

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. LXV No. 7

July 25, 2018

SUMMER WORSHIP 10 A.M.

As the past few weeks have been slipping by, I have found my anticipation building. Last night, I even had trouble sleeping, which is a very seldom occurrence for me. It reminded me of the night before we would go to Cedar Point or Sea World (when that was still around) when I was a child. I would be giddy and could barely sit still let alone sleep. The reason for this buildup of anticipation is that I am heading to Camp this week! My high school years in Phyo Conference, my time as councilor to CYF Conference, faculty for Advance Conference, and the planning committee for Adult Conference have included many of the most memorable moments of my life.

There are visions of Vespers dancing in my head. Like Christmas music in October, camp songs start coming to mind months before I'll be attending. Yesterday I realized exactly why I was getting so antsy. A long lost memory popped up in my mind. That memory was of my sister, one year as she was leaving camp. She was crying because the week was over and she said the most profound thing. She said, "I am sad to leave, because now I'm going back to the real world." If you have never been to Camp Christian, nowhere else on earth is quite like that place when camp is in session. It is a powerful experience consisting of a week of worship, when you can focus on God and on God's people. It is a place that I didn't think existed until I experienced it. At Camp exists a community with no cliques, no exclusive groups, no hatred or animosity.

As I consider the hallowed place that is Camp Christian, I am reminded of the early church that was recorded in Acts 4:31-35: "When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness. Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need."

Camp is a place where the kingdom of God is alive and well. But with that realization, I can't help but be saddened that this is often not the case with many church communities. We have those who are in need and go overlooked. We have cliques and exclusive groups. We are not of one heart and soul. Perhaps, if we look within ourselves, we might find that we have these issues at Niles First Christian as well.

So, what better time to change than now? What better time to let the Spirit of God move around us and in us in this place than right now? When we sing, let us praise God and lift up each other with all that we are. When we fellowship, let us serve each other with all that we have. And in our stewardship, let us give as if those things that we possess are not ours but thoroughly and completely God's own. Let us bring the Realm of God to this place in this moment. Let us live the ideals of our camp gatherings.

Pastor Chris

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 'Rolling River Rampage' begins Sunday, August 5 through Thursday, August 9, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. under the direction of Shelly Pressell and Anna Circle. Youth Kindergarten through 6th grade are welcome to attend. Dinner will be served. Another VBS work session will be held following worship this Sunday, July 29.



FILL THE TENT MISSION PROJECT FOR VBS. Bring in non-perishable and personal hygiene products for our local food pantries. We will collect donations through August 19th.



WORSHIP IN WADDELL PARK AUGUST 19. MARK YOUR CALENDARS! We will gather at the large pavilion at 11 a.m. on August 19. Come enjoy worship, fellowship, good food and fun!

SCHOLARSHIP FORMS are available on the bulletin board by the main office for those heading to post high school education in an accredited institution. Applications must be filed each year (even if you have applied in previous years). Deadline is August 31st complete with proof of enrollment.



OWM IS COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES to be distributed through Niles Community Services. Place items in marked box in the narthex. **Deadline is August 12.** Some items needed are: packs of #2 pencils, filler notebook paper (wide/narrow rule), wire tablets with wide/narrow rule, folders, protractors, compasses, 24 count Crayola crayons, Elmer's glue or glue sticks, washable markers, scissors (blunt or pointed ends), pencil boxes (not too big-big enough for supplies).

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

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 Wednesday, August 1st at 11:45 a.m. at Red Lobster. The ladies will then quilt at the church from 1 to 4 p.m.

FCC VOLUNTEERS will serve a dinner **Tuesday, August 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.** using buzzer and door closest to the library parking lot.

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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

Aug. 2 Tom Bevilacqua	Aug. 12 Katie Tenney	Aug. 21 Howard Gerke	Aug. 30 Glenna Simko
Aug. 6 Becky Carpenter	Aug. 14 Tina Havaich	Aug. 21 Richie Sprague	Aug. 31 Evelyn Leigh
Aug. 8 Andrew Blose	Aug. 15 Jack Engle	Aug. 23 Stephanie Bevilacqua	
Aug. 8 Dorothy Joseph	Aug. 17 Martha Hellam	Aug. 26 Jeri Williams	
Aug. 11 Bob Brothers	Aug. 18 Sandra Pressell	Aug. 28 Robert Pitts	

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Trish Bassett, family and friends, in the passing of Trish's mother, Kathy Ensinger.

OHIO WOMEN'S MINISTRIES FALL RETREAT will be held one day on Saturday, September 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Camp Christian. Theme is '*Blooming Where You're Planted*'. A silent auction is being planned. Watch for more info and registration coming soon.

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

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

CARD MINISTRY REQUEST FORMS are available in the pew racks and narthex. If you know someone who needs a greeting card from our church, please fill out a Card Ministry request form and leave it in the offering tray or drop your request in the gold box on the narthex table.

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



AUGUST NEWSNOTES **Ohio Women's Ministry Blanket Offering** for Church World Service total received was \$315 **Elders** will meet Sun., August 5 following worship in the library **Disciples Men** will meet Sunday, August 5 at 8 a.m. at Perkins **TMH Psych Unit Worship Service** will be held this Sunday, July 29 and on Sunday, August 12 at 1:30 p.m. . . . **Ohio Women's Ministry** (OWM) is collecting **spaghetti sauce** for Niles Community Services during the month of August. Donations may be placed in the cabinet in the main hallway We extend our best wishes to **Don** and **Ellen Lott** as they celebrate their 54th Wedding Anniversary on August 9th Our best wishes also to **David** and **Sandra Pressell** on their 52nd Wedding Anniversary August 28

NEWS & EVENTS
is a monthly publication of
First Christian Church, Niles, Ohio
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