



The Lamplighter

THE MONTHLY MINISTRY UPDATE OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST), FINDLAY, OHIO // JUNE 2018 ISSUE

Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

Over the past two years, the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival has reached out to communities in more than 30 states across this nation. We have met with tens of thousands of people, witnessing the strength of their moral courage in trying times. We have gathered testimonies from hundreds of poor people and we have chronicled their demands for a better society. The following moral agenda is drawn from this deep engagement and commitment to these struggles of the poor and dispossessed. It is also grounded in an empirical assessment of how we have come to this point today. The Souls of Poor Folk: Auditing America report reveals how the evils of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, and the war economy and militarism are persistent, pervasive, and perpetuated by a distorted moral narrative that must be challenged.

We must stop the attention violence that refuses to see these injustices and acknowledge the human and economic costs of inequality. We believe that when decent people see the faces and facts that the Souls of Poor Folk Audit presents, they will be moved deeply in their conscience to change things. When confronted with the undeniable truth of unconscionable cruelty to our fellow human beings, we must join the ranks of those who are determined not to rest until justice and equality are a reality for all.

God has called God's people to work for justice and on behalf of the poor for more than 2,000 years. Micah's call (6:8) is the basis of our vision. The 2017 General Assembly of our denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), heard this call in the plans for the new Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival and answered with adoption of a resolution to support this effort based on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s original campaign 50 years ago. **Disciples across the life of the Church are organizing to support the initial 40 Days of Moral Action from May 14 to June 23, 2018.**

The Ohio Poor People's Campaign invites concerned people to engage in Moral Action at the Ohio State Capitol on each Monday, up to the June 23 end of the Campaign. Pastor Jack will be participating. If you would like more information, or if you would like to attend a rally, please let him know. Otherwise, please pray for the Poor People's Campaign.

LET'S MAKE A DATE!

- **SUNDAYS @ 9:30 AM** Christian Education classes for all ages.
- **WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM**
- **WEDNESDAYS @ 9:30 AM** Taize (Tie-Zay) Quiet Prayer Gathering
- **FRIDAYS @ 11 AM** Bible Study on The Psalms
- **ELDERS MEETING @ 5 PM on JULY 12**



ON TRACK WITH PASTOR JACK



No matter how sturdy the wheels on our vehicles may be, sooner or later, rugged road conditions, potholes, and just wear and tear will cause them to go off into their own individual orbits and thus cause our vehicles to run in a crooked formation. When this happens, our best course of action is to take our cars to a good mechanic for a wheel alignment. Sometimes, the often rugged conditions of the culture around us, and even our personal desire for comfort, can throw us Christians onto a less-than-straight path where we give in to the temptation to make the faith all about us going to heaven, and less about heaven getting into us. Thankfully, the Holy Spirit is present to align the wheels of our faith, get heaven into our souls, and set us on a path toward loving our neighbors, and using our voices to speak out against

the systems that keep so many of them in poverty and in patterns of violence and discrimination. Maybe this is what Jesus meant when he taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Think with me...what Kingdom of God values are needed right now? What can we do to usher them in?

SCENES FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH'S APRIL 28, 2018 BACKYARD MISSION TRIP PROJECT!



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH'S NEW VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS ADOPTED MARCH 2018



VISION

A community and world where all people are loved unconditionally, healed comprehensively, and valued universally.

MISSION

First Christian Church will be a transformational church body that helps people to know Jesus Christ; practices extravagant hospitality that heals; and shows Jesus' love through caring, sharing faith, and resisting injustice. (Micah 6:8-9; Matthew 25:31-46)

THREE TEAMS TO DELIVER MINISTRIES THAT RESPOND TO OUR VISION AND MISSION

1. Knowing Jesus Christ

Thoughtful worship with energetic praise, life-touching prayer, and relevant messages that call listeners to deepen their visible commitment to Jesus Christ, and a call for all to share in the Lord's Supper; Currently, we offer:

- *Sunday morning and weekday Bible classes that study the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, help people receive him more deeply into their hearts, and become his disciples.
- *Age appropriate youth ministry that fosters Christian character and builds faith leaders;
- *A mid-week gathering for quiet prayer, singing and faith-filled conversation.

2. Extravagant Christian Hospitality that Heals Brokenness – Receiving everybody, rejecting nobody.

First Christian Church interprets human diversity as a gift of God, a sign of our collective strength, and an altogether good thing! Through these affirmations, we welcome all people into the fabric of faith and life in the church. Whatever your gender identification, race, culture, ethnic background, sexual orientation, economic circumstance, family configuration, age, mental health status, or difference in ability may be, you are a person of dignity and worth, and we will receive you with honor and joy!

3. Sharing Jesus' Radical Message of Love that Overcomes Fear

We will help people form and share their stories of God's redemptive love, and work together to bring people of no faith to faith in Jesus; show care for hurting people; and refuse to remain silent when acts of hate, discrimination and violence threaten God's people.

- *Weekly refreshments to A Renewed Mind, periodic support of SAFY, Shoe Box Christmas gifts, food gifts to Chopin Hall, project partnering with LGBTQ+ Spectrum, and financial gifts to the Disciples Mission Fund and the Christian Clearing House are examples of what we are already doing under this category.

THE MINISTRY TEAMS ARE OPEN TO ALL PEOPLE. PLEASE LET OUR BOARD CHAIR, CHARLOTTE BALLARD KNOW OF YOUR INTEREST IN SERVING. REMEMBER: OUR BEST DAYS ARE NOT BEHIND US BUT AHEAD OF US! EVERY VOICE AND ALL TALENTS ARE NEEDED IN ORDER FOR FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH TO REACH ITS KINGDOM OF GOD POTENTIAL!



We welcome Gary and Mary to our congregation!! Gary Castaneda and Mary Lou Buetow are new members to FCC. They are both from Michigan. Gary works at Rowmark and Mary is employed at Something special Learning Center. Gary has three children and four grandchildren. Mary has five children with a 15 year old Emily still at home and five grandchildren including Grayson, born in May 2018. They enjoy traveling, family activities, and working in their yard. Gary and Mary are big Michigan fans and enjoy attending football games as well as Tigers' games. They are the owners of two dogs, Chelsea the Boxer and Leo who is a Westie (both love Pastor Jack!).





OPPORTUNITIES TO KNOW GOD, KNOW EACH OTHER, AND SERVE GOD THROUGH FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Escape The Noise of Life! Come to the Wednesday Morning Quiet Taize Prayer Sessions On Wednesday mornings at 9:30, we gather for a time of conversation, soft music and quiet prayer using materials from the Taize (Tie-Zay) Ecumenical Brothers of France. Through singing and prayer, participants grow closer to God and develop bonds that enrich their faith and hope. Come, de-stress, and deepen your walk with Jesus Christ.

A Journey in the Psalms: Friday Morning Bible Study, Led By Pat Sharninghouse Eager to learn more about the biblical text and how it speaks to our times? Meet us at 11:00 AM on Fridays for study and discussion of the Psalms. Whether you are a beginner or Bible study veteran, this class is for you. (Here's a secret: it's fun, too!)

Helping Hands are Needed! We need help delivering our donated food items to Chopin Hall food ministry! If you can spare some time to pick up items from the church office cupboard and deliver them to Chopin Hall on a regular basis, it would be greatly appreciated! Please see Elder Linda Pitkin today if you have volunteer times available!!

Picture Yourself Volunteering to Support Our Neighbor and Mission Partner, A Renewed Mind

Since spring 2017, First Christian Church has engaged in a ministry of compassion and care that has focused on the needs of clients and staff of one of our next door neighbors, the mental/behavioral health center known as A Renewed Mind (ARM). Through the generosity of FCC families and individuals, we have delivered water, juice and snacks that have given nourishment and hope to those who receive and provide life-transformative services at ARM. FCC now needs new volunteers to support this important ministry. Specifically, we need more people to donate refreshments and to deliver them to ARM. Volunteers will deliver a cooler of water/juice and approximately 15-20 healthy snacks to ARM's main office on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 10 AM. For those who purchase refreshments, you are free to choose the items yet please note that we try to provide items that are somewhat healthy. In addition to water and juice, we have delivered fruit cups, granola bars, and small variety bags of chips. **YOU MAY SIMPLY PROVIDE REFRESHMENTS, DELIVER THEM, OR BOTH. YOU MAY ALSO DONATE MONEY TO THIS EFFORT!** Please help us share God's love by giving time and gifts to those who are working to recover good health and faith. Sign up sheets are near north door of our suite. **PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL WHO RECEIVE AND GIVE CARE FROM A RENEWED MIND! THANK YOU!**

FCC Pictorial Directories Arriving Soon! Through the excellent organizing skills of Elder Nancy Peters, our pictorial church directory project is complete! Almost everyone has received their individual or family photos from Lifetouch, the company through which the church arranged for the directory. Within the next few weeks, our directories will arrive!

LGBTQ+Spectrum and First Christian Church will jointly hold a garage sale on July 27th and 28th. Members are asked to look around and see if they have treasures that they no longer need or want and would like to donate to the garage sale. The profit will be divided equally between Spectrum and the church. Look for details in the next newsletter.

SCENES FROM THE SAFY CARNIVAL, MAY 9, 2018





Birthdays

1 Pastor Jack Sullivan, Jr.
4 Joe Byal
5 Rachel Reynolds
7 Pastor Rick Pulling
13 Fred Kretzinger
14 Tom Thompson
18 Kathy Schaffer
20 Sandy Frantz
27 Zach Stahl
27 Dave Reynolds
28 Bonna Scheib

Anniversaries

3 Bill & Nancy Peters
24 Charlie & Charlotte Ballard
24 Scott & Jenny Williamson

JUNE!

ADULTS! DEEPEN YOUR FAITH, SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS AT THE 2018 ADULT CONFERENCE JUNE 18-22 AT NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, COLUMBUS



The Christian Church in Ohio is thrilled to let you know another great Adult Conference is being planned for you to be held at Northwest Christian Church in Columbus, OH from June 18-22, 2018. Our theme is "Sing a New Song", with many references in Psalms. Our Vesper Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Tim Murtaugh, a retired Disciples minister. Our daily Bible Lecturer will be Rev. Dr. Jerry Sumney, Professor of Biblical Studies at Lexington Theological Seminary.

Adult Conference is full of endless possibilities where faith is deepened and broadened, ministry leaders are born and nurtured, and fellowship within the wider Church is strengthened. Adult Conference is an inclusive, welcoming place, where conferees are free to explore issues openly, honestly, and without judgment. Through Adult Conference, conferees may find that God is calling them to explore horizons they had never considered or even dreamed of before. We hope that many will be able to experience the far-reaching impact that Adult Conference has in the lives of individuals. Full registration cost is \$200. Partial attendance rates are available. For details on registration and lodging, visit www.CCINOH.org or call 614.433.0343. ***"I have attended four Adult Conferences. They're great! Do yourself a favor: register and attend!"*** - Pastor Jack



PEOPLE AND SITUATIONS WE ARE PRAYING FOR WE ARE PRAYING FOR

- * For murder victim families and those injured in the Kentucky, Texas, Nevada, Florida, Maryland and other domestic terror shootings and violence;
- * For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment: *Ray Neall, Fred Kretzinger, and others;
- * For those struggling with addiction and other mental health issues, and for their families and caregivers;
- * For those with various health issues and concerns: Kathleen Schaffer, Nancy and Gary LaRoche, Donna Foreman, Sandy Franz, Janet Powell, Joe Brinkman, Mary and Tom Thompson;
- * For people who are lonely and living in emotional pain;
- * For those who are bound to their homes or care facilities;
- * For those impacted by natural and human-caused disasters;
- * For those who protect and serve us here in Findlay, domestically and around the world;
- * For peaceful solutions to conflicts, and for the healing of broken police/citizen relationships;
- * For those who experience discrimination and hateful and hostile treatment;
- * For those who give care and work for social justice and the end of poverty, hate and systemic oppression;
- * For the president, for congress, our governor, our mayor and all public servants;
- * For the United States and all other nations;
- * For victims of global and domestic terrorism, for refugees fleeing and trying to find new host/home countries, for those facing deportation, and for the healing of political fractures in our country;
- * For those seeking employment, for those who are having trouble making ends meet;
- * For those who are imprisoned

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

IMAGES FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH'S SPRING 2018 REVIVAL FEATURING PASTOR DORIS HARRIS MARS



First Christian Church is joyfully affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) US and Canada. www.disciples.org. We welcome all people whatever their gender identification, race, culture, ethnic background, sexual orientation, economic circumstance, family configuration, or difference in ability into full participation in the life, leadership, and employment of First Christian Church.

**1624 Tiffin Avenue, Suite B, Findlay, OH 45840
419.422.5615 / info@findlaydisciples.org
www.findlaydisciples.org**

Facebook: First Christian Church Findlay Ohio

**The Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., Senior Pastor; Robin Kretzinger, Minister of Worship;
Mi Moon, Pianist; Pennie Wells and Rob Montgomery, Office Administrators;
Lisa Wolfe, Custodian**