

Lamplighter

focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | 4
NOVEMBER ISSUE 2017



First Christian Church Homecoming November 11-12, 2017!

First Christian Church of Findlay invites you and your family to be part of the church's 2017 Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, November 12,!

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:30 am November 12, featuring an uplifting sermon by our recently installed senior pastor, Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. Age-appropriate worship experiences for children will be provided. A Homecoming Reception will follow the service.

Whether you are a former part of our congregation or someone seeking to grow closer to God, we invite you!!

Homecoming 2017!

Church Events

- **Coming UP!!! November 11-12
130th Anniversary and
Homecoming for First Christian
Church**
- **November 14, 21, 28 - 2 p.m.
Tea & Talk**
- **November 15, 22, 29—9:30 a.m.
Taize Prayer and 6:30 p.m. Bible
Study**
- **November 10, 17, 24— 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**

On Track with Pastor Jack

My tagline for 2017 has become "The Year of the Reunion." During this year, I have attended three family reunions, my high school 40-year class reunion, and homecoming events at three different universities, including two where I never even attended a class!

What have I learned through all of this? Well, besides the importance of finding the best gas prices before embarking upon a long trip, I learned how significant the gift of presence can be.

Much of the American narrative has involved themes around individuals and their ability to "pull themselves up by their own bootstraps" and live lives of success and adventure. My reunions and homecomings helped to shatter this mythological narrative once and for all. Here's how.

During one late summer family reunion, I was privileged to have met a cousin who was a World War II Veteran. As I embraced him, someone took a moment to tell me this man's story, how he fought courageously for the United States against Nazi Germany. Then, my distinguished and honorable veteran cousin spoke for himself, describing his duties in the war, and the ways our country treated Nazi prisoners of war better than my cousin was treated, all because of the color of my cousin's skin. As I listened, I thought to myself that this man's valor, patriotism and commitment to human dignity helped pave the way not just for European freedom but for my freedom and that of my children.

Later, at my college homecoming in the fall, I attended an awards banquet. While I did not receive any kind of recognition during the dinner, I was honored to have spent time with two retired faculty persons who were my professors in two classes, respectively. As I recalled my classroom encounters with both persons, I remembered how much they cared for all of their students and the ways they poured themselves into all of us, particularly those who really wanted to learn. Fresh in my mind were the many words of affirmation and challenge they issued to me directly, particularly when they thought my performance could improve. I am not sure if they knew each other very well during my college days, but back then, it seemed they were working in concert to guide

me toward accomplishing my goals. Without the sense of duty of all my professors, and particularly these two, I am not sure how my life would have evolved.

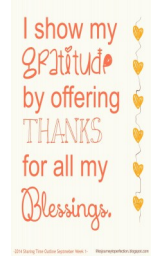
I believe that people do not pull themselves up alone. In my view, God strategically places people in our lives to open doors, break barriers, provide guidance, and issue words of challenge. Much of this takes place without us even knowing about it. Interestingly, God has a way of placing you and me in realms where we may do the same for others.

Through the gift of presence, I was reminded just how much I relied on the service and abilities of others. We all flourish through such reliance. We may be separated by time and distance, and our beliefs and customs may vary. Even so, the fact remains: we need each other.

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2017 Thanksgiving Offering: Support Disciples Higher Education



From the very beginnings of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Currently, **over 50,000 students attend our fourteen Disciples related colleges and universities or seven seminaries and divinity houses. And in the past twelve months, over 12,000 students have graduated from these fine schools.**

On November 12 and 19, Disciples churches across the US and Canada will collect the Thanksgiving offering. Your gift to the Thanksgiving offering **helps to support the work of our institutions of higher learning in many ways: financially supporting Disciples related schools, providing undergraduate scholarships and support for spiritual life offices, and providing scholarships and support for those pursuing theological education.**

This November, please give generously to this year's Thanksgiving offering. Your gifts make a world of difference as Disciples continue our legacy of supporting education and our institutions of higher learning.

The Thanksgiving Offering is an "over and above" our regular offering gift. Please give your planned offering to support the ministries of First Christian Church. Then, use the special envelope in your bulletin to give to the Thanksgiving Offering. Thank you!

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 \$40 per person if registered by November 26th (\$45 the 27th & after) 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.

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 ONLY.

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



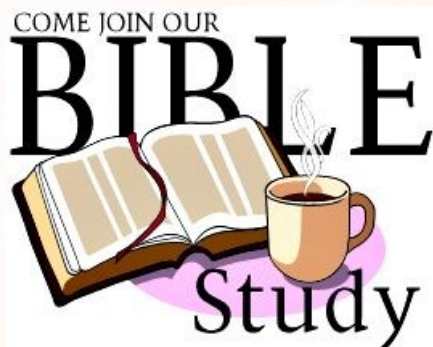


Pastor Jack continues to present, "Tea and Talk with Pastor Jack."

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!



A word about Sutherland Springs, TX, shootings.

From General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens
28 I go about in sunless gloom;

I stand up in the assembly and cry for help.

31 My lyre is turned to mourning,

and my pipe to the voice of those who weep. Job

30:28, 31(NRSV)

How long will we allow high capacity guns to slaughter human beings? The lessons of Las Vegas, Orlando, Sandy Hook, Columbine – all are lost on us. **And now 26 more people murdered in church on a Sunday morning.** And in a quiet, small community of 400 near San Antonio. Mothers, fathers, children.

We don't yet know why the gunman chose to attack in that place at that time, but we do know he had one thing in common with the shooters in all those other cities and towns that suffered mass casualties. He had access to a high-capacity gun.

At the 2015 General Assembly in Columbus, the Disciples gathered there passed a **resolution** "call(ing) on members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to demand of their elected officials that gun safety laws be enacted as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, including: an assault weapon ban, the elimination of the gun show and private-party loophole by requiring mandatory background checks and waiting periods before all firearm purchases, a ban on high capacity magazines, and requiring federally enforced safe firearm storage."

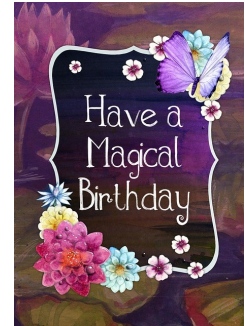
There is a distinction here. These high capacity weapons are not tools for hunting game. These weapons were developed to inflict the greatest damage possible. There is no reason that such guns should be available to civilians.

Church – we are a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. One way to address the destruction is to find ways to move the conversation forward in our communities and our legislatures. Having those tough conversations about how to keep our children safe is a step toward healing the fragmentation. As Representative John Lewis **said today**, it is not enough to mourn and pray. We must act.

God, may we be agents of healing and carriers of your love and peace.

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

11/4 Pat Sharninghouse
11/7 Gene Weist
11/28 Gabriel Riker
No anniversaries this month!



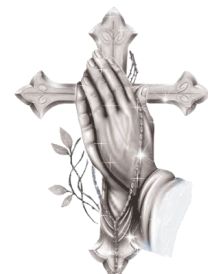
THE RETURN OF YOUTH MINISTRY AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH!

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!!

