

April 2019

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

10:30 am - Sunday Worship

9:00 am - Group Study

Sunday Adult Classes

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

Sunday Youth Class

Room 4: Jr. High/Sr. High

Nursery Care

10:15 am - noon, Ages 0-Pre-K, Rm. 27 & 29

What is Holy Week? Our Journey to Easter

Holy Week is the final week of Lent, seven days leading to Easter in which the church celebrates and remembers Jesus' journey to the cross. Beginning on Palm Sunday, the week continues with the observance of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and concludes with the celebration of resurrection on Easter Sunday.



Palm Sunday, April 14, commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11) on the back of a donkey. As he enters the city, Jesus is hailed as King with the crowds laying their cloaks and palm branches on the road before Him. In our 10:30 a.m. worship, our children will lead us with a palm processional, waving palm leaves to mark the joyous reception at Jesus' arrival.



Maundy Thursday, April 18, is the day Christians remember the night that Jesus was betrayed by Judas and the institution of the Lord's Supper (John 13:1-35). On this night, Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples and also washed their feet, displaying his humility and love. The word "maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum* meaning "commandment" and refers to Jesus' instruction to his disciples: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." Our Maundy Thursday Service of Communion and Remembrance will be held at Bethel A.M.E Church beginning with dinner at 6:00 pm and service at 7:00 pm.



Good Friday, April 19, is the day that we remember Christ's suffering, crucifixion, and death. Good Friday is a day of repentance and reflection of Christ's sacrifice. The origin of the name "Good Friday" comes from either a linguistic deviation of "God's Friday" or from "Gute Freitag," a Germanic origin which literally means "good" or "holy" Friday. The sanctuary will be opened from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm for those who wish to come in to pray and meditate.

Holy Saturday is the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday, a day of waiting in the darkness of Christ's death for the promised light of Easter morning.

Easter Sunday marks the day of Jesus' resurrection from the grave. It was on this day that an angel appeared to the women at Jesus' tomb who were sitting vigil to tell them the news of Christ's resurrection (Matthew 28:1-10). This is why many churches often gather at sunrise to celebrate the dawn of a new day, the end of night's long darkness and the proclamation that the light of the world outshines even the darkness of death. On Easter Sunday, we celebrate with hymns of praise proclaiming "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" Christ is risen indeed.

Letter from the Pastor



My beloved Parishioners,

Through the disciplines of prayer, fasting and Bible study, we pray that your season of Lent has been one of examination for elevation. We hope that we will all come out of Lent emotionally healthy, physically improved and spiritually elevated . . . ready to be called out into resurrection!

There was a day when United Methodism carried the torch for Jesus Christ in America. But that day is history. There are many reasons for this decline but we believe at the heart of the matter is the deterioration of worship from its evangelistic thrust to a pattern of nominal conventional religion so prevalent in Methodist churches today. Laity sits comfortably in their pews methodically reciting dry, repetitious liturgy that uncommitted pastors write into weekly services. Sermons consist of politics, gay rights, platitudes, piety and many other substitutes for the Gospel. Our members leave unmoved, unchanged and unconverted. Visitors come and go seeing little to hold them there. Paul refers to this as practicing "the form of religion but having no power." (*II Timothy 3:5*)

The call to Lazarus to come forth, to leave the tomb behind, is for us to acknowledge that Lazarus is us. We are dead, stinking dead. Living the Christian life requires spiritual power. Spiritual power is the result of one's connectedness to God. This connectedness to God empowers the child of God to receive and appropriate the power of God in one's life. Jesus told his disciples He is the vine and they are the branches. Those branches that are connected to the vine are the branches that bear abundant fruit. To be connected to God is to be in intimate fellowship with God through which the believer receives strength, direction, enthusiasm, and guidance for living the Christian life.

Today, when people "come out" and announce their sexual preference, they get notoriety from high offices. We declare, it is time for The Church and believers to come forth and leave the tomb behind. We will get notoriety from the King of Kings who will say, "This is my beloved child with whom I am well pleased." Jesus is calling us as a community, not simply as individuals, to support the deliverance of others from death as well.

We see many of you are standing, testifying and praising God publicly in worship. God is doing a new

thing in the worship at Christ Church. The more we come out, the more the anointing will fill our sanctuary. Come every Sunday expecting God to call you out.

Churches and denominations that are growing today are merely emphasizing what made Methodism the torch bearer long ago — salvation through the finished work of Jesus Christ at Calvary; the rebirth experience; commitment to a holy lifestyle; growth in the Christian life through prayer, Bible Study, fellowship and worship; and the work of the Holy Spirit revealing the gifts of the Spirit and nurturing the fruits of the Spirit to every believer. Churches grow when the Spirit is fed. Churches die when the spirit is starved.

Are you ready to come out? Is Jesus calling you to step forth and come on out?

In the name of the resurrected Christ,

Pastor Dixon

Why Go To Church?

If you are spiritually dead, you will not want to read this. If you are spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: *"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"*

When you are DOWN to nothing . . . God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

All right, now that you're done reading, think about it! When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, "Jesus, could you get that for me?"

ALL THINGS NEW

• a holy week musical celebration •

Palm Sunday, April 14
4:00 pm Cantata | 5:00 pm Dinner

RSVP would be appreciated so we know how many to expect for dinner. You can email julie.coleman@christum.com or respond to this event on our Facebook page.



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

April 18
Bethel AME Church
1507 Yankee Road Middletown

6:00 pm Dinner
(Members of Christ Church are asked to bring desserts)

7:00 pm Service of Communion and Remembrance

GOOD FRIDAY

April 19

Sanctuary will be open from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm for those who wish to pray and meditate

also

The Middletown Area Ministerial Alliance will have a joint Good Friday service at 6:30 pm at

The United Missionary Baptist Church
719 18th Avenue Middletown

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 20, at 10:00 am

Donuts, Juice and Coffee will be served
The Easter Story will be shared
Easter Egg Hunt will take place in the park-like area on the west side of the church

Please invite your children, grandchildren, extended family and friends to join us for an "eggsciting" morning! All are welcome!

Donations of individually wrapped candies can still be brought to the church and left in Room 108.

(Event sponsored by the ReachOut Class)

Easter Lilies

Last Sunday to order Easter Lilies is April 7

Order envelopes can be obtained from the ushers on Sunday morning. Payment is due at the time of ordering.

Cost: \$11

Orders can also be placed by calling the church office at 422-7364.

In Observance of Holy Week . . .

The church office will be closed on Thursday, April 18, as well as Friday, April 19

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

FAITH--Let's Build on It!

Update . . . The first phase of the Faith--Let's Build on It! campaign is complete. All glory to God our Father for the blessings He has given us during this time!

To recap, the Hoskins family generously gifted Christ Church \$99,700. Our debt reduction campaign resulted in an additional \$50,030 being raised. Of that total, \$39,190 has been received with the additional \$10,840 being pledged and paid through July, 2020.

In mid-March a lump sum payment of \$140,000 was applied to the principal of our building mortgage obligation. This is the sum of the Hoskins gift (\$99,700) and the \$39,190 paid by congregational contributions for a total of \$138,890. A decision was made to add to this total and bring the payment amount up to an even \$140,000.

With the payment on the principal, Lebanon Citizens National Bank waived all prepayment penalties and agreed to keep our mortgage rate at 4.75%. They have also re-amortized our payment. Our new monthly obligation is \$715.13, down from our previous monthly payment of \$1,936.80. Praise God! We are also able to make additional principal payments in the future as funds are given or become available. Our new outstanding balance is \$81,952, and we have 152 months (12.67 years) left on the loan.

Our God is mighty! All honor and glory to Him for these precious gifts! Thank you all for your support and prayers!! May we give Him thanks!

In His Service,
Jane Tipton

Handbells

A new music ministry opportunity
at Christ Church

- ◆ No experience necessary (everything will be taught)
- ◆ Ability to read music not required
 - ◆ Ages 12 and up are welcome
- ◆ Minimum of 12 people needed to form the Handbell Choir

There will be an information meeting on **Sunday, April 28, at 11:45 am** in the sanctuary for those interested in "ringing"

For more information, please contact:
Betsy Balger at bjbalger1@aol.com or by
phone at 513-423-6907 (Home) or
513-320-1046 (Cell)

Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar on a given Sunday, you are invited to sign up on the "Flower Chart" located on the wall across from the church office.

Fresh flowers are preferred and can come from a florist, Kroger, Aldi, or even your garden. If you are providing flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one and would like that information printed in the Sunday bulletin, the information will need to be shared with the office by Wednesday prior to the Sunday the flowers will be placed on the altar. Flowers can be brought to the church before the start of worship on Sunday, or you may call Beth Greider to make arrangements for placement on the altar. To protect the altar and altar cloths, plates are provided to put under all flower vases.

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Greider at (513) 571-1800 or Bobette Owen at (513) 320-2644.

150th United Methodist Women's Birthday Celebration

Cheviot United Methodist Church
3820 Westwood Northern Blvd., Cincinnati

Saturday, April 27, at 10:30 am
Tickets are \$8

For those interested in attending or for more information, please contact Dee Sellers at 513-464-6739 by **April 20** so she can obtain tickets.

(There is also a possibility the church van will be used to transport those attending.)



The United Methodist Women will meet on **Thursday, April 21, at 10:00 am in Room 113**

Program speaker will be Jeanine from the Council on Aging who will be sharing about "Home Safety for Seniors"

Financial Update . . .

	<u>Month of February</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$22,813	\$ 38,930
Expenses	<u>(\$23,755)</u>	<u>(\$ 48,597)</u>
Income/(Loss)	(\$ 942)	(\$ 9,667)

Note: Fortunately, the weather did not impact Sunday attendance in February resulting in an increase in giving and a significantly lower loss than experienced in January. Our mortgage payment was made in full in February. During the January Admin Team meeting, it was decided to attempt to pay the district only portion of our connectional expenses pending cash availability. We continued to make payments in February. However, connectional giving and expenses are not reflected in the numbers above.

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

United Methodist Women's Spring Retreat

Hueston Woods
May 19-21, 2019

Cost: \$185 (Meals Not Included)
\$50 deposit due April 7 with payment
in full due May 5

Theme: "Color Your World . . ."
(Based on Genesis 1 & 2)

Retreat Schedule

- May 19**
Arrive at Hueston Woods at 3:00 pm
Worship Service/Holy Communion
- May 20**
Morning Session - Art lesson with Sarah Hellman
Afternoon Session - Color analysis by Lynnae Bussell (*What color is best for your personality and emotions?*)
Evening Session - Deona Bethart singing;
Creating postcards for shut-ins
- May 21**
Breakfast together and depart for home



**Friday, June 28
and
Saturday, June 29**

It is not too early to start saving all your unwanted clutter and treasures for the church rummage sale in June. Donations can now be brought to the church and left in Room 118B.

(Note: Televisions and clothing are not being accepted.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Bishop Reflects on Response to Special General Conference

Beloved in Christ Jesus:

I hope you are off to a good start in Lent. Lent for many is a time of reflection and preparation. We are invited to deepen our life in Jesus Christ and prepare for the feast of Easter.

This year Lent came in on us on the heels of our Special General Conference. I think that is great timing for United Methodists individually and collectively. Since the General Conference adjourned, its effects are consuming lots of air, energy and even headlines in the religious and secular press. Mail is up by post and electronically. So a few reflections and observations seem in order. This may be more for my good, but you may find them to be grist for your spiritual mill.

The communications I have received have run the gamut. Many notes are simply kind and prayerful. Some declare that a great victory was won at the General Conference; others decry that the decisions made in St. Louis have inflicted great pain. Opining about the future of The United Methodist Church has become a cottage industry. In the mix of the correspondence are churches and people that simply and thoughtfully make note of how they are in persistent and steady pursuit of the mission of *“making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”* in dozens of tangible ways on a daily and weekly basis. It occurs to me over and over again that nothing gives us a pass on the relentless pursuit of the mission. That is not to say that the church should not spend time, thought and energy focusing on specific ways we live out the Gospel. The point is that every specific place we are seeking clarity as Church must ultimately be in service to the mission.

Some churches and persons are expressing their discontent with the recent work of the General Conference by withholding connectional giving (apportionments) or disrupting public worship. For those who believe that this is a faithful response to St. Louis, I plead and pray that you ask questions that go deep. Dissent and protest are not strange to us in church and society. Whenever we engage in protesting a specific action, it is incumbent upon the individual or group to do so with the primary mission in mind, to be clear about hoped for outcomes, to humbly weigh the unintended consequences and to take moral responsibility for actions and words. There are no consequences, intended or unintended, that do not affect people in real time and in the future.

All ecclesiastical skirmishes notwithstanding, it is still my great honor and high privilege to serve among you as a brother beloved in Christ Jesus and as your bishop. I will never cease to thank God that one day I heard and heeded the glad words of Jesus found in John’s Gospel: “You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last...” and so I remain,

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

+Bishop Gregory V. Palmer



Let’s Help and Make a Difference!

Beginning April 14, Christ Church will be sponsoring a “Fill the Playpen” Drive to benefit the Middletown Community Pregnancy Center directed by Candice Keller who spoke during worship on March 24. The Center provides counseling to those in need as well as needed baby items. Please consider purchasing and donating baby items such as diapers (all sizes), baby wipes, bottles, clothing, etc. Donations can be placed in the playpen located in the lobby. Once filled, the playpen and baby items will be taken to the Center to fulfill the needs of families in Middletown. Thank you.

April Birthdays

2	George Knapp
4	Sarah Kitchen
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

April Anniversaries

1	Dave and Dorie Kirkland
3	Bill and Robyn McCall
7	Bernie and Glenna Fisher
8	Clark and Stephanie Record
9	Michael and Emily Miller
21	David and Janet Sauter

thank
you!

I want to thank my church friends for their calls and cards while I have been recovering from a fall.

Lucille Knight

“Study to show thyself approved unto God.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

Christ Church has a variety of adult Sunday School classes and Bible studies that are always open to newcomers. We invite you to check them out and find one that is right for you!

Sunday at 9:00 am

Searchers Class: Scott Leonard, Leader
Meets in Room 118A

Study: Class is beginning a five-week study of Max Lucado's book, “**He Chose the Nails**”

Calvary Class: Denny Greider, Leader
Meets in Room 113

Study: Class discusses books of the Bible verse by verse and is currently finishing the **Book of Numbers**

ReachOut Class: Leadership is Shared
Meets in the Library

Study: Class is currently discussing the book, “**The Circle Maker: Praying Circles Around Your Biggest Dreams and Fears**” by Mark Batterson

Sojourners Class: David Martin, Leader
Meets in Room 115

Study: Class is currently studying the minor prophets

Weekday Bible Studies

Tuesday at 7:00 pm - Joan Peterson, Leader
Meets in the Library (*February-April; September-November*)

Study: Class will meet until May 7; currently finishing a study using Tony Evan's book, “**The Names of God**”

Wednesday at 10:00 am - Jeff Layne, Leader
Meets in Room 113
(*September-May*)

Study: Class is currently going chapter-by-chapter through the **Book of John**

Wednesday at 6:30 pm - Beth Radabaugh, Leader
Meets in the Library
(*September-May*)

Study: Class is beginning a new study using the book, “**The Litany of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life**” by Tish Harrison Warren

April

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|------|---|------|---|
| 4/2 | 12:00 pm Yoga, 24
3:30 pm Whiz Kids, 117
6:30 pm Link's University, 115
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library | 4/17 | 9:30 am Sewing Kneelers, NLC
10:00 am Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
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 |
| 4/3 | 10:00 am Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
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 | 4/18 | OFFICE CLOSED
10:00 am United Methodist Women, 113
4:00 pm Yoga, Lobby
6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
(at Bethel AME Church) |
| 4/6 | 8:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library | 4/19 | OFFICE CLOSED
12:00 pm Good Friday Prayer/Meditation,
Sanctuary |
| 4/7 | 6:00 pm Easter Cantata Rehearsal, Sanctuary | 4/20 | 8:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast, NLC |
| 4/9 | 12:00 pm Yoga, 24
1:00 pm Membership Care, Library
3:30 pm Whiz Kids, 117
6:00 pm Admin Team, 113
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library | 4/21 | EASTER SUNDAY |
| 4/10 | 10:00 am Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary | 4/23 | 12:00 pm Yoga, 24
6:30 pm Link's University 115
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library |
| 4/11 | 4:00 pm Yoga, Lobby | 4/24 | 10:00 am Bible Study, 113
12:30 pm NAMI, Library
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 |
| 4/13 | 8:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
10:00 am Easter Cantata Rehearsal,
Sanctuary
2:00 pm Caudle Baby Shower, NLC | 4/25 | 4:00 pm Yoga, Lobby |
| 4/14 | 4:00 pm EASTER CANTATA, Sanctuary
and Dinner, NLC
6:30 pm Girl Scouts, Youth Lounge | 4/27 | 8:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library |
| 4/16 | 12:00 pm Yoga, 24
3:30 pm Whiz Kids Celebration, NLC
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library | 4/28 | 11:45 am Bell Choir Info Meeting, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Girl Scouts, Youth Lounge |
| | | 4/30 | 12:00 pm Yoga, 24
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library |

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY TO BE DONE

A new church pictorial directory is going to be done, and we currently need a person(s) to be responsible to see it through to completion. The directory will be done by Universal Church Directories and pictures for the directory are scheduled to be taken on September 6 & 7, 2019. If interested, please see Pastor Dixon. Our Universal Directories representative would like to schedule the first meeting for the directory in early July.



Ministry Minded
FAMILY
focused.



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



Earth Day

May 11

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Middletown High School Community Room
601 N. Breiel Blvd.**

Registration begins at 8:00 am

OR

Register online at: www.keepmiddletownbeautiful.org

Register by April 26 and receive free Earth Day T-Shirt

“Keep Middletown Beautiful” has been in existence at least 20 years and has grown in its service to the community by cleaning up parks and other public areas in Middletown. On May 11, KMB will supply hand held “pickers” to collect trash, gloves and garbage bags to volunteers for this citywide clean-up. Safety precautions will also be shared with volunteers including what to do with used needles if found. Refreshments will be served at 11:30 am at the high school.

If you have any questions, please contact KMB member Sally Williamson at (513) 465-7832 or at wwilliamson@cinci.rr.com.