

First Christian Church
620 N. Main St.
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..."

December 2015

WEB PAGE:

www.fccfindlay.org

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

jsnyder@fccfindlay.org - For people who want to contact Jane Snyder, 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

To you wonderful folks of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Findlay, In the words of Homileticonline.com, more than 35 years ago, the first *Star Wars* film hit the screen, almost unnoticed. In the middle of this month of December, another movie in the *Star Wars* franchise opens.

"Along time ago in a galaxy far, far away ..."

Written in blue against the blackness of space, these words pop up at the beginning of every *Star Wars* movie, signifying that we are about to see and hear a story that transcends time and space. They first appeared in 1977, when the original *Star Wars* film hit the screen, followed by *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*.

In 1999, a set of three prequels was launched, and now at the end of 2015 -- after a long wait -- the first of three sequels is set to be released: *The Force Awakens*. It promises to be one of the monster films of the Christmas season.

Set 30 years after the events of *Return of the Jedi*, this movie features some fresh characters right alongside the heroes of previous *Star Wars* installments -- Luke Skywalker, Han Solo and Princess Leia. We'll also see Stormtroopers, X-wing fighters, R2-D2, light sabers and Chewbacca. They'll all be back.

And, of course, you'll experience "the Force." This is a power defined by Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi as "an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us; it binds the galaxy together." The Force has a light side and a dark side, and can be used for good or for evil.

In the *Star Wars* series, Luke Skywalker becomes Christ-like and the Force becomes a truly Christian-like power. Like Jesus, Luke cares more about real people than he does about abstract ideals. Like Jesus, Luke shows sacrificial love for his friends, his sister and especially his father, Darth Vader. Luke's readiness to die for them is the key to the defeat of ultimate evil.

Just like Jesus on the cross.

"There has been an awakening," says a character in *The Force Awakens*. "Have you felt it? The dark side and the light?" Similarly, in the gospel of Luke, which we focus on this Advent and Christmas season, there's an awakening as well. **God's force** comes into human life, and challenges us to bear fruit worthy of repentance. It offers concrete examples of what it means to act with compassion and justice -- feeding the hungry and avoiding extortion. It presents a Messiah who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire, offering us cleansing and inspiration so that we can behave with sacrificial love.

"Have you felt it? The dark side and the light?" Each of us is challenged to **open ourselves to God's force, and to receive the help of Jesus the Messiah**. With the aid of Jesus, we can walk in the light and provide coats to the homeless who are shivering in the cold of winter. We can offer food to neighborhood children who live in homes with empty refrigerators. We can behave ethically in our businesses, charging no more than what is right and fair. And we can turn to our Messiah Jesus for help when we need guidance in caring for people and showing sacrificial love.

The power of *Star Wars* is that it will reach millions of people and deliver a positive message to Christians, Jews, Muslims and atheists -- both in the United States and around the world. It will draw people together, and remind us all that we have a great deal in common despite our outside differences. "When the biggest box office draw for 2015 is a *Star Wars* movie," says Bill Reidway, "it means that the world is experiencing something uplifting and hopeful, together."



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page 2*

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But God's own force is also awakening, today and in the months to come. It is uplifting and hopeful, inspiring and challenging. This force is not trapped in a galaxy far, far away, but it is transforming the world we live in, making us more caring and compassionate, selfless and sacrificial. This force is not seen in events that happened a long time ago, but is at work today -- in our homes, our schools, our churches, our communities.

May this Advent and Christmas season 2015, the month when *The Force Awakens* comes out in theatres, be a time when we are reminded that **God's force awakens most visibly in Jesus, the Messiah. The force is strong in Him, in His Father, and in all of us who follow Him in faith and obedience.**

Remember, in the words of Luke Skywalker: "You have that power, too."

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

Order Your Poinsettias

They are \$9 per pot of red flowers for Christmas. Complete the form in the bulletin to place your order. Please contact Kathy Brinkman with any questions.

**Mitten Tree**

We have the Mitten Tree again this year. Please bring in new hats, gloves, or mittens and place on the tree in the hallway across from the office.

This year's donations will go to Chopin Hall. Contact Linda Pitkin with any questions.

**We Need Your Help...**

To invite our neighbors to our joint Christmas Eve service, we are asking that each member of First Christian Church prayerfully consider taking envelopes, sticky labels with names and addresses already on them, sticky labels with the church's return address on it, and already-prepared photocopied letters of invitation. You would then fold and stuff the letters into the envelopes, put the names and address labels and return address labels on the envelope, buy postage stamps, and then mail the letters. Please take as many as you would like. This way, we can all take part in reaching out and extending a welcome to our neighbors to our Christmas Eve service. This is one of our labors of love for Christmas!

PLEASE INVITE FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO COME WITH YOU TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – THURSDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24TH, 3:00 – 4:00 PM.

Our annual Christmas Eve service - co-sponsored this year by three Findlay churches -- the Unitarian Universalist Church of Blanchard Valley, New Hope Community Church, and First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - will be held here at FCC at 3:00 PM. Entitled "Jesus, the Unspeakable Gift", our service is designed for all ages - young to the elderly. The service will include readings, children participating in the Bible's Christmas story, a joint choir and other special music, a children's message, candlelight and singing. If you have time to stay, there will be refreshments of cookies, ice cream, punch, and coffee after the service in Kelly Chapel. Let's together "take time out" to contemplate, remember, and celebrate the real reason for Christmas.



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:
- ♦ *Jayleen Miller *Noble Miller (Tina's father-in-law) *Charlotte Ballard *Erma Weiss *Ryan and Nicole Howard (the Davies' daughter and son-in-law) *Fred (Linda Pitkin's brother) *JD Richards *Deborah and granddaughter
- ♦ Peaceful and just solutions to conflicts, natural disasters, polarizing, police/citizen relationships, mass shootings, terrorism (especially remembering people affected by the downed Russian plane in Egypt and by the killings in Beirut and Paris), and the humanitarian crisis of refugees streaming from the Mid East into several parts of the world.
- ♦ For those seeking employment or full-time 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
- ♦ Military personnel around the world who regularly risk their lives for freedom.

Mercedes (Sadie), Natalie and Nathan Williamson are "members of the month" for December. They have been members of First Christian since they were born and are the children of Scott and Jenny Williamson. Their grandmother is Deb Kirk. Sadie is 17 and a junior at Van Buren. She is active in show choir and track there. She loves art and is very creative. Here at church she is a reader, in Chimes, and in the high school Sunday School class. Natalie is 15 and a freshman at Van Buren. She is a cheerleader for Football and basketball and participates in track. Nathan is 13 and is in 8th grade. He loves sports and has participated in wrestling, football, and baseball. He has been a member of Chimes in the past. All 3 have been acolytes and are a great asset to the church!

First Christian News

Average number of service attendees for November: 38
 Amount given in November: \$5504.17
 Remember to like us on Facebook- "First Christian Church Findlay Ohio"

December Birthdays

12/6 Mary Thompson
 12/12 Patty Koehler
 12/15 Tara Miller
 12/27 Bob Thompson
 12/28 Donna Foreman
 12/29 Joe Brinkman

December Anniversaries

12/30 John & Jane Snyder

**December**

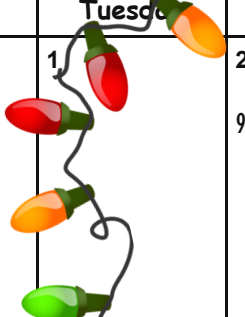
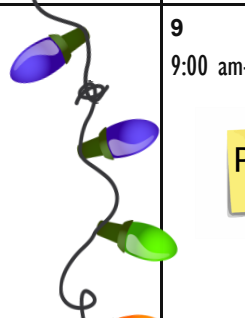


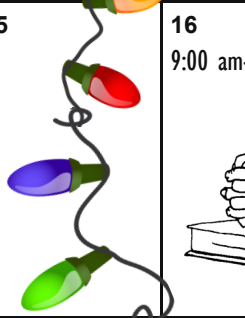


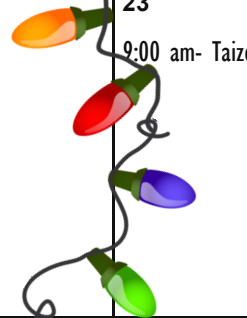

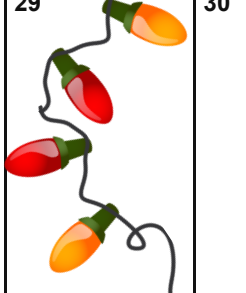

Saturday, December 5 – 11:00 AM – Carolers meet at the church. 11:30 AM – Caroling at Brookdale at Fox Run (old Grand Court) 1:15 – 1:45 PM – Caroling at Fox Run Manor
 Saturday, December 12 – 9:00 AM – Elders' Meeting, 10:00 AM – Board Meeting
 Sunday, December 13 – England family will provide special music at worship service
 Saturday, December 19 – 2:00 PM – Joint Choir Rehearsal
 Sunday, December 20 – 2:30 PM – Fox Run Worship Service
 Thursday, December 24 – 3:00 PM – Joint Christmas Eve Service here at FCC
 Sunday, December 27 – Guest Preacher: Rev. Patrice Fatig
Coming Up in January 2016
 Sunday, January 17 – Ohio Northern University Northern Chimes will present during the sermon

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 the list of the current newsletters. Earlier editions will be available on the home page in the archives list.

Merry Christmas

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 	2 9:00 am- Taize Prayer	3	4 11:00 am - Bible Study	5 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Caroling
6 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Annual Congregational Meeting 12:00 Coffee Hour	7	8 	9 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	10	11 11:00 am - Bible Study 	12 9:00 a.m. Elder's Meeting 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 10:00 am - Board Meeting
13 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour	14	15 	16 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	17	18 11:00 am - Bible Study 	19 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Joint Choir Rehearsal
20 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	21	22 	23 9:00 am- Taize Prayer	24 Christmas Eve 3:00 p.m. Joint Christmas Eve Ser- vice	25 Christmas 	26 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
27 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	28	29 	30	31 New Years Eve	 dreamstime.com	

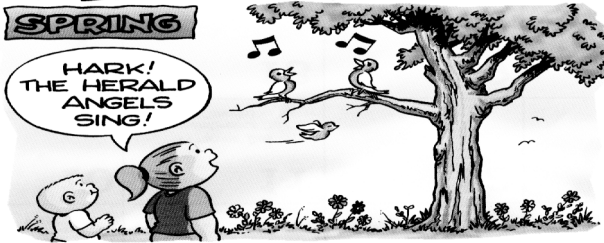
December Serving Schedule

December 6		December 13	
Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling	Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling
Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler	Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler
Pianist/Organist	Becky Pulling	Pianist/Organist	Jane Snyder
Children's Sermon:	Robin Kretzinger	Children's Sermon:	Patty Koehler
Greeters:	David England, Karol Smith, John Snyder	Greeters:	David England, Barb England, Martha Stoner
Scripture Reader:	Steven Strayer	Scripture Reader:	Tara Miller
Elders:	Beth Reynolds	Elders:	Kathy Brinkman & Nancy Peters
Deacons:	Bill Peters, David England, Sue Davies	Deacons:	Lisa Wolf, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith
Coffee Hour:	Team #1 Cindi Beltz, Beth Reynolds, Kathy Brinkman	Coffee Hour:	Team #2 Pat Sharninghouse, Linda Pitkin, Sue & Ed Davies
Counters:	Bill Peters & Robin Kretzinger	Counters:	Bill Peters & Andy Koehler
December 20		December 27	
Minister:	Pastor Rick	Guest Minister:	Patrice Fatig
Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler	Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler
Pianist/Organist	Becky Pulling	Pianist/Organist	Jane Snyder
Children's Sermon:	Robin Kretzinger	Children's Sermon:	Patty Koehler
Greeters:	Karol Smith, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds	Greeters:	David England, Tim Wolfe, John Snyder
Scripture Reader:	Karol Smith	Scripture Reader:	Mercedes Williamson
Elders:	Linda Pitkin & Robin Kretzinger	Elders:	Nancy Peters & Robin Kretzinger
Deacons:	Charlotte Ballard, Tara Miller, John Snyder	Deacons:	Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz
Coffee Hour:	Team #3 Bill & Nancy Peters, Karol Smith, Dale Yoder	Coffee Hour:	Team #4 Barb Brown, Patty Koehler, Lisa Wolfe
Counters:	Bill Peters & Patty Koehler	Counters:	Bill Peters & Tara Miller

KEEP CHRISTMAS ALL THROUGH THE YEAR.

SPRING

HARK!
THE HERALD
ANGELS
SING!



SUMMER

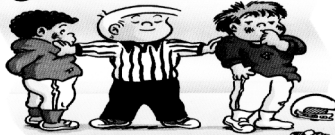
WOW!
THE STAR OF
BETHLEHEM!



FALL



PEACE ON EARTH
GOOD WILL TOWARD
MEN



WINTER

MERRY
CHRISTMAS!



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

December

December 6– Second Sunday of Advent~Advent Wreath of Peace: Junior High/High School Sunday School Class

Scripture Reader: Steven Strayer

Scripture: Luke 3:1-6

Message: “A Voice Calls in the Wilderness”

Theme: If the John the Baptizer’s mission was to prepare the world for the coming of Christ, what are we supposed to do about preparation for Christ’s coming?

December 13–Third Sunday of Advent~Advent Wreath of Joy: Adult Sunday School Class

Scripture Reader: Tara Miller

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7

Message: “Peace Comes to our Hearts ”

Theme: Is this just a formula? Or is this evidence of new life in Christ displayed in us – rejoicing, showing gentleness, not being anxious, thankfully presenting requests to God?

December 20– Fourth Sunday of Advent~Advent Wreath of Love: Brown/Drown Family

Scripture Reader: Karol Smith

Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a

Message: “A Small Town is Blessed ”

Theme: The most important people – in a small town, in a small baby, but saving an entire world. Jesus’ birth makes possible a new way of understanding life and makes possible a new way of living.

December 24–Christmas Eve– 3:00 PM - Joint Christmas Eve Service with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Blanchard Valley and New Hope Community Church

“Jesus, the Unspeakable Gift” – readings, children participating in the Bible’s Christmas story, joint choir, other special music, children’s message, candlelight and singing.

Refreshments of cookies, ice cream, punch, and coffee afterwards.

December 27– First Sunday after Christmas

Guest Preacher-Patrice Fatig

Scripture Reader: Mercedes Williamson

Scripture: TBA

Message: “TBA”

Theme: TBA