

Lamplighter

focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | 4
DECEMBER ISSUE 2017



Welcome to Advent 2017

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians. [Liturgical -- from liturgy, which means the forms and functions of public worship.] This year, Advent begins on December 3. During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming. The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are used with one larger white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. Other churches prefer three purple or blue candles with one candle being rose or pink, to represent joy. While the Advent wreath with its four candles did bring light to churches, it was not to illuminate the interior as much as to symbolize the coming of Christ. The Advent wreath began in the time of the Protestant reformer Martin Luther. During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world. The order and exact wording vary among churches, but the wreath continually reminds us of whom we are called to be as followers of Jesus. (www.umc.org)

Church Events

- **December 5, 12, 19, 26- 2 p.m. Tea & Talk**
- **December 6, 13, 20, 27—9:30 a.m. Taize Prayer and 6:00 p.m. Bible Study**
- **December 16 Caroling—10 a.m. Heritage, Primrose, Fox Run**
- **December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29— 11 a.m. Bible Study**
- **December 10—Election Of Officers**
- **Youth meetings on 1st/3rd Sunday's 3-5 p.m.**
- **January 6, 2018 - 9 a.m. Elder Meeting, 10 a.m. Board Meeting**



"What To Do About Gun Violence"

A Community Conversation at First Christian Church of Findlay, Ohio On December 3, 2017, the first Sunday of Advent, the Rev. Kristine Eggert, the Executive Director of the Cleveland, Ohio-based organization, God Before Guns, will preach a sermon titled, "Stay Woke" during the church's 10:30am worship service and speak again during a 1:00pm community conversation titled, "What To Do About Gun Violence." God Before Guns is a multi-faith coalition of individuals and faith communities working to reduce gun violence. Please come and be part of the conversation this Sunday at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Findlay, Ohio, 1624 Tiffin Avenue, Suite B, Findlay, Ohio 45840. Call us at 419.422.5615 or email us at info@fccfindlay.org.

On Track with Pastor Jack

Of course, you know that the Christmas season is upon us, or at least that is what retail establishments and social organizations tell us. If you listened closely, say back around Halloween, you heard people telling us to get ready for Christmas. Seems to me that before too long, the Christmas Season will begin at the close of Labor Day!

From a church perspective, we are not now in the Christmas Season. Instead, we are in the Season of Advent. You see, Advent is the beginning of the Christian year, the four week period when we watch and make ourselves ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.



ADVENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN

"My Soul Waits..... A day for women of prayer, crafts, conversation, and silence."

We prepare for this Advent Season Advent Retreat for Women Saturday, December 2nd ~

9am to 3pm At the Herald B. Monroe Lodge, Camp Christian Led by: Rev. Margot Connor & Wendy

Taylor The cost is \$45. Come for a slumber party at 7:00pm the night before for an additional \$20.00 Register: www.ccinoh.org.

Registration Forms Available from the First Christian Church Office 419.422.5615.



Advance Ministries Retreat for Young Adults

The Christian Church in Ohio is presenting "Advance Ministries Retreat" for young adults ages 19-29, December 29-31 at Camp Christian. The theme for this special gathering is, "A Spiritual Exploration of the Divine Intervention: Finding Hope in the Possibilities and The Unknown." The Rev. Margo Connor will be the leader for this retreat. The registration cost is \$90 if paid by December 21. For more information, contact the church office at 419.422.5615 or info@fccfindlay.org

Renewed Mind

Volunteer opportunity continues.....

First Christian Church is underway with a new volunteer mission of opportunity and we need YOUR help!

Volunteers will take *(we can use more volunteers at 10 to haul the cooler, please lend a hand and help)* **a cooler of water and approximately 15-20 healthy snacks to the Renewed Mind main office each Wednesday/Friday morning around 10 am.**

Snacks may be of your choosing for the day you volunteer. Trying to keep them somewhat healthy. We have used small variety bags of chips, fruit cups, granola bars, cookies, bars, etc.

OR

YOU MAY SIMPLY PROVIDE YOUR DELIVERY SERVICES

Please help us share God's Word through giving of our time to those who are finding their faith. See sign up sheets as enter!

THANK YOU!!



**ONLY.
and gifts
you**

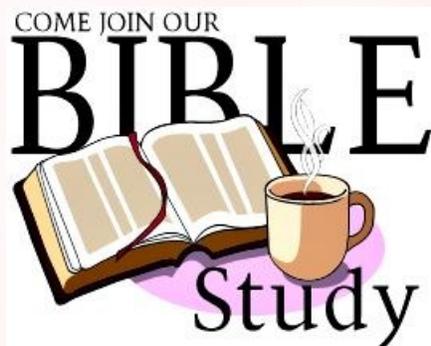


Pastor Jack continues to present, "Tea and Talk with Pastor Jack."

This weekly gathering will be a time for conversation, fellowship, storytelling, and occasional book and movie discussions. We want everyone from the community and congregation to come! Tea and Talk will take place inside the church's sanctuary and will begin at 2pm and end around 4pm. Everyone is invited to come. Feel free to share a baked dish or snack food if you like. If you've got the time, we'll have the tea!

New Weekly Bible Study for FCC and Community Members!

On Wednesday, at 6:00pm, Pastor Jack conducts weekly Bible Study sessions for FCC members and people in our surrounding areas. Gathering in the church's sanctuary, these weekly Bible Study sessions will help people grow closer to God, understand more of God's vision for humanity as expressed through Jesus Christ, and deepen their commitment to live more faithfully and proactively as agents of God's hope in the world. Each session lasts for one hour. Bring a Bible, a sandwich, and an open heart and mind as together we grow in our faith and witness!



From a very early age, my parents taught me, knowingly or not, that the members of the church are not perfect, but the church is the body of Christ, and therefore must be loved and cherished—TOGETHER we are the body of Christ.

Along the way there have been people and places where I have sensed God's presence and call upon my life in loving and nurturing ways. The people in the pews of at least 12 congregations have been some of those places. Summer church camp has been another. Like so many of you, I sense a call to the vocation of ministry at camp. Others have sensed vocational callings at camp in which their faith can be lived out. Lifelong friendships and relationships have been formed at camp. That is why we often call Camp Christian a sacred place.

This past summer over 825 children, youth, and young adults attended Camp Christian. More will be there in 2018. Some have said a week at church camp is equal to one-year of Sunday school. Whether literally true or not, that is an amazing statement. I suspect it is literally true.

At camp we experience Christ's love "from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."

We need Camp Christian to be the best it can be, so that we the church can be the best we can be as followers of Jesus. Please, prayerfully consider a gift to the Christmas Offering for Regional Ministry. Every gift supports the ministry of the Christian Church in Ohio. All of our regional staff members, along with many volunteers, work together to make the ministry at Camp Christian happen. We need your Christmas Offering to help make that happen. Please give.

May this Christmas season be filled with hope, peace, love and joy for each of you.

Rev. John M.
Richardson
Interim Regional
Minister
C h r i s t i a n
Church in Ohio



December Birthdays and Anniversaries



12/6 Mary Thompson

12/15 Tara Miller

12/27 Bob Thompson

12/28 Donna Foreman

12/29 Joe Brinkman

THE RETURN OF YOUTH MINISTRY AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH!

Sarah Greeno is giving leadership as Director of Youth Ministry! Meeting from 3pm to 5pm on First and Third Sundays, our youth ministry effort is open to youth from First Christian Church and our community at large. Along with Sarah, Robin Kretzinger, Steven Strayer and Beth Reynolds are working to provide Christian education that builds Christian character among youth, in a fun and energetic way!

Sarah has also formed "Youth Church" during Sunday morning worship services. Youth Church will gather in the youth classroom immediately after the "passing of the peace" during Sunday morning worship. Once together, youth will experience age appropriate worship elements and return to the sanctuary in time for The Lord's Supper.

Prayers/Concerns

- ◆ For murder victim families and those injured in the Texas and Las Vegas domestic terror shootings.
- ◆ For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment: *Ray Neall, *Fred Kretzinger
- ◆ For those struggling with addictions.
- ◆ For those with various health issues and concerns: *Jack (brother-in-law of Charlotte Ballard), * Nancy LaRoche, *Jack Cowart (brother-in-law of Charlotte Ballard), *Donna Foreman, *Kathleen Schaeffer, *Janet Powell, *Joe Brinkman
- ◆ Prayers for peace and just solutions to conflicts, natural disasters, polarizing, police/citizen relationships, terrorism around the world, refugees fleeing and trying to find new host/home countries, and healing of political fractures in our country
- ◆ For our members of this congregation being called to fill positions within our church.
- ◆ 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 victims of recent Hurricanes.
- ◆ For the end of systemic racism and other systems of hate.
- ◆ For safety for law enforcement personnel.



Sharing brings Joy
To Us. To Others. To God

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DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DELIVER

Sunday Schedule
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Followed by Fellowship-Coffee Hour

First Christian Church is joyfully affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) US and Canada. www.disciples.org. We welcome all people whatever their gender identification, race, culture, ethnic background, sexual orientation, economic circumstance, family configuration, or difference in ability into full participation in the life, leadership, and employment of First Christian Church.

A NEW PICTURE HUNG!!

The family of Doris Moore has donated a beautiful picture to First Christian Church, in her memory. It was originally donated to Blanchard House, in her honor, on her 80th birthday on November 18, 2000. Doris was a loved member of our church for many years and we thank the family for donating this special picture. It is hanging on the wall in our fellowship hall. Be sure to come to coffee hour to see how much it adds to the space!!

