

October 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



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,
Room 106

"Look What the Lord Has Done!"

November 3, 2019

Mortgage Burning Service 10:30 am

Guest Speaker

The Rev. Dr. Todd Anderson
District Superintendent of the Ohio River Valley

Lunch to follow in the New Life Center

God's Abundant Blessing . . . As many of you know, Christ Church has had a building debt on the church building since the late 1980s. Over time we have paid thousands of dollars in interest on the loan. While no one likes to have loan debt, our church has really not had a good alternative. The last monies added to the loan were in August 2010 when we refinanced the loan and added enough to the loan to pay for a new roof on the building which was approximately \$70,000. Since that time, we have not had to borrow any additional monies.

In October 2018, the church received a gift in the amount of \$99,709.04 from the estate and family of Carol Hoskins to put toward the building loan. The loan balance at the time was approximately \$230,000, and we were two years into a 15-year payoff schedule.

Because of the Hoskins' gift, the Administrative Team decided to conduct a matching gift campaign to see if we could pay off the mortgage. We were able to make a payment of approximately \$149,000, leaving us with a balance at the time of approximately \$77,000. With the additional funds that have been received toward paying off the mortgage and using a portion of the proceeds received from the sale of the parsonage, the building loan will be completely paid off resulting in a savings of a little under \$100,000 in interest we will not have to pay.

We should truly celebrate the faithfulness of God and the members and friends of Christ Church for the elimination of this debt.

Letter from the Pastor



My beloved Parishioners,

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

When the Israelites were on the threshold of possessing the promised land, Moses sent 12 men to Canaan to spy out the land and bring back a report. Ten men gave a report of fear, frustration, apprehension, negativism and woe. Two men, Caleb and Joshua, gave a totally opposite view. They said it in this way, “. . . and the Lord is with us, fear them not.” In spite of fear they displayed courage and faith which resulted in a life in the promised land.

When I reflect on my first year of ministry at Christ Church, truly God has been mighty good to us. Things that some thought were impossible have become a reality. When we move from doubt to faith as Sarah did in Genesis 18:11 and 21:12, God will bless us beyond our imagination. Some things come by faith and not by sight.

Nine months ago, we decided to act on a vision. We were determined to pay off the balance of our 15-year, \$230,000 mortgage. That dream has become a reality.

The mortgage burning celebration will be held on Sunday, November 3, at 10:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Todd Anderson, District Superintendent of the Ohio River Valley District of the United Methodist Church. Please invite your families and friends to join us for this great celebration. Now that we have freed-up God's money, it's time to do what God intended the church to be about - ministering to His people.

Friends, whenever the people of God move toward God, they can experience the life-giving and life-restoring power of God. The church universal needs a new revival this season. Because of the tremendous advancements made in scientific technology, medical doctors are able to do wonders today in their fields. Jesus Christ, before his ascension, provided the church with the best of power. He gave the church the power of the Holy Spirit in order that we could do wonders. Are we using that power as doctors are using their technology?

I am glad that we as Christ Church have decided to teach only the Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments. People need to hear the stories of the Old Testament and about the power of God as revealed in these stories. The word of God is intended to nurture as well as convict us of our sins. When the word is preached and we do not feel some guilt, or if our religion has become too comfortable, we need to examine our faith. Christians need to stand up in their communities and be counted for what is just, righteous, pure, honest and of good report.

Finally, we have all been called by God to a special ministry in order to extend the ministry of Jesus Christ. Therefore, I urge all of us to be good soldiers of Christ in this time of harvest.

I do not work miracles. I am a sinner saved by God's grace. I will not always live up to your expectations and will make mistakes. I have ruffled some feathers and have made some tough decisions. To all of you who might have felt offended by my actions, decisions and other shortcomings, I pray that you charge it to my head and not to my heart and would ask for your prayers, forgiveness, sympathy and understanding. I love the people of Christ Church and am blessed to be your Pastor. Thank you for your prayers, love and support.

In closing, I want to call our attention to the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:6, “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.” In other words, my predecessors have planted, I shall water, but it is only God who makes it grow.

In His service together,

Pastor Dixon

Deadline Date for November Cornerstone

Information for the November Cornerstone must be received in the church office by Monday, October 21. Thank you!



The United Methodist Women will meet on Thursday, October 17, at 10:00 am in Room 113

There will be a surprise presentation by Patty Mendenhall and Dee Sellers

2020 Pledges are to be returned at this meeting

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN SOUP SALE

Orders for homemade Vegetable and Bean Soups will be taken at the Fall Festival on November 9

Price:
One Quart - \$7
Three Quarts - \$20

Pick-up will be on Sunday, November 17, following service



Berns Gift Cards are available for purchase from the United Methodist Women

Cards are \$25 (with \$5 from each card sold returned to the UMW)

Please see Pam Cole to purchase your card

Fall Festival

Saturday, November 9
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
New Life Center

There will be a display of gift baskets in the lobby for purchase prior to the festival. Volunteer opportunities are also available at the festival which include:

- Cashiers at lunch
- Kitchen prep and serve
- Clean-up
- Set-up (Friday, November 8)

Donations of baked goods, homemade candy and desserts for lunch are needed and should be brought to the library the week of the festival and marked "Fall Festival" (please do not price items, however).

If you have not yet volunteered to donate baked goods or help the day of the festival, please contact Pam Cole at (513) 422-2989.

Thank you for your time and talents to help make this year's Fall Festival a great success!

Trunk 'N Treat

**Thursday, October 31
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

Volunteers are needed to pass out candy and personal hygiene items from your "trunks" as well as help serve hot dogs and drinks during Trunk 'N Treat.

Donations of wrapped candy and personal hygiene items can be left in Room 118B.

Thank you!



Zink's Sub Sale

Thank you for your sub orders and your continued support of ReachOut and their activities.

Sub orders will be available for pick-up on Saturday, October 12, from 11:00 am - 12:00 noon and Sunday, October 13, following service



NORTHSTAR
Classical School

Open House
Sunday, October 20
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
New Life Center

You are invited to come and meet the faculty, tour the classrooms and learn more about Northstar Classical School.

(There will be a short presentation by Audrey Davis beginning at 2:15 pm)

Northstar Classical School has extended an open invitation to the congregation of Christ Church to serve as **GUEST READERS** in the classrooms.

To volunteer, contact Audrey Davis at:
adavis@northstarclassical.com

TRIMMING OF SHRUBS

There are 72 shrubs located on the church property which should be trimmed annually to prevent them from growing together or growing out of shape resulting in an unsightly appearance. Of these 72 shrubs, Jim and Cindy Buckey have trimmed the 4 shrubs located in the garden areas near Door No. 2 and the 16 shrubs adjacent to the Marshall Road Entrance which Dick Cole has trimmed for several years until he was recently placed on the injured reserve list.

Of the remaining 52 shrubs in need of trimming, George and Linda Knapp have been able to trim 12 as of August 31 but are now in need of volunteers to help trim the remaining 40 shrubs. Volunteers would have to bring their own tools and could choose their own time. Some shrubs are massive (those located in the tier garden in front of the Marshall Road entrance); some are smaller boxwoods (mainly located in the back gardens); and some have thorns (Holly Street side shrubs). Trimming shrubs in the tier garden (front of church) can be tricky due to their location and the instability of the stones located in this garden. **Currently, the shrubs in the tier garden and the shrubs at the Holly Street entrance are the first priority.** Additionally, all the decorative grasses should be cut back in either the spring or the fall.

For those who might not like to trim, people are also needed for the clean-up work which follows the trimming and usually takes more time than the actual trimming.

To volunteer, please contact George and Linda Knapp at 513-423-2861 (or 513-292-2853 cell) and they will assign you a shrub(s).



October Birthdays

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 3 | Judy Crump Robert Derrough |
| 5 | Bergit Clark |
| 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 |

October Anniversaries

| | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 2 | Jim and Gertie Schweitzer |
| 14 | Joe and Beth Ditmyer |

With Sympathy

The family of Dr. Craig W. Johnson who passed away on September 20

The family of Leilani A. Honesty who passed away on September 27

Address Change: For those wishing to reach out to Pam Seibold, cards can be sent to Pam in care of her sister, Elaine Bailey, at 140 Nutmeg Square, Springboro 45066.

Congratulations

David and Suzi DeGrosso upon the birth of their grandson, Waylon Beau Perry, on September 4. Congratulations also to Waylon's great-grandmother, Dorothy Back, and great-aunt, Kathy Hodel.

Jeff and Janet Layne upon the birth of their granddaughter, Luna Forte, on September 25.

Wendy Minor upon the birth of her granddaughter, Charlotte Moon Britton, on September 30. Congratulations also to great-grandparents, Marilyn Minor and Carl and Shirley Heismann and uncle, Matthew Minor.

Blessings

Thank You!

Thank you Christ Church for all your prayers, phone calls, cards and personal conversations regarding my health. Your prayers have surely been answered thanks to God. He provided the surgeon and his team with the wisdom needed. I am on the road to recovery and expect a full recovery in due time. Thanks again to everyone including Pastor Dixon, Pastor Ervin and the many friends and above all thanks to God. From the bottom of my heart - and that is the truth . . .

Jack Achberger

Thank you for your cards, calls, visits and prayers following my recent back surgery. Thank you also for the beautiful cross. I am home now, steadily improving and will begin physical therapy very soon.

Jim Mann

October

- 10/1 11:45 am Yoga, Lobby
- 10/2 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
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 10/5 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
- 10/8 11:45 am Yoga, Lobby
1:30 pm Membership Care, Library
6:00 pm Admin Team, 113
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library
- 10/9 10:00 am Pastor's 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
- 10/12 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
- 10/13 6:30 pm Girl Scouts, Youth Lounge
- 10/15 11:45 am Yoga, Lobby
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library
- 10/16 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
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 10/17 10:00 am United Methodist Women, 113
- 10/19 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
10:00 am Church Cleaning Day, Lower Level
- 10/20 2:00 pm Northstar Open House, NLC
- 10/22 11:45 am Yoga, Lobby
6:30 pm Handbell Choir, 113
7:00 pm Bible Study, Library
- 10/23 12:30 pm NAMI, Library
6:00 pm Chancel Choir, Sanctuary
6:30 pm Bible Study, Library
7:30 pm Praise Team, Sanctuary
- 10/26 9:00 am Emmaus Share Group, Library
- 10/27 6:30 pm Girl Scouts, Youth Lounge
- 10/28 8:30 pm Connecting Points, First UMC,
Middletown
- 10/29 11:45 am Yoga, Lobby
6:30 pm Handbell Choir, 113
- 10/30 10:00 am Pastor's 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

SECURITY PROTOCOLS

We are now a little more than a month into our partnership with Northstar Classical School and things are going very well. We hear repeatedly from the staff of Northstar how blessed and pleased they are to be at Christ Church.

As a reminder, we wanted to share with you once again the security protocols that have been put into place with regard to entering the building throughout the week during office and school hours. These protocols include:

- ◆ The main entrance for Christ Church will be the Marshall Street doors; Northstar will use the entrance from the west parking lot as their main entrance. To assist with security, these entrances are solely for the purpose of Christ Church and Northstar, and so congregants and Northstar faculty/students/parents must enter through the appropriate door as well as respective visitors.
- ◆ All outside doors will be kept locked to ensure the safety of Church staff and Northstar faculty and children.
- ◆ A wireless buzzer is scheduled to be installed at the Marshall Street entrance for those wishing entry into the church building for church business, e.g., visitors, mailpersons, repairmen, etc. during office hours so that the church secretary is alerted that someone is at the door.
- ◆ And finally, if you have a group, e.g., Bible Study, UMW, committee, etc., meeting during school hours, you will need to position a person at the door you will be using for your group's entry into the building. Please insure that at **no time** is a door unlocked and unattended for a meeting or gathering during school hours. This is also a good security practice for groups meeting during non-school hours.

As always, we thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to monitor these protocols to make sure they are adequately meeting the safety concerns of those for which they are intended.

CLEANING DAY

Saturday, October 19
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

It is time to clean-out the clutter and begin transforming the older wing and classrooms in the lower level.

Many hands will make the work light!

Please let Jane Tipton or Deona Bethart know if you would like to volunteer.

Lunch will be provided.



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

Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River Watershed

Saturday, October 26

9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Middletown

Bicentennial Commons

Just South of SR 122 intersection with 2nd Ave.

Great Miami River Clean-up is a fun, rewarding community beautification project for individuals, clubs, companies, schools, scouts, churches and other groups.

Free T-Shirt Free Bottled Water
Garbage bags & gloves will be provided

Register On-Line:
www.GreatMiamiRiverCleanUp.org

Or Contact the Site Coordinator:
Jeff Michel, Keep Middletown Beautiful, 425-7750

Cargill
MillerCoors
American Rivers
Rumpke
Cox Media Group, Ohio
Butler Co. Storm Water District
Keep Middletown Beautiful



City of Middletown
Butler Soil & Water Conservation District
Hamilton to New Baltimore Ground Water Consortium
Miami Conservancy District

Matthew Ministries

Early Thursday, September 12, Matthew 25 Ministries initial disaster assessment team departed for the Bahamas carrying supplies to people affected by Hurricane Dorian. The team took with them relief items including medical supplies, personal care products, micro-nutrient supplements, laundry supplies, cookware and food service supplies. One of the first stops was an orphanage in Nassau where refugee children have gathered from the outer islands which have been destroyed. Following this initial trip, additional airlifts of supplies continued throughout the following week.

Matthew 25 is actively responding to this storm which will be a long-term relief effort because of the severe devastation. To help them with their relief efforts, we continue to collect empty plastic pill bottles for Matthew 25. Please leave your pill bottles in the red container in the library marked "Pill Bottles." In September, we scheduled a pick-up of 700 pill bottles for a total of 11,695 pill bottles collected for Matthew 25 Ministries to date.