

February 2018

# The Cornerstone

Christ Church United Methodist  
700 S. Marshall Road, Middletown OH 45044  
513-422-7364 (telephone) • 513-422-2161 (fax) • [www.christum.com](http://www.christum.com)

“Impacting the  
Community for CHRIST”



## Staff

Norman H. Coleman III, Senior Pastor  
Jen Grams, Director of Children's Ministries  
Debbie Alexander, Director of Music Worship  
Betsy Balger, Accompanist  
Julie Coleman, Office Manager

## Sunday Worship Services

8:30 am - Traditional Worship  
10:45 am - Children's Worship,  
Christ Cinema (Rm. 22)  
11:00 am - Contemporary Worship

## Group Study

### Sunday Adult Classes

Room 113: *Calvary Class*  
Room 115: *Sojourners Class*  
Room 118: *Searchers Class*  
Library: *ReachOut*

### Nursery Care

8:30 am - noon, Ages 0-Pre-K, Rm. 27 & 29

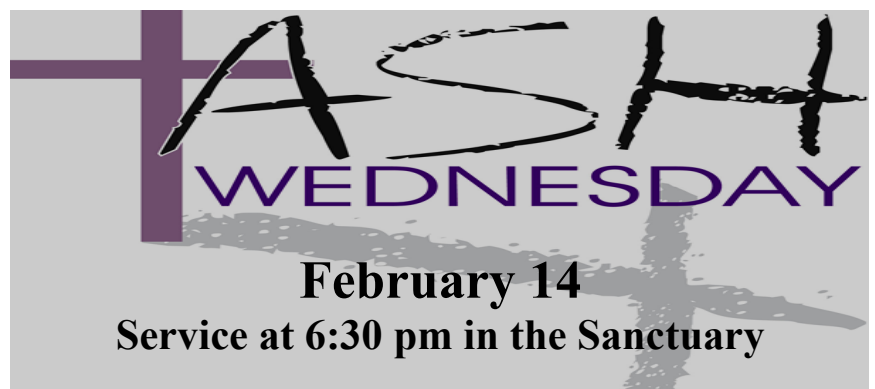
### Sunday Children's Classes

11:00 am - K & Up, Rm. 23

## LENTEN SEASON BEGINS WITH NEW SERIES



After the great confession of Peter concerning the true identity of Jesus, He (Jesus) set His heart and eyes toward Jerusalem, His final destination where He would give His life for humanity, rise on the third day for our justification, and ascend to the Father in preparation for His return and our eventual home coming. In this Lenten series which begins Sunday, February 18, we will follow Jesus' path in prayerful hope that we might be inspired to set our eyes on our road to resurrection and to a better understanding and celebration on Easter Sunday.



# Letter from the Pastor



Dear Church Family and Friends,

Valentine's Day is fast approaching . . . the day set aside to express our love and devotion to those for whom we truly care about. For others, it is simply another day or an opportunity to put love into action. And for some it is a day of expectation to receive love and affection. A "Valentine" is generally defined as *"a card sent, often anonymously, on St. Valentine's Day (February 14) to a person one loves or is attracted to; a person to whom one sends a card on Valentine's Day."* (source: online dictionary - Google)

In anticipation of this upcoming day, I thought it appropriate to share what it means to love God in Christ . . . with all . . . heart, soul, mind and strength. Let me begin with this familiar scripture story of Jesus' reunion with the disciples on the shores of the Sea of Tiberias.

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these . . ." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me . . ." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"* - John 21:15 (ESV)

This was a piercing question for Peter that morning when Jesus met them on the shore. Peter had denied knowing Jesus the night He was betrayed and that had to be weighing heavy on his heart and mind. Peter truly loved Jesus but needed to be reminded of his love so he could move forward and live it out in deed and in truth.

This is also a piercing question for us. Do we truly love the Lord our God in Christ Jesus? Do we need to be continually reminded of that love. The answer lies in how often we choose to deny Jesus or follow Him. In our humanity with its sinful nature, we will always need to be reminded of

God's love for us. I believe the closer and more intimate you become in your relationship with Christ, the less you need reminding of His love for you.

So what does it mean to love God? Following are two essential ways we can express our love to God in Jesus.

**Obedience.** Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep my commandments." - John 14:15

**Love others . . . in deed and in truth.** Love is something you do sacrificially for others that brings the feeling and emotions we often mistake as love. - John 3:18; John 4:7

Perhaps Jesus is asking us to make Him our valentine. After all, He has already made us His! May God richly bless.

In Jesus,

*Pastor Norm*



*Thank you . . .*

Julie and I both want to thank you for your generous monetary gifts this Christmas. We have been truly blessed by your love and support, and count it an honor and privilege to be able serve along side you in ministry.

*In Christ,  
Norman and Julie*

# Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

The story of the two sisters of Bethany, Mary and Martha, is a familiar one. And as women you can probably resonate easily with one of these sisters. In Joanna Weaver's study, you will be guided and instructed as to how you might draw closer to Jesus with less stress and a greater joy.

This new seven-week Bible Study for women will begin **Tuesday, February 20**, at 7:00 pm in the Library. If you are planning to participate, please contact Joan Peterson at [j.peterson7074@gmail.com](mailto:j.peterson7074@gmail.com) or the church office at 422-7364 by February 5.

## SHALOM

SHALOM wishes to thank everyone who assisted and ministered to our homeless guests during our first week as host church following Christmas. This ministry cannot happen without you, and so your support and willingness to serve is truly appreciated.

Christ Church will be serving as host church for a second week beginning on January 28. Volunteers are needed to supervise our guests in the evening from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm and to provide meals. There are also snack and breakfast items that are needed and, of course, monetary donations are always welcome as there will be items that will need to be purchased to assist our guests.

Thank you again for loving and caring for the homeless in our community and for providing for their needs.



The Food you love, the time you deserve.™

## Everyone is Invited!

A second "Meal Prep Workshop" will be held on **Saturday, March 17**, beginning at 12:00 pm in the church kitchen where you will learn to prep meals using recipes and spices from Tastefully Simple. Please feel free to invite friends and family as this will be a fun time of fellowship and learning. For specific information about the cost and recipe details, please see Jane Tipton or Leslie O'Hara.



## LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING

Our *Loose Change Offering* on February 4 will provide hats, mittens, socks, underwear, clothing, supplies and other items for children in need at Creekview Elementary. Your loose change is a Valentine that keeps on giving to the children in our neighborhood.



If you have a passion for the smallest among us, your help is needed in the nursery on Sunday mornings especially during the second service. To volunteer, please see Jen Grams.

# COMEDY

for a Cause




Featuring Comedian

**Saturday, February 24, 2018**

**6pm-8pm**

**Doors open at 5:30pm**

**Admission \$5**

**L** **SILENT AUCTIONS**

**V** Music  
**€** Food  
Fun & Laughter!

Help us make  
a  
**DIFFERENCE!**

**Our sponsored students...**



**Maria del Rosario**



**Mario Jose**



**Samuel Eliseo**



**Carlos Raymundo**

# MEN'S Breakfast



## INVITING ALL MEN!

Breakfast at Frisch's

Saturday, February 17, at 9:00 am

For more information: contact Bob Gast at (513) 423-7890

## A note from . . .

*Always remember how special you are to Him and how much you mean to us! Happy 2018 to all. Thank you for remembering us with the cards/notes. It is no longer possible for me to bring Tom to Christ Church for worship from our home in Germantown, Ohio. I do get us to the Germantown UMC. Missing you all.  
Tom and Diane Hayes*



The United Methodist Women  
*will meet*  
Thursday, February 15, at 10:00 am  
in Room 113

Program Speaker will be Lisa Fields from Hope House who will be sharing information about programs for women in the Middletown community

# Aspire

Speaker & Comedian  
ANITA RENFROE



Author & Speaker  
BARB ROOSE



Worship with  
MIA KOEHNE



One Evening  
- 3 hours -  
Just for Women  
full of laughter, learning,  
stories & music

**FRIDAY  
APRIL 20, 2018**

**LANDMARK CHURCH**  
1600 GLENDALE MILFORD RD  
CINCINNATI OH 45246

7:00PM SHOW

6:30 PM GA DOORS OPEN  
6:00 PM VIP DOORS OPEN

ADVANCE TICKETS  
\$25.00 Gen. Admission | \$35.00 VIP  
\$20.00 Groups of 10 or more.  
Group sales call 480-812-1100

VIP ticket includes early entry for preferred seating and Q-n-A session with all the speakers and artists.



Purchase tickets at 480-812-1100 or online at:  
[ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com](http://ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com)



Thank you for your generous support of our Thanksgiving and Christmas basket project. Eight families in the Middletown area were blessed by you this past Christmas. Each family received 4-5 boxes of non-perishable food, a Kroger gift certificate to buy perishable food and presents for each member of their family. In addition, each family received a pre-cooked Thanksgiving dinner from a local store. Whether you gave money, donated food items, adopted a family, bought presents, delivered a basket or prayed for these families, YOU made the holiday season a little brighter and a little more hopeful for these eight families.

*The Missions Team*

# February

- 2/1 SHALOM
- 2/2 SHALOM
- 2/3 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Kitchenette  
SHALOM
- 2/5 12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115  
12:00 pm Yoga, 24  
5:00 pm Girls Scouts, Kitchen
- 2/6 3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117  
6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115
- 2/7 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study, 113  
12:30 pm NAMI, Library  
5:00 pm Men's Choir, Sanctuary  
5:30 pm Girl Scout Leaders, 23  
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary  
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library  
7:00 pm Girl Scout Service Unit, 113  
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 2/10 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library  
12:00 pm Girl Scouts World Thinking Day,  
NLC
- 2/12 12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115  
12:00 pm Yoga, 24
- 2/13 3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117  
6:00 pm Admin Team, 113  
6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115
- 2/14 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study, 113  
12:30 pm NAMI, Library  
6:00 pm Girl Scouts, NLC, 23  
6:30 pm ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE,  
Sanctuary  
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
- 2/15 10:00 am United Methodist Women, 113
- 2/16 7:00 pm Shine Ministry Retreat & Renewal  
for Women, Sanctuary/NLC
- 2/17 7:00 am Shine Ministry Retreat & Renewal  
for Women, Sanctuary/NLC  
9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library  
9:00 am Men's Breakfast, Frisch's
- 2/19 12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115  
12:00 pm Yoga, 24  
5:00 pm Congregational Care, Library
- 2/20 3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117  
6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115  
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library
- 2/21 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study, 113  
12:30 pm NAMI, Library  
6:00 pm Corinne Minor Recital  
(Fundraiser), Sanctuary  
6:00 pm Girl Scouts, NLC, 23  
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
- 2/24 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library  
11:00 am Girl Scout Cookie Pick-Up,  
Kitchenette  
6:00 pm Impact Guatemala "Comedy for  
a Cause", NLC
- 2/26 12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115  
12:00 pm Yoga, 24
- 2/27 3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117  
6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115  
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library
- 2/28 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study, 113  
12:30 pm NAMI, Library  
6:00 pm Choir, Sanctuary  
6:00 pm Girl Scouts, NLC, 23  
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library  
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary

# February Birthdays

- 3 Jim Murry  
Tom Sparks
- 4 Beulah Gibbs  
Don Hawkins
- 6 Gary Daugherty
- 10 Vicki Greider  
Jack Myers
- 11 Jack Achberger
- 12 Emily Miller
- 13 Jeff Berns
- 14 Rachael Siewny
- 15 Vera Ward
- 16 Becky Leonard
- 17 Sue Hounshell  
Rex Lawson
- 18 Lexi Grams  
Pam Johnson
- 19 Jayne Achberger
- 20 Ray Peterson
- 21 Janet Layne
- 22 Shirley Cox  
Anthony Day
- 23 Betsy Balger  
Jim Buckey
- 24 Pam Seibold
- 25 Joshua Kassner  
Mark Ward
- 26 Tonia Caudle  
Walker Williamson

# February Anniversaries

- 1 Jack and Jayne Achberger
- 2 Kevin and Lisa Johnson
- 12 Jim and Debbie Alexander
- 14 Don and Sandy Smith
- 16 Scott and Becky Leonard

## Condolences

Rex and Debbie Lawson & Family upon  
the death of Debbie's brother, William  
Reynolds, on December 26

Wilma Thompson & Family upon the  
death of Rita Hendricks on December 28

## Thank You

Thank you, Christ Church, for your very generous support of the Salvation Army food pantry during 2017. You donated over \$4,700 to purchase needed items for the pantry and almost 2,800 pounds of groceries that were distributed at the pantry. Christ Church continues to be the largest private donor of food to the pantry! Thank you for your heart of mission in our community.

*The Mission Committee*

### From the Salvation Army . . .

Thank you Christ United Methodist for adopting families for Christmas. It is truly a blessing to partner with you to help families in our community. The families are able to see Jesus in you this Christmas. God bless you and Merry Christmas.

Thank you to all who helped support our hat and glove drive for Creekview Elementary. Your generosity allowed us to take more than 50 hats and pairs of gloves to students who might not otherwise have them during the cold weather we have had this winter. Some of the hats were even handmade by our congregation . . . an additional love blessing! Praise God for such a loving and giving church family!

*The ReachOut Class*

Christ Church United Methodist  
700 South Marshall Road  
Middletown, OH 45044



### NAMI Basics

**Has your child shown symptoms of a mental health disorder?**

*You are not alone!*

NAMI Basics is a free, 6-week education program for parents and family caregivers of children and teens who are experiencing symptoms of a mental illness or who have already been diagnosed. NAMI Basics is offered in a group setting so you can connect with other people dealing with similar issues.

**There is no cost to participants. Registration is required.  
Multiple adult family members are welcome and encouraged to attend.**

**Classes beginning: Tuesday, February 20, 6:30pm-9:00pm  
NAMI Butler County Offices  
5963 Boymel Drive, Fairfield, Ohio**

*Located within the Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Office*

### NAMI Basics covers:

- Managing crises, solving problems and communicating effectively
- Taking care of yourself and handling stress
- Developing the confidence and stamina to support your child with compassion
- Advocating for your child's rights at school and in health care settings
- Learning about current treatments, including evidence-based therapies, medications and side effects
- Gaining an overview of the public mental health care, school and juvenile justice systems, and supporting resources to help you navigate these systems
- Understanding the challenges and impact of mental health conditions on your entire family

**Call 513-860-8396 to register  
Or register online at:  
NAMI-BC.org/our-programs**