

September 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

Wynston Dixon, Pastor  
Debbie Alexander, Director of Music Worship  
Betsy Balger, Accompanist  
Julie Coleman, Office Manager

## Sunday Worship Services

8:30 am - Traditional Worship  
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

## I'm a Pastor and I Want You to Quit Church. Now!

(The following is adapted from the book, **Quit Church** by Chris Sonksen who pastors South Hills Church and is founder of ChurchBOOM. This adaptation was shared by Jane Tipton as a devotional at the July Admin Team meeting with her encouragement that Christ Church cannot lose sight of its mission which is to lead others to Christ.)

At a time when church attendance is shrinking in America, I, a pastor, am encouraging people to quit church. Why? The answer is birthed out of conversations and research I've been a part of over the last several years.

Regularly, I meet and train pastors and church leaders from all over the country through my leadership platform, ChurchBOOM. The conversations carry a common theme - a lot of people who attend church are passive towards serving, giving and community outreach. In most churches, 80% of the work is being carried out by 20% or less of the people. We've become a church of spectators and the pastoral staff is getting burned out. According to my own personal research, the problems are even bigger than the 80/20 principle.

Only 39% of active believers consider the Bible as the literal Word of God. Less than 20% of professing believers follow the biblical principle of giving. Only 5% have shared their faith with a non-believer. More than half of all church members attend church once a month or less.

Something has to change.

Casual attendance and the belief that others will serve, give and share the Gospel are tearing down churches across our country brick by brick. As believers, it is time that we are either all in or we get out. The solution is simple: quit! That's right - quit! If we quit the casual way we approach God's principles, can you imagine what would happen in our personal walks of faith and in our community of believers?

What if every believer exercised generosity? What if every Christian fought for loyalty in the local church? What if everyone served in their God-given purpose? What would happen if we stopped simply believing and started belonging?

(Continued on page 2)

# Letter from the Pastor



Greetings and peace to you in the blessed name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

My words are inadequate to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to your leadership team for their gracious welcome. Special thanks to Dave Martin for his personal assistance in helping me to find appropriate housing and answering all of the many questions I had.

I consider my coming to Christ Church the unfolding work of the Holy Spirit. The manner in which we were brought together is yet to be comprehended. I did not request a change of appointment and neither did my former church, Braden Methodist. I have not come to take the place of my predecessor, but to create a place of my own in your hearts. I am aware that the effectiveness of this ministry will depend to a great degree on you. I have not come to lead you, but to walk with you, not to boss you, but to serve you. It is not my intention to be your shepherd but simply the lead sheep. Our only shepherd is Jesus Christ.

I do not work miracles. I am a sinner saved by God's grace. I shall not always live up to your expectations. I will make mistakes. But in all of these short comings, I solicit your prayers, sympathy, understanding and most of all your extension of grace.

The way that God works is one thing that fascinates me, moves me, and causes me to marvel at the wonder-working power of God as well as the intricate design of the providential tapestry of human destiny. I never cease to be amazed at how God can turn crises into heaven's opportunities or how God can bring victory out of defeat, redemption out of situations that seem to be unsalvageable, or good out of evil. In other words, we as Christians should always celebrate the fact that God is able to make a miracle out of a mess. God is a specialist in the recycling business. It is because of his specialty in

recycling that all persons are able to gain eternal life through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Again, thank you for allowing me this gracious opportunity to be a part of your ministry team at Christ Church. THANK YOU!

Love and peace,  
*Pastor Dixon*

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*(Continued from page 1)*

If we would only quit the way we approach our relationship to Christ and our local church, the blessing, the reward, the joy, the fulfillment, the purpose, and the increase would radically transform our lives and the world. Together, we can revolutionize the church!

But the only way we can do this is if we quit!

My conversations over the past several years revealed the spiritual habits necessary for personal and church growth and revealed the "why" behind disengagement in the church.

The truth is, if we don't feel passionate about something we don't do it. If we don't like something that happens in the church, we find another one. If the spiritual practices don't fit our lifestyle, then we don't do them.

This mindset permeates our "I want it now and I want it my way" culture and is only enforced through social media, website choices, TV options and countless other platforms that have risen in prominence in our lives. This is not the way God intended the church to live.

The local church isn't a building - it's a body of believers fulfilling God's purpose in our lives. When these believers approach their individual involvement and commitment in a casual manner it weakens the entire body of Christ and the impact we are called to have. As a result, we lose and so does the local church. God wants us to win, to thrive, to fulfill our potential in Him. We will not experience the abundance He desires for us until we quit our current approach and we are all-in.

Once you go all-in on generosity, serving, outreach, discipleship and the other biblical behaviors laid out in His word then look out because God will rain on your life with His blessings like you have never experienced.

Jesus felt the church was worth dying for - it should be our mission as Christians to value living for it.



### WHIZ KIDS BEGINS OCTOBER 2

Whiz Kids works one on one with students from Creekview Elementary who have been recommended by teachers as

needing help with reading or sometimes math. Whiz Kids will meet in Room 117 on Tuesdays when school is in session from 3:45 pm until 5:00 pm beginning October 2.

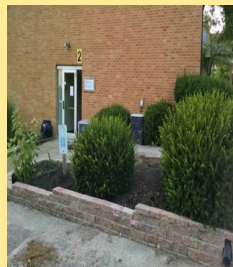
Tutors and substitute tutors are needed as are volunteers to provide snacks for a week or even a month. A sign-up sheet can be found in the lobby for those interested in volunteering to provide snacks. A Bible story is also shared weekly with the students so perhaps you would like to come and share your favorite Bible story with them.

For those interested in volunteering in some way, please contact Dottie Wasem at (513) 328-6821 or by email at [dottiewasem@gmail.com](mailto:dottiewasem@gmail.com). Weekly prayer is also be appreciated for the students, the tutors and the program. Thank you for your involvement in this important ministry.



### LOOK WHAT'S NEW AT DOOR #2 (South Side/ Grand Avenue)

Jim and Cindy Buckey worked many HOT summer hours during July and August installing a new retaining wall and landscaping pavers around the flower beds at the entrance to Door #2. A tremendous amount of manual labor was involved in this project. Their volunteer work not only helped to beautify the outside of the church but also helped with the water flow in front of the church. Please take a few minutes to drive or walk by the entrance to see their skilled workmanship. Thank you Jim and Cindy!



## Financial Update

(as of 7/31/2018)

	Month of <u>July</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$28,745	\$166,276
Expenses	<u>(\$17,802)</u>	<u>(\$170,229)</u>
Income/(Loss)	\$10,943	(\$ 3,953)

Note: The numbers above have been adjusted to omit connectional income and expenses. Due to our income not meeting expenses, the Administrative Team voted in June to stop all connectional payments in an effort to meet our operating expenses. Our mortgage payment was made in full in July. The significant income reported for July is due to not incurring any pastoral salary expense or related benefit expenses.

As a benchmark, our budgeted expenses, excluding connectional, for 2018 average just over \$26,000 per month. While our actual July year-to-date expenses averaged just a little over \$24,300 a month, our actual giving is only averaging approximately \$23,800 a month.

A second benchmark we use is to compare our average weekly envelope giving this year to last year. That comparison indicates that we are averaging approximately \$450 less per week of giving (\$450 x 52 weeks would increase our annual giving by over \$23,000!).

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

## TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

A new transportation ministry is beginning for those in our congregation who are in need of transportation to and from worship on Sunday mornings. To schedule a time for pick-up, please contact:

**Ted McMonigle at (513) 479-0008 or  
Jane Tipton at (513) 292-1240**

*(Please be aware that our church van is not wheelchair accessible.)*







Thursday, September 20  
10:00 am, Room 113

Program Speaker:  
Shannon Clark, Children's Religious Author

All are invited!

## LOVE PACKAGES

A pastor began a Bible study consisting of eight men in a small prison in Esquintla, Guatemala using **Love Packages** material. One of the men who received Christ and helped lead the study was recently released from prison and returned to his home. While working in the fields trying to stay clean and away from the gangs, a member of the 18th Street gang approached him and asked if he had become an evangelical Christian. The man responded by say, "Yes, by the grace of God I have." The gang member dropped to his knees and asked if he could receive Jesus. The man prayed with him and helped him receive Christ. The gang member left and an hour later was killed by a rival gang.

In 2015, **Love Packages** shipped 1,205 tons of literature and in the last ten years has shipped 10,058 tons which represents over 400 million pieces of Christian literature.

We collect Christian material for **Love Packages**, both new and slightly used. Please leave any materials you wish to donate in the library marked "**Love Packages.**" We have shipped 42.4 pounds to **Love Packages** thus far in 2018. Thank you for your continued support.

## Matthew 25 Ministries

### Pill Bottles Aid California Wildfire Victims

In early August, Matthew 25 Ministries' disaster response team left for California along with a fleet of disaster vehicles including two "Tide Loads of Hope" mobile laundry units. The fleet also included shipments of personal care and clean-up kits, paper products, baby items and Tide pods which is all made possible through your donations of pill bottles which are recycled for monies to support Matthew 25 Ministries' relief efforts for the victims of the California wildfires. Matthew 25 Ministries is an international humanitarian aid and disaster relief organization based in Blue Ash and is supported by many local businesses including Procter & Gamble.

As of July 2018, we have collected 6,547 pill bottles. Empty pill bottles can be left in the marked container in the library. *Note: Labels do not need to be removed.*

## HALLOWEEN

### Trunk or Treat

Wednesday, October 31, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Beggar's Night is right around the corner, and we will again have our annual Trunk & Treat celebration which will coincide with the City of Middletown's Trick or Treat on October 31. We are in need of donations of wrapped candies which will be used to replenish everyone's trunks during the evening. You can begin bringing in candy donations and placing your donations in the ReachOut bins in the lobby. We will also be serving hot dogs and hot chocolate. Thank you for Impacting the Community for Christ through your ongoing support of this event.

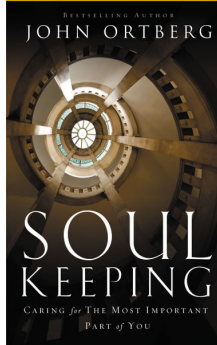


# With Sympathy

The Family of Carol Hoskins who passed away July 3

Jerry and Linda Frechette and Family upon the death of their brother-in-law, Gordon Hughes, on July 21

Carl and Shirley Heismann and Family upon the death of Carl's brother, Dan, on August 3



**Wednesday Evening Bible Study**  
*resuming*

**September 12 at 6:30 pm**  
in the Library

If you would like more information, please contact Beth Radabaugh at:  
[bethradabaugh@gmail.com](mailto:bethradabaugh@gmail.com)

*Soul Keeping* is available on Amazon

All Are Invited!

## It's a Girl . . .

Congratulations to

Ray and Joan Peterson who became first-time grandparents following the birth of their granddaughter, Alexis Grace, on April 27

Glen and Kim Swiger upon the birth of their granddaughter, Presslee Ann Swiger, on June 26. Congratulations also to great-grandparents, Jerry and Linda Frechette.



# Fall Festival

**Saturday, November 10**  
**9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

- Booth spaces are available  
(8' x 10' is \$30; 8' x 12' is \$35)
- Help is needed day of festival  
(cashiers and kitchen help)
- Baked goods and candy donations needed
- Someone is needed to make turkey salad

*If you are interested in renting booth space or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Pam Cole at 422-2989.*

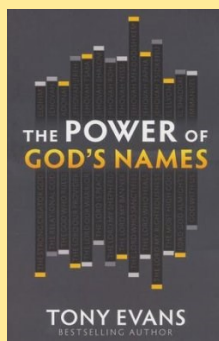


## Women's Bible Study

*to meet*

Tuesdays, September 16 -  
November 6 at 7:30 pm  
in the Library

Books are \$8.78 plus tax  
Deadline for ordering a book is  
September 2



Please contact Joan Peterson at:  
[j.peterson7074@gmail.com](mailto:j.peterson7074@gmail.com) or the church office



# September

9/1	8:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library	9/18	6:00 pm Admin Team, 113 6:30 pm Link's University, 115 6:30 pm Girl Scouts, NLC 7:00 pm Bible Study, Library
9/3	OFFICE CLOSED (Labor Day)	9/19	12:30 pm NAMI, Library 3:30 pm Yoga, NLC 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30 pm Bible Study, Library 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary
9/4	6:30 pm Link's University, 115 6:30 pm Girl Scouts, NLC	9/20	10:00 am United Methodist Women, 113 6:30 pm NAMI Family-to-Family, 113
9/5	12:30 pm NAMI, Library 3:30 pm Yoga, NLC 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary	9/22	8:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
9/6	6:30 pm NAMI Family-to-Family, 113	9/23	2:00 pm McMonigle Family Gathering, NLC
9/8	8:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library	9/25	6:30 pm Link's University, 115 7:00 pm Bible Study, Library
9/11	6:30 pm Link's University, 115	9/26	12:30 pm NAMI, Library 3:30 pm Yoga, NLC 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30 pm Bible Study, Library 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary
9/12	12:30 pm NAMI, Library 3:30 pm Yoga, NLC 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30 pm Bible Study, Library 7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary	9/27	6:30 pm NAMI Family-to-Family, 113
9/13	6:30 pm NAMI Family-to-Family, 113	9/29	8:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
9/15	8:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library	9/30	1:00 pm Mehl Family Celebration, NLC
9/16	3:00 pm Tipton Family Gathering, NLC		
9/17	6:00 pm Membership Care, Library		



*From our 2018 Graduates . . .*

**Christ Church UMC Congregation,**  
 Thank you very much for the gift basket, gift card and \$5 as well as your thoughts and prayers. I appreciate them. I hope everyone is well.

*Evan Galdeen*

**Dear Christ UMC,**

Thank you all for the wonderful thoughts, prayers and cards during this exciting time of graduation and job searching. I so appreciate each one of you, your time and thoughts in making this transition out of school and into a new chapter. Thank you again!

*Rebecca Titus*



# August Birthdays

- 1 Dani Grams
- 2 Carolyn Kinslow
- 5 Tommy Tipton
- 6 Urith Ellen Thompson
- 10 Robert Gast
- 12 Bill McCall
- 14 Braden Martin
- 16 Helen Murry
- 17 Kim Flesher
- 18 Millard Hill
- 19 Richard Owen
- 21 Linda Barton
- Zachary Kassner
- 27 Barb Langworthy
- 28 Diane Hayes
- Nancy Karnes
- 31 Howard Hounsehll

**Happy Belated Birthday to All!**

# September Birthdays

- 1 Rick Heismann
- Sue Myers
- 3 Greg Siewny
- 10 Lynda Banks
- Ted McMonigle
- 11 Leslie O'Hara
- 12 Fred Rentschler
- 13 Dinah Stork
- 15 Marlena Blunt
- 16 Janet Matusak
- 17 Dorothy Back
- Scott Davis
- Les Greider
- Wendy Kissel
- 18 Brenda Mann
- Beth Radabaugh
- 19 Robert Baber
- 21 Ron Cox
- 24 Linda Frechette
- 26 Wendy Minor
- 28 Mary Jane Hummel
- 29 Scott Leonard

# August Anniversaries

- 3 Jim and Brenda Mann
- 5 Denny and Sandy Luksic
- Walker and Sally Williamson
- 8 Michael and Teresa Banks
- 12 Richard and Bobette Owen
- 15 Glen and Kim Swiger
- 18 Robert and Mallory Hicks
- 21 David and Barbara Martin
- 23 Rex and Debbie Lawson
- 28 David and Gerri Teeters

# September Anniversaries

- 6 Les and Vicki Greider
- 15 Jim and Helen Murry
- 17 Tom and Sherri Robertson
- 18 Jeff and Jane Berns
- 21 Marty and Kim Flesher
- Steve and Pam Johnson
- 23 Denny and Beth Greider
- 26 Kevin and Barbara Strait

# Thank You



Dear Christ Church Family,

It has been almost two months since beginning my retirement, and while this note has been a long time in coming, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your many expressions of love, your support of me through the years, and the beautiful celebration you honored me with upon my retirement and ministry with you. Words don't adequately express to you the gratitude I have within me for all you have done, both individually and as a church family.

Please know I think of you often. I pray that you will continue to be used by God to impact the community for His glory and kingdom. You will always remain dear to my heart, and I will take the lessons I have learned along with the gifts God has granted by way of you into this next stage of life and ministry.

Again, thank you so very much and may God bless you as you enter into a new journey of ministry life.

In Jesus,  
*Pastor Norm*

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Our one-day VBS Blowout was a huge success! We are thankful to report that we were able to share Jesus with 45 children from our community! Thank you Christ Church family for your tremendous support! Thank you to all those who volunteered; it simply could not have happened without YOU! Thank you also to all who donated school supplies or who contributed monetarily. Your support allowed us to fill 100 backpacks with school supplies and give each child at VBS one backpack to take home with the remainder being donated to Creekview Elementary. In addition, we made 20 blankets and 30 eye strengthening devices for children suffering from esotropia which will be donated to Children's Hospital. What a mighty God we serve and what a blessing it is to be part of the Christ Church family. Thank you again!

*ReachOut*

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The United Methodist Women would like to thank you for your generous donations to the Hope Center. The center was delighted with the tubs filled with all the different items. Thank you for your willingness to give to this mission project.

*Blessings,*  
*Dr. Dee Sellers*

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Our August Loose Change Offering benefitting Jacob's Fund totaled \$355. While thoughts like "what loving, caring people" and "overflowing with generosity" run through our minds, all everyone who is a part of Jacob's Fund could say in response to your gifts for the children we support was "Wow!" followed by a few tears. God's friends indeed at work again. Thank you Christ Church many times over.

*Glenna Fisher*



### 3rd Annual Zink's Sub Sandwich Sale

8-inch subs are \$5 each or 5 for \$20

All subs are made with fresh Zink's Meat Market meats and make for a quick, perfect lunch or dinner. The subs also freeze well.



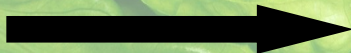
Please support ReachOut by ordering a delicious sub sandwich anytime between September 9 through September 23 (Payment is requested when order is placed)

Sub orders will be ready for pick-up on Saturday, October 6, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm or Sunday, October 7, during regular worship times

For more information, please see any ReachOut class member or contact Judy Crump at (513) 594-1265 or Jane Tipton at (513) 292-1240

Proceeds from the sub sales will be used by ReachOut for ministry events

**DETACH AND RETURN ORDER FORM WITH PAYMENT TO REACHOUT CLASS MEMBER**



### Zink's Subs ReachOut Fundraiser (Order Form)

Need a quick dinner or lunch?? How about a great Zink's sub sandwich! ReachOut Sunday School is selling 8-inch sub sandwiches made with Zink's Meat Market meats! **Great for dinner, lunch and even to freeze!**

Proceeds from our sale will help fund our projects such as school supplies/backpacks, Trunk & Treat, Easter Egg Hunt

Pass this along to family and friends!

**Order by September 23, 2018  
Pickup on Saturday, October 6, from 10am-12pm OR  
Sunday, October 7, during worship times**

**Cost: \$5 per sub OR buy 5 subs for \$20  
Pay when subs are ordered**

Fill out information below and return to ReachOut Sunday School class member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Subs: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, contact Judy Crump (513) 594-1265 or Jane Tipton (513) 292-1240

Impacting our Community for Christ!

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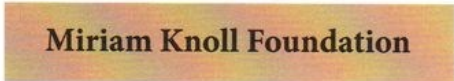
**The Southwest Ohio  
Philharmonic**

Sunday, September 2  
6:30 pm  
*(Rain Date: Monday,  
September 3 at 6:30 pm)*

Woodside Cemetery and Arboretum  
1401 Woodside Blvd.  
Middletown, OH 45044

*Please bring your lawn chairs for this  
outdoor concert.*

sponsored by



**Join Us for Worship on  
Sunday, September 2**

*as we*



**Pastor Wynston Dixon**  
*to Christ Church*

*A reception for Pastor Dixon  
will be held following both services  
on September 2*