

June 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



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*



2022 West Ohio Annual Conference to be Held Virtually

The 53rd Session of the West Ohio Annual Conference will be held virtually on Friday, June 3, and Saturday, June 4, and will be live-streamed on westohioumc.org and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/westohioumc). The theme for this year's conference is "Becoming." Throughout conference, there will be times of worship, celebrations of ministry, and caring for the business of annual conference.

The conference offering will go toward International Disaster Response through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) who responds when a natural or human-caused disaster strikes outside of the United States. This includes supporting refugees fleeing disasters with food, water, hygiene and other essential non-food supplies and temporary shelter. If you wish to donate, you can go to: <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450/>.

NEW OFFICE MANAGER HIRED

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Clare Austin as our new office manager. Clare brings a diverse background of experience which includes retail management, patient and customer service, accounting, and parish management/facilitation. Clare has both a B.A. in Communications and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Dayton. She and her husband, Michael, have been married for 41 years, and have a son and a daughter who are both in the medical profession. Clare is a member of St. John's Catholic Church in West Chester and attends services with her 95-year-old mother for whom Clare is the primary caregiver. Clare enjoys gardening, cooking, antique collecting, spectator sports (especially the NFL and NCAA football), and most importantly FAMILY. Clare is looking forward to meeting everyone and serving Christ Church in her new position.

Letter from the Pastor



In the Meantime, The Mission Continues...

All praise and glory to our faithful and generous Creator, who has given us yet another spring and summer season. We are all busy planning vacations, gardening, home improvement projects, picnics, pool parties, visits to the beach, travels abroad, tee times, baseball games, and all the fun that summer brings. As we enjoy, let us remember to be faithful to The One who makes all of our fun possible; The One who gives deeper virtues than any activity. The Almighty never takes a vacation from caring for us. Beloved, be mindful during these months to be faithful in sharing your talent and treasure with the bride of Jesus Christ: His Church.

The 53rd Annual Session of West Ohio Conference will be held virtually on Friday, June 3rd and Saturday, June 4th. The theme for Annual Conference is *Becoming*, referencing the passage from 1 John:

²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, ^[a] we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2 (NIV)

There is always a Clergy Session held weeks prior to the Annual Conference. During Clergy Session new clergy are commissioned and those clergy who completed a provisional period are ordained. Retired clergy are also celebrated. As I think about the challenges churches face in a post-pandemic era, in terms of membership decline, financial challenges, as well as the division of the United Methodist Church denomination rooted in the issue of human sexuality, the theme of *Becoming* is appropriate. Local churches continue to ponder whether to disaffiliate from the UMC or stay, wondering, “what will we become?” What are we becoming as a church body through all of this turmoil and uncertainty? How are we being transformed? These are the questions that arise. I reflect on the poignant homily delivered by Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen:

“We must put our hope in the one who will transform us. We are children of God and will be like Christ. It’s not pretty but hopeful. We must cheer one another on . . . what we will be has not yet been revealed.”

The anxious question of “what will we become” is answered by placing our hope in the one who has the power to transform us. We will become what we allow God to do in and through us. Amen.

In the transformational process of our church, Bishop Gregory V. Palmer advised: “Let’s do and say the things that build one another up. Let’s be the people today that, imperfect as we are, would not do or say anything that is *unbecoming*.” I was certainly convicted by this statement! Beloved, we have power over who we become as individuals, and what we become as a church. Too often we interfere with God’s intended work within us. It matters what we do and say to one another.

I am an Ordained Elder of the United Methodist Church and intend to remain so. As CUMC *becomes*, there remains work to do. As the appointed pastor of CUMC, I will lead this body to become what Jesus desires her to become. I hold to the directive of Bishop Palmer: “You are on a mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I’ve never seen a storm that after awhile didn’t pass over.”

And the church said, “Amen.”

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Watt



Summer Activities

- June 16** Lunch at the Stone House Tavern at 11:15 am. Visiting the Secret Garden following lunch.
- July 21** Lunch at the Hammel House Inn in Waynesville at 11:15 am. Will meet at the church at 10:45 am.
- August 18** Movie at the church at 10:30 am. Pizza and salad will be provided. Bring your own pop or water.

BERNS GIFT CARDS

The United Methodist Women are selling gift cards from Berns Garden Center and Landscaping. The cards are \$25 with \$5 from each card sold going back to the United Methodist Women. The UMW will be selling these gift cards in the lobby on Sunday morning or you may contact Pam Cole at (513) 422-2989 or (513) 465-1749 to purchase your gift cards.

Thank you.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Every Sunday at 10:30 am Children's Church meets in Room 115 and includes a Bible lesson, snacks, and free time in the New Life Center.

ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME!

Landscape Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers who love to play in the dirt to help take care of the church grounds following the well-deserved retirement of George and Linda Knapp. To help lessen the responsibility for the upkeep of all the landscaping beds, the beds have been broken down into smaller areas resulting in the need for more volunteers to weed, trim, and/or plant a specific area that is of your choosing. To volunteer, please contact Pam Cole at (513) 422-2989 or (513) 465-1749. Thank you.



Northstar Classical School
Closing Ceremony
Thursday, May 26 at 5:30 pm
New Life Center

Northstar Classical School invites you to join them for their closing ceremony as they celebrate the school year with songs, poems and scriptures the students have learned during the year. A light reception will follow.

Financial Update

2022 Budget: \$250,875.00

| | <u>Month of April</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$ 18,753.00* | \$ 100,053.00 |
| Expenses | (21,754.00)** | 88,138.00 |
| Income/Loss | (3,000.00) | 11,914.00 |

Account Balances as of 4/30/22
(First Financial Bank)

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 9,972.00 |
| Reserves | 89,288.00 |
| Parsonage Escrow | 37,471.00 |
| Ameriprise | 136,387.00 |
| Total | \$273,117.00 |

YTD loss: (\$ 13,921.00)
(Loss due to fluctuation in stock market)

2022 Apportionments

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Conference: | \$12,752.00 (\$3,189.00 paid to date) |
| District: | \$ 3,754.00 (\$939.00 paid to date) |
| General Church Ministry: | \$ 9,210.00 (\$2,304.00 paid to date) |

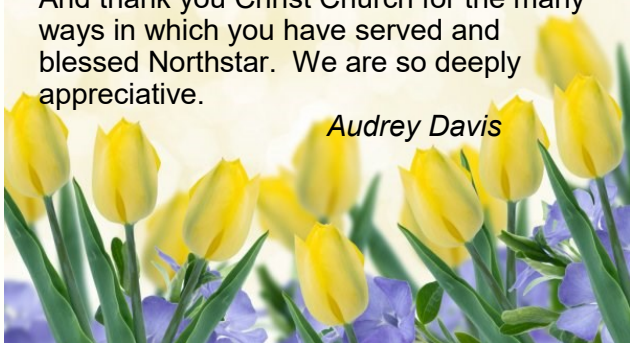
**The income received for the month of April included \$360 which was collected and sent to UMCOR for the Ukraine Relief Fund.*

***The expenses for the month of April do not include our Duke Energy bill.*

Thank You

Thank you to the women of Christ Church for providing the cookies for our closing ceremony. What a blessing this is to us! And thank you Christ Church for the many ways in which you have served and blessed Northstar. We are so deeply appreciative.

Audrey Davis



DONATIONS FOR UGANDA

Donna Neimesiter is partnering with Missionary Ventures International and will be serving as a missionary in Uganda. In preparation for her assignment in Uganda, Donna is collecting Bibles and eyeglasses to take with her.

A box has been placed on the table in the lobby to receive your donations of both Bibles and eyeglasses. Donations will be received until Sunday, June 5.

Thank you.



May Birthdays

| | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Tom Tipton |
| 11 | Norma Meece |
| 13 | Gertie Schweitzer Sally Williamson |
| 16 | Clark Record |
| 17 | Beth Greider |
| 20 | Joy Michael Lanise Weidle |
| 21 | Don Dean |
| 23 | Patty Mendenhall Emma Siewny |
| 24 | Larry Banks Philip Young |
| 25 | Shirley Heismann |
| 30 | Carl Heismann |

June Birthdays

| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 2 | Eddy Sellers |
| 4 | Glenna Fisher |
| 6 | Connie Daugherty |
| 7 | Joy Witt |
| 8 | Michael Banks |
| 11 | Marty Flesher |
| 12 | Kay Hounshell |
| 14 | Mallory Hicks |
| 15 | Charles Turner |
| 20 | George Kinslow |
| 24 | Lucille Knight |
| 25 | Ann Baber Charlene Hale |

May Anniversaries

| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Dick and Pam Cole |
| 26 | Greg and Jeanne Siewny |
| 29 | Robert and Mary Alice Gast |
| 31 | Ray and Joan Peterson |

June Anniversaries

| | |
|----|---|
| 3 | Larry and Judy Crump |
| 5 | Gary and Connie Daugherty |
| 9 | Tom and Patty Streiff |
| 10 | Paul and Beth Radabaugh |
| 16 | Mark and Donna Idle George and Carolyn Kinslow |
| 20 | Fred and Vera Ward |
| 23 | Scott and Becki Davis |

With Heartfelt Sympathy

**Carl and Shirley Heismann & Family upon
the death of their nephew, Zachary James
Heismann, on March 29.**

*Thank
you*

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who sent cards and delicious food, called or prayed for my healing. I am so thankful for my loving and caring church family. I ask for continued prayers for my healing as my recovery will be a long road ahead.

Pam Cole

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Volunteers Are Needed For Mowing

Christ Church could use a few more volunteers to join the team that helps keep the church lawn manicured during the mowing season.

To volunteer, contact Tom Streiff at (513) 423-8697

