

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

March 2017

Ministers: The Entire Congregation

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.

Pastor's Contact Information: Email 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 or info@fccfindlay.org - WEB page: www.fccfindlay.org

FCC Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/fccfindlay

March 1 Lamplighter Blog

I am grateful to be in the position to greet you via The Lamplighter as senior pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Findlay. As I have held this great office for all of one month now, I am happy to report that I am readily learning the people, landscape, and overall culture of Findlay, in general, and First Christian Church, in particular. Of course, my process of discovery is taking place while I live out of a suitcase in anticipation of the shipment of my household good to Findlay.

In short, I am in transition. I am in the process of moving from one way of living to another one. While I may soon have certain items from my past delivered to my present, I must make myself understand on a daily basis that I am in a new territory with a new reality. I am in transition. To use an often-repeated modern slogan, I am embracing a new normal.

I believe that in one way or another, all of us are living through some kind of season of transition. Each one of us is moving from familiar ways of living, thinking and acting into new, less familiar patterns of existence. While we may have some of the furniture and fixtures of the past, newness has erupted all around us. As we walk through the turnstiles that separate past and present, it is possible that we may at times feel a bit lost or confused. We may even find ourselves longing for the reemergence of the past.

Ultimately, transition forces us to get in touch with who we really are and what we must do in order to be authentic and true to our identity. This life assignment can be a tough one to fulfill.

Amazingly, people who identify as Christian possess something that I call "transition faith." Transition faith is the stubborn conviction that no matter the variety of experiences we have, and despite the sheer unpredictability of life, and regardless of the incalculable number of times we go through changes, we are not alone; we are children of God; God is with us.

The fact is, though, sometimes we forget, downplay or neglect our relationship with God. This departure can take place intentionally as well as unintentionally. Being disconnected from God leads to the predictable result of losing one's identity as an ambassador of God's love and peace, and an agent of God's justice and hospitality as reflected in God's son, Jesus Christ.

To some extent, each of us lives with a level of disconnection from God. The fact that we are mere mortals means that we are subject to factionalism, self-absorption, and, well, inexplicably problematic decision-making.

Yet as we enter the 2017 Lenten Season and thus remember and reflect on the death and burial of Jesus Christ, you and I will embark upon a path toward strengthening our relationships with God. Through intentional prayer, scriptural study, honest introspection, and mission engagement, we Christians will probe the life transforming and systems altering ministry of Jesus in ways that will help us claim our identity in Jesus and approach him with the words of Adelaide A. Pollard's epic hymn, "Have Thine Own Way," in our hearts

Have thine own way, Lord. Have thine own way.

Thou art the potter, I am the clay.

Mold me and make me, after thy will

While I am waiting, yielded and still

Continued on page 5

March Birthday's

March Birthdays

3/5 Tammy Thompson

3/9 Zoey Durain

3/16 Larry Marquart

3/23 Rebecca Wolfe

3/29 Lavonne Eckert



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

February: 39

Amount given in February: \$ 2,832.00

Remember to like us on Facebook-

“First Christian Church Findlay Ohio”

Directions to Read “The Lamplighter” Online!

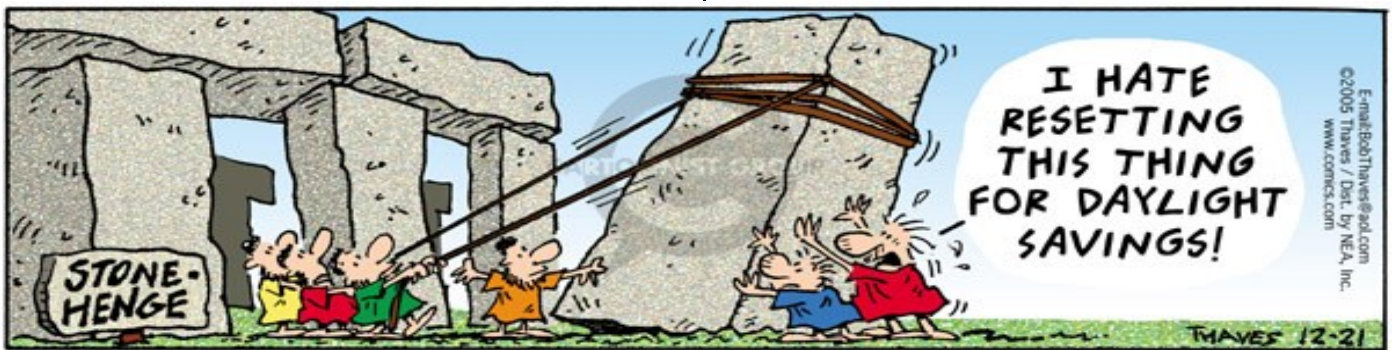
To access “The Lamplighter” online; go to our website: <http://www.fccfindlay.org>. On the homepage of the website, please click on the page Current Lamplighter Newsletters. There you may choose from form the list of the current newsletters. Earlier editions will be available on the home page in the archives list.

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 am Taize Prayer 12:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday	2	3 11:00 am Bible Study 	4
5 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour	6	7	8 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	9	10 11:00 am - Bible Study 	11 9:00 a.m. Elders meeting 10:00 am - Board Meeting
12 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour	13	14	15 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	16	17 11:00 am - Bible Study	18
19 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship- 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	20	21	22 9:00 am- Taize Prayer	23	24 11:00 am - Bible Study	25
26 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	27	28	29	30	31	
<p>“A SECRET PLACE” 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!</p>						

Serving Schedule

March 5	March 12
<p>Minister: The Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler Pianist: TBA Children’s Sermon: Robin Kretzinger Greeters: Karol Smith, Barb England Elders: Tiffany Miracle, Robin Kretzinger Deacons: Lisa Wolfe, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith Counters: Patty Koehler, Robin Kretzinger Coffee Hour: Team #5—Potluck Carry In</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: Charlotte, Ballard, Tara Miller, Mercedes Williamson Counters: Patty Koehler, Andy Koehler Coffee Hour: Team #1—Melissa Drown, Bill & Nancy Peters, Karol Smith</p>
March 19	March 26
<p>Minister: The Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler Pianist: TBA Children’s Sermon: Robin Kretzinger Greeters: Karol Smith, John Snyder Elders: Barb England, Beth Reynolds Deacons: Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz Counters: Patty Koehler, Bill Peters Coffee Hour: Team #2—Barb Brown, Barb England</p>	<p>Minister: The Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler Pianist: Kathy Baltz Children’s Sermon: Patty Koehler Greeters: Barb England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds Elders: Robin Kretzinger, Tiffany Miracle Deacons: Bill Peters, David England, Steve Strayer Counters: Patty Koehler, Beth Reynolds Coffee Hour: Team #3—Patty Koehler, Beth Reynolds, Lisa Wolfe</p>



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When observed faithfully, the Lenten season will not only open a channel through which our faith is bolstered; it will create a holy portal through which God transforms us from being church members to living as disciples of Jesus Christ. As disciples, we will embody transition faith, the ability to retain our sense of identity and purpose regardless of shifting social trends, repressive political leadership, or economic uncertainty.

As we contemplate Jesus' bold journey to the cross during Lent, you and I will consider ways to shake off risk avoidance and fear of controversy in ways that will help us boldly proclaim and live God's agenda of love, peace, justice and hospitality as made known through Jesus Christ. If ever there were a time when such risky, radical and authentic Christianity were needed, this is that time. Amen

Faithfully,
Jack

The Reverend Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr,
Senior Pastor



DEVOTION

[Jesus] said to [the Pharisees], "The Sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the Sabbath."

- Mark 2:27 (NRSV)

We were headed to church one Sunday morning when my dad made a turn in the opposite direction. I asked where we were going, and he told me we were going to worship God in a different way that day. Always up for something new, I was excited about this adventure. He explained that we were on our way to visit his friend's grandmother. Since his friend had moved away there was really no family to visit with her. For the next hour we sat in a small apartment that had a distinct musty odor, spending time with a deeply appreciative and lonely woman. When the visit was over, we left with a promise from my dad to return.

That happened over 30 years ago. After that initial visit, my dad continued to regularly visit this woman. He would converse with her, fix small things, and sometimes help with grocery shopping, if needed.

My dad showed me another among many ways to worship God and taught me that worship does not have to be limited to a church service. Worship in church is important because it is done in a community that loves God and wants to express that love. That is exactly what my father and I did when we visited this woman. We shared God's love with her. It is the same lesson that Christ demonstrated; helping those in need is always a good option.

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

MARCH ISSUE OF LAMPLIGHTER

