



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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

Chalice Communicator

August 23, 2022

Number 8

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

08/21	48/18	\$ 1,135.00
08/14	40/24	\$ 1,321.00
08/07	54/29	\$ 1,480.00
07/31	23	\$ 1,092.00

Coins for Camp \$38.00

Important numbers/emails:

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

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

Reminder

Please drop off candy at the church before October 9th. This year Trunk or Treat will be at the Towne Mall on Saturday, October 15th.



CONNOR'S COMMENTARY

Back to School, Back to Church

As I sit here at my desk writing, I hear kids at recess screaming, yelling, giggling, and laughing. So, school is back in session. Bookbags have been purchased, school supplies have been gathered, Clothes, shoes and lunch boxes have been picked out and already used.

This is that time of year, where we return to “normal” for many people, routines return to families, schools, and institutions. The church is no different. Summer came, Camp was enjoyed, Vacation Bible School was had, and gardens were tended. Now we get to return to creating our new routine. Routines change, but nevertheless become routine. What will your routine look like? How will it include the church? Will you participate in Seamless Bible study led by Dannie? Will you participate in Sarah Circle? Will you create a new fellowship group? Are you attending worship regularly? Are you keeping in touch with your church family?

We have lots of things starting this fall at First Christian, and we want you to be excited about being a part of it. Think about how you are most comfortable about being a part of the life of the church.

I do want to say thank you to Dannie Glidden for being our Vacation Bible School Director this year. It was a fantastic event, and was enjoyed by all. I want to say thank you to everyone who volunteered to help in some way, John Glidden, Pastor Jeff, Kelly Wilder, Carly Wilder, Kobi Wilder, Brenda Gulley, Dorice Perkins, Tyler Bowen, Steve Bowen, Mary Back, Marilyn Chamberlain, Michael Hefner, Linda Poynter, and Judy Lemmert.

I want to say thank you to the team that participated in the Blessing of the Backpacks at Governors square on Sunday August 14th. This team included Brenda Gulley, Pastor Jeff, Kelly Wilder, Kobi Wilder, and Dannie Glidden. We were one of several churches who gathered and handed out school supplies, free backpacks, free haircuts, and lots of prayers over our students, teacher, staff, and whole school community.

I want to give my thanks to the team who continues to represent FCC-Middletown at the Unhoused Community meetings.

We also had Pastor Jeff participating with the Middletown Area Ministerial Alliance to welcome all of the Middletown City Schools students to their first week of school, filled with smiles, high fives, fist bumps, and a lot of laughs.

As the school year starts, and fall begins to arrive, look at your routines, what part of them will stay, and what part of them needs to change.

Blessings,

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



Thanks to all who attended my
going away luncheon at the Olive
Garden. I felt the love which has
always been given by you. You will
always be in my heart and prayers.

Love, Janice

Janice R. Kash
115 Wigton Place
Alpharetta, GA 30004
(614) 309-1216



We are excited to announce that
following a board and
congregational vote that Larry
Steele has been elected as our
2022-2023 Board Moderator and
Dannie Glidden has been elected as
our Community ministries Co-Chair.
Both of these individuals bring an
abundance of dedication and
passion for service. We will be
blessed by their leadership.

CWF NEWS

Sarah Circle met at 1:00 on August 4th at the church. Mary Back gave the lesson on self-control from the book of Proverbs. We then had a business meeting and finished the afternoon with dessert. Dorice Perkins and Helen Morgan joined us from Esther-Rebekah Circle.

On August 11th we had a going-away luncheon at Olive Garden for Janice Kash who will be moving to Georgia soon. There were 17 present and we had an enjoyable afternoon.

The ladies from Sarah Circle provided lunch for the Vacation Bible School kids and teachers on August 20th. Thanks to Linda Poynter, Mary Back, Judy Lemmert, Brenda Gulley, and Zola McClish for providing food and helping in the kitchen.

Our next meeting will be on September 1st at 1:00 at the church. If you need a ride, please call Marilyn Chamberlain or leave a message at the church.

Marilyn Chamberlain,
CWF President



A Moment of Thanks and Praise.

This week has been a wonderful time of reflection for me. I have watched as our congregation has transformed from a church I joined following God's voice to a family that I love with all my heart. This week my travels in ministry took me to the front steps of every school in our city welcoming back the students and praying over them and the schools with dozens of ministers and city leaders. It took me to a family that was devastated by the worst tragedy you can imagine a mother and children could go through, the family hungry and without a single item but the clothes they had on were clothed with new clothes and fed, they were also ministered to and loved unconditionally. I stood in the church watching 7 young kids sing praises and learn about Jesus and learn to be Fishers of Men. Our V.B.S. was small but the blessing it bestowed on one of the young children was right on time and was worth every moment of preparation. As Dorice checked the kids in and was all smiles and love, they walked into a church transformed into the Sea of Galilee decorated by Carly, Kobi, Kelly and Dannie. The young child was all smiles. As Tyler, Brenda, Dannie and Kasey taught and did activities with them they were full of life. Michael came and taught songs, songs they entertained us with Sunday and songs they are still singing today. They gathered for a feast prepared by the ladies of the church and some of the kids said the food was the best of their young lives! As they were leaving one of them comes up and says Pastor Jeff this has been the best day of my life and

hugs me tight. Unknown to us that young one had the worst month a child could have, he asked for prayers for his daddy who he said "I think he's with Jesus cause I think he is dead." That one was worth every moment and penny! I was able to travel to Kentucky and help countless families in the mist of a horrible flood. I have stood next to some of our families as they lost loved ones, and watched as you stood next to me as I prayed and hoped for my Grandmother receiving the news she has cancer. I have watched, loved on and prayed with some of our congregation when they received the news that cancer had touched their lives. God has allowed me to help with countless families in our community and help shape policy for our city and see our faith community start working together stronger than ever. I have been able to share and minister in dozens of other churches and to be a part of our shaping and forming of a stronger Pro-Reconciliation Anti- Racism team. I have watched as we as a family proclaimed to the world we are a place where EVERYONE IS WELCOMED AND LOVED UNCONDITIONALLY. My reflection and thanks today is this. It was not I that seen, been a part of, or did. It was US. You, the church saw God's will and sent. We as a church heard God voice and acted. We as a family shared our blessings. Every one of us! From the pulpit to the youth classrooms we all gave and was a part. We did it together. I watch as we have 2 services now. Different yes, but a family none the less! Some of us are learning who we are in Christ. Some of us are hands on, some of us are prayer warriors, some of us are blessed to fund the work but all are needed and important. All work together to bless lives, feed the hungry, clothe the naked and have Christ work through us to heal the broken. Some of us are in the middle of transitioning to a new phase and position in the body of Christ and still you are NEEDED and valuable. I can say today that the church I joined has become home, the people I met have become family and the work I was called to do I was called to do it with you! I'm thankful for all the work we have accomplished, I'm grateful for the ability to be a part of a family that supports the work of Christ and I'm hopeful for the work that is still to come.

So from the bottom of my heart,

THANK YOU.

Pastor Jeff Wilder

September, 2022

 Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1  Frances Hollan</p> <p>Sarah's Circle 1pm @church</p> <p>Modern Worship Service</p>	2	3
<p>4  Libby Benson</p>	<p>5  Landon Lovin</p>	<p>6  Joann Grimes</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p>Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM</p>	9	<p>10</p> 
11	12	13	14	<p>15</p> <p>Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM</p>	16	17
18	19	<p>20</p> <p>Elder Mtg. @ 7 PM</p>	21	<p>22</p> <p>Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM</p>	<p>23  Madelyn French</p>	24
<p>25</p> <p>Reconciliation Offering</p> <p>Board Meeting</p> <p>Newsletter Articles due</p>	26	<p>27  Heather Hardewig</p>	<p>28  Lora Schueller</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Modern Worship Service 7:30 PM</p>	30	

