



<p>First Christian Church 620 N. Main St. Findlay, OH 45840 419-422-5615</p>  <p>The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)</p>	<h1 style="text-align: center;">The Lamplighter</h1>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>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..."</i> <i>Matthew 5:14-16 NRSV</i></p>
<h2 style="text-align: center;">May 2016</h2>	<p><b>WEB PAGE:</b> <a href="http://www.fccfindlay.org">www.fccfindlay.org</a></p> <p><b>WEB ADDRESSES:</b>  <a href="mailto:info@fccfindlay.org">info@fccfindlay.org</a> - For people who are looking for information about our church  <a href="mailto:pastorrick@fccfindlay.org">pastorrick@fccfindlay.org</a> - For people who want to contact Pastor Rick  <a href="mailto:tinamiller_fcc@yahoo.com">tinamiller_fcc@yahoo.com</a> - For people who want to contact Sue Davies, Board moderator about church business or the Board agenda items.  <b>FCC Facebook Page:</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/fccfindlay">www.facebook.com/fccfindlay</a>  <b>Church Office Hours:</b> 9:00 am - 2:30 pm, Tuesday—Friday</p>

*To you wonderful folks of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Findlay.*

You may have noticed that worship attendance, even among your most committed folks, is not what it used to be, states Bob Kaylor, Senior Writer of HomileticsOnline.com. We know that across the board, church attendance is declining -- which explains the rise of the "nones" (those who don't attend any religious services at all). But it's those missing "regulars" that concern those of us who look out over a congregation from week to week. According to David Kinnaman, in his must-read book *Churchless*, even many of those who love their church and are committed Christians now see themselves as "regular" attendees if they come once every four to six weeks.

Says Kinnaman: "[Families] are under enormous pressures of activity, busyness and distraction. Between school-based programs, and extracurricular activities, many kids (and their minivan-driving parents) are on the go seven days a week. Add in mom's online class to finish a degree and dad's out-of-state travel for work, and you've got intense competition for that family's time and engagement ... The insanely busy family schedule is creating a whole new species of well-meaning but less-committed churchgoers. They are *almost* churchless, not because they intend to be, but because *church* involvement is one among dozens of demands". In other words, a lot of church people in the United States today are stuck in a kind of self-imposed diaspora (scattering of the faithful, exile).

They'd like to join us for worship, but they are overwhelmed in a culture that exiles them to the slavery of activity and busyness. We can shake our heads and wag our fingers at this trend, but it's not going away anytime soon. We can lament the empty chairs in the sanctuary, or we can develop a way of teaching and preaching and reaching out that is less focused on the attractional model of Christendom and more like the ministry of the apostle Paul, who got the word out to the scattered church despite the limitations in his day of travel and mail service.

The good news is that we have no such limitations today, given the fact that out of the world's estimated 7 billion people, 6 billion have access to cell phones, which is more than have access to working toilets (4.5 billion). People may not be in church this Sunday for any number of reasons, but that doesn't mean they have to miss church. We can literally put our message in the palm of their hand.

As we as a church move ahead into the future, during this transitional period, could we start using apps and platforms to deliver content to diaspora church members each week? All of them are free to use. As we continue to discern how God is calling us to reach out to people today, here are a few apps and platforms that we might want to consider as we look to get the word out to those soccer fields, vacation sites, hotel rooms and coffee shops where people might be on Sunday mornings:

*Cont'd pg 2*

**Periscope** is a free app where we can do live video broadcasts of your services to a worldwide audience. All we need is someone to open the app on a cell phone or tablet, start the broadcast, and film our worship service live. We would be able to see who is watching and from where. Churches that use this say that they have had church families tell them that they've watched the service and sermon live while sitting on the soccer field between their kids' games on a Sunday morning and then shared it with their fellow parents. The video stays archived for 24 hours and can be shared on one's social media networks as well (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

**Podcasting** would allow us to upload recorded audio of our services to our church's website or to hosting sites like iTunes. People then download the podcast and can listen to it while they're commuting to work or while they're sitting on a beach somewhere. Podcasting also allows people access to an archive of services and sermons so they can binge listen to a whole series at once or share them with friends. All one needs is a way to record audio (one can do video as well) on Sunday mornings. A decent, inexpensive handheld digital recorder would do. **Twitter and Facebook** are popular social media platforms that churches can use to "tease" service/sermon content during the week and then post links to text, audio, or video when the service or sermon is done.

As we move through this interim period of transition and change of our location and pastor, we continue to carefully and prayerfully discern what mission and ministry God is calling us to do now and for the next five years. These are just a few ideas (and there's help out there as to how to use these technologies) of ways to carry out that mission and ministry and to reach today's people with our Christian message of redemption and hope and love. As Bob Kaylor says, "Your people may be coming to church less, but that doesn't mean you need to leave them churchless!" *Take care and God bless, Pastor Rick*

#### A DEVOTION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY BY OSWALD CHAMBERS

#### Do you seek great things for yourself? Jeremiah 45:5

Are you seeking greater things for yourself, instead of seeking to be a great person? God wants you to be in a much closer relationship with Himself than simply receiving His gifts – He wants you to get to know Him. Even some large thing we want is only incidental; it comes and it goes. But God never gives us anything incidental. There is nothing easier than getting into the right relationship with God, unless it is not God you seek, but only what He can give you. *Cont'd pg. 3*

#### Transition Update by Sue Davies

Since Beth Reynolds met the lady at the door of the church on March 23rd, a tremendous amount has happened! Three congregational meetings have been conducted in the past 2 months. On Sunday, April 24th, the congregation voted to accept the counter offer of \$350,000 from Gateway Church. This was our full asking price. They have requested that only the pews stay in the church. They have generously given us until August 1st to prepare for our move. This was more than 2 times the amount of time originally offered by Gateway. It is a blessing that this sacred place will continue to be a church. David England told me that he is happy for Gateway. I pray that all of us can echo that sentiment.

It was decided in the congregational meeting that we obtain a lawyer to make sure that the *Offer of Purchase* and the *Listing Agreement* be in our best interest. I have spoken with Rhonda Hopewell on behalf of Belinda King from the National Office of our church. Rhonda stated that it is wise for us to seek legal counsel and verified that we would need 3 of our trustees to sign any legal documents in order for the sale of the property to be properly completed.

It was suggested that Gateway conduct their inspections of the property as soon as possible to make sure all is in order with the sale. This would rule out any large problems with that their inspectors might find and help us to have a smooth transition with the sale.

Jane Snyder and her crew have started a list of all furnishings and items that would be needed by our congregation for the new journey that we are undertaking. Please contact Jane, Barb, Pat, Linda, or Bill P. ASAP if there is anything that you would like to have before the move is made.

Robin K has developed a check list of things that need to be accomplished before our move is complete. This will be posted for us all to see and help with in the days to follow. Linda, Al and Pat have taken on the task of finding a new place for us to worship. If you have any suggestions for a new location, contact them now. I have been in touch with the UCC council leader, Mr. Larry Lovell. He is talking to his church about us possibly renting their building. They would have office space for our secretary, Tina Miller. We have also looked at Linda England's Dance Studios. Any and all options will be looked at and considered!

I have called Tim Franks of the Truth Seekers Bible Study group that uses our facility. Tim is a man of faith and he believes that God will provide for his church. I did convey that his group would be welcome to come with us.

Transitions are never easy but at times necessary. We have trusted God to pave the way for the sale and now are trusting Him to lead us to another place to worship Him and serve those in need. If you are having a difficult time with the transition, please do not hesitate to speak with me. Call me at 419-619-8002. Remember that God is control! "So we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, will give You thanks, forever, we will show forth Your praise to all generations." Psalm 79:13

### Prayer Needs:

- ♦ For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment:  
\*Kathy Brinkman \* Emelia (4 years old) \*Fred Kretzinger \*John Turner (Janet Powell's nephew)
- ♦ For those with various health issues and concerns:  
\*Erma Weist \*Cathy Kubeck \*Ken and Tina Miller \* Patty Koehler \*Melanie (Kathy Brinkman's grand-niece) \*Barb McPherson and Marilyn Casto (Karol Smith's friends) \*Anya Stembler-Miller and family \*Elsie Reynolds (Beth's mother-in-law)
- ♦ Prayers for peace and just solutions to conflicts, natural disasters, polarizing, police/citizen relationships, mass shootings, terrorism around the world, and the humanitarian crisis of refugees fleeing and trying to find new host/home countries.
- ♦ For those seeking 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
- ♦ For military personnel around the world who regularly risk their lives for freedom.
- ♦ For discernment of our church members about our church's future ministry.

Steven Strayer is originally from Paulding, Ohio and is a member of the First Christian Church in that town. He played football and basketball for Paulding High School, was senior class president, and graduated in 2013. Steven has gone to Camp Christian every summer since Chi Rho Camp in 2007. This year he will be a counselor there. He was Boy-Co of Lakeside Conference in 2013. Steven started school at The University of Findlay in the fall of 2013, studying physical therapy. He will be starting the three year physical therapy program this fall.

His activities at the university include playing JV basketball, working as a softball umpire, and being a nursing assistant at the Fox Run Manor. He enjoys supporting Ohio State athletics, playing volleyball, football, basketball, and spending time with his girlfriend, Darcie, on the weekends. They have been together since they were set up as blind homecoming dates their senior year in 2012. He loves being a part of FCC Findlay.

Steven is a scripture reader for our worship service and has preached a sermon during the absence of Pastor Rick. Steven has endeared himself to our congregation by showing a true Christian spirit.

### First Christian News

Average number of service attendees for April: 39

Amount given in April: \$ 3956.53

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

### May Birthdays

5/5 Jane Snyder  
5/5 Bob Bowen  
5/7 Mary Ellen Byal  
5/22 Bill Booher  
5/23 Bo Drown

### May Anniversaries

17-Bob & Tammy Thompson





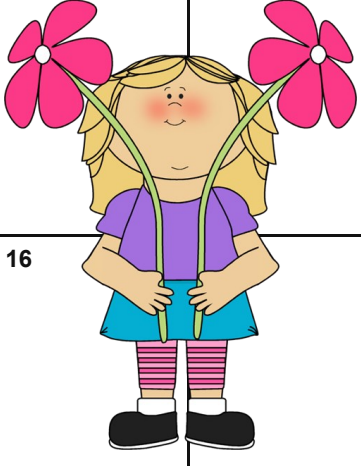







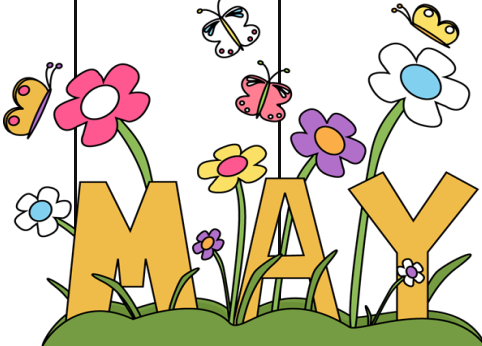
Cont'd.

If you have only come as far as asking God for things, you have never come to the point of understanding the least bit of what surrender really means. You have become a Christian based on your own terms. You protest, saying, "I asked God for the Holy Spirit, but He didn't give me the rest and the peace I expected." And instantly God puts His finger on the reason – you are not seeking the Lord at all; you are seeking something for yourself. Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given to you..." (Matthew 7:7). Ask God for what you want and do not be concerned about asking for the wrong thing, because as you draw ever closer to God, you will cease asking for things altogether. "Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him" (Matthew 6:8). Then why should you ask? So that you may get to know God. Are you seeking great things for yourself? Have you said, "Oh, Lord, completely fill me with Your Holy Spirit"? If God does not, it is because you are not totally surrendered to Him; there is something you still refuse to do. Are you prepared to ask yourself what it is you want from God and why you want it? God always ignores your present level of completeness in favor of your ultimate future completeness. He is not concerned about making you blessed and happy right now, but He's continually working out His ultimate perfection for you--- "... that they may be one just as We are one..." (John 17:22).

### 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 About tab and then click on Lamplighter Newsletters. There you may choose from the list of the current newsletters.

## May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 am- Taize Prayer	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> 11:00 am - Bible Study 	<b>7</b> 9:30 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
<b>8</b> Mother's Day 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour	<b>9</b> 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 11:00 am - Bible Study 	<b>14</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Scrambler Marie's 9:30 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 10:00 am - Board Meeting
<b>15</b> 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour 12:15 Search Comm. Mtg	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 11:00 am - Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 9:30 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 3:00 p.m. Wedding
<b>22</b> 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	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 11:00 am - Bible Study 	<b>28</b> 9:30 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
<b>29</b> 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship- 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	<b>30</b> 	<b>31</b>	<b>Coming Up in June 2016</b> Saturday, June 4 – 9:30 AM – Elders' Meeting Saturday, June 11 – Men's Fellowship Break-fast and Board Meeting			

## May Serving Schedule

May 1		May 8	
Minister:	Pastor Rick	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:	Karol Smith, John Snyder	Greeters:	David England, Karol Smith, Martha Stoner
Scripture Reader:	Steven Strayer	Scripture Reader:	Tara Miller
Elders:	Nancy Peters, Beth Reynolds	Elders:	Robin Kretzinger, Beth Reynolds
Deacons:	Lisa Wolf, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith	Deacons:	Charlotte Ballard, Tara Miller, John Snyder
Coffee Hour:	Team #3 Bill & Nancy Peters, Karol Smith, Dale Yoder	Coffee Hour:	Team #4 Barb Brown, Patty Koehler
Counters:	Tara Miller, Robin Kretzinger	Counters:	Tara Miller, Andy Koehler
May 15		May 22	
Minister:	Pastor Rick	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, Barb England, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds	Greeters:	Karol Smith, John Snyder, Beth Reynolds,
Scripture Reader:	Mercedes Williamson	Scripture Reader:	Karol Smith
Elders:	Barb England, Robin Kretzinger	Elders:	Linda Pitkin, Nancy Peters
Deacons:	Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz	Deacons:	Bill Peters, David England, Sue Davies
Coffee Hour:	Team #5 Deb Kirk, Barb England, Lisa Wolfe	Coffee Hour:	Team #1 Cindi Beltz, Beth Reynolds, Kathy Brinkman
Counters:	Tara Miller, Bill Peters	Counters:	Tara Miller, Patty Koehler
May 29			
Guest Minister:	Linn Bartling		
Liturgist, Worship Leader	Robin Kretzinger	<p><b>With Honor &amp; Gratitude</b>  <b>We Remember</b></p>	
Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler		
Pianist/Organist	Jane Snyder		
Children's Sermon:	Robin Kretzinger		
Greeters:	David England, Barb England		
Scripture Reader:	Karol Smith		
Elders:	Beth Reynolds, Linda Pitkin		
Deacons:	Lisa Wolf, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith		
Coffee Hour:	Team #2 Pat Sharninghouse, Linda Pitkin, Sue & Ed Davies		
Counters:	Tara Miller, Robin Kretzinger		



## 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

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## May

### May 1– Sixth Sunday of Easter – Sunday Before Ascension Day

**Scripture Reader:** Steven Strayer

**Scripture:** John 14:23-29

**Message:** “Getting Dropped”

**Theme:** Getting Dropped – such as when Jesus told His disciples that He was leaving them – can deepen our discipleship.

### May 8– Seventh Sunday of Easter – Mother’s Day

**Scripture Reader:** Tara Miller

**Scripture:** John 17:20-26

**Message:** “Jesus on Mergers and Acquisitions ”

**Theme:** Merging two cultures is often tricky. Unity is not always easy, but it’s always rewarding. Jesus offers a plan for unity within the church that merges different people into a new relationship with Himself and with God.

### May 15– Pentecost Sunday

**Scripture Reader:** Mercedes Williamson

**Scripture:** Acts 2:1-21

**Message:** “A Greyhound and a Kite”

**Theme:** Pentecost is a God thing, God-breathed, allowing the gift of the Holy Spirit to do great things through us.

### May 22– – First Sunday After Pentecost – Special Bell Choir Music Sunday

**Scripture Reader:** Karol Smith

**Scripture:** Romans 5:1-11

**Message:** “A Squirrel Crossing a Busy Street ”

**Theme:** How can bad times make us stronger rather than destroy us?

### May 29– Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Second Sunday After Pentecost – Memorial Day Sunday

**Guest Preacher:** Linn Bartling

**Liturgist and Worship Leader:** Robin Kretzinger

Scripture and Message to be determined.