

First CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Disciples of Christ



The Lamplighter

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

EASTER! CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION WITH FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

On Sunday, April 1, 2018, First Christian Church will join Christians around the world in celebrating the glorious Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ! This will be a day for the church to experience and demonstrate the joy that comes in knowing that nothing can overcome the life and love humanity receives from God through Jesus Christ!

First Christian Church's Easter Celebration will begin with breakfast at 9:30 AM. Immediately following will be our 10:30 AM Easter Worship service, featuring special music, an inspiring message for children, and a sermon titled, "Mary, Don't You Weep," by Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., our senior pastor.

Please make plans now to be praise God for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ with First Christian Church, Findlay!

INTERIM REGIONAL MINISTER REV. JOHN RICHARDSON TO PREACH FOR APRIL 29 CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

First Christian Church will celebrate 131 years of ministry on Sunday, April 29, 2018. The celebration will feature a sermon by the Reverend John Richardson, interim regional minister of the Christian Church in Ohio. Chaired by Mary Buetow, the Anniversary Committee is planning the worship service and a special dinner to follow. Watch for details, save the date, and be sure to say yes if asked to volunteer your time and talents toward helping us respectfully and joyfully remember our past while moving boldly into our bright future. Oh, and please start inviting people to be with us on April 29!

LET'S MAKE A DATE!

- **SUNDAYS @ 9:30 AM** Christian Education classes for all ages.
WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM
- **FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAYS FROM 3-5 PM** Youth Group
- **TUESDAYS @ 2 PM** Tea & Talk with Pastor Jack
- **WEDNESDAYS @ 9:30 AM** Taize (Tie-Zay) Quiet Prayer Gathering
- **WEDNESDAYS @ 6:00 PM** "How Can I Forgive?" Bible Study on Forgiveness 6:00 p.m.
- **FRIDAYS AT 11 AM** Bible Study on The Psalms
- **ELDERS MEETING, APRIL 14 @ 9:00 AM; BOARD MEETING @ 10:00 AM**

He is Risen

DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.

Rejoice in the resurrection of

Jesus Christ.



WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOY FILLED EASTER!



ON TRACK WITH PASTOR JACK

While Christmas receives the adoration and attention of Christians and non-Christians alike, and Halloween has been upgraded to holiday status in the minds of many, all faith-practicing Christians know that Easter Sunday is a signature holy day within the life of the church, for it gives the church an opportunity to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, who was crucified (executed) yet raised from his grave by the power of Almighty God. At once, the Resurrection of Jesus gives Christians the blessed assurance that our human-imposed separation from God, often called sin, is forever healed and forgiven, AND it signals that as we work against all odds to share and work for God's vision of love, peace, dignity and justice, we need not fear, for nothing can separate us from God's love through Jesus Christ, not even death. So, my friends,

let us rejoice together! Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed!



SAVE THE DATES!! SPRING REVIVAL!! FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH!!

MAY 14, 15, 16, 2018

May 14-16, 2018 will be a time for spiritual refreshing and restoration for First Christian and its community through the church's Spring Revival! Plan now to be present for three consecutive nights of preaching, singing, and fellowshiping with Christians from Findlay and the surrounding areas. **The guest preacher will be the Reverend Doris Mars, Interim Pastor of Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church, our nearby neighbor on Tiffin Avenue.** If you want to grow closer to God, sharpen your leadership skills, and enjoy rich fellowship, plan to be part of #FCCRevival 2018! Details to come!

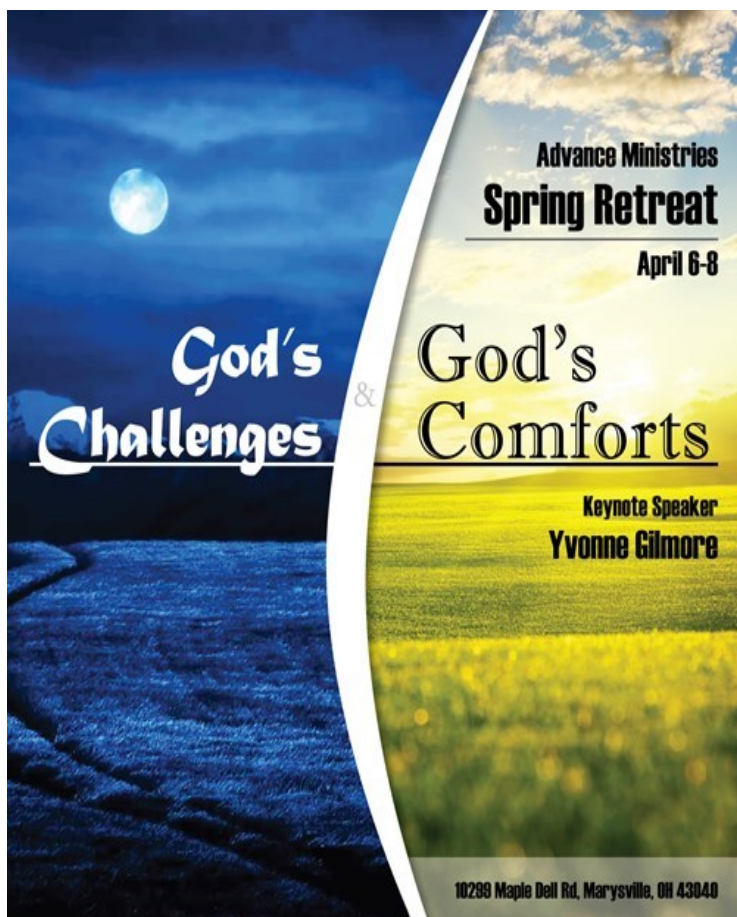


UNITE TO END RACISM / APRIL 3-5, 2018 / WASHINGTON, DC

The Ohio Council of Churches (OCC) invites you to join in a transformational journey in April. Unite to End Racism is a rally and a call to action organized by the National Council of Churches. This rally will observe the 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Busses will depart from Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Toledo. The cost is \$75 per person. For more information, see Pastor Jack. He is planning to attend.

YOUTH MINISTRY: A PRIORITY FOR OUR CHURCH!

Sarah Greeno is giving leadership as Director of Youth Ministry! Meeting from 3pm to 5pm on First and Third Sundays, our youth ministry effort is open to youth from First Christian Church and our community at large. Along with Sarah, Robin Kretzinger, Steven Strayer and Beth Reynolds are working to provide Christian education that builds Christian character among youth, in a fun and energetic way!



THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO ANNOUNCES THE 2018 ADVANCE MINISTRIES YOUNG ADULT SPRING RETREAT

Advance Ministry is the young adult ministry for the Christian Church in Ohio, Disciples of Christ. It is a place that provides young adults, persons ages 19 - 29 & out of High School, a place where they can enjoy a community of Christian friends and share their love, life, and fellowship.

We have two retreats, as well as a weeklong camp in the summer, which are all held at Camp Christian in Magnetic Springs, Ohio. Each event features keynote speakers, music, Bible studies, group activities, dancing, 3 square meals a day, and the awesomely friendly and lovable conferees that love going there year after year.

For more information about these events, activities, or general questions, please feel free to contact us either through email at officers@advanceministry.org, our NEW Facebook page, Advance Ministries Ohio, or Twitter and Instagram, both at @AdvanceConfOH. Thanks for visiting and God Bless.

2016 - 2017 Advance Officers

Susan Dicken, Jared Halter, & Will McFarland

officers@advanceministry.org



PLAN NOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 25TH BIENNIAL SESSION OF THE NATIONAL CONVOCAATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH JULY 19-22, 2018 BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Every two years, when the General Assembly does not meet, People of Color members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meet to fellowship, worship and conduct business that is unique to their cultural contexts within the life of the church. During summer of 2018, Hispanic, Asian and African American Disciples will gather, respectively. In this issue of The Lamplighter, we are invited to consider the African American Disciples biennial forum known as the National Convocation of the Christian Church.

The National Convocation was called into being, "... to provide an instrumentality within the structure of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as a forum for the discussion of pertinent issues related to black church life in the context of total church life; for fellowship, program promotion, leadership training and such other general purposes as shall support and strengthen the congregations involved in the total mission of the church." In a contemporary sense, the National Convocation exists to be an expression of the church that promotes reconciliation, social justice concerns, and transformational ministry, by equipping and training clergy and laity leadership, and empowering congregations to do mission and ministry for the 21st century.

Birmingham, AL will serve as the site for the July 19-22, 2018 biennial session. Its theme, A CALL TO ACTION! ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS, is taken from 2 Samuel 10:12 and Ephesians 6:13, and serves as a call to fight against injustice, racism, abuse, poverty, hatred, sexism, apathy, and hopelessness.

This biennial gathering is not limited to African Americans! In fact, people from all racial and ethnic groups are welcome and encouraged to attend. FCC's senior pastor, Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. will be among the participants in this gathering. Why not learn more about our denomination through registering for the National Convocation? To learn more, visit <http://www.nationalconvocation.org/>, or talk with Pastor Jack.



APRIL 13-15, 2018

CHRISTIAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP RETREAT

"THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE COMMON GOOD"

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: REV. JOSH BAIRD, DIRECTOR OF
DISCIPLES VOLUNTEERING**

Registration: \$100 if paid by April 2

@Camp Christian in Dublin, OH. For 9th to 12th grade youth. Registration fee includes overnight lodging, meals, and program materials. More details coming soon! See Pastor Jack for more information.

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

"Tea and Talk Tuesdays" with Pastor Jack."

This weekly 2:00 PM gathering was designed for all who have afternoon free time and would like to engage in conversation. If you've got the time, we'll have the tea!



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.

NEW! "How Can I Forgive" Wednesday Night Bible Study On Wednesdays from 6-7:00 PM, Pastor Jack will lead Bible Study sessions on one of the hottest topics of our day: Forgiveness. Using the book titled, "How Can I Forgive," by Dr. Joretta Marshall, participants will learn what the Bible says about forgiveness. These sessions are safe, no-judgment zones. Have you ever wondered if you could give or receive forgiveness? Come, let's talk.

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 Needs YOU! The following are tasks that need volunteer leadership and from the congregation, meaning, YOU!

*Office/Administrative support 9:00 AM to Noon on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays (requires computer skills) *Praise singers during worship *Social Media Messaging *PowerPoint slide production during worship *Worship planners *Musicians to play their instruments during worship *Newsletter editor. To volunteer for any of these roles, see Charlotte Ballard, church board chair.

PLEASE NOTE: Our community partner, **LGBTQ Spectrum** will use our building for a garage sale April 20-21 2018.



April Birthdays

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



PEOPLE AND SITUATIONS WE ARE PRAYING FOR WE ARE PRAYING FOR



- * For murder victim families and those injured in the Kentucky, Texas, Nevada, Florida, and Maryland domestic terror shootings;
- * 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: *Jeff Augustine, *Kathleen Schaffer, *Joe Haley, Shirley Peters (friend of Charlotte), *Nancy and Gary LaRoche, *Donna Foreman, *Janet Powell, *Joe Brinkman, *The Thompsons;
- * 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, for the healing of broken police/citizen relationships;
- * For those who work give care, and work for social justice and the end of systemic oppression;
- * For the president, for congress, our governor, our mayor and all public servants;
- * 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 ractures in our country
- * For those seeking employment, for those who are having trouble making ends meet;
- * For those who are imprisoned



**THE 2018 EASTER OFFERING OF
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
March 25 and April 1**

About This Offering

The grace of God is overflowing in the gift we have in Jesus the Christ. God walked among us in the person of Jesus and God continues to give us treasures unbounded through the Holy Spirit. Our response to this great generosity of God is overflowing compassion, joy, faith, gratitude, and love.

Supporting the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), by giving to the Easter Offering, is one of the many ways you share your response to God's generosity. The work of these ministries overflows "from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth."

Your gift to the Easter Offering helps bring life, love and learning through the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



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



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH TO PARTICIPATE IN BACKYARD MISSION TRIP ON APRIL 28, 2018!

First Christian Church is gearing up to take part in the most ambitious annual multi-church effort in Findlay, the Backyard Mission Trip! Sponsored by the Findlay Ministerial Association, Backyard Mission Trip is an effort for Christians of all churches to express God's love for their neighbors by dedicating a full day of labor to repair, clean or recondition the homes and properties of homeowners in need of outside assistance. Each church is asked to assemble a team of at least 10 people who will then be sent to a Findlay home to conduct their restorative work. The date for the Backyard Mission Trip is April 28. Teams will begin their day with a 7:00 AM kickoff at Winebrenner Theological Seminary.

The organizer for First Christian Church's participation is Gary Castaneda. He is already working to build the team of volunteers from our congregation. Look for more details in the coming days. If you are interested in helping First Christian Church to be part of this labor of love, please let Gary know.

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.

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The Reverend Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., Senior Pastor

