

First Christian Church
620 N. Main St.
Findlay, OH 45840
419-422-5615



The Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

The Lamplighter



You are the light of the world...no one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket...let your light shine before others..."
Matthew 5:14-16 NRSV

April
2014

WEB PAGE:

www.fccfindlay.org

WEB ADDRESSES:

info@fccfindlay.org - For people who are looking for information about our church

pastorrick@fccfindlay.org - For people who want to contact Pastor Rick

jsnyder@fccfindlay.org - For people who want to contact Jane Snyder, Board moderator about church business or the Board agenda items.

FCC Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/fccfindlay

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - 2:30 pm, Tuesday–Friday

To you wonderful folks of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Findlay,

As we approach the end of Lent and Holy Week and Easter, I want to share the following devotional, written by Grace Fox:

“My childhood best friend lost her battle with cancer at age fifty-three. She’d undergone a successful bone marrow transplant, but another cancer invaded her body following that procedure.

“We’d gone separate ways after high school. We married, moved overseas, and eventually lost track of each other. We were reunited only two weeks before she moved to Heaven.

“I sat at her bedside, watching her sleep and wondering, *Why, God? Why have You allowed her to suffer like this? Why are You taking her from her family? This makes no sense.*

“Two years later, I still have no answer.

“I suspect Jesus’ followers asked “Why?” as they watched Roman soldiers crucify Him. He was the Messiah, after all. He was God incarnate – able to feed the masses, heal the sick, and raise the dead. Why would He allow them to falsely accuse and kill Him? It made no sense.

“The answer came three days later when Jesus rose from the dead as prophecy foretold, conquering death once and for all and providing forgiveness of sin for all who trust Him for salvation.

“Life’s painful experiences often confound us and leave us asking, ‘Why?’ Sometimes God reveals His purpose, and it’s more amazing than we could dare to imagine. Sometimes, however, He

conceals it and asks us to trust Him.

“One day we’ll meet Jesus face-to-face. Maybe He’ll answer our questions then, or maybe His magnificence will silence them. Either way, we’ll worship the risen Christ as the One Whose purposes are always great and always good.”

Grace Fox’s above devotional reminds us that someday we’ll worship Jesus Christ face-to-face. Let’s make this Easter (and really, every Sunday!) a joyous dress rehearsal for Heaven’s performance by praising God for the sacrificial love and power to conquer death that we know through the risen Jesus Christ!

These worship dress rehearsals for Heaven help us to become, as Oswald Chambers put it, as intimately acquainted with God as Jesus was, and as Jesus would have us to be – **“...that they may be one just as We are one...”** (John 17:22)

Chambers went on to ask: What was the last thing you prayed about? Were you devoted to your own desire or to God? Was your determination to get some gift of the Holy Spirit or some blessing for yourself, or was it to get to God?

“For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him” (Matthew 6:8).

The reason for asking is so you may get to know God better. **“Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart”** (Psalm 37:4). (It’s not a bad idea to keep these Bible verses in mind this month!)

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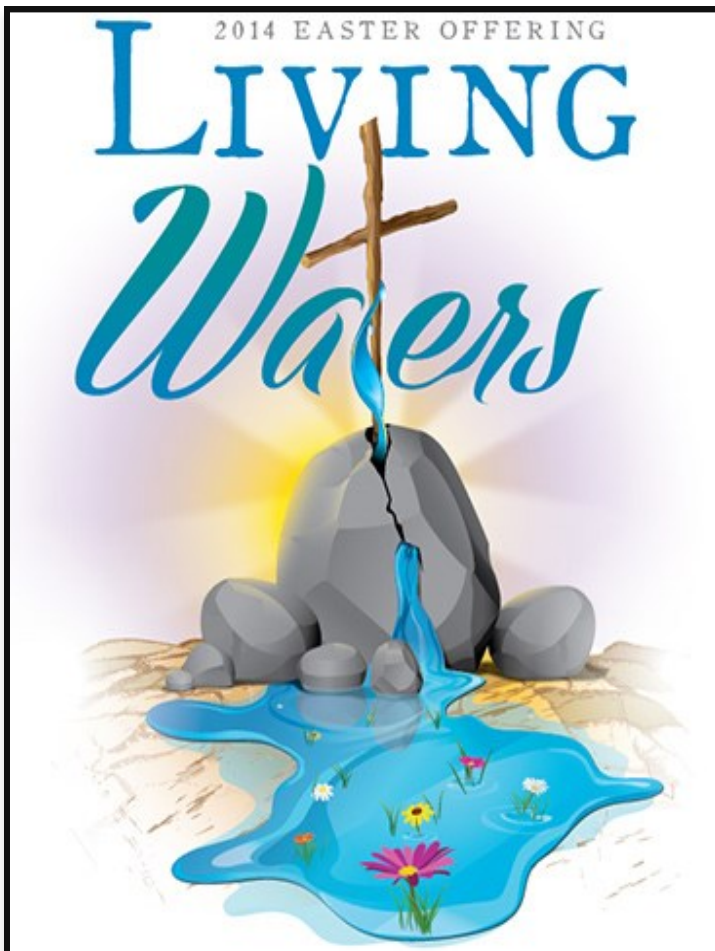


Cont'd from page 1. Easter shows us that God wants no barriers between Him and us. So this side of Heaven, we should keep praying to get a more and more perfect understanding of and identity with God Himself so we get to the point where *nothing* is more important than our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

This Easter season, and this month of April, will you join me in encouraging each other to do exactly that? I look forward to seeing you around this month! God bless, *Pastor Rick*

A FAVOR FROM YOUR CHURCH

Our church, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Findlay, Ohio, asks each member to please have a family member or friend contact the church office (419-422-5615) when you or some another church member is ***hospitalized or moved into a rehab unit or retirement/nursing facility.*** Your church would like to reach out to you at that time, either with the pastor or an Elder or a caring congregational member. You can leave a voicemail message at the church office any time. Our church secretary, Tina Miller, will pick up those messages when she is in the office, Tuesdays through Fridays, 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM. You can always reach Pastor Rick, any time, on his cell phone at 250-519-5449. He tries to return calls and texts within a couple of hours. Our church also asks that you please inform family members and close friends ***that upon your death*** (none of us likes to think about that eventuality, but God can call any of us at any time) ***for them and/or the funeral home to contact the church at the above information.*** Although Pastor Rick is part-time and lives in Fort Wayne, he tries to be available to grieving families who have just experienced a death and tries to be available for funerals. Use of our pastoral services is recommended upon a church member's death. Moreover, our church is always willing and happy to host a post-funeral service meal at the church to help the grieving family and to celebrate the life of the deceased church member. ***Church members are also asked to leave their funeral and visitation requests on file at the church.*** That way, the church will know your wishes, and the church will be helpful to the family and the funeral home during the very stressful and emotional time of death. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation in this. At these times of transition and passage, it is always good to know that your church wants to reach out to you in Christian love, comfort, support, and prayer.



The Easter Offering will be taken Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. This offering will benefit General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). More detailed information can be found at <http://disciplesmissionfund.org/SpecialOfferings/EasterSpecialOffering/tabid/479/Default.aspx>.



Prayer Needs:

- ◆ For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment:
 - Kathy Brinkman Bob Wells
 - Fred Kretzinger David (Sue Davies' brother)
 - Loretta Way (Charlotte Ballard's sister)
- ◆ For those with various health issues and concerns:
 - Mel Aldrich Johnny Dietsch
 - Janet Powell Lloyd Smith
 - Kay Stoner
 - Gary Businger (Charlotte Ballard's nephew)
 - Kathy Marino (Lisa Wolfe's sister-in-law)
- ◆ For First Christian Church's Homebound Members
- ◆ For growth in all ministries and areas of service at First Christian Church
- ◆ For those who are seeking employment
- ◆ For all care givers
- ◆ For peaceful and just solutions to conflicts around the world.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Our continued learning about what the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) continues. This month, we focus on the *role* of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in our lives.

We remember the scripture passage from Matthew 18:20: **"For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them."**

The Apostle Paul described the church as the "Body of Christ" – all members are one with each other and with Christ, the head of the church.

The church offers **fellowship** – the opportunity to share worship, to study of God's Word, and to be of service to others.

The church offers **challenge** – the kind Jesus gave His earlier disciples to **follow** selflessly, to **sacrifice** on behalf of others, to **love** with depth that knows no end, and to **seek** to learn more of Jesus and to win others to Him.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) sees the church's world role to **witness to all people and nations of the love of Jesus Christ**.

All over the world, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) members are working through **ecumenism**. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has always been a leader in

the effort to bring Christians together again. It helped organize ecumenical ventures such as the National and World Councils of Churches, the Consultation on Church Union (now called the Churches Uniting in Christ), and Christian Churches Together. For twenty years, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ have shared a joint Global Missions Board.

Efforts of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) focus on:

- . **worship** – developing bonds of shared religious experience with others.
- . **beliefs** – identifying common ground between different denominations.
- . **action** – witnessing and serving others through interdenominational and united church groups whenever possible.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is also working through **mission**:

--To **proclaim the Gospel Message**.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) tries to tell others in words and deed what God has done and is doing for them, that God has come into the world and is inviting people to unite in the task of redeeming and renewing.



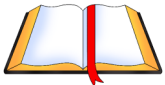













-- To **truly serve humankind**. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is dedicated to fighting disease, ignorance, poverty, racism, war, and oppression. It also conducts self-help and development programs at home and abroad.

"12 REASONS TO BE AN ACTIVE CHURCH MEMBER"

Each month for the past several months, in "The Lamplighter", we have briefly outlined bullet points, or talking points, about what being an active church member means (courtesy of Channing Bete Company). For this issue of "The Lamplighter," we cite # 11 of our 12 points:

Church can offer support in times of crisis. Church members encourage, support, and guide each other through change, loss, and stress. Support and fellowship in times of economic or personal hardship, illness, or death can provide comfort and peace.

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 30 8:45 am Chimes Prac 9:30 am - Sunday School 9:30 am- Altar Ego Bible Study 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm- Coffee Hour	March 31	1 	2 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	3	4 11:00 am - Bible Study 	5 4:30 pm— Hernandez -Weber Wedding
6 8:45 am Chimes Prac 9:30 am - Sunday School 9:30 am - Elder's Meeting 9:30 am- Altar Ego Bible Study 10:30 am -Worship 12:00 pm-Coffee Hour honoring Kathy Brinkman	7 	8	9 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	10	11 11:00 am - Bible Study 	12 10:00 am - Board Meeting 
13 Palm Sunday 8:45 am Chimes Prac 9:30 am - Sunday School 9:30 am- Altar Ego Bible Study 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm-Coffee Hour	14	15 	16 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	17 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service 	18 Good Friday 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Good Friday Prayer Vigil 	19
20 Easter 8:45 am-Chimes Prac 9:30 am - Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 am - Worship 2:30 pm-Fox Run Worship	21	22 Earth Day 	23 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	24	25 Arbor Day 11:00 am - Bible Study 	26 Family Fun Night 4:30 Picnic Night at the church
27 8:45 am Chimes Prac 9:30 am - Sunday School 9:30 am- Altar Ego Bible Study 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	28	29	30 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	May 1	May 2 11:00 am - Bible Study 	May 3

April

Serving Schedule

April 6		April 13	
Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling	Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling
Organist:	Becky Pulling	Organist:	Jane Snyder
Children's Sermon:	Robin Kretzinger	Children's Sermon:	Patty Koehler
Greeters:	David England, Karol Smith, Carole Cleary, Martha Stoner	Greeters:	David England, Barb England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds
Scripture Readers:	Korbin Ritter-Butz	Scripture Reader:	Robin Kretzinger
Elders:	Linda Pitkin & Robin Kretzinger	Elders:	Carole Cleary and Ed Davies
Deacons:	Lisa Wolfe, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith	Deacons:	Charlotte Ballard, Kathy Marquart, John Snyder
Coffee Hour:	Team #4: Barb Brown, Patty Koehler, Tatum Hernandez	Coffee Hour:	Team #5: Deb Kirk, Barb England, Mary Decker, Lisa Wolfe
Counters:	Robin Kretzinger and Bill Peters	Counters:	Bill Peters and Andy Koehler
April 17 Maundy Thursday		April 20 Easter	
Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling	Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling
Organist:	Becky Pulling	Organist:	Becky Pulling
Elders:	Kathy Brinkman, Carole Cleary, Barbara Eng- land, Robin Kretzinger, Linda Pitkins, Beth Reynolds	Children's Sermon:	Robin Kretzinger
		Greeters:	Karol Smith, Larry Marquart, John Snyder, Lloyd Smith
		Scripture Reader:	Kathy Marquart
		Elders:	Barb England and Ed Davies
		Deacons:	Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz
		Counters:	Bill Peters and Karol Smith
April 27		April Birthdays	
Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling	2	Francis Boltze
Organist:	Jane Snyder	6	Lois Wheeler
Children's Sermon:	Patty Koehler	8	Justin Thompson
Greeters:	David England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds, Martha Stoner	14	Al Sharninghouse
Scripture Reader:	Steven Strayer	17	Lloyd Smith
Elders:	Kathy Brinkman and Beth Reynolds	19	Mary Decker
Deacons:	Bill and Nancy Peters, Sue Davies	21	Dorothee Garlow
Coffee Hour:	Team #2 Pat Sharninghouse, Linda Pitkin, Sue & Ed Davies	24	Susanne Clouse
Counters:	Bill Pesters and Tara Miller	28	R LaRay Salisberry
		30	Pat Yoder
		April Anniversaries	
		8	Larry and Kathy Marquart



Sharing brings Joy

To Us. To Others. To God

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Sunday Schedule
9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
Followed by Fellowship-Coffee Hour

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2014

April's Sermon Themes

April 6– Fifth Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reader: Korbin Ritter-Butz

Message: “Shake, Rattle and Roll ”

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Theme: Shake, Rattle and Roll. It's a roller coaster, a wrestling move, and a rock 'n' roll event. Where does this phrase come from? It turns out that it's 60 years old, a rock 'n' roll hit from 1954. This brings to mind some shaking, rattling, and rolling in the prophet Ezekiel's vision of a valley of dry bones and in the new life that God can bring to whatever is dusty, dry, and dead.

April 13 – Palm Sunday, 6th Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reader: Robin Kretzinger

Message: “The Quirky Truth ”

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

Theme: A new book reveals the strange and quirky truths behind everyday life. But can knowing how one's last name determines a career path, the secret to getting more tips as a waiter, the science behind a good joke or why a wannabe king would ride a donkey provide worthwhile insights? The prophet Zechariah wrote, “Your king is coming to you.” And when He does, He comes on a donkey. Quirky.

April 17-Maundy Thursday

7:00 P.M. Kelly Chapel

Message: “A Table of Fellowship, A Table of Family”

Theme: Service of Tenebrae with laypersons sharing how the cross affects their daily lives sharing their faith. Holy Communion will be served. Sharing Faith Stories: Sue Davies, Robin Kretzinger, Kathy Marquart, Jared Siebert

April 20 – Easter Sunday

Scripture Reader: Kathy Marquart

Message: “Can Google Solve the Death Problem”

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

Theme: According to a report in *Time* magazine, Google is now trying to “solve” the problem of death. But isn't that a God issue, not a Google one? In other words, isn't the solution found in a tomb and not in technology?

April 27 – Second Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reader: Steven Strayer

Message: “Doubtful Design: What happens when we forget to leave space for faith?” **Scripture:** John 20:19-31

Theme: : It was in the news last fall, picked up by all the major media outlets: Architects for a very tall building in Spain (which included residences) neglected to design space for elevators to get occupants to the top floors. This leads to a reflection on our bible passage in which we ask whether there are some key components which we should not fail to incorporate into the spiritual “design” of our lives.