

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..."

Matthew 5:14-16 NRSV

February 2016

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

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

To you wonderful folks of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Findlay. What is your “life verse” from the Bible? Not to oversimplify things. But some people have a verse from the Bible that may be their favorite verse, or it may be a verse that continually feeds them spiritually or continually challenges them, or is a verse that they continually return to as their spiritual “anchor” as life swirls around them.

I think that in church families, it is helpful to share “life verses” because they help us understand each other, those verses can impact others, and, through these verses, we can hold each other up and hold each other spiritually accountable in each of our Christian walks.

Some people will have favorite verses, such as John 3:16. Others will have “anchor” verses or chapters in the Bible, such as 1 Corinthians 13 or the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. What is your “life verse”?

To be transparent, I have many verses in the Bible that continually feed me spiritually, and I hope and pray they will feed me spiritually for the rest of my life. But the one I would call my “anchor verse” is Galatians 2:19-20: **For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.** These two verses are not a way for me to boast at all. But rather, they remind me, humbly, of who I am (and who we are) and what God has done for me (and for you) through Jesus Christ. These verses remind me that all of scripture verifies

other scripture and that there is a seamless thread between the Old and New Testaments. We cannot live by the Law of God, although God requires that, because we are sinners. But we also know that we have died to that Law, so to speak, when we have died with Jesus Christ because Jesus’ death and resurrection and giving of the Holy Spirit fills us with the presence of Christ to the point that that is what God sees when God looks at us. We are therefore justified in God’s eyes only because of His grace through Jesus Christ. That is why those Bible verses speak to me – we no longer live for ourselves. But rather, Jesus lives in us, and we live our lives by faith in Him who loved us beyond what we can fathom and who sacrificed Himself for our sins, which makes all the eternal difference for us!

These “anchor verses” of mine, and so many other parts of the Bible, point to our responsibility as members of the household of faith to help open people’s eyes so that they may turn from spiritual darkness to the light of Jesus Christ. That is conversion, the effort of an awakened individual. But there is more. There is salvation. Acts 26:17-18 says: **I now send you, to open their eyes...that they may receive forgiveness of sins.** Salvation means that we are brought to a place where we are able to simply receive something that is purely a gift from God on the authority of Jesus Christ, forgiveness of sins. This is followed by God’s second mighty work of grace: “...an inheritance among those who are sanctified...” In sanctification, the person who has been born again deliberately gives up her or his right to themselves to Jesus Christ, and they identify themselves entirely with God’s ministry to others.

Continued on page 2

Cont'd This all points to the fact that furthermore, scripture leads us to the reality that when God gets us absolutely alone through suffering, heartbreak, temptation, disappointment, sickness, thwarted desires, or a broken friendship (as Oswald Chambers says), then He begins to teach us. Mark 4:10 says: **When He (Jesus) was alone...the twelve (disciples) asked Him about the parable.** As we journey with God, the only thing He intends to be clear is the way He deals with our souls. We will not always be able to understand our own, or others', sorrows and difficulties. There are vast areas of stubbornness and shortcomings and ignorance that the Holy Spirit needs to reveal to each of us. But that can only be done when Jesus gets us alone. Are we alone with Jesus right now? Or are we more concerned with our own ideas, arguments, family issues, friendships, health issues, dreams, goals, or future? Jesus cannot teach us until we are absolutely quiet before Him and get alone with Him.

Let me know what your Bible "life verse" or "anchor verse" is. And let me know how your quiet time with Jesus is going.

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

AS WE MOVE INTO FEBRUARY....

Last month, I shared what my "intentional interim ministry mode" goals are as I enter my last year of ministry here at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Findlay. These goals have been worked out with the Relationships Team, the Elders, and the Board. Let me update you with the two major emphases this year:

We continue discussions about the future of our property and building, knowing that it has become an undue burden for us to keep up. Representatives from Century 21 Koehler and Associates did a "walk through" of our church and will meet with the Board in March. A representative from Re-Max Realtors will do a similar "walk through" soon. We are still waiting to hear back from Geyer Noakes Realty Group.

There is the possibility that a group who may be interested in our building will talk with the Board at its February meeting. The Board and I will share as much as we can during these conversations and discussions. We want to remind everyone, of course, that ultimate decisions about what we will do with our building and property will come to the congregation through the Board. Again, if you have any thoughts or questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact our church and board moderator, Sue Davies, at 419-619-8002.

As I also mentioned last month, we continue to plan on offering meaningful and relevant worship and fellowship opportunities (including reaching out to our community, especially to those who feel that they do not belong or have a place in the body of Christ). This includes a new Men's Breakfast group, headed up by Ed Davies, which started in January and which will meet the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 AM at Scrambler Marie's Restaurant on Main Street. Any and all men are welcome!

One church member told me the other week that he was not planning on coming to church that morning because he simply did not feel physically up to it. But he did come, and he told me he was so glad he did because he felt so uplifted by people's caring and concern and by the wonderful healing spirit of fellowship and worship he experienced that day. That is what we mean, my friends, by offering meaningful and relevant worship and fellowship opportunities!

Please watch our "Calendar of Upcoming Events" for that and other happenings.

Thanks. God bless, Pastor Rick



Prayer Needs:

- ♦ For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment:
- ♦ *Kathy Brinkman *Emelia (4 years old) *Fred Kretzinger*
John Turner (Janet Powell's nephew) *John Snyder *Nancy Peters
- ♦ For those with various health issues and concerns:
*Erma Weist *Ryan and Nicole Howard (Davies; daughter and son-in-law) *Deborah and granddaughter *Doris Moore (currently in Heritage Rehab)
- ♦ Peaceful and just solutions to conflicts, natural disasters, polarizing, police/citizen relationships, mass shootings, terrorism around the world, and the humanitarian crisis of refugees streaming from and into several parts of the world.
- ♦ For those seeking part time 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.

February Birthdays

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

**Our Lenten Devotion**

We will again be using the Society of St Andrew's Lenten devotion, which this year is "While Still Far Off". The devotion is based on the Parable of the Prodigal Son., Luke 15:11-32. From the Lenten Devotion booklet:

"Throughout the reflections, you will see the phrase "prevenient grace." That's what we call God's grace that comes before any action on our part. It means that, like the father in the parable, God reaches out to us when we are lost, loving us in spite of ourselves and longing for us to come home. Another way of saying this is that God loves us "first, best, most". As your spiritual hungers are met, please help the Society of St. Andrew meet the physical needs of others through a monetary contribution that will provide healthy nourishing food for people on greatest need here in the US."

Cindi Beltz and her family have been members of First Christian Church for years and are this month's members. Cindi is currently a deacon, attends the adult Sunday School class and part of the Fellowship Committee. In the past, she was the nursery attendant for Sunday mornings, Logos, and choir practice.

Cindi's three children Francesca, Jessica, and Antonia have grown up in the loving environment of this church, attending Sunday School classes and Logos.

As a family they enjoy spending time together camping, boating, sight-seeing and watching movies.

First Christian News

Average number of service attendees for first 4 weeks of January: 33

Amount given in January: \$ TBD

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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 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.

THANK YOU...


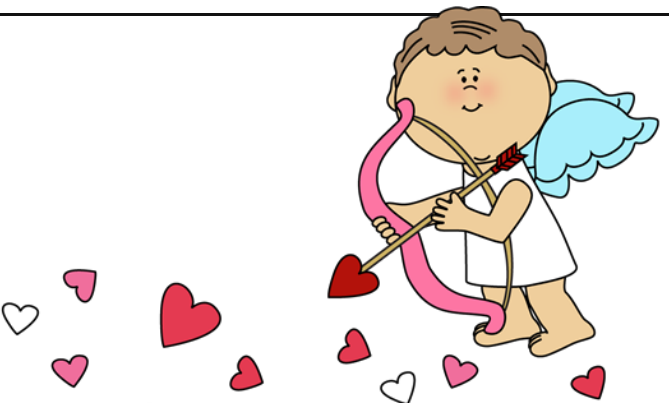

Thank you so much for all the cards, notes, and expressions of caring and concern during and right after my recent sur-

gery. Not only was it very appreciated, but it showed how strongly you are an encouraging body of Christ here in Findlay! -- Pastor Rick

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Tina Out of Office 	3 9:00 am- Taize Prayer Tina Out of Office 	4 Tina Out of Office	5 11:00 am - Bible Study Tina Out of Office 	6 9:30 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
7 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Imposition of Ashes 12:00 Coffee Hour	8	9	10 Ash Wednesday 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	11	12 11:00 am - Bible Study 	13 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Scrambler Marie's 9:30 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 10:00 am - Board Meeting
14 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour 	15 	16	17 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	18	19 11:00 am - Bible Study 	20 9:30 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
21 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			24 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	25	26 11:00 am - Bible Study 	27 9:30 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Elder's Mtg
28 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship- special music 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour honoring Martha Stoner's birthday	29		<p>Coming Up in March 2016 :</p> <p>March 13 – Special Music Worship – Patty Koehler and Ed Davies (postponed from January)</p> <p>March 24 – Maundy Thursday</p> <p>March 27 – Easter Sunday</p> 			

February Serving Schedule

February 7		February 14	
Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling	Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling
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:	Dave England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds, Martha Stoner	Greeters:	Tim Wolfe, John Snyder
Scripture Reader:	Tara Miller	Scripture Reader:	Karol Smith
Elders:	Linda Pitkin, Robin Kretzinger	Elders:	Beth Reynolds, Nancy Peters
Deacons:	Lisa Wolf, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith	Deacons:	Charlotte Ballard, Tara Miller, John Snyder
Coffee Hour:	Team #1 Cindi Beltz, Beth Reynolds, Kath Brinkman	Coffee Hour:	Team #2 Pat Sharninghouse, Linda Pitkin, Sue & Ed Davies
Counters:	Robin Kretzinger & Patty Koehler	Counters:	Robin Kretzinger & Andy Koehler
February 21		February 28	
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:	David England, Karol Smith, Martha Stoner	Greeters:	David England, Barb, England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds
Scripture Reader:	Steven Strayer	Scripture Reader:	Mercedes Williamson
Elders:	Nancy Peters, Robin Kretzinger	Elders:	Robin Kretzinger, Linda Pitkin
Deacons:	Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz	Deacons:	Bill Peters, David England, Sue Davies
Coffee Hour:	Team #3 Bill & Nancy Peters, Karol Smith, Dale Yoder	Coffee Hour:	Team #4 Barb Brown, Patty Koehler
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

February 7– Last Sunday After Epiphany/Transfiguration Sunday/Sunday Before Ash Wednesday

Scripture Reader: Tara Miller

Scripture: Luke 9:28-36

Message: “Mighty Morphin Power People”

Theme: What is Jesus’ Transfiguration all about? Hint: Remember the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers?

February 14–First Sunday In Lent/Racial Justice Sunday/Valentine’s Day

Scripture Reader: Karol Smith

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

Message: “Are You Giving Up Chocolate For Valentine’s Day?”

Theme: What do Jesus’ temptations say to us today?

February 21– Second Sunday In Lent

Scripture Reader: Steven Strayer

Scripture: Genesis 15:1-21

Message: “The Word According to Superman ”

Theme: Trust in God and in His promises. And trust that life’s tests are to make us stronger.

February 28-Third Sunday In Lent/Church Vocations Sunday/Seminary Sunday

Scripture Reader: Mercedes Williamson

Scripture: Luke 13:1-9

Message: “Second Chances”

Theme: God gives us second chances, implying that we’ve done wrong. But that’s what the cross is all about!