

April/May 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
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

Thank You Jen

... for serving as the Director of Children's Ministry these last four years and for your commitment and loving dedication to the children who have come through our doors. We thank God for you! For those who might not be aware, Jen has stepped away from her staff position for health reasons, namely the painful back issues that have plagued her for the past several weeks. Jen is, however, not stepping away from Christ Church.

Please know the Administrative Team is currently working to respond in the best way possible to the situation we now face with Jen's departure. In the interim, we will need the help of the congregation to provide for and nurture the children we presently serve. Our immediate needs will be for nursery coverage and children's programming on Sunday mornings so it is our prayer that when asked, those attending the 8:30 am service will be available to serve during the 11:00 am service and vice versa. Please also know we will not be asking you to assist every week nor will we be asking you for a long-term commitment. It is critical, however, that we now band together during this period of transition if we wish to see families with children continue at Christ Church and/or as we strive to attract new families with children.

Again, a special thanks to and praise for Jen! May God richly bless each of us as we respond to His call to minister among His people.

Letter from the Pastor



Dear Church Family and Friends,

In case there is any doubt, Spring will eventually catch up with the date established as the first day of Spring which is indeed good news. There is, however, even greater news . . . Jesus wants YOU!!!

While Jesus desires you just as you are, He also loves you too much to let you stay there. Our loving Lord and Savior expects us to allow Him to change us from the inside out so that we can become all that He has intended us to be. It is hard to let go and let God but if you do, your life will see remarkable changes that will have you asking, "Why didn't I let go sooner?" Yes, much of it may be painful since we have a natural tendency to want to hold onto and control our own lives and destiny. But an incredible life in Jesus requires us to change.

Additionally, Jesus wants you to make an impact. Have you ever wondered why you are here? I believe everyone is here on earth for a purpose. I also believe that most everyone wants their life to count in this world; to make a difference for the better; to be remembered as one who added to and not subtracted from; to hear the words at the end, "Well done good and faithful servant." If you want to make an impact, you must extend your reach beyond yourself. The scriptures tell us that *"God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."* (2 Corinthians 9:8) Our Lord will provide you with everything you need, in fact more than you need, if you will by faith give yourself for the benefit of others on His behalf. All it requires is you taking steps . . . a kind word, extending a helping hand, giving with a generous heart your resources and most of all your time.

And finally, Jesus wants you NOW! Christian music artist Toby Mac has a song in which the lyrics state, "If not now, when; if not you, then who?" The choice is truly up to you. Do you want to make an impact and see your world become a better place? It starts with you.

Spring is known for the new life that "springs" up all around us. Why not become part of that new life by starting right where you are; allowing God to make the changes in you He wants to make; reaching out beyond yourself to make a positive impact; and START NOW!

May God richly bless you as you fully embrace and accept His wanting of you for His glory, the spreading of His kingdom and your blessing.

In Jesus,
Pastor Norm



Dear Friends of SHALOM Homeless,

The 16th winter of serving the homeless and less fortunate at SHALOM Homeless came to a very successful completion. To Christ be all the glory.

Thank you for your continued prayers, support and for lightening the burden of so many. During the 105 nights of sheltering and serving the homeless this winter, you lightened the burden of 116 different homeless individuals.

Thank you for blessing Christ, SHALOM and so many of the least of these. We look forward to serving alongside you again next winter as plans are already being made to better serve those who are led to us seeking shelter, warmth and fellowship.

Sincerely in His Service,
Bill
SHALOM Homeless

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 are now on sale on
Sunday morning following services)*

**Amy and Joanna Weaver will be singing
Door Prizes will be given away**



**Friday, June 22
and
Saturday, June 23**

It is not too early to 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



**Saturday, April 14
9:00 am in Room 115**

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



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH•HOPE•LOVE IN ACTION

**The United Methodist Women
will meet
Thursday, April 19, at 10:00 am
in Room 113**

Lunch will follow at Evonda's Café in Middletown

Looking Ahead:

**Thursday, May 17, at 10:00 am
in Room 113**

Program Speaker will be Kay Hounshell
who will be sharing about color and prayer

**Thursday, June 14, at 11:30 am
Lunch at the Hammel House Inn in Waynesville**

BERNS GIFT CARDS

The United Methodist Women are again selling gift cards from Berns Garden Center and Landscaping. The cards are \$25 with \$5 from each gift card sold going back to the United Methodist Women. The UMW will be selling these gift cards in the lobby for several Sundays beginning in April. You can also contact Pam Cole at 422-2989 to purchase your cards.

Thank you.



Matthew Ministries

Matthew 25 Ministries located in Blue Ash was recently featured on the local news helping people in the flood areas of Cincinnati. When a disaster strikes, Matthew 25 is normally the first one on the scene providing food, shelter, clothing and humanitarian supplies to those in need. Two of the many local corporations which support Matthew 25 are Cintas and Procter and Gamble with many employees from local corporations donating their time to sort pill bottles for the recycling process.

More than 99% of all cash and in-kind donations to Matthew 25 Ministries support programs to feed the hungry, provide clean water to the thirsty, provide clothing to the naked, provide affordable shelter to the homeless, provide medical care to the ill and provide humanitarian supplies to those in need.

The empty pill bottles (both over-the-counter and prescription) collected by Christ Church are recycled for revenue to support Matthew 25 programs. To date, Christ Church has collected 5,247 pill bottles with 752 of the bottles being donated in 2018.

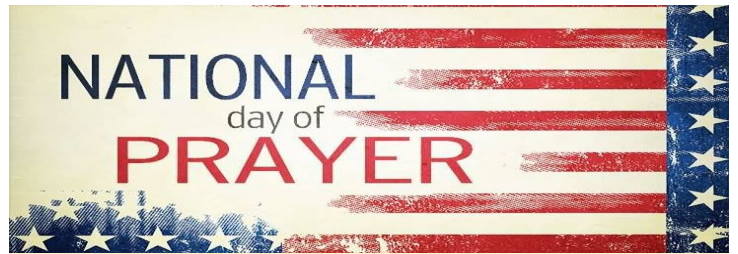
Empty pill bottles can be left in the red container in the church library. While it is not necessary to remove labels, we do suggest removing your name from the label using an ink pen or marker.

West Ohio Conference



The Ohio River Valley District is currently in need of 83 additional at-large members for the 49th session of the West Ohio Annual Conference to be held at Lakeside June 3-6. These at-large members are for laity and the district is looking for members that represent all aspects of the district with respect to ethnicity, age, and demographic context (rural, urban, suburban, and both the small and large membership churches).

If you are interested in serving, please contact Nancy Newton at (513) 421-2057 or by email at nnewton.wocumc.org for more information or to be placed on the list for consideration.



Continental Prayer Breakfast

New Life Center
Thursday, May 3
 7:30 am - 8:30 am

All are invited to attend as we join together to pray for our nation and community

This prayer breakfast is being hosted by the United Methodist Women

Financial Update

Through 2/28/2018

	<u>Month of February</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$22,358	\$50,270
Expenses	<u>(\$30,859)</u>	<u>(\$59,043)</u>
Income/(Loss)	(\$ 8,501)	(\$ 8,773)

Note: Above numbers represent our operating expenses, our connectional expenses (monies to support the greater United Methodist Church) and our building mortgage. Our mortgage payment was made in full in February.

Our income in February was down over \$5,000 while expenses were up almost \$2,700. The increase in expenses is due primarily to paying the property tax on the parsonage. This expense is incurred in February and July.

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.

April

4/2	12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115 12:00 pm Yoga, NLC	4/16	12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115 12:00 pm Yoga, NLC 5:00 pm Congregational Care, Library
4/3	3:45 pm Whiz Kids, 117 6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115 7:00 pm Bible Study, Library	4/17	6:15 pm Women's Spring Banquet, NLC 6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115
4/4	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	4/18	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
4/7	9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library	4/19	10:00 am United Methodist Women, 113
4/9	12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115 12:00 pm Yoga, NLC	4/20	5:00 pm Girl Scout Lock-In, NLC
4/10	3:45 pm Whiz Kids, NLC 6:00 pm Admin Team, 113 6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115	4/21	Until 10:00 am Girl Scout Lock-In, NLC 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
4/11	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	4/23	12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115 12:00 pm Yoga, NLC
4/14	9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library 9:00 am Men's Breakfast, 115	4/24	6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115
		4/25	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
		4/30	12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115 12:00 pm Yoga, NLC

KEEP MIDDLETOWN BEAUTIFUL ON EARTH DAY

Saturday, April 21

8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Keep Middletown Beautiful invites you to join in the annual Earth Day/Arbor Day community clean-up which will include professional tree and shrub pruning, dead tree and bush removal, sign and pole painting and tree and bush planting in the Middletown City Building area, other downtown locations and parks throughout the city. Gloves and garbage bags will be provided. Dump trucks and dumpsters will be located in strategic locations where volunteers can put their trash.

Volunteers may pre-register on-line by April 2 at: www.keeppmiddletownbeautiful.org, or may register in person on the day of the event at One Donham Plaza.

If you have questions or would like more information, you can contact KMB Member Sally Williamson at (513) 465-7832 or wwilliamson@cinci.rr.com, or Jeff Michael, KMB Executive Director at (513) 425-7750 or jeffmi@cityofmiddletown.org.



May

5/1	6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115	5/15	6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115
5/2	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	5/16	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
5/3	7:30 am National Day of Prayer Breakfast, NLC	5/17	10:00 am United Methodist Women, 113
5/5	9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library 10:00 am Watercolor Class, 113 2:00 pm Girl Scout Tea Party	5/19	12:00 pm Girl Scout Banquet, NLC
5/7	12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115 12:00 pm Yoga, NLC	5/21	12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115 12:00 pm Yoga, NLC 5:00 pm Congregational Care, Library
5/8	6:00 pm Admin Team, 113 6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115	5/22	6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115
5/9	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	5/23	10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study, Breakfast 12:30 pm NAMI, Library 6:00 pm Choir, Sanctuary 6:30 pm Bible Study, Library 7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary
5/12	9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library 2:00 pm Girl Scout 'Court of Awards', NLC	5/28	MEMORIAL DAY (OFFICE CLOSED) 12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115 12:00 pm Yoga, NLC
5/14	12:00 pm Crafty Ladies, 115 12:00 pm Yoga, NLC	5/29	6:30 pm Links Theological University, 115
		5/30	12:30 pm NAMI, Library 6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary 6:30 pm Bible Study, Library 7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary

Thank You Christ Church family for your generous contributions for our Easter celebrations for both the teens and children. Your support for our events is always above and beyond!

ReachOut

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER . . . The publication of the Cornerstone is going on a temporary hiatus following this edition. During the months of June, July and August, upcoming events and activities will be communicated through the Sunday bulletin and the church website. You will also be able to find on the welcome table in the lobby at the beginning of each of these months a listing of upcoming events and the church calendar for the month. Birthdays and anniversaries will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

For those who no longer wish to receive the Cornerstone, please contact the church office at 422-7364 to request your name be removed from the mailing list. Thank you.

April Birthdays

- 2 George Knapp
- 7 Bob Hicks
- David Sauter
- 9 Wallace Michael
- 11 Pat Blakenship
- 16 Bernie Fisher
- 17 Bobette Owen
- 19 Roberta Thaeler
- 20 Meredith Miller
- Kathy Sparks
- 21 Stephanie Record
- 22 David Beck
- Emily Caudle
- 29 Joanne Aderhold

April Anniversaries

- 3 Bill and Robyn McCall
- 7 Bernie and Glenna Fisher
- 8 Clark and Stephanie Record
- 9 Michael and Emily Miller
- 16 David and Suzi DelGrosso
- 21 David and Janet Sauter

May Birthdays

- 1 Matthew Minor
- Tom Tipton
- 6 Denise Davis
- 10 John O'Hara
- 11 Norma Meece
- 13 Gertie Schweitzer
- Sally Williamson
- 16 Clark Record
- 17 Kathy Alexander
- Beth Greider
- 20 Joy Micheal
- Lanise Weidle
- 21 Don Dean
- 22 Joan Kersh
- 23 Kathy Hodel
- Patty Mendenhall
- Emma Siewny
- 24 Larry Banks
- Phillip Young
- 25 Shirley Heismann
- Lucy Kemble
- 28 Carli Martin
- 29 Marcus Grams
- 30 Carl Heismann

May Anniversaries

- 1 Dick and Pam Cole
- 2 Tom and Paula Mehl
- 8 Marcus and Jen Grams
- 24 Norman and Julie Coleman
- 26 Greg and Jeanne Siewny
- 29 Robert and Mary Alice Gast
- 31 Ray and Joan Peterson

WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy

Robert and Mallory Hicks and Family upon the death of Robert's Aunt, Lois Watson, on March 25

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



It's Been a Wonderful Journey Together! Over the past seven years Christ Church has made a significant impact on the lives of children and families in Guatemala. We have partnered and walked side by side with Mayan Families on this journey and will forever be grateful to God for this privilege. For those who have traveled to the mountains of Guatemala, it has been a life-changing experience and has changed our perspective of how we see the world and those who find themselves wondering if their basic needs will be met tomorrow. I (Pastor Norm) have personally been blessed by the fellowship, support and the times spent in airports, on buses and in vans, and in the back of pickup trucks traveling from place to place to be the hands and

feet for Jesus. As we bring to a close another chapter in the life adventures with Jesus, it is my hope and prayer that others will hear and respond to God's call to reach out far beyond where we live to be a blessing wherever and to whomever He may send them. I wish I could name everyone whom God has helped through our obedience, but I can't. Just know that the money raised and time was well spent!

Our final chapter ends with the distribution of funds raised totaling \$10,322.04. We have provided education, food, medical assistance, transportation, needed furniture, efficient and safe stoves, and willing hearts. We have three remaining students to whom we are committed and one student battling leukemia. We are planning to provide educational support for our three students, Maria Del Rosario, Mario Jose and Samuel Eliseo through the 12th grade. We will also be looking into any urgent needs their families may have and offer some assistance. Additionally, we plan to provide a significant amount to support Carlos Raymundo who is a student currently battling leukemia. Carlos' medical costs far exceed his family's ability to live day by day because his father only earns approximately \$2 per day. It is our prayer that what we are able to send will bring some relief and renewed hope for both Carlos and his family.

Again, thank you to everyone who has given monetarily, supported this mission by your presence, helped out at fundraising events, and provided resources and time for such a worthy cause. We are trusting God to direct how He desires this story to continue. May God richly bless.