

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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"Truth is such a rare thing it is delightful to tell it" ~Emily Dickinson

The truth seems to be in short supply these days. From every direction it seems that there are those that would lead astray with half-truths, falsehoods, deceptions, and fabrications. From prevaricate politicians practicing in the pretend to mendacious media meddling in mistruths, it is disheartening how the virtue of simply telling truth no longer tames our tongues. And yet we of faith are called to stand stalwart against steaky deceits. Throughout the scriptures we find that those who seek God find the Divine in truth. From Genesis to Revelation we are reminded that the Creator is revealed in Truth with that capital T. And that, in our emulation of God Almighty, as we strive to step over the chasm that Christ cured, we must speak only truth, so far as we are able though we see through a mirror darkly.

Providentially, the inspired words from God illuminate what the world strives to make us forget. That the truth shall set us free. That The Way, The Truth, and The Life has come to lay bare the deceits of humanity. That the worst evils that face humanity come from those satans who deceive with malice. That the Spirit of Truth, which we have received and which abides with us, demands that we speak unadulterated truth to the misled of this creation. That the Christ has called upon the Creator that we might be sanctified, made holy, in the truth that has been passed to us. That the sure foundation of the love which binds us together does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in Truth!

It is precisely in this moment that we have been called to speak truth, to seek truth, and to be truth-tellers to a world which has been misguided by those who deal in lies. But we are being deceived as well! Conspiracy theories like QAnon are purposely developed to lead the faithful flock astray. The Nations of the world which have a vested interest in the demise of American and Global democracy have ensnared those of faith to spread the very misinformation that we should soundly condemn. Interests that are not of the Realm of God have firm hold of our divisions within the Body of Christ and seek to further schism this broken body.

My brothers and sisters this should not be so! We have fallen prey to the very things that we are called to stand against! Gird your loins against these betrayers! Don your belt of Truth! Think critically about what you consume that it might lead you to truth. Put away all falsehood, and let all of us speak the truth and only the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. And until the fully realized Realm arrives and relieves us of our duties, may we guard the truth jealously, may we defend the truth above all, that others might find Truth and believe. May it be so! Pastor Chris

OUR SUNDAY MORNING ZOOM FELLOWSHIP CONTINUES! Whether you attend our Sunday Worship online or in person, you can still join in fellowship each Sunday morning on Zoom. Every Sunday from 9-9:30 (even after the time change) our congregation virtually joins together for conversation and fellowship. If you would like to participate look for an email invitation late each week. And if you would like to know how to access zoom, contact Pastor Chris for a walk-through.

LET'S START ANOTHER SMALL GROUP STUDY! What would you like to know more about? Theology? Current events? A book of the Bible? Church History? Pastor Chris' next focus is up to you. If there is a topic or study that you would like to learn more about, please contact Pastor Chris to get things started.

IN PERSON WORSHIP IS AT 10 A.M. We will still have online worship if you prefer to join us from the comfort of your home. If you plan on joining in worship in-person, please call the church office and reserve a seat so that we can adequately and safely prepare for your presence in worship. Everyone is required to wear a mask.

OUR FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE will begin on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13** at 10:45 a.m.

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

AN OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING will be held on Sunday, September 20 in the sanctuary following worship. The Board Meeting will be available through Zoom for those members who wish to attend from home.

RECONCILIATION SPECIAL OFFERING SEPTEMBER 27 AND OCTOBER 4. This offering provides the primary support of Disciples' efforts to advocate for, educate about and organize to eradicate systemic racism and structural oppression within our ministries and institutions, as well as the communities and cultures that we serve. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry! Mark your check '**Reconciliation**' and mail to the church office or put in the offering tray.

FCC VOLUNTEERS are scheduled (subject to change) to serve a dinner on **Tuesday, September 29** 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 by 11 a.m.



WE EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES to Joe and Cherie Prox as they celebrate their 57th Wedding Anniversary on September 21st.

A CHURCH WOMEN UNITED BOARD MEETING will be held Friday, September 4 at 10:30 a.m. here at First Christian in the sanctuary.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:



Sept. 1 Danny Yanek	Sept. 10 James Sheldon	Sept. 22 Alice Cosgrove	Sept. 28 Chalee Secrest
Sept. 2 Trishia Bassett	Sept. 15 Carol Souders	Sept. 23 Rick Bassett	Sept. 28 Richard Yanek
Sept. 3 Jen Jornigan	Sept. 19 Ron Tenney	Sept. 25 Frankie Bassett	Sept. 30 Bonnie Moore
Sept. 9 Reese Blöse	Sept. 19 Georgeanne Walters	Sept. 25 Solomon Yoder	

PASTOR CHRIS STARK CONTACT INFO: cell phone 330.442.2558; email address pastorchrisstark@gmail.com.

PLEASE REMEMBER to keep your email addresses current with the church office so that we can communicate most effectively. Thank you.

CARDS CAN BE SENT TO Amanda Stonebraker at Liberty Arms Nursing Home, 1353 Churchill-Hubbard Rd., Youngstown, OH 44505.

CARD MINISTRY TO INDIVIDUALS - If you know of someone who needs a greeting card from our church, contact either Steve Lamp (330.469.4509) or Pastor Chris (330.442.2558).

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SEPTEMBER NEWSNOTES: **Lydia Circle** ladies will get together Wednesday, September 9 at 7 p.m. in the church parlor **Protective Face Masks** are available at the church office if you are in need of one. They can be picked up during normal office hours **Ohio Women's Ministry** is collecting **peanut butter** and **jelly** for Niles Community Services during the month of September. Donations may be placed in the cabinet in the main hallway **Jigsaw Puzzles** are available from the church library. If you would like to pick up a puzzle to work, stop by the church during regular office hours

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