

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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'During my time in Seminary, which was spent at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky, I had learned to appreciate some of the more nuanced aspects of bluegrass culture. In my three years in Kentucky, I became more acutely aware of the culture that is built upon horses and bourbon. To a point, those fell by the wayside as I became a buckeye once again, but one cultural aspect that I loved too much to leave in the bluegrass was the music. Good bluegrass music, old mountain music, stirs the soul in a way that I have yet to experience with any other genre. Earl Scruggs and the "Foggy Mountain Boys" hold a special place in my heart along with the "Yonder Mountain String Band", "The Infamous Stringdusters" and a favorite band with the best band name, "Trampled by Turtles." In fact, I was listening to "Trampled by Turtles," just the other day, when a friend overheard and asked if they were a Christian band. I paused for a moment and listened to the lyrics and came to a realization.

Many of the songs, by this artist and in the bluegrass genre in general, do indeed talk about faith and about Christianity. However, most of these artists would not consider themselves Christian bands. My realization was that music, like a painting or a photograph, freezes a moment within a culture. It speaks to the time it was composed; it speaks of the people who made it. And Bluegrass harkens back to a culture that is hard to find in modern day America. Bluegrass music speaks of a time when Christianity was part of popular culture rather than a sub-culture. One of the many simple ways to view the drastic change in cultural norms in the past century is to look at the culture presented in older genres, such as bluegrass, and compare it to the culture found in modern popular music.

Now the point of this observation is not to discuss the pros and cons of the culture back then as it relates to the here and now. I also hope that I haven't ignited too many parent/child debates about which culture was/is better. Rather, the question that I would ask you to ponder is what the church's response to this cultural revolution has been? Have we, as the universal church, as the church in America, or as Lakewood Christian Church, responded by the way we live or by the way we worship? If we have changed, what has our response been? If we haven't changed, do we need to? Some might say that since Christ is for all people universally, Christ's message should be universal and so we should not change. Others might say that church culture is inundated with both popular culture and a culture of its own and so as culture has changed, the voice of the church should change with it.

H. Richard Niebuhr, one of the most prominent theologians of the past century, detailed the different reactions to culture in his book, "Christ and Culture." While I don't have the space to go into detail, Niebuhr relates that there are five prevalent viewpoints: Christ against Culture, Christ of Culture, Christ above Culture, Christ and Culture in Paradox and Christ Transforming Culture. While none are right or wrong, each have their highs and lows. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has an opinion about which direction the church should take in its future response toward culture. And by that, I mean everyone, because it is becoming more and more obvious that the only wrong action is to ignore this conversation. With mainline churches facing alarming declines in membership, with faith formation weakening from generation to generation and the continuing change away from cultural Christianity in America, now is the time to form an opinion and act upon it. Now is the time to begin a phase of discernment, in prayer and in loving dialogue, for the future of the church. Because, only with prayerful dialogue will the voice of the church reach out into the future. Likewise, only with the driving force of its individual members in community, will the body of Christ in this world, the church in action, effectively address the changing tides of culture.' Pastor Chris

COMING UP IN MAY:

- **Sunday, May 5** **10:45 a.m.** **Worship Service**
 12:00 p.m. **Elders Meeting** in library
 VBS hot potato/salad bar Luncheon to benefit this year's VBS
 3-6 p.m. **Dist. 4 Men's Spring Rally** – Girard Christian Church
- **Sunday, May 12** **10:45 a.m.** **Worship Service**
- **Monday, May 13** **6:00 p.m.** **All Daughters' Dinner** – fellowship hall
- **Sunday, May 19** **9:30 a.m.** **Last Sunday School until our fall schedule resumes**
 10:45 a.m. **Worship Service**
 12:00 p.m. **Official Board Meeting** – If you are a member please plan to attend.
 Chi Rho Ice Cream Social - parlor
- **Sunday, May 26** **OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS AT 10:00 A.M.**



WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME NEW MEMBER Marcia Teutsch who was received into the fellowship of our congregation and baptized on Easter Sunday. *We rejoice that Marcia has become a part of our wonderful church family.*

THANK YOU to the **Sunday School classes** and **congregation** for the 29 Easter baskets presented to Homes For Kids. This was the 14th year Christian Ed has filled Easter baskets for Homes For Kids. Thank you to our **CYF youth group** for filling and hiding eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt.

COMMUNITY MEALS WILL BE SERVED BY FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH DURING MAY. Meals will be served from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. on the Thursdays of May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. Monetary donations are being accepted for these meals. If you wish to contribute, please make checks payable to First Christian Church labeled 'meals.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Ginny Hughes, family and friends, in the passing of Ginny's husband, Robert, on April 21.

AN ALL DAUGHTERS' DINNER will be held **Monday, May 13** 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!*

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the church parlor.

THANK YOU TO THOSE who participated in the Deacons cabin fundraiser for Camp Christian scholarships. We collected a total of \$415.10 to help defray the church's cost for our youth attending camp this summer.

DISCIPLE WOMEN'S JAIL MINISTRY TEAM will be conducting worship services on the Mondays of May 6 and May 20 at 6:45 p.m. at the Trumbull County Jail.

CYF NEWS: CYF collected a total of \$164 from their pepperoni sale. Proceeds were sent to Camp Christian. CYF will host a **Parents Night Out** on Fri., May 17 from 6-9 p.m. A **CYF Meeting** will be held Sunday, May 19 at noon in the CYF Room.

CYF FUNDRAISER FOR REESE BLOSE - CYF will host a fundraiser for Reese on **SUNDAY, JUNE 9**, following worship in the parlor. Reese was nominated by her teacher to attend a STEM program at Bowling Green University. She will stay at the university for one week. The cost is \$2,500.

MISSION PROJECTS UPDATE: Missions collected \$171.50 from their candy sale which went to Ohio Disciples Outreach. Lenten collection of 7 packages of diapers, 17 packs of wipes and one disposal bag was sent to Making Kids Count. Body wash, dish soap, moisturizer, razors and bars of soap went to Niles Community Services.

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

May 1 Kathy Marsteller	May 7 Ellie Stark	May 16 Dale Havaich	May 20 Doris Mathews
May 2 Kyle Tenney	May 7 Kim Tenney	May 16 Ellen Sheldon	May 25 William Joseph
May 3 Keeley Sprague	May 10 Ellen Lott	May 16 Thea Stark	May 31 Pat Heston
May 3 McKenna Sprague	May 10 Paigelyn Nelson	May 18 Gregg Marsteller, Jr.	

THERE WILL BE A KIDS' CLOTHING RESALE JUNE 1 at our church. From 8-9 a.m., 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. 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!


KNOTTY GIRL QUILTERS will enjoy lunch May 1 at 11:45 a.m. at Highpoint Restaurant. The ladies will then quilt at the church from 1 to 4 p.m.

FCC VOLUNTEERS will serve a dinner **Tuesday, May 28** 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 **by 11 a.m.**

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

PASTOR CHRIS STARK CONTACT INFO: cell phone 330.442.2558; email address pastorchrisk@firstchristianchurchniles.org.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER ITEMS is Friday, May 24 by 11:30 a.m.

 MAY NEWSNOTES **Easter Special Offering** total received is \$738.00 **Elders** will meet this Sun., May 5 following worship in the library . . . **Disciples Men** will meet this Sunday, May 5 at 8 a.m. at Perkins **Stewardship** and **Finance Committee Meeting** will be held Sun., May 12 at 9 a.m. **TMH Psych Unit Worship Service** will be held Sunday, May 12 at 1:30 p.m. **Lydia Circle** ladies will meet on Wed., May 8 at 7 p.m. in the church parlor We are pleased to announce that **Alexis Gaugler** received a Youth Award as a graduating senior at the 53rd Niles Interfaith Banquet held April 28 **Ohio Women's Ministry** (OWM) is collecting **assorted condiments** for Niles Community Services during the month of May. Donations may be placed in cabinet in hallway

NEWS & EVENTS
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First Christian Church, Niles, Ohio
330-652-5839 • www.firstchristianchurchniles.org
Rev. Christopher Stark, Minister
Mrs. Carolyn Rossi, Secretary

MAY NURSERY SCHEDULE
May 5 Shannon Kellerman May 19 Trish Bassett
May 12 NO NURSERY May 26 Ellen Lott