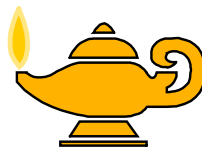


First Christian Church
620 N. Main St.
Findlay, OH 45840
419-422-5615



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..."

February
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

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4 (NIV)

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

I ask myself the same questions that I recently read devotional writer By Erin Keeley Marshall as asking. On such question is: Do you ever wonder what Jesus wants you to do with your life? As a kid, I shared a popular fear with Erin Keeley Marshall that God would send me to a remote wilderness to live on grubs and sleep in a hut. And while that way of living isn't out of the question for someone who is committed to following Jesus Christ's lead, I needn't have worried so much.

I believe, as Erin Keeley Marshall maintains, that knowing Jesus's will lies in discerning what makes our unique heart tick. The verse in the Psalm above has long been understood—perhaps mistakenly—to mean that if we love the Lord, He'll give us what we want. However, we err in understanding its true meaning if our primary focus is on what we want. Its attention is on delighting in the Lord. Not just giving Him part of our heart, but handing it all over with joy and then letting God define our desires.

If we've surrendered to Jesus Christ, then we're allowing our natural desires to be altered, solidified, or reformed by God. If He wants us to go to Africa and eat grubs, God'll plant and nurture a desire in us for the people over there. If we're truly God's, not just in word but in heart, then His desires for us will grow larger than our own selfish ones.

Recently I rediscovered a quote from Frederick Buechner: "The place where God calls you is where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

"The Bible's promise that our heart's desires will be met when we delight in Jesus lifts us as well as building His kingdom. As we enjoy the Lord, He fills others through us, and He fills us, too. That is on a personal level.

It can also be on a congregational (corporate) level. We're already in the second month of 2015, and already this year, in worship and in meetings and in private conversations, we have been asking ourselves the question: How is God filling others through us? How is God equipping us right now to be Christ's own First Christian Church in Findlay, Ohio? What sorts of things do we need to stay away from in order to discern God's call filling on our level? One thing to stay away from is jealousy and coveting what somebody else has. When we covet, we are saying, in effect, God can't do his job; yet God's job is filling individuals and filling congregations with the passion and the means to do specific mission as they are, where they are, but always for Jesus Christ. Will you pray with me to have this year, 2015, the time when we truly discern God's call and God's filling of us – individually and as a congregation, taking into account our unique size and age and temperaments?

Will you also join me in doing Erin Keeley Marshall's Faith Step: Is there a dream you've nurtured or pushed away as impossible? Commit it to Jesus, and ask Him to do something with it. Let Him mold your desires into the more He has in store.

I look forward to hearing how this goes with you this month!

Blessings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Pastor Rick

HELPFUL DEVOTIONAL

by Gwen Ford Faulkenberry

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. Romans 8:35–37 (NIV)

What does it mean to you to be “more than a conqueror?” I’ve been thinking about these verses and feeling convicted about the way I respond to difficulty. I tend toward the melancholy side of my personality, and when bad things happen, the default mode for me is to go over the edge. This was made painfully obvious to me the other day when I visited my friend Cheryl who has cancer. We were laughing and talking and then things got serious. “I need to tell you about my visit to the doctor,” she said. “I got some bad news.”

Cheryl went on to tell me about a change in her prognosis that was devastating. The doctor’s words, as she repeated them to me, felt like a punch in the gut. It was all I could do not to fall apart right before her eyes. Be strong. Be strong. After I left, I let the tears flow all the way home.

The next day I received a text that she was at the ER. She’d developed a fever during the night, and severe stomach cramping. When the bloodwork was done at the local hospital, her oncologist sent a helicopter to fly her to the big hospital hours away for treatment. It was terrifying. I was basically incapacitated on the couch staring at my phone and willing it not to be true when her daughter sent me a picture. My friend was strapped into the helicopter with a black hat and surgical mask. The caption read, “Luke, I am your father.” I pushed call immediately and she cackled with laughter.

Sometimes being more than a conqueror doesn’t mean we ride out on a white horse, sword held high. Sometimes it’s the choice to go on when we feel like quitting. Laughter in the face of fear. Trust in His love no matter what.

Faith Step: What is the worst thing you are facing right now? Thank God that even that cannot separate you from Jesus’s love.

Invitation

Ladies of First Christian church, you are invited to a baby shower for Tara Miller, February 7, 1:30-4:00 p.m. It will be held in Kelly Chapel and is being hosted by Robin and Kendall Kretzinger. Tara is registered at Babies R Us and Walmart. Please RSVP 419-721-9435.

**God’s kids say & do the funniest things**

“Love is when you’re missing some of your teeth but you’re not afraid to smile because you know your friends will still love you even if some of you is missing.”

—Emma, age 6

Via Phil Callaway

Three Hills, AB, Canada



“First there was God. Next came George Washington, and then Daddy.”



Prayer Needs:

- ♦ For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment: *Kathy Brinkman *Emelia (4 yrs old)
- ♦ For those with various health issues and concerns:
*Randy Peters *Molly Stiles (Karol Smith's niece)
*Dennis Marquart (Larry Marquart's brother)
Paul Eckert (Lavonne Eckert's son) *Fred
(Linda Pitkin's brother)
- ♦ For First Christian Church's Homebound Members
- ♦ For growth in all ministries and areas of service at
First Christian Church
- ♦ For those who are seeking employment
- ♦ For those having trouble making ends meet
- ♦ For peaceful and just solutions to conflicts around the world.

February Birthdays

2/1	Charlotte Ballard
2/7	Jessie Stahl
2/8	Gage Lasley
2/13	Dale Yoder
2/13	Nathan Williamson
2/14	Sasha Smith
2/17	Bill Peters
2/18	Becky Pulling
2/19	Andy Koehler
2/24	Zetah Durain
2/25	Debra Kirk
2/27	Martha Stoner

For President's Day

"George Washington added the words 'so help me God' to his inaugural oath. It is not found in the U.S. Constitution, but every President since has repeated those words."

—Peter A. Lillback

**First Christian News**

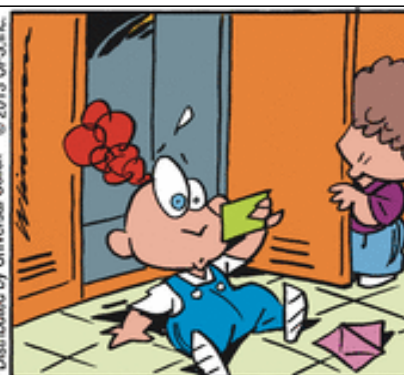
Average number of service attendees for January: 38

Amount given in January: \$8761.40

Remember to like us on Facebook—"First Christian Church Findlay Ohio"





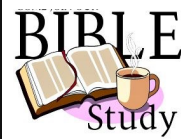
Directions to Read "The Lamplighter" Online!

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.



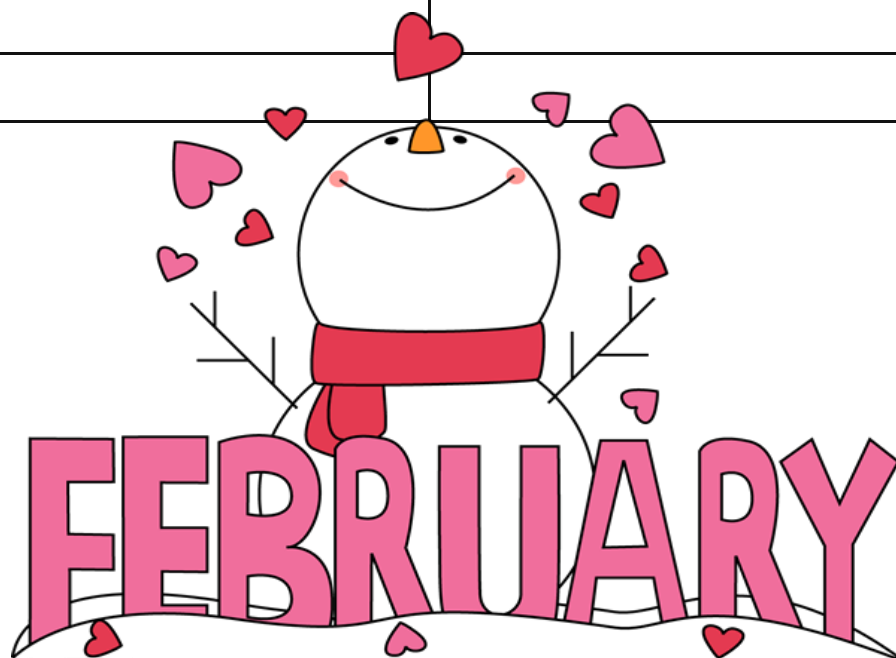
THE
ANONYMOUS
VALENTINE
♥
SURPRISING
AND
BEWILDERING
RECIPIENTS
FOR CENTURIES!

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45 Chimes Prac. 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 p.m.-Coffee Hour	2	3	4 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	5	6 11:00 am - Bible Study 	7 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
8 8:45 Chimes Prac. 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour 12:00 p.m. Membership/Fellowship Mtg	9	10	11 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	12	13 11:00 am - Bible Study	14 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 10:00 am - Board Meeting 
15 8:45 Chimes Prac. 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship (Imposition of Ashes) 12:00 Coffee Hour 2:30 pm-Fox Run Worship	16	17	18 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	19	20 11:00 am - Bible Study 	21 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Family Fun Night
22 8:45 Chimes Prac. 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	23	24	25 9:00 am- Taize Prayer	26	27	28 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study

February Serving Schedule

February 1		February 8	
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:	Larry Marquart, Karol Smith, John Snyder, Carole Cleary	Greeters:	David England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds, Martha Stoner
Scripture Reader:	Steven Strayer	Scripture Reader:	Kathy Marquart
Elders:	Robin Kretzinger & Linda Pitkin	Elders:	Nancy Peters & Beth Reynolds
Deacons:	Bill Peters, David England, Sue Davies	Deacons:	Lisa Wolfe, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith
Coffee Hour:	Team #2 Pat Sharninghouse, Linda Pitkin, Sue & Ed Davies	Coffee Hour:	Team #3: Bill & Nancy Peters. Karol Smith Pat & Dale Yoder
Counters:	Robin Kretzinger & Patty Koehler	Counters:	Robin Kretzinger & Andy Koehler
February 15		February 22	
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:	Tim Wolfe, Larry Marquart, John Snyder, Kathy Marquart	Greeters:	David England, Karol Smith, Carole Cleary, Martha Stoner
Scripture Reader:	Mercedes Williamson	Scripture Reader:	Tara Miller
Elders:	Kathy Brinkman & Kathy Marquart	Elders:	Beth Reynolds & Kathy Brinkman
Deacons:	Charlotte Ballard, Tara Miller, John Snyder	Deacons:	Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz
Coffee Hour:	Team #4 Barb Brown, Patty Koehler, Lisa Wolfe	Coffee Hour:	Team #5: Deb Kirk, Barb England, Kath- leen Schaffer
Counters:	Robin Kretzinger & Bill Peters	Counters:	Robin Kretzinger & Tara Miller



Sharing brings Joy

To Us. To Others. To God

The Lamplighter (USPS 904-040) is published monthly by the First Christian Church, 620 North Main Street, Findlay, Ohio 45840-3581. Second class postage paid at Findlay, Ohio. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Lamplighter, 620 North Main Street, Findlay, Ohio 45840-3581.
DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DELIVER

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

February Sermon Themes

February 1— Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture Reader: Steve Strayer

Scripture: Psalm 111

Message: “From Anthro to Theo ”

Theme: In an age when humans are shaping the earth, our challenge is to be Christians shaped by God. Psalm 111 helps us shed our anthropocentricity and embrace a theocentric focus in our life.

February 8– Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture Reader: Kathy Marquart

Scripture: Mark 2:9-11

Message: “Jesus the Transformer”

Theme: At the Transfiguration, Jesus reveals Himself as a divine being with shape-shifting, transforming power, similar to what we see in the “Transformer” movies.

February 15– Transfiguration Sunday/Imposition of Ashes

Scripture Reader: Mercedes Williamson

Scripture: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Message: “Internal Shrinkage”

Theme: Retail stores recently completed taking inventory after the busy Christmas season. They hope to find that their inventory has shrunk because people have purchased their goods. But they also know that some shrinkage occurs for other reasons. One reason that causes great concern is “internal shrinkage”. A spiritual inventory can detect where our relationship to Christ has shrunk.

February 22-First Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reader: Tara Miller

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Message: “I Will be a Functioning Church Member”

Theme: This is the first part of a 6-week Lenten sermon series where we will explore, biblically, what it means to be a Christian and a church member. All of us are different, but we are necessary parts of the whole, the church.

This sermon series is based on the book by Thom S. Rainer, *I Am A Church Member*.