

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..."

November 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,

According to Rev. Carrie Call, a judicatory executive in the United Church of Christ, numbers, when provided in certain circumstances, can clarify so much. According to the Center for Analytics, Research and Data (CARD), recent UCC figures are the following (the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ denomination has similar, although slightly better, statistics):

Number of UCC congregations: 5,062 (compared with 8,326 in 1954)

Total number of members: 943, 521 (in 1954 it was 2,084,849)

Percentage of churches founded before 1900: 70%

Percentage of clergy over 50: 82.5%

Percentage of paid clergy full-time: 63% (decreased from previous years)

Percentage of paid clergy part-time: 35% (increased from previous years) (2% are unpaid)

The numbers tell us some important things about who we were and who we are now as “mainline denominations”. For example, our newer churches (established since 2000) are the ones that are growing the most. These churches tend to be Open and Affirming and multi-racial. There are some new Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) growing churches right here in our Ohio Region. They have a focus on young adults, especially community service activities, mission trips, social media and fellowship.

These numbers should challenge us. They are factual and unbiased. The numbers point to a downward trend for most of the parts of mainline denominations. However, they also provide information about churches that are thriving and growing. The church many of us grew up in is fading. This is our new reality, although we may not particularly like it. In terms of numbers, the mainline

denominational wider church is a church in decline.

So, the question we need to ask ourselves now is: What are we called to do in response? Our Board and our Elders have been grappling with this question the last few months. Instead of asking the traditional question, “How do we get more young families?” we encourage you to ask instead, “What is God calling us to be now? How does that differ from where we were when we were established? How can we live out a rediscovered sense of God’s call?” These new questions move us away from just counting heads, toward a focus on God’s mission for us, which goes beyond concern for our own survival. These questions require openness as well as courage.

Our Board and our Elders are challenging us as a congregation to truly live out our Mission Statement, to partner with other congregations in Findlay who have similar mission emphases, to truly be an inclusive church where folks who are on the “fringes of society” and folks who have been rejected and hurt by other churches can find a church home. Two small steps that we are taking include involving NAMI in our Thanksgiving celebration and meal this year and doing a joint Christmas Eve service with two other Findlay congregations (details elsewhere in this newsletter).

Our future may well include more decline in numbers. But God willing, it will also include rediscovering God’s call in new ways. In the words of Rev. Call, if we undertake this work, it will require hard work, great faith and openness to the Holy Spirit. It will also require a willingness to ask new questions. But most of all, it will require a willingness to pursue new answers from God who has said in His Word that He wants all to be saved, all to carry the Gospel out into the world, and all to have Jesus Christ living in their hearts.

See you around this month of November!

Take care and God bless,

Pastor Rick

Good Devotional Reflection for November

Written by Oswald Chambers, in My Utmost for His Highest, "The Trial of Faith": ***If you have faith as a mustard seed....nothing will be impossible for you.*** – Matthew 17:20.

"We have the idea that God rewards us for our faith, and it may be so in the initial stages. But we do not earn anything through faith – faith brings us into the right relationship with God and gives God His opportunity to work. Yet God frequently has to knock the bottom out of our experience as His saint to get us in direct contact with Himself. God wants us to understand that it is a life of *faith*, not a life of emotional enjoyment of His blessings. The beginning of our life of faith was very narrow and intense, centered around a small amount of experience that had as much emotion as faith in it, and it was full of light and sweetness. Then God withdrew His conscious blessings to teach you to "walk by faith" (2 Corinthians 5:7). And you are worth much more to Him now than you were in your days of conscious delight with your thrilling testimony.

"Faith by its very nature must be tested and tried. And the real trial of faith is not that we find it difficult to trust God, but that God's character must be proven as trustworthy in our own minds. Faith being worked out into reality must experience times of unbroken isolation. Never confuse the trial of faith with the ordinary discipline of life, because a great deal of what we call the trial of faith is the inevitable result of being alive. Faith, as the Bible teaches it, is faith in God coming against everything that contradicts Him – a faith that says, "I will remain true to God's character whatever He may do." The highest and the greatest expression of faith in the whole Bible is (and this is from the biblical book that the Friday morning Bible study has been studying) – "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15).

Don't forget to come for worship on November 8 and then attend our Annual Congregational Business Meeting following worship to elect officers and board members and to adopt a budget for 2016.



Help Stop Hunger!

This year's Helping Hands Food Drive, sponsored by Sodexo at The University of Findlay, will be Wednesday, November 4th. You can Help Stop Hunger by participating in this nationwide event. All Findlay donations will benefit CHOPIN Hall. Maria Gasbarro says that the Findlay unit collected 56,000 pounds of canned goods last year, and placed 2nd in the country in donations!

Items needed are:

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soup
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Pasta with Meat

You can drop off canned food products at the following locations:

- Alumni Memorial Union @ UF from 7:30AM to 7:30PM.
- Great Scot on Broad Ave-nue from 11:00AM to 7:00PM.
- Kroger on 6th Street from 11:00AM to 7:00AM.
- Walmart on Tiffin Avenue from 11:00AM to 7:00PM.

Monetary donations will be used by CHOPIN Hall to purchase items from the Ohio Food Bank.

For additional information on how you can support this event, contact David P. Harr, Director of Dining Services, or at 419-434-4542.

Via UU Church Newsletter



Prayer Needs:

- ♦ For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment:
*Kathy Brinkman *Emelia (4 yrs old) *Fred Kretzinger
* John Turner (Janet Powell's nephew)
- ♦ For those with various health issues and concerns:
*Sandy Scherf *Brian Crawford (Peters' nephew) *Jayleen Miller (Tina's mother-in-law) *Bill Peters *Noble Miller
*Abdulkhaliq Aboelzahab (Imam Farooq's son) *Jeannie (Sue Davies sister) *John Snyder *Erma Weiss *Ryan and Nicole Howard (the Davies' daughter and son-in-law)
- ♦ 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.

November Birthdays

11/4 Pat Sharninghouse
11/6 Kaitlyn Koehler
11/7 Gene Weist
11/12 Emma Weist
11/23 Ed Davies
11/27 Tina Miller
11/28 Gabriel Riker



Tara Miller is our featured member of the month. See her pictures on the bulletin board. She is one of four children born to Tim and Gayla Miller in Toledo, Ohio. She grew up in Millbury, Ohio, and loved playing sports, particularly softball and basketball. Tara graduated from Bluffton College and has worked at Cooper Tire for 16 years in the Finance, Information Technology, and Purchasing areas. She moved to Findlay in 2012 and began attending First Christian Church, where she serves as a deacon, counter, and scripture reader.

Tara's great loves include traveling, Harry Potter, and the Detroit Lions, but most of all her son, Ryan, who was born in March, 2015.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, November 15 – NAMI Hancock County Program and Volunteer Coordinator Jaime Lehtomaa to share in worship and NAMI members to join us for our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner following worship.

2:30 PM – Fox Run Worship Service

Saturday, November 21 – 3:00 PM – Planning Meeting for Joint Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, November 22 – Thanksgiving Sunday

Sunday, November 29 – First Sunday of Advent

Coming Up in December – Caroling at area nursing homes

December 13 – England musical group during worship

December 25 – 3:00 PM – Joint Christmas Eve Service with New Hope Community Church and Unitarian Universalist Church of Blanchard Valley at First Christian Church

December 27 – Guest Preacher: Rev. Patrice Fatig

First Christian News

Average number of service attendees for October: 37

Amount given in October: \$ 4784.70









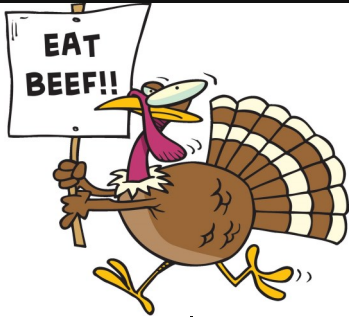
Remember to like us on Facebook- "First Christian Church Findlay Ohio"

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 the list of the current newsletters. Earlier editions will be available on the home page in the archives list.



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 	6 11:00 am - Bible Study	7 9:00 a.m. Elders Meeting 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
8 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship Annual Congregational Meeting 12:00 Coffee Hour	9	10 	11 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	12 	13 11:00 am - Bible Study 	14 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 10:00 am - Board Meeting
15 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour Thanksgiving Dinner 2:30 pm-Fox Run Wor-ship	16	17	18 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	19	20 11:00 am - Bible Study 	21 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
22 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship- 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	23	24	25 9:00 am- Taize Prayer	26 Thanksgiving HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY 	27 11:00 am - No Bible Study	28 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 4:00-7:00 p.m.- Family Fun Night
29 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	30					

November Serving Schedule

November 1		November 8	
Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling	Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling
Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler	Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler
Pianist/Organist	Becky Pulling	Pianist/Organist	Jane Snyder
Children's Sermon:	Robin Kretzinger	Children's Sermon:	Patty Koehler
Greeters:	David England, Karol Smith, John Snyder	Greeters:	David England, Barb England, Matha Stoner
Scripture Reader:	Karol Smith	Scripture Reader:	Tara Miller
Elders:	Linda Pitkin	Elders:	Kathy Brinkman & Nancy Peters
Deacons:	Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz	Deacons:	Bill Peters, David England, Sue Davies
Coffee Hour:	Team #1 Cindi Beltz, Beth Reynolds, Kathy Brinkman	Coffee Hour:	Team #2 Pat Sharninghouse, Linda Pitkin, Sue & Ed Davies
Counters:	Andy Koehler & Robin Kretzinger	Counters:	Andy Koehler & Patty Koehler
November 15		November 22	
Minister:	Shared Message: Jaime Lehtomaa (NAMI) and Pastor Rick	Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling
Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler	Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler
Pianist/Organist	Becky Pulling	Pianist/Organist	Jane Snyder
Children's Sermon:	Robin Kretzinger	Children's Sermon:	Patty Koehler
Greeters:	Karol Smith, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds	Greeters:	David England, Tim Wolfe, John Snyder, Barb England
Scripture Reader:	Steven Strayer	Scripture Reader:	Mercedes Williamson
Elders:	Beth Reynolds	Elders:	Beth Reynolds & Kathy Brinkman
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, Lisa Wolfe
Counters:	Andy Koehler & Bill Peters	Counters:	Andy Koehler & Tara Miller
November 29			
Minister:	Rev. Rick Pulling		
Music Coordinator:	Patty Koehler		
Pianist/Organist	Becky Pulling		
Children's Sermon:	Patty Koehler		
Greeters:	Beth Reynolds, Martha Stoner		
Scripture Reader:	Sue Davies		
Elders:	Robin Kretzinger & Linda Pitkin		
Deacons:	Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz		
Coffee Hour:	Team #5 Deb Kirk, Barb England, Kathleen Schaffer		
Counters:	Andy Koehler & 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

November

November 1- Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost – Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time -All Saints Day

Scripture Reader: Karol Smith

Scripture: Mark 12:28-34

Message: “The (new) test Jesus gives has only two questions”

Theme: Cabbies in New York City used to take an 80-question test before getting their hack licenses. Now, however, the exam has been reduced to 10 questions. What gives? People were probably wondering the same thing when Jesus reduced the 613 commandments of the law of Moses to just two! Really?

November 8- Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost – Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Stewardship Sunday – Annual Congregational Meeting following worship

Scripture Reader: Tara Miller

Scripture: Mark 12:38-44

Message: “Michael Corleone and the Widow”

Theme: Saying long prayers. Devouring widows’ houses? Are those things still done? Does anyone come out ahead?

November 15- Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost – Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time-Annual Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner following Worship-Shared Message: Jaime Lehtomaa (NAMI) and Pastor Rick

Scripture Reader: Steven Strayer

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:4-20

Message: “A mother who prayed for her child shows us how to be spiritual and religious”

Theme: It’s become a tired cliché to many, but a mantra for a significant number of Gen Xers and Millennials – SBNRs – spiritual but not religious. At least one sociologist, however, says that that “species” does not exist. Actually, Hannah from the Bible was both spiritual and religious, and her persistence in the practice of her piety was rewarded.

November 22- Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday – Thanksgiving Sunday

Scripture Reader: Mercedes Williamson

Scripture: John 18:33-38a

Message: “What kind of king is this?”

Theme: Even Pilate acknowledged Jesus was some sort of king. Is He our king? Why is Jesus still worthy of our adoration?

November 29- First Sunday of Advent

Scripture Reader: Sue Davies

Scripture: Luke: 21:25-36

Advent Theme: Signs of Jesus Christ’s Coming

Message: “A Fig Tree Sprouts Leaves”

Theme: Redemption and the Kingdom of God are near. Is this a time for fear?