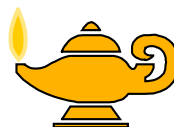


First Christian Church
620 N. Main St.
Findlay, OH 45840
419-422-5615



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

March
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

WELCOME AND FAREWELL TO CHURCH STAFF:

We warmly welcome Tina Miller as our new church secretary. She started working with us February 18th. Tina's usual hours will be Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM. From time to time, Tina may work from her home (with computer connectivity today, that is becoming more and more common), but she will always spend enough hours in the office for tasks that need to be done on the premises. Her office duties will include the usual mail and phone and e-mail tasks, keeping records, scheduling regular maintenance people for our church building, making bulletins and Power Points for Sunday worship, sending out meeting reminders, etc. as well as being our church website master and church Facebook page administrator.

Tina and her husband Ken were at our February 23rd worship service and coffee hour so that folks could meet her face-to-face and welcome her to our church.. Tina lives in Findlay with her husband, Ken, of almost eight years and their two dogs Jasmine and Sophie. Her husband and she have two children from his first marriage, Cody, 26 and Sophie, 20. And yes, their dog's name is the same as Tina's step-daughter's. Tina has approximately thirteen years of office experience at First Solar in Perrysburg, UniBoard Canada in Fostoria, Pella Windows and Doors in Findlay, and Bostwick-Braun in Toledo. She has a certificate from Owen's in Software Applications. She is presently enrolled full time at Owen's, finishing up her degree in e-business with an emphasis on web design.

Tina and Ken have a strong Christian faith and are very active at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Tina tells us that she is glad to be here and looks forward to meeting everyone. Her e-mail is tinamiller_fcc@yahoo.com.

We sincerely thank Patty Koehler for skillfully and cheerfully filling in as our interim church secretary for two months while the Relationships Team worked on advertising, interviewing, and hiring. Patty brought organization and a wonderful spirit of helpfulness and team spirit to the church office. She has helped tremendously with the transition with Tina.

At the same time, we are sadly saying goodbye to Tony Wan as our Music Director. In his short few months with us, Tony has made a huge impact on our Sunday morning music ministry with his spirited accompanying, enthusiasm, ready smile, kindness, helpfulness, and friendliness, and committed Christian faith. We wish Tony God-speed as he returns to his homeland and family in Hong Kong.

Tony's last Sunday with us will be March 30th. Plans are not finalized yet. But please stay tuned for special recognition and appreciation that we will have for Tony that day. The Relationships Team has already met to begin the search for a new part-time staff member whose title will be Music Coordinator.

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

Let me share with you a recent devotional that Rev. Lillian Daniel, pastor and Still Speaking devotional writer and author, recently wrote. The devotional is entitled “Awkward Playground Memories”. She uses Philippians 2:4 as her text: *Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.*

Rev. Daniels says:

“I have a childhood memory of watching other children play during recess on the school playground. I longed to join them, but didn't know if I would be accepted. I didn't know the rules of their games.

“As a journalist's kid, I moved from country to country every couple of years. I wasn't just changing schools but changing cultures, sometimes changing continents. There were always different games on the playground.

“As earnestly as I watched from the outside, I knew that watching wouldn't teach me how to play.

Standing outside the circle was safer, but experience had taught me that the only way to learn to play the game was to jump in and play the game. When my desire for connection triumphed over my fear, I would jump into the tornado of chaotic play. “I remember the feeling of being swept into the circle, assigned to a team, told what the game plan was. It felt glorious and well worth the risk.

“But not all my playground memories are happy ones. Sometimes I wasn't welcome. I didn't always have fun. I got the rules wrong. I made a fool of myself. I was more afraid to jump in the next time.

“I think a lot of grownups have these same associations with church. So the next time you are in worship, remember the awkwardness of the playground. Look for the person on the outside looking in. Invite someone into the game (such as a guest) and explain how to play.

“Or go ahead and jump in yourself. You can't learn to play just by watching.

Prayer

“Dear God, bless those looking in from the outside, with a sense of welcome. Dear God, and bless those on the inside looking out, with the same thing. Amen.”

Is that what the church ought to do – help those looking in from the outside and help those looking out from the inside, so to speak, in Christian love?

Our Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination thinks so! And as we continue our process of reflecting upon what it means to be a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) members, this month we focus on the *story* of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Our denomination started in frontier America where the desire for freedom that led to the American Revolution was also felt in religion.

American settlers searched for **simplicity** and **unity**. Many Americans wished to reform existing denominations and to unify them into one Christian Church based on a simple New Testament faith. They hoped for a new approach to religion that would free them from European church structures, which didn't meet America's needs.

American settlers also searched for **freedom** and **practicality**. Frontier people lived by their own ingenuity. They wanted a practical, down-to-earth religion to help them cope with and understand a hard life. As individuals, they felt they could read and interpret the Bible for themselves and build faith on reason.

So the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was born out of this search.

The beginning of the church was in **1804** when Presbyterian minister Barton W. Stone and several followers broke their denominational ties to enter into unity with “the body of Christ at large.” They called themselves, simply, “**Christians**”.

In **1811**, a group led by Presbyterian minister Thomas Campbell and his son, Alexander, began meeting independently, saying the church of Jesus Christ was **one, open to all**.

Alexander Campbell began public debates in **1820** which, along with his writing, propelled him into leadership of the “**Disciples of Christ**”

The “**Christians**” and the “**Disciples of Christ**” joined together in **1832** with a formal handshake. They agreed on basic beliefs and aims.

Alexander Campbell started Bethany College in West Virginia in **1840**.

In **1849**, the first national convention was held in Cincinnati and the missionary society was organized. **Cont'd on page 3**

Today the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is one of the largest churches founded on American soil. There are about 700,000 members in nearly 3,600 congregations across the United States and Canada.

This month of March, and as Lent begins, let us remember our Christian responsibilities to those on both the inside and the outside of our church family, our community of faith. And let me know what you think.
God bless you all,

Pastor Rick

March Birthdays

- 5 Tammy Thompson
- 9 Zoey Drain
- 10 Sharon Booher
- 16 Larry Marquart
- 19 Korbin Ritter-Butz
- 23 Kathy Brinkman
- 29 Lavonne Eckert
- 30 Angela Stewart

happy
birtHDay



March Anniversaries

- 6 Joe and Mary Ellen Byal

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 Martha Stoner
 - Janet Powell Lloyd Smith
 - Bill Peters
 - Gary Businger (Charlotte Ballard's nephew)
 - Kathy Marino (Lisa Wolfe's sister-in-law)
- ◆ For the families mourning the loss of Marcella Littler and Rita McCoy
- ◆ 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.

"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 # 10 of our 12 points:

Active church membership helps build a sense of community. *The church is a family – growth takes work, commitment, support, and love. But working together can provide a feeling of togetherness, as well as a sense that you are part of something larger than yourself.*

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another," (John 13:34)

FIRST CHRISTIAN NEWS

Average number of people attending services for the month of February: **42**

Amount given this month: **\$ 5145.49**

Directions to Read

"The Lamplighter" Online!


To access "The Lamplighter" online; go to our website: <http://www.fccfindlay.org>. On the homepage of the website, please scroll down the left-hand side until you see Latest Postings. Look for the latest post for the month. Click on the More tab and the newsletter will open up.

March

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---------|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Feb 23 | Feb 24 | Feb 25 | Feb 26 9:00 am-Taize Prayer | Feb 27 | Feb 28 11:00 am - Bible Study | 1 |
| 2 8:45 am Chimes Prac 9:30 am - Sunday School 9:30 am- Altar Ego Bible Study 9:30 am-Elder's Mtg 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm- Coffee Hour | 3  | 4 | 5 9:00 am Taize Prayer  | 6 | 7 11:00 am - Bible Study  | 8 10:00 am - Board Meeting |
| 9 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 | 10 | 11 | 12 9:00 am - Taize Prayer  | 13  | 14 11:00 am - Bible Study  | 15 |
| 16 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 2:30 pm - Fox Run | 17  | 18 | 19 9:00 am- Taize Prayer  | 20  | 21 11:00 am - Bible Study  | 22 |
| 23 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 | 24 | 25 | 26 9:00 am- Taize Prayer  | 27 | 28 11:00 am - Bible Study  | 29 |
| 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 | April 1 | April 2 | April 3 9:00 am- Taize Prayer | April 4 | April 5 | April 6 |

March

Serving Schedule

| March 2 | | March 9 | |
|--------------------|---|--|---|
| Minister: | Rev. Rick Pulling | Minister: | Rev. Rick Pulling |
| Children's Sermon: | Robin Kretzinger | Children's Sermon: | Patty Koehler |
| Music Director: | Tony Wan | Music Director: | Tony Wan |
| Greeters: | David England, Barb England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds | Greeters: | Larry Marquart, Karol Smith, John Snyder, Lloyd Smith |
| Scripture Readers: | Kathy Marquart | Scripture Reader: | Tatum Hernandez |
| Elders: | Linda Pitkin & Robin Kretzinger | Elders: | Carole Cleary and Ed Davies |
| Deacons: | Nancy Peters, Bill Peters, Sue Davies | Deacons: | Lisa Wolf, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith |
| 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 Andy Koehler | Counters: | Karol Smith and Andy Koehler |
| March 16 | | March 23 | |
| Minister: | Guest Preacher: Ed Davies | Minister: | Rev. Rick Pulling |
| Children's Sermon: | Robin Kretzinger | Children's Sermon: | Patty Koehler |
| Music Director: | Tony Wan | Music Director: | Tony Wan |
| Greeters: | David England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds, Martha Stoner | Greeters: | Lloyd Smith, Larry Marquart, John Snyder, Kathy Marquart |
| Scripture Reader: | Robin Kretzinger | Scripture Reader: | Steven Strayer |
| Elders: | Linda Pitkin and Barb England | Elders: | Kathy Brinkman and Beth Reynolds |
| Deacons: | Charlotte Ballard, Kathy Marquart, John Snyder | Deacons: | Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz |
| Coffee Hour: | Team #1: Cindi Beltz, Beth Reynolds Kathy and Larry Marquart | Coffee Hour: | Team #2 Pat Sharninghouse, Linda Pitkin, Sue & Ed Davies |
| Counters: | Andy Koehler and Bill Peters | Counters: | Andy Koehler and Tara Miller |
| March 30 | |  | |
| Minister: | Rev. Rick Pulling | | |
| Children's Sermon: | Patty Koehler | | |
| Music Director: | Tony Wan | | |
| Greeters: | Barb England, Larry Marquart, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds | | |
| Scripture Reader: | Korbin Ritter-Butz | | |
| Elders: | Ed Davies and Carole Cleary | | |
| Deacons: | Nancy & Bill Peters, Sue Davies | | |
| Coffee Hour: | Team #3 Karol & Lloyd Smith, Pat & Dale Yoder, Bill & Nancy Peters | | |
| Counters: | Andy Koehler and Karol Smith | | |

Sharing brings Joy

To Us. To Others. To God

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DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DELIVER

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2014

March's Sermon Themes

March 2nd – Last Sunday after Epiphany/ Transfiguration Sunday/ Sunday before Ash Wednesday

Scripture Reader: Kathy Marquart

Message: “Alarm Fatigue”

Scripture: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Theme: We know what happens when someone cries “Wolf” too many times. The cries are soon ignored, and, when the wolf arrives, no one responds to the call for help. Something similar is happening in hospitals (which is risky) and in holy places (which is even more dangerous).

March 9th – First Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reader: Tatum Hernandez

Message: “If You’re So Smart, How Come You Can’t...?”

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Theme: Biotech scientists believe they’re close to manipulating genes that could boost the intelligence of children by as much as 20 IQ points. This news leads us to ponder whether there’s a secret to boosting our smarts when it comes to living a holy life. For example, facing temptation is an ongoing reality, making it important for us to be “prayed up”.

March 16th – Second Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reader: Robin Kretzinger

Message: “Thy Will Be Done”

Scripture: Matthew 6:1-14

Theme: Submission can often make us uncomfortable. After all, “It’s my life and I’ll do with it as I wish!” Really??

March 23rd – Third Sunday in Lent

Scripture Reader: Steven Strayer

Message: “What if you truly were born again?”

Scripture: John 3:1-17

Theme: Doesn’t it mean that we would become a new person – despite our age and despite our year in the church – with a new focus, a new system of values, a new family?

March 30—Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture Reader: Korbin Ritter-Butz

Message: : “The Woman at the Well”

Scripture: John 4:5-42

Theme: When Jesus encountered people, their lives were radically changed. Would you like to have that kind of change take place in your life?

