

PATHWAYS

June 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

Coming Up

Mark your calendars for these events

Summer Schedule begins on Sunday, June 4, 2017

Worship in the Chapel at 8:30 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship at 9:30 a.m. in the Library

(A chance for those in both services to come together)

Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.

(Child care and junior church continue to be available)

2ND Annual FCC Motorcycle Run!

Sunday, June 25th

Ice Cream X-treme

Tuesday, June 27 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Everyone Invited!

Pancake Breakfast

Monday, July 4 7:00 – 10:00 a.m.

We need many volunteers!

Sign-up Sheets available in Gathering Area

Vacation Bible School

Sunday, July 9 – Thursday, July 13 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Open to all children age 3 through 5th grade.



From the
Pastor's
Desk

*"For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under
heaven..."*

These words from the book of Ecclesiastes 3 have been ringing in my head with a constant din. Ok, admittedly, there have been some early morning hours when it was more like a jackhammer! We all have had

seasons come, and seasons go—it is part of life—one season ends and another one begins. Sometimes we are glad for a season to end and a new one to begin, like when we graduate, get married, or a child is born. And sometimes we are not so glad, like when a child goes off to college, someone moves away, or a loved one dies. Seasons can be sweet; seasons can be bitter; and sometimes they can be bitter-sweet. But no matter what, they can always be faithful. Faithfulness from one season to the next, however, always requires a bit of work on our part. Fortunately, as we transition from one season of the church year into a new one, we are shown within God's Holy word how to do this work.

As we close out the Easter season, we can look back how on the first Easter when Mary encounters the risen Jesus and she clings to him. But Jesus says to her, *"Don't hold onto me."* It's a line that comes off as maybe a bit harsh, but Jesus isn't being cold and unfeeling because he knows what Mary is thinking. She's thinking, *"This is great! He was gone but now he's back! We're getting the band back together!"* She thinks everything is going to go back to normal. Which is our human nature—we want things to go back to how they were, to when it was safe, to when it was comfortable and everyone knew their roles. But this post-resurrection Jesus is saying, *"Mary, it can't go back to the way things were. It's going to be different because that season is over, and now God is doing something new. But it will still be good."*

Jesus then spent his post-resurrection/Easter season days on earth, before his ascension, working and teaching his followers to let go of how it was, and prepare for the good, new thing, that was surely coming. Jesus did this because only when we learn to let go of how something was, can we faithfully move forward into the new season God is leading us into. Only when we let go of what was, our hands open—and we are not white knuckled scared—are we in the right posture to receive the new season.

We have just come through the Easter season, and have recognized the ascension of Jesus, and the day of Pentecost is upon us thrusting us forward into a new season of the church. It is a new season liturgically, but it is a new season for the life of our church, First Christian Church of Stow. We are a church, like all churches, who find themselves within a season when the Church is viewed by many people as outdated and no longer

relevant. Additionally, we are a church who has had to say goodbye to a number of people, just as we face having to say goodbye to Cheryl and Ralph who are moving forward to a new season in their lives. There is a time of grief for sure, but there must also be a time of looking toward the future with confidence and faith, believing that God is about to do a new thing here at First Christian Church of Stow, Ohio. And just as God has always done before, it will be good. Our job will be to keep our focus and commitment on what God is calling us to do, and not try to cling to what was.

Yes, for everything there is a season, which means seasons come and seasons will go. But what will always remain, no matter what, is God's faithfulness to care for us, and lead us from one good season to another, and another, and another.

I don't know what exactly is coming, which is what makes seasons coming and going hard. (And what keeps me awake!) But when I remind myself of how God is always at work, to make all things good, then I get excited for the new season God is leading us toward. I hope and pray you are too, because I look forward to seeing what God does, in us and through us, alongside with you.

Your Pastor and Friend,
Jonathan

Youth Group in June

On Sunday, June 4th the Youth Group will to Downview Sports Center in Cuyahoga Falls for an afternoon of batting cages, putt-putt golf, driving range, and lunch. Do you think you have what it takes to beat Jonathan, the self-proclaimed putt-putt champion of First Christian Church of Stow?! Then plan on coming out and proving it!

You are welcome, and encouraged to bring friends with you. (It's up to you if you want your parents to come too!) There is just a nominal cost of \$5 per student. Parents please pick-up your youth at 2 p.m. at Downview Sports Center.

Welcome New Members

We are excited to welcome to our church family those who joined this Spring. Be sure to look for and add your personal welcome to these new members.

Randy and Beth Weiser and children, Megan and Katie Michelle White
Lane Ball, Chris and Larami's son
Josh and Melinda Webb and baby, Conner

Summer Worship Hours Start June 4!

First Service 8:30

Coffee Fellowship 9:30

Second Service 10:00

On Sunday, June 4 we will begin our summer worship hours. First service will remain unchanged and will still begin at 8:30. Second service will begin at 10 a.m.

In between the two services will be a special time of coffee fellowship for those who just came from first service and those coming to second service. This coffee fellowship will be held in our Library and Gathering Area and will offer a rare opportunity for the two services to see and greet one another.

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

June 10, 2017 10 AM – 10 PM
Stow Glen Retirement Community

Please join us as First Christian Church Team raises awareness and donations for this awesome event. Profits for American Cancer Society are all based on donations and not by sponsoring mileage or time.

We need walkers to sign up for walking as available and convenient. Sign-up sheets are at church in the Gathering Area.

FCC Motorcycle Run! **Sunday, June 25th**

Mark your calendars and make plans now to be part of the Second Annual First Christian Church Motorcycle Run which is set to roar out of our parking lot, and then back into it, on Sunday, June 25th. The Membership Team will once again need volunteers to help with many different aspects of the run—from registration to hospitality to grilling up food and more! More information will be available soon, but if you just have to know more right now, talk with Larami Ball!



Ice Cream X-TREME

Tuesday, June
27,
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

A wonderful evening of fun and fellowship. Invite your friends and neighbors to join in the fun. Our menu includes sloppy jo, hot dogs, chips, pop, pie and, of course, *ice cream*. And there will be a free bouncy house! Invite your family and friends, neighbors and co-workers to join us for this fun-filled event.



4th of July Pancake Breakfast

The Stow Pride Week always culminates with the area's largest and best parade, held every July 4th, and it rolls past our church's door. And as always, to add to the celebration, our church will once again hold our annual Pancake Breakfast from 7 a.m. until the start of the parade (around 10 a.m.). We will need lots of help to make and serve another successful pancake breakfast for our guests! Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area or contact Steve Gross indicate your interest in helping with this wonderful ministry.

Now Available in our church office

Kathy has our new 2017 pictorial directories and our 2016 Annual Reports available for you to pick up. Stop in during office hours or on a Sunday morning to pick yours up if you haven't already done so.

Vacation Bible School 2017



Plans are underway for Maker Fun Factory VBS July 9-13, 6-8pm and volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs!

Maker Fun Factory is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste with Science-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats! Kids discover not only that God made them the way they are, but are built for a purpose too!!

Sign up to volunteer at the “Kids in Worship” table or online at vbspro.events/p/events/fccstow. See Richelle and Anna for more info.

Drama Ministry News: Summer Workshops



Summer Drama Workshops will take place the week of July 16, on Sunday afternoon and Wednesday and Thursday evenings. We will learn, improve our skills, and work toward using drama ministry the following Sunday, July 23, in worship.

Drama—as we have seen through the years of doing summer musicals, December’s Search for the Christ Child, and short dramas—is a vivid way to bring the Good News of Jesus to the world. Drama and music ministry also reach out to the community—and show what we can do when we work together to create something bigger than ourselves.

Graduate students from Kent State will teach classes on acting and other theater skills. We plan to invite people from other area churches to participate and learn along with us. Please join us—and look for more details each week! The schedule:

Sunday, July 16 ~ 1:00-4:00 p.m. (light lunch served after worship)

Wednesday, July 19 ~ 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 20 ~ 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 23 ~ share drama scenes in 8:30 and 10:00 worship

Dorcas/Rebekah Guild

Will meet on **Thursday, June 8**, in Fellowship Hall at noon. An interesting program is planned. All women are invited to attend. Bring a brown bag lunch. Coffee and dessert are provided.

Mary Martha Circle

Will meet on **Tuesday, June 13**, in our Parlor at 6:30 p.m. All ladies are invited to join us.

Rummage Sale Planned

Start gathering your no-longer-needed treasures together to donate to the church rummage sale. Our Rummage Sale is scheduled for August. Plan to bring in your items to the church after July 23. For more information please call Sue Vaughn (330.688.0975 or 330.245.9471).

Be sure to watch for updates in your bulletin insert each week.

COFFEE HOUR HELP NEED

9:30am for the summer

What’s required? The church provides the coffee & supplies. The host is asked to bring snacks (breakfast cakes or breads are popular) for 30 - 40 people and a gallon or two of some other beverage for those who don’t like coffee. The hosts are also asked to set out the snacks then clean up afterwards. Help is provided in making the coffee. Hosting is not a competition, but a way to facilitate a time of Christian fellowship. Many of us look forward to connecting with our fellow members or reaching out to some of our visitors. This is an important ministry of our church.

If you have questions, or need a partner to co-host with, please contact John McCreight.

Why FCC Stow? Summer 2017

The Church is seen by many as an institution that is no longer viable or relevant due to the feeling of judgment, intolerance, unwelcome, money, power, etc. And because of this narrow perspective of the Church, we, the members of the Church, members of this church—FCC Stow—and members of the body of Christ, are called to give voice to the truth of the Church; to share, intentionally, a broader perspective. And that broader perspective is that God is at work in the world through God's followers. God is working to bring healing and wholeness to a broken and fragmented world, to offer genuine welcome and acceptance, to provide hope, peace, joy, and love. And God is seeking to do this in and through the Church and its people. It is as the saying goes, we need to not just *"go to church"* we need to *"be the church."* But in order to *"be the church"* it is always critical to know why we are even part of the church.

Therefore, in an effort to *"be the church"* we as a church will make an intentional journey, over the coming months, to consider why we are part of the church by putting and keeping "Our Story" at the forefront of our vision and our call to be the church. And we will do this by sharing with one another our responses to the focus and title of this project: *"Why FCC Stow?"*

How this will come to fruition is by each one of us taking some time to bring into perspective our stories of our church by considering the following questions...

- 1. Why are you are part of First Christian Church of Stow?**
- 2. How does God feed your soul through this church?**
- 3. How has this church impacted your life and/or the life of your family?**
- 4. What is an "Ah-ha" moment or story that gives explanation and meaning to your relationship with FCC Stow?**
- 5. What would you say to someone if they asked you, "Why do you go to FCC Stow?"**

You are invited to answer the questions directly, or simply use them to get you thinking and crafting your response to *"Why FCC Stow?"* Then, in the coming months everyone will have a chance to share their response to *"Why FCC Stow?"* in whatever manner they are comfortable. Some of the ways could include: sharing them as a part of Sunday worship, perhaps through a special and new component within the worship service, sermon, or video. Or, with your permission, your response will be shared in the Pathways Newsletter, or via special email blasts, and/or they will be posted to our church's Facebook and Twitter profiles. All of this is an effort for us to hear again, or maybe for the first time the life impacting blessings God has brought to our lives through this church. It is to keep our story front and center, so that we, and especially others, will come to know that God is at work in our lives and in our church.

On Easter we celebrated how Jesus was raised from the dead and that because of God's power and grace everything was changing. In the Easter season that followed, God led us in considering the teachings of Jesus on how to be the Church. Now, on Pentecost and throughout the summer, we will begin to see and hear how God is leading us to answer *"Why FCC Stow?"* Two of our Elders will kick off this project and share their stories with us. We are doing this so that we can intertwine ourselves one to another more deeply, and so that we are even more equipped to share with others just why we give so much of ourselves to God and the church. I look forward to going on this journey with you and hearing your stories and response to the question, *"Why FCC Stow?"*