

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. 11

Merry Christmas!

November 28, 2018

'My resolve caved in last week as I found myself at the drive in for fast food. Normally, I stand against the fast food culture. It goes against several of my beliefs, let alone my diet. So I was feeling guilty as the car made its way up to the second window. Imagine the state of my mind then, when I handed my plastic over to receive my arguably unethical food, only to be asked if I would like to donate a dollar to such and such fund for widows, orphans, war vets, and unemployed CFOs. My mind raced. Perhaps, I thought, I could ease my guilt if I only helped out this fund for the poor, decrepit, and downtrodden.

As my mind raced, I reached out for any previous experience to guide me and found that I was suspicious of this unknown organization (Ministers are known far and wide for their empathy and gullibility). I asked the window attendant if they had any literature explaining the non-profit that they were working with to be met with the confused response, "Yea, there are pieces of paper that we put up on the wall after you sign them." I refused the donation, feeling even more guilty than before.

As it turns out, the non-profit was reputable, transparent, and effective. But this isn't always the case. Just because an outreach or non-profit is reasonably named does not mean that it effectively works towards those goals. In fact, there are some charities out there that give almost nothing to the causes that they supposedly advocate. The general rule is to be critical of any charity that works with cancer research, war veterans, and making children's wishes come true. Beyond that, it is just a smart idea to research the non-profits that you financially support. From yellow curbside bins to pink ribbons, you will be surprised how the money of many charities are spent, often with large amounts of money going toward soliciting, advertising, and overhead rather than working for cures or relief.

So, in this time of giving, think about the non-profits sending you return address labels, return envelopes with the stamp already paid, and tables set up in malls and outside grocery stores and consider where their money is spent. Examine, research, and review the charities that you may be considering to support. If you need a jumpstart there are numerous websites which independently evaluate non-profits based on their transparency and effectiveness. Check out the Better Business Bureau, charitynavigator.org, or the American Institute of Philanthropy for a start.

Better yet, get involved with local non-profits and charities. With the larger charities, there is always the opportunity for things to be run more as a profitable business than a charity. With locals, this is still a possibility, but less overhead and less structure limits the obscurity. Here in our own community, we are blessed with an amazing amount of helpful dedicated ministries and non-profits that concentrate on helping the local community with global intentions. Of course, I would be amiss to leave unmentioned the ministries contained within our own faith community, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as a powerful opportunity to help in the larger community.

Local charities also have a distinct advantage: to help not only financially, but physically as well. Our work to better the world should not only be developed through spare change or an occasional check. Rather, our building of communities, advocating for those without their own voice, our work to lessen suffering and build love should come at the expense of dirty hands, of personal touch, and with direct communication. Getting involved is the best way to find if a non-profit or faith community is working effectively and ethically. So this holiday season, don't feel so guilty about passing up the spare change bucket. Instead, use your abilities in a way that you know to be effective. Do your research and then be intentional in your support. It might not balance out the guilt of that fast food run, but it's a start.' Pastor Chris

- ❖ Sun., December 2 **First Sunday of Advent – Worship 10:45 a.m.**
Carol Sing 5 p.m.
- ❖ Mon., December 3 **Blue Christmas Service – 7 p.m.**
- ❖ Sun., December 9 **Sunday School Christmas Program 'Emoji Christmas' –10:45 a.m.**
Join us for a Potluck Dinner at noon with special guest.
- ❖ Sun., December 16 **Third Sunday of Advent –10:45 a.m.**
- ❖ Sun. December 23 **Fourth Sunday of Advent – 10:45 a.m.**
- ❖ Mon., December 24 **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 p.m.** Invite family and friends to join you at First Christian at 7 p.m. for a candlelight service.
- ❖ Tues., December 25 **Merry Christmas! Join us for a family friendly worship at 10 a.m.**
- ❖ Wed., December 26 **Church Office Closed**
- ❖ Sun., December 30 **9:30 a.m. Church School; 10:45 a.m. Worship Service**



2018 CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING - Through our giving to the Christmas Special Offering, we are supporting valuable and indispensable ministries in the Ohio Region. **All the money received through this offering is returned to the Ohio Region.** This special offering will be received on the Sundays of December 16 and December 23. Mark your check "Christmas Special Offering" and place your envelope in the offering plates or mail it to the church office. Thank you.



ORDER FORMS FOR RED CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS will be included in the bulletins the next two Sundays. Deadline for placing your order is **Sunday, December 9th.** Cost is \$9 per plant, payable at time of order.

LYDIA CIRCLE CHRISTMAS COOKIE ORDERS DUE THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2.

An order form is available in the narthex.

COMMUNITY MEALS conclude tomorrow evening, November 29, from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. in fellowship hall. Thank you to those who contributed to this community service.

WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY to Georgeanne Walters, family and friends, in the passing of Georgeanne's husband Mel, on November 8th.

DISCIPLE WOMEN'S JAIL MINISTRY TEAM will be conducting worship services on the Mondays of December 3 and December 17 at 6:45 p.m. at the Trumbull County Jail.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the narthex. Your offering number has been stamped on the envelopes, but please write your name on them also.

FCC VOLUNTEERS will serve a dinner **Tuesday, December 18** 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.

CYF (GRADES 9-12) UPCOMING EVENTS: A **Parents Night Out** will be held this Friday, November 30 from 6 to 9 p.m. in fellowship hall. A **CYF Meeting** will be held this Sunday, December 2 at noon in the CYF Room. A **CYF Meeting/Christmas Party** will take place Sun., December 16 at noon in the CYF Room. CYF and Chi Rho will enjoy a **New Year's Eve Slumber Party** here at church.

CYF SERVICE PROJECT GOAL MET! Thank you to all who helped CYF meet their goal in collecting cereal! A total of **102** boxes of cereal were collected and taken to Niles Community Services for distribution to the needy in the Niles area.

ANYONE WISHING to have pledges and/or contributions credited to their 2018 giving statement must have it to the church office no later than **Sun., Dec. 30, 2018**. Thank you.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Dec. 1 Adalyn Sprague	Dec. 8 Tracy Ledsoe	Dec. 19 Joe Prox	Dec. 24 Colin Poling
Dec. 6 Kyra Franklin	Dec. 10 Jeff Crowley	Dec. 21 Seth Jornigan	Dec. 30 Marcia Fabian
Dec. 7 Lynn Gombos	Dec. 10 Nancy Davis	Dec. 22 Peggy Watkins	Dec. 31 Avery Kellerman
Dec. 7 Carol Pecchio	Dec. 11 Patricia Mount	Dec. 24 Zoa Lykins	

THE BEGINNERS CLASS'S THANKSGIVING MISSION PROJECT was to provide turkeys for NCS. With your help we rolled lots of coins and counted the paper money which totaled \$330.00. **We bought 26 turkeys!** Thank you from Ellie, Frankie and Cade.


CHRISTIAN ED MISSION PROJECT - Christian Ed is sponsoring families from the Beatitude House for Christmas. Labeled ornaments for students/families to choose from are available on the small Christmas tree in the narthex. Please help with this project! All gifts should be **new/unused**. Gifts **can be wrapped** as long as **tag is attached**.

THANK YOU to those who donated various winter items for Missions. A large assortment of hats (52), gloves (34), scarves (49) and also 9 pairs of socks, 10 underwear and 1 pair of boots were given to Niles Community Services to be distributed to those in need in our area. Missions are selling raffle tickets for items on display in the narthex through this Sunday, December 2nd. Purchase your tickets at \$1 each or six for \$5. Proceeds will go to Disciples Mission Fund outreach.

KNOTTY GIRL QUILTERS SALE/MISSIONS CANDY SALE DECEMBER 9.

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER ITEMS is Fri., December 21 by 11:30 a.m.

 DECEMBER NEWSNOTES **Thanksgiving Special Offering** total received was \$315.00 **Elders** will meet this Sun., Dec. 2 following worship in the library **Disciples Men** will meet this Sunday, Dec. 2 at 8 a.m. at Perkins **Stewardship** and **Finance Committee Meeting** will be held Sun., Dec. 9 at 9 a.m. **TMH Psych Unit Worship Services** will be held Sunday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 30 at 1:30 p.m. **Lydia Circle Christmas Party** will be held on Wed., Dec. 12 at Giorgio's **Ohio Women's Ministry** (OWM) is collecting **assorted food** (people's choice) for Niles Community Services during the month of December. Donations may be placed in the cabinet in the main hallway **Pastor Chris, Howie Gerke, Jeff** and **Seth Jornigan, Dave Post, David Pressell, Gary Pressell,** and **Don Trunick** attended the Dist. 4 Men's Fall Rally at Champion Christian Church on November 4

NEWS & EVENTS
is a monthly publication of
First Christian Church, Niles, Ohio
330-652-5839 • www.firstchristianmiles.org
Rev. Christopher Stark, Minister
Mrs. Carolyn Rossi, Secretary