



<p>First Christian Church 620 N. Main St. Findlay, OH 45840 419-422-5615</p>  <p>The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)</p>	<h1 style="text-align: center;">The Lamplighter</h1>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>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..."</i> <i>Matthew 5:14-16 NRSV</i></p>
<h2 style="text-align: center;">April 2016</h2>	<p>WEB PAGE: www.fccfindlay.org</p> <p>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 tinamiller_fcc@yahoo.com - For people who want to contact Sue Davies, 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</p>

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

We have just celebrated Holy Week and Easter in a meaningful and glorious way!

"You also be ready..." (Luke 12:40) is a short verse to look at following Easter.

That verse points to the fact that our greatest need as Christians is our readiness to face Jesus Christ at any and every turn. This is not easy, no matter what our spiritual experience has been. At the end of the day, the battle is not against sin, difficulties, or circumstances. But rather, it is against being so absorbed in what God can do for us and in our service to God that we are not ready to face Jesus Himself at every turn. Our greatest spiritual need is not to figure out our beliefs or doctrines or wondering if we are of any use to Jesus (as important as those things can be at times), but the need to face *Him*.

Jesus rarely comes where we expect Him. The women at the tomb and the disciples found that out on Easter morning! Jesus often appears where we least expect Him and often in the most illogical situations. The only way we Christians can remain true to God is to be ready for our Lord's surprise visits. This readiness will not be brought about by praying for God's blessings or through our Christian service (although those are important, of course, at times), but through intense spiritual reality, expecting Jesus at every turn. This sense of expectation will give our lives the attitude of childlike wonder that Christ wants them to have. If we are going to be ready for

Jesus Christ (and this is where some critics of the church today are correct in their critique of us), we have to stop being "religious". In other words, we need to stop using religion as some kind of lofty lifestyle – we need to be spiritually real.

If we are avoiding the call of the "religious thinking" of today's world, and instead are **"looking unto Jesus"** (Hebrews 12:2), Oswald Chambers reminds us, setting our hearts on what Jesus wants, and thinking His thoughts, we will oftentimes be considered impractical or daydreamers. But it's the way for us to always expect Jesus, to be ready for Him, to face Him at any and every turn!

We want to be ready to face Jesus at every turn as a church family, too, especially at this point in our history. The Rev. Dr. Bill Edwards, Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ohio, helped us to see this during his recent visit to our congregation and his meeting with our Board. Dr. Edwards helped us see that we are similar in many ways to the early Christians in the book of Acts where we as a church minister to a secular world. Dr. Edwards helped us see that during this interim period in our church's life (the last few months of my ministry among you before I retire at the end of the year), we need to discern our new identity, ascertain the assets of you the people of First Christian Church (that's our priority!), and determine how these assets will impact our new ministry as we see the real needs of our community (by accessing demographic information) and decide what new ways we will use to address those needs.

Cont. page 2

Dr. Edwards encouraged us to engage in spiritual disciplines as we discern God's vision for our church right now – what God is calling us to do at this point in our church's life. Dr. Edwards also helped us to see that our church's Visioning and resultant Mission Statement that was done 8-10 years ago is still valid because that was God's vision and our discernment at that time. What God is calling us to today will undoubtedly be consistent with that Vision of a few years ago, but it may involve tweaking or discerning new things that God is revealing to our congregation at this time.

Are we ready to face Jesus at every turn now? I pray so, and I ask that you pray for that, as well.

Recent developments in this discerning and visioning process include the Board appointment of our pastoral search committee – Charlotte Ballard, Barbara England, Robin Kretzinger, Bill Peters, Beth Reynolds, and Steven Strayer. They will be organizing and meeting for the first time in April. In addition, a discernment team has been formed, which includes Ed Davies, Tiffany Miracle, Linda Pitkins, and myself. This discernment team is committed to meet each week for two months to pray and to discern what God is saying to us and calling us to do. Members of that discernment team will then meet with church members one-on-one during coffee hours to hear what you are hearing God say to our church and what God is calling us to do as a church. The discernment team members will, in turn, pass that information from you on to the search committee members to help them in their tasks.

In addition, as we have reported to the congregation, the Board is still talking to folks who are helping us look at possibilities for our building and property. Options range from selling our building and then renting a space elsewhere for us to worship and do our ministry to sharing our current space with other organizations. The Board is still talking to folks about this, and hopes to present our current options to the congregation as a whole in a month or two. In all of these discussions, Dr. Edwards has reminded us that ultimately, we need to remember that it is not about a building but about our ministry – as we ready ourselves to face Jesus at every turn, sometimes in unexpected ways!

See you around this month of April. *Take care and God bless, Pastor Rick*

DEVOTIONAL and OP-ED, by Rev. Dr. Damaris Whitaker, who is the *first Latina to serve as Senior Minister at the First Church of Christ in Hartford, Connecticut*.

I think it is safe to say that the people of the United States have been inflicted with great suffering this election season. There are words full of hate that we will never forget, there are actions we cannot unsee. Indeed, America's footprints have been lost in the darkness '*tus huellas se ha perdido entre la oscuridad*'.

Most injurious, this season, have been the attempts of many to explain [presidential candidates'] hateful rhetoric and acts. But, hate, my friends, cannot be explained. It is deeply rooted in implicit biases and it stretches its branches in the shadow of ignorance. Many have alluded to the fact that under the First Amendment we enjoy freedom of speech and any candidate has the right to speak their mind. Well, freedom of speech has its limitations and hate speech is not protected by the First Amendment. Neither is the incitement of violence.

It is in this climate, that Christians around the country recently celebrated Holy Week. The Week began with Palm Sunday. What is most important in the Palm Sunday story, when Jesus enters into Jerusalem, is that: Jesus' procession was a counter-procession. Still unknown to many today, there were two processions that same day—the empire's procession and the peasant procession. It was the beginning of Passover, the most sacred week in the Jewish year. On the west side of the city, Pontius Pilate entered with pageantry and a great column of imperial soldiers. His objective was to affirm the Roman empire and to remind the people that the empire was still in charge. On the east side, Jesus with very little preparation rode on donkey into the City and he was cheered by people from the peasant class. This procession was a political protest to the empire's procession. The people at the time lived under what is described as a "domination system" that was characterized by three major elements: a) political oppression, b) economic exploitation and c) religious legitimization. These domination systems were a way of organizing a society in ancient and pre-modern times. Nonetheless, I would argue that the core elements of such domination systems remain to be alive and well throughout our society today. *Cont. page 3*

Prayer Needs:

- ♦ For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment:
*Kathy Brinkman * Emelia (4 years old) *Fred Kretzinger *John Turner (Janet Powell's nephew)
- ♦ For those with various health issues and concerns:
*Erma Weist, *Doris Moore *Bethany (Ed & Sue Davies)
*Bill Booher
- ♦ Prayers for peace and just solutions to conflicts, natural disasters, polarizing, police/citizen relationships, mass shootings, terrorism around the world, and the humanitarian crisis of refugees fleeing and trying to find new host/home countries.
- ♦ 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.
- ♦ For discernment of our church members about our church's future ministry.

April Birthdays

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

April Anniversaries

8-Larry & Kathy Marquart



Donna Foreman is this month's featured member. She was born in a farmhouse just north of Houcktown, the youngest of 4 children. She graduated from Mt. Blanchard High School and then worked at her uncle's general store in Houcktown, followed by Gleesner Company, Brandman Iron & Metal Co. and finally at Ohio Oil Company. She met her husband Ed in 1948 and married in 1950. They had 5 children, one girl and four boys. Unfortunately their daughter passed away in 2002. Ed and Donna joined First Christian Church in 1996. Donna was in the choir while Ed served as a trustee and custodian. Sadly, Ed passed away in 2011. Her favorite scripture is John 3:16, her favorite hymn is "Let There be Peace on Earth" and her favorite prayer is The Serenity Prayer.

Cont. from page 2

Our current political system provides fertile ground for the few to rule the many. Our taxation laws and economic systems continue to create inequality. And, certainly, some have felt free to use God's name to justify anti-immigration reform, to strip women of their reproductive rights, discriminate against the LGBTQ community and keep every American armed with assault weapons. The domination system is still alive and well in America.

Friends, I too find myself looking for America amid the suffering of the inflicting wounds this election season. But I chose to enter the City from the east, in protest. Raising my voice for immigrants and refugees;.....raising my voice for Black Lives Matter; raising my voice for Justice and Peace (raising my voice for all in the fringes of society). I hope you join me.

First Christian News

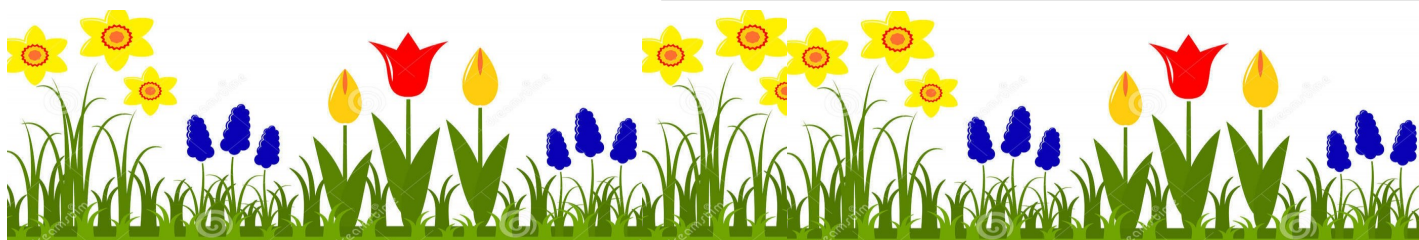
Average number of service attendees for March: 47

Amount given in March: \$ 4580.75



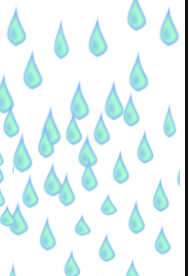





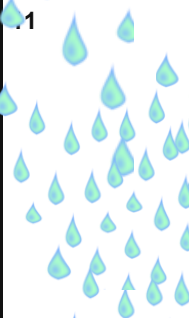
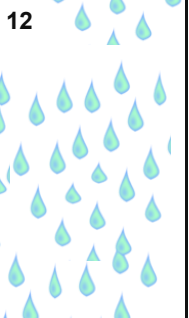


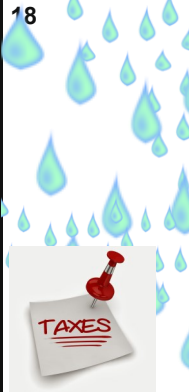

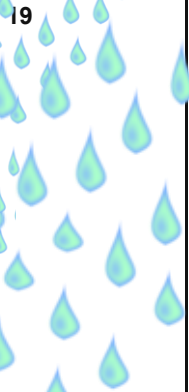





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Directions to Read "The Lamplighter" Online!

To access "The Lamplighter" online; go to our website: <http://www.fccfindlay.org>. On the homepage of the website, please click on the About tab and then click on Lamplighter Newsletters. There you may choose from from the list of the current newsletters.



April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 11:00 am - Bible Study 	2 9:30 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Elder's Meeting
3 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour			6 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	7	8 11:00 am - Bible Study 	9 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Scrambler Marie's 9:30 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 10:00 am - Board Meeting
10 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour to honor John and Jane Snyder 12:15 Search Comm. Mtg			13 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	14	15 11:00 am - Bible Study 	16 9:30 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
17 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship- 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour 2:30 pm-Fox Run Wor-ship	 		20 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	21	22 11:00 am - Bible Study 	23 9:30 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
24 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship- 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	 	26	27 9:00 am- Taize Prayer	28	29 11:00 am - Bible Study 	30 10 a.m. Search Comm. Meeting with Dr. Bill Edwards

April Serving Schedule

April 3		April 10	
Minister:	Rev. Rick	Minister:	Pastor Rick
Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler	Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler
Pianist/Organist	Becky Pulling	Pianist/Organist	Becky Pulling
Children's Sermon:	Robin Kretzinger	Children's Sermon:	Patty Koehler
Greeters:	David England, Karol Smith, Martha Stoner	Greeters:	David England, Barb England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds
Scripture Reader:	Tara Miller	Scripture Reader:	Steven Strayer
Elders:	Robin Kretzinger, Linda Pitkin	Elders:	Barb England, Nancy Peters
Deacons:	Lisa Wolf, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith	Deacons:	Charlotte Ballard, Tara Miller, John Snyder
Coffee Hour:	Team #4 Barb Brown, Patty Koehler	Coffee Hour:	Team #5 Deb Kirk, Barb England, Lisa Wolfe
Counters:	Bill Peters, Robin Kretzinger	Counters:	Bill Peters, Andy Koehler
April 17		April 24	
Minister:	Pastor Rick	Guest Minister:	Pastor Rick
Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler	Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler
Pianist/Organist	Becky Pulling	Pianist/Organist	Becky Pulling
Children's Sermon:	Robin Kretzinger	Children's Sermon:	Patty Koehler
Greeters:	Karol Smith, John Snyder	Greeters:	David England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds, Martha Stoner
Scripture Reader:	Mercedes Williamson	Scripture Reader:	Karol Smith
Elders:	Linda Pitkin, Beth Reynolds	Elders:	Beth Reynolds, Barb England
Deacons:	Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz	Deacons:	Bill Peters, David England, Sue Davies
Coffee Hour:	Team #1 Cindi Beltz, Beth Reynolds, Kathy Brinkman	Coffee Hour:	Team #2 Pat Sharninghouse, Linda Pitkin, Sue & Ed Davies
Counters:	Bill Peters, Patty Koehler	Counters:	Bill Peters, Tara Miller
		<p>Coming Up in May 2016</p> <p>Saturday, May 14 – Men's Fellowship Breakfast and Board Meeting</p> <p>Saturday, May 21 – Wedding at the church</p> <p>Sunday, May 29 – Guest Preacher: Licensed Minister Linn Bartling</p> 	

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

April

April 3– 2nd Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reader: Tara Miller

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Message: “A Room with Locked Doors”

Theme: Fear – Even Jesus’ disciples had fear. What is the best antidote to fear?

April 10– 3rd Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reader: Steven Strayer

Scripture: John 21:1-19

Message: “Timeout at Tiberius ”

Theme: Failure – Jesus’ disciples felt like failures. But how does failure actually help us?

April 17– 4th Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reader: Mercedes Williamson

Scripture: Revelation 7:9-17

Message: “No More Tears”

Theme: Tears – How and why will they be wiped away?

April 24– 5th Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reader: Karol Smith

Scripture: John 13:31-35

Message: “Staying Close to Jesus Christ ”

Theme: What is new about Jesus’ kind of love? Where should we first see this love?