

# First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

33 N. Arlington Ave., Niles, OH 44446

News and Events Around  
Your Church



Mission Statement:

We celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ by witnessing, loving, growing, and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

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## SUMMER WORSHIP 10 A.M.

Pentecost is my favorite church holiday. Though I suppose I have a tendency to proclaim that my favorite holiday is the one that we are celebrating at the time. In the winter, Christmas is my favorite. In the early spring, Easter. And right now, I love Pentecost. But there is something different about Pentecost. While Christmas and Easter and even Pentecost are events that happened in the past, the Season of Pentecost is still upon us. Christ has been born and Christ has died and Christ has come again. Those seasons have come and gone leaving us with the yearly cycle to celebrate, but Pentecost has happened and is still happening. The Holy Spirit came...and is still here. And in this we rejoice. Perhaps that is why Pentecost is my favorite Christian Holiday, it is the holiday that we celebrate because it is upon us, and therefore the Spirit is upon us, every day, every hour, every moment of our lives.

Yet our celebration does not often reflect that aspect of our lives. Of the three holidays, Pentecost is the background noise. After all, when Christmas time comes around we decorate, we celebrate; we live out our values publicly from Thanksgiving (and sometimes from Halloween) all the way to mid-January. Even with Easter our celebration lasts seven weeks. Why then is Pentecost only a day? Shouldn't Pentecost, the moment when the Holy Spirit came down and entered into creation, constantly be at the forefront of our focus throughout the year? And if it were, if we lived in constant celebration of the Spirit's presence in our lives, how would this world be changed? Those verses in Acts that describe the early church come to mind:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Act 2:42-47)

This month then, once the Sunday celebration of Pentecost has moved past, continue to celebrate, continue to live out those values of the Realm of God, and continue to live through and with the Holy Spirit of the Divine in our midst. As the season of summer, in all of its beauty and distraction, falls upon us, may we continue to recognize that we are still living in the holiday of Pentecost. May we realize that the Holy Spirit's presence is not a once a year type of event, or an event that happened to the early disciples sometime in past history, but rather that this is an event that has started in that first Pentecost moment and will continue until the Kingdom of God is fully realized on this earth. And not until that moment should we cease our celebration or cease to live through the Divine presence that pervades this moment as it has saturated our history and will continue into our future. Join me in our celebration! Pastor Chris

2017 PENTECOST OFFERING 'Churches Change the World...' - Our Pentecost Special Offering will be received on **PENTECOST SUNDAY, this Sunday, June 4** and also on Sunday, **June 11**. Your gifts to Pentecost Special Offering support the New Church Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Pentecost Special Offering envelopes will be available in the pew racks on June 4 and June 11.

OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING JUNE 25 - All church boards, departments, circles and youth groups must have a financial report for January through June 2017 ready to present to the board. Just a reminder that a quorum is needed in order to conduct church business. If you are a board member, please plan to attend.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "Hero Central" will be held here at First Christian Church **SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 through THURSDAY, AUGUST 10**, coordinated by Shelly Pressell and Anna Circle. Sign-up sheets are posted in the main hallway for volunteers and donations needed. Sign up ASAP!!

2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be held **JULY 8-12** at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, IN. Cost is \$190 for adults; young adults (18-30) is \$150. For more info and to register online visit [disciples.org/ga](http://disciples.org/ga).

PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBER Jennifer Lyszaz to our church family. Jennifer transferred her membership and joined our congregation on April 30. We wish Jennifer God's blessing in her new church home.

OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION is extended to David Moore, Billie Neuman and all members of the Senior Choir for an excellent year of music. Special music is planned throughout the summer. If anyone is interested in providing special music in the summer, please contact David Moore (330.652.8226). Choir will enjoy a pot luck dinner tomorrow, June 1 at 6 p.m. in fellowship hall.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR JUNE 11 will be provided by The Bridge. A **POT LUCK DINNER** will follow in fellowship hall, sponsored by Disciples Men. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert. Men's Group will supply fried chicken. There will be a free will offering at the end of the service for The Bridge. Everyone is encouraged to bring a guest to the event. Fun, food, fellowship and good music!

2 AND 3 YEAR OLD CLASS SERVICE PROJECT UPDATE: \$900 was collected from our congregation and church groups to go to Homes for Kids designated for '*a home for Jamie and her siblings*'. Many thanks to those who donated to this worthy cause.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Lillian (Elsie) O'Brien who passed away on May 13.

CHURCH FAMILY MEMBERS are invited to attend Rea Gaugler-Beuter's High School Graduation Open House this Sat., June 3 from 4 to 7 p.m. in fellowship hall.



KNOTTY GIRL QUILTERS will enjoy lunch at the Olive Garden Wed., June 7 at 11:45 a.m. and then will quilt at the church from 1 to 4 p.m. on the lower level.

DISCIPLE WOMEN'S JAIL MINISTRY TEAM will be conducting worship services on the Mondays of June 5 and June 19 at 6:45 p.m. at the Trumbull County Jail.

FCC VOLUNTEERS will serve a dinner **Tuesday, June 27** from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley, 962 Martin Luther King Blvd. in Youngstown, coordinated by Becky Carpenter. Desserts need to be to the church **before 11:30 a.m.** using buzzer and door closest to the library parking lot.

A CYF MEETING/LUNCH (for grades 9-12) will be held this Sunday, June 4 following worship in the CYF Room to finalize plans for their upcoming Mission Trip to Cincinnati in June. A **ROCK-A-THON** has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 10 at 7 p.m. at church. Please sponsor our youth with this fundraiser!

ANNA CIRCLE'S 19TH ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY BASKET WINNERS WERE: Kathy McCormick (Flowers Galore), Ellen Lott (It's Picnic Time) and Jo-May Yoder (It's Grilling Time). Congratulations to all!



OHIO WOMEN'S MINISTRY (OWM) BLANKET MONTH is being observed during June. Blankets are among the most valuable resources Church World Service provides in an emergency. They can be used as makeshift tents, hammocks, or filled with belongings and carried following a disaster. Church World Service is able to buy good wool or cotton blend blankets in bulk at a cost of \$5 each. Checks should be made out to First Christian Church and marked 'blankets'. Church World Service blanket envelopes will be available on the narthex table.

#### JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

June 1 Jeanette Franklin	June 9 Jill Fowler	June 12 Roni Jornigan	June 22 James Fowler
June 1 Richard Mahan, Jr.	June 9 Betsy Sheldon	June 13 Connor Ledsome	June 22 Jean Newman
June 5 Charlene Sampson	June 10 Kurt Hellam	June 15 McKayla Jornigan	June 24 Katie Mahan
June 7 Janet Shonk	June 10 Beverly McCloskey	June 15 Lorie Preston	June 26 Francine Livi
June 7 Sharon Yanek	June 12 Carl Graham	June 21 Brianna Ledsome	June 28 Virginia Swegan

MISSIONS COMMITTEE is designating the Sundays of **June 18** and **June 25** as '**SOCK SUNDAYS**'. They are asking the congregation to please donate socks to be distributed to Niles Community Services and the Rescue Mission.



LYDIA CIRCLE IS SELLING COOKIES for graduations/weddings. If anyone is interested, please call Beverly McCloskey (330.538.9994) or Martha Hellam (330.856.5768).

WE EXTEND OUR DEEP APPRECIATION AND THANKS to our Church School Teachers and Youth Leaders for all their hard work during the year. They include: **Beginners:** Patricia Mount and Joyce Mahan; **Ages 4 and Kindergarten:** Betsy Sheldon; **Grades 1 and 2:** Madison Havaich; **Grades 3, 4, 5:** Keith and Leslie Lamp; **Middle School (Grades 6, 7, 8):** Stephanie Bevilacqua; **Senior High (Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12):** Stacy Gaugler; **Preschool during Worship** under the direction of Rea Gaugler; **Junior Church Leaders (Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4):** Trishia Bassett, Becky Brothers, Nancy Davis, Kyra Franklin, Marlene Garcar, Lynn Gombos, Martha Hellam, Jen Jornigan, Joyce Mahan, Billie Neuman, Shelly Pressell, Betsy Sheldon, Janet Shonk, Kathy Sprague, Amanda Stark, Georgeanne Walters and Jo-May Yoder; **CYF Advisor:** Stacy Gaugler; **Chi Rho Advisors:** Jen Jornigan and Shelly Pressell; **Church School Secretaries:** Shirley Benedict, Nancy Davis, Joe Prox, Ellen Sheldon and Janet Shonk.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER ITEMS is **Mon., June 26** by 11:30 a.m.



JUNE NEWSNOTES . . . . Elders will meet this Sun., June 4 following worship in the library . . . . Disciples Men will meet this Sun., June 4 at 8 a.m. at Perkins . . . . Stewardship and Finance will meet Sun., June 11 at 9 a.m. . . . TMH Psych Unit Worship Service will be held Sunday, June 11 at 2 p.m. . . . Anna Circle ladies will meet Monday, June 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor . . . . Lydia Circle Picnic will be held Wed., June 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Carol Souders, 100 Camrose Dr., Niles. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share . . . . Ohio Women's Ministry (OWM) is collecting **canned chicken, tuna, meat** for Niles Community Services during the month of June. Donations may be placed in the cabinet in the main hallway . . . . Pastor Chris, Howard Gerke, Don Lott, David Post, David Pressell and Don Trunick attended the Dist. 4 Men's Spring Rally at Bolindale Christian Church on May 7 . . . . Alice Cosgrove and Georgeanne Walters attended Church Women United May Fellowship Day . . . . At our Mother's Day worship service, Jane Porter won for oldest mother present (93), Chalee Secrest won for youngest mother present (29) and the Prox Family won for most family members present. Congratulations to all! . . . . A good time was had by all at our All Daughters Dinner held on May 15. Many thanks to our Men's Group for all their help! . . . . God's blessings to Savannah Gardner, daughter of Jessica and Brian Gardner, and Ellie Stark, daughter of Pastor Chris and Amanda Stark, who were dedicated on May 28 . . . .

NEWS & EVENTS  
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