

September 2021

# 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

Evette Loper Watt, 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 115: *ReachOut*  
Room 113: *Calvary*

## SAVE THE DATE

### 2021 Charge Conference

Thursday, October 28  
at 6:00 pm  
in the Sanctuary

*Presiding Elder:*  
*Rev. Paula Stewart*  
*Clough UMC and Cherry Grove UMC*

## Fall Festival

Saturday, November 13  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
New Life Center

We are pleased to announce the  
return of the Fall Festival  
this year.

Booth spaces can be reserved  
by contacting Pam Cole at:  
(513) 422-2989 or (513) 465-1749

### Booth Sizes

8 x 10 (Price: \$35)  
8 x 12 (Price: \$40)  
Rent 2 Adjoining Spaces  
(Price: \$5 reduction in total cost)

If you are able to help with the  
Festival, Pam Cole would also like  
to hear from you!



# Letter from the Pastor



Greetings Beloved Christ Church!

I have walked with you for only two months, and much has transpired.

I am enjoying meeting you all through small group gatherings. I wish to extend a warm thank you to those who have graciously hosted these gatherings. In these meetings, you have shared your joys and concerns. You have shared your local missions and local partnerships such as SHALOM, Meals on Wheels, the Salvation Army Food Pantry, disaster relief abroad, trunk-or-treat, and the effort for children such as Whiz Kids, the S.M.I.L.E. program and much more. I am learning that you are a congregation that has gone beyond the walls of Christ Church and desires to continue to do so in the future. All groups agreed that as a church we must reach the younger generation.

Friends, as a global community fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, we have endured many losses over the past year. Loss of lives and way of life. The resurgence of the virus makes future activities uncertain and gives rise to altering behaviors for safety reasons. Nevertheless, we shall move daily with the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Only Christ can lead Christ Church.

God has blessed us with a beautiful building so that we may bless others. Little voices, little feet, and little hands are in the building - NorthStar Academy! The younger generation we yearned for are here. Christ Church asked for children, and they have arrived. Let us give thanks to God for the most precious gift of children. (Psalm 127:3) Let us intentionally make this a successful partnership.

My message and ministry are that of love, inclusiveness, and connectedness to our community. I shared the musing above with the Administrative Team and our District Superintendent, and now I share it with all of you.



What did Jesus call us to be and to do? Love. It seems so simple because it is so simple. In the weeks and months ahead, let us be mindful of our mission, vision, and core values:

**Mission:** To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world;

**Vision:** To impact the community for Christ . . . because Jesus did it for us; and

**Core Values:** To love God, love people, and love community.

When we commit our thoughts, words, and deeds to this, Christ will grow *His* church.

I am grateful to be your pastor. I look forward to the journey God has for us. We shall walk together and not get weary. I love you all, and there is nothing you can do about it!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Watt

## Digitally Moving Forward to Replace a Dilapidated Sign

After six months of discussing and researching signage options to replace the dilapidated sign on the corner of Grand and Marshall Avenues, the Administrative Board entered into a contractual arrangement with Wilson Electronic Displays to purchase a 16mm pitch pixel electronic sign at a cost of \$10,240. The sign will provide optimal readability for passers-by and will provide a tremendous opportunity for us to share our plans and upcoming activities with the community as we strive to become a more inviting place.

Bids were solicited from two companies, and Wilson Electronic Displays provided the lower of the two bids. After carefully reviewing the many "Various Accounts" and specifically the "Memorial Account" which had a balance of \$8,175 to determine how we might pay for the sign without impacting our operating funds, the Administrative Board paid the 50% deposit required by Wilson Electronic Displays, or \$5,405, from the "Memorial Account" which has not been used for several years but has experienced steady growth. We are very excited to announce that in addition to another \$600 we received in donations toward the cost of the sign, **AN ANONYMOUS DONOR HAS ALSO COME FORWARD TO PAY THE REMAINING BALANCE.** Tom Streiff has completed the electrical work necessary for the new sign which has resulted in a savings of over \$1,100 in anticipated start-up costs. The modest \$35 monthly electrical cost of the sign will be split between Christ Church (two-thirds) and Northstar Classical School (one-third). Additionally, there are plans to do some repair work to the wood on the top of the existing sign. The decision to purchase this new electronic sign was within the authority of the Administrative Board to do so, and the delivery and installation of the sign is anticipated early this Fall.



### Sunday, November 7 All Saints Day Celebration

This will be a day we recognize members and loved ones that passed away in 2020-2021.

Lunch will be served in the New Life Center immediately following worship and all are invited as we celebrate the "Cloud of Witnesses" that have gone before us by sharing stories and memories while dining with friends and family.

### Yes, We Are Still Recycling Cans

Christ Church is still collecting and recycling aluminum cans. Cans can be left behind the trash dumpster located just outside the kitchen door.

And a special **THANK YOU** goes out to the individual who recently left approximately 125 lbs. of aluminum cans for recycling. This in large part netted a \$100 cash "recycling" donation to the church.



Are you looking to engage/re-engage in the life and ministry of Christ Church?  
Then PLEASE consider one of these ministry areas . . .

## LITURGISTS NEEDED

Upon the return of in-person worship and the use of liturgists in the service, there currently is a great need for additional volunteers willing to serve as *liturgists* on Sunday morning. As a liturgist, you would be responsible for leading the congregation in an opening prayer and the Affirmation of Faith as well as reading the scripture passage in preparation for the pastor's morning message.

If you would like to volunteer to serve in this ministry area, please contact the church office at (513) 422-7364.

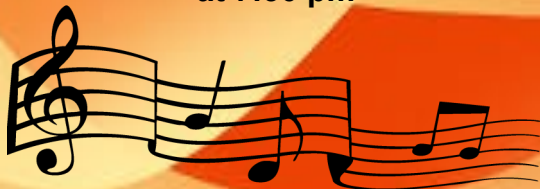
## Chancel Choir Returning

If you enjoy singing and would like to join the Chancel Choir, rehearsals are:

**Wednesdays  
at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary**

*followed by*

**Praise Team Rehearsals  
at 7:30 pm**



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY MORNING HOSPITALITY

We are in need of volunteers to prepare the hospitality table on Sunday morning.

Volunteers would be responsible for:

- Preparing coffee maker for 25 cups of coffee (1 filter & 1 cup of ground coffee)
- Sitting out juice which is kept in the refrigerator
- Unwrapping and sitting out cookies which are already plated and kept in the upright freezer in the pantry
- Filling 1 water pitcher with ice and water

Minimal clean-up would also be required following the hospitality time by returning juice to the refrigerator and cookies to the freezer, and emptying and cleaning out the coffee maker and water pitcher.

Hospitality volunteers WILL NEVER be responsible for purchasing supplies or be asked to bake any cookies.

To volunteer, please contact Dee Sellers at (513) 464-6739.

## USHERS NEEDED

Beginning Sunday, September 5, ushers will be returning for morning worship. We are currently looking for four individuals to serve each week. If you are interested in serving as an usher, please see Dee Sellers or you may contact her at (513) 464-6739. Thank you.



**Thursday, September 23  
10:30 am  
Room 115**

Program speaker will be  
Rev. Evette Loper Watt

*Rev. Watt will be sharing about her life  
and her pastoral calling.*

**All are invited.**

**Looking Ahead:**

**Thursday, October 21, at 10:30 am**  
in Room 115  
Guest Speaker: Rodney Muterspaw will be  
sharing about his book, ***The Blue View***

**Congratulations to Our 2021  
Graduates**

Nicholas Schraub  
(Grandson of Alice Bradshaw)  
Miami University  
Marketing B.S. in Business



Elizabeth (Liza) Mary-Katherine O'Hara  
(Daughter of John and Leslie O'Hara)  
Franklin High School

Dravyn Alexander  
(Grandson of Jim and Debbie Alexander)  
Fredericksburg High School (Virginia)

Nathaniel Kinney  
(Grandson of Tom and Patty Streiff)  
Fairmont High School

**CHURCH NURSERY  
REOPENS**

We are pleased to announce that the church nursery reopened on Sunday, August 1, and welcomes all children during the 10:30 am worship hour. A Sunday School lesson is being shared with age appropriate children along with a light snack and, of course, play time.



**Used Electronic Devices Needed**

The Worship Committee is seeking donations of used tablets (Apple or Android) and other appropriate electronic devices that would be suitable for streaming Sunday services and other church related events. These devices would be repurposed and given to those in the congregation who currently are unable to live-stream due to outdated devices or the lack thereof. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Beth Greider at (513) 571-1800.

**ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE  
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

Minutes from all Administrative Board meetings will now be mailed or emailed to the congregation on a monthly basis. If you have been receiving communications from the church via the U.S. Postal Service and have an email address, you are asked to please contact the church office at 422-7364 and share your email information with Julie so that the church can save the cost of postage. Thank you.

The next Administrative Board meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 9**, at 6:00 pm and all are invited.



# Thank You

My Beloved Parishioners,

Thank you for the beautiful cards along with the heartwarming comments and the monetary gift. They are all sincerely appreciated. I certainly will miss you for your friendship, love, prayers and support over the years. You certainly have been a blessing in my life and I thank the Almighty God for allowing our path to cross in this life. Please continue to pray for me as I do the same for you.

*With a great deal of thanks and gratitude,  
Pastor Dixon*

Christ Church Family,

Thank you all for the cards and gift of “bread” (delicious) and calls I have received. I’m coming along slowly but “hanging” in there!

*God’s love and blessings to you all,  
Hank Witt*

Christ United Methodist Church,

Thank you for the care package of useful things I’ll need for college. It’s very thoughtful of you to put time and effort into making that for me.

*Liza O’Hara*

Dear Church Family,

We are continuing to hear from your congregation in donations for our Center in the return of the “Baby Bottle Campaign.” You have given us over \$400, and we thank God and ask His blessings to continue for all of you. Thank you.

*Staff and Volunteers of the Middletown  
Community Pregnancy Center*

Dear Church Family,

The United Methodist Women met on August 19 to put together the transition kits for the women at Hope House Center which were delivered to the Center by Judy Crump. The UMW wishes to thank all of you who donated items for these kits. Thank you for always stepping up!

*The United Methodist Women*

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## Office Coverage Needed October 4-7, 2021

We are in need of VOLUNTEERS to cover the office beginning Monday, October 4, through Thursday, October 7, while the secretary is on vacation. The office is open from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm each day. If you are available and would like to volunteer for one or more of these days, please contact the church office at 422-7364. Thank you.

# Finance Update

Our envelope giving continues to decline . . . during the month of June, the average weekly giving was \$3,154; in the month of July, the average weekly giving fell to \$2,794.

Our total income for the year 2021 (ending in July) was \$147,217. The total expenses for that same period was \$139,410. We have managed to keep our building maintenance expenses to \$1,853 and have reduced our building and solar panel insurance to \$9,675 for the fiscal year. The monthly rent for Northstar has increased to approximately \$1,500.

We pray that our church family will prayerfully contribute to our operating income so that Christ Church may continue. Thank you.

Dee Sellers, Finance Chairperson  
 Dave Sauter, Treasurer

## COVID POLICY FOR EMPLOYEES ESTABLISHED

On August 15, 2021, the Administrative Board approved a new Covid policy for Christ Church employees that requires all employees to be vaccinated unless a reasonable accommodation is approved by the Administrative Board. This policy was studied and developed by a subcommittee comprised of Dr. Greg Siewny; Pam Johnson, respiratory therapist at the Atrium; David Sauter; Rev. Evette Loper Watt; and chaired by Glenna Fisher. A letter has been sent to all employees with a copy of the policy and an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accommodation form as needed. A copy of the policy is available in the church office.

## September Birthdays

- 1 Sue Myers
- 3 Greg Siewny
- 10 Linda Banks  
Ted McMonigle
- 11 Leslie O'Hara
- 12 Evette Loper Watt
- 13 Dinah Stork
- 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
- 28 Mary Jane Hummel
- 29 Scott Leonard

## With Heartfelt Sympathy

Elaine Bowman and family upon the death of Elaine's husband, Ron Bowman on May 17.

Zelda Stephenson and family upon the death of Zelda's brother, Allen R. Stone, on July 17.

## September Anniversaries

- 6 Les and Vicki Greider
- 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



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## LOVE PACKAGES

Christ Church started collecting Christian materials for *Love Packages* in 2014. From 2014 until the end of August 2021, Christ Church has collected 1,441 pounds of Christian materials. This is an average of approximately 180 pounds per year.

A recent testimony from a Pastor in Zambia . . .  
*"I would like to thank God for the wonderful materials I have received. I received a bag of books and among the books were 20 Bibles which I have given to members of our church, and also the wonderful 'Explore the Bible' materials. Now my church's knowledge has grown so much due to the books like 'The Purpose Driven Life' by Rick Warren and the study Bibles."*

*Please leave your empty plastic pill bottles (both prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles accepted; we cannot accept glass bottles, however) and your Christian materials (both adult and children) in our Library. The pill bottle container is located on top of the file cabinet and the Love Package container is located on the floor underneath the mail slots.*

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## Matthew Ministries

Christ Church started collecting pill bottles for Matthew 25 Ministries in 2012. From 2012 until the end of August 2021, Christ Church has collected 20,113 pill bottles. This is an average of approximately 2,011 pill bottles per year.

**Our pill bottle collection is recycled for cash that then goes toward Matthew 25 Ministries' programs.** More than 99% of Matthew 25 Ministries' cash and in-kind donations go toward its programs to feed the hungry, provide clean water to the thirsty, provide clothing to the naked, provide affordable shelter to the homeless, provide medical care to the ill, and provide humanitarian supplies to those in need. At present, Matthew 25 is responding to the devastating earthquake in Haiti.