

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
Niles, OH 44446
www.firstchristianniles.org
Rev. Christopher Stark, Minister

10:00 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE

JULY 6, 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the presence of the Triune God:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit,
whose love knows no boundaries.

**We come to be renewed in the dance of grace,
called not to exclusion, but to reconciliation.**

The One who makes all things new
has entrusted us with a ministry of mending,
a mission of mercy, a message of peace.

In Christ, the old has passed away.

A new creation is already bearing fruit among us.

So join in the dance! Step into the circle of love.

Widen your hearts, expand your hope,
open your lives to neighbor and stranger alike.

Let us worship the God

whose encircling love draws the whole world in.

OPENING HYMN "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" vs. 1-3 CH 461

v. 1 Lord, whose love through humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
offered mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone but heart,
consecrating to your purpose
every gift that you impart.

v. 2 Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
use the love your Spirit kindles
still to save and make us whole.

v. 3 As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to tireless striving
your abundant life to share.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

SILENT PRAYER

MORNING PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5: 1-21

NT p. 181

HOMILY

'ENCIRCLING LOVE: DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE'

AT THE TABLE

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BLESSING OVER BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION BY INTINCTION

We are going forward for communion. A piece of bread will be placed into your cupped hands then you will take a cup from the communion tray. If you prefer to receive your communion packaged, those too will be available when you go forward. If you are unable to come forward a deacon will bring communion to you.

DOXOLOGY 'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow' CH 46

PRAYERS OVER TITHES AND OFFERINGS

CLOSING HYMN "Pass It On" vs. 1-3 CH 477

- v. 1 It only takes a spark
to get a fire going,
and soon all those around
can warm up in its glowing;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.
- v. 2 What a wondrous time is spring
when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing,
the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.
- v. 3 I wish for you, my friend,
this happiness that I've found-
on God you can depend,
it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top,
I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

(Hymns used by permission CCLI License # 2841151)

BENEDICTION

Go now in the grace of the Triune God:
the One whose very being is love in motion,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit.
Let your life reflect the holy rhythm
of reconciliation and renewal.
Do not narrow your love,
for God has drawn the circle wide.
Do not close your heart,
for Christ has broken every dividing wall.
Do not walk alone,
for the Spirit calls us into community that heals.
Go in peace:
as ambassadors of grace,
as participants in the dance,
as creators of new beginnings.
And may the encircling love of God
move through you into the world.
Amen.

ELDERS MEETING today followig worship.

COMMUNAL KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP 'How to Bake Communion Bread' will take place at 1 p.m. today.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 'Road Trip – On the Go with God' will be held here at First Christian **Sunday, August 3 through Thursday, August 7** from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. for Pre-K thru the completion of 6th grade. Dinner will be provided. Reservation forms are available in the narthex. **RSVP by July 21** to the church office (330-652-5839) or email Shelly Pressell: srpressell@gmail.com.

VBS WORK NIGHT will be held this Wednesday, July 9 from 6-8 p.m. in fellowship hall and will continue on the Wednesday evenings of July 16, 23 and 30.

FOR OUR 10 A.M. SUMMER WORSHIP, activity bags are available on the front pew for children remaining in worship.

IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED in providing special music in the summer, please contact David Moore (330.646.9337).

PRAYER REQUESTS – Contact Pastor Chris at 330.442.2558 so that our praises and prayer concerns might be held in prayer throughout the week.

BUDGET RECEIPTS RECEIVED IN JUNE:	\$13,663.40
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CALENDAR

Sun.	10 a.m.	Worship Service
	11 a.m.	Elders Meeting
	1 p.m.	'How to Bake Communion Bread'
Wed.	6-8 p.m.	VBS Work Night – fellowship hall