



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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

Chalice Communicator

April 26, 2022

Number 4

Senior Pastor: Rev. Connor Thompson

Assoc. Pastor: Rev. Jeff Wilder

Music Director: Michael Hefner

Moderator: John Rabovsky

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

May 12th 110th Birthday Party @

6PM

May 15th 110th Celebration Service

@ 3 PM

STATISTICS: Attendance Offering

04/24	40/19	\$1,143.00
04/17	81	\$1,074.00
04/10	38/15	\$1,268.00
04/03	39/20	\$1,200.00

Easter \$224.00

Coins for Camp \$47.01

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

Happy Anniversary to you!

In just 2 short weeks we will celebrate our 110th Anniversary of the founding of First Church of Christ/First Christian Church in Middletown, Ohio. 110 years is an impressive milestone in the life of congregations in the free church tradition where each congregation is locally governed. That is an impressive testament to the work of a congregation in a particular community as well as the support that community offers to the congregation.

I am excited! We will celebrate the whole week!

We will start celebrating on Sunday **May 8th** in our Traditional worship service, Pastor Connor's sermon is entitled "Welcomed into Community." Throughout the week we will have posts on our social media with different tidbits and pictures from events and important moments in the life of the congregation, as well as posts and pictures of current happenings in the life of the congregation.

Thursday **May 12th**, to celebrate the actual day that FCC-Middletown was founded, join us at the church at 6pm for a birthday party! Join us for a short celebration with cake and ice cream! Following the birthday party we will have our Modern worship service at 7:30pm with Pastor Jeff Preaching

Sunday **May 15th**, join us for the day! At our Traditional worship service at 10:30am we will continue our celebrations, Pastor Connor will bring a message entitled "Returning to God."

Sunday May 15th at 3pm we will have our 110th Anniversary Homecoming service. For this special occasion we will have our first official visit from our Regional Pastor & President, Rev. Allen V. Harris. He will be our preacher for the afternoon with his sermon "True Community is a Communion of Unity." In this service we will have music offered by our Chancel Choir, Former Music Director Wade Cummins, Kaitlin Thompson, Music Director Michael Hefner, and Mike Fulton. We will also celebrate multiple baptisms as well, as we celebrate both the past and the future of First Christian Church-Middletown.

We will also welcome the following special guests to join us that afternoon:

Rev. Bob Gambrell, Hawker United Church of Christ, Beavercreek, Ohio

Rev. Nik Donges, Regional Elder, Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. Corneilius Brown, Regional Elder, Dayton, Ohio

Rev. Drs. Irvin & Betty Green, Central Christian Church, Kettering, Ohio

Rev. Bonnie Goodwin, Disciples Christian Church, Hamilton, Ohio

Rev. Dr. & Rev. CJ & William Koen, Northside Christian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio

Rev. Rich Luh, St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, Middletown, Ohio

Rev. Dr. K. Scott Robertson, First Baptist Church, Middletown, Ohio

We hope to also have the following:

Rev. Terry Van Heyninen, Retired, Beulah, Michigan

Rev. Carol Oetzel, Legacy Christian Church, Harrison, Ohio

Rev. Dr. C. Thomas Steiner, Retired, Hopkinsville, Kentucky

Rev. Dr. Tom Stephenson, Regional Elder, Wilmington, Ohio

Rev. John Dick, Retired, Mt. Juliet, Tennessee



Prayer List:

Health: Ken Amburgey, Kristen Beck, Marla Marsh, Linda Neanover, Karen Thompson

Special Needs: 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

Scouting Corner-Troop 250

We are starting a new year and new adventures. Right now our youth are getting ready for summer camp. They have chosen their merit badges they want to earn and they are looking with anticipation towards spending a week at Camp Friedlander.

Aradia Stevens has started to work on her Eagle Project. She has chosen to build a little library that will be by the road in front of the church.

Now that we are starting to get warmer weather the youth are starting to plan new adventures, and also a recruitment for more youth to join our growing family.

CWF NEWS

Sarah Circle will meet at 1:00 pm May 5th at the church. We will be continuing our study on Proverbs. We will be putting together health kits for the Ukrainian refugees. The health kits consist of a hand towel, washcloth, large tooth comb, nail clippers, soap, 10 band aids, and a toothbrush. All of these items will fit in a gallon size plastic zipper bag. Please bring some of these items and we will put together as many kits as we can at the meeting. If we still need some items to finish out kits, we will shop for the items needed. Also, I will have a few fleece blankets ready to be tied and we can do that at the meeting or take them with us to complete at home.

On Sunday, Crystal and her friend loaded up her car with items which had been brought in for the Ukrainian refugees. Crystal’s friends will be going to the Poland/Ukrainian region on April 28th to distribute these items and to help out with the situation there. We are still collecting items for this cause and the rest will be given to Matthew 25 Ministries in Cincinnati. Here is a list of the items that are needed:

- | | |
|---|--|
| New and gently used clothing | |
| Personal care supplies (toothpaste, soap, etc.) | First aid supplies (band-aids, gauze, bandages, antiseptic ointment, etc.) |
| Feminine hygiene items | Paper products (toilet paper, paper towels) |
| blankets, sheets | Linens, Baby supplies |
| (diapers, wipes, etc.) | New stuffed teddy bears (12 inches high or smaller) |

Thanks to everyone who has helped with this project.

Marilyn Chamberlain, CWF President

Advance Ministries Spring Retreat

April 29 – May 1

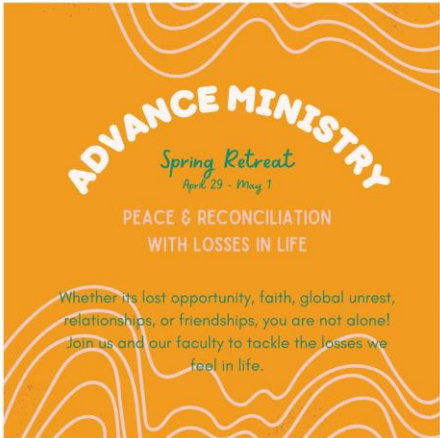
Camp Christian

Theme: Peace & Reconciliation with Losses in Life

Building on topics of peace and what that looks like for each individual, please join

us for a workshop to tackle the losses we feel in life as young adults. It is our intention that through community and reflection that conferees will leave with a fuller cup. So whether it's lost opportunity, faith, global unrest, relationships, or friendships, you are not alone!

For registration and more information about Advance Ministries, go to <https://www.ccinoh.com/ministries/adult/advance-ministry.aspx>



Camp Christian Summer Camps



The time for Summer Camp is almost here! All of the Camp Christian Summer 2022

Camp and Conference registration forms and information are available through our website. They are all available for download in one place on the [Summer Forms, Downloads, and Links page](#). They can all also be accessed through each of the Ministry's web pages and on each of the corresponding dates on the [Regional Calendar](#). Please feel free to post and share this information with as many people as possible. Each Congregation should have received a packet of hard copies of the forms and information in the mail as well.

The Early Bird registration discount deadline for all of the Children and Youth programs is Monday, May 2nd, which is just a little over a week away! You can absolutely still register for Camp after May 2nd you just won't be eligible for the reduced Early Bird rate afterwards. As with previous years, there are scholarships available. We don't want cost to ever be a reason someone doesn't come to Camp.

All of the details can be viewed at www.ccinoh.com/camp-christian/summer-programs.

We are looking forward to having another wonderful Summer at Camp Christian!!



Camp Christian Work Day Saturday, May 14th

From 7:00am until 5:00pm
10335 Maple Dell Rd., Marysville, OH 43040
Attend as you are able

Here are a few of the tasks that need worked on around Camp Christian.
There are tasks suited for a wide range of ages and abilities.

- Cleaning Cabin Clusters
- Clean & Organize Free Store
- Set up Green Chairs around Camp
- Power Washing
- Clean out Gutters and Downspouts
- Cleaning Boats and Life Jackets
- Weed control throughout Camp
- Painting
- Repair Dining Hall Shingles
- Move Soil and Gravel
- General grounds cleanup
- Just to name a few!

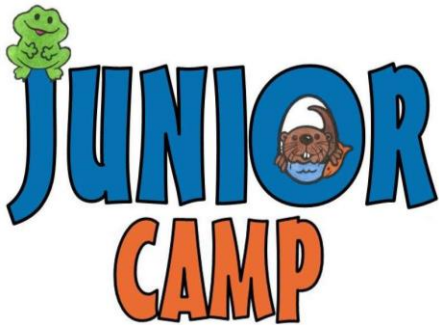
Camp Christian Wish List

We are SO looking forward to an awesome Summer at Camp Christian!! As in years past, many of you have asked for a list of needed items to physically donate to Camp Christian for the Summer Camps and Conferences. Some of our sporting equipment, crafting, free time activity, curriculum, and maintenance supplies could use an upgrade/restock. We created this Amazon wish list with several items that would be great additions to have around Camp Christian for our summer programs!

<https://a.co/iBAaV1T>

Please feel free to purchase items from this list and have them shipped directly to Camp Christian, or if you would rather send a monetary gift towards the purchase of these items, that's OK too.

Thank you so much for your love, generosity, and support of Camp Christian!!



Otter and Ribbit Camp Counselors in Training (CIT)

Attention High School age youth! We are looking forward to another great and amazing summer for Otter and Ribbit Junior

Camps. As always, we need you to help us out and make camp an experience these young campers never forget. If you are willing to take some time out of your summer and make a difference in the lives of elementary school kids, we invite you to consider being a Counselor in Training (CIT) this Summer at Otter Camp (June 26 – July 2) or Ribbit Camp (July 6-9.)

For more information, including how to apply, please contact Rev. Heather Hicks at hhicks@cozyspirit.com.

Camp Christian Work Day

May 14th

We will once again be hosting volunteers for a day of cleaning, repairing, and general preparation of Camp Christian in anticipation of the Summer Camp and Conference programs!

There are tasks suited for a wide range of ages and abilities. We hope you will join us!

More details, including specific tasks, how to sign up, how to donate, and more can be found at

<https://www.ccinoh.com/regional-calendar.aspx?events=10334&action=details>

Pentecost Special Offering



Received in many congregations May 29 and June 5, 2022

Turning Struggle into Steadfastness

Stories of struggle are nothing new to the church.

From the persecution faced by early Christians to civil rights movements led by faith leaders, the church has found its strength in times of unrest.

The COVID-19 pandemic is yet another chapter in this long history, both nothing unique and yet entirely different.

Through it all, Disciples have been steadfast. By launching emerging congregations, they have stepped up to care for communities in need.

But they don't do it alone.

With the help of regional and general ministries, these brave leaders have been provided with facilities to conduct their outreach activities and with online educational opportunities, such as Leadership Academy.

By making a gift to the 2022 Pentecost Offering, received in most congregations on Sundays, May 29 and June 5, you can ensure that the new church movement continues to prosper in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Each year, half of these gifts go to your own region to support local new church development. The other half goes to [New Church Ministry](#), which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders across the United States and Canada through programs such as coaching, New Church Hacks, and Water the Plants.

Planning, nurturing, and sustaining new places of worship is part of the Disciples' vision – participation in this Special Day Offering helps this vision come to life.

Week of Compassion in Dayton!

Week of Compassion is excited to welcome our first volunteer teams to Dayton Ohio, for tornado recovery work! The work is already off to a great start, working with the Tornado Survivors Pathway to Homeownership Project, and hosted at United Christian Church in Clayton. Teams are led by long term volunteers John Richardson and Steve Huston, who guide their work with the Tornado Survivors Pathway to Homeownership Project, rehabbing/building homes for renters displaced by the 2019 tornadoes, helping them to become first time homebuyers.

Five days of hard work and good fellowship can include yard clearing, installation of insulation, ceiling drywall replacement, stair railing repair, and even framing in a new double door!

If you have a small team interested, find more info on our Volunteer page! www.weekofcompassion.org/volunteer



A Moment for History

Sunrise Services

As with all Christian churches, Easter is one, if not, the most celebrated seasons of the liturgical calendar. For many years, it has been our tradition to have a sunrise service. Prior to moving to our current location, those early morning services were held indoors. On First Avenue, the only lawn was the hill in the front of the building and the only level location was the parking lot, so the sanctuary is where it would be.

In 1990 the church purchased the property on Rosedale Rd. for a new building. The land was mostly wooded with the exception of a portion at the south end of the lot (where the garden is). It was decided to mow that part of the lot so a sunrise service could be held outdoors and actually see the sun rise on Easter morning. On the first Easter after that purchase, we had that outdoor sunrise service. I remember that morning. It was cold and foggy but a group of 35-40 hearty folks, bringing their lawn chairs, gathered on that grassy spot and were led in worship by Rev. Donald Steffy. As we worshiped, the fog began to lift and the sun began to rise. As we prepared for communion, a flock of geese flew overhead. We took the geese as a good omen and God's blessing of the site.

The most recent sunrise service was only a couple of weeks ago. This year the temperatures were probably colder than 30 years ago so Pastor Connor decided the service would take place in the sanctuary. Attendance was smaller than that first year, but





a few people were in attendance, including a guest from neighborhood, who wanted to come to our church for Easter. I hope she will return. Pastors Connor & Jeff conducted the service. We sang hymns accompanied by prerecorded music. Pastor Connor told the story of Christ's resurrection and we celebrated with communion. It was a beautiful morning. Following the service an Easter breakfast was served and many of those who were attending the later service joined the early birds. Thank you to all those who prepared the meal.



May, 2022



Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Board Mtg. Following Church	2	3	4	5 Sarah Circle 1 PM Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	6 	7
8 	9	10	11	12 Church's Birthday Party 6 PM Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	13	14
15  Peggy Byrd Jake Padich 110 th Anniversary Service @ 3PM	16	17	18	19 Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	20	21  Marilyn Chamberlain Marilyn Strong
22	23	24 Elder Mtg. @ 7 PM	25	26 Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	27	28  Ginger Alley
29 Pentecost Offering Newsletter Articles due	30 	31				

