

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

Niles, OH 44446

www.firstchristianniles.org

Rev. Christopher Stark, Minister

10:45 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE

DECEMBER 10, 2017

WE BEGIN OUR TIME TOGETHER

NEWS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

(Please sign and pass the attendance pad across in your row, recognizing and greeting members and guests. Include children/family elsewhere in the building.)

WE MEET OUR LORD TOGETHER AND OFFER OUR PRAISE

ADVENT CANDLE LITANY

readers: George, Jamie, Luke and Kayla Sprague

Light for today's service came from the home of Dorothy Joseph

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord!

PRAYER: **Please pray with me. Send your Spirit to the wild corners of our hearts. Grant us wisdom and understanding that we will prepare well for the coming of your promised counselor. Amen.**

SING: 'One Candle is Lit' CH p. 128 v.2

v. 2 Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

* CENTERING (Responsively)

Leader: The day of God is coming; lift up your voices. Cry out with the strength God provides.

People: We await God's coming day with anticipation. We seek the peace and patience God provides.

Leader: Comfort, Comfort my people, says our God. Speak tenderly to my suffering people.

People: We will prepare the way for One who is coming. We look forward to baptism in the Spirit.

Leader: God will feed us like a shepherd. God will gather us in gentle, caring arms.

People: God's hand is upon us in blessing; We are welcomed by God's steadfast love.

*PRAISE SONG 'Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn' CH p. 138

OPENING PRAYER

Righteous and holy God, your glory is revealed to us day by day as valleys of despair are lifted up and mountainous problems are leveled. In your presence, we see more than our immediate situation. We catch a glimpse of your eternal purposes. So come among us now and speak your word of peace. Feed us with your truth, and equip us to welcome Christ's coming. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WE PRAY TOGETHER

PRAYER CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHOIR SELECTION 'O Come to Set Us Free'

(Children ages 0-4 are dismissed after Choir Selection to the Preschool Room and Grades Kindergarten - 4 to go to Junior Worship. Please gather at the back

SCRIPTURE Mark 1: 1-8 NT p. 34

MESSAGE '**PREPARING THE WAY OF THE LORD**'

WE SHARE THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP 'Here Am I' CH p. 654

Elders Serving: Sandy Pressell and Monica Lott

COMING TO THE TABLE

(Please come forward from the center aisle and dip the bread into the cup. Those unable to come forward please stay seated and a deacon will bring the bread and cup to you.)

OFFERTORY MOMENT

OFFERING OUR GIFTS (Deacons will pass trays)

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS

WE DEPART TO SERVE

THE INVITATION

(All who will accept Christ as Lord of their lives and those who desire to transfer membership are invited to come forward at this time.)

HYMN OF INVITATION 'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence' CH p. 124

LITANY OF BLESSING

Leader: God is bringing light to our darkness.

People: We are called to go into the world, confident in God's loving presence, to serve others in need.

Leader: Go, bringing hope and peace to this darkened world. Go in God's love. AMEN.

CLOSING SONG 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel' v. 2 CH p. 119

* Please stand if able

2017 CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING - All the money received through this offering is returned to the Ohio Region. This special offering will be received again today and on December 17. Mark your check "Christmas Special Offering" and place in enclosed envelope and place in offering plates or mail it to the church office.

POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE TODAY. Cost is \$8 per plant, payable at time of order. Order forms are available in narthex.

CYF MEETING today following worship, CYF Room

CHI RHO MEETING for grades 6-8 following worship today, fellowship hall

TMH PSYCH UNIT WORSHIP this afternoon, 2 p.m.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE tomorrow evening, December 11 at 7 p.m.

2 AND 3 YEAR OLD CLASS CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECT is giving some gifts through World Vision. Help us give a gift. Change a life. See display in narthex.

CHRISTIAN ED MISSION PROJECT - Beatitude House gifts due today.

LYDIA CIRCLE CHRISTMAS PARTY Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m., Woodland Chase Clubhouse

PARENTS NIGHT OUT Dec. 15, 6-9 p.m. CYF babysitting at church

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, Chrissy Stonebreaker-Martinez, member of FCC and co-director of the InterReligious Taskforce on Central America will be providing a **FAIRTRADE BOOTH** after service. If you are interested in supporting Chrissy's non-profit, buying fair trade gifts for Christmas, or simply wish to learn more about how your consumption of goods can be more ethical and just, we invite you to stick around after service!

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the narthex. Your offering number has been stamped on the envelopes, but please write your name on them also.

OFFICE HOURS for Pastor Chris this week: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Pastor Chris's cell is 330.442.2558; email address is pastorchrisstark@gmail.com.

BUDGET RECEIPTS LAST WEEK WERE:

\$3,788.01

CALENDAR

Sun.	9:00 a.m.	Stewardship/Finance Meeting
	9:30 a.m.	Church School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:00 p.m.	CYF Meeting - CYF Room
		Chi Rho Meeting - fellowship hall
	2:00 p.m.	TMH Psych Unit Worship
Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Blue Christmas Service
Tues.	6:30 p.m.	Lydia Circle Christmas Party
Thurs.	6:30 p.m.	Senior Choir Rehearsal
Fri.	6-9 p.m.	Parents Night Out - CYF babysitting at church
Sat.	9 a.m.-11 a.m.	Lydia Circle - traying cookies - fellowship hall
Sun.	9:30 a.m.	Church School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:00 p.m.	Fair Trade Booth
		CYF Christmas Party - CYF Room