

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

Chalice Communicator

January 24, 2021

Number 1

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 IN WORSHIP

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

STATISTICS:	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>	
01/23	31/13	\$ 640.00	
01/16	31/14	\$1,057.00	
01/09	17/14	\$2,496.56	
01/02	30/14	\$ 1,295.00	

Important numbers/emails:

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

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



Connor's Commentary

Welcome to 2022!

Join us for a bumpy ride! Sunday in my sermon I talked about how ministry as we are called is an expected bumpy ride. We need to remember our life jackets, helmets, and to make sure we are lashed into our seats. Pastor Jeff has affectionately referred to these as the 2022 version of the whole armor of God.

Join me as we start 2022, intending to take a bumpy ride. A bumpy ride means we are serving our community. A bumpy ride means we are serving each other. A bumpy ride means we are following God's call.

I am excited and give thanks to our leaders in our community ministries for both their ecumenical outreach efforts as well as their individual personal outreach needs that have been met.

Make sure you plan to join us for Pastor Jeff's Commissioning & Installation on January 30th at 3pm.

The next two Sundays we will be collecting the Week of Compassion special offering. This year we are highlighting the programs that Week of Compassion operates right here in Dayton, Ohio. Week of Compassion has been on the ground since day one when the 2019 tornadoes destroyed entire neighborhoods. Week of compassion is also on the ground in Mayfield, Kentucky following their tornados a few weeks ago. These are examples of the church as a whole at work in covenant. These are programs we as an individual church could not support, but we, with our brothers and sisters, are there to support each other.

As we enter 2022, I ask you to take the wonderful ministry we shared in 2021, and ask, how can I do more? There is always more to do, what else are you called to now?

Blessings,

Pastor Connor



Prayer List:

Health: Ken Amburgey, Kristen Beck, Sandi Cassity, Temple Ann Hanson, Michael Hefner, Marla Marsh, Ava Melton, 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

CWF NEWS

Sarah Circle will not meet in January and February. Although we are not meeting, we can still continue to study the Book of Proverbs on our own. We have learned that there is a difference between knowledge and wisdom. Knowledge could be defined as a group of facts about a particular subject. On the other hand, wisdom could be defined as the process of learning a group of facts and using our intellect to weigh these facts and determine our actions and behavior based on the consequences of following or not following this set of facts. Proverbs 8 verses 8 through 11 teaches us this:

Verse 8: "All the words of my mouth are righteousness. There is nothing crooked or perverse in them. 9 - They are all plain to him who understands and right to them that find knowledge. 10 - Receive my instruction and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

11 - For wisdom is better than rubies. And all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it."

How are we living our lives? Are we in pursuit of gold or do we seek wisdom? Have we tried to teach our children the importance of learning in their lives? My challenge to you is to increase your wisdom and understanding by reading the whole chapter of Proverbs 8.

Respectfully submitted Marilyn Chamberlain CWF President

Camp Christian Summer 2022 Schedule Announced!

We are so excited to share with you the 2022 Summer Program Schedule. There are Summer Programs at Camp Christian for Children and Youth from Kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as Advance Conference for Young Adults. You will also note the two Disciples Fellowship Retreats which are open to all ages. We have also included Adult Conference, which is open to all adults and is held at Northwest Christian Church in Columbus.

Ohio Region Summer Program 2022 Schedule

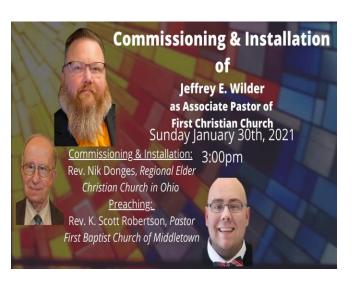
• Disciples Fellowship Retreat Friday, May 27 – Sunday, May 29 Grandparents Camp Thursday, June 9 – Saturday June 11 Chi Rho Camp #1 Sunday, June 12 – Saturday, June 18 CYF Week # 1 Sunday, June 19 - Saturday June 25 Sunday, June 26 – Saturday, July 2 Otter Camp Adult Conference Monday, June 27 - Friday, July 1 Ribbit Camp Wednesday, July 6 - Saturday July 9 Chi Rho Camp #2 Sunday, July 10 – Saturday, July 16 CYF Week # 2 Sunday, July 17 – Saturday, July 23 Advance Conference Sunday, July 24 – Sunday, July 31 Disciples Fellowship Retreat Friday, September 2 – Sunday, September 4

Registration materials for the Camp Christian Children, Youth & Young Adult Camps and Conferences will be available in the coming months. We will also be sharing information on payment plans for registration fees.

We hope you'll save the dates and share this schedule with folks from your Congregations, Families, and Communities!!

Peace and God Bless,

Camp Christian



Commissioning & Installation Service for Pastor Jeff Wilder

Join us Sunday January 30th as we celebrate the Commissioning & Installation of Pastor Jeff as Associate Pastor. This service recognizes Pastor Jeff with standing as a commissioned minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Officiating this special service will be our former Interim Pastor and friend, Rev. Nik Donges who now serves as a Regional Elder of the Christian Church in Ohio. Rev. K. Scott (Scotty) Robertson will be preaching this special service. Pastor Scotty serves as the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church and as Vice President of the Middletown Area Ministerial Alliance.

We will have several other clergy in attendance representing the Middletown faith community and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ohio.

Following the service, there will be a dinner catered by Kobi Wilder.

Save The Date: Regional Assembly Saturday, Sept. 24



Our biennial Regional Assembly will be on Saturday, September 24 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and will be a completely different format and flavor! We are hosting "A Family Reunion" at Camp Christian that day and we will have games and fellowship activities in addition to a little bit of business and the celebration of our ministries these past two years. All of our Christian Church in Ohio members, family, and friends are welcome to attend! More information to come!

Week of Compassion Special Offering- February 20-27

Love Remains

On
Memorial
Day 2019,
tornadoes
swept
through
the Miami
Valley of
Ohio,
destroying
thousands



of homes and apartments and leaving a trail of downed trees and power lines in their wake. Many of the tornado-affected families have had to relocate multiple times since the tornadoes due to substandard housing conditions and inflated rent.

Two years after the storm, the Stephens family were still unable to find adequate living quarters. The family of ten was forced to live apart. In addition to dealing with unscrupulous contractors, the family had to haggle with insurance companies as they tried to rebuild their home. The Stephens, like so many other families, remained in temporary housing and separated, pending the completion of repairs.

Yet, all was not lost. The Stephens family connected with the Miami Valley Long-Term Recovery Operations Group (MVLTROG,) and volunteer teams finished the repairs.

Alongside these traditional home repair projects, and with support from Week of Compassion, the MVLTROG helped launch the Tornado Survivors' Pathways to Homeownership Project to help alleviate the housing crunch in the Dayton area. Volunteers and local nonprofits work together to transition "nuisance" properties and vacant lots into affordable, singlefamily housing options for tornado survivors who were displaced from rental housing, stabilizing both families and the community. Firsttime homeowners receive the support they need to build for their futures.

Sammy Deacon, Brethren Disaster Ministries Long-Term Project Leader, says "When you reach out to help someone else, the blessing comes back to you as well. An important aspect of the recovery effort is listening to people's stories and knowing you have the opportunity to help them—physically and spiritually."

With support for long-term recovery, including innovative programs like the Pathways to Homeownership project, Week of Compassion helps create opportunities for families to thrive after disasters. Because love remains.

A Moment for History Fellowship

I'm not sure about other churches, especially since FCC is the only church to which I have belonged, but we are certainly a social congregation. It doesn't matter what the occasion or event, we are gathered in small groups or large, talking and laughing and catching up with our church family. Sometimes it is difficult to begin the service on time because so many of the congregation are congregating in the Narthex visiting with friends and not aware of the time. Perhaps we need someone to ring a bell so everyone can move into the sanctuary.



Sunday mornings are not the only time for socializing. We have covered dish dinners, sometimes called a carry-in, picnics, road trips, Sunday school class & the Ladies Circles dinners, and youth group parties. No matter what the occasion, one thing could be counted on. There would be food.

Some of the covered dish dinners were sponsored by different Sunday school classes or one of the church committees. A couple examples are the Membership Committee sponsored a "Bring a Guest" dinner and each family was urged to bring a guest family. Hopefully resulting in some new members. The Loyal Men's class dinners sometimes resulted in fun and games.











There were also times when group trips were organized. Some of those I remember were a trip to the newly opened Freedom Center in Cincinnati, day trips to see the Cain Ridge Shrine in Kentucky where our church was founded or we take in a Biblical movie.







Even work groups became fellowship events. For example, a group of men of the church would go to Camp Christian to make repairs to cabins or other buildings to ready it for summer camp. Those men and those from other churches would gather for lunch and get acquainted.

February, 2022 Birthdays								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
		1 Lifeline Screening	2	3 Shelly Blevins Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	4	5		
Michael Blevins Boy Scout Sunday	7	8 Larry Steele	9	Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	11	12		
13	14	15 Elder Mtg. 7 PM	16	Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	18 Nancy Milton	19		
20 Week of Compassion Special Offering Board Mtg. Following Church Newsletter Articles due	Happy President's Day	22	23	Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	25	26		
27 Week of Compassion Special Offering	28							

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