

Lamplighter

focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | 3
OCTOBER ISSUE 2017

First Christian Church Homecoming Set for November 11-12, 2017!

Calling all current, past and future members of our beloved First Christian Church! We are pleased to invite you to Homecoming Weekend with First Christian Church, November 11-12, 2017. During Homecoming Weekend, we will reunite with past FCC members, and deepen relationships with current and future church members. We will experience awesome worship services, meals, fellowship and hands-on mission involvement, right here in Findlay!

**Watch for more details and updates,
and plan to be part of First Christian
Church Homecoming 2017!**



Church Events

- October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, -
2 p.m. Tea & Talk
- October 4, 11, 18, 25—9:30
a.m. Taize Prayer and 6:30
p.m. Bible Study
- October 6, 13, 20, 27— 11
a.m. Bible Study
- RENEWED MIND Volunteer
opportunity that continues
- Coming UP!!! November 11
-12 130th Anniversary and
Homecoming for First
Christian Church

On Track with Pastor Jack

What would you do if a news reporter showed up at your door and asked you to explain why you are a Christian and why you are part of the church? Better yet, how would you respond?

Chances are, CNN will not be seek "Breaking News" from your home anytime soon. However, there is a good chance that someone you know well or maybe hardly at all will ask or at least wonder why it is that you profess faith in God through Jesus Christ, and why you spend perfectly good Sunday mornings in a house of worship.

Once upon a time, many of us assumed that nearly everyone around us was a Christian and part of a church somewhere. That assumption led scores of Christians to think there was no need to share their faith. It also created a climate where it was acceptable for the church to be inwardly focused, aiming most of its ministries and services to the folks on the inside of the church. Finally, this assumption helped many to believe the church to be a building rather than human beings dedicated to following Jesus Christ.

By now we know that many people in our families and neighborhoods are not Christians, or if they do believe in Jesus, they are not practicing their faith. Now these realities do not make them bad people. Maybe these realities point to the possibility that they may not understand who God is, what God was and is doing in Jesus Christ, and how faith matters. Maybe they are living in fear, disappointment, or shame. Perhaps they have been discriminated against or have been victimized by violence.

Have you ever thought about how much God loves everyone, and how God extends hope for all through Jesus Christ? Have you considered the ways Jesus broke the chains of social bondage and oppression? Sure you have. How do I know?

I know because each of us has a story about how God's love redeemed us, how God's mercy forgave us, and how God's strength enabled us to persevere. Yes, each of us has a story about God's amazing grace at work in our lives, and our stories are worth telling. as they can help someone find faith in Jesus Christ, experience hope, find healing, and discover purpose.

So why are you a Christian? Why are you part of the church? Take time to answer these questions. Write down your answers, but do not store them in the file cabinets of your heart; share them with your family members, your neighbors, and your friends. Help them experience hope and find meaning for their lives, as you have, in Jesus Christ, not just in the heavenly realm but right here, right now. Stand with them. Help them shatter the glass ceilings of injustice that keep them from reaching their God-given potential. Help them experience God's love. Tell your story. Share your faith.





SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 2017
1 PM – 3 PM
AT
BLACK HERITAGE LIBRARY &
MULTICULTURAL CENTER
FEATURING



ENJOY ACTIVITIES, ENTERTAINMENT & FOOD
ADMISSION FREE HOWEVER DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Renewed Mind

Volunteer opportunity

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!



Event Reminders



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 6:30pm, 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!



Word of Devotion

Faith is Simple (But Not Easy)

. "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive your trespasses." - Mark 11: 25

The first couple times I read through the passage assigned for today (Mark 11: 20 - 25) I totally focused on, "Believe what you say will come to pass, and it will be done for you." I was having Norman Vincent Peale power-of-positive-thinking flashbacks, when without warning Jesus went all Martin Luther King Jr. on me.

I was fired up about faith moving mountains, but suddenly stopped short by "Forgive, if you have anything against anyone."

In the first part of the passage Jesus says, "Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe . . . it shall be done for you."

Strong faith is good, but there's also something seductive about a passage that includes, "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." We, or at least I, find myself imagining all my dreams and wants brought to pass.

I entirely missed that vs. 25, which seems to change the topic, was part of the deal. "Believe and it will be yours," is cheek-by-jowl with, "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that God in heaven may also forgive your trespasses."

One moment all Joel Osteen and then suddenly St. Francis.

It is easy to turn faith into an instrument of me getting what I want. But I kind of think faith is more about God getting what God wants, what God wants in and through us.

I was wondering if maybe Mark needed a better editor, when it occurred to me that, "Forgiving anyone who you have anything against" really is a true mountain-moving project. And maybe the greatest miracle of them all would be to believe you are already, by the grace of God, receiving a new and forgiving heart.

Prayer

For all that keeps us honest and keeps it real — the Scriptures, friends in faith, the church, family and the still small voice of conscience, thank you. Amen.

Birthdays and Anniversary



October Birthdays

10/5 Thomas Riker
10/16 Toni Beltz
10/21 Nancy Peters
10/22 Keaton Kretzinger
10/23 Linda England
10/23 Mercedes Williamson

October Anniversary

10/18 Tom and Mary Thompson



Prayers/Concerns

- ◆ For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment: *Ray Neall, *Fred Kretzinger
- ◆ For those with various health issues and concerns: *Jack (brother-in-law of Charlotte Ballard), *Pat Sharinghouse, *Nancy Peters, * Nancy LaRoche, *Jack Cowart (brother-in-law of Charlotte Ballard), *Donna Foreman, *Barbara England, *Kathleen Schaeffer, *Janet Powell, *Karol Smith,, *Mary Thompson, *Joe Brinkman
- ◆ Prayers for the families upon the recent death of loved ones, Pastor Jack and Gene Weist.
- ◆ 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

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.

Youth Church Begins

First Christian Church is pleased to announce the creation of Youth Church! After the passing of the peace, youth will gather in the youth classroom for a time of age-appropriate worship and study that will be fun and challenging. They will return to the sanctuary in time to celebrate the Lord's Supper with the whole congregation. Youth Church will be led by Sarah Greeno. Please pray for this exciting new ministry to and with youth!

The Return of the First Christian Church Youth Group!

Do you remember the time when the youth ministry of First Christian Church was vibrant and strong? Can you recall how that ministry helped you to know God and understand more about the ministry of Jesus Christ? Well, we are pleased to announce The Return of the First Christian Church Youth Group! Led by Sarah Greeno, youth and parents of First Christian Church and the community met in the church building at 6p on Saturday, September 30 for pizza, getting acquainted activities, Bible study and more! Keep in mind, this is an outreach ministry to youth of First Christian Church AND our community. Please show your support of the The Return of the First Christian Church Youth Group!