

April 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, Pastor
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*

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE April 14

Bethel AME Church will be joining us

**5:30 pm Dinner
New Life Center**

*(Christ Church will provide meat and
drinks; you are asked to bring a side dish to share.
Bethel AME will bring desserts.)*

**7:00 pm Service of Communion
and Remembrance**

Good Friday April 15

The Sanctuary will be open from
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
for a time of prayer and
meditation

**Middletown Area Ministerial Alliance
Good Friday Service
6:00 pm
at
Faith United & New Life Ministries
9 Baltimore Street
Middletown**

**Rev. Evette Loper Watt
will deliver the evening message**

Letter from the Pastor



Greetings, Beloved!

WHO RUNS THE CHURCH?

Breathe deeply and ask God to reveal the answer.

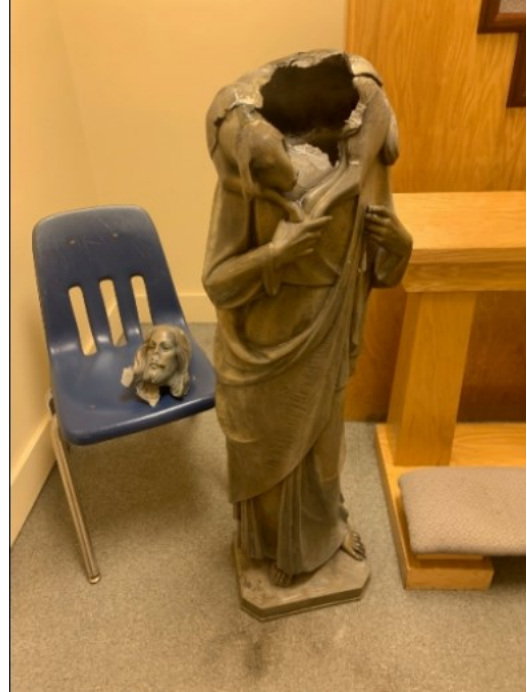
I recall being a seminary student among many pastors. I was somewhat daunted by their collective experiences in parish ministry. One pastor stated certain activity “would not be allowed in *my* church.” I cringed. The seminary professor softly asked, “*Whose* church, George?” There was an emphasis placed on the word *whose*. I have witnessed laity leadership pronounce to pastors, “*We* run *our* church.” Lord, have mercy. The Bible is the only authoritative source revealing the inception and functionality of the Christian church.

¹⁸ *And I tell you, you are Peter,^[d] and on this rock^[e] I will build **my** church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.* (Matthew 16:18)

¹⁸ **He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.** (Colossians 1:18)

²² *And he has put all things under his feet and has made him **the head over all things for the church,**²³ which is **his body,** the fullness of him who fills all in all.* (Ephesians 1:22)

According to scripture, Jesus built The Church and is the head of His Church. And the Church said, “Amen.” Physical bodies can function without many interior and exterior parts, but not a head.



A decapitated statue of Jesus is seen at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Miami. (Photo: Archdiocese of Miami).

The beheaded statue of Jesus Christ is profane. This picture is shocking, yet an accurate display of a church attempting to function without its head, Jesus Christ.

Friends, Jesus is the figurative head of the body of people referred to as The Church. The Holy Spirit in each follower of Jesus Christ runs the church. What does that look like? When the body functions properly with Jesus as the head, it is evident by Jesus being first in the body’s prayer life (private and corporately), thoughts, behaviors, decisions, and the agenda of ordained clergy and servant leadership. The Jesus in every believer is revealed by acts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Ephesians 5:22-23). If these attributes of Jesus Christ are not prominent in a church body, then Christ is not the head of the gathering of people who profess to be the church of Jesus Christ.

As we journey through the Lenten season, let us be prayerful and mindful of the One who loves us, saved us, and gives us yet another chance to love more fully. Let us allow Him to run His church through us.

In His Service,
Pastor Watt



Thursday, April 21
10:30 am
Room 113

Program speaker will be
 Major Judson Laidlaw from
 The Salvation Army

All are invited.

UMW Mission for Ukraine

The United Methodist Women are collecting personal care items and accepting monetary donations for the people of Ukraine through Friday, April 8. Suggested personal care items include: travel size wet wipes, hairbrushes, combs, nail files, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant. Donations of gallon-size ziplock baggies would also be appreciated. All monetary donations and donations of personal care items will be taken to Matthew 25 Ministries.

Financial Update

As Spring approaches, our finances begin to look a little brighter. The balance of the General Fund as of March 25 is \$18,682.11; the Reserve balance is \$88,458.57; and the balance for Christ Church's investments is \$133,953.61. Our expenses for the month of March were \$21,433 resulting in a net income for March of \$1,065. This is encouraging because giving has increased. Thank you, thank you so very much.

May God guide us and give us wisdom in the days ahead.

Dr. Deana Sellers, Finance Chair
 David Sauter, Treasurer

NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT NAMED TO THE OHIO RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT



Bishop Gregory Palmer has announced the appointment of Rev. Jennifer Lucas as the new District Superintendent to the Ohio River Valley effective July 1, 2022. Rev. Lucas currently serves as Senior Pastor at the Church of the Saviour in Montgomery, Ohio. Previously, Rev. Lucas was appointed as a new church start pastor to Faith Community UMC in West Chester, and from there launched Water's Edge UMC in Mason, Ohio in 2013. *"I am humbled by the trust Bishop Palmer has in me to lead the churches and pastors of the Ohio River Valley, and I will be honored to sit at the cabinet table,"* said Rev. Lucas.

DO YOU HAVE THE GIFTS OF PATIENCE, LISTENING, EMPATHY AND VALUE CONFIDENTIALITY?

Nothing can replace the *presence* and genuine concern of another fellow Christian. Therefore, I am introducing a congregational care plan which empowers the laity: The Care Visitation Team. As a former associate pastor responsible for congregational care, I have successfully implemented this plan. The responsibility of the team members would include monthly phone calls and/or visitation to the sick and shut-in. Team members would also connect with those who have not been able to return to fellowship because of the pandemic. If you believe you possess the gifts of patience, listening, empathy and confidentiality, join me **after worship service on Sunday, April 3** at an informational meeting.

In His Service,
 Pastor Watt

West Ohio ERT to Respond to Kentucky

Early Response Teams from the West Ohio Conference are making plans to respond to communities in Kentucky hit by last December's tornadoes. While multiple teams have expressed a desire to help, at present only teams with a ratio of one trained ERT to one non-ERT are being accepted by the Kentucky Conference. Teams are tentatively being planned for the following dates:

April 2-9
April 20-26

If you are interested in joining one of these teams, email Mariellyn Grace at: mgrace@wocumc.org to be put in touch with the team leader.

OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH UMCOR TO RESPOND TO WAR IN UKRAINE *and* TORNADO IN IOWA

The Rev. John Calhoun, a former United Methodist missionary to Ukraine, provides the following information on how to best support the United Methodist response in Ukraine.

“Our hearts are heavy with grief over the invasion and bombardment of Ukraine by Russian forces. The suffering has already been great, and it appears that many dark days and nights lie ahead . . . Today, in the midst of war, United Methodists continue to serve others. As many thousands across Ukraine are fleeing their homes in search of safe sanctuary, UMC congregations in western Ukraine are opening their hearts and doors, providing food, shelter, and other forms of emergency care to family in need.”

Donations can be made through The Advance, the donation platform of the UMC Board of Global Ministries, in support of those fleeing the war in Ukraine. Go to: <https://umcmision.org/advance-project/982450> to give on-line.

In addition, monetary gifts to aid those affected by the EF4 tornado in three different counties in Iowa on March 5 can be made to UMCOR U.S. Disaster Response #910670 by sending a check to West Ohio Conference, 32 Wesley Blvd., Worthington, OH 43085 (with “U.S. Disaster Response #901670” in the memo line) or by donating online through the West Ohio Conference website.

LOVE PACKAGES

Christ Church started collecting Christian materials for **Love Packages** in 2014. Through early March 2022, Christ Church has collected 1,494.11 pounds of Christian materials. This is an average of approximately 186 pounds per year.

A recent testimony from Zimbabwe: *“Love Packages distributors normally give out books to a hospital in Zimbabwe, but due to Covid were not allowed into the hospital and gave a box of Love Packages books to the lady in charge of the hospital. In that box was a book entitled ‘Wilmington’s Guide to the Bible.’ One patient, who was a pastor being treated for high blood pressure, picked that book. This pastor had been praying for five years for books to train some men for the ministry. The answer to his 5-year prayer was the ‘Wilmington’s Guide to the Bible’ in the Love Packages box. This book contains all the teachings from Genesis to Revelation, and the pastor’s vision was to empower school students in the Word of God. Now his vision has come to pass.”*

Both adult and children’s Christian materials can be left in the container on the floor in the library underneath the mail slots.

Matthew Ministries

Christ Church started collecting pill bottles for Matthew 25 Ministries in 2012 and through early March of this year, has collected a total of 22,261 pill bottles. This is an average of approximately 2,782 pill bottle per year.

Our pill bottle collection is recycled for cash to support Matthew 25 program ministries. More than 99% of cash and in-kind donations go toward their 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 humanitarian needs of the people of Ukraine.

You can continue to leave your empty pill bottles in the container in the library located on the top of the file cabinet. We accept both prescription pill bottles and over-the-counter pill bottles. (We cannot accept any glass bottles, however.)

April Birthdays

- 2 George Knapp
- 7 Bob Hicks
- David Sauter
- 11 Pat Blakenship
- 16 Bernie Fisher
- 17 Bobette Owen
- 19 Roberta Thaeler
- 20 Meredith Miller
- 21 Stephanie Record
- 22 David Beck
- Emily Caudle

April Anniversaries

- 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

Congratulations . . .

Emily Caudle upon the birth of her son, Waylon William, on February 28. Waylon was welcomed home by his sister Mattie, grandmother Tonia Caudle, and great-grandmother Rhonda Crider.



Julie Coleman to Retire

It is bittersweet that I announce the retirement of our office manager, Julie Coleman, effective June 2. Julie is looking forward to joining Rev. Norman Coleman in retirement as well as the joyful anticipation of the birth of their first grandchild in July. Please feel free to express your gratitude for Julie's service by sending cards and well wishes to Julie at 5806 Reflections Way, Mason, OH 45040.

Peace,
Pastor Watt



NAMI Family-to-Family Class (In-person)
Wednesdays
April 6 - May 24, 2022
Telhio Credit Union
8249 Market Place Drive
West Chester, Ohio 45069

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 8-session educational program for families, significant others, and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program which means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of people closet to a person with a mental health condition.

NAMI Family-to-Family is taught by NAMI-trained family members who have been there, and includes presentations, discussions and interactive exercises.

Contact Berni Murray, NAMI Program Director for Butler County at: bmurray@nami-bc.org for more information and to register.

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