

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..."*  
*Matthew 5:14-16 NRSV*

May  
2014

WEB PAGE:

[www.fccfindlay.org](http://www.fccfindlay.org)

WEB ADDRESSES:

[info@fccfindlay.org](mailto:info@fccfindlay.org) - For people who are looking for information about our church

[pastorrick@fccfindlay.org](mailto:pastorrick@fccfindlay.org) - For people who want to contact Pastor Rick

[jsnyder@fccfindlay.org](mailto: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](http://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,*

What a glorious Easter season we have had at First Christian Church! Thank you for all your extra efforts with our palms and Easter flowers, our flowering cross, our Maundy Thursday service, our Good Friday Prayer Vigil, our Easter breakfast, our Easter egg hunt, our Easter special music, and so much more.

During this Eastertide, let's focus on these words from **1 Corinthians 15:17,19:**

***"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is in vain and you are still in your sins. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."***

Rev. Matthew Laney, Senior Minister of Asylum Hill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Hartford, Connecticut, reminds us that most folk, Christians and non-Christians alike, would agree the Resurrection is the most outrageous claim made by the gospels and Paul.

But he doesn't. Rev. Laney thinks the more outrageous claim is that Jesus continued to be hailed as the messiah after His death. After all, Jesus had not done what people generally expected the messiah to do: He had not achieved a sweeping victory against Rome; He had not restored the Temple. Worse yet, He died like a common criminal on a cross.

"No one would argue that such a person could be the Christ. When messiahs failed and died, such as Judas the Galilean in 6 AD or Simon bar-Giora in 70 AD or bar-Kochbar in 135 AD, the first order of business among their followers was to find a new messiah. But Jesus' disciples didn't do that. Why?

"Because they were innovative, tradition-bucking, spiritual pioneers driven by collective hallucinations and wishful thinking? Because they were anxious to be crucified themselves?

"No. Because something dramatic and totally unexpected happened that changed everything; something so powerful and wonderful they risked their lives proclaiming it to anyone who would listen. That's the only reason we know anything about Jesus today. That's why our faith is not in vain. Sure, the resurrection is outrageous, but it's even more outrageous to make the case for Christianity without it. Go be resurrection-like today and do something beautiful and outrageous for God. It won't be in vain.

**So, as Rev. Laney suggests, can we go be resurrection-like today and do something beautiful and outrageous for God?**

Let me suggest something for us all. Since May is the month of the National Day of Prayer, may I recommend that we all embark on a month-long challenge of "What's Next"? Let's each pray daily and ask God personally, "What's next for me?" Let's not pretend to know in advance what God will tell and show us. But let's read scripture, pray, listen, perhaps write down things. God may be telling us "Here are some definite actions to take" or "Just go with the flow" or "Prepare and wait" or "Plant a garden and cultivate faithfulness" or perhaps something else.

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Let's resist the temptation to worry about the future or to want to know what the future will bring or to try to plan things out in advance. But rather, let's realize that "gracious uncertainty" is the mark of a truly spiritual life – knowing that our circumstances and our futures are uncertain, but that God is always certain. Let's resist the temptation of wanting things or blessings from God instead of simply the presence of the Lord Himself. Let's resist the temptation to pray or to do something for God only when we feel like it. But rather, let's realize that "be ready in season or out of season" means that we need to come to God in prayer and respond to Him in service, whether we feel like it at the time or not. And let us resist the temptation of thinking that we are serving God best when we are adding people to our rolls (as good and Godly as that can be), But rather, let's realize that our work begins where God's grace has laid the foundation; that our main job is to disciple people.

**Whatever it is that God would tell us, prod us, or reveal to us, will you join me in cultivating our faithfulness more fully this month of May? My hunch is that God will shower us with tons or surprises, prune us with ample reminders, and bless us with much grace!**

**Will you please let me know that you are joining me in this "What's next" endeavor? And will you join me in encouraging others to do the same?**

I look forward to seeing you around this month!

God bless, *Pastor Rick*

**THIS WAS IN LAST MONTH. BUT ONCE AGAIN, A FAVOR FROM YOUR CHURCH:**

Our church, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Findlay, Ohio, asks each member to please have a family member or friend contact the church office (419-422-5615) when you or some another church member is *hospitalized or moved into a rehab unit or retirement/nursing facility*. Your church would like to reach out to you at that time, either with the pastor or an Elder or a caring congregational member. You can leave a voicemail message at the church office any time. Our church secretary, Tina Miller, will pick up those messages when she is in the office, Tuesdays through Fridays, 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM. You can always reach Pastor Rick, any time, on his cell phone at 250-519-5449. He tries to return calls and texts within a couple of hours. Our church also asks that you please inform family members and close friends *that upon your death* (none of us likes to think about that eventuality, but God can call any of us at any time) *for them and/or the funeral home to contact the church at the above information*.

Although Pastor Rick is part-time and lives in Fort Wayne, he tries to be available to grieving families who have just experienced a death and tries to be available for funerals. Use of our pastoral services is recommended upon a church member's death. Moreover, our church is always willing and happy to host a post-funeral service meal at the church to help the grieving family and to celebrate the life of the deceased church member. ***Church members are also asked to leave their funeral and visitation requests on file at the church.*** That way, the church will know your wishes, and the church will be helpful to the family and the funeral home during the very stressful and emotional time of death.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation in this. At these times of transition and passage, it is always good to know that your church wants to reach out to you in Christian love, comfort, support, and prayer.

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**CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

Our continued learning about what the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is continues. This month, we focus on the *church structure* of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is organized to:

- help each member participate to the fullest.
  - help the church function effectively as a whole.
- The three expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are:

**Congregational:** Each local church has its own program of worship, mission, and service. Members choose officers and send representatives to regional and general assemblies.

**Regional:** Regional bodies in the United States and Canada help start churches, relocate ministers, and assist congregations. The regions are part of the General Assembly and help choose the General Board.

**General:** The General Assembly is made up of congregational and regional representatives and ministers. The General Board is a small deliberative body that does spadework for the Assembly.

Each level is *independent* (it determines its own programs, staff, functions) and *cooperative* (it is morally responsible to each other, but without a "pyramid of authority").

**Prayer Needs:**

- ◆ For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment:  
 Kathy Brinkman      Bob Wells  
 Fred Kretzinger      David (Sue Davies' brother)  
 Loretta Way (Charlotte Ballard's sister)
- ◆ For those with various health issues and concerns:  
 \*Al Sharninghouse    \*Bill Pestors    \*Lloyd Smith  
 \*Mel Aldrich    \*Kay Stoner    \*Tom Hassen    \*Martha Stoner
- ◆ 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 all care givers
- ◆ For peaceful and just solutions to conflicts around the world.

Thank You!!!!  
 Thank you for your prayers, thoughts, and cards after my heart surgery. I am progressing nicely.  
*Al Sharninghouse*  
 Thank you for your prayers and cards during my illness They were wonderful.  
*Bill Peters*

**“12 REASONS TO BE AN ACTIVE CHURCH MEMBER”**

Each month for the past several months, in “The Lamplighter”, we have briefly outlined bullet points, or talking points, about what being an active church member means (courtesy of Channing Bete Company). For this issue of “The Lamplighter,” we cite # 12, the last of our 12 points:

***Being an active member of the church can bring you spiritual joy. Let yourself experience the joy of being an active Christian and knowing that you are making a difference in the world. Doing so increases your opportunity to love and be loved in the same way that Jesus Christ loves the world.***

***Learn how you can become more active in the church:***

- . Talk with church leaders about how you (and your loved ones) can take a more active role in the church.
- . Worship and pray regularly and attend Bible study groups as often as you can.
- . Consider what you can give to the church – and celebrate what it can give you.

**May Birthdays**

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



**May Anniversaries**

- 17 Bob & Tammy Thompson



**Congratulations to Our Members**

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated “**Kathy Brinkman Day**” in worship and our coffee hour. We recognized and honored Kathy’s many years of dedicated service to our church, her inspirational faith, and the myriad of ways she has touched so many of our lives in Christian love.

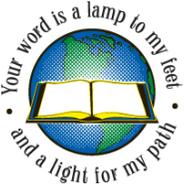
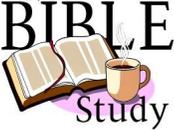
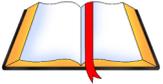
On April 27<sup>th</sup>, we bestowed the designation of Elder Emeritus on **Lloyd Smith**, in absentia, in honor of his several years of dedicated service as Elder, as an active church member, and as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. A brief ceremony will be held at his home on a later date. Lloyd, too, as influenced so many people with his Christian faith and witness.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, we also honored and recognized **Korbin Ritter-Butz**. Korbin has actively attended and participated in the life of our church while a student at the University of Findlay. He graduates from the U of Findlay on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We thank Korbin for his attendance and his friendship the last few months.

**Intentional in Our Service**

Chopin Hall has communicated that they are not getting enough donations of non-food items. Please consider bringing in items such as shampoo, toilet paper, laundry detergent, toothpaste, body soap, hand soap, dish detergent etc. Thank you!

May

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                    | Monday                                                                                           | Tuesday         | Wednesday                                                                                                                     | Thursday                                                                                       | Friday                                                                                                                       | Saturday                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>April 27</b><br>8:45 am Chimes Prac<br>9:30 am - Sunday School<br>9:30 am- Altar Ego<br>Bible Study<br>10:30 am - Worship<br>12:00 pm- Coffee Hour                     | <b>April 28</b>                                                                                  | <b>April 29</b> | <b>April 30</b><br>9:00 am- Taize Prayer<br> | <b>1</b><br> | <b>2</b><br>11:00 am - Bible Study<br>    | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                     |
| <b>4</b><br>8:45 am Chimes Prac<br>9:30 am - Sunday School<br>9:30 am - Elder's Meeting<br>9:30 am- Altar Ego<br>Bible Study<br>10:30 am -Worship<br>12:00 pm-Coffee Hour | <b>5</b><br>    | <b>6</b>        | <b>7</b><br>9:00 am- Taize Prayer<br>        | <b>8</b>                                                                                       | <b>9</b><br>11:00 am - Bible Study<br>    | <b>10</b><br>10:00 am - Board Meeting<br> |
| <b>11 Mothers Day</b><br>9:30 am - Sunday School<br>9:30 am- Altar Ego<br>Bible Study<br>10:30 am - Worship<br>12:00 pm-Coffee Hour<br>2:30 pm - Fox Run                  | <b>12</b><br> | <b>13</b>       | <b>14</b><br>9:00 am- Taize Prayer<br>     | <b>15</b>                                                                                      | <b>16</b><br>11:00 am - Bible Study<br> | <b>17</b>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>18</b><br>9:30 am - Sunday School<br>9:30 am- Altar Ego<br>Bible Study<br>10:30 am - Worship<br>12:00 pm-Coffee Hour<br>2:30 pm-Fox Run Wor-ship                       | <b>19</b>                                                                                        | <b>20</b>       | <b>21</b><br>9:00 am- Taize Prayer<br>     | <b>22</b>                                                                                      | <b>23</b><br>11:00 am - Bible Study<br> | <b>24</b>                                                                                                                    |
| <b>25</b><br>9:30 am - Sunday School<br>9:30 am- Altar Ego<br>Bible Study<br>10:30 am - Worship<br>12:00 pm -Coffee Hour                                                  | <b>26</b><br> | <b>27</b>       | <b>28</b><br>9:00 am- Taize Prayer<br>     | <b>29</b>                                                                                      | <b>30</b><br>11:00 am - Bible Study<br> | <b>31</b>                                                                                                                    |

**May  
Serving Schedule**

| <b>May 4</b>       |                                                                        | <b>May 11</b>      |                                                               |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Minister:          | Rev. Rick Pulling                                                      | Minister:          | Rev. Rick Pulling                                             |
| 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:          | Lloyd Smith, Larry Marquart, John Snyder,<br>Kathy Marquart            | Greeters:          | David England, Karol Smith, Carole Cleary,<br>Martha Stoner   |
| Scripture Readers: |                                                                        | Scripture Reader:  |                                                               |
| Elders:            | Robin Kretzinger & Linda Pitkin                                        | Elders:            | Ed Davies & Carole Cleary                                     |
| Deacons:           | Lisa Wolfe, Deb Kirk, Karol Smith                                      | Deacons:           | Charlotte Ballard, Kathy Marquart, John<br>Snyder             |
| Coffee Hour:       | Team #3: Bill & Nancy Peters, Karol & Lloyd<br>Smith, Pat & Dale Yoder | Coffee Hour:       | Team #4: Barb Brown, Patty Koehler,<br>Tatum Weber            |
| Counters:          | Tara Miller & Robin Kretzinger                                         | Counters:          | Tara Miller & Andy Koehler                                    |
| <b>May 18</b>      |                                                                        | <b>May 25</b>      |                                                               |
| Guest Minister:    | Ed Davies                                                              | Minister:          | Rev. Rick Pulling                                             |
| Music Coordinator: | Patty Koehler                                                          | Music Coordinator: | Patty Koehler                                                 |
| Pianist/Organist   | Jane Snyder                                                            | Pianist/Organist   | Jane Snyder                                                   |
| Children's Sermon: | Robin Kretzinger                                                       | Children's Sermon: | Patty Koehler                                                 |
| Greeters:          | David England, Barb England, Tim Wolfe,<br>Beth Reynolds               | Greeters:          | Larry Marquart, Karol Smith, John Snyder,<br>Lloyd Smith      |
| Scripture Readers: |                                                                        | Scripture Readers: |                                                               |
| Elders:            | Carole Cleary & Barb England                                           | Elders:            | Beth Reynolds & Kathy Brinkman                                |
| Deacons:           | Barb Brown, Tim Wolfe, Cindi Beltz                                     | Deacons:           | Bill Peters, Nancy Peters, Sue Davies                         |
| Coffee Hour:       | Team #5: Deb Kirk, Barb England, Mary<br>Decker, Lisa Wolfe            | Coffee Hour:       | Team #1 Cindi Beltz, Larry & Kathy<br>Marquart, Beth Reynolds |
| Counters:          | Tara Miller & Bill Peters                                              | Counters:          | Tara Miller & Karol Smith                                     |



**"Wireless communication is nothing new.  
I've been praying for 75 years!"**

**First Christian News**

Average number of service attendees for April: 54

Amount given this month: \$7845.13

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 scroll down the left-hand side until you see Latest Postings. Look for the latest post for the month. Click on the More tab and the newsletter will open up.

## 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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### WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR May 2014

#### May's Sermon Themes

##### May 4—Third Sunday of Easter

**Scripture Reader:** Tatum Hernandez Weber

**Message:** “Distracted by Disappointment”

**Scripture:** Luke 24:13-35

**Theme:** As with Mary, does despair sometimes stand in our way – disappointment with how things have turned out? Are we sometimes distracted from our faith by disappointment or despair? How can we deal with this?

##### May 11– Fourth Sunday of Easter – Mother’s Day/Festival of the Christian Home

**Scripture Reader:** Kathy Marquart

**Message:** “G-O-A-T”

**Scripture:** Acts 7:55-60

**Theme:** The label “goat” is usually an insult, following an egregious error in sports. But it can be a compliment. How is that the case, biblically, such as with Stephen?

##### May 18 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Scripture Reader:** Robin Kretzinger

**Pastor Rick on vacation this week. Ed Davies will be the guest preacher**

##### May 25 – Sixth Sunday of Easter/Memorial Day Weekend

**Scripture Reader:** Kathy Brinkman

**Message:** “You have a friend”

**Scripture:** John 14:15-21

**Theme:** God comes alongside us, as the Holy Spirit, any time we are hurting or in distress. God will not leave us by ourselves. What does that say to us as followers of Jesus?