

March 2022

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

Rev. Evette Loper Watt, JD
Betsy Balger, Accompanist
Julie Coleman, Office Manager

10:30 am - Sunday Worship

9:00 am - Group Study

Sunday Adult Classes

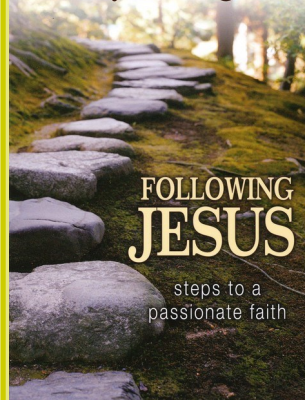
Room 115: *ReachOut*
Room 113: *Calvary*

March 2
Service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

A graphic for Ash Wednesday. The word "ASH" is in large, bold, black, distressed letters. Below it, "Wednesday" is written in a cursive script. To the right is a red heart outline with a black cross inside. The background is a textured grey.

Carolyn Slaughter

Lenten Study



“Search for answers about the identity of Jesus and his role in your life; discover more about your own spiritual gifts for ministry and new ways to be in service; and think more deeply about what it means to be part of the church, the community of Christ.”

You Are Invited!

Wednesdays
March 9 through April 6
10:30 am - 11:30 am
Sanctuary

Cost of Book: \$5

Letter from the Pastor



Greetings Beloved!

So much is happening in our world. Again, war is preferred over peace; selfish hoarding over compassionate sharing; and more that is not in line with the ways and teachings of Jesus Christ. Lord, have mercy. We need a pause. Yes, pause. This Sunday we will pause and marvel at the wonder of the Transfiguration of our Jesus. Sometimes we need to be blown away; left speechless and breathless, just to know that God is God. God Creator speaks audibly for the disciples to hear, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him." (Luke 9:35) Imagine this experience for them. There is a recurring reminder from God to "listen." Last week Jesus said, ". . . to those who listen." (Luke 6:27) And now Creator God commands the disciples to listen. This Living Word applies to us in February 2022! Beloved, pause and embrace the awe this upcoming Sunday.

The Lenten season is always timely, but particularly for us today. Again, we need a pause. It is necessary to pause, reflect, and fast from food *and* behaviors. Jesus set this model of *pause* through prayer, meditation, and fasting. We will begin our journey to the cross with Jesus with the Ash Wednesday service. We begin our Lenten journey by worshiping together on Ash Wednesday, which is the reminder that we are mortal beings. We journey for 40 days because prior to Jesus beginning His ministry, He spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting and praying. Jesus paused. Lent is the time for his followers to do the same.

I will lead a Bible Study during Lent: ***Following Jesus: Steps to a Passionate Faith***, by Carolyn Slaughter. The study will focus on the nature of Christ, what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, and what we do with the unique gifts God has given each one of us. Jesus spent time in the wilderness to prepare for His ministry. We must spend time in preparation for the ministry God has for each of us individually, and as the Body of Christ. Join me for this insightful study. Let us journey in the wilderness together with Christ as our guide. Join in person or via zoom. Do not miss this opportunity to be in fellowship, prayer, and reflection with God and the Body of Christ in this most important season of the Christian faith.

Know that I love you and pray for you without ceasing.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Watt

Thank you for the cards, gifts, invitations of fellowship, and monetary blessings during the Christmas season. I appreciate your support and dedication to the ministries of Christ Church. I am grateful to walk with you as we serve in the Kingdom of God together.

In Love and Gratefulness,
Pastor Watt

West Ohio Annual Conference 2022 to be Held Virtually

West Ohio clergy and laity last gathered at Lakeside for Annual Conference in 2019. Then came COVID-19 which is still present and remains a concern. The West Ohio Conference Planning Team has, therefore, unanimously decided after diligently researching, studying, conversing and praying over the ways in which to hold the 2022 Annual Conference Session to move to a virtual conference again this year which will be held on **Friday, June 3, and Saturday, June 4.**

The Rev. Jim Wilson II, Chair of the Annual Conference Planning Team, shared the following in his announcement regarding their decision to meet virtually again in 2022:

"We understand people have a variety of opinions and understandings. Our decision is but one of many that are made daily throughout our annual conference as we discern our way forward thru this pandemic. Everyone yearns for the day when we can gather in person. Until we can do such a thing in a safe, fair, and equitable manner, may our patience with one another be a model to the overall church."



Thursday, March 17
10:30 am
Room 113

Program speaker will be
 Debbie Hazelbaker from
 Middletown Area Neediest Youth (M.A.N.Y.)

All are invited.

UMW members are encouraged to bring a friend so that we can all discover how to better help the children in our community.

Financial Update

It saddens me to report to the congregation that we end the month of January with a \$2,934 net loss. Our Duke Energy bill for the month of January was \$3,302 after reimbursement from Northstar and Meals on Wheels. Even though we have increased Northstar's monthly rent, Meals on Wheels' monthly rent, and had no Music Director we still were looking at a net loss of close to \$3,000.

The envelope giving was \$12,054. Loose change offering was \$605 and Initial offering was \$117. Our total net income for the month of January was \$18,828. Our total expenses were \$21,762.

In February the giving doesn't look to have increased so we will close out February with another net loss. Please prayerfully consider your giving. Your church relies on you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deanna Sellers, Finance Chairperson
David Sauter, Treasurer

Thank You

Christ Church,

A very heartfelt thanks for your kindness in the death of our Mom. Thank you for the prayers, cards, visits, phone calls and flowers. Thank you too to Pastor Watt for her phone call during this difficult time.

Blessings and Love,
The Family of Minnie Watt

Dear Christ Church Family,

We want to thank you for your cards, prayers, moral support and financial gift for Diego. You have been a God send of love and support for all of us. I can't tell you the hope and encouragement that Diego felt as he received so many cards and words of love and concern. Diego is doing amazingly well. He will continue to heal for several months. He has lost sight in his one eye but it seems that he will not need any further surgery at least for several months, if at all. Diego has applied for a tourist Visa so he can stay here to finish the trial and follow-up exams. He has also applied for a U Visa which is a Visa for those here on a Visa that have become a victim of crime. It will take 3-4 years to get the U Visa but it will give him the opportunity to apply for residency and then for citizenship. This has been a life altering event for Diego, but I have seen many beautiful acts of kindness from so many people. God is great and always takes care of us.

Love,
Jane and Jeff Berns

Thank you so much for your generous contribution to our annual Mike Davis Christmas with a Cop. Thanks to you, we were able to help 75 kids have the Christmas they deserve! Thank you again.

Middletown Police Department

Thank you to all those who decorated the church for Christmas. The church building looked beautiful for the Christmas Season. Thank you also to those who volunteered their time to put things away. The efforts of all were very much appreciated.

Dear Christ Church,

Thank you for your monetary gift this Christmas. Your kindness and generosity was very much appreciated.

Blessings,
Julie Coleman

NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT TO BE NAMED TO THE OHIO RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT

It has been announced by Bishop Gregory Palmer, Resident Bishop of the West Ohio Conference, that the Rev. Dr. Todd Anderson will complete his six years of service as the Ohio River Valley District Superintendent on June 30. Rev. Anderson and the Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen have been appointed to serve as Co-Senior Pastors of Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church effective July 1, 2022.

New Leadership for the Ohio River Valley District has yet to be named.

Hospice Care of Middletown, Inc.

is sponsoring

"Healing a Heart"

(A six-week Grief Support Group for people who have lost a loved one)

Group Dates and Location:

Thursdays beginning March 3 - April 7
Afternoon Groups from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
or
Evening Groups from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Groups meet at the Hospice office building located at 4418 Lewis Street, Suite B, Middletown (adjacent to the Middletown Performing Arts Academy)

"Healing a Heart" support groups focus on peer support, grief education and the development of coping skills.

Pre-Registration is Required

To register: Call (513) 424-2273/Care

(There is no charge to attend a "Healing a Heart" grief support group which are open to the community. Hospice affiliation is not necessary.)

Ministry Wins Super Bowl Challenge



There was much hype and celebration in Cincinnati leading up to this year's Super Bowl and while the final score was not the outcome Cincinnati fans hoped for, there was and is still much to celebrate for not only an incredible Bengals season (Who Dey!) but also in God's kingdom.

In the spirit of Super Bowl Sunday, Bishop Gregory Palmer (West Ohio Conference) and Bishop Grant Hagiya (California Pacific Conference) committed to giving \$1,000 each to ministries in their conferences that address homelessness and challenged churches in each conference to partner with them to help meet the needs of the homeless in our communities. The ministries in each of the seven districts in the West Ohio Conference receiving \$100 from Bishop Palmer include: Broad Street UMC (Columbus North); The Disciple Factory (Cox UMC - Columbus South); Lifewell at First UMC (Foothills); Aley UMC in partnership with Family Promise of Greene County (Miami Valley); Toledo St. Paul UMC and Napoleon St. Paul UMC (Maumee Watershed); Westside UMC and Lima Trinity UMC (Northwest Plains); The Gathering (Ohio River Valley); and Staunton UMC with Second Chance/Washington C.H. (Shawnee Valley).

In addition to the Bishops' challenge, a friendly competition emerged between Mark Nakagawa, Superintendent of the California-Pacific West District, and our own District Superintendent Todd Anderson. While Cincinnati suffered an emotional Super Bowl loss, Cincinnati's United Methodists "beat" their Los Angeles partners by raising a total of \$38,579.39 for hunger relief. The total raised between the two cities was \$56,037.97.

It is not too late to help! Many in our communities continue to face homelessness and food insecurity. So how might you help? By supporting a local food pantry such as The Salvation Army Food Pantry or churches such as The Gathering and their ministry for the homeless in Middletown.

HAPPY BELATED . . .

February Birthdays

- 4 Don Hawkins
- 6 Gary Daugherty
- 10 Vicki Greider
Jack Myers
- 11 Jack Achberger
- 12 Emily Miller
- 13 Jeff Berns
- 14 Rachael Siewny
- 15 Vera Ward
- 16 Becky Leonard
- 17 Sue Hounshell
Rex Lawson
- 18 Pam Johnson
- 19 Jayne Achberger
- 20 Ray Peterson
- 21 Janet Layne
- 22 Shirley Cox
- 23 Betsy Balger
Jim Buckey
- 25 Joshua Kassner
Mark Ward
- 26 Tonia Caudle
Walker Williamson

February Anniversaries

- 1 Jack and Jayne Achberger
- 14 Don and Sandy Smith
- 16 Scott and Becky Leonard

DAYLIGHT
SAVING TIME
SPRING FORWARD
Saturday, March 12

March Birthdays

- 3 Larry Crump
- 6 John Sauter
- 7 Fred Ward
- 11 Mary Alice Gast
- 12 Janet Sauter
Gerri Teeters
- 15 Connie Young
- 17 Sandy Beck
- 18 Dick Cole
- 23 George Mullin
- 25 Cherri Carpenter
- 26 Sandy Smith
- 27 Steve Johnson
- 29 Barb Martin

March Anniversaries

- 23 Don and Suzanne Hawkins

With Heartfelt Sympathy

Barb and David Martin and family upon the death of Barb's mom, Minniealta Watt, on November 28.

Wendy Minor and family and Don and Sandy Smith and family upon the death of Marilyn Minor on December 14.

Walker and Sally Williamson upon the death of their sister-in-law, Anne Williamson.

Nancy Karnes upon the death of her cousins, James VanDervort on February 11 and Ryan Miller on February 14.

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



**NAMI Family and Friends Online
 Presentation**
Monday, March 14 and Tuesday, March 15
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
(Event is free, but registration is required)

NAMI Family & Friends is a 4-hour seminar that informs and supports people who have loved ones with a mental health condition and is open to anyone interested in learning more about mental disorders. It provides information about mental illness, how to help a friend or family member who lives with a mental illness, and how to take care of yourself.

Registration closes on Friday, March 11, at 3:00 pm. You will receive the link to the seminar by 5:00 pm on Monday, March 14.

To register or if you have questions, contact:
 Berni Murray, NAMI Program Director at
bmurray@nami-bc.org

Your name, email and telephone contact number is necessary for registration.



West Ohio United Methodist Women (UMW) is hosting an online Lenten Study, Sundays in March at 4 PM. The study text is *Tattered and Mended: The Art of Healing the Wounded Soul* by Cynthia Ruchti.

Artisans can reclaim exquisite beauty from the broken, frayed, and hopefully shattered—But what about us? What of the wounds that keep us from living the life we want to live? In *Tattered and Mended*, readers walk through a gallery of reclaimed and restored art as well as broken and restored lives of those who have gone before us. With a gentle touch and personable wisdom, Cynthia Ruchti shows how even the most threadbare soul can once again find healing and hope.

To register, go to:
www.westohioumw.org/2022-lenten-study