

December 2020

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 118: *Searchers Class*
Grand Hallway: *ReachOut*

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

December 24

8:00 pm

Advent -- A Time of Prayer and Meditation

The sanctuary will be open on Wednesdays,
December 2 through December 23,
from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (**Note Time Change**)
for time of prayer and meditation as you reflect
on the true meaning of Christmas.

Changes and Cancellations of Previously Scheduled Church Events and Activities

The Blue Night of Christmas Service scheduled for Sunday,
December 20, for those mourning the loss of a loved one this
year has been canceled.

The United Methodist Women have canceled their Christmas
cookie sale that had been scheduled for December.

The United Methodist Women's Christmas Party scheduled for
December 3 has been moved to Thursday, January 21, at the
Heritage Green Clubhouse, 416 Heritage Green Drive in
Monroe, at 11:30 am.

Letter from the Pastor



My beloved Parishioners,

To all who read these pages, I greet you in the name of our Liberating Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This year has been one of the most challenging years in my 33 years of ministry in the West Ohio Conference. Throughout my journey of ministry when I find myself in these situations, I lean on the Rock who is Jesus Christ. The hymn writer was right when he wrote these words, “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.”

Keeping a church together is not a simple thing, but it becomes twice as hard in a pandemic. We may have different points of view, different skills, and different understandings. Yet the Holy Spirit seeks to knit us together for Christ’s good purpose according to the New Testament. The Apostle Paul calls the church a body (see Romans 12:1-8, I Corinthians 12:7-12). Like a body, a church’s health can be affected if there is something amiss in even one small part of it. All the parts of the body are joined together for the common good. Sometimes we forget that and insist on our own way before all others. Sometimes we fail to look to our own spiritual health and then wonder why the church around us seems to be struggling. The church does not come together out of magic but by the will of the Holy Spirit. Our own attitudes, selfishness, strife and sin can weaken the body. Let us hold one another in prayer, showing mutual respect, and each act in a loving and responsible way for the good of Christ’s Church.

We cannot be together much this Advent. We have prepared an Advent Study for use in your homes. I want to encourage you to stop by and get a copy from the church office or call and we will have one mailed to you. Please read it together as a family and have a discussion. I will be preaching on the same theme each week. I would like to encourage our Sunday School classes to use this material for the Advent Season also.

First week: The Journey of Promise
Second week: The Journey of Faith
Third week: The Journey of Hope
Fourth week: The Journey of Love

Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you that have faithfully continued to support this ministry financially. Even though some of you are unable to attend the in-person worship service, you have faithfully dropped-off or mailed in your tithe and offering. May God richly bless you for your faithfulness to His church. With God all things are possible. Although we did not have the rummage sale or the Fall Festival, God did the impossible and we give Him all the praise. If you have not given this year or are behind in your giving, please use the next three weeks to catch up and be a part of what God is doing at Christ Church. God loves a cheerful giver.

Have a blessed, merry, happy Christmas, and be safe.

Pastor Dixon



Recycling Dumpster Discontinued

Cohen Recycling is no longer recycling paper and cardboard products and as a result has removed their dumpster from west parking lot. While efforts were made to find another company that would provide a similar service, those efforts were unsuccessful. We do apologize that we are no longer able to offer this service.

Membership Outreach Campaign

Over these last nine months, we have all had to take a step back and rethink how we move forward with both life and our personal relationships. Because of our inability as a church to gather and fellowship with one another, especially on Sunday mornings, we too found it necessary to “rethink” how we can still be engaged and care for one another during these uncertain and ever changing times and so we began our “Membership Outreach Campaign.” We are still in need of people within the congregation that are willing to commit to contacting five members/attendees once a month to help us stay connected. Contact can be made by phone, card or email. Once contact has been made, you are then asked to share your contact information with Julie in the church office including date of contact and whether there is anything going on in the person’s life that needs to be brought to Pastor Dixon’s attention. If you would like serve as one of these point persons, please contact Jane Tipton at (513) 292-1240 or by email at jane.tipton@gmail.com to obtain a contact listing. Thank you.

2021 Calendars

2021 calendars, compliments of Wilson-Schramm-Spaulling Funeral Home, are now available and can be picked up in the lobby on Sundays or during office hours throughout the week.

David Sauter Appointed Interim Treasurer

Beginning January 1, 2021, David Sauter will become the Interim Treasurer at Christ Church following the resignation of Barb Martin as Church Treasurer effective December 31, 2020.

Christmas Food Baskets

If you are purchasing items for the Christmas food baskets that will be given to the Creekview Elementary families being adopted this Christmas, your items need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 13. Tables have been placed outside the library for your donations. Monetary gifts are also welcome and can be placed in the offering boxes until December 13. These monies will be used to purchase gift cards to include in each of the three food baskets.



Thank You

My Beloved Parishioners . . . Words are inadequate to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you who took the time to write personal notes of appreciation to me for Pastor's appreciation month. The common theme in all of the notes was that you have grown closer to the Lord and been blessed with the messages on Sunday and my teachings. I give God all the glory for using this humble servant of His. To hear how much you have grown in your faith brings the greatest encouragement to my ministry here at Christ Church. You are such an amazing congregation, and it has been such a blessing to be your pastor. I am continually blown away by your compassion, generosity and willingness to support this ministry. I can only hope that I have inspired all of you as much as you have inspired me. Thanks for the book, inspirational desk calendar, gift cards and monetary gifts. To our dynamic Lay Leader, Jane, thank you for coordinating all of this that really came as a surprise. You are such a joy to work with and the love of God shines through you.

Love you,
Pastor Dixon

To all my wonderful church family and my wonderful Sunday School class . . . Thank you, thank you for the kindness you have shown me with the beautiful cards and most of all for your prayers. God bless each of you.

Love,
Sandy Smith

The family would like to thank you for the flower you sent to my Dad. I believe that he is now at peace with my Mom and parents and my sister. I have been surrounded by my church family and it feels so wonderful. Pastor Dixon was spot on with Dad's eulogy. Again, many thanks.

Patty Mendenhall

Your kind expression of sympathy will always remain in our memories. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Blessings,
The Family of Lee A. Mendenhall

Dear Friends of Christ Church . . . "Standing on the Promises of God!" Your opening hymn this morning - if only we could convince Tom to stand up! His condition currently has convinced him, "No, no, no!" Strong muscles, weak brain cooperation. I send thankfulness to Pastor Dixon and all for continuing your spiritual strengthening. Miss you all.

With sincerest love through our Heavenly Father,
Diane Hayes

Church Family . . . Blessings to all who remembered my sissy. I am overwhelmed at the outpouring of love shown by church family and friends. I will never forget your kindness. Walk with God.

Love,
Marilyn Minor

Dear Church Family . . . Thank you all for your phone calls, cards and prayers as I recuperate from my fall. Your love and ongoing prayers have been felt and are so very much appreciated.

Love,
Barb Langworthy

To All My Friends at Christ Church . . . Many thanks for all the cards and well wishes on my 90th birthday. A special thanks to the Searchers Class - it really meant a lot.

Blessings and Love,
Hank Witt

December Birthdays

- 1 Joan Peterson
- 20 Paul Radabaugh
- 24 Wynston Dixon
- 27 Tom Streiff
- 28 Beverly Hill
- 29 Diane Neal
- 30 Kevin Strait

Anniversaries

December

- 4 Norman and Karen Gibbs
- 7 Bob and Ann Baber
- 21 Thomas and Diane Hayes

January

- 24 Carl and Shirley Heismann
- 27 Mike and Marge Forrester

January Birthdays

- 4 Mike Forrester
- 5 Dottie Wasem
- 6 Kay Ellison
- Linda Knapp
- 8 Patty Streiff
- David Teeters
- 9 Deona Bethart
- 10 Caty O'Hara
- Gail Rose
- 11 Dorie Kirkland
- 16 Beth Ditmyer
- 20 Marge Forrester
- 21 Norman Gibbs
- Don Smith
- 22 Cindy Dishun
- 23 Dee Sellers
- 24 Teresa Banks
- 29 Andrea Jackson
- 31 Sherrie Robertson

With Heartfelt Sympathy

Scott and Becki Davis and family upon the death of Becki's mother, Nancy DeSerisy, on November 11.

Cherri Carpenter and family upon the death of Cherri's husband, Jonah, on November 12.

Gertie Schweitzer and family upon the death of Gertie's husband, Jim, on November 17.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE DURING CHRISTMAS

The Church office will be closed for Christmas and New Years from Thursday, December 24, until Monday, January 4.

Nancy Karnes Update . . . For those who might not be aware, Nancy Karnes broke her right ankle which required surgery. For the next six weeks, Nancy will be staying with and cared for by her brother and sister-in-law in Greenfield. If you would like to reach out to Nancy with cards and well wishes, you can send them to Nancy at: 11838 Karnes Road, Greenfield, OH 45123. Please continue to keep Nancy in your prayers.



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NAMI Announces Upcoming Programs:

Family & Friends Two, 2-hour sessions *Registration Required
Family & Friends is designed for individuals who are in recovery and family and friends of someone with a mental health disorder who would like more information about various illnesses, communication skills, stigma and empathy.

Wednesdays, December 2 and 9, from 6:30-8:30PM
(Online via Zoom)

Family to Family Eight, 2-2 ½ hours weekly sessions
***Registration Required**

Do you have a loved one diagnosed with, or showing symptoms of, mental illness? This class includes presentation, discussion and interactive exercises. Registrations for new, eight-week, Family to Family classes are being accepted. These classes are for family members and friends, aged 18 and older. Multiple family members and friends are all welcome to register.

Wednesdays, January 6, 2021-February 24, 2021, from 6:30-9:00PM
(Online via Zoom)

There is no cost to attend any NAMI program.
***Register for either program by contacting:**
Berni Murray, NAMI Program Director,
bmurray@nami-bc.org, 513-463-3994.

Online Support Groups Continue:

CONNECTION MEETINGS - For Adults with a Mental Illness

Monday at 6:00pm Meeting ID (Zoom App): 704-267-229
Password: 626422 – Join URL (computer access): <https://zoom.us/j/704267229>

Wednesday at 12:30 pm Meeting ID (Zoom App): 855-603-732
Password: 626422 – Join URL (computer access): <https://zoom.us/j/855603732>

Friday at 2:00 pm Meeting ID (Zoom App): 140-710-852
Password: 626422 – Join URL (computer access): <https://zoom.us/j/140710852>

IN-PERSON CONNECTION MEETING

Tuesday from 6:30-8:00PM - First United Methodist Church, 2nd & Ludlow Streets, Hamilton, OH 45011. Enter through the side door off the parking lot.

FAMILY SUPPORT MEETINGS - For Adult Family Members and Close Friends of those with a Mental Illness.

1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 pm Meeting ID (Zoom App): 278-754-088 Password: 626422 – Join URL (computer access): <https://zoom.us/j/278754088>