

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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Creation comes to fruition in cycles. We govern our days by the rise and setting of the sun. The rotation of seasons lets us count the years as they progress. We group time into increments that come and go and come again. Our lives are run through these cycles, from how long our politicians can hold office, to when we quit stop celebrating our birthday and stop telling people how old we are. Without these cycles, we wouldn't see time as progressive, as chronological.

Sometimes, these cycles are an enjoyable experience: witnessing a sunset, watching the leaves turn color, and enjoying the experience of being able to vote or drive for the first time. Other times, these cycles are burdensome: waking up when the sun isn't up yet, leaving things unfinished at the end of a work day, or realizing that it is, yet again, time to pay taxes.

Like all of life, things come and go. Often, they come around again. One danger within this reality is when we begin to get stuck in certain parts of the cycle. Perhaps we hold on to summer when winter is coming. Maybe we stay up all night because we don't want a perfect day to end. Of course, we know that time stops for no one. And even if we try to fight back the night, we will only find ourselves missing out on the next day when the sun comes up.

This is just as true for individuals as it is for groups and communities. Our church community is no different. Some cycles are good, and some cycles are bad. Sometimes, we get stuck in a cycle and refuse to move. Our cycle of Christian seasons gives us the hope of light in Christmas, right when things are the darkest. The promise of new life in Easter comes to us right when the bleak winter begins to soften. And we get a long Ordinary season during summer, right when everyone is on vacation. Sometimes we find ourselves at the turn of a cycle where we are exhausted, overworked, and underappreciated. Sometimes we are apathetic to what comes next, depressed and unable to look toward the future, or just unwilling to start the work of a new beginning. But like all cycles in time, things move forward. And if we try to savor a moment too long, we find that the next few moments have already passed us by. We hurry to catch up hoping that we haven't already missed too much. And communally, if we do not work together in reaching the next cycle, the next step, we will have found that it is too late to catch up at all.

We of faith proclaim that at the end of these cycles all will come back to God. So I must proclaim that the best is yet to come for First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Niles, but only if we decide to look forward to the future, to face the next cycles in hope and in intentional communal involvement. We must work together to build for the future, to be active in the now, for greater things are coming!

Paul in his letter to the church in Philippi says it this way, "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:12-14, ESV)

So my friends, as we finish this season and enter our next cycle beginning in Advent, I encourage you to look forward to the future. Make plans for the coming Realm of God. I beseech you to treat one another in love, to keep your spiritual lives deeply committed and active, and to press on toward that ever upward path that Christ intends for all people.

Pastor Chris

COMMITMENT SUNDAY THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29. Please join us this Sunday for worship and an All Church Potluck Dinner following worship. Commitment cards are asked to be turned in by this Sunday or call the church office (330.652.5839) with your intentions for 2018. Members of Stewardship and Finance thank you for your consideration of the needs of First Christian Church and its many ministries.

ON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 3, we will have Katharine Johnson Vinciquerra from the Cleveland Christian Home presenting information about the work and ministry of their organization. We are hoping to invite the congregations from our District to join in for this opportunity.

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL DAY OFFERING - Our 2017 Thanksgiving Special Day Offering for Higher Education & Leadership Ministries will be received **Sunday, November 19.** Thanksgiving Special Offering envelopes will be available in the pew racks on November 19th. This special offering supports **OUR** Disciples colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For more information visit www.disciplesmissionfund.org.

DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR SAT. NIGHT, NOV. 4.
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

DIST. IV MEN'S FALL RALLY will be held Sunday, November 5 **here** at First Christian, from 3 to 6 p.m. Guest speaker will be Dan King, noted by Tom Brokaw as a member of the 'Greatest Generation,' who flew in World War II as escort over Germany. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board by the parlor. **DEADLINE IS THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29.** Cost for the dinner is \$8. Menu is chicken and gravy, homemade noodles, vegetable, cole slaw, rolls and pumpkin pie.

OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING will be held **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19** following worship in the Board Room.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held at the conclusion of worship on **NOVEMBER 26** for approval of the slate of board members for 2018 and the church budget for 2018.

MISSIONS IS COLLECTING new and gently used hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for those in need. Donations may be placed in basket provided in narthex.



'MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY' - Filled grocery bags **need to be dropped off at Niles Community Services**, 401 Vienna Ave., Niles **this Saturday, October 28** between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Thanks for helping meet the needs in our community.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Jack Engle, Jeanette Franklin, family and friends, in the passing of Jason Engle, Jack's son and Jeanette's brother, who passed away on September 26.

BIBLE STUDY meets Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. Current curriculum is emphasizing the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) history and policy. There will be no Bible Study on November 21st.

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



'HELP MOVE THE YOUNGSTOWN RESCUE MISSION' BAKE AND CRAFT SALE proceeds totaled \$297.50 which was sent to the mission for their *'Help Move The Youngstown Rescue Mission'* project. Many thanks to our congregation for supporting such a worthy cause.

FCC VOLUNTEERS will serve a dinner **Tuesday, November 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 **before 11:30 a.m.** using buzzer and door closest to the library parking lot.

CHI RHO YOUTH GROUP for grades 6 to 8 will meet following worship on Sunday, November 12. Jeff and Jenn Jornigan are Chi Rho Advisors.

CHRISTIAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP NEWS: Newly elected officers for 2017-2018 are: President – Alexis Gaugler-Carroll; Vice President – Kyra Franklin; Treasurer – Hayden Miller; and Prayer Officer – George Havaich. Upcoming activities for November include: Parents Night Out November 10 – CYF will be babysitting at church; November 17 trip to Dave & Buster's in Cleveland; and a CYF Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 19 at noon in the CYF Room. Stacy Gaugler is CYF Advisor.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Nov. 2 Shirley Parker	Nov. 14 Joey Yanek	Nov. 20 Shirley Stephens	Nov. 25 Marilyn McKinley
Nov. 9 Rev. Bernard Oakes	Nov. 15 Shirley Benedict	Nov. 22 Steve Lamp	Nov. 27 Betty Sears
Nov. 13 Denis Preston	Nov. 20 Jean Caldwell	Nov. 23 Kathy McCormick	

LYDIA CIRCLE CHRISTMAS COOKIES – Lydia Circle will be baking Christmas cookies and taking orders again this year. Watch for further info to follow. Deadline for orders will be Sunday, December 3rd.

KNOTTY GIRL QUILTERS will enjoy lunch Wed., November 1 at 11:45 a.m. at Pizza Hut and will quilt at the church from 1 to 4 p.m. on the lower level.

COMMUNITY MEALS WILL BE SERVED BY FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH DURING NOVEMBER. Meals will be served on the Thursdays of November 2, 9, 16 and 30. Monetary donations are being accepted for these meals. If you wish to contribute, make checks payable to First Christian Church labeled 'meals.'

BENEFIT PASTA DINNER for The Andy Hopkins Memorial Scholarship will be held Sat., Nov. 4 at Champion Christian Church, 151 Center St. West, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Adults-\$10 at door/\$9 in advance; Seniors \$8 at door/\$7 in advance; Children (4-12) \$7 at door/\$6 in advance; children 4 and under free. For advance sale tickets call Champion Christian Church at 330.847.0785.

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER ITEMS is **Mon., November 27** by 11:30 a.m.



NOVEMBER NEWSNOTES Week of Compassion designated for Texas flooding total received was \$485 Reconciliation Offering total received was \$120 Elders will meet this Sun., November 5 following worship in the library Disciples Men will meet this Sun., November 5 at 8 a.m. at Perkins Stewardship and Finance will meet Sunday, November 12 at 9 a.m. TMH Psych Unit Worship Services will be held this Sunday, October 29 and Sunday, November 12 at 2 p.m. Missions Committee will meet on Wed., Nov. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the church parlor Lydia Circle ladies will meet at 7 p.m. on Wed., Nov. 8 in the church parlor Ohio Women's Ministry (OWM) is collecting cereal for Niles Community Services during the month of November. Donations may be placed in the cabinet in the main hallway Bob and Carol McCollum and family would like to thank Rev. Stark for the nice services of the passing of Bob's nephew, Eric Powell. They also thank everyone for all the prayers, concerns, cards and Go-Fund-Me donations received. They appreciated all the food donations and all our church workers that helped serve the funeral meal

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