

*FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH*

*(Disciples of Christ)*

*Niles, OH 44446*

[www.firstchristianniles.org](http://www.firstchristianniles.org)

*Rev. Christopher Stark, Minister*

**10:00 A.M.**

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

**JULY 23, 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**

**\* CENTERING (Responsively)**

Leader: Weeds and seeds, growing together.

**People: Each will influence the other.**

Leader: What will we learn from the weeds?

**People: Trials and tribulations, choices that have not always worked out. Weeds can teach us about perseverance – consider the tough dandelion plant pushing its way up through the pavement – for some it's just a weed, but for others there are lessons to be learned.**

Leader: What will be gained from seeds?

**People: Inside each one of us is a special person, waiting to be nurtured to wholeness. Each seed is unique; each has its own gifts to offer.**

Leader: In God's garden, God's love extends to both – asking both to consider what each has to offer to a hurting world.

**People: Lord, help us to be good seeds, bearing fruits of kindness, justice and compassion. Keep us mindful of those for whom life has been difficult and yet they persist in trying to make each day better. Be in our hearts, O Lord, and in our lives. AMEN.**

**\*PRAISE SONG**

'In the Bulb There is a Flower'

CH p. 638

**OPENING PRAYER**

**We are such a rag-tag group of people. Some of us are at the 'top of our game' and others just struggle to get through each day. Yet you draw us here where we will find friendship, peace, and hope not only for our lives right now but for all the times to come. Stand us up again, O God. Dust us off and put us back on the pathways of service and reconciliation. Warm our hearts with your love; lift our spirits with your power, for we ask these things in the Name of Jesus our Savior. 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**

(For our 10 a.m. summer worship, children ages 0-4 are welcome in the Preschool Room. For those children remaining in worship, activity bags are available on the front pew.)

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

NT pgs. 14-15

MESSAGE

**'WEEDS AND WHEAT'**

**WE SHARE THE LORD'S SUPPER**

PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND CUP 'Sheaves of Summer' v. 1-4, CH p. 396

Elders Serving: Georgeanne Walters and Dale Havaich

**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

'O for a World'

CH p. 683

LITANY OF BLESSING

Leader: Go into God's world with confidence and hope.

**People: God's presence is with us in all that we do.**  
 Leader: Be those people who plant seeds of comfort and hope.  
**People: God will bring about the harvest in due time. AMEN.**

CLOSING SONG                      'Sweet, Sweet Spirit'                      CH p. 261

\* Please stand if able

ALTAR FLOWERS are in honor of Mel and Georgeanne Walters' 53<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

ALTAR FLOWERS are in honor of Rev. John and Jo Anne Humbert for their Wedding Anniversary.

YOUTH HEADED TO CHI RHO CAMP today is Cheyanne Franklin and Aeryal Marsteller.

SERENITY CAMPFIRE/DINNER this evening, 6 p.m., Stephanie and Tom Bevilacqua's home, 1300 Northfield Dr., Mineral Ridge.

**REGISTER TODAY FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "Hero Central"** to be held Sunday, August 6 through Thursday, August 10 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. **Registration forms are available on the bulletin board by the parlor.** A \$5 registration fee goes towards a VBS t-shirt. Mark size on registration form. Dinner will be served.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MEETING this Wed., July 26 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. **Volunteers are needed!** See posting on bulletin board by the parlor and **SIGN UP TODAY!**

**VBS MISSION PROJECT** - we are collecting **single serving** snack items such as chips, applesauce, raisin boxes, trail bars, peanuts, candy (no gum) and cracker packs. Items may be placed in the main hallway by the parlor.

DISCIPLE WOMEN'S JAIL MINISTRY July 24, 6:45 p.m., Trumbull County Jail

BOOK CLUB July 25, 7 p.m., parlor

A YOUNGSTOWN RESCUE MISSION DINNER will be served July 25, 5-7 p.m. by FCC volunteers. Those providing desserts for these dinners need to have items to the church **before 11:30 a.m.** using buzzer and door closest to the library parking lot.

LYDIA CIRCLE is collecting **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** for distribution through Niles Community Services. Donations may be placed in the marked box in the narthex. **Deadline for supplies is August 13th.**

BUDGET RECEIPTS LAST WEEK WERE:	\$2,136.59
---------------------------------	------------

**\*CALENDAR\***

Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	6:00 p.m.	Serenity Campfire/Dinner - Bevilacqua home
	July 23-29	Chi Rho Camp - Camp Christian
Mon.		Men's Golf
	6:45 p.m.	Disciple Women's Jail Ministry - Trumbull County Jail
Tues.	5-7 p.m.	Youngstown Rescue Mission dinner served
	7:00 p.m.	Book Club - parlor
Wed.	5:00-8:30 p.m.	Vacation Bible School Meeting
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	2:00 p.m.	TMH Psych Unit Worship
	July 30-August 6	Advance Conference - Camp Christian