

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.

"It's gardening season and I couldn't be happier! Gardening is a rewarding activity mentally, physically, and spiritually. One of the most exciting undertakings that I have experienced in this life is to watch seeds sprout, grow, and produce the fruits of maturity. Working around the yard burns through calories, it eases the grocery bill, and it keeps as short a line as possible between the farm and my table.

For as many perks as there are to getting your hands dirty, downsides hit hard. Different plants have different needs and different problems. And the critters, oh the critters. Squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, deer, all varieties of birds, aphids, and every other thing that creeps through the soil are all in our back yard, just waiting for their chance to sink their little teeth or proboscis or whatever into my potential dinner. I remember, a few years back, I had some adorable little garden critter much down thirty some tomato plants that I had started from seed several months ago. Cherokee Purples, Strawberry pastes, and two other heirloom varieties disappeared over the span of a day. One year a squirrel came along and ate several bushels of concord grapes only an hour before I was going to harvest them! Not this year! As I sit down to plan my defenses, maybe even some righteous vengeance, a few verses from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount came to mind.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. (Matthew 5:43-45)

This gives me pause. Are we just talking about human enemies here? Or does anything that might be an adversary count? Well, if all things are God's creation, if garden critters experience the rising sun and the rains as well, I guess they count. This realization put a few things into perspective for me.

The first: we're all just trying to get along. Those critters don't have any vendetta against me. They are just making their nests, feeding their young, surviving as best as any wild animal is able. The same is true of people. Most of us are just trying to plod along this earthly coil. The exceptions being when we do such a good job at surviving that we are keeping resources and means of survival from others.

Which leads me to my second point. In all those Disney stories where there is an anthropomorphized rabbit just trying to stay clear of the evil farmer, the farmer is never really the bad guy. Sure, from the rabbit's perspective, trying to make friends with Farmer Brown could lead to its imminent demise. But from the farmer's perspective, that rabbit is keeping him from feeding his family and, if the opportunity arises, might just provide the service of an extra meal. Perhaps we all have enemies, but from the perspective of a different narrative, we are the enemies in some other being's stories.

If nothing else stays my hand from wiping out the perceived pests in my garden, I would have to be swayed by Paul Tillich's concept of God as the ground of being. Tillich, a major theologian in the first half of the 1900's, argues that God is the absolute. God is the source from which all beings emanate. From this perspective, that rabbit, happily munching through my tomatoes has the same connection to God as I do. Indeed, simply by being, that critter has God's presence in the same way that I do. In a similar fashion, Maya Angelou has said, "While I know myself as a creation of God, I am also obligated to realize and remember that everyone else and everything else are also God's creation."

So I suppose I'll have to find a way to coexist, both in my own back yard and with all of my neighbors. But I think I've come to the realization that, in loving my enemies, they become my friends." Pastor Chris

A PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING will be held **Sun., JUNE 10** following worship in the board room. It is very important that a representative from each church group/committee attends this meeting with plans and ideas through December 2018.

OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING will be held Sunday, **JUNE 24** following worship in the board room. All church boards, departments, circles and youth groups must have a financial report for January through June 2018 ready to present to the board.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 'Rolling River Rampage' will be held here at First Christian Church **SUNDAY, AUGUST 5 through THURSDAY, AUGUST 9** from 6 to 8:30 p.m., coordinated by Shelly Pressell and Anna Circle. VBS items needed ASAP are brown paper grocery bags or larger, empty 2 liter bottles with lids and old newspapers. A thank you is extended to the congregation for supporting our VBS luncheon.

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS **Paigelyn Nelson, Kayla and Luke Sprague**, who participated in this year's Pastor's Class and were received into the fellowship of our congregation and baptized on April 29. *We rejoice that Paigelyn, Kayla and Luke have become a part of our wonderful church family.*



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!

PARENT/CHILD DEDICATION JUNE 24 – Anyone wishing to have their child/children dedicated, please let Pastor Chris know as soon as possible.

30 HOUR FAMINE UPDATE: \$496.92 was collected by our Chi Rho and CYF youth at our recent 30 Hour Famine held April 27-28. This money was sent to World Vision 30 Hour Famine. Thank you to those who donated to this project.

OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION is extended to David Moore, Billie Neuman and all members of the Senior Choir for an excellent year of music. Special music is planned throughout the summer. If anyone is interested in providing special music in the summer, please contact David Moore (330.652.8226).

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.

WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to husband Walt Steffey and son Glenn Steffey, family and friends, in the passing of Donna Steffey on April 27.



OHIO WOMEN'S MINISTRY (OWM) BLANKET MONTH is being observed during June. Blankets are among the most valuable resources Church World Service provides in an emergency. They can be used as makeshift tents, hammocks, or filled with belongings and carried following a disaster. Church World Service is able to buy good wool or cotton blend blankets in bulk at a cost of \$5 each. Checks should be made out to First Christian Church and marked 'blankets'. Church World Service blanket envelopes will be available on the narthex table.

CYF NEWS: Mission Trip Meetings will be held in the parlor at 6 p.m. on Thurs., June 7 and Thurs., June 21. **CYF Mission Trip** to Roanoke, VA will take place July 6-9, 2018. CYF youth are collecting all sizes of diapers for the mission trip. Donations due by July 1st.

MISSIONS collected 28 laundry baskets, 89 pair of socks, 74 pair of underwear, 3 undershirts and 3 sweaters for Cleveland Christian Home. Some items collected were for women and small children and were given to Niles Community Services. Missions also sent 16 pair of shoes to CCH.

DISCIPLE WOMEN'S JAIL MINISTRY TEAM will be conducting worship services on the Mondays of June 4 and June 18 at 6:45 p.m. at the Trumbull County Jail.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

June 1 Jeanette Franklin	June 9 Jill Fowler	June 12 Roni Jornigan	June 22 James Fowler
June 1 Rick Mahan	June 9 Betsy Sheldon	June 13 Connor Ledsome	June 24 Katie Mahan
June 5 Charlene Sampson	June 10 Kurt Hellam	June 15 McKayla Jornigan	June 28 Virginia Swegan
June 7 Janet Shonk	June 10 Beverly McCloskey	June 15 Lorie Preston	
June 7 Sharon Yanek	June 12 Carl Graham	June 21 Brianna Ledsome	

OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES to Amanda and Pastor Chris on the birth of a baby girl, Theodora Jean, born on May 16.

WE EXTEND OUR DEEP APPRECIATION AND THANKS to our Church School Teachers and Youth Leaders for all their hard work during the year. They include: Beginners: Patricia Mount and Joyce Mahan; Ages 4 and Kindergarten: Betsy Sheldon; Grades 1 and 2: Madison Havaich; Grades 3, 4, 5: Kathy Marsteller, Georgeanne Walters; Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8): Jeanette Franklin, Jen Jornigan; Senior High (Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12): Stacy Gaugler; Preschool during Worship under the direction of Rea Gaugler; Junior Church Leaders (Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4): Trishia Bassett, Nancy Davis, Jill Fowler, Marlene Garcar, Lynn Gombos, Jen Jornigan, Monica Lott, Joyce Mahan, Shelly Pressell, Janet Shonk, Kathy Sprague, Amanda Stark, Georgeanne Walters and Jo-May Yoder; CYF Advisor: Stacy Gaugler; Chi Rho Advisors: Jen and Jeff Jornigan; Church School Secretaries: Shirley Benedict, Nancy Davis, Joe Prox, Ellen Sheldon and Janet Shonk.

ADULT CONFERENCE will be held June 18-22 at Northwest Christian Church in Columbus. Pastor Chris will lead the class *“Resurrection and Restoration: How our concepts of new life change the way we worship and fellowship.”* The registration fee for the week is \$200, payable to Christian Church in Ohio. Part-time registration is also available. For more information, visit ccinoh.org. **Deadline to register is June 3rd.**

KNOTTY GIRL QUILTERS will enjoy lunch Wed., June 6 at 11:45 a.m. at Giorgio's. The ladies will then quilt at the church from 1 to 4 p.m.

FCC VOLUNTEERS will serve a dinner **Tuesday, June 26** 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.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER ITEMS is Mon., June 25 by 11:30 a.m.

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



JUNE NEWSNOTES **Pentecost Special Offering** received to date is \$173.00 **Elders** will meet Sun., June 3 following worship in the library **Disciples Men** will meet Sun., June 3 at 8 a.m. at Perkins **Stewardship** and **Finance** will meet Sunday, June 10 at 9 a.m. **TMH Psych Unit Worship Service** will be held Sunday, June 10 at 1:30 p.m. **Lydia Circle Picnic** will be held Wed., June 13 at 6 p.m. at the home of Carol Souders **Pastor Chris, Dale Havaich, Jeff Jornigan, Seth Jornigan, Don Lott, David Post, David Pressell, Gary Pressell, and Don Trunick** attended the Dist. IV Men's Spring Rally on May 6 at Third Christian Church in Warren **Ohio Women's Ministry (OWM)** is collecting **mustard, ketchup, syrup, mayo** for Niles Community Services during the month of June. Donations may be placed in the cabinet in the main hallway

NEWS & EVENTS
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