

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

January
2017

WEB PAGE: www.fccfindlay.org

WEB ADDRESSES:

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

fccfindlay@outlook.com—for the office of FCC

FCC Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/fccfindlay

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Wednesday & Friday

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

This will be my last “The Lamplighter” pastoral column to you. As of this writing, Becky and I have packed up our Fort Wayne apartment and are in the process of packing up our Findlay apartment before I finish my pastorate with you and before we head east to Pennsylvania and begin a new chapter (aka retirement) in our lives.

Thank you for all of your prayers, help, support, love, patience, and forgiveness that I mentioned during the meaningful Order for Farewell and Thanksgiving on December 18th. I thank you for your sense of, and commitment to, our mutual ministry here at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Findlay for the past 5 1/3 years.

Thank you for the very moving last two services of which Becky and I were a part and in which many of you participated – the Christmas Eve service and the Christmas Day Sunday service. Thank you also for the several individual Christmas and farewell gifts and money and for the church’s very generous monetary gift and the gift of the lovely Findlay glass pitcher (we will always remember you folks, but this will be an extra reminder of what you and Findlay have meant to us)

When I started my ministry among you in August 2011, I was told that the church may have a 2-year “shelf life” because of diminished membership and attendance and income, coupled with the huge expenses of maintaining the church building at 620 North Main Street.

I am so proud of you because most of you said that you were not going to give in to that kind of despair; but rather, you sensed that God was still leading us and

guiding our unique ministry and niche here in Findlay (one which no other church could quite do in the same way). Your openness to God’s leading, your persistence and patience, and us being blessed with the sale of our church building in 2016 has made all the difference in our church life and has given us “a new lease on life” and a longer, more hopeful future than many of us expected just a few short years ago.

As the early American Christian leader John Robinson said, “God has yet more light and truth to break forth from God’s Holy Word (through our church here in Findlay, I might add!)”. God is, indeed, not finished with us yet – individually or as a church.

A lot has happened in 2016! As mentioned, we sold our building and found a good space for us where we have at least a two-year lease to house our ministry and to have our worship and Sunday School and Bible study and fellowship. The pastoral search committee is actively searching for a pastor who will be full-time at least for two years.

For those of you who have been an active and faithful part of our mutual ministry and have “stuck with us, through thick and thin, I thank you heartily for your tremendous support of me and of our ministry together and of our common mission. I thank, too, our staff who have worked very hard and selflessly – Lisa as custodian, Patty as music and worship leader, and Pennie (and earlier Tina and Diana) as our administrative assistant.

continued

Of course, this all has not come without a cost, as is the case with any church.

Some, sad to say, have indicated that they cannot go along with our mission statement and our total commitment to be open and welcoming to all who are searching and encouraging active church participation and leadership of all who have given their hearts to Jesus Christ, whatever their orientation or lifestyle. Following our Lord's leading, we have said "yes" to radical acceptance of all God's children who seek Him and all who desire to fellowship and to worship and to learn with us. And we have said "no" to those who have tried to tell us to be judgmental of certain groups of people who are the way they are and who love in ways with which they don't agree. Picking and choosing groups of people who we think are not worthy of our support and not worthy to be an active part of the Body of Christ (when we ALL are sinners in need of God's grace and forgiveness) is, itself, a sin.

Others, sad to say, have decided to not stay with us when we sold our building and moved into our new leased-space church home. We all miss the beautiful building that was church home to so many of us for many, many years. But most of you have not allowed nostalgia to stand in the way of discerning what God is telling us to do NOW as we move into God's future and into God's plans for us in 2017 and beyond.

We have come a long way in 5 + years! Thank you for your faithfulness to God and to Christ's church here in Findlay (church home for some of us for a season and for others of us for many years).

As we also stated in the Order for Farewell and Thanksgiving on December 18th, you have released me from pastoral responsibilities as of December 26th. Please do not ask me to return here to perform pastoral duties. On the rare occasion where it might be appropriate for me to come back and help out pastorally, it will only be on the explicit invitation of your interim or your settled pastor.

You have fill-in preachers (Revs. Patrice Fatig and Margot Connor) for the month of January. After that, you may have (and hopefully will have) your new settled pastor. If a settled pastor cannot begin by February, you may have a short-term interim pastor for the period until you do have a settled pastor.

I ask that you support your new pastor (interim and/or settled) in your prayers and in your actions, as you have been supportive of me. Although your new pastor will be able to carry you skillfully and courageously into the next chapters of your church life, please remember that she/he will not be able to walk on water. She/he will not be able to do it all – even as a full-time pastor. He/she will need to be in mutual ministry with you, as you have been with me. Each of you still has unique gifts to offer, and that you will need to offer, this part of Christ's body in Findlay, Ohio.

I realize that 2016 has been an extremely busy and tiring year for many of you. Many of you have said that you need a rest. I understand that. But please do not be tempted, when your new pastor starts, to say "Whew! I'm going to step back for awhile and let others do the work!" Your new pastor will need your active help and support, as much as you are physically and psychologically and spiritually able to give.

You all have a great future ahead of you – individually and as a church family! My prayers will continue to be with you. And Becky and I hope to occasionally return as your friends and as visitors to worship.

A good friend of mine has said that she does not like the phrase "moving on". Instead, she says we ought to say that "We're moving forward!" I agree. Let's all "move forward"!

May God continue to richly bless each and every one of you, Pastor Rick

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, *Bill & Nancy Peters, *Barbara England, *Kasey Stewart, *Kathleen Schaeffer, *Janet Powell
- ◆ Continued prayers of sympathy for the Snyder family upon the death of John.
- ◆ 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 the transition of 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)
- ◆ For discernment of our church members about our church's future ministry.

**January Birthday's**

1/3 Jesse Beltz
 1/17 Linda Pitkin
 1/24 A.J. Koehler
 1/29 LaVera Hover

First Christian News

Average number of service attendees for

December: 35

Amount given in December: \$ 2,434.00

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"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.



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Rev. Patrice Fatig Serving Today 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour	2	3	4 9:00 am Taize Prayer	5	6 Epiphany 11:00 am Bible Study 	7
8 Rev. Margo Connor Serving Today 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour	9	10	11 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	12	13 11:00 am - Bible Study 	14 9:00 a.m. Elders meeting 10:00 am - Board Meeting
15 Rev. Patrice Fatig Serving Today 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour	16 	17	18 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	19	20 11:00 am - Bible Study	21
22 Rev. Margo Connor Serving Today 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship- 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	23	24	25 9:00 am- Taize Prayer	26	27 11:00 am - Bible Study	28
29 Rev. Patrice Fatig Serving Today 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	30	31				

January Serving Schedule

January 1

Minister: Pastor Patrice Fatig
 Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler
 Pianist/Organist: Open
 Children’s Sermon: Robin Kretzinger
 Greeters: David England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds, Martha Stoner
 Elders: Barb England, Linda Pitkin
 Deacons: Bill Peters, David England, Steve Strayer
 Coffee Hour: Team #1—Melissa Drown, Bill & Nancy Peters Karol Smith
 Counters: Beth Reynolds, Robin Kretzinger

January 8

Minister: Pastor Margo Connor
 Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler
 Pianist/Organist: Kathy Baltz
 Children’s Sermon: Patty Koehler
 Greeters: Beth Reynolds
 Elders: Linda Pitkin, Nancy Peters
 Deacons: Lisa Wolfe, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith
 Coffee Hour: Team # 2—Barb Brown., Barb England.
 Counters: Beth Reynolds, Bill Peters

January 15

Minister: Pastor Patrice Fatig
 Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler
 Pianist/Organist: Alsbrook Smith, Jr.
 Children’s Sermon: Robin Kretzinger
 Greeters: David England, Karol Smith, Martha Stoner
 Elders: Beth Reynolds, Barb England
 Deacons: Charlotte Ballard, Tara Miller, Mercedes Williamson
 Coffee Hour: Team #3—Patty Koehler, Beth Reynolds, Lisa Wolfe
 Counters: Beth Reynolds, Bill Peters

January 22

Guest Minister: Pastor Margo Connor
 Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler
 Pianist/Organist: Kathy Baltz
 Children’s Sermon: Patty Koehler
 Greeters: David England, Barb England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds
 Elders: Nancy Peters, Beth Reynolds
 Deacons: Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz
 Coffee Hour: Team #4—Deb Kirk, Linda Pitkin, Pat Sharninghouse
 Counters: Beth Reynolds, Andy Koehler

January 29

Minister: Pastor Patrice Fatig
 Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler
 Pianist/Organist:
 Children’s Sermon: Robin Kretzinger
 Greeters: Karol Smith
 Elders: Robin Kretzinger, Barb England
 Deacons: Bill Peters, David England, Steve Strayer
 Coffee Hour: Team #5—Potluck—Carry In
 Counters: Beth Reynolds, Robin Kretzinger



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

