

# Lamplighter *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DISCIPLES OF CHRIST  
JUNE 2017—VOLUME 1



## **Pastoral Installation** **Set for June 11**

First Christian Church is pleased to invite the congregation, the community and faith partners to be present for the installation of the Reverend Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., as senior pastor at 3:00 PM June 11, 2017. The service will take place in the church's sanctuary, 1624 B Tiffin Avenue, Findlay, Ohio.

The day will kick off at 9:15 AM with the continuation of a 10-week study on evangelism led by Dr. Sullivan. At 10:30 AM, the church's morning worship celebration will begin, featuring the preaching of the Reverend Julia Brown Karimu of Indianapolis, Indiana. Rev. Karimu is president of the Division of Overseas Ministries, an international ministry of First Christian's denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) United States and Canada.

At the 3:00 PM, the service of installation will begin. The officiating minister of this service will be the Reverend Stephen L. Bentley, Minister for the Region, of the Ohio Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Other installation guests include the Reverend Dr. Lawrence A. Q. Burnley who is Vice-President for Diversity and Inclusion of the University of Dayton. A reception will follow the service.

## **Church Events**

- **June 2 , 9, 16, 23— 11 a.m.**  
**Bible Study**
- **June 4—Graduates**  
**Recognized at Coffee Hour**
- **June 7, 14, 21, 28—9:30**  
**a.m. Taize Prayer**
- **June 11—Pastor Jack's**  
**Installation**
- **June 19—Pennie is on**  
**vacation this week**

# On Track with Pastor Jack

Grace and peace to you, my friend! For many reasons, June 2017 will stand out as my most favorite month of the year. Here are the reasons: On June 1, I will celebrate my 58th birthday! (Yes, it surprised me, too!). Then on June 4, the church universal will observe Pentecost Sunday, which signals the investment of the Holy Spirit into the life of the church. Of course, June 11 will serve as the date of my installation as senior pastor of First Christian Church –yay! Then on June 14, my daughter Jackie will celebrate her 19th birthday. Next up is Father's Day on June 18, and I am proud to be a father! Finally, on June 20, I will observe the 31st Anniversary of my Ordination to Christian Ministry.

Get the picture? Of course, you do! June 2017 will go down as my favorite month of 2017. While I invite you and all within our network to join me in celebrating each of my special June days, I am most concerned about the date that I will share with First Christian Church: Installation Sunday, June 11.

A pastoral installation serves as formal, public announcement that a congregation, as led by the Holy Spirit, has called a pastor. In the best sense, a pastor serves as a leader among leaders and a servant among servants. He or she has a unique calling from God to lovingly yet decisively lead the congregation toward the fulfillment of God's agenda for its unique context. Over the pulpit and in the classroom, the pastor offers a biblically inspired and contextually focused critique of "what is" and "what may be.". Additionally, she or he extends care and support to congregants and members of the larger community while attending to the congregation's relationships with its community, denominational offices, ecumenical partners and interfaith neighbors.

Effective pastors reverently articulate a sense of God's vision for what the congregation is called by God to be and to do. Prayerfully, their congregations interact with the vision ideas and work with the pastor to tweak them and prepare them for congregational acceptance. Then, the pastor works to "stir up" the spiritual gifts of each person in the congregation so that congregants may become involved in carrying out the congregation's ministry, even while they continue to grow spiritually.

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# On Track With Pastor Jack

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If you accept this image of pastoral leadership, you will understand that the installation of a pastor does not signal that the pastor will do ministry for the church. Neither is an installation a pact for mutual survival. Instead, a pastoral installation indicates that the pastor has been positioned by God to help the congregation carry out its ministry to people within the church and most certainly those outside of it.

So, in all actualities, an installation is pact between congregation and pastor for the glory of God, impactful mutual ministry, and the forward movement of the church.

I feel quite honored and privileged to occupy the office of senior pastor of First Christian Church. My heart tells me that collectively we will build on the strong foundation established by faithful pastors and congregants of the past, and emerge believing within our hearts that our best days as a congregation are not in our past but in our future. I pray you feel the hope that is radiating among us. I hope you are ready for installation day. I hope you are ready for a new future for First Christian Church!

## Refugee & Immigrant 'Welcome Sunday' is June 18

Disciples Home Missions' Refugee and Immigration Ministries (RIM) invites congregations to participate in Refugee and Immigrant Welcome Sunday on June 18, 2017. This event is an occasion for congregations to celebrate their community's welcome for refugees and immigrants. RIM has provided the following ideas for congregations to join this celebration:

- Join the #ToImmigrantsWithLove [letter writing campaign](#). Individuals and groups can write electronic letters and record videos to immigrants, and share support and solidarity for immigrants to the U.S.
- Display [welcome signs](#) on church and family yards to share spirit of welcome in communities
- Send [postcards](#) to legislators at all levels of government to share how refugees enrich communities
- Learn more about becoming a [Sanctuary Congregation](#) to support refugees and immigrants
- Read resources like [The Immigrants Creed](#) and [Welcome Chants](#), and use in worship services
- Register your service or event with Church World Service's #GreaterAs1 [site](#) to join their interactive map of participating congregations
- Use hashtags like #GreaterAs1, #WithRefugees and #DOCWeAreOne to share welcoming messages across communities

Disciples can continue to lift up refugee and immigrant contributions and challenges, throughout the month of June (June 20 is the United Nations' [World Refugee Day](#)).

Disciples also join with all other Church World Service and National Council of Churches partner communions in March 2017 to issue an "[Ecumenical Declaration: Protecting Welcome, Restoring Hope](#)" in support of refugees and immigrants.

For more information about RIM and the Welcome Sunday on June 18, visit RIM's website, [https://](https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/)

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# Past Event Reminders

## CHI-RHO CAMP!

Chi Rho Camp is geared to Jr. High/Middle School youth who have finished grades 6, 7, or 8. Their theme this year is Gifts and Celebrations of God's Love. Through the study of the Bible in morning "Quest" Groups they seek out the Quest Truth for that day. Beginning each morning with cabin devotions they learn to begin each day with a look towards God and Jesus. The day ends with the whole camp gathered for a worship service and then a good night prayer we call the closing Chi Rho. The week ends with a special service known as consecration. Here each young person has an opportunity to make a private commitment to themselves about what they have experienced during the week and how they will carry the message forward.

There are 3 options of dates for families to choose from for the Chi Rho Camps. It does not matter where you live or what Church you attend. You may register for whichever one fits best into your summer schedule. The week options for Chi Rho Camp are: Chi Rho Camp Emmaus June 4th - 10th; Chi Rho Camp Corinth July 9th - 15th; Chi Rho Camp Damascus July 23rd - 29th.

## CYF CAMP!

CYF (Christian Youth Fellowship) Conference supports those who have finished grades 9-12. This camp seeks to give youth what they need spiritually in later life. Each day begins with an opportunity for individual devotion and reflection we call "Morning Watch" CYF Conference offers two different Bible Studies each day. This year we will study The Holy Spirit and material we call "Power and Prejudice." This time of young adult life can be confusing and this material gives youth the markers they need to see who it is God is calling them to be. The afternoon are devoted the different "Committees" that work during the week to make it special.

Held at Camp Christian. There are 3 options of dates for families to choose from for the CYF Conferences. It does not matter where you live or what Church you attend. You may register for whichever one fits best into your summer schedule. The week options for CYF Conference are: June 11th - 17th; June 25th - July 1st; July 16th - 22nd.

# General News!

## Ribbit Camp! Wednesday, July 5 to Saturday, July 8

RIBBIT CAMP promises a full week's worth of camp adventure for 2nd - 4th graders in a half-week schedule! First time campers who may not be quite ready for a full week away, or campers looking for a shorter camp experience, can join us. The focus of Ribbit Camp is on how God's love is experienced and shared. Through crafts, games, and storytelling, these youth will discover our God who is with us during the whole year. July 5th - 8th, 2017 at Camp Christian. Drop Off at 10am, Wednesday, July 5th - Pick Up at 10:30am, Saturday, July 8th For Children in 2nd grade and also includes 3rd and 4th graders whose parents want a shorter camp experience for their children.

## Attend the General Assembly, Indianapolis, IN July 8-12, 2017!

Here's why:

Worship that's uplifting and inspirational. One of the highlights for many who attend the assembly is the worship. Musicians of professional caliber, speakers of high quality and special experiences envelope the congregation with a sense of God's presence and call. Worship planners offer varieties of expression and some may be just the thing to freshen your own faith and perhaps take home to try.

Learning is an integral part of General Assembly. Besides the preachers that will open your mind to new understandings in worship, there are plenty of other opportunities to learn. In Indianapolis there will be a Sunday kaleidoscope of classes plus four learning communities Monday through Wednesday. The core topics are: Justice, Worship, Resources, and Transform.

To register for the General Assembly, go to [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

# Birthday's and Anniversary's

## **June Birthday's**

4 Joe Byal  
5 Rachel Reynolds  
13 Fred Kretzinger  
14 Tom Thompson  
18 Kathy Schaffer  
20 Sandy Frantz  
27 Zach Stahl  
27 Dave Reynolds  
28 Bonna Scheib

## **June Anniversary's**

3 Bill & Nancy Peters



"Be Still and Know" Adult Conference, June 19-23, 2017

Northwest Christian Church

1340 Fishing Rd

Columbus, OH

Ok, adults, this conference is for you! Adult Conference is a Regional Ministry designed to give adults the opportunity to grow spiritually and biblically in an atmosphere of warmth, acceptance and, well, fun!

Adult Conference is an excellent way for First Christian Church congregants to establish or deepen their involvement with the larger church and Disciples from across Ohio. To register, go to <http://www.ccinoh.com/> and select Regional Calendar. You may also call the Ohio Regional Office at 614.433.0343. Hurry! Registration deadline is June 3!

## Christian Church In Ohio

[www.ccinoh.com](http://www.ccinoh.com)

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO Phone 614-433-0343 Fax 614-433-7285 1347 Worthington Woods Blvd Suite A Columbus, Ohio 43085—6701 [ccio@ccinoh.org](mailto:ccio@ccinoh.org)



Adult Conference—Christian Church In Ohio

[www.ccinoh.com](http://www.ccinoh.com)

We're looking forward to a very exciting Adult

Conference this year to be held at Northwest Christian Church in Columbus, Ohio from June 19-23, 2017.



## Sharing brings Joy

To Us. To Others. To God

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