

PATHWAYS

October 2017

*You show me the path of life. In your presence there is
fullness of joy...Psalm 16:11*



First Christian Church of Stow, 3493 Darrow Road, Stow, Ohio 44224
www.firstchristianstow.org

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## **Gratitude Thankfulness Appreciation**

It's that time of year again, Pastor Appreciation Month, when churches intentionally show appreciation for their Pastors. It is always a good time to show appreciation for and love toward our Pastor, Jonathan ~ this Man of God we have been blessed with here at First Christian Church of Stow.

We will be formally recognizing our Pastor on Sunday, October 22 in both services and are asking you to help show Pastor Jonathan how much we care about him and appreciate him. While he is away on vacation (October 8 & 15) we will be collecting personal notes from the congregation (paper will be available in the Gathering Area). Please think of one (or more) times when Jonathan was there for you or someone in your family and let him know what that meant to you in the form of a heartfelt Thank-You. If you want to say thank you for his sermons, his thoughtfulness, his faithful leadership, take this opportunity to express this in your own words! If you are unable to drop off your note, you can mail it into the office marked "Pastor Appreciation."

Let's show our Pastor, in our own words, just how much he is loved and appreciated by his church family!

The Elders

## **Trunk or Treat 2017!** **Sunday October 22, 3-5pm**

### **Volunteers needed - All hands on deck!**

Plans are underway to make this Trunk or Treat the best one yet! This event has been growing every year and has given First Christian Church of Stow a great community presence in October.

Sign up on our Orange poster board in the Gathering Area - there is something for everyone.

- Decorate Trunk and pass out candy (provide candy for 100 kids)
- Inflatable Slide & Game Attendants
- Welcome Table Team
- Food Hospitality
- Candy Donations

See Richelle or Anna for more info and any questions. Don't miss out!



From the  
Pastor's  
Desk

With some regularity, although not as much regularity as my wife would like, Julie and I pack up the kiddos and travel to Pittsburgh to visit our family. During our last trip, driving on the outskirts of the steel city, we found ourselves

within a massive construction zone. Keyword: *Massive*. I've driven a lot of places, and seen a few construction zones, but this was unlike any before. The construction sprawled from one side of the highway to the other, and ahead of us as far as we could see.

Now traffic was not congested; however, there was a congestion of road cones—and I'm not talking your typical twelve-inch road cone. These were the skinny construction barrel-looking road cones that are tall like construction barrels, but appear as if they have been on the Atkins Diet. (Is that a dated joke? Does anyone still do the Atkins Diet? I digress.) There were, literally, thousands of these skinny road cone-barrels. Literally. Thousands. Probably. There were a lot.

Have I mentioned it was night? No? Well, it was night. This meant the headlights of our van, along with the headlights of every other vehicle on the road, made these thousands of reflective skinny road cone-barrels sparkle with bursts of orange and white flashes of light, reminding me of college raves. (I mean, not that I went to any raves in college. Does anyone still go to raves? I digress.) Not only were there flashes with bursts of orange and white sparkling lights to contend with, but the lanes the cones mapped out zigged and zagged in various directions, trickling down into one lane, with no clear indication as to which lane was the one lane we were to be driving in! I told Julie I was glad to be following the driver in front of us and not the lead car trying to figure out where to go. Although it was evident by the driver's slower speed and repetitious brake tapping that they weren't too sure about the route either.

That's when I heard the not so still, not so small voice of my daughter in the back seat. *"Oh Daddy, look at all the pretty lights from the reflectors! They all sparkle like jewels in a fairy garden! Isn't it beautiful!?"*

There are moments when one perspective is instantly confronted. There are moments when one emotion is directly challenged. There are moments when one way of seeing what's right in front of you is

suddenly opened to a whole new way of seeing it. This was one of those moments.

There in the middle of a dimly lit path, I saw something as a chaotic mess. My five-year-old daughter was looking at the same thing and saw beauty.

There in the middle of a dimly lit path, I saw something that was slowing me down. My five-year-old daughter saw the same thing as enchanting.

There in the middle of a dimly lit path, I saw something that annoyed me. My five-year-old daughter saw the same thing and it filled her with wonder and joy.

The metaphor for perspective, the metaphor for following the right path, the metaphor for keep moving forward came to life right then and there, on the outskirts of the steel city. Literally.

There are times in life—and times in the life of the church—when the path forward is dimly lit, when chaos ensues, when we are forced to slow our pace, when we become annoyed and all we can see are the things that annoy us. These times wreck our soul.

This is why it becomes critically important, in those times, to remember. We have to remind ourselves, that no matter what, there is still wonder and beauty to see. There is still something to take in that can, and will, fill us with joy.

No, it's not easy. We have to work hard at this. We have to practice this daily. But it is worth the effort because when we see, and live in such a way, that is when we experience the power and majesty of God. Literally.

Your Pastor and Friend,  
Jonathan



# Week of Compassion

Hurricanes, floods, earthquakes... events around the world make us feel overwhelmed and helpless. The Disciples of Christ "Week of Compassion" enables us to help in a meaningful way by joining our gifts with others' to accomplish what we cannot on our own. The DOC website states:

*Week of Compassion works through a remarkable network of church partner organizations and partnerships that insures that our response to humanitarian needs in the world is efficient, effective and faithful. Through these partnerships, Disciples are able to join a tapestry of caring that brings help and hope to hurting people in every corner of the world.*

By giving to Week of Compassion, you can be there. You can stand beside those who need you, working to rebuild homes and lives in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the neighboring islands. Share your gift in the offering plate here at FCC Stow, or go online to give:

<https://docgeneralassembly.webconnex.com/weekofcompassion>.

## World Communion Sunday

According to the website of the National Council of Churches, World Communion Sunday began in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church. It has grown into an international ecumenical celebration of Christian unity. We observe World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday of October—this year, October 1. This special day is both a celebration and a reminder.

World Communion celebrates the beautiful diversity of Christians who come together around one table, invited by Christ, bound together by Christ's love and sacrifice. And it reminds us that Christ's love is our reason for being the church, for being FCC Stow: to share the love of Christ with each other and with all God's children.

*"We are Disciples of Christ,  
a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.  
As part of the one body of Christ  
we welcome all to the Lord's Table  
as God has welcomed us."*

## Nomination of Officers

It is the time for nomination and election of church officers for 2018. All members and those not yet members but active in the life of First Christian Church of Stow are eligible to be nominated for a position on the Board of Elders, Trustees Board, or and/or the Diaconate.

A nomination form and list of currently serving members of these boards is enclosed. The Board of Elders invite you to help select the leaders of our church going forward, those who you believe are called to serve. It is permissible to nominate one's self if you are so moved. All nominations are anonymous. Nomination forms should be submitted to the church office or in the collection plate no later than Sunday, October 15, 2017

## Flowers for the Church Yard

Since our church will not be decorated with pumpkins this year, we have the opportunity to plant Fall and Spring flowers to beautify our church. We are asking church members donate either some Hardy Mums or flower bulbs. The Trustees will take care of planting them. Any questions please see any trustee.

Thank you

## Trustee Workday

There will be a general work day on October 7, 2017. We will be working outside and inside. Outside work will include property maintenance, garage cleaning, and leaves. Inside will include painting in the balcony storage room and music room. Please join us to accomplish these chores. Time will be from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

### **Monday Morning Study Group**

The Monday Morning Study Group continues its weekly meetings in October, but with some slight alterations.

On Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have a one-time Monday AFTERNOON Study Group that will meet from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Then on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> we will return to the normal 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in the church library schedule.

But then we will have a Fall Break (because you need one from your studies once in a while!) on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Then normal class schedule will resume on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Monday Morning Study Group is an informal group that watches video based content that is then followed by discussion. The class is open to any and all who are interested in growing their faith, deepening their relationship with God, and engaging in meaningful dialogue with the pastor and others. And there is always plenty of coffee on hand! (Although Jonathan makes the coffee so if you bring your own we will understand!)

### **Camp Christian Round Table Conference**

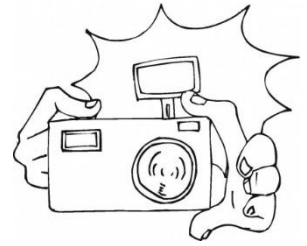
**Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Ohio Disciples love Camp Christian and recognize the impact this sacred space has had on countless lives. This ministry is central geographically and spiritually in our regional life. However, we are struggling to 1.) make camp events affordable to participants, and 2.) help Camp Christian to become a sustainable ministry. Currently the camp costs the region approximately \$80,000 per year more than it takes in. It is not possible to continue down this path without some serious and creative ideas and models to maintain and grow our outdoor ministry. We hope everyone who has a love for and interest in Camp Christian's future will plan to join us for the intentional conversation and exchange of ideas as we assure this ministry's future for many generations to come!

Please RSVP online at: [www.ccinoh.org](http://www.ccinoh.org), or via a form in the church office.

***All thoughts and input will be welcomed and we invite everyone to come to this table.***

### **It's Time for an Update!**



For families with children High School and younger, the Annual First Christian Stow Family Portraits will be taken during the month of October on Sundays after the second service. Children grow and change so quickly over the year that we believe it's important to capture the "family" as you grow up together. Somewhat like a school portrait! Once again, this is no charge to you.

We also want to update our directories with all the new faces who have joined us over the past year. Whether you're a member or someone who is active in the faith life of First Christian Church of Stow, please come and get your portrait taken so everyone can get to know who you are! No charge!

And finally, if you have any updates for the contact information in the 2016 Directory, please see Lynn and provide me with what needs edited. Those updates will be distributed to insert in the back pocket in your 2016 Directory, along with the new and updated portraits.

Thank you! Lynn Fauvie

### **Save These December Dates!**

These music and drama events in December are perfect for inviting friends and family. Music and drama tell the Good News in fun, compelling ways—so save these dates on your calendar, and *tell others!*

**Sunday, December 3 ~ 6:00 p.m.  
Christmas Program**

Featuring the children's musical

**Sunday, December 10  
~ 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

***Search for the Christ Child***

A living nativity for all ages

## Youth Group in October *Keeping it R.E.A.L!*

We kicked off in September and we are in full swing for our year of **“Keeping it R.E.A.L.— Relational, Experiential, Applicable, and Loving.”** Through this theme we will explore ways to keep our faith *REAL* in all that we say and do; with all the people we cross paths with; and in how we live out the call to love all people. Among our discussion last month was what it means to take up our cross and bear it!

Now as we head into October we will look to explore more **R.E.A.L** topics as well as have a little fun too!

We will have a regular youth group meeting on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, right after church until 2 p.m. Then we will avail ourselves to the coordinators and guests of our church’s annual Trunk or Treat event from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 22. And then on **Sunday, October 29** we will have the much-looked-forward-to **Fall Outing** to an area pumpkin farm and Fall Festival. Look for more details to show up at your homes in the days ahead. You won’t want to miss out!

The FCC Youth Group is open to all youth in sixth grade and up and their friends. We meet, typically, on a bi-weekly schedule.

## CROP Walk Walk the Walk!

**We need walkers to represent the Church at the annual**

Crop Walk is Sunday, October 8 at Brady Lake (Kent) from 2-4 p.m. This is an opportunity to raise funds through pledges for walkers. Crop Walk provides money for seed and farming needs, ultimately providing food. This Crop Walk helps both locally and globally. Donations directly benefit this worthwhile cause. For more details see Mary Ellen Neitz.

## Bulldog Bags

We are collecting individual applesauce cups through mid-October. Please place in bin marked Bulldog Bags. Thank you for your continued support.

## Yarn Ministry

The Prayer Team is knitting itself a new and wonderful way to reach our congregation and others in need of a healing touch of prayer.... knitting and crocheting Prayer Blankets and Scarves for people to use as a tangible form of our prayers for them. **The Yarn Ministry is Born!**

If you Knit or Crochet, please feel free to come and join us all as we gather together to Pray and Fellowship over our yarn crafting. Free coffee and great company of crafting people. If you already know HOW to Knit or Crochet ..... Come, the pattern and first skein of yarn is provided. If you don’t know how to knit but would like to learn .....**Come!** Needles and a skein of yarn are provided, with instruction to get you started. Only TWO stitches to learn in knitting..... knit and purl. All ages can do it, Mothers and Daughters welcome! No instruction for crochet at this time is offered. Finished **Blankets** will be available for Sick and Homebound who need them. Finished **Scarves** will be available to Christmas Outreach for those in need. All blankets and scarves will be steeped in Prayer.

Next meeting: October 8  
Time : 12:30 – 2:00 pm  
Where: Room across from Chapel  
When: Second Sunday each month.



## “Saints Alive! Living Generously”

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (NRSV)

Dear Members and Friends,

As faithful stewards of the ministry and mission we share, we continue to seek ways to live generously in Christ. I invite you to join with all the saints at First Christian Church of Stow on a stewardship journey, as together we explore what it means to live generously.

“Giving stories will be an important part of our journey. Each week we will tell the story of one of the vital ministries God has entrusted to us and show how that ministry demonstrates God’s love and leads to changed lives.

Along the way we’ll also reflect on giving stories from the past, as we remember the examples of people who have taught us to be generous; on giving stories related to the future, as we consider the legacy of giving we would like to leave.

These stories of our shared life and witness grow out of God’s love in Christ – the rich ground from which new life arises. During the weeks of our giving journey, out of this rich ground we will “grow” a tree together, filling its branches with leaves that identify saints alive, living generously.

On Sunday, November 12, 2017, we will celebrate God’s generosity toward us and honor God’s invitation to bless those who are eager for the good news of Jesus Christ. At that time, we will present our personal commitment cards as an act of worship. Watch for more information as we begin this exciting time of growth and giving together!

In Christian fellowship,

Al Naylor, Stewardship Chair

## Officers Currently Serving

| DIACONATE         |
|-------------------|
| BRIERS, EDITH     |
| COPELAND, ANN     |
| DAMCOTT, ANTHONY  |
| DAMCOTT, DOLLINDA |
| DOWEY, CORA       |
| EPPLEY, GARY      |
| FISHER, MARGARET  |
| GROSS, MICHELLE   |
| GUSTAFSON, JOHN   |
| HAGAT, JOHN       |
| HALPIN, ANN       |
| HAWS, FAYE        |
| HAYWOOD, SCOTT    |
| HELMICK, DAVE     |
| HELMICK, KALLIE   |
| HOBSON, SUE       |
| HOWARD, RAE       |
| KOSTENSKY, DEBBIE |
| LANDIS, ED        |
| LARGENT, AIMEE    |
| LOTT, TAMMY       |
| MCCREIGHT, JOHN   |
| MYERS, TOM        |
| NAYLOR, SUE       |
| NORWOOD, JESSICA  |
| PAINTER, SUZANNE  |
| ROBINSON, LAURIE  |
| SELLERS, SHARON   |
| TAYLOR, JANE      |
| UMBARGER, CINDY   |
| WILLIAMS, DIXIE   |

| ELDERS           |
|------------------|
| AUKEMAN, JACOB   |
| FAUVIE, LYNN     |
| HAYWOOD, DIANNE  |
| HINDLE, JIM      |
| LLOYD, RICK      |
| MAHAFFEY, JUDY   |
| MAHAFFEY, PAT    |
| ROBINSON, ANDREW |
| SAFFORD, TOM     |
| WOLF, MARY ANN   |
| WOLF, JIM        |

| TRUSTEES         |
|------------------|
| ABLES, DOUG      |
| DEIWERT, MIKE    |
| DREWS, MIKE      |
| HAGAT, ANDY      |
| LARGENT, STEVE   |
| MARKEY, JUSTIN * |
| NEITZ, TIM       |
| SEARCY, BRIAN    |
| STANLEY, DONNA   |
| STANLEY, TOM     |
| WILLIAMS, JIM    |

## 2017 CHURCH OFFICER NOMINATION FORM FOR TERMS STARTING JANUARY 1, 2018

The Nominating Team asks each active participant in the life of First Christian Church of Stow to nominate potential church officers for the next year. We also urge you to seriously and prayerfully consider accepting the call and responsibility if you are nominated for an office. At first, few people feel worthy or capable of becoming a deacon, trustee, elder, or governing board officer. Remember that Jesus chose unlikely disciples who trusted Him to teach and lead them. Rather than call only those already well-equipped for the task, God will equip those who answer His call with faith.

- Our current bylaws require that no officer can serve the same office for more than two consecutive terms. Current church officers are listed on the other side of this form. Those serving a second consecutive term are marked with an asterisk (\*). Those ineligible for a term on 12/31/17 can be nominated for another office.
- Each nominee must be currently active in the church, and you can nominate yourself.
- Nominees who are available, needed, and approved, will be placed on the ballot. Nominees will remain confidential unless they are contacted and give their consent to be put on the ballot.
- Once completed, this form can be left in the office, or put in the offering plate, by October 15, 2017.

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As an active participant in the life of this church, I nominate the following people to the church office listed above their name:

**The Board of Elders (3 year term) 1/1/18 – 12/31/21** Elders are called to be leaders of the church in all spiritual matters. They have demonstrated spiritual maturity, and strive to discern God's calling for the direction of the church's worship and ministries. They nurture the congregation. They supervise and support the minister and staff. They preside over communion and assist the minister with leading worship. They call upon and visit the homebound, the hospitalized, and anyone ill or in need, often providing communion, prayers, and words of comfort and support. They are members of the governing board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The Board of Trustees (2 year term) 1/1/18 – 12/31/20** Trustees are called to be caretakers of the physical church. They are the legal agents of the church and conduct business necessary to keep the church safe and well-functioning. They regulate the use of church facilities. They supervise and support the custodial staff and the work of volunteers and outside contractors. They maintain all church property. They are members of the governing board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The Board of Diaconate (2 year term) 1/1/18 – 12/31/20** Deacons are called to be servant-helpers of the church. They may serve anonymously behind the scenes, or during worship services. They prepare and maintain communion cups and trays, and collect tithes and offerings. They assist in worship, baptisms and congregational meetings. They act as greeters and ushers. They set up and take down tables, chairs, and needed equipment for all activities in the church building and on the church grounds. They assist with holiday decorations. They have two voting representatives on the governing board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Completed nomination forms should be delivered to the church office by Sunday October 15, 2017.