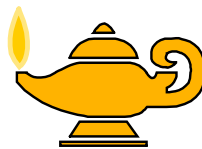


First Christian Church
620 N. Main St.
Findlay, OH 45840
419-422-5615



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..."

May
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.*

I do not want to sound morbid. But I agree with Bob Kaylor, Senior Writer for HomileticsOnline.com, that it is an interesting exercise to consider what life would be like without you and me in it. According to some statistics, more than half of Americans do not have any sort of will or estate plan. The reasons are myriad. The expense of working with an attorney will make one consider whether that history degree could have been put to better use in pre-law. Some people believe that they don't have enough assets to want to bother with them. For most people, however, I agree with Kaylor that the main reason they avoid putting together an estate plan is probably that they don't want to think about dying because somehow they believe that talking about it will make it happen sooner.

Preparing to die, however, I concur with Kaylor, is actually the quintessentially human thing to do since it's the one thing besides birth that all of us will experience. We all have an expiration date, and, no matter how much maneuvering we attempt to avoid it or to put it off, it's something we have to think about.

For Christians, however, thinking about death should be a natural thing. After all, the first act that most of us undergo when we come to Christ is the death of our old, sinful self in baptism. We die spiritually long before most of us die physically, which acts as a kind of practice. Indeed, the whole Christian life is actually a practice in the process of dying – dying to self, dying to our lives before Christ, picking up a cross and walking behind the crucified Christ. Kaylor claims that the truth is, if you and I are Christ followers, we're already dead. As the Apostle Paul puts it, "...you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3). Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in his classic book *The Cost of Discipleship*, puts it even more succinctly: "When Christ bids a man,

he bids him come and die."

I also agree with Kaylor that we wouldn't know that from much of the emphases in churches these days, however. Much of the popular preaching we hear today is a Pelagian call to work at squeezing the most out of life while avoiding anything that looks like death. We can have "our best life now" or a "purpose driven life", and while those certainly are desirable things, the thrust of the Scriptures is all about dying first before we can have the life that God wants for us. Planning to die spiritually in the present is even more important than planning to die physically in the future.

The truth is that when we teach each other how to die spiritually, to count on Jesus Christ for a new life beyond death, then we are much more ready to die physically with the promise of resurrection firmly embedded in our spirits. The more we can teach each other to die in the way of Jesus Christ, the more likely we are to find new life in the present and in the future.

So I encourage each of us to do our will, living will, and estate planning if we haven't already. It's a helpful exercise both for our wallet and our spirit. After all, talking about death will indeed make it happen sooner, but in a good way. Furthermore, it's good biblical stewardship!

And I pray and hope that each of us will spend some time with fellow church members, family members, and friends sharing how to die so that we can truly live. Jesus Christ bids us to come and die so that we might find the way to life – life abundant in Him!

Let's make this our priority during May.

See you around this month!

Take care and God bless.

Pastor Rick

A DEVOTIONAL FOR YOU

From: My Utmost for His Highest, by Oswald Chambers, edited by James Reimann

Scriptural Reference: "...it has not yet been revealed what we shall be..." 1 John 3:2

Certainty is the mark of the commonsense life – gracious uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life. To be certain of God means that we are uncertain in all our ways, not knowing what tomorrow may bring. This is generally expressed with a sigh of sadness, but it should be an expression of breathless expectation. We are uncertain of the next step, but we are certain of God. As soon as we abandon ourselves to God and do the task he has placed closest to us, God begins to fill our lives with surprises. When we become simply a promoter or a defender of a particular belief, something within us dies. That is not believing God – it is only believing our belief about God. Jesus said, "...unless you...become as little children..." (Matthew 18:3). The spiritual life is the life of a child. We are not uncertain of God, just uncertain of what God is going to do next. If our certainty is only in our beliefs, we develop a sense of self-righteousness, become overly critical, and are limited by the view that our beliefs are complete and settled. But when we have the right relationship with God, life is full of spontaneous, joyful uncertainty, and expectancy. Jesus said, "...believe also in Me" (John 14:1), not, "Believe certain things about Me." Leave everything to God and it will be gloriously and graciously uncertain how God will come in – but you can be certain that He will come. Remain faithful to God.



George Washington's rule book

From George Washington's book of rules on decency in conduct and conversation:

- "When you speak of God and His attributes, let it be seriously and with reverence."
- "Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience."
- "Let your recreations be manful, not sinful."
- "Associate yourself with men of good quality, for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company."
- "Be not tedious in discourse."
- "Don't spit in a fire."
- "Don't crush ticks in the presence of others."
- "Don't pick your teeth with a knife."



Prayer Needs:

- ♦ For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment:
*Kathy Brinkman *Emelia (4 yrs old)
*Bill Stalets
For those with various health issues and concerns:
*Molly Stiles (Karol Smith's niece) *Doris Moore *Al and JR
(friends of Charlotte's grandson) *Pat Yoder *Joe Brinkman
*Jeannie (Sue Davies' sister)
- ♦ 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.

**May Birthdays**

5/5 Jane Snyder
5/5 Bob Bowen
5/7 Mary Ellen Byal
5/7 Tatum Hernandez
5/21 Jane Dietsch
5/22 Bill Booher
5/23 Bo Drown
5/24 Cole Wagner

May Anniversaries

5/17 Bob & Tammy Thompson

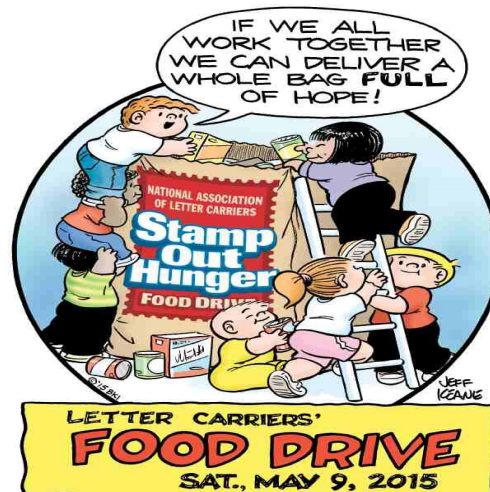
We honor the England family this month with their pictures on the hallway bulletin board.

The England's have been active in First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Findlay, for many years.

Barbara has been active in Women's Circles, Deacons, and Elders. Currently she serves as chairperson of our Relationships Team and as a Board member.

David, always extending a hand of welcome to folks, has served as greeter for several years and has helped us out with our Fox Run worship services. Currently he is a Deacon as well. For the last couple of years and currently, Linda England has willingly and ably shared her artistic gifts and talents with us by working with our youngsters with liturgical dancing and with creative worship service experiences.

First Christian Church owes a lot to the England family!

**First Christian News**

Average number of service attendees for April: 42

Amount given in April: \$4214.64








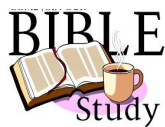




Remember to like us on Facebook-"First Christian Church Findlay Ohio"

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.



May

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

May Serving Schedule

May 3	May 10
<p>Minister: Rev. Rick Pulling</p> <p>Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler</p> <p>Pianist/Organist: Jane Snyder</p> <p>Children's Sermon: Robin Kretzinger</p> <p>Greeters: Karol Smith, John Snyder</p> <p>Scripture Reader: Karol Smith</p> <p>Elders: Robin Kretzinger</p> <p>Deacons: Lisa Wolfe, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Team #5 Deb Kirk, Barb England, Kathleen Schaffer</p> <p>Counters: Tara Miller & Robin Kretzinger</p>	<p>Minister: Rev. Rick Pulling</p> <p>Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler</p> <p>Pianist/Organist: Becky Pulling</p> <p>Children's Sermon: Patty Koehler</p> <p>Greeters: David England, Karol Smith, Martha Stoner</p> <p>Scripture Reader: Tara Miller</p> <p>Elders: Nancy Peters & Linda Pitkin</p> <p>Deacons: Charlotte Ballard, Tara Miller, John Snyder</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Team #1 Cindi Beltz, Beth Reynolds, Kathy Brinkman</p> <p>Counters: Tara Millert & Andy Koehler</p>
May 17	May 24
<p>Minister: Rev. Rick Pulling</p> <p>Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler</p> <p>Pianist/Organist: Becky Pulling</p> <p>Children's Sermon: Robin Kretzinger</p> <p>Greeters: David England, Barb England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds</p> <p>Scripture Reader: Mercedes Williamson</p> <p>Elders: Beth Reynolds</p> <p>Deacons: Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Team #2 Pat Sharninghouse, Linda Pitkin, Sue & Ed Davies</p> <p>Counters: Tara Miller & Bill Peters</p>	<p>Guest Minister: Mrs. Linn Bartling</p> <p>Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler</p> <p>Pianist/Organist: Jane Snyder</p> <p>Children's Sermon: Patty Koehler</p> <p>Greeters: Karol Smith, John Snyder, Beth Reynolds</p> <p>Scripture Reader: Robin Kretzinger</p> <p>Elders: Kathy Brinkman & Beth Reynolds</p> <p>Deacons: Bill Peters, David England, Sue Davies</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Team #3: Bill & Nancy Peters. Karol Smith Pat & Dale Yoder</p> <p>Counters: Tara Miller & Patty Koehler</p>
May 31	
<p>Minister: Rev. Rick Pulling</p> <p>Music Coordinator: Patty Koehler</p> <p>Pianist/Organist: Becky Pulling</p> <p>Children's Sermon: Patty Koehler</p> <p>Greeters: David England, Barb England</p> <p>Scripture Reader: Sue Davies</p> <p>Elders: Beth Reynolds & Kathy Brinkman</p> <p>Deacons: Lisa Wolfe, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Team #4 Barb Brown, Patty Koehler, Lisa Wolfe</p> <p>Counters: Tara Miller & Robin Kretzinger</p>	

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

May

May 3 –Fifth Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reader: Karol Smith

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40

Message: “The Ethiopian Innovation ”

Theme: The text is about a very strange encounter between two unlikely people. What does this have to do with innovation? How might we “sit beside and guide” the “foreigner” in our own communities?

May 10– Sixth Sunday of Easter-Mother’s Day

Scripture Reader: Tara Miller

Scripture: 1 John 5:1-12

Message: “Buying Peace”

Theme: Got stress? You can buy relief. Or here’s a thought: Save your money and check out what the Apostle John says about deep, abiding peace that comes to us as children of God.

May 17– Seventh Sunday of Easter – Sunday Closest to Ascension Day

Scripture Reader: Mercedes Williamson

Scripture: Acts 1:1-11

Message: “Waiting is so Hard to Do”

Theme: Why did the followers of Jesus have to wait between Jesus’ Ascension and Pentecost? Why do we have to wait so much today?

May 24-Pentecost Sunday

Guest Minister: Mrs. Linn Bartling

Scripture Reader: Robin Kretzinger

Scripture: TBD

Message: “TBD ”

Theme: TBD

May 31-Trinity Sunday – First Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture Reader: Sue Davies

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-13

Message: “The Palindromic God”

Theme: Palindrome enthusiasts enjoy their work so much that they hold an annual contest. The awards are called SymmyS. This leads to us thinking about this Isaiah text and the doctrine of the Trinity – Our God who is “three in one, one in three”.