

August 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
Clare Austin, 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 Summary

The 53rd Session of the West Ohio Annual conference was a virtual gathering of nearly 1,600 clergy and lay members. Bishop Gregory V., Palmer presided over the conference under the theme, *Becoming*, rooted in the Scripture 1 John 3:2. The theme focused on becoming more like Jesus, becoming community and becoming, Spirit filled Bishop Palmer challenged the conference to examine who they choose to be as followers of Jesus Christ in these difficult times in the church and in the world.

“We are in that pivot and turning moment, where we must answer the question: Who do we choose to be?” said Bishop Palmer.

He urged the conference to imagine God standing at the foot of the cross, encouraging, “See me. See me in the wounds of my darling son. See him in the faces of all the people that you and your church have ignored throughout these years...because it was seductive and comfortable for you to be with folks that were just like you. Same zip code as you, same pigment as you, same gender identification as you.”

The bishop invited attendees to take the opportunity “to be in conversation in Christian community and discover again that [God] is at the heart of our lives.”

“How will the church be the purveyor of hope and a sign of peace and of redemption and of reconciliation?” Palmer continued. “Who do we choose to be? Do we choose to be healers, hope bearers, peace builders and makers, and reconcilers for all of the places where there is despair and hopelessness?”

Letter from the Pastor



Pray and Persevere

11 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ² So he said to them, “When you pray, say:
 Father, ^[a] may your name be revered as holy.
 May your kingdom come. ^[b]
³ Give us each day our daily bread. ^[c]
⁴ And forgive us our sins,
 for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
 And do not bring us to the time of trial.”
 (Luke 11:1-4)

Jesus goes on to explain *how* to persevere in prayer:

⁹ “So I say to you, **Ask**, and it will be given to you; **search**, and you will find; **knock**, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for ^[e] a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit^[f] to those who ask him!**” (Luke 11:9-13)

Knowing *how* to pray is fundamental in the life of a follower of Jesus Christ. We should thank this disciple for asking Jesus to teach them to pray! The longer version of the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) is often recited, without effort or thought. The template is not meant to replace one’s personal prayer life. God wants a real personal relationship with us, which develops during private time of prayer and meditation.

What should we ask for, search for, and knock on the door to receive? *We should ask, search, and knock on the door to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

This passage is not about materialism. This passage is about praying to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Followers of Jesus Christ need the help of the Holy Spirit for guidance through life’s journey. Without the wisdom, truth, comfort, and guidance of the Godhead Person of The Holy Spirit, we are as adrift as a tiny sailboat on the largest sea. We cannot bear the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control without the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Beloved, materialistic things do not matter; what matters is that you have the gift of the Holy Spirit.

On the materialistic side, because we cannot help our human flesh, think of some of the things you asked for and didn’t get, then farther down the road, you were grateful God said, “No!” Lord, help us. What we ask of God must be in proper alignment with God’s nature. God is always good and always gives good gifts, thus God’s response to us is always good. It is up to us to accept and receive God’s answer as good. Whether the answer is yes or no, it’s all good because God is good all the time. All the time God is good. Know that God will *always* grant the request of the Holy Spirit. Just ask. **IT’S ALL GOOD.**

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Watt



On August 25, 2022, at 10:30 a.m., the United Methodist Women will host a religious movie and pizza/salad lunch for all the women of the church. The movie will begin at 10:30 a.m. and we will have lunch immediately following the movie.

There will be a variety of pizzas, salad and water beverage. If you would like any other drink with your pizza, please bring your own. Come join us and enjoy!

**~ Dee Sellers
UMW President**

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.

Thank You From Julie Coleman

Dear Rev. Watt & the Congregation of Christ Church,

I cannot thank you enough for the many blessings I have received during my time at Christ Church. You received me (and Norman) with open arms and allowed us to serve alongside you in ministry which I pray was both pleasing and honoring of our loving Father.

Thank you, Rev. Watt, Betsy and Clare, for lunch at Comb's BBQ, and thank you to the church for the gift cards to the Montgomery Inn. Your kindness will indeed be enjoyed!

May you seek to serve the Lord God Almighty in all your ways as you serve in His Kingdom.

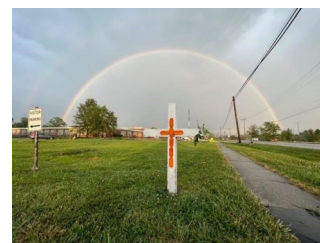
Love, Julie

Update on Goshen United Methodist Church

When Goshen was hit by a tornado on July 6, nearly 100 buildings were damaged. Goshen UMC and their parsonage were among them.

Prayers of thanks were given that no one in the Goshen UMC building was injured - even with the daycare hosting dozens of children as the storm hit.

A construction crew member working on the damaged parsonage spotted this image of a cross and a rainbow - a sign of hope and perseverance.



If you would like to contribute to Goshen UMC's relief:

Send funds to West Ohio Disaster Response, either by mail to the Conference office (send a check to Mariellyn Grace's attention, and put Goshen in the memo), or online at West Ohio Disaster Response's website - make sure you designate West Ohio and make your gift "in honor of" Goshen UMC.

Contact Mariellyn Grace via email with any questions. mgrace@WOCUMC.org

With Heartfelt
Sympathy

The family of Shirley Cox, upon her death on June 30, 2022.

Lucille Knight & Family upon the death of her sister, Phyllis Carr, on May 10 at the age of 95 years.

Carl & Shirley Heismann upon the death of their cousin, William Paul Lorenz, on April 23, 2022.

Financial Update June 2022

2022 Budget: \$248,590.00

	<u>Month of June</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$ 16,982.00	\$ 137,649.00
Expenses	(\$19,638.00)	(\$132,457.00)
Income/Loss	(\$2,657.00)	\$5,192.00

Account Balances as of June 30, 2022

General Fund	\$ 3,175.00
Reserves	84,464.00
Parsonage Escrow	37,471.00
Ameriprise	123,478.00
Total	\$248,590.00

YTD Loss: (\$15,733.00)

The total funds is down for two reasons: the stock market is down and we have had several repairs due to the roof.

We face upcoming expenses from water damage, failing air conditioners, and roof repairs. Thank you for faithfully giving to Christ's church.

Thank you,
Dr. Dee Sellers
Finance Chair

Do you know of someone
preparing for the excitement
and uncertainty of the
college experience?



Please submit the addresses, and/ or emails, of your college bound students for words of support and encouragement from Christ Church and our Membership Care Team!

Thank You

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their cards,, gifts, and prayers which helped us celebrate our graduations. You are all a blessing to us.

Thank you,
Noah Kelley
Brady Kelley
Arissa Riley



July Birthdays

- 5 Michael Miller
- 6 Donna Phillips
Zelda Stephenson
- 7 Carolyn Lacey
- 8 Jeff Layne
Carol O'Connor
- 11 Norman Gibbs
- 15 Alice Bradshaw
Sandy Luksic
- 16 Cindy Buckey
Denny Luksic
- 19 Pam Cole
- 21 Karen Gibbs
- 30 Suzanne Hawkins
- 31 Jim Mann

August Birthdays

- 2 Carolyn Kinslow
- 6 Urith Ellen Thompson
- 10 Robert Gast
- 12 Bill McCall
- 14 Braden Martin
- 15 Sheila McCormick
- 17 Kim Flesher
- 19 Richard Owen
- 21 Linda Barton
Zachary Kassner
- 28 Diana Hayes
Nancy Karnes

July Anniversaries

- 4 Tom and Jane Tipton
- 6 Larry and Linda Banks
Jim and Cindy Buckey
- 15 Ron and Shirley Cox
- 16 Don and Teresa Dean
Jerry and Linda Frechette
Jeff and Janet Layne
- 21 Jack and Sue Myers

August Anniversaries

- 3 Jim and Brenda Mann
- 5 Denny and Sandy Luksic
Walker and Sally Williamson
- 8 Michael and Teresa Banks
- 12 Richard and Bobette Owen
- 15 Glen and Kim Swiger
- 18 Robert and Mallory Hicks
- 23 Rex and Debbie Lawson
- 28 David and Gerri Teeters

As We Celebrate the Miracle of Birth, We Welcome ~

Haleigh Joy Coleman
 Daughter of Jonathan & Brittney Coleman
 Granddaughter of
 Julie & Rev. Norman Coleman
 Born: July 12 9 lb. 9oz.

James Ryder Braun
 Grandson of Rev. Roger Braun
 Born: Wednesday, June 29, 2022
 at 2:03 p.m.
 20 inches and 7 lbs 11 oz

Lewis Siewny
 The first grandchild of
 Dr. Greg and Jeanne Siewny
 Born: July 7

Blessings and Congratulations!

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Monumental Moves with Community Cooperation



On Saturday, July 23, there was tons of activity in the Christ Church complex.

Northstar Classical School is expanding by another grade this year and will be using additional space on the lower level that was previously the Choir Room. The Choir Room has been relocated to Rooms 118A & B.

With the help of a large dumpster, the Admin Team, the Music Ministry, and the parents and administration of Northstar, the move has been completed!!

A huge "THANK YOU" goes out to all involved in making this a smooth, successful, community achievement. We are blessed!

