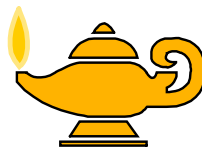


First Christian Church
620 N. Main St.
Findlay, OH 45840
419-422-5615



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..."

September
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.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit..." (Matthew 5:3)

The New Testament notices things that do not seem worthy of our notice, by our standards. Oswald Chambers, the great devotional writer, pastor, and military chaplain of the last century helps me see that (as he has helped me spiritually see so many things).

Matthew 5:3 literally means "Blessed are the paupers". I am continuing here what I started to talk about last month in this "The Lamplighter's" pastoral column. Paupers are remarkably commonplace. The preaching of today in many churches often points out a person's strength of will or influence among peers or beauty of one's character — things that are easily noticed. But the statement we so often hear, "Make a decision for Jesus Christ", places an emphasis on something Jesus never trusted. He never asks us to *decide* for Him, but to *yield* to Him — something very different. At the foundation of Jesus Christ's Kingdom, Chambers has helped me realize, is the genuine loveliness of those who are commonplace.

Believe it or not, you and I are truly blessed in our poverty. If we have no strength of will or influence over others and a nature without worth or excellence, then Jesus says to you and me, "Blessed are you, because it is through your poverty that you can enter My Kingdom." You and I cannot enter our Lord's Kingdom by virtue of our own goodness — we can only enter it as an absolute pauper.

Moreover, the true character of the loveliness

that speaks for God is always unnoticed by the one possessing that quality. Conscious influence is prideful and un-Christian. If you and I wonder if we are being of any use to God, we instantly lose the beauty and the freshness of the touch of the Lord. "He who believes in Me...out of his or her heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38). That verse points to the fact that if we examine the outflow of our efforts, we lose the touch of the Lord.

Let's ask ourselves: Who are the people who have influenced us the most spiritually? Certainly not the ones who thought they did, but those who did not have a clue that they were spiritually influencing us. In the Christian life, godly influence is never conscious of itself. If we are conscious of our influence, it ceases to have the genuine loveliness which is characteristic of the touch of Jesus. We always know when Jesus is at work because He produces in the commonplace something that is truly inspiring.

Are you and I truly yielding to Jesus and trusting that He will work it out, in the midst of our spiritual poverty and commonness, that we influence other people for Him, but that we don't necessarily have to know what impact we have? Will you join me in praying for that this month?

And see you around this month of September!

Take care and God bless.

Pastor Rick

This is Ron Buford's, Pastor of the Congregational Community Church of Sunnyvale, UCC, Sunnyvale, California, recent devotional entitled, **"Every Time I Remember You"**.

"I thank my God every time I remember you." - Philippians 1: 3-11

When we remember people who have died, simple things remind us of them -- a smell, a song, a flower, the gathering of family and friends. And we remember them. . . .

Sometimes their memory breaks in on us like an intruder, without ample time for us to prepare and brace ourselves. And so, we cry. We miss them. At other times we laugh. Either way, it is a good thing to not hold back. Experience your range of emotions but do not stop there. Give God thanks for having had them in your life. Acknowledge their presence as a gift from God; this will always put your heart in the right place.

Sometimes, we are like children who want more ice cream. "We did not have them long enough," we say. And that is always true of those we love most dearly -- especially those who had, from our perspectives, untimely deaths. Let us instead give thanks that we had them, remembering, we have them still. They were never our possessions. They were companions God placed into our life's journey . . . for a while. Best of all, they surround us now, so many as to be like the stars of the Milky Way, a cloud, all witnesses to love, faithfulness, to the hope and mystery that we shall see them . . . again.

Prayer

Gracious God, Sometimes I miss them so much I cannot seem to bear it. Still, I thank you for placing such a great person in my life. I remember her perfume, his crazy laugh, the way he looked at me that let me know I was loved, for the great things she accomplished, for the things we saw together. Thank you for these special lives and times, and for ways they helped shape me to be the person I am today. Give them blessed rest and peace and confidence in knowing they left us well and continuing on with life until we meet them again. Amen.

**FROM THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) NEWS SERVICE:**
August 28, 2015

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

Few of us will ever forget the horror of the murder of nine church members in Bible study - in church. Nine African American faithful, including

pastors and laypersons, had welcomed the white stranger into their midst at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. But he was intent on death. Leaders in the African Methodist Episcopal Church are determined to re-write the significance of this heinous act, and make it the moment that the church leads the United States into a genuine commitment to end racism - not just the direct, individual racism that causes one person to pick up a gun, but the broad systemic racism that nurtures such a motivation in the first place. Our brothers and sisters in the African Methodist Episcopal Church have called all Christians to participate in a "Confession, Repentance and Commitment to End Racism" Sunday, to be observed on Sept. 6. We write to encourage all Disciples to accompany our ecumenical partners in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the National Council of Churches and Churches Uniting in Christ, among others, in recognizing this moment to come together as God's children. We urge Disciples in the U.S. and Canada to participate - if not on Sept. 6, then within the next four weeks. This emphasis is at the heart of our striving to be a pro-reconciling, anti-racist Church. The matter is of particular urgency in the United States in the wake of the June shootings in Charleston and the many other examples of racially-motivated violence from the Midwestern heartland to the coasts. Worship materials have been compiled by both the [AME](#) and [ELCA](#) which may be used for your preparation. In particular please see the litany by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr., "After the Vigils, Vigilance!" These materials are available on the [Reconciliation Ministry](#) website. In addition, you will find conversation-guides and other resources there which will be useful for ongoing engagement in the struggle against the insidious nature of racism. One Sunday is a place to begin. Our ecumenical family is calling us to join them on a difficult journey. We are not alone. Jesus accompanies us as we reach out to bridge the divides between us. This, too, is part of being a movement for wholeness. Let us go forward together.

In Christ,

Timothy M. James, Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary, National Convocation
April Johnson, Reconciliation Minister
Sharon E. Watkins, General Minister and President
Robert W. Welsh, President, Council on Christian Unity

Prayer Needs:

- ♦ For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment:
 *Kathy Brinkman *Emelia (4 yrs old) *Fred Kretzinger
 * John Turner (Janet Powell's nephew)
 *Lou Grycza (Charlotte Ballard)
 *Ruth Fenimore (former member)
- For those with various health issues and concerns:
 *Frances Boltz *Sallie Williams *Sandy Scherf
 *Jayleen Miller (Tina's mother-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

**September Birthdays**

- 9/2 Cindi Beltz
 9/8 Melissa Brown
 9/15 Amanda Reynolds
 9/14 Natalie Williamson
 9/19 Robin Kretzinger
 9/25 Mabel (Bo) Bradley

September Anniversaries

- 9/3 Bill & Sharon Booher
 9/11 Andy & Patty Koehler

Barb Brown is our featured member of the month. She was born in Findlay to John and Patty Bowersox. John passed away when Barb was 3 and her mom Patty was remarried to Dale Yoder. Barb graduated in 1973 and met her husband Steven Brown at Findlay Industries where they both worked. Sadly he passed away in 2004. They were blessed with 3 children, Patty, Melissa, and James. They have all married and she became Na-Na to five grandchildren and one on the way. She is very active here at First Christian by participating as a deacon and deacon co-chair. She has also sung in the choir in the past. In her spare time, she loves to bake and decorate cakes, throw parties and spend time with her grandkids.

**First Christian News**





Average number of service attendees for August: 41
 Amount given in August: \$ 5125.84
 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.



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 	4 No bible study	5 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
6 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour	7 Happy Labor Day!	8 	9 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	10 	11 11:00 am - Bible Study 	12 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study 10:00 am - Board Meeting
13 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 Coffee Hour	14 	15	16 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	17	18 11:00 am - Bible Study 	19 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study
20 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		23 9:00 am- Taize Prayer 	24	25 11:00 am - Bible Study 	26 9:300 a.m.-Truth Seekers Bible Study	
27 8:45 am-Chimes 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Worship 12:00 pm -Coffee Hour	28	29	30 9:00 am- Taize Prayer			

September Serving Schedule

September 6		September 13	
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:	Karol Smith, Tim Wolfe, Beth Reynolds	Greeters:	David England, Tim Wolfe, John Snyder, Barb England
Scripture Reader:	Karol Smith	Scripture Reader:	Tara Miller
Elders:	Kathy Brinkman	Elders:	Linda Pitkin & Nancy Peters
Deacons:	Barb Brown , Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz	Deacons:	Bill Peters, David England, Sue Davies
Coffee Hour:	Team #3 Bill & Nancy Peters, Karol Smith, Dale Yoder	Coffee Hour:	Team #4 Barb Brown, Patty Koehler, Lisa Wolfe
Counters:	Tara Miller & Robin Kretzinger	Counters:	Tara Miller & Andy Koehler
September 20		September 27	
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:	Beth Reynolds, Martha Stoner	Greeters:	David England, Karol Smith, John Snyder
Scripture Reader:	Mercedes Williamson	Scripture Reader:	Steven Strayer
Elders:	Robin Kretzinger	Elders:	Beth Reynolds & Kathy Brinkman
Deacons:	Lisa Wolf, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith	Deacons:	Charlotte Ballard, Tara Miller, John Snyder
Coffee Hour:	Team #5 Deb Kirk, Barb England, Kathleen Schaffer	Coffee Hour:	Team #1 Cindi Beltz, 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

September

September 6 – Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost – Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reader: Karol Smith

Scripture: Mark 7:24-37

Message: “Sparring Partners”

Theme: Talking back to God is not only okay; it might just be God’s gift to us and our gift back to God.

September 13– Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost – Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reader: Tara Miller

Scripture: Mark 8:27-38

Message: “Right Answer-Wrong Conclusion”

Theme: What does God’s love really mean – for our messy world and for our messy lives?

September 20– Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost – Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reader: Mercedes Williamson

Scripture: Mark 9:30-37

Message: “Moving On Up”

Theme: What is true greatness? What will be your legacy?

September 27– Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost – Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reader: Steven Strayer

Scripture: James 5:13-20

Message: “This is your Brain on Prayer”

Theme: Science is discovering what prayer does to our brains, raising questions of how prayer can heal us and connect us to God.