



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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

Chalice Communicator

December 27, 2021

Number 12

Senior Pastor: Rev. Connor Thompson

Assoc. Pastor: Minister Jeff Wilder

Music Director: Michael Hefner

Moderator: John Rabovsky

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

SEE YOU IN WORSHIP

Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Modern Worship – Thursday @7:30 PM

STATISTICS: Attendance Offering

12/26	21	752.00
12/24	65	\$ 95.00
12/19	43	\$ 1,198.00
12/12	40/21	\$ 2,280.00
12/02	43/20	\$ 1,888.00
Week of Compassion	\$ 115.00	
Christmas	\$ 200.00	

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

Who do you resolve to be?



Rev. Connor L. Thompson

Senior Pastor

As we come to the end of the year, we come to New Years, and many people make a New Year's resolution. So many of

us resolve to give something up, or exercise more, or set other healthy habits or so many more things. I want to look at this differently. As we come to the new year, who do we as a church resolve to be?

Our Mission/Vision Statement says that we are a Church where ALL are welcome.....serving our community and beyond. As we start into the new year, and we begin to prepare for our 110th anniversary, who do we resolve to be? Do we resolve to continue to strive to be a church where ALL are welcome? Do we resolve to strive to serve our community better?

Who do you resolve to be? How will you be that person? Is that the person God is calling you to be?

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





Prayer List:

Health: Ken Amburgey, Kristen Beck, Amy Cockerham, Temple Ann Hanson, Michael Hefner, Marla Marsh, 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 met on December 9th for a Christmas luncheon at Zola McClish's home. There were 10 present for the event. Sarah Circle will not meet in January and February of 2022. We will have information on our next meeting in the Newsletter at a later date. Members from the circle helped the Outreach group put together Christmas gift bags for the 31 residents of the Close to Home Assisted Living Center.

CWF would like to wish all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Marilyn Chamberlain

CWF President

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

What a year this has been. Outreach became a part of our newly formed Community Ministries and have we ever been busy. Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, we were able to more than fill our custom made wooden Outreach box which was handcrafted by John Newby. Toys for local children filled three vehicles and our hearts were filled with joy as we were able to deliver your gifts to the Salvation Army for their Annual Christmas Toy Drive. Our blue Outreach basket was overflowing with boxes of brownie mixes which you also generously donated. They went to families who were provided with a Christmas dinner so they could prepare a treat at home. For the second year in a row, we adopted the residents at Close to Home Nursing Home in Middletown. After shopping for 31 individuals, with the help of members of Sarah Circle, we filled individual gift bags and delivered them prior to Christmas.

Pastor Jeff introduced us to a new Care Portal program our Church is participating in. During the first two weeks in December, Community Ministries provided 8 pairs of new shoes and 4 sets of coats, gloves and hats to area children. Over 30 blankets were also given to those who are homeless. Our church family is continuously donating food and clothes to those in need. We thank you for always providing us with the means to help others and having giving in your hearts.

SCOUTS BSA UPDATE

James Stevens, Scoutmaster

The Month of November in scouting has been an exciting one. Kody has started to work on his eagle project in the front yard of the church. Rowan is working on his rank of second class. Our Lone Female scout Aradia has passed her Board of review for Life rank and is beginning to work on her Eagle Scout rank.



A Moment for History

Special Services

As I was preparing for this month's history article, I was reviewing my list of topics. One of the topics was special FCC services. I thought, what a perfect subject as we are celebrating Advent and Christmas. Over the years we have had many special services through the year, most of which we continue to have, and arguably Christmas is likely to be the favorite of most people. Let's begin there.

Advent, from the Latin *Adventus*, meaning "coming", is the four weeks in which Christians prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. FCC begins the preparation by conducting the Hanging of the Greens. Not actually a service but an activity to decorate the sanctuary with wreaths, candles, and banners as well as decorating the narthex so the church is beautiful as members and guests enter the building for worship. On the chancel is an Advent Wreath. Each week a family presides over the lighting of a candle on the wreath. They read a scripture or a devotion and then light a candle. The worship service is filled with music by the choir and the congregation as they sing Christmas carols.

Another tradition is our Christmas Eve service which has music and scriptures to tell the story of Jesus' birth. Also, at this time the children and youth present their Christmas pageant.

Right after Christmas comes the new year, a time for remembrance and hope. Our Midnight Service was a place for people to be together and reflect on the closing year and pray for what lies ahead. I

remember as a high school student, our CYF group would have a progressive dinner where the group would go to a different home of a CYF member for each course, then we would attend the Midnight Service which had a message from the pastor and scriptures then just prior to midnight there was a period of silence. The silence was interrupted by the sound of church bells and fire crackers at which time the pastor gave a benediction.

Lent and Easter are the next season of special services. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance when Christians confess their sins and profess their devotion to God. At this service the clergy, using ashes, makes a shape of a cross on the forehead of worshipers. The ashes represent both death and repentance. Lent ends the day before Palm Sunday. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, the day Christ rode through the gates of Jerusalem and the citizens laid palm fronds on the road as Jesus rode through the city. To commemorate this event, the children of the church enter the sanctuary waving palm fronds as they parade up and down the aisles as the congregation sings the opening hymn. The day before Good Friday is Maundy Thursday. This day is observed in commemoration of Jesus Christ's institution of the communion during the Last Supper. Our service has taken several forms. One being the *Tenebrae*, a candle light service at which the candles are gradually extinguished until the worshipers are waiting in darkness, which symbolizes the darkness of Christ's tomb. Another service included a live portrayal of Leonardo de Vinci's painting "The Last Supper" (see Photograph below) portrayed by men of the church. On Easter Sunday FCC usually has two services. The first being a sunrise service. After moving our current location, we began having an outdoor service using lawn chairs or standing during the service. Several years later Connor Thompson, who was working on his Eagle project, coordinated the design and installation of the vesper area in the front of our building. Weather permitting, this is now the location of the Sunrise Service. The second service is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. The Easter Season ends on Pentecost, the 50th day from Easter Sunday, when we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus, marking the birth of the Church.

There were also special services that are not part of the Liturgical calendar. One such service was to honor

four military chaplains who died in WW II on the S.S. Dorchester. Their ship was torpedoed and the four chaplains gave their life vests to other men so they could abandon the ship. The chaplains locked arms and prayed as the ship sank. In 1988 the U.S. Congress honored these brave men by establishing Feb. 3 as “Four Chaplains Day. FCC was one of a group of local churches that rotated this service conducted by the American Legion on the Sunday nearest to Feb. 3.



All Saints service is when we remember our “Saints” who died over the past year. This year we did things a little differently. A table was set in front of the communion table and worshipers could bring pictures of loved ones and set them on the table, reminding us that all are welcome at the Lord’s Table.



We are grateful to the following
for the beautiful poinsettias
which were in memory and/or
honor of love ones this
Christmas:



<i>Connor Thompson</i>	<i>Family & Friends & My Church Family</i>
<i>Dorice Perkins</i>	<i>Mother, Daddy, Brothers, Husband & Friend</i>
<i>Esther Saxbury</i>	<i>Richard Saxbury & Parents</i>
<i>Guy Stone</i>	<i>In Memory of Family</i>
<i>Helen Morgan</i>	<i>Husband & Loved Ones</i>
<i>Jeff & Kelly Wilder</i>	<i>Pastor Brooks</i>
<i>Joann Grimes</i>	<i>Loved Ones</i>
<i>Judy Lemmert Family</i>	<i>Rollin Hanson & Elizabeth Lemmert</i>
<i>Larry & Charlotte Steele</i>	<i>Loved Ones</i>
<i>Larry & Marilyn Chamberlain,</i>	<i>Our Parents – Robert & Opal Chamberlain,</i>
<i>Chamberlain</i>	<i>James J & Margaret Brewer</i>
<i>Linda Poynter</i>	<i>Husband & Parents</i>
<i>Dave & Lora Schueller</i>	<i>Loved Ones</i>
<i>Marilyn Strong</i>	<i>Loved Ones</i>
<i>Mike & Shelly Blevins</i>	<i>Brother, Arnaldo Ariaf</i>
<i>Sharon Amburgey</i>	<i>Lois Hafer & Loved Ones</i>
<i>Tim & Karen Powers</i>	<i>Parents</i>
<i>Anonymous</i>	<i>Loved Ones</i>



January, 2022

 Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
2	3	4	5	6 Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	7	8
9	10  Sharon Amburgey	11  Betty Stacy Elder Mtg. 7 PM	12	13 Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	14	15
16	17 	18	19  Amy Cockerham	20 Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	21  Peggy Byrd	22
23 Board Mtg. Following Church Newsletter Articles due	24	25	26	27  Mackenzie Lovin Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	28	29
30	31					

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