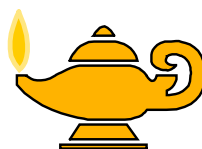


First Christian Church
620 N. Main St.
Findlay, OH 45840
419-422-5615



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..."

January
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

"This year, I will make and keep my New Year's resolutions." Does that sound familiar? Do we tend to say that on January 1 and then within a week's time, realize that we are not keeping our New Year's resolutions? Or am I the only one for whom that is true?

Well, this year, as 2015 begins, I ask that you consider making a New Year's resolution that might just stick and which is a question to ask yourself: *Who am I, really, as a Christian?* The answer, of course, is that each of us is a child of God, called by God, one who has a purpose which is part of God's greater Purpose, and one who is meant to be a servant. But it can take the whole year to unpack the meaning of that for our life!

One way to unpack the meaning of all of that for our life is to increase our understanding of why Jesus came to earth (i.e., the Incarnation that we have just celebrated at Christmas) and why He died. Oswald Chambers reminds us that if sympathy is all that human beings need, then the Cross of Jesus Christ is an absurdity and there is absolutely no need for it. What the world needs is not "a little bit of love", but major surgery. Let's consider John 12:32: **And I, if I am lifted up...will draw all peoples to Myself.**

When we find ourselves this year face to face with someone who is spiritually lost, let us remind ourselves of Jesus Christ on the cross. If that person can get to God any other way, then the Cross of Christ is unnecessary. If we think we are helping lost people merely with our sympathy and understanding, Oswald Chambers further reminds us that we are a traitor to Jesus Christ. We need to have a right-standing relationship with Jesus Christ ourselves, and pour our lives out in helping others in His way – not in a human way that ig-

nores God. The theme of many of the world's religions today is to serve people in a pleasant, non-confrontational way.

But our priority this year (and every year!) needs to be to present Jesus Christ crucified – to lift Him up all the time (1 Corinthians 2:2). Every belief that is not firmly rooted in the Cross of Jesus Christ will lead people astray. If we ourselves believe in Jesus Christ and are trusting in the reality of redemption, our words will then be compelling to others. What is extremely important is for our own simple relationship with Jesus Christ to be strong and growing. Our usefulness to God depends on that, and that alone.

The calling of a New Testament worker for God (and that includes all of us!) is to expose sin and to reveal Jesus Christ as Savior. As a consequence, God does not always want us to be charming and friendly and people-pleasing (as nice and necessary as those things sometimes can be). But rather, for the most part, God expects and wants us to be serious to accomplish major faith surgery. We are sent by God to lift up Jesus Christ, not to give beautiful speeches or to make people feel good. But rather, God calls us to be willing to examine others as deeply as God has examined us. Moreover, we need to be sharply intent on sensing those scriptural passages that will drive the truth home for folks, and then not be afraid to apply them.

Are you in? Are you willing to give that New Year's resolution a concerted effort? Will you commit to doing that in 2015, and will you commit to helping your fellow Christian travelers here at First Christian Church, Findlay, to do the same this year?

I look forward to seeing you around this month! Blessings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,

Pastor Rick

HELPFUL DEVOTIONAL:

The following is a helpful devotional writing by Kenneth L. Samuel, Pastor of Victory for the World Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia

Can You Hear Me Now?

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days God has spoken to us by God's Son . . . appointed heir of all things, and through whom God made the universe." - Hebrews 1: 1-2

.....I'll be the first to admit that I have little patience with people who do not return my phone calls... or my texts... or my emails. I'd just as soon delete them from my contacts and spend my time calling people who want to talk to me.

But thank God, I'm not God. All of human history is an attempt, at God's initiative, to enter into a dialogue of covenantal relationship with humanity. The biblical record is replete with the records of countless attempts by God to dialogue with us in our searching, in our desperation, and even in our despair.

But our lines have been busy with vain pursuits. Our ears have been shut by the clamor of hectic lives. We've been too preoccupied with the pursuit of personal agendas to answer or return or even pay attention to God's call.

The records in the Bible tell us that even when God sent the prophets as messengers to engage us, we ignored them, rejected them and killed more than a few of them.

You'd think all that would be enough for God to completely cut off all communication with us and leave us to languish in the empty splendor of our self-centeredness.

But just when we'd expect God to scrap the covenant with humanity and cease all efforts to reconcile with us, God cleared God's voice and spoke a Word of Everlasting Love that has been resounding around the world for over 2000 years now . . . and still counting.

In these last days, God has spoken to us, not by messenger or prophet or epistle. God has wrapped God's Word up in flesh and blood and placed that Living Word in a lowly manger to give everyone easy access to God's Voice.

At Christmas (and all year long), God is still speaking. And after so many attempts, I hear God saying... "Can you hear me now?"

Prayer

Gracious God, today you have spoken emphatically, definitively and lovingly through your Son Jesus, the Christ. We are not too busy or too preoccupied. We hear you now. Amen.

Joyless Christians

A tragedy that goes unrecognized so often – the joyless Christian. Lord knows, we have enough angry, disconsolate, and humorless people in this world. "It's a real problem when it comes to building faith communities. Christians who are realistic and honest about life's problems, but confident, joyful, and optimistic in their outlook are a supreme force for growth and vitality in the Church. They are far more likely to draw people to faith in Christ. "Real joy comes from selfless service and sacrifice, not self-indulgence." —Fr. James P. Walker The Catholic Exponent, Youngstown, OH

Saturday, January 24, we are resuming "Family Fun Night". We will start at

4:00 and end up at 7:00.

Please bring snacks to share and your favorite games.

**Words to start the New Year**

Whether these are the worst of times or the best of times, they are the only times we have."

—Art Buchwald

"It is not how old you are, but how you are old." — Jules Renard (1864-1910)

"This Is a Day of New Beginnings" (#383) in the United Methodist Hymnal is a hymn that is rarely or never sung today, but is appropriate for the New Year, says Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft of Dover, DE:

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on... Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find. Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings: our God is making all things new.

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

*Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto man His Son hath given;
While angels sing with tender mirth,
A glad new year to all the earth.
~Martin Luther*

Prayer Needs:

- ♦ For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment: Kathy Brinkman
- ♦ For those with various health issues and concerns:
*Tom Thompson *Mary Ellen (Kathleen Schaffer sister) *Kathleen Schaffer *Ermajean Romick (Charlotte Ballard's sister) *Randy Peters
- ♦ 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 all care givers
- ♦ For peaceful and just solutions to conflicts around the world.

January Birthdays

1/3	Jesse Beltz
1/4	Kensey Stewart
1/15	Sue Davies
1/17	Linda Pitkin
1/19	John Snyder
1/22	Andre Hawks
1/24	A.J. Koehler
1/29	LaVera Hover

Please stop by the bulletin board in the hallway. Pastor Rick and Becky are featured this month. Thank you Pat Sharninghouse!

Pastor Rick and Becky wish to thank First Christian Church for your many Christmas cards, well wishes, gifts, and the monetary gift from the church. You are truly generous, thoughtful, and loving people, we truly appreciate each and every one of you, and we are blessed to be part of this church family!



"Mommy, I left my shoes outside yesterday but now I don't see 'em."

First Christian News

Average number of service attendees for December: 41

Amount given in December: \$6184.36







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.



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
4 8:45 Chimes Prac. 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 p.m.-Brief Mtg Elders-Sanctuary 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Mtg	5	6	7 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	8	9 11:00 am - Bible Study 	10 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 10:00 am - Board Meeting
11 8:45 Chimes Prac. 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	12	13	14 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	15	16 11:00 am - Bible Study	17 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
18 8:45 Chimes Prac. 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 2:30 pm-Fox Run Wor- ship	19	20	21	22	23 11:00 am - Bible Study  BIBLE Study	24 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Family Fun Night
25 8:45 Chimes Prac. 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	26	27	28 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	29	30	31 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
						

January Serving Schedule

January 4		January 11	
Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling	Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling
Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler	Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler
Pianist/Organist	Jane Snyder	Pianist/Organist	Becky Pulling
Children's Sermon:	Robin Kretzinger	Children's Sermon:	Patty Koehler
Greeters:	David England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds, Martha Stoner	Greeters:	Beth Reynolds, Larry Marquart, John Snyder, Kathy Marquart
Scripture Reader:	Kathy Marquart	Scripture Reader:	Mercedes Williamson
Elders:		Elders:	
Deacons:	Bill Peters, David England, Sue Davies	Deacons:	Lisa Wolfe, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith
Coffee Hour:	Team #3: Bill & Nancy Peters. Karol Smith Pat & Dale Yoder	Coffee Hour:	Team #4 Barb Brown, Patty Koehler, Lisa Wolfe
Counters:	Tara Miller & Robin Kretzinger	Counters:	Tara Miller & Andy Koehler
January 18		January 25	
Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling	Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling
Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler	Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler
Pianist/Organist	Jane Snyder	Pianist/Organist	Becky Pulling
Children's Sermon:	Robin Kretzinger	Children's Sermon:	Patty Koehler
Greeters:	David England, Karol Smith, Carole Cleary, Martha Stoner	Greeters:	David England, Barb England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds
Scripture Reader:	Tara Miller	Scripture Reader:	Steven Strayer
Elders:		Elders:	
Deacons:	Charlotte Ballard, Tara Miller, John Snyder	Deacons:	Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz
Coffee Hour:	Team #5: Deb Kirk, Barb England, Kathleen Schaffer	Coffee Hour:	Team #1: Cindi Beltz, Larry & Kathy Marquart, Beth Reynolds, Kathy Brinkman
Counters:	Tara Miller & Bill Peters	Counters:	Tara Miller & Patty Koehler



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

Januarys Sermon Themes

January 4— Second Sunday After Christmas – Epiphany Sunday

Scripture Reader: Kathy Marquart

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Message: “When The Baby Patrol Failed”

Theme: For those who sat – who sit – in great darkness, Jesus has set things right with His light.

January 11– First Sunday After Epiphany / Baptism of the Lord

Scripture Reader: Mercedes Williamson

Scripture: Acts 19:1-7

Message: “Kintsukuroi Christianity”

Theme: . What is ‘kintsukuroi’? Come and find out! Hint: Life breaks us, but then God makes us stronger and more beautiful in the broken places.

January 18– Second Sunday After Epiphany / Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Scripture Reader: Tara Miller

Scripture: John 1:43-51

Message: “Rules of the Road”

Theme: Weird traffic laws have always been a part of American culture, but, in John’s gospel, the best rules of the road are those that lead straight to Jesus. So if discipleship is a journey, what are the road rules?

January 25-Third Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture Reader: Steven Strayer

Scripture: Mark 1:14-20

Message: “Jesus Chooses His Disciples – and They’re Not Geniuses”

Theme: The World Genius Dictionary claims to be the definitive ranking of truly smart people. We’re talking about truly intimidating IQ’s. You’d think that these are the kind of people Jesus would have chosen as His disciples. But not so much. Why has Jesus called us to be His disciples?