

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)

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SUMMER WORSHIP 10 A.M.

After a lingering winter and a short but wet spring, it is finally summer! It is that time of year where many of us have summer trips planned, or at the least a few days here and there where we can get out and relax. This is the season that many of us look forward to because we can step away from the daily grind, the old nine to five. Here we can clock out and shut down, block out those things that have us worn down, ragged, and depleted. It's Vacation Time!

So, I must ask, what do your vacations usually look like? For most of us, we picture vacations as a time of ease, where there are no commitments, no deadlines, no drive or focus. For most Americans, a vacation, whether a day or a year, involves a haze of relaxation, a time to disengage and to idle our way through it. Sometimes, this is just the ticket. Sometimes we are so overworked and overtaxed that we need time to shift into neutral. But like any habit, how we train our bodies is how we function subconsciously. The more we idle, the more we neutral, the more that mode of thought and action takes over.

So let me suggest a different way to vacation this year. One of the most effective vacations in scripture can be found in Matthew 4:1-11. Its parallels in Mark and Luke tell the same story of the craziest camping adventure in the Gospels. For those of you not flipping through your bibles right now, those verses contain the parable of Jesus in the Wilderness. Where he was tempted by Satan in those forty days and offered power, might, and wealth. Now we have examples in scripture of Jesus taking time off and relaxing (see Mark 6:30-32), but it is here in Matthew 4 that we see Christ's most effective vacation. And it is this trip that takes the cake because he wasn't responding to being overwhelmed, rather he was anticipating the work that would need done and rising to the challenge. In these 40 days (which is idiomatic of a long time), he prepared himself mentally and spiritually for the work that he would need to do in the coming three years. Instead of shutting down, he used his vacation as a time to remake himself into a stronger, more effective human being. I would imagine that he came away refreshed as well, tired perhaps, but that comfortable, refreshing exhaustion that comes from knowing that a job was accomplished and that you have walked away stronger and better able to face the day. It is the kind of exhaustion that comes from a hard day's work in the yard (which I would consider a mini-vacation of sorts), a long bike ride or a hard camping trip.

Moreover, we see other folks throughout history who have taken the same approach to vacationing and have been recorded in the history books for their deeds afterwards. President Theodore Roosevelt is a wonderful example. Born as a sickly upper-class child, Roosevelt suffering the loss of his wife and mother and becoming disillusioned with the politics of his time, went off into the Dakota badlands, took a vacation roughing it, and came out as the cowboy rough and tough that was needed to rearrange the political atmosphere.

So, how will you spend your vacation time this year? Whether it is a few hours, or whether it is 40 days, will you shut down or will you build up? Will you come back to the real world just as you left it, or will you come back ready to face the challenges of the day, knowing that you can overcome them?

Pastor Chris

OFFICE HOURS AND AVAILABILITY

My office has been too quiet lately. I enjoy when visitors and members drop in and share a few moments of their day with me! With that in mind, I want to make sure everyone knows just how available I am to you. My office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 am till 12 pm. From there I head off to visitations or to find a quiet place to write sermons, newsletters, and worship services. But that still doesn't mean that I am unavailable. You can call my cell phone (330-442-2558) or email me (pastorchristark@gmail.com) anytime. I may not respond right away, but know that if ever you need to talk, I'm around. I look forward to hearing from you more often!



FCC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

'Raging River Rampage'

SUN., AUGUST 6 - THURS., AUGUST 10

5:30 to 8:30 P.M.

YOUTH entering Kindergarten – 6th Grade

Dinner will be served. Register your child/children by July 15 with \$5 fee to ensure a t-shirt either with Shelly Pressell (330.306.5710) or the church office (330.652.5839). Check the main bulletin board by the parlor for volunteers needed for leader positions and Bible skit volunteers. Sign up ASAP!

A HOT DOG PICNIC, sponsored by our elders, will be held **SUNDAY, JULY 15** following worship. Mark your calendars!

DISCIPLE WOMEN'S JAIL MINISTRY TEAM will be conducting worship services on the Mondays of July 9 and July 23 at 6:45 p.m. at the Trumbull County Jail.

THERE WILL BE A KIDS' CLOTHING RESALE **SATURDAY, JULY 21** at our church. From 8-9 am, early bird admission costs \$5. From 9-2, admission is free. We will also be accepting donations of school supplies and canned goods for Niles Community Services. Table rental is \$20 for non-church members and \$10 for church members. You get to keep all the money you make from selling your new or gently used kids' clothes, baby gear, toys, and maternity clothes. Proceeds will go towards Vacation Bible School. Lunch will be available for purchase. Contact Monica Lott at 330-980-3619 for more information. There has been a lot of interest, so act quickly to reserve your table with your deposit!

THE ELDERS MAKE MONTHLY CALLS taking communion to members who are unable to make it to church. Please let an elder or the church office know of anyone to be added to our list.

KNOTTY GIRL QUILTERS will enjoy lunch **Tuesday**, July 10 at 11:45 a.m. at Chef Peng. The ladies will then quilt at the church from 1 to 4 p.m.

CYF MISSION TRIP to Roanoke, VA will take place July 6-July 9. Those going on the trip are Stacy Gaugler, CYF Advisor; Stephanie Blose and CYF members Kyra Franklin and Alexis Gaugler. CYF youth are collecting all sizes of diapers for the mission trip. **Donations are due by this Sunday, July 1st.**

LYDIA CIRCLE is collecting **BACKPACKS** for school children with distribution through Niles Community Services.

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

July 3 Caden Kellerman	July 10 Cherie Prox	July 15 Marlene Garcar	July 26 Melissa Karr
July 4 Shelly Pressell	July 11 Garnett McKinney	July 18 Tom Gombos	July 29 Patricia Gerke
July 10 Sue Alexi	July 13 John Heston	July 19 Ethan Karr	July 30 Ginny Hughes
July 10 Judy Becker	July 13 Shannon Kellerman	July 19 Becky Neuman	
July 10 Aeryal Marsteller	July 13 Nicole Pegg	July 23 David Moore	

CHURCH CAMP UPDATE: McKayla Jornigan attended Chi Rho Camp the week of June 3 through June 9. Cheyanne Franklin, Aeryal Marsteller and Colin Poling will attend Chi Rho Camp the week of July 22-28.



Church Camp

Andrew Blose and Roni Jornigan enjoyed Otter Junior Camp June 17 through June 23.

Seth Jornigan attended CYF Conference the week of June 10-16; Alexis Gaugler and Ethan Karr are attending CYF Conference this week through June 30; Kyra Franklin will attend CYF Conference July 15-21.

The Deacons Cabin Fundraiser project raised \$398.04 towards the church's portion for these camps. Thank you to everyone who participated.

PLEASE REMEMBER to keep your email addresses current with the church office so that we can communicate most effectively. Thank you.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER ITEMS is Mon., July 23 by 11:30 a.m.

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



JULY NEWSNOTES **Pentecost Special Offering** total received was \$178 **Elders** will meet Sun., July 1 following worship in the library **Disciples Men** will meet Sun., July 1 at 8 a.m. at Perkins **Stewardship** and **Finance** will NOT meet in July **TMH Psych Unit Worship Service** will be held Sunday, July 8 at 1:30 p.m. **Ohio Women's Ministry** (OWM) is collecting **juice/drink mixes** for Niles Community Services during the month of July. Donations may be placed in the cabinet in the main hallway Children dedicated on June 24 were **Franklin Bassett**, son of Stephen and the late Jen Bassett; **Bryce** and **Caden Kellerman**, sons of Shannon and Eric Kellerman; **Andrew Leigh**, son of Monica Lott and Justin Leigh; **Gavin Secrest**, son of Chalee and Justin Secrest; and **Theodora Stark**, daughter of Pastor Chris and Amanda Stark Best wishes to **Mel** and **Georgianne Walters** as they celebrate their 54th Wedding Anniversary on July 25th Newly elected Lydia Circle officers for 2018-2019 are: Co-Presidents - **Nancy Davis**, **Marlene Garcar** and **Kathy Sprague**; Secretary - **Sandy Pressell**; Treasurer - **Eileen Pressell**; and Sunshine - **Becky Brothers**

NEWS & EVENTS
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330-652-5839 • www.firstchristianniles.org
Rev. Christopher Stark, Minister
Mrs. Carolyn Rossi, Secretary