



*The Lamplighter*

THE MONTHLY MINISTRY UPDATE OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST), FINDLAY, OHIO  
NOVEMBER 2018

## **FIRST CHRISTIAN TO PARTICIPATE IN ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE NOVEMBER 21**

At 7:00 PM on Wednesday, November 21, 2018, First Christian Church will join four Findlay congregations in a joint Thanksgiving Eve service to be held in the sanctuary of neighboring Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Tiffin Avenue.

In addition to welcoming First Christian Church for this special service, Saint John's will welcome First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church.

The Lutheran congregations are part of the Protestant denomination known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), while First Presbyterian Church is part of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA). First Christian Church's denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is an ecumenical partner with both the ELCA and PCUSA. All three denominations participate in the World, National and Ohio Councils of Churches, respectively.

"This year's ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve gathering, presented during a time of profound social brokenness and pain, will be a unique display of Christian unity, and will serve as a sign of God's hope to participants and the larger community," remarked Pastor Jack Sullivan, Jr., of First Christian Church.

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church worships in a beautiful "A" framed sanctuary at 1701 Tiffin Avenue in Findlay. All members and friends of First Christian Church are requested to attend this special service.

### **LET'S MAKE A DATE!**

- **SUNDAYS @ 9:30 AM** Christian Education classes for all ages.
- **SUNDAYS @ 10:30 AM** Worship
- **WEDNESDAYS @ 9:30 AM** Taize (Tie-Zay) Quiet Prayer Gathering
- **FRIDAYS @ 11 AM** Bible Study on Answering the Toughest Questions About God and the Bible
- **OFFICE CLOSED ON THANKSGIVING DAY AND THE DAY AFTER, NOVEMBER 22 AND 23**



## ON TRACK WITH PASTOR JACK



During the closing days of October, we all were horrifically reminded of the very real presence of evil in our country as we learned of the slaughter of eleven people in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's Tree of Life Synagogue, and the vicious murder of two African Americans in a Kroger store in Jeffersonton, Kentucky by a man who with murderous intent had previously attempted to gain access to a Black Church. The common thread that binds these ghastly crimes together is that of hate. One gunman hated Jewish people and the other despised Black people. To be sure, murder is not the only sign of hate. Words privately and increasingly publicly spoken to scapegoat, stereotype, and invoke suspicion and fear are also signs of hate. At this moment in the life of our nation, people of goodwill and particularly Christians must honestly make known the kind of future to which they are committed to build. If we truly desire a future of common progress, civility, peace and justice, we must now accept our collective responsibility to live lives that are pro-love and anti-

hate; pro-peace and anti-violence. Our commitment to love and peace must not be limited to our own families and networks. We must be willing to speak publicly words that repudiate hate and reject violence. We must not tolerate schemes designed make us fear and dislike each other. We must not let differences become rationale for holding contempt for our neighbors. We in the Christian community owe it to God and our neighbors to project God's vision of love overcoming hate. Such ministry is the only way for Christians and the church to gain and retain theological, spiritual and social credibility in an age of hate and violence. In this season, let us be labelled not by political party but by the gospel of Jesus Christ.



CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

A COVENANT NETWORK OF CONGREGATIONS

## An Advent Retreat For Women

"A Christmas  
Circle"



A time of prayer, reflection, & conversation

*During the Retreat each person will make a live pine wreath to take home.*

**Saturday, December 8th ~ 9am to 3pm**

At the Herald B. Monroe Lodge, Camp Christian

Led by: Rev. Margot Connor & Wendy Taylor

**The cost is \$50 per person if registered by November 29th  
(\$55 the 30th & after)**

**Registration includes lunch & wreath supplies.  
Come the night before for an additional \$25.00**

**To Register, go to [www.ccinoh.org](http://www.ccinoh.org) or pick up a form in First Christian Church's Office. If you have questions, contact the Christian Church in Ohio @ 614.433.0343 or [ccio@ccinoh.org](mailto:ccio@ccinoh.org).**



# 2019 UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SEMINAR FOR YOUTH IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



## Information Sheet for Participants

**Purpose:** The United Nations International Affairs Seminar for Youth challenges youth to learn about international affairs and U.S. foreign policy through study, discussion and presentations in the United Nations Center in New York City and in Washington, D.C. It seeks to encourage faith-based critical thinking and reflection through prayer, worship, discussion and community building.

**Time:** Friday, February 22, 2019, 7:30p.m. thru Saturday, March 2, 2019, 4:00p.m. Departure/Return Location: New Horizons Christian Church, Akron, OH 44110.

**Cost:** \$1010 plus \$200 personal money needed for public transportation, food, souvenirs, etc. Make Checks Payable To Christian Church In Ohio. First payment \$400 with registration by December 12, 2018, short payment plan is available for total cost. (Contact Regional Office)

**Participants:** The trip is limited to 46 high school sophomores, juniors and seniors plus 8 adult sponsors.

**Schedule:** We arrive Friday night at New Horizons Christian Church in Akron, OH for orientation and stay in host homes, travel by charter bus Saturday for New York City, stay at the NYC International Hostel for four nights, spending Saturday night visiting Union Theological Seminary. We worship Sunday at the famous Riverside Church.

Monday begins at the Today Show, then tour the United Nations and World Trade Center memorial. That evening we will visit the Empire State Building after touring Time Square and others sites. Tuesday we will be hearing speakers on relevant topics. An afternoon of site seeing, and then we will see a play on Broadway. Wednesday we travel to Washington DC, and stay at the DC International Hostel for three nights. Share in Ash Wednesday Worship at National City Christian Church. Thursday we tour the Capitol Building and sit in on House and Senate sessions. You will arrange a visit with your Congressional Representative that afternoon. Friday morning, we will share in a Mission Project. Friday afternoon travel groups will explore city sites.

We leave Saturday at 8:00a.m., returning to Akron, Ohio, lunch on the way, and then we have a final closing circle and farewells around 4p.m. These are just some of the events and activities packed into this very exciting week. School Issues: You will miss 5 days of school to attend the Seminar.

All schools will offer excused absences for this quality study event. Some schools will go so far as to not expect work to be made up because of the nature of this trip. Please show your principal the material and discuss what you need to have your absence excused. Rev. Ralph Wearstler and/or your Pastor will write a letter if needed to your Principle or Teacher, as well as the place where you work. This also applies to extracurricular activities: Sports, Band, Choirs, and Theater. Please provide name and address of person to which a letter should be written.

**Job Issues:** For those holding an afterschool or weekend job, most employers see the value in programs like this. Please give them plenty of notice of your absence. We can also provide a letter to your employer or supervisor if needed.

**Requirements:** 1. 400-500 word paper on "The Most Important Purpose of the United Nations". 2. Read selected articles on Immigrants and Immigration Issues (resources will be e-mailed to you, or mailed if e-mail is not available, after first paper and deposit are received.) 3. Write a 2000 word position paper (5 pages) based on reading topics. 4. Provide 2 references: Pastor & Teacher (sent to you after First Payment) 5. Payment of \$1010 (read section on Financial Help) 6. Willingness to live by the "Covenant" during the Seminar.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PASTOR JACK OR PICK UP A REGISTRATION PACKET IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

**SEE LAMPLIGHTER, PAGE 5 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION!**

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO KNOW GOD, KNOW EACH OTHER, AND SERVE GOD THROUGH FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**



**Escape The Noise of Life! Come to the Wednesday Morning Quiet Taize Prayer Sessions** On Wednesday mornings at 9:30, we gather for a time of conversation, soft music and quiet prayer using materials from the Taize (Tie-Zay) Ecumenical Brothers of France. Through singing and prayer, participants grow closer to God and develop bonds that enrich their faith and hope. Come, de-stress, and deepen your walk with Jesus Christ.

**Friday Morning Bible Study, Led By Pat Sharninghouse** Meet us at 11:00 AM on Fridays for study and discussion of the book, **Answering the Toughest Questions About God and the Bible**. (New members are welcome too!) This book written by Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz examines some of the questions and concerns many Christians have about God and the Bible. Whether you are a beginner or Bible study veteran, this class is for you. (Here's a secret: it's fun, too!)

**Helping Hands are Needed!** We need help delivering our donated food items to Chopin Hall food ministry! If you can spare some time to pick up items from the church office cupboard and deliver them to Chopin Hall on a regular basis, it would be greatly appreciated! Please see Elder Linda Pitkin today if you have volunteer times available!!

### **A Renewed Mind—Please remember to keep us on your shopping list!**

Since spring 2017, First Christian Church has engaged in a ministry of compassion and care that has focused on the needs of clients and staff of one of our next door neighbors, the mental/behavioral health center known as A Renewed Mind (ARM). Through the generosity of FCC families and individuals, we have delivered water, juice and snacks that have given nourishment and hope to those who receive and provide life-transformative services at ARM. FCC now needs new volunteers to support this important ministry. Specifically, we need more people to donate refreshments and to deliver them to ARM. Volunteers will deliver a cooler of water/juice and approximately 15-20 healthy snacks to ARM's main office on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 10 AM. For those who purchase refreshments, you are free to choose the items yet please note that we try to provide items that are somewhat healthy. In addition to water and juice, we have delivered fruit cups, granola bars, and small variety bags of chips. **YOU MAY SIMPLY PROVIDE REFRESHMENTS, DELIVER THEM, OR BOTH. YOU MAY ALSO DONATE MONEY TO THIS EFFORT!** Please help us share God's love by giving time and gifts to those who are working to recover good health and faith. Sign up sheets are near north door of our suite. PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL WHO RECEIVE AND GIVE CARE FROM A RENEWED MIND! **THANK YOU!**

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## **A WORD ABOUT THE TREE OF LIFE SYNA- GOGUE ATTACK FROM GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT TERRI HORD OWENS**



Posted on October 28, 2018 at 9:43 am a [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

Yesterday hatred took the lives of faithful people and violated sacred space at the Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh, PA. This tragedy, caused by gun violence and driven by anti-Semitism, should outrage us all. Alongside other Christian leaders, I strongly condemn the actions and motivations of the shooter who caused this carnage. I invite other followers of Jesus to join me in praying for those suffering right now and working to end these horrific episodes in our society that are occurring with alarming frequency.

When people gather for worship they seek to encounter the Divine, connect with one another, and experience a goodness that transcends human limitations. The act of entering holy space is foundational for all religious people and the freedom to do so is fundamental to a free society. It should never be threatened or violated. People created in the Image of God should not fear for their lives – or face their deaths – in a house of worship. This violence occurred in a specific place but it sought to destroy something we all cherish.

In this moment of great mourning, may God's shalom find us all, and especially the members of the Tree of Life Synagogue and the wider Jewish community in the United States. No words can compensate for what was lost. This sorrow will last for many nights. Joy will only find us when the morning dawns on a new day when God's vision for peace is realized in our society.

Happy  
Birthday!

## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

11/4 Pat Sharninghouse

11/7 Gene Weist

11/28 Gabriel Riker

P.S. We missed the Miller twins Birthday on October 10th!!!

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## **OHIO CYF INVITES HIGH-SCHOOLERS TO JOIN IN ENGAGING WITH FAITH AND POLITICS**

Posted on October 5, 2018 at 3:22 pm on [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

*Submitted by Rev. Alan Dicken, an Ohio Disciples Pastor in Cincinnati*

Religion and politics – two things you are not supposed to talk about at dinner. And yet, it is always important to know how your faith informs the rest of your life. Deciding to follow Jesus means following Christ in the classroom, at work, and in the community. Now more than ever, it is important to know how our faith shapes policies made in this country and around the world.

It is in that spirit, that the [Ohio](#) CYF (Christian Youth Fellowship) embarks every two years on a “UN Seminar” trip. For a week, high schoolers from around the state travel to New York City and Washington D.C. to explore how faith and politics impact one another.

While in the Big Apple, students tour the United Nations Building (technically leaving U.S. soil briefly)! We meet with representatives of Church World Service and the Nation Council of Churches. In our nation’s capital, students have a chance to meet with congressional representatives, and sometimes even one of the senators of the Buckeye State. The UN Seminar participants have the opportunity to visit the Holocaust Museum, the National Museum of African American History, and many other fascinating places of learning.

While there are many opportunities for education and chances to interact with decision makers in our country, there are also a lot of other experiences to be had on the UN Seminar! Throughout the week, participants participate in a service project, see a play, go to the top of the Empire State Building, take in a Broadway musical, worship in some of our nation’s important Disciples churches, and go sightseeing all over!

Traditionally, this has been an experience reserved for Ohio high schoolers, but we would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone and everyone from high schools all over the country who would like to join us on this once in a lifetime trip! We’ll be going from Feb. 22- March 2, 2019 and all are welcome to apply! **(See Lamplighter, page 3 for more details.)**





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**DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DELIVER**

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

## PEOPLE AND SITUATIONS WE ARE PRAYING FOR

- \* For murder victim families and those injured in the Kentucky, Texas, Nevada, Florida, Maryland, Pennsylvania and other domestic terror shootings and violence;
- \* For those with cancer and undergoing Cancer Treatment: Fred Kretzinger, and others;
- \* For those struggling with addiction and other mental health issues, and for their families and caregivers;
- \* For those with various health issues and concerns: Kathleen Schaffer, Nancy and Gary LaRoche, Donna Foreman, Sandy Franz, Janet Powell, Joe Brinkman, Mary Thompson;
- \* For people who are lonely and living in emotional pain;
- \* For those who are bound to their homes or care facilities;
- \* For those impacted by natural and human-caused disasters, particularly in North Carolina, South Carolina and Asia;
- \* For those who protect and serve us here in Findlay, domestically and around the world;
- \* For peaceful solutions to conflicts; for the healing of broken police/citizen relationships; and for fair and just immigration laws that do not separate families at our borders.
- \* For those who experience discrimination and hateful and hostile treatment;
- \* For those who give care and work for social justice and the end of poverty, hate and systemic oppression;
- \* For the president, for congress, our governor, our mayor and all public servants;
- \* For the United States and all other nations;
- \* For victims of global and domestic terrorism, for refugees fleeing and trying to find new host/home countries, for those facing deportation, and for the healing of political fractures in our country;
- \* For those seeking employment, for those who are having trouble making ends meet;
- \* For those who are imprisoned
- \* For the Christian Church in Ohio

***First Christian Church is joyfully affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) US and Canada. [www.disciples.org](http://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.***

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**The Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., Senior Pastor; Robin Kretzinger, Minister of Worship;  
Mi Moon, Pianist; Pennie Wells and Rob Montgomery, Office Administrators;  
Lisa Wolfe, Custodian**