



The Lamplighter

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

FCC VISIONING AND PLANNING EVENT SET FOR FEBRUARY 10!!

First Christian Church's Vision Team announces the First Annual Visioning and Planning Retreat, Saturday, February 10, 2018, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm in the sanctuary. Participants will worship, study, consider a new congregational vision, and plan ministries that address congregational and community issues.

All FCC members and worshiping friends are asked to participate in this special gathering. Please pack a lunch and bring your Bible, your dreams, and an open mind to this groundbreaking Visioning and Planning Retreat! Use the signup sheet in the office to indicate your attendance plans. Every person is needed! The short range and long range future of our congregation depends on our immediate responses to God's vision for our lives. We need a strong turnout for this event. All ages! PLEASE attend!



LET'S MAKE A DATE!

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



ON TRACK WITH PASTOR JACK

The intersection of the beginning of Lent and African American History Month has given us some interesting opportunities. Inasmuch as African American history is, in reality, American and World history, we are at once confronted by the fact that many of the historical contributions to the enhancement of the United States and the world made by African Americans have been ignored, distorted, and otherwise not been affixed to the historical record produced and studied by many who would identify as learned people. While examples of these omissions are too numerous to list here, I call your attention to the story of the African American women mathematicians, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, whose work dramatically and unmistakably contributed to the success of the US space program and helped make possible the launching of Ohio's own John Glenn into his historic 1962 orbits and safe landing. The movie, *Hidden Figures*, (which many of us will view at Findlay's Black Heritage Library and Multicultural Center on February 17) helped make their story known to the nation and the world. Here's the question: Why was this story and the stories of countless other African Americans and other People of Color distorted or omitted from the history books, even the ones that many of us read as students? The reason, which anyone who has been in the country for at least 15 minutes knows well by now, takes us to Lent.

The Lenten season, with its emphasis on eliminating all distractions and practices that keep Christians from publicly identifying more closely with Jesus, carries with it the often hidden elements of love and sacrifice. Noticeably, Jesus did not change humans and the systems they manage or are governed by through drone bombing, theological gerrymandering, or political vibrato. Instead, he taught us the power of love made known through laying down our privileges, our aspirations, our benefits, and our very lives, for the sake of personal and social redemption through him. The mistake many Christians make is to compartmentalize Jesus, and limit the reach of his redemptive ministry to our personal lives and the social infrastructures that benefit us exclusively, thus making him our "personal savior" only, with little concern for others, particularly those whose lives are like the wallpaper in our homes that we view daily but do not really see. However, through Jesus, God loved and still loves the whole world, and expects those who follow Jesus to do so not in a social media sense, but in a social living sense, that compels us to lay down our lives for the good of others. If lasting social progress is to be attained, it will happen only as we offer the kinds of sacrifices that standardize social justice, render human dignity a non-negotiable truth, and lead to the kinds of social and political power sharing that values the histories of all people and helps them launch into the orbits that their aspirations, talent and abilities will take them. Amen

A RENEWED MIND.....

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUE

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!!**

NEWS FROM THE BLACK HERITAGE LIBRARY & MULTICULTURAL CENTER

1. We are invited to a 2 PM February 17 screening of the historically significant movie, "**Hidden Figures**." Pastor Jack is encouraging us to go as a group. 817 Harmon Street. Please call the church office to register. No cost.
2. **The 36th Anniversary Fundraiser Dinner** will be 6 PM February 21 at Winebrenner Seminary, 950 North Main. Cost: \$50. Speaker: Ed Kurt, Superintendent of Findlay City Schools. Pastor Jack asks that we reserve a FCC table for \$350. Please let him know if you will attend.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



**First Christian Church invites the community to
Ash Wednesday Worship with the Imposition of Ashes**

February 14

12 Noon to 12:30p

Followed by Free Lunch

1624 Tiffin Avenue Suite B, Findlay / Two blocks west of the Findlay Mall



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 with partners: the National African American Clergy Network, Conference of National Black Churches, Sojourners, Franciscan Action Network, Churches Uniting in Christ, and Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and its member communions. Awaken to the truth that racism is evil and hurts us all; Confront racism through truth-telling and action to right the wrong; Transform the hearts, minds, and behaviors of people and institutions. **The OCC is sponsoring bus departures from four cities to events taking place in Washington DC on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Busses will leave from Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Toledo on April 3rd to travel overnight to Washington DC.** On April 4th we will join people from around the nation for an Interfaith Service of Prayer and Preparation at the Lincoln Memorial and a Rally on the National Mall. At the end of the day, buses will return, driving overnight to arrive back to their home cities. Registration: \$75.00. For more information or to register, go to <https://ohcouncilchs.org/calendar-of-events> or call 614.885.9590, X 13



SHORT STACKS FOR A TALL CAUSE

**A Breakfast Fundraiser for LGBTQ+Spectrum of Findlay, a Support Group for Members and Allies of
Findlay's LGBTQ Community**

Saturday, February 10 from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM / LET'S GO AS A GROUP! - PASTOR JACK!

Tickets are \$8.00 and May Be Purchased Through the Church Office by Calling 419.422.5615

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND SERVICE

"Tea and Talk Tuesdays" with Pastor Jack."

This weekly 2:00 PM gathering was designed for FCC and community residents who have afternoon free time and would like to engage in conversation, storytelling, book/movie discussions and more. If you've got the time, we'll have 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. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQZgOLSivjY>

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, FCC members and people in our surrounding areas will learn what the Bible says about forgiveness and consider a step-by-step process of forgiveness. These sessions are safe, no-judgment zones. Is God speaking to you about forgiveness? 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!

From time-to-time, we need help delivering our donated food items to Chopin Hall! 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! Sometimes we forget that these little tasks that can so benefit other often take so little time to do. Please see Linda Pitkin today if you have volunteer times available in this new year!!

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO PRESENTS THE 2018 MINISTERS RETREAT

Through the generous gifts that First Christian Church and other Disciples congregations make to the Disciples Mission Fund and the Christmas Offering, the Ohio Regional Office of our denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is sponsoring the Region's annual Spiritual Life Retreat for Ministers, February 6th through 8th at Camp Christian in Marysville, Ohio. The theme of the retreat is, "The Awakened Soul: Living at Our Utmost Capacity." It will be led by a nationally-known speaker, Phillip Gulley.

Gulley is a Quaker pastor, writer, and speaker from Danville, Indiana. Gulley has written 21 books, including the Harmony series recounting life in the eccentric Quaker community of Harmony, Indiana and the best-selling Porch Talk essay series. Gulley is currently working on his 22nd book entitled "Unlearning God," in which he describes the process of spiritual growth, especially the re-interpretation of the earliest principles we learned about God. You can also read Gulley's essays in every issue of Indianapolis Monthly and The Saturday Evening Post.

Our own Pastor Jack will be participating in this retreat.

The Regional Spiritual Life Ministry meets at least once a year in person to plan for Retreats at Camp Christian and to discuss possible new ministries for the Spiritual Life of Ohio. We also meet at the Minister's Retreat in February and have had some phone conference calls.

We feel we are expanding the programs at camp for creating community and giving new opportunity for ministers and laity to deepen their Christian Spirituality. We hope and pray that God will bring in all of this, Transformation of body, mind and spirit. It is an effort to reach out beyond those we have been able to touch through the Ministers' Retreat to include other ministers and the laity of the church in Ohio and beyond.

Spiritual Life Retreat for Ministers

Spouses and Retired Ministers are also invited to attend.

February 6th – 8th, 2018

The Herald B. Monroe Lodge

at Camp Christian

10335 Maple Dell Rd., Marysville, OH 43040

**"The Awakened Soul:
Living at Our Utmost Capacity"**

with

Quaker Minister, Writer, & Speaker

PHILIP GULLEY



Philip Gulley will talk about becoming soul-awakened, employing the insights of Abraham Maslow, and what it means to become spiritually and humanly whole and well.

We hope you will join us!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!



- 2/1 Charlotte Ballard
- 2/7 Jessie Stahl
- 2/13 Nathan Williamson
- 2/17 Bill Peters

YOUTH MINISTRY: A PRIORITY FOR OUR CHURCH!

Have you ever wondered where many of the church's deacons, elders, teachers, leaders and pastors got their start? Well wonder no more! It was through congregational youth ministry efforts! Youth ministries teach children and youth about God's work through Jesus Christ, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the Bible. Wait, there's more! Youth ministries help our young to develop and deepen their faith, while giving them faith language that they can share, and a sense of purpose, and unshakable hope. When a congregation invests in youth ministry, it helps youth to develop Christian character, lifestyles of integrity, good stewardship habits, and a commitment to social justice as modeled by Jesus Christ.

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! Consider this: Our future leaders are made in Youth Ministry. Sarah has also formed "Youth Church" during Sunday morning worship services. Youth Church will gather in the youth classroom immediately after the "passing of the peace" during Sunday morning worship. Once together, youth will experience age appropriate worship elements and return to the sanctuary in time for The Lord's Supper.

PEOPLE AND SITUATIONS WE ARE PRAYING FOR



- * For murder victim families and those injured in the Kentucky, Texas and Las Vegas 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, *Jack (brother-in-law of Charlotte Ballard), *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



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

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.

1624 Tiffin Avenue, Suite B, Findlay, OH 45840

419.422.5615 / info@findlaydisciples.org / www.findlaydisciples.org / Facebook: First Christian Church Findlay Ohio

WHAT TO DO WHEN ADMITTED TO THE HOSPITAL

If you find yourself being admitted to Blanchard Valley Hospital or any medical center, please do the following:

- A. Call the church office to let the pastor know where you are. 419.422.5615
- B. Report your church membership at the time of your admittance.

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*