



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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

Chalice Communicator

September 28, 2021

Number 9

Senior Pastor: Rev. Connor Thompson

Assoc. Pastor: Minister Jeff Wilder

Music Director: Michael Hefner

Moderator: John Ralbovsky

Elders: Natalie Byrd
Zola McClish
Karen Powers
Lora Schueller
Karen Thompson

SEE YOU ON SUNDAYS

Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Modern Worship – Thursday
@7:30 PM

STATISTICS: Attendance Offering

9/26	32	\$ 705.00
9/19	36	\$ 910.00
9/12	29/14	\$ 1,770.00
9/05	29/15	\$ 1,450.00
Online Giving		\$1,597.00

Important numbers/emails:

Pastor Connor Thompson
(513) 594-0070

pastorconnorlthompson@gmail.com

Assoc. Pastor Jeff Wilder
(513) 594-5421

mastermasonjeff@gmail.com



GOD IS HERE!

Rev. Connor L. Thompson

Senior Pastor



As we are preparing to accept a new constitution and bylaws and prepare to reach the beginning of our series of fall church holidays leading to the end of the year, I can't help but to remember one of my favorite hymns. God is Here! Is number 280 in our chalice hymnal. It states:

*Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts*

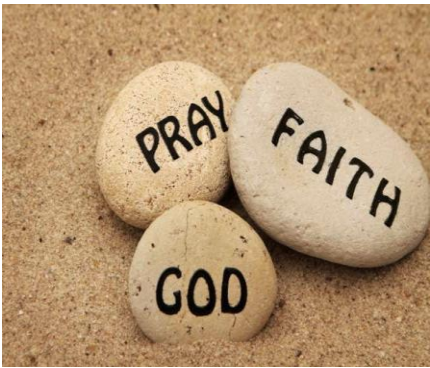
*wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.*

*Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the Gospel;
help us work your purpose out.*

As we begin to look at the holidays and the end of the year with a new constitution and bylaws, let us remember to look for our varied gifts, as we seek to serve God in our community to the best of our ability.

I am overjoyed at our team of people putting together blessing bags to go out to our community members who are homeless. We have ~112 blessing bags prepared thanks to each of you and your generosity. Our own Leah Hadley has brought us tremendous leadership and a contagious passion for this mission.





Prayer List:

Health: Kristen Beck, Linda Neanover

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



To My Wonderful Church Family, I wanted to thank you so much for the amazing outpour of love and support for me and my children. Everyone is our blessing and we’re forever grateful.

Thank you,
Love,
Leah, Michael, Lily and Lyrick

CWF NEWS

Sarah Circle met on Thursday, September 2nd at 1:00 pm at the church. We are continuing with our study on Proverbs this fall. We are continuing to make and put labels on our tied-fleece blankets that we are making for foster children in the area. Our next meeting will be at 1:00 pm on Oct. 7th at the church.

Marilyn Chamberlain, CWF President



I enjoyed exchanging pulpits with The Rev. Rich Luh, Senior Pastor of St. Paul’s UCC on September 5th. It was great to be able to share with them on your behalf, as we get to know our UCC



brothers and sisters. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ are in full communion.

The scouts are serving, the legacy of our own Guy Stone is continuing in the now complete Community Built playground at Amanda Elementary School under the direction of the Kiwanis Club.



In Addition to serving in our walls, and leading Thursday Modern Worship, Pastor Jeff has been busy with the Middletown Youth Coalition, Middletown City Schools, The Emoji Project, and the Citizens Advisory Board of the Middletown Police Department.

I have enjoyed in recent weeks having community members come up to me to talk about the work they hear we are doing, and asking how they can help.

We know God is here! Let us continue God’s work by serving our community and beyond.

God is here, in an age of change and doubt, keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out.

ELDER’S MOMENT

The Guy E. Stone Memorial Playground has been completed and officially dedicated with the ribbon cutting on September 22. First Christian Church was well represented on all days including Karen Thompson, representing the Elders.

Pocket prayer quilts were made to be included in the backpacks that are being distributed to be a reminder of God’s love for each of the recipients.

They were also given to the congregation along with the idea of giving them to someone else. Home visits were made to three of our congregants and the pocket prayer quilts were given to each of them, also.

We continued our study of the Disciples Covenant and completed session two.

In Christian Love, Your Elders

OUTREACH

We are excited to learn that The One Way Farm in Fairfield is renovating a transition house on Crawford Street in Middletown. The home will allow young people who are transitioning out of the foster system due to age, to have housing, complete their education, obtain employment (some are already working) and have a great chance to avoid being homeless. They have also purchased a second home on Crawford Street where children are being cared for in foster care. Plans are in the works for their organization to open a Thrift Store locally at 1717 First Avenue. Their store in Hamilton has been very successful and allows for extras for the children which would not otherwise be possible. We look forward to providing support for the children and young adults in the foster care system and as they transition out.

THANK YOU!

I wanted to take an opportunity to thank you for your very generous donation for the renovation of our Transition House located at 409 Crawford St. in Middletown. This home will facilitate our kids in a very important step as they are nearing completion of our program at the Fairfield facility. These units will individually house our kids and allow them training as they near emancipation. Much training and strategy will be afforded them as they are making plans for their future such as possible higher learning, independent living skills and personal finance. Sincerely, John Rice, President, The One Way Farm

Join us for Upcoming Special Sundays

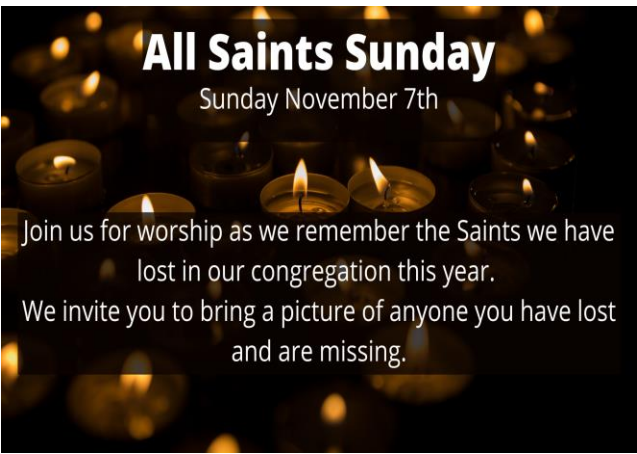


**World
Communion
Sunday, October
3rd**

*From Global
Ministries*

World
Communion
Sunday offers
congregations
a distinctive

opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, they remember that they are part of the whole body of believers. Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations. World Communion Sunday can be both a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith.



**All Saints
Sunday,
November 7th**

We will
remember
Kathleen
Chamberlain,
Jean
Greathouse,
Barb Ingram,
Guy Stone,

Geraldine Dishun, and Rev. Dixie French.

We invite you to bring a picture of a friend or loved one you have lost this year to place on the memorial we will have on the chancel.





From The Moderator

John Ralbovsky,
Moderator

Dear First
Christian Church

Friends:

The FCC Constitutional Review Committee members are: Larry Steele, Lora Schueller, Crystal Watson, John Ralbovsky, Pastor Connor & Associate Pastor Jeff as our (DOC) advisors.

The committee has been meeting on Wednesday's during the months of August & September.

We have completed our review, rewrite and update of the constitution. I want to thank each one of these individuals for volunteering their time and knowledge to update our FCC Constitution. Larry and Crystal have spent many hours writing and rewriting the constitution.

They have taken our notes and turned them into a very up to date document for our congregation. Thank you to Lora, Pastor Connor and Associate Pastor Jeff for their ideas, input and support. Well Done Team!

A paper copy of the revised constitution will be available in the church office, a copy can be mailed to your home address, or you can have a copy emailed to you. Just let me, Pastor Connor, Associate Pastor Jeff or anyone of the constitutional committee know you would like a copy. FCC will plan to have a Congregational Vote on Sunday October 17th, once approved by two thirds vote the ratified constitution shall take effect immediately and supersede all previous FCC constitutions.

Another item that we will ask the congregation to ratify on Oct 17th is the Ethical Guidelines For Congregational Conduct Christian Church (DOC). This is the code of conduct that is accepted by our DOC member congregations. It is an outline for our relationship as members to one another; our relationship as members to our church leaders; our relationship as members to our minister(s); our relationship as members to our community; our relationship as members to other churches in our community; our relationship as members to Christian Church (DOC); and our relationship as members to the church universal.

A paper copy of the Ethical Guidelines for Congregational Conduct Christian Church (DOC) will be available in the church office, a copy can be mailed to your home address, or you can have a copy emailed to you. Just let me, Pastor Connor, Associate Pastor Jeff or anyone of the constitutional committee know you would like a copy. FCC will plan to have a Congregational Vote on Sunday October 17th , once approved the Ethical Guidelines For Congregational Conduct Christian Church (DOC) shall take effect immediately and will be approved each year at the annual meeting.

I would like to repeat Pastor Connor's statement in this month's board report "I can feel the momentum building for First Christian Church, our vision is growing, and our community impact is growing as well." No finer words have been written to describe what and who we are at First Christian Church. We truly are doing God's work. Thank you one and all.

The October Chalice Communicator articles will be due 10/24. Board Reports for October 24th board meeting will be due 10/19. Thank you to both Sharon Amburgey and Judy Lemmert for their hard work at producing our board reports and Chalice Communicator for the congregation.

FCC has so many outstanding members and I hope everyone will continue to take part and enjoy everything we will be doing as a congregation in the weeks and months ahead.



FINANCE NOTE

According to legislation passed by Congress in December of 2020, there are new limits on charitable donation deductions for those who do not itemize on their federal income tax returns. This law permits single, head of household, and married filing separately non-itemizers to take a deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made to qualifying charities in 2021. The maximum deduction is increased to \$600 for married persons filing joint returns. Further information on this law can be accessed on www.irs.com/newsroom.



Lifeline Screening will be at First Christian Church on Wednesday, November 17. Look for more information coming soon.

CHURCH APPAREL AVAILABLE

Disciples of Christ Facemasks are available.

Masks are cotton and have the Disciples of Christ Chalice on them. They will be available in Red with a white chalice and Black with a Red Chalice.

Masks will cost \$10.00. So, make sure you get your Sunday church mask, and wear it around town too!



Celebration in District 8 and the Region!



Sunday October 10th at 4pm the clergy of district 8 will join with Central Christian Church in Kettering, Ohio for the Installation of their new Co-Pastors The Rev. Dr. Irvin Green and The Rev. Dr. Betty Green. This is one of the great occasions where we can show the unity of the church, through our collective celebration.

Saturday October 23rd at 2pm the entire Christian Church in Ohio will join to celebrate the Installation of our new Regional Pastor and President, The Rev. Allen V. Harris. The



General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), The Rev. Terri Hord Owens will be preaching and installing Rev. Harris

Gender Road Christian Church in Canal Winchester, Ohio will serve as the host site for this service and it will be live-streamed.

SCOUTS BSA TROOP 250

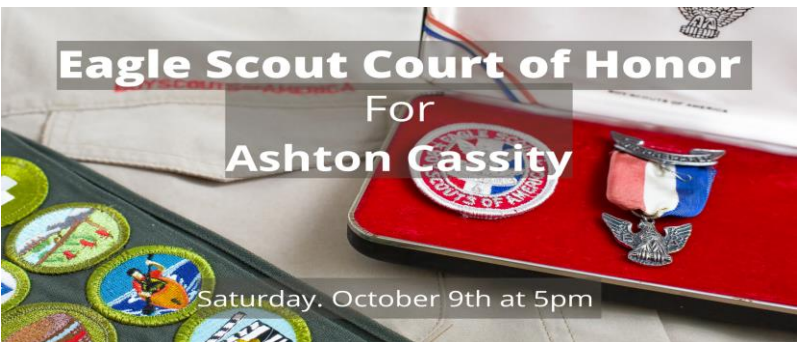
James Stevens
Scoutmaster, Troop 250



In September we held weekly troop meetings at the church as our scouts have continued to work on advancement. We are excited

to honor Ashton Cassity at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor at the Church on October 9th at 5pm.

On September 25th, we held a spaghetti dinner at the church. While turnout was low, we raised nearly \$200. If you would like to support our troop, you can order Trails End popcorn to be shipped to your door. [Order here](#)



A MOMENT FOR HISTORY

A Moment for History

FCC Houses of Worship Through the Years

After meeting in the two churches, for several months, mentioned last month, they wanted a place they could call their church home. In the summer of 1913 two lots on the corner of Logan & Crawford Streets were leased and a wooden structure was erected and covered with a canvas tarpaulin and was called the Tabernacle. The congregation outgrew the building and an additional lot was purchased and the building size was doubled. This was covered with wood paneling sides and metal roof. Note above the door is a sign with the name “Church of Christ”. The Tabernacle was used until 1921.

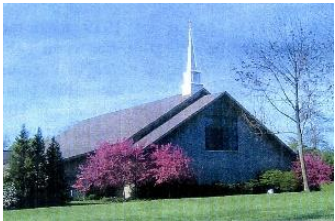


In 1917 the congregation said it was time for a permanent building. An architect was hired to draw plans for the new church building, but World War I caused the idea of a new facility to be placed on hold. In 1919, a year following WW I, the plans were readdressed and it was decided the design was not suitable and a different architect was hired. Later that year property was purchased on 4th Ave., which is now First Ave., and demolition of the house began in August of that year.

May of 1920 brought another problem. Due to the cost of labor and materials, only the basement could be built. The ceiling of the basement had a slope that later served as a theater style floor for the sanctuary in the completed building. The “sanctuary” in

the basement had a sunken baptistry near the kitchen. The basement was dedicated on February 6, 1921. The use of the basement did not last long. Photographs taken in 1922 show a completed brick building with no columns in front and one taken in 1925 shows the building with 4 large stone columns.

Through the years properties on either side of the church were purchased and on one side a parking lot was installed and in the early ‘60s an educational addition was added with staff offices, Sunday school class rooms and a large fellowship hall with a modern kitchen was built.



Photos – **Left**-Original 1st. Ave building, **Center**-Placing a time capsule, **Right**- Original bldg. w/Educational addition




(The building on 1st Ave. is now the home of the Salvation Army)

1986 brought the need to appoint a long-range planning committee to evaluate the church’s needs & goals to ensure a vital, caring ministry. The church was experiencing financial challenges due, in part, to a declining membership and upkeep of an aging building in a deteriorating neighbor. After a lengthy study the congregation determined it wished to become a “growing, dynamic church” as opposed to a “caretaker church”. A building committee was appointed to oversee the design and construction of a new building in the east end of Middletown. July 1989 brought the first of five capital fund-raising campaigns to raise money for construction of a new building. Property on Rosedale Rd. was purchased in 1990 and construction began in 1995.

February 1, 1996 was the beginning of moving in and setting up the facility for services in the new building on Rosedale Rd. The first service was held on February 11. On April 21, 1996 during a special afternoon the building was dedicated. Through the congregation’s generous financial support and unexpected bequeaths, the building and lot costing approximately \$1.2 million was paid off by March, 2002.

October, 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  Sarah Byrd	2
3  World Communion Sunday Reconciliation Special Offering	4  Tyler Hendricks	5	6	7 CWF Sarah's Circle 1 PM @ Church Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	8	9
10	11 Church Women's United 12:00	12  Sharon Sparks	13	14 Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	15	16
17 Congregational Vote on the revised Constitution and the Ethical Guidelines For Congregational Conduct Christian Church (DOC)	18	19  Peggy Cain Elder Mtg. Board Report Due	20	21  Wanda Deaton Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	22	23
24 Board Mtg. Following Church Newsletter Articles due	25	26	27	28 Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	29	30
31						

