

October 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

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

MEET AND GREET WITH PASTOR DIXON

The Administrative Team is currently looking for those who are willing to host a “Meet and Greet” with Pastor Dixon in their homes to include a group of not more than 10 people.

If you would be willing to serve as a host/hostess, please contact the church office at 422-7364.

Fall Festival

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

- Booth spaces are still available
(8' x 10' is \$30; 8' x 12' is \$35)
- Cashiers and kitchen help needed
- Baked goods and candy donations needed

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



Letter from the Pastor



My Beloved Parishioners,

Soon the weather will be turning colder and the leaves will change colors and fall. It will soon be time to turn our hearts and minds toward Thanksgiving and Christmas.

A month ago, I deeply felt the loneliness of being away from a group of people that I had grown to love and who certainly loved me. However, one of my greatest joys over the last month has been getting to know you individually and meeting some of your families. I will forever be grateful for your kindness and understanding during this time of adjustment.

I have been very relaxed in terms of administration and have concentrated on preaching the Word. Many of you have shared some very positive comments about the sermons and worship services. I am deeply grateful for your support.

Let me use this opportunity to share with you a few of my thoughts as we move forward. First, Christ Church will develop a higher spiritual level of growth. We will provide a nurturing Body of Christ where anyone, regardless of his/her personal situation, can develop his/her own faith journey with God. Secondly, from my short observation, Christ Church sits at a crossroad. We need to quickly decide where we go from here. This can only happen by praying and fasting. Do we need to switch from a love boat to a life boat mode? On a love boat you try to please everybody and pamper everyone as much as you can. On a life boat, you do whatever it takes to save that life or those lives. Thirdly, the church finds itself in a hostile climate of spiritual apathy which threatens to rob us of our youth - the hope of the future. We need an effective youth program to minister to the lives of the few number of youth at Christ Church as well as invite those who are not participating.

Personal weddings and funeral policies . . . These two occasions are private, special and emotional. As your pastor, I am eager and willing to serve in any manner of providing pastoral services for you and your family during these times. However, I will honor and respect the family wishes to have someone else perform or officiate at these services. I have no objections as to who does weddings and funerals of members. If there is a family member or a friend/former pastor that you would request, it is fine with me. My only requirement is that if the services are being held at Christ Church, I will need to speak with the officiant prior to the service date.

Hospital visits will be done on each member's preference.

We at Christ Church must dare to dream of a spiritual awakening that will stimulate both young and old. We must dare to find a way, with God's help, to realize our dream. Let us build on the accomplishments of those who have gone before.

Love and peace,
Pastor Dixon

The Salvation Army Inaugural Fall Fundraiser



DOING THE
MOST GOOD

Tuesday, October 23
New Life Center
7:15 pm - 8:30 pm

Doors will open at 6:30 pm for a meet and greet session with former Bengal's coach, Sam Wyche. Coach Wyche will also share his personal testimony about how his faith has guided and sustained him throughout his journey as a football player in high school, college, and the pros as well as his time coaching in the NFL and beyond.

**Refreshments will be available
throughout the evening**

**Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased
from Barb Martin**

Since 1887, the Middletown Salvation Army has been serving the Middletown community through a number of social services programs and providing help and hope to those in need. The Salvation Army is now asking you as a member of this community to assist them in their ongoing mission to support those who cannot support themselves.

Financial Update

(as of 8/31/2018)

	<u>Month of August</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$19,315	\$185,591
Expenses	<u>(\$17,808)</u>	<u>(\$188,037)</u>
Income/(Loss)	\$ 1,507	(\$ 2,446)

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 August. As in July, we did not incur any pastoral expenses; however, unlike July our income dropped dramatically resulting in income of only \$1,500.

As a benchmark, our budgeted expenses, excluding connectional, for 2018 average just over \$26,000 per month. While our actual August year-to-date expenses averaged just a little over \$23,500 a month, our actual giving is only averaging approximately \$23,100 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 \$590 less per week of giving (\$590 x 52 weeks would increase our annual giving by over \$30,000!).

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



3909 Central Avenue, Middletown

(This is the Hospice office building located right behind Central Connections)

“Healing a Heart” Fall Grief Support Groups

(For people who have lost a loved one; group focuses on peer support, grief education and the development of coping skills)

Thursdays, October 11 - November 15 from
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm **OR**

Thursdays, October 11—November 15 from
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Pre-Registration is required.
To register call (513) 424-2273.



Thursday, October 18
10:00 am, Room 113

Program Speaker:
Matthew Armbruster from Armbruster Florist

October agenda also includes "Thank Offering" donations and 2019 Pledge Commitments

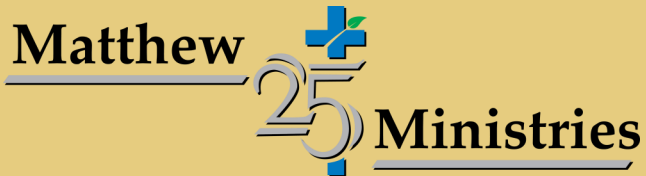


Trunk 'n Treat

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

Our annual Trunk 'n Treat celebration will coincide with the City of Middletown's Trick or Treat on October 31. Donations of wrapped candies would be greatly appreciated and will be used to replenish everyone's trunks during the evening. Donations of personal hygiene items including shampoo, bath soap, shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes and feminine care products are also being requested as are children's books. All donations can be placed 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.



Florence Relief Efforts

The pill bottles we collect are given to Matthew 25 Ministries and recycled generating income which is then used by Matthew 25 in their relief efforts. Matthew 25 Ministries Disaster Response Team has been deployed to aid the victims of Hurricane Florence which included two Tide Loads of Hope Mobile Units that can do up to 300 loads of laundry a day; an ice unit that can produce up to 10,000 pounds of ice daily; and two customized panel trucks loaded with supplies that included Proctor & Gamble personal care kits, household and cleaning products, Cintas first aid and safety kits and supplies; and other miscellaneous items such as Pampers diapers, Charmin toilet paper, Tide pods, generators, fans and tarps.

To date, Christ Church has delivered 7,447 pill bottles to Matthew 25 Ministries. Please continue placing your empty pill bottles in the red container located in the library. *Note: Labels do not need to be removed.*

COLLEGE ADDRESSES NEEDED

If you have a child or grandchild in college currently and would like the church to reach out to them during this academic year, we would ask that you please share their name and address with us by contacting the church office at 422-7364. Thank you.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Beginning October 10 at 10:00 am in Room 113

“Crazy Things Jesus Said”



Some considered Jesus a revolutionary. Others thought that He was a radical. The things He said sparked intense devotion and loyalty among His followers and many died for their dedication to His teachings. His words also aroused fierce dislike and hostility towards Him from others who wished Him dead. Some of Jesus' words, like those He delivered at the Sermon on the Mount, have indeed been a source of inspiration for millions over the last two millennia. However, Jesus has said some very unusual, maybe crazy, things at times like “. . . if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off.” Was Jesus really advocating dismembering our own bodies? Join Jeff Layne on Wednesday mornings to explore and discuss some of Jesus' more unusual sayings and teachings. Also, come prepared to share at this first meeting ideas and/or topics that the group might like to explore for the remainder of the upcoming winter session.

A VERY SPECIAL “THANK YOU”

From the Knapps . . . To all those who contributed money, Berns gift cards, Berns Bucks, vinegar, and garden products to keep our grounds and landscape beautiful throughout spring, summer and fall. We also want to thank Jack Myers who removed several bushes; Dick Cole who arranged (and helped) the trimming of the front shrubs; Tom Streiff who trimmed the Holly Street shrubs and applied weed killer to the back parking lot; Henrietta Witt who donated a beautiful shrub (front north side flower bed) in memory of her husband, Hank; Jim and Cindy Buckey who landscaped the entire area at Door #2, and Donna Pruett who brought us cold water on the hot summer days.



And to the Knapps . . . While we would like to thank everyone who sent cards with remarks about the beautiful flowers surrounding our church, we would like to redirect your comments to the Knapps. Every flower you have seen in bloom is the direct result of countless hours of labor by George and Linda along with a fair amount of Miracle-Gro according to them. Thank you George and Linda for your dedication to making God's house look so welcoming and beautiful.

Jim and Cindy Buckey

October

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 10/2 | 3:30 pm Whiz Kids, 117
6:30 pm Link's University, 115
6:30 pm Girl Scouts, NLC
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library | 10/23 | 3:30 pm Whiz Kids, 117
6:30 pm Salvation Army, NLC
6:30 pm Link's University, 115
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library |
| 10/3 | 12:30 pm NAMI, Library
3:30 pm Yoga, NLC
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary | 10/24 | 10:00 am Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
3:30 pm Yoga, NLC
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary |
| 10/4 | 6:30 pm NAMI Family-to-Family, 113 | 10/25 | 1:30 pm Membership Care, Library |
| 10/6 | 8:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library | 10/26 | 5:00 pm Yoga, NLC |
| 10/9 | 6:00 pm Admin Team, 113
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library | 10/27 | 8:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library |
| 10/10 | 10:00 am Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
3:30 pm Yoga, NLC
5:00 pm Men's Choir, Sanctuary
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary | 10/28 | 6:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal, Sanctuary |
| 10/11 | 6:30 pm NAMI Family-to-Family, 113 | 10/30 | 3:30 pm Whiz Kids, 117
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library |
| 10/13 | 8:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library | 10/31 | 10:00 am Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
3:30 pm Yoga, NLC
5:30 pm Trunk or Treat, Holly St. Parking Area
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary |
| 10/16 | 3:30 pm Whiz Kids, 117
6:30 pm Girl Scouts, NLC
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library | | |
| 10/17 | 10:00 am Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
3:30 pm Yoga, NLC
5:00 pm Men's Choir, Sanctuary
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary | | |
| 10/18 | 10:00 am United Methodist Women, 113 | | |
| 10/20 | 8:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library | | |
| 10/21 | 6:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal, Sanctuary | | |

October Birthdays

- 2 Alexandria True
- 3 Judy Crump
- 5 Bergit Clark
Lauren Siewny
- 6 Kobe Alexander
- 9 Joe Ditmyer
- 10 Debbie Alexander
- 11 Steve Dishun
- 14 Denny Greider
- 15 Jeanne Siewny
- 16 Rhonda Crider
- 19 Adam Steele
- 20 Teresa Dean
- 21 Wilma Thompson
Henrietta Witt
- 26 Chelsea Adams
- 28 Lynne Rentschler

**HAPPY 94TH BIRTHDAY TO
GEORGE BIRCH!**
(Actual date is unknown)

With Sympathy

Kayla Cox upon the death of her grandmother, Judi Cox, on August 29

Richard Logsdon and Family upon the death of his father on August 30

Tonia and Emily Caudle upon the death of Tonia's fiancé, Rick Travis, on September 3

Jim and Brenda Mann upon the death of their nephew, Greg Griffith, on September 12

Jeff and Jane Berns and Family upon the death of Jane's mother, Gwendolyn Strahl, on September 18

Paul and Beth Radabaugh and Family and Aleah Kassner and Family upon the death of Beth's mother and Aleah's grandmother, Patricia Wilkerson, on October 1

October Anniversaries

- 2 Jim and Gertie Schweitzer
- 14 Joe and Beth Ditmyer
- 17 Millard and Beverly Hill

**Christmas Cantata
Rehearsals**
begin
Sunday, October 21
6:00 pm
Sanctuary

All Are Invited



Thank You . . .

To everyone who called, sent cards, or were at church to celebrate my 98th birthday. Blessings to all of you.

Mary J. Hummel

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Middletown, OH 45044