

March 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

“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

DAYLIGHT

SAVING TIME SPRING FORWARD

Sunday, March 11

Maundy Thursday

March 29 beginning at 6:00 pm

Bethel AME will be joining us on Maundy Thursday beginning with a pot luck in the New Life Center at 6:00 pm. Please bring a covered dish to share. Bethel AME will bring desserts.

The Maundy Thursday service will be experiential in nature with everyone gathering together in the sanctuary for the conclusion of the service.

Good Friday

March 30
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

The sanctuary will be open for a time of contemplation, reflection and prayer

All are invited to come!

Letter from the Pastor



Dear Church Family and Friends,

Spring will soon be here! With it comes the promise of new life, warmer temperatures, and a welcome change from those cold winter months.

As spring approaches, Julie and I will begin planning what we will do with the landscape around our home. While I love perennials because of their easy care and the fact that they come up every year, I also love the variety and especially the colors annuals provide. Undoubtedly some things will remain the same in our yard but I also hope to make some significant changes to bring new life and a fresh perspective.

Our life in Christ can be seen in a similar light. There are parts of you that remain the same such as traits and characteristics that make you, YOU. The remaining parts of you, however, become opportunities for change that will bring you closer to your heavenly Father and, yes, a better person by the power of the Holy Spirit who works to conform and transform you into the image of the Son of God.

The following Psalm reminds me of the new opportunities I will be given to be all that God wants for me.

“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory . . . Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises. Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of a psalm, with trumpets the sound of a horn; shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.”

-Psalm 98:1, 4-6 (NKJV)

This particular Psalm has deep meaning for me for a number of reasons, one of them being that in reality, the responsibility for change in my life falls squarely on me. Psalm 98 starts out by saying, *“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!”* New! Through God’s love and by His grace, I have become a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17); I have become a child of God (Romans 8:16); and I will spend eternity with God in Christ and millions of my brothers and sisters (1 John 5:12-13). I must, however, live into this new life.

My status changed for the better when I accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. And now it is up to me. So what does this mean exactly? While it is impossible for me to improve upon or add to what God has done, I must be willing to surrender to God and allow Him to do whatever He chooses so that I might enjoy the abundant life in service to Him. To get to that point, I must be willing to plant in my life *new* attitudes; *new* obedience that is truly obedience; a *new* willingness; and a *new* openness to Him. God is ready and willing to change the landscape of my life for the better. The question is whether I am willing to trust and allow Him, whatever the end result will be.

Yes, the digging, weed pulling, rearranging, and planting will bring some pain and struggle for me. But if I (and you) do trust God in Christ, I promise the end will be glorious! I am excited that spring will soon be upon us, and I am looking forward to seeing God at work in my life and the outcome of His work. May God richly bless!

In Jesus,

Pastor Norm

Easter Lilies

Orders for Easter Lilies will be accepted through Sunday, March 18. Lilies can be purchased in honor or in memory of loved ones and will adorn the sanctuary on Easter morning. Ushers have order envelopes available on Sunday morning, or you can place your order by contacting the church office at 422-7364. Lilies are \$10.

YOUTH EASTER CELEBRATION

Friday, March 30
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

The youth Easter celebration will include a glow-in-the-dark egg hunt and pizza party as well as an Easter message. All teens and tweens are encouraged to invite their friends for an evening of fun and fellowship!

CHILDREN'S EASTER CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 31
10:00 am - 11:30 am

The children's Easter celebration will include a pancake breakfast and egg hunt along with an Easter message and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Bring your little ones for an enjoyable morning of fun and excitement!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Pocket cross pillows are being assembled on Saturday, March 10, from 8:00 am - 11:00 am in Room 113 and Congregational Care needs your help to assemble 80 small pillows.

No experience is necessary! Simply come and be the hands God needs you to be for this project. Instructions and all materials will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Karnes at (513) 267-2604.

Good Friday Service

March 30
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

The Seven Last Words of Jesus Christ

First Presbyterian Church
2910 Central Avenue, Middletown

*Pastor Norm will be preaching
from 1:00 pm - 1:20 pm
and will be sharing the Third Word*

All are invited to attend this
ecumenical community service

EASTER CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED

ReachOut is in need of donations of Easter candy to help fill Easter eggs for the youth and children's egg hunts on March 30 and 31. Bags of individually wrapped candies can be left in the ReachOut bins in the lobby. Thank you.

LOVE PACKAGES

Do you have extra Christian literature such as Bibles, Sunday school curriculum, Christian books and paperbacks, daily devotionals, magazines, CDs or DVDs you are not using anymore?

The *Love Packages* ministry collects and sends such materials to missionaries and ministries around the world to use in their work to share the gospel of Christ. Christ Church is working with New Freedom Church in Lebanon, Ohio who serves as the Regional Collection Center in southwestern Ohio for *Love Packages*.

Love Packages is a non-profit organization founded by Steven J. Schmidt in 1975. That summer, God spoke to Steven and showed him the abundance of Christian literature that he had at his disposal and the tremendous lack of Christian literature in third-world nations.

Love Packages has operations in Illinois and Alabama. In 2017, its Illinois operation shipped 1,028 tons of Christian material to third-world countries while Alabama shipped 322 tons.

In Ghana after villagers were given Bibles by missionaries, each villager asked "When do we have to return them to you?" The missionaries gladly responded "It is yours to keep for life!"

As of the end of February 2018, Christ Church has donated 436 pounds of Christian materials to *Love Packages*. Donated materials for *Love Packages* can be left in the library and marked "*Love Packages*."



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

Program Speaker will be Lynn Hoff who is a district officer and will be sharing information about prayer and self-denial.



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. Prior to the workshop you will need to order the "One Pot Meal Kit" (Item #101141) from Tastefully Simple which will arrive at your home and will contain the grocery list of items you will need to bring as well as the recipe cards. To order your meal kit, go to: <https://www.tastefullysimple.com/p/11213832>. You will need to input the consultant's ID number which is **0022945** and **Leslie O'Hara** is the hostess. Meal Kits should be ordered approximately two weeks prior to the class so that you will everything in plenty of time. Please feel free to invite friends and family to join you. If you have any questions, please see Jane Tipton or Leslie O'Hara.



Friday, June 22
and
Saturday, June 23

Please start saving all your unwanted clutter and treasures for the church garage sale in June. Pick-up will be available for large items. Clothing and TV's will not be accepted for this year's sale. Drop-off dates and times will be announced in late spring.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 10
9:00 am
Room 115

Breakfast is being prepared in-house this month. For more information: contact Bob Gast at (513) 423-7890



The Red Bird Mission and Missions Committee at Christ Church want to thank you for your continued donations of Box Tops for Education labels. In 2017 labels totaling 695 points were sent to Red Bird Mission while box tops totaling 91 points have been sent thus far in 2018. Thank you for your on-going support of this ministry.



NEW DRINKING FOUNTAINS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED

There have been three new drinking fountains installed in the church to replace those that were no longer working. The three new fountains are located in the hallway across from the Prayer Room, on the west side of the New Life Center and in the children's wing downstairs.

Ladies Spring Banquet

Tuesday, April 17
New Life Center
6:15 pm

Ticket Prices:

Adults - \$12

Children (age 4-11) - \$6

Children (age 3 and under) - Free
(Tickets will go on sale this month)

SAVE THE DATE

Thank You

This note of thanks is for my wonderful Christ Church family. Oh how we have been blessed with Donald's surgery - only because of your prayers. We have quite a little way to go but each day we are so blessed to have this time on our beautiful, precious earth.

God bless each of you and most of all our blessing to God.

Sandy and Don Smith

Thank you so very much for your gracious kindness to us all! You have blessed our show once again! Thank you.

Miami Valley Woodcarvers

March

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|--|
| 3/1 | 8:30 am Miami Valley Woodcarvers, 113 | 3/18 | 6:00 pm Choir/Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary |
| 3/2 | 8:30 am Miami Valley Woodcarvers, 113 | 3/19 | 12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115
12:00 pm Yoga, NLC
5:00 pm Congregational Care, Library |
| 3/3 | 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Kitchenette
10:00 am Miami Valley Woodcarvers, NLC | 3/20 | 3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117
6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library |
| 3/4 | 12:30 pm Miami Valley Woodcarvers, NLC | 3/21 | 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
5:00 pm Men's Choir, Sanctuary
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:00 pm Girl Scouts, NLC, 23
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary |
| 3/5 | 12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115
12:00 pm Yoga, 24 | 3/24 | 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
10:00 am Choir/Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary
2:00 pm Stephenson/Crase Baby Shower, NLC |
| 3/6 | 3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117
6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library | 3/26 | 12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115
12:00 pm Yoga, NLC |
| 3/7 | 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 | 3/27 | 6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library |
| 3/10 | 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library | 3/28 | 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 |
| 3/11 | 6:00 pm Choir/Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary | 3/29 | 6:00 pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE, NLC, Sanctuary |
| 3/12 | 12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115
12:00 pm Yoga, NLC | 3/30 | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm GOOD FRIDAY Sanctuary Open
7:00 pm Youth Easter Egg Hunt/Pizza Party, NLC |
| 3/13 | 3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117
6:00 pm Admin Team, 113
6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library | 3/31 | 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
10:00 am Children's Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt, NLC |
| 3/14 | 10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:00 pm Girl Scouts, NLC, 23
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary | | |
| 3/15 | 10:00 am United Methodist Women, 113 | | |
| 3/17 | 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
12:00 pm Girl Scout Drive-thru Cookie Booth, Lobby, Front Parking Area
12:00 pm Tastefully Simple Meal Prep Class, Kitchen | | |

March Birthdays

- 2 Tim O'Connor
- 3 Larry Crump
- 6 John Sauter
- 7 Fred Ward
- 8 Tom Mehl
Liza O'Hara
- 11 Mary Alice Gast
Thomas Hayes
- 12 Janet Sauter
Gerri Teeters
- 15 Connie Young
- 17 Sandy Beck
- 18 Dick Cole
- 23 George Mullin
- 25 Cherri Carpenter
- 26 Sandy Smith
- 27 Steve Johnson
- 28 Minniealta Watt
- 29 Barb Martin
Nancy Stillwell
- 30 Helen Mann
- 31 Ray Bailey

March Anniversaries

- 16 Tim and Carol O'Connor
- 23 Robert and Bergit Clark
Don and Suzanne Hawkins

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Margaret Henderson has been moved to Hawthorn Glen. Her new mailing address is:

Hawthorn Glen, Room 212
5414 Hankins Road
Middletown, OH 45044

Condolences

The Family of Dorothy Webb who passed away on February 5

The Family of Irene Molnar who passed away on February 11

June Auvil and family upon the death of her son, James, on March 1

Financial Update

Through 1/31/2018

	<u>Month of January</u>
Income	\$27,912
Expenses	<u>(\$28,184)</u>
Income/(Loss)	(\$ 272)

Note: Above numbers represent our operating expenses, our connectional expenses (monies to support the greater United Methodist Church) and our building mortgage. The Administrative Board has decided that for 2018 we will attempt to pay 100% of our connectional expense as long as our cash flow allows. In January, we did pay just about 1/12 of our annual commitment. Our mortgage payment was made in full.

As a benchmark, our budgeted expenses for 2018 average \$29,000 per month which means our giving needs to average that as well to break even for the year.

Should you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Barb Martin.

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



The Cincinnati Eye Institute
FOUNDATION

**CEI Foundation Opening Free
Vision Clinic in Middletown**

The Vision Clinic will open this month and provide free eye care for uninsured, low income adults in the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky areas. To qualify for clinic care, you must be:

- 18 years of age or older
- Have no current eye care provider
- Have no eye insurance, including Medicare
- Meet income requirements by federal government and must bring one of the following income verification forms:
(1) W2 (2) Current pay stub (3) Homeless certificate (4) Food Stamp verification letter (5) Note signed by an agency on their letterhead stating they are assisting patient/individual due to their low income or lack thereof.

The Vision Clinic is located at: 930 9th Avenue, Middletown (across from Primary Health Solutions); phone: 513-207-6140. **YOU MUST HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO BE SEEN!**



Healing A Heart

*Grief Support Group for
People Who have Lost a
Loved One*

Group Dates:

**Tuesday Nights, March 20-April 24,
from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm**

**Thursday Afternoons, March 22-April 26
from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm**

**All groups meet at 3909 Central Avenue
(This is the Hospice Office Building located
behind Central Connections)**

Healing A Heart support groups focus on peer support, grief education and the development of coping skills and is open to the community

**To Register: Call (513) 424-2273
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**