded items (31, Tastefully Simple, ETC...). We have plans to also work with a pet rescue agency and sponsor a pet adoption area and possibly have therapy animals on-site. Membership will offer concession food items from the kitchen and we also would like to have a bake sale included in the offerings of the day. Please pass the word to friends and neighbors! Please contact me at Summerfair2021@gmail.com for additional registration information or if you would like to be part of the planning process. This will be an "all hands-on deck" event so I look forward to hearing everyone's input!

Thank-you!

Crystal Watson

## SUMMIT ACADEMY MIDDLETOWN 2021 GRADUATION

On Friday May 28th we will host the Summit Academy Middletown Secondary School for their commencement exercises.





# GARDEN PLANTING TIME









June, 2021 🛎 Birthdays									
30	31 MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER AND HONOR	June 1	2 Pastor Connor Thompson	3 CWF Sarah's Circle 1 PM @ O'Charley Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	4	5 World Environment Day			
6	7	8 Celebrate World Ocean Day June 8th	9	10	11	12			
13 General Board Meeting	14 Aary Back	15 GLOBAL WIND DAY 15 JUNE Q	16	17 Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM Come as you are!	18	19			
20 HAPPRESS JACKERSS JUNE 20 WORLD REFUGEE DAY	21	22	23	24	25	26 Helen Dennis			
27 <sup> </sup>	28	29	30	July 1 CWF Sarah's Circle 1 PM @ church Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	2	3			

