

PATHWAYS

October 2018

*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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## **World Communion Sunday**

October 7

A day to gather at the Lord's Table  
with believers around the world

## **CROP Walk**

October 7 at 2 pm

Starting at Brady Lake Methodist Church in Kent  
Sign up in the Gathering Area

## **Youth Group Outing**

October 7 ~ after church

***All Youth Invited!***

## **Church Workday**

October 13 9am - 1 pm

Work to prepare the church and grounds for the winter

## **Trunk or Treat**

October 21, 3-5 pm

Invite your neighbors and friends  
to this popular and fun event



From the  
Pastor's  
Desk

In sermons, chats, conversations, and team meetings over the last six to seven weeks we have been considering what it means to be the Church, to be a church, and to share and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. That's what I told my "Jedi

Council" recently when we did our check-in at our monthly clergy group. (Jedi Council is a reference from *Star Wars* of a group of Jedi Knights who were the guardians of the galaxy and who routinely met to discuss distressful matters happening around the galaxy, and how best to tend to them—typically employing air tight reasoning and light sabers.) So I told my Jedi Council this is what we have been focusing on as a church—what it means to be the Church, a church, and share the Good News. Then I added a quick summation to all this stating, "*Basically, be like Jesus and don't be a jerk.*" That joke got a good chortle from the small group of ministers because they knew quite well that a lot of what we do as pastor's can be summed up in a quick turn of phrase such as that.

And while a lot of what we aim to inspire and educate others to do can be encapsulated in such a statement, there is greater depth and lofty aims in the work of being the Church, being a church, and sharing and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. Among them are the ideas that come from the questions, *How do we turn 'Church' from a noun into a verb? How do we take the church for a thing and turn it into a place an action?* I think Jesus would appreciate such questions. After all, he was a man of action who actively took the Good News to the people, meeting them where they were in an effort to change their lives for the better. And every time he did, he not only gave the people what they needed, he gave them an encounter with the Divine presence of God.

*How do we take the Church to where the people are? How do we turn "Church" from a noun into a verb?*

These questions, and others like them, are constantly at the forefront of my thought process and my prayers. And they are because I truly believe that asking and wrestling with these questions and others like them is among our role as Christians and a church—especially in our society today, a society that is growing increasingly apathetic toward Church.

So how do we do this? How do we turn

"Church" from a noun into a verb? Or really, how do we **keep** turning "Church" from a noun into a verb? Because I believe we are doing this. We do it through the ministries we offer and the worship we share. We do it each time we greet and welcome a guest. We do it every time we revel in the sweet sound of a fussy child in worship. We do it in many, many ways.

Each of these is times when the church provides and encounter with the Divine. And it's these encounters with the Divine in the church that are crucial to take beyond the church building. This is the model Jesus gave us, and calls us to live out. And it is crucial we do, because in our society today people are all too aware of what the Church **opposes**, (which is often misinterpreted or wrong) but they are not aware of what the Church **stands** for.

The Church has been around a long, long time. But not in a Galaxy far, far away. It's been right here. And we are a part of it. The Church has been unfolding all this time, yet it is still unfolding because the need for the world to have an encounter with the Divine has been ongoing since the dawn of creation.

We are participating in our own unfolding. As the Church. As a church.

So how is God calling us to participate in this unfolding? Not, how has God called us—how **is** God calling us? Right now. Today. Because the unfolding of the Church is ongoing. The need for encounters with the Divine is ongoing.

How will we keep it going?

I am eager to keep answering this question with each of you.

Your Pastor and Friend,  
Jonathan



## **News from the Music Department**

Hello everyone,  
I'd like to take this space today to  
thank all of you who so graciously  
gave your time and talents to the

summer worship services. When the choir has the summer  
off, it's critical that others step up and volunteer to fill the  
void. My heartfelt thanks go out to:

Scott Haywood, Ian Drews, Ralph and Cheryl Lorenz,  
Donna Curfman, Andrea and Mike Drews, Mary Ellen  
Neitz, Ann Halpin, Dan Reiman, Liz Cawley, Cora Dowe  
and Chelsea Rowe, Dorothy Robinson, The Resurrection  
Brass (Scott Haywood, Ted Shorter, Catherine McKinney,  
Jacob Aukeman, and me), and Michelle and Steve Gross.  
A big tip of the hat to Ted Shorter, Andy Hagat, Bob Vanik,  
and Ron Neaffer for adding their special talents whenever  
the Way plays in church. I'm especially grateful to  
Sandy Roeger, Jennifer Koreki, and Barb Eppley for filling  
in as organist/pianist on the Sundays Andrea was taking a  
much needed and well-deserved vacation.

Finally, I want to thank Andrea Drews for the magnificent  
job she does each week as our organist and accompanist.  
She is a gem to work with and I am blest, as we all are.  
Thank you, Andrea!

I would also like to invite each and everyone of you to the  
United Presbyterian Church in Cuyahoga Falls to help in  
the 40<sup>th</sup> celebration program of the organ. My wife, Janice,  
and the choir director, Marie Taylor have put together a  
varied program with music from many major musical eras  
and styles. Members from our Chancel Choir and Spiritus  
will be singing as well. Please join us for this wonderful  
event on Sunday, September 30, at 2pm.

Well that's about all I have to say this month, so until the  
next time, may God bless you and place a song in your  
heart.

Chuck

### **Thank You**

The trustees would like to thank the following people  
for painting the choir room~... Rick Lloyd for repairing the  
wall with plaster, Judy Mahaffey for spray-painting the  
ceiling, Tom and Donna Stanley, John Hagat and Tim  
Neitz for painting the walls. Special thanks to Tony and  
Sue Falcione for carpet cleaning on short notice.



### **Youth Group in October**

*"Oh the places you'll go!"*

The Youth Group will meet in  
October in a variety of ways. Among  
them is that we will go... "bowling".  
*(Shhhh... We are not actually going  
bowling. Maybe we will another time, but  
right now we're just going to say  
"bowling" because what we are really  
going to do is try to again go putt-putting  
at Downveiw Sports Complex in  
Cuyahoga Falls. Only it always, always,  
always rains when we try to go putt-  
putting at Downveiw Sports Complex in  
Cuyahoga Falls. So this time we are  
going to say we are "bowling" even  
though we are going to go putt-putting at  
Downveiw Sports Complex in Cuyahoga  
Falls, so perhaps we can trick Mother  
Nature and therefore it won't rain on  
Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> when we go putt-  
putting at Downveiw Sports Complex in  
Cuyahoga Falls—I mean "bowling"!)*

Ok, so hope to see you all for our  
"bowling" outing! (\*wink\*wink\*)

Additionally the Youth Group will be  
on hand for our church's Trunk or Treat  
event, Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 3-5  
p.m. This event is open to the  
community and always draws a big, big  
crowd, which necessitates the need for  
lots and lots of folks to be on hand to  
help out with games, food, and the  
spooky fun that happens!

And lastly, we will continue to focus  
on our theme of "Oh the Places You'll  
Go." This year-long theme will be the  
focal point of our Youth Sunday next  
Spring. Among the ways we will explore  
and unpack this theme and focus is  
possibly by throwing balls of paint at  
maps?! What!? That would be crazy.  
But that's how we roll at Youth Group!

Watch your mail for more  
information!

### **Acme "Community Cash Back"**

*Save those Tapes!*

The Acme Community Cash Back  
campaign is currently running. We  
receive 5% from every cash back total on  
each receipt we turn in. Place your  
receipts in the box in the Gathering Area.

## **World Communion Sunday**

*October 7<sup>th</sup>*

The first Sunday of October is a time when Christians in every culture around the world break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. It is called World Communion Sunday and it offers a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. On World Communion Sunday we remember that we are part of the whole body of believers, all while we celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations. And though there is diversity in how we all come to the table of remembrance, we know that it is still to partake in the bread of life and the cup of salvation—the gifts of God for the children of God.

World Communion Sunday is a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith that spans not just Stow, not just Ohio, not just the United States. It spans the entire world. We are all God's children, and we are all invited to our Lord's Table. So come to the Table, and join with Christians from all around the world, on October 7<sup>th</sup>. There's always room!

### **Workday**

There will be a general workday on October 13, 2018, to prepare the church and grounds for winter. Time will be from 9 am till 1 pm. Please join us for the day. Many hands make the work go faster.

### **Cleaning Angels Needed**

Our wonderful church building is very large and has lots of nooks and crannies, special artifacts, storage areas, and the like that are not part of the normal cleaning routines. If you could spare even 30 minutes of time, we could use your help. Some examples include polishing silver pieces, cleaning stairwells/baseboards from the balcony to the lower level, cob web patrol, washing curtains in the Chapel, covering marks on the woodwork on the pews, and much more. Supplies will be provided. Please see Ann Halpin to volunteer. 330-686-1844 or 330-524-2228

### **Bulldog Bags Update**

Bulldog Bags is expanding its distribution from once a month to twice a month and they are counting on their supporters. Six hundred children receive Bulldog Bags to provide snacks and health supplies. Please support this worthy program.

### **Bulldog Bag Collection Schedule**

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Sept 15 - Oct 15</b> | Cereal Cups |
| <b>Oct 15 - Nov 15</b>  | Lip Balm    |

## **Nomination of Officers**

It is the time for nomination and election of church officers for 2019. 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 will soon be available in the Gathering Area and the church office. 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.

## **CROP Walk ~ Sunday, October 7**

Sign up on the back of your connection card or on the sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area by October 7.

### **Take A Hike Take a hike!**

These aren't just the words Jonathan hears when making hospital calls! They are also the words of our Summit County Metro Parks as they encourage folks to participate in their 55<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Hiking Spree. So how about we take them up on their offer!?

First year hikers earn a hiking staff and shield, while those who have done the spree before earn another shield for their staff. Participation is free! Simply download or pick-up a participation form, and then complete at least 8 hikes by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

And we can help each other complete these hikes! On Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> make plans to meet at the Munroe Falls Bike and Hike Metro Park on Darrow Road at 4 p.m. to complete one of the hikes.

This will be chance to take in the beauty of our Summit County autumn season, and spend some time with folks from our church family.

## **End of an Era, But One Continues Nonetheless!**

First Christian Church of Stow has been blessed with years of service by our Childcare Supervisor Anna Lloyd. Faithfully, week after week, month after month, Anna has dutifully and lovingly cared for the children who have come to the nursery, providing a fun and safe environment for each child, while providing peace of mind and confidence to each parent that their child or children are in good hands.

Which is why it is sad to share the news that Anna will be stepping out of this role as Childcare Attendant for our church. However, we are NOT, NOT, NOT losing Anna!! She is simply stepping out of this position in order to give greater focus on her other position with the church, Co-Director of Christian Education for Children. Anna will complete her time as Child Care Attendant on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

This does leave a hole in our staff that will need to be filled. If you or anyone you know might be interested in the position, please have them contact Jonathan for more information.

## **Junior Church Volunteers**

The Christian Education Team is always working faithfully to create opportunities for us to deepen our faith through, well, Christian education. This is especially true for the many children we are blessed to have come to the church. Chief among these Christian education opportunities for children is our Junior Church program.

Junior Church is for kindergarteners through fifth grade, during second service, after the Children's message. This fun time is designed to give each child a chance to have time in the regular worship service, followed by a time of fun and learning in a setting specifically geared for them.

We have been blessed with a new need and a new opportunity, however. And that is the need to have TWO Jr. Church groups—one for older children, and one for younger children. Both will continue to meet at the same time, just in different locations.

This expansion of Jr. Church continues to necessitate the need, and opportunity, for volunteers to help with this children's ministry. One or two adult volunteers are needed each Sunday (except the first Sunday of the month) to lead one of these Jr. Church sessions. All teaching materials and curriculum is provided, giving you a clear and concise step by step lesson plan to present.

Please consider signing up to help lead a week of Junior Church. After all, you have all the experience you need as each of us was once a kid who needed grown-ups to help us learn more about God and Jesus and grow in our faith. Please talk with Jonathan, Anna Lloyd, Richelle Aukeman, or indicate your interest on the back of a Connection Card for more information about how you can serve in this way.



## *Trunk or Treat*

**Sunday October 21, 3-5pm**

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

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

Look for the orange poster board in the Gathering Area in September to volunteer!

There is something for everyone at Trunk or Treat!

- 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!

## **The Nest Job Opening**

The Nest preschool is hiring a "studio" teacher to teach a 30 minute class per day (Monday-Thursday) such as art, music, fitness, yoga, Bible and/or foreign language OR a recess monitor. Time is very flexible! Either position is a paid independent contractor position. This is a great opportunity to share your talents with a small group of young children on your own schedule! For more information or to apply please email Anne Reiman at [missannepreschool@gmail.com](mailto:missannepreschool@gmail.com).

### **Women's Fall Mini Retreat**

Time to sign up for the Women's Mini Retreat on November 10: 9:30 a.m -1:30 p.m.

The morning lesson will study Micah 6:8. We will study what the Lord requires of us and how to walk humbly with Him. A lesson after lunch will sum up our study. For those who want to stay puzzles and games will be available.

A free lunch will be provided . Don't miss this day of spiritual fellowship.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

We will need help in a variety of ways. ( Please remind me if you have offered.)

I can help. \_\_\_\_\_

I need a ride. \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Ellen Neitz 330-929-7793 [mebipolarbear@gmail.com](mailto:mebipolarbear@gmail.com)

### **Thinking Ahead to ...CHRISTMAS**

Outreach is preparing for the Christmas Ingathering program. If you would like to adopt and/or shop for a family, please see Ann Halpin.

Assistance is also needed with Christmas decorating; If you or your family would like to put up/decorate a specific tree in the church, please see Ann Halpin. Decorating will start after the November 25<sup>th</sup> service (so tree movers will be needed that day!) and should be completed by the December 2<sup>nd</sup> service for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of Advent.

Available trees to be decorated include: Sanctuary, Chapel, gathering area, church entrance by the sanctuary, library and Brotherhood Hall.

### **Chalice FC Softball Wrap-Up**

*Record: 0-Fun!*

It was the inaugural season for the Chalice FC Softball Team, and it is a thrill to report our team is the Champions! We are Champions of...trying the hardest, having the most fun, giving it our best shot, pulled hamstrings, quad muscles, and ruptured bicep, fewest runs scored, most runs allowed, most losses, best fans, most use of pain relievers, kindness, laughter, and overall sportspersonship!

Special thanks to all everyone who played and who helped make this season happen. Special thanks to all our fans that came out and cheered us on—especially our #1 Fan, Ed Aurand! Ed was at each and every game. Even the late, late games. He has been there cheering us on, and even giving Jonathan a few pointers now and then—which had he executed would have helped him tremendously!

No, Chalice FC may not have hoisted the first place trophy, but we did win in a lot of other ways. And that is championship enough. We hope to add to our list of championships next season!

### **Job Opening: Sunday Morning Child Care Supervisor**

We currently have an opening for the Child Care Supervisor for our Nursery Room on Sunday mornings. This is a paid position, with responsibilities that include:

- Plan and supervise child-care on Sunday mornings during Sunday School and the 10:45 worship service (10 a.m. service during Summer Worship Hours.)
- Prepare a lesson for the children from infant to 5 years old.
- Coordinate volunteers for the child-care room.

If you have any interest in this position, please let myself, Jonathan, or another Elders know.  
Jim Hindel, Board of Elders Chairperson

### **Jack Veach, Our Church Timothy**

Believe it or not, but Jack Veach has just begun his final year of seminary at the University of Chicago Divinity School. This is year three for Jack, which means by next summer Jack will have earned his Masters of Divinity and will look to become an ordained pastor with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) during a service of ordination here at FCC Stow.

Please continue to keep Jack in your prayers as he pursues this lofty endeavor and to follow God's call for his life and ministry. Please pray Jack continues to be nurtured and challenged in his seminary education that is preparing him for a ministry God will surely lead him to fulfill. Please pray Jack is strengthened, emboldened, and encouraged during what will no doubt be a demanding year. Please pray Jack is blessed with the energy, focus, and drive needed to complete and accomplish all that will be expected of him.

And please consider letting Jack know you are thinking about him and praying for him. Cards, notes, and treats are always appreciated—even by graduate students! Snail mail can be sent to: Jack Veach 1156 East 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, IL, 60637.

## Leap of Faith 2018

In November of 2017 we took a **Leap of Faith** as a congregation and approved a Budget for 2018 that was 10% more than our projected income. As of August 31<sup>st</sup> our year to date income is 13% less than our projected expenses for the year. If this trend continues we could end the year \$25,000 short of what we need to cover our expenses.

The Governing Board took action at the September meeting and asked all teams and committees to be vigilant and eliminate any unnecessary spending for the rest of the year in an effort to reduce expenses as much as possible. But more will need to be done.

Over the remaining 4 months of 2018 each of us has the opportunity to reduce this potential deficit by committing ourselves, once again, to respond as God has called us—by prayerfully discerning how we can give to God in response to how God has given to us. By doing this, we will leap, and soar, together.

Every year we take a Leap of Faith and every year this congregation has leaped faithfully and successfully. This year our Leap of Faith is larger than usual but so is the need of so many people who benefit from our many programs and ministries. Your prayerful consideration and devotion to moving our church forward, as God leads us, is deeply appreciated as always.

Thank you,  
The Stewardship

### Current 2018 Financial SnapShot

| Description                                                | As Of 8/31/2018 | As Of 9/23/2018<br>1 more Sept Sunday! | Year End 2018 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Budget Income</b>                                       | 169,485\$       | 190,671\$                              | 254,228\$     |
| <b>Actual Income<br/>(projected for Year End)</b>          | \$ 164,385      | \$ 189,835                             | 257,780\$     |
| <b>Budget Expenses</b>                                     | 186,079\$       | 209,339\$                              | \$ 279,118    |
| <b>Budget Leap of Faith</b>                                | (16,593)\$      | (18,668)\$                             | (24,890)\$    |
| <b>Actual / Projected Income<br/>minus Budget Expenses</b> | (21,694)\$      | (19,504)\$                             | (21,338)\$    |

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Ohio Regional Assembly **Gender Road Christian Church, Canal Winchester** **Saturday, October 6th, 9 a.m.-4:15 p.m.**

This one-day Regional Assembly is very important as our Regional Church will seek to make decisions on how we are going to move forward during the next 12-24 months as we transition from our interim regional pastor and president, to a time when we are ready to call the next regional leadership and support the ministries of our regional church. It is a time when we make decisions on sustaining the ministries and facilities at Camp Christian. It is a time when we will covenant with God and one another to follow God's call, as one regional church, toward a future that will no doubt be different, but we pray, will be faithful.

Cost is just \$10 with preregistration, or \$15 on the day of event. Lunch is included.

Fall Silent Retreat at Camp Christian **October 22-26, 2018**

Jesus called his frazzled disciples to "*Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while*" (Mark 6:31), and he issues the same call to all of us today as well. Our day-to-day lives can take on the character of rushing here and there as our multi-tasking minds take on so many bits of information that we find ourselves overburdened and exhausted. Do you see yourself described here?

The Spiritual Life Committee of the Ohio Region issues an invitation on behalf of Christ Jesus to ALL who are weary and jangled, to all who seem to have lost connection to the Source, to all who are in need of quiet time to come away by yourselves and rest awhile.

“Saints Alive! Living Generously”



Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. And when I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me. —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 4, 2018, 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