

# First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

33 N. Arlington Ave., Niles, OH 44446

News and Events Around  
Your Church



#### Mission Statement:

We celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ by witnessing, loving, growing, and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

VOL. LXIV No. 4

April 27, 2017

One of the best sights, in my opinion, is the new growth of spring. Those first shoots give such promise to a season of new life. This year has been especially exciting for me. When we moved into our new home in February, we had no idea what might have been planted where. Soon enough though, crocuses began to peak out of the previously frozen soil. Then came hyacinths, daffodils, and now the eastern redbuds are showing their splendor. Alongside the expected flowers of the season, we've been surprised by unexpected potential. Rhubarb, asparagus, blackberries, and an old apple tree have begun to show signs of an ample harvest in the season to come. As abundant life has begun to express itself, my mind conjures grand visions toward the potential of our fallow garden and to the prospect of how our plot of earth might spring forth even further. Each and every day I've been wondering through our yard, wondering what might spring forth next, where we might plant something new and anticipating with hope and with joy what potential fruits each and every little sprout might come to bear in the season ahead. I enjoy the work of each day, anticipate the work in the coming season, and look forward to the culmination of harvest!

I hope that I might one day be able to approach all of my chores with the same anticipation. This is probably something that you can relate to in some respect. In every job, task, chore, duty or assignment, do we put forth the work for the vision of its culmination or do we plod through the work just to have it out of the way? More often than not I find myself guilty of the later. When I wash dishes, I don't have grand visions of a spotless kitchen; instead find myself tediously pondering through the chore with no hope that it will ever be completed. The same could probably be said for much of the work we engage in, occupationally and at home. Perhaps the same thing could even be said for our work within the congregation.

How often do we do church work just to say we have done it? How often do we go to worship just to check it off the list? How often do we perform outreach simply to feel better because it is done? In Galatians 6:7-8 we find, "Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit."

This is as true for our spiritual lives as it is for our physical lives. If we just dig around in the dirt to say that we have done the work, nothing will ever be planted. If we sow the wrong seeds, we will never harvest. If we do not do the proper work the proper harvest cannot come into fruition. That is why every step that we take, every chore that we do, every outreach and missional action that we undertake must be done with the joyful certainty and anticipation of culmination. We must plant our seeds knowing that these actions will bear fruit and we must look forward to that end goal or else our work becomes tedious, it becomes meaningless, or worse, it becomes for ourselves. So I invite you to plant seeds along with me, literally and metaphorically, and experience the wonder and joy of seeing those seeds sprout, of seeing those sprouts grow new life, and seeing that new life bear fruit. Pastor Chris

#### GREEN CHALICE ARTICLE

Pastor Chris is beginning the process to start a "Green Team" within our community. This group should consist of members who are passionate for creation and who can commit to meet regularly to examine the church's practices and move toward sustainability. This is the first step in declaring ourselves a "Green Chalice" congregation and naming our intentional drive toward sustainable stewardship. If you are interested please let Pastor Chris know! If you would like more information about the program check out [www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/green-chalice/](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/green-chalice/)

#### COMING UP IN MAY:

- **Sunday, May 7**
  - 10:45 a.m.** Worship
  - 12:00 p.m.** Elders Meeting in library
  - 3:00 p.m.** Dist. 4 Men's Spring Rally – Bolindale Christian Church  
A sign-up sheet is posted on the main bulletin board.  
**Deadline is this Sun., April 30.** The ham dinner costs \$8.  
Speaker is Cathy Grinzinski, Associate Director at Help Hotline.
- **Sunday, May 14**
  - 10:45 a.m.** Worship  
Anna Circle's Mother's Day Basket Raffle
- **Monday, May 15**
  - 6:00 p.m.** All Daughters' Dinner – fellowship hall
- **Sunday, May 21**
  - 9:30 a.m.** Last Sunday School until our fall schedule resumes
  - 10:45 a.m.** Worship
  - 12:00 p.m.** Official Board Meeting  
Youth Luncheon - Please support our youth by attending.
- **Sunday, May 28** OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS AT **10:00 A.M.**

#### OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS

MAY 28 through SEPTEMBER 3

Worship service is 10:00 a.m.

No Church School classes or Junior Worship.

PRESCHOOL CARE PROVIDED

Families are invited to worship together.



WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS **Cheyenne Franklin** and **Colin Poling**, members of this year's Pastor's Class, who were received into the fellowship of our congregation and baptized on Easter Sunday. *We rejoice that these young people have become a part of our wonderful church family.*

THANK YOU to **Disciples Men** for arranging the Easter Egg Hunt and to the **Sunday School classes** and **congregation** for the 23 Easter baskets presented to Homes For Kids.

PASTOR CHRIS STARK CONTACT INFO: cell phone 330.442.2558; email address pastorchrisstark@gmail.com.

CYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL **this Sunday, April 30** following worship in fellowship hall. Please support our youth with this fundraiser!

COMMUNITY MEALS WILL BE SERVED BY FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH DURING MAY. Meals will be served on the Thursdays of May 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 4:45 to 6 p.m. Monetary donations are being accepted for these meals. If you wish to contribute, please make checks payable to First Christian Church labeled 'meals.'

OUR CHURCH FAMILY is invited to a 90th surprise birthday luncheon for Dan Pecchio on Sunday, May 7 right after church in fellowship hall.

SPECIAL MUSIC is being planned for the summer worship services. If anyone is interested in providing special music in the summer, please see David Moore.

AN ALL DAUGHTERS' DINNER will be held **Monday, May 15** at 6 p.m. in fellowship hall. *All mothers and/or daughters are encouraged to join us on this evening for fellowship, fun, food and laughter!* Meat and beverages will be provided. Everyone is asked to bring their own table service, a covered dish to share and a smile!

ANNA CIRCLE'S 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY BASKET DRAWINGS will take place on Mother's Day, May 14. Tickets are available from any Anna Circle member. Donation is \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00. Basket themes are '*It's Picnic Time*'; '*It's Grilling Time*' and '*Flowers Galore.*' Items are on display in the narthex.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to Jan and Chuck Shonk, Jenny Long, family and friends, in the passing of Jan and Jenny's mother, Margaret Willaman, on April 5.

BIBLE STUDY will resume on Tuesday evenings beginning May 2 at **7 p.m.** in the church parlor. Everyone is welcome to join us.

KNOTTY GIRL QUILTERS will quilt Wed., May 3 at the church from 1 to 4 p.m. on the lower level.

DISCIPLE WOMEN'S JAIL MINISTRY TEAM will be conducting worship services on the Mondays of May 8 and May 22 at 6:45 p.m. at the Trumbull County Jail.

#### MAY BIRTHDAYS:

|                        |                      |                              |                             |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| May 1 Kathy Marsteller | May 7 Ellie Stark    | May 16 Dale Havaich          | May 22 Daina Wagner         |
| May 3 Keeley Sprague   | May 7 Kim Tenney     | May 16 Ellen Sheldon         | May 25 William Joseph       |
| May 3 McKenna Sprague  | May 10 Ellen Lott    | May 18 Gregg Marsteller, Jr. | May 31 Beverly Cross-Thomas |
| May 7 Dan Pecchio      | May 10 Alaina Wagner | May 20 Doris Mathews         | May 31 Pat Heston           |

CHI RHO YOUTH GROUP (grades 6-8) will meet Sunday, May 7 following worship.

LYDIA CIRCLE WILL BE SELLING COOKIES for graduations/weddings. If anyone is interested, please give Beverly McCloskey (330.538.9994) or Martha Hellam (330.856.5768) a call.


MISSIONS COMMITTEE 'UNDIE SUNDAYS' MAY 21 AND MAY 28. They are collecting all sizes – baby diapers, children and youth undies to men's and women's underwear to be given to Niles Community Services for distribution to the needy in our area.



FCC VOLUNTEERS will serve a dinner **Tuesday, May 30** from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley, 962 Martin Luther King Blvd. in Youngstown, coordinated by Becky Carpenter. Desserts need to be to the church **before 11:30 a.m.** using buzzer and door closest to the library parking lot.

OHIO DISCIPLES MEN'S SPRING MISSION RETREAT/WORKDAY is May 12 and 13 at Camp Christian. After a long winter, there's a lot of spring cleaning to be done to get Camp Christian in shape for the summer. Friday night lodging and meals is \$25; Saturday only meals are free. Deadline to register is May 5. Register online at ccinohio.org.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER ITEMS is **Mon., May 22** by 11:30 a.m.

 MAY NEWSNOTES . . . . **Easter Special Offering** total received was \$417.17 . . . . **Elders** will meet Sun., May 7 following worship in the library . . . . **Disciples Men** will meet Sun., May 7 at 8 a.m. at Perkins . . . . **Stewardship and Finance** will meet Sun., May 14 at 9 a.m. . . . . **TMH Psych Unit Worship Service** will be held this Sun., April 30 and on Sunday, May 14 at 2 p.m. . . . . **Anna Circle** will meet Monday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor . . . . **Missions Committee** will meet Wed., May 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor . . . . **Lydia Circle** ladies will get together Wed., May 10 at 7 p.m. in the church parlor . . . . **Ohio Women's Ministry** (OWM) is collecting **canned spaghetti/ravioli** for Niles Community Services during the month of May. Donations may be placed in the cabinet in the main hallway . . . . We are so pleased to announce that **Rea Gaugler** was awarded a Thomas Murphy Youth Memorial Award \$500 scholarship at the 51<sup>st</sup> Niles Interfaith Banquet held on April 23 . . . . Best of luck to **Gregg Marsteller** as he competes in a semi-truck competition May 19 and May 20! . .

NEWS & EVENTS  
is a monthly publication of  
First Christian Church, Niles, Ohio  
330-652-5839 • [www.firstchristianiles.org](http://www.firstchristianiles.org)  
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