



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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

Chalice Communicator

July 26, 2022

Number 7

Senior Pastor: Rev. Connor Thompson

Assoc. Pastor: Rev. Jeff Wilder

Music Director: Michael Hefner

Moderator:

Elders: Natalie Byrd
Brenda Gulley
Cliff Thompson
Crystal Watson

SEE YOU IN WORSHIP

Traditional Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Modern Worship – Thursday
@7:30 PM

STATISTICS: Attendance Offering

07/24	41	\$ 969.00
07/17	30/20	\$ 1,603.00
07/10	47/17	\$ 780.00
07/03	30/22	\$ 1,251.00
06/26	29	\$ 757.00
Care Portal-		\$400.00

Important numbers/emails:

Pastor Connor Thompson

(513) 594-0070

[pastorconnorlthompson@
gmail.com](mailto:pastorconnorlthompson@gmail.com)

Assoc. Pastor Jeff Wilder

(513) 594-5421

mastermasonjeff@gmail.com



CONNOR'S COMMENTARY

Here we are at the end of July. In a few short weeks schools will be starting back, so school supplies are on sale, bus drivers and teachers are training and preparing. Marching bands, football teams, and soccer teams are practicing for their fall seasons.

We in the church are starting a new year as well. We owe our thanks and congratulations to our congregational leaders who are finishing their terms of service. We owe our thanks to John Ralbovsky as Moderator, Don Dixon as Historian, and Zola McClish, Karen Powers, Karen Thompson, and Lora Schueller as Elders. All of these individuals have provided invaluable leadership this last year, and we are a better church for their service.

I want to thank those who are serving this coming year for their commitment to help lead this congregation. This is a true sign of love and care for our church community from each of these individuals.

We are working to plan an Elder/Deacon workshop as well as a Board Strategic planning workshop, look forward to those dates coming soon!

I want to thank you all for your understanding during my time away, my vacation time was spent dealing with some health issues that I am still working through. I also was able to serve as Director of Otter Camp at Camp Christian, and serve alongside 17 other adults to provide a positive and enriching week to 47 children in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.

This coming year, we continue to have fun and exciting opportunities to serve and grow, I hope you will prepare to do both along with us.

In God's Service,

Pastor Connor



Prayer List:

Health: Kristen Beck, Marla Marsh

Special Needs: Lois Murphy

***Military Friends:** Shawn Stewart, Army Reserve deployment to Africa until March 2023

Stacy Britton, National Guard, deployed to Kuwait in August 2022

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

* As we keep all those in uniform in our prayers, we have added a section for those we know personally who are serving in the military.

CWF NEWS

The next meeting for Sarah Circle will be on Aug. 4th at 1:00 pm at the church. All ladies of the church are invited. If you need a ride, contact Marilyn Chamberlain or leave a message at the church and I will get back to you. We will have a business meeting and we will continue our study of Proverbs. We will have some fleece blankets that are ready to be tied if you are interested in doing that. Finished fleece blankets are given to foster children.

As our pastors have reminded us, we should try to use our abilities and talents to further the kingdom of God. Let’s not put them on a shelf to be forgotten.

Marilyn Chamberlain

CWF President



WELCOME NEW LEADERS

On July 10th we held our Annual congregational Meeting, at this meeting we unanimously approved our 2022-2023 Operating Budget and Elected our 2022-2023 Board, Elders, and Deacons. We hope to announce a nomination for our 2022-2023 Moderator soon.

22-23 Board

Crystal Watson, Vice-Moderator

Marilyn Chamberlain, Treasurer

Natalie Byrd, Recording Secretary

Tim Powers, Financial Secretary

Cliff Thompson, Wills, Gifts, and Memorials Chair

Larry Steele, Trustee Chair

Carly Wilder, Congregational Ministries Chair

Kobi Wilder, Community Ministries Chair

22-23 Elders

Crystal Watson

Cliff Thompson

Brenda Gulley

Natalie Byrd

22-23 Deacons

Mary Back, Chair

Judy Lemmert

Larry Steele

Kobi Wilder

Steven Bowen

Kelly Wilder

Chase Pope, Junior Deacon

Aiden Pope, Junior Deacon

Zach Pope, Junior Deacon

INK RECYCLING PROGRAM

Every six months we renew our rewards membership at Staples. As long as we turn in used ink cartridges, we are given store credit which helps immensely in offsetting our office expenses. In order to participate in the Staples reward program, we must purchase \$50 in ink supplies. (This was recently raised from \$30.) We can use your help if anyone is in need of ink, please contact Sharon Amburgey and she will work with you so our church can get credit and remain in the program. You may contact her directly or leave a message on the church phone (513 422-2853). All used cartridges may also be left in the church office or placed in the bin on the wall next to the water fountain.

FMS GARDEN REPORT

Our Garden has been planted and is beginning to yield produce. As of mid-July, we have been able to donate 175.5 lbs. of fresh produce (yellow squash, zucchini, cucumbers, and green peppers) to our local Salvation Army Food Pantry. We are looking to be starting to pick from our first sweet corn planting. However, this is not turning out to be a very good garden year. We have planted green beans three different times and each time, the sprouts have been nibbled to the ground. We think this is due to the very large population of rabbits on our property. We have some ideas and may make changes for next year. However, it has gotten too late in the year to try planting beans another time. We were late getting a second planting of sweet corn in due to weather delays. We did manage to get one in, but it appears that some of the seed was washed out during a heavy rain. Yields on this second planting are expected to be poor. We have been blessed for two years with good crop yields but this third year is turning out to be a significant challenge.

Even though we are not anticipating a very good year, we will still need to weed and you should expect a call for help in that arena.

Dave & Larry

Christian Church in Ohio Regional Assembly
Camp Christian ~ September 24, 2022

A Family Reunion



Now a FREE Event!!

Responding To
Feedback From You,
Regional Assembly
Plans Have Changed!

Better Than Ever &
FREE!*

[Regional Assembly](#) ~ A
Family Reunion

September 24th at Camp
Christian

*"How good and pleasant
it is when God's people live together in unity!"*

Psalm 133:1

In response to some very helpful feedback the Regional Assembly Planning Committee has redesigned our Saturday, September 24 Regional Assembly, "A Family Reunion" at Camp Christian. ***It is now going to be shorter and free!**** Through the generosity of a donor, all of the food costs will be covered. We are hoping to still receive other donations to cover the program, utility, administrative, and staffing costs for Camp Christian, but the Regional Assembly Planning Committee is thrilled to offer this day of celebration at no cost to those who pre-register.

**For persons who register the day of the event, or show up on site without pre-registration, a \$5.00 registration fee will be required.* We are also asking [exhibitors and vendors](#) with booths to register for the original \$40 to help underwrite the costs. A new Registration Form is now available on the Regional Website, www.CCinOH.org and also attached to this email.

The Regional Assembly will now begin with registration at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 24 and the program beginning at 11 a.m. We will still have a very short Regional Business Meeting (including the election of our new Regional Church Council), a picnic-style lunch, followed by an afternoon full of games (table, competitive, and group), live music, booths hosted by our Regional and General Ministry Partners, crafts for the entire family, tours of Camp Christian, fishing, boating, and "Green Chair Chats," as well as other fun possibilities. The day will conclude with worship starting at 3 p.m. that will include Communion. We hope the new 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. time frame will be better for everyone, especially those driving from farther away.

More than anything, we are excited to offer a chance for wonderful fellowship with friends and colleagues from around the Christian Church in Ohio and beyond. Adults, youth, and children are encouraged to attend. The Assembly is designed for all ages, and there will also be child care for Children ages 4 to 12 during the opening gathering and business meeting. We would love to see as many of you as possible for this long-anticipated gathering. We hope that each church in the Ohio Region will send at least 2 members to represent their congregation.

Plan to bring camp chairs, blankets, and

umbrellas, pop-up tents if you want, Also feel free to bring your favorite games and sports equipment (basketballs, pickle ball rackets & balls, soccer balls, Frisbees, etc.). Casual clothes are welcome.

Please help us create a photo collage of our extended church family in the Ohio Region, by sending a group photo of your congregation. Email high resolution group photos as jpeg or png attachments to ccio@ccinoh.org, by September 1st.

Overnight accommodations in the Monroe Lodge (if needed) either the night before, Friday, September 23, or that night, Saturday, September 24, will still be available at minimal cost. Meals other than Saturday lunch however will not be provided.



**Ohio
Women's
Ministries
Retreat**

SAVE THE DATE

September 10th at Camp Christian

This will be a one day event, but overnight accommodations will be available.

We look forward to seeing you at Camp this Fall!! More details to come.

FCC-MIDDLETOWN AT CAMP CHRISTIAN 2022

June 26th-July 2nd, First Christian Church-Middletown was represented at Otter Camp by counselors Zola McClish, Tyler Bowen, Steven Bowen, Kate Thompson, and Pastor Connor served as Director.

July 6th-9th, Madelyn French attended Ribbit Camp

July 17th-July 23rd, Aiden Pope attended CYF Week 2

July 24th-July 30th, Kate Thompson served as an Officer for Advance Conference

All of these people attended and served at Camp Christian thanks to your support, encouragement, and care. This is one small piece of what building the church of tomorrow looks like.



Disciples Fellowship Retreat

Disciples Fellowship Retreat

Labor Day Weekend

September 2-4, 2022

At Camp Christian

Spiritual Gifts: Exploring and Enhancing our gifts through the witness of others

We will use the lives of people we identify as spiritually gifted (think about who you can tell us about!) in order to discover and learn ways to use our gifts. One life that will be included is the life of Bev Sajna, DFR coordinator who began eternal life in April. Bring stories of others from whom you have become aware of spiritual gifts.

Service Project:

Please bring canned goods (especially chicken, tuna, soup or peanut butter) socks or grooming supplies to give to the Free Store outreach at Camp Christian.

Come and join us for a wonderful weekend of fellowship, worship, food, music, and fun!

What a great way to get away from the hustle and bustle of your everyday life and enjoy the out-of-doors! Spend a weekend with God and friends (both old and new) and go home feeling refreshed and relaxed. This is a great opportunity for you to come and experience camp, whether you have grown up here or are a first-time camper. It's also a great chance for younger children to see what camp is all about when they are able to attend the summer camp programs. And, if you've ever been a counselor, now it's your turn to just "be a camper"!!!! Hope to see you soon!!

For more information, including how to register, go to <https://www.ccinoh.com/ministries/adult/disciples-fellowship.aspx>



August 20th Details to be announced!

August, 2022



Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Linda Poynter	4 Sarah's Circle 1pm @ church Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	5	6
7 Outdoor Service and Picnic with St. Paul's UCC Details to be announced	8	9 Janice Kash	10	11 Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	12	13
14	15	16 Travis Fowler	17	18 Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	19 Vacation Bible School August 19-20	20 Vacation Bible School Details to be announced
21 Sue Tarbox	22	23 Elder Mtg. @ 7 PM	24	25 Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM	26 Brian Tarbox	27 Karen Thompson, Navy Andress
28 Cliff Thompson Board Meeting Newsletter Articles due	29	30	31			

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