

First Christian Church  
1624 Tiffin AV Suite B  
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  
2017

**Ministers:** The Entire Congregation

**Pastor:** The Reverend Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.

**Pastor's Contact Information:** Email [jsullivan@fccfindlay.org](mailto:jsullivan@fccfindlay.org); cell 216-905-5119

**Pastor's Office Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Hours subject to change due to pastoral visitations/meetings. If planning to visit, please call ahead)

**Secretary Office Hours:** Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m.-12 noon

**Church contact Information:** Office 419-422-5615; Email: [fccfindlay@outlook.com](mailto:fccfindlay@outlook.com) or [info@fccfindlay.org](mailto:info@fccfindlay.org) - WEB page: [www.fccfindlay.org](http://www.fccfindlay.org)

**FCC Facebook Page:** [www.facebook.com/fccfindlay](http://www.facebook.com/fccfindlay)

**"I thirst," by Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. A Good Friday Homily.**

**Text: John 19.28.**

Three years ago, I preached a sermon while using crutches. Be assured, they were not props! They were honest to goodness crutches. You see, my wife and I had been in a car accident nearly three weeks before. Our car was totaled but miraculously, we were not. We escaped with no broken bones or cuts, only bruises. In fact, a bruise to my left knee was significant enough to require me to use crutches.

The interesting thing about using crutches is that you cannot hide the fact that somehow, something is wrong, and that you cannot move forward without some assistance. The presence of crutches robs people of their ability to play along with America's most thrilling and captivating reality show called, "Let's Pretend I'm Perfect!"

Before the wreck, people could ask me our well-worn cultural greeting, "How are you?", and I could respond with the well-worn cultural response, "I'm well, thanks... and how are you?", even though I may not have been feeling well at all. Days after the automobile accident, someone asked me "How are you today?" With my crutches being visible for all to see, I had to take the risk of honest disclosure and admit that not all was well with me. This left me feeling vulnerable.

And as the life force slowly left his body, he had the nerve to show one more sign of his humanness and vulnerability by admitting to people whose job was to destroy him, that he was dehydrated, weak, and dying as he issued these words: I thirst. He who had the power to quench humanity's thirst for life, dignity and worth with the living water of love, was signaling his own thirst to those who had already signaled their intent to carry out the state-sponsored cancellation of his life.

The request just opened him to more ridicule for in no way would the soldiers give him water. Instead, they would give him drops of sour wine from hyssop branches. Yet, no one in the crowd had any idea that God's subversive conspiracy for human wholeness was unfolding right before their eyes.

On April 15, 2017, one day before the glorious Easter or Resurrection Sunday, Major League Baseball will once more celebrate Jackie Robinson Day. Management, players, and fans will take time to remember that on April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson, living a life of vulnerability, shattered the ill-conceived apartheid system in baseball by becoming the first African American to play in the Major Leagues. He endured vicious name calling, segregation in accommodations, threats on his life, just to name a few of his obstacles. Even so, he displayed dignity and grace and skill, and would not let the often baptized, unrepentant hate of his era consume him.

During baseball games set for April 15, every player on every team will wear the number that Jackie Robinson wore as a player, Number 42. In this act, Major League Baseball players will identify with a man who through being vulnerable, forever removed the asterisk of illegitimacy that had tainted the game, while transforming a nation, and thus enabling Major League Baseball to truly be major. When Jesus allowed himself to be hoisted up on that cross, in effect he put on our number. He identified with broken, hurting, and disgraced humanity, and all past, present and future lives disrupted by self-inflicted wounds of arrogance or by private and societal attacks rooted in malice. Jesus put on our number, and thus, embodied God's subversive conspiracy for human wholeness.

Continued on page 2

When we do this, we will be fitted with a new number, Christ's number. We will then declare on Public Square in every city and town, every county and every precinct that we do not and we will not depend not on arms designed to kill and maim, but we depend on arms designed to heal and to hold our neighbors. All of them.

Then we can sing with renewed hope for the present, with our eyes on the prize of on a stronger and more faithful future, words made immortal by Issac Watts, "When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." Amen

Faithfully,  
Jack

The Reverend Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr,  
Senior Pastor

## April Birthday's

### April Birthdays

6-Lois Wheeler  
8-Justin Thompson  
14-Al Sharninghouse  
24-Susanne Clouse  
28-R. LaRay Salisbury



### April Anniversaries

8-Larry & Kathy Marquart

### **PRAYER NEEDS THIS MONTH**

- ◆ For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment: \* Ray Neall, \*Fred Kretzinger\*
- ◆ For those with various health issues and concerns: \*Erma Weist, \*Donna Foreman, \*Karol Smith, \*Barbara England, \*Kasey Stewart, \*Kathleen Schaeffer, \*Janet Powell,
- ◆ Prayers for the families whose loved ones passed recently.
- ◆ Prayers for peace and just solutions to conflicts, natural disasters, polarizing, police/citizen relationships, terrorism around the world, refugees fleeing and trying to find new host/home countries, and healing of political fractures in our country
- ◆ For our new presidential administration
- ◆ For those seeking employment.
- ◆ For those who are having trouble making ends meet
- ◆ For those who are in physical or emotional pain
- ◆ For our First Christian Church homebound members
- ◆ For military personnel around the world who regularly risk their lives for freedom, such as Natalie Hampshire (deployed as DOD civilian)

### **First Christian News**

**Average number of service attendees for**

**March: 38**

**Amount given in March: \$3,142.00**

**Remember to like us on Facebook-**

**"First Christian Church Findlay Ohio"**

**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 click on the page Current Lamplighter Newsletters. There you may choose from from the list of the current newsletters. Earlier editions will be available on the home page in the archives list.**

# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<b>2</b> 8:45 am-Chimes practice 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	<b>6</b> Noon Elder Meeting at Scrambler Marie's 6 p.m. Board Meeting	<b>7</b> 11:00 am - Bible Study 	<b>8</b> Volunteer Opportunity with SAFY at FCC TODAY! 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Foster Parent Training)
<b>9</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 8:45 am-Chimes practice 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	<b>13</b> <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	<b>14</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 11:00 am - Bible Study 	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 8:45 am-Chimes practice 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship- 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 am- Taize Prayer	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 11:00 am - Bible Study	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:45 am-Chimes practice 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:45 am-Chimes practice 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour				<b>"A SECRET PLACE"</b> Please pick up your copy of the Secret Place! It is a daily devotion booklet and is found as you enter the building in a small basket. Please share with your family!		

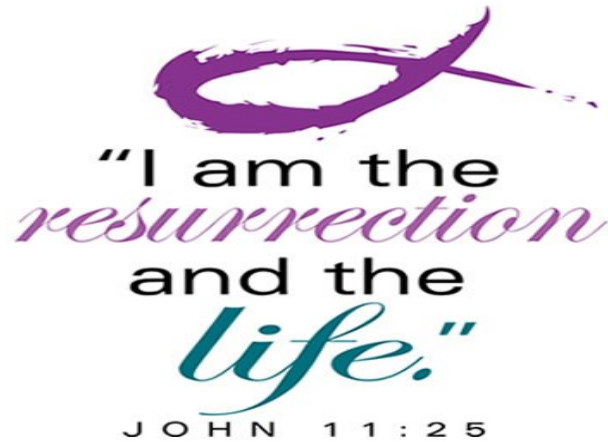
# Serving Schedule

<b>April 2</b>	<b>April 9</b>
<p>Minister: The Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.            Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler            Pianist: TBA            Children's Sermon: Robin Kretzinger            Greeters: David England, Karol Smith, Martha Stoner            Elders: Tiffany Miracle, Robin Kretzinger            Deacons: Lisa Wolfe, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith            Counters: Bill Peters, Robin Kretzinger            Coffee Hour: Team #4 Deb Kirk, Linda Pitkin, Pat Sharn-            inghouse</p>	<p>Minister: The Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.            Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler            Pianist: Kathy Baltz            Children's Sermon: Patty Koehler            Greeters: David England, Barb England, Tim Wolfe,            Beth Reynolds            Elders: Linda Pitkin, Nancy Peters            Deacons: Charlotte Ballard, Tara Miller, Mercedes            Williamson            Counters: Bill Peters, Patty Koehler            Coffee Hour: Team #5 Potluck Carry In</p>
<b>April 16—EASTER SUNDAY</b>	<b>April 23</b>
<p>Minister: The Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.            Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler            Pianist: TBA            Children's Sermon: Robin Kretzinger            Greeters: Karol Smith            Elders: Beth Reynolds, Barb England            Deacons: Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz            Counters: Bill Peters, Andy Koehler            Coffee Hour: Team #1 Melissa Drown, Bill &amp; Nancy Pe-            ters, Karol Smith</p>	<p>Minister: The Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.            Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler            Pianist: Kathy Baltz            Children's Sermon: Patty Koehler            Greeters: David England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds,            Martha Stoner            Elders: Nancy Peters, Linda Pitkin            Deacons: Bill Peters, David England, Steve Strayer            Counters: Bill Peters, Beth Reynolds            Coffee Hour: Team #2 Barb Brown, Barb England</p>
<b>April 30</b>	
<p>Minister: The Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.            Music coordinator: Patty Koehler            Pianist: TBA            Children's Sermon: Robin Kretzinger            Greeters: David England, Barb England            Elders: Barb England, Beth Reynolds            Deacons: Lisa Wolfe, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith            Counters: Bill Peters, Robin Kretzinger            Coffee Hour: Team #3 Patty Koehler, Beth Reynolds,            Lisa Wolfe</p>	

Announcement

Pastor Jack needs 10 people to be part of the community-wide Backyard Mission effort set for April 22. If you are interested in being part of this important Christian witness, please give your name and contact information, in writing, to Pastor Jack.

Thank You!



**Sharing brings Joy**

To Us. To Othrs. 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

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## APRIL ISSUE OF LAMPLIGHTER

