

# 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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One of the many things that I have always enjoyed about living in Northeast Ohio is the full experience of the changing of the seasons. Every year we experience the entirety of each season's capability. There is no confusing summer for winter or spring for fall. One of the joys of this experience is that we are able to appreciate the coming season, whatever it may be at the time, in a unique way. The more rain we receive during spring, the more we look forward to clear skies and sunshine in summer. The hotter our summers, the more we look forward to the crisp air of fall. The more leaves we rake during the fall, the more we enjoy the beauty of snow on the ground and in the trees. Likewise, the more snow that we receive, the more bitter the winds that scream off of the lake, all the more we rejoice in the new growth of spring. The cycle of the seasons speaks to our earthy nature.

In the second creation story of Genesis chapters two and three, humanity (אָדָם which is pronounced 'adam) is created from the ground (אֲדָמָה which is pronounced 'adamah). Through this story, we recognize that we are of an earthy nature, and we live our lives in direct connection with the earth that sustains us. As such, we live our lives by echoing this cycle of the seasons. From birth to death we cycle through times of peace and times of war, times of planting and times of harvest, times of fruitfulness and times of famine, not only in our foodstuffs but in the produce of our jobs, our relationships and our actions. Likewise, humanity, individually and communally, cycles through periods of sin and periods of righteousness.

I see all this through the lens of our Lenten season and its culmination in Easter. We are called in these seasons to realize the fullness of our broken relationship with God, with each other, and with all of creation, that we may more fully appreciate the new life that we receive in the season of Easter. It is only in dwelling and contemplating on the iniquities, prejudices, and injustices of ourselves and our culture that we can fully move toward right relationship and experience the fullness of the perfection that God can share with all of humanity. For these forty days we have struggled with contrite hearts to pray, give, fast, and otherwise prepare for the destination of this Lenten journey. But now it is here! The next step of our journey of faith is upon us! Here we are called to celebrate abundant life in right relationship with our Creator!

I make the bold assumption that we have all grown weary of the snow and bitter winds and welcome the freshness of warmth and new life. Likewise, during the ending of this Lenten season, our sickness of injustice, inequality, and broken relationship should move us toward the freshness and new life found at Easter. I pray that you rejoice with me, rise anew, as new existence is upon us, in spring and in Christ!

Pastor Chris

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE this evening, 7:30 P.M.**

**GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE, MARCH 30, 7:30 P.M.**

**PRAYER VIGIL MARCH 31, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Chapel**

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 10 A.M.**

- Easter Egg Hunt 9:15 a.m. for children through grade 5. Everyone, including teachers, should meet in the Board Room at 9:15 a.m.

OUR 2018 EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING supports the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) We will be accepting this offering again this Easter Sunday.



Church Camp

ATTENTION CAMPERS!! CAMP CHRISTIAN CAMP REGISTRATIONS WITH HEALTH FORMS are posted on the bulletin board by the main office. If applicant has fulfilled the attendance requirement adopted by the First Christian Church board, **early bird registration fee of \$240.00** along with **registration** and **health form** are due to the church office no later than **Monday, April 23rd**. If attendance requirement has not been met,

registration fee is \$400 (by May 1). Pick up your camp applications as soon as possible. In order to be eligible for a First Christian Church camp scholarship, youth must have attended no fewer than 12 Sunday School sessions this school year.

DEACONS HAVE COLLECTED \$257.04 to date towards the church portion for First Christian students eligible for summer camp. Please bring in your cabin boxes **by Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** if you wish to help with this summer's FCC campers! Cabins are available in the narthex.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Bill Joseph, family and friends, in the passing of Bill's wife, Ruth Joseph, on March 22.

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.

52ND ANNUAL NILES INTERFAITH BANQUET will be held at Ciminero's Banquet Centre on Sunday, April 8. Social hour begins at 4 p.m. Dinner is at 5 p.m. Tickets are available from Georgeanne Walters or the church office. Cost is \$20 each. Guest speaker is Father James Korda, administrator at St. Stephen Church. Everyone is asked to bring can goods for Niles Community Services.

MISSIONS LENTEN PROJECT is collecting pill bottle coins/bills (**through Easter Sunday**) for the Christian Blind Mission, an organization that distributes vitamin A to children in third world countries (\$1.00 provides a yearly dose of Vitamin A to help prevent blindness in children). Pill bottles to place your donation in are available in the narthex.

LYDIA CIRCLE FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON will be held **Sunday, April 15** following worship in fellowship hall. A free will offering will be accepted with proceeds going toward new flooring for the church parlor. Menu will consist of sandwiches, snacks, cookies and beverages.

BIBLE STUDY will take a short break and resume on April 17 at 7 p.m. in the church parlor. Everyone is welcome to join us!

CHRISTIAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (GRADES 9-12) NEWS: A meeting regarding the upcoming mission trip will be held on Thursday, April 5 at 6 p.m. in the church parlor. Kyra Franklin, Alexis Gaugler, Seth Jormigan, Ethan Karr, and advisor Jen Jormigan will attend the CYF Winter retreat at Camp Christian April 13 through April 15.

SCOOPS FOR S.C.O.O.P. (Special Concerns Ohio Outreach Project) Ice Cream Social will be held **Sunday, April 22** following worship in fellowship hall, sponsored by our CYF youth group. Come enjoy ice cream sundaes and donate to S.C.O.O.P.!

#### APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

April 1 Cheyanne Franklin	April 12 Rena Young	April 17 David Brothers	April 23 Erin Pressell
April 1 Don Trunick	April 13 Kayla Sprague	April 17 Karryn Lamp	April 24 Cathy Bassett
April 5 George Havaich	April 13 Luke Sprague	April 18 Lori Bates	April 25 Madison Havaich
April 8 Joyce Mahan	April 14 Shawn Crowley	April 22 Stephanie Blose	April 29 Alexis Gaugler
April 12 Shirley Latimer	April 15 Richard Latimer	April 22 Stacy Gaugler	

A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MEETING will be held **Sunday, April 15** in the library following church for those interested in helping out with this year's 'Rolling River Rampage' VBS.

DISCIPLE WOMEN'S JAIL MINISTRY TEAM will be conducting worship services on the Mondays of April 9 and April 23 at 6:45 p.m. at the Trumbull County Jail.

FCC VOLUNTEERS will serve a dinner **Tuesday, April 24** 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.

A THANK YOU is extended from the church choir for the donation from a church member. It is appreciated.

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 [pastorchrisstark@gmail.com](mailto:pastorchrisstark@gmail.com).

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER ITEMS is Mon., April 23rd by 11:30 a.m.



APRIL NEWSNOTES . . . **Elders** will meet Sun., April 8 following worship in the library . . . **Disciples Men** will meet Sun., April 8 at 8 a.m. at Perkins . . . **Stewardship** and **Finance** will meet Sunday, April 8 at 9 a.m. . . . **TMH Psych Unit Worship Services** will be held on the Sundays of April 8 at 2 p.m. and April 29 at **1:30 p.m.** . . . **Missions Committee Meeting** Sunday, April 8 following worship in the parlor . . . **Lydia Circle** will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11 in the parlor . . . **Ohio Women's Ministry** (OWM) is collecting **peanut butter** and **jelly** for Niles Community Services during the month of April. Donations may be placed in the cabinet in the main hallway . . . Our best wishes to **Rena Young** as she celebrates her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on April 12! . . .

NEWS & EVENTS  
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330-652-5839 • [www.firstchristianniles.org](http://www.firstchristianniles.org)  
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