

# PATHWAYS

May 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](http://www.firstchristianstow.org)

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## **Fiesta of Bells**

May 6 4:00 pm

## **Workday**

Saturday, May 19 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Spring Clean-up inside and out!

## **Pentecost**

***May 20 the Birthday of the Church!***

On Pentecost we celebrate the birthday of the Church, remembering the awesome power that descended on the people of God through the Holy Spirit, resting on them like tongues of fire. Let us ignite our spirits and show our excitement for this grand day through our worship. Wear red as a symbol of the Holy Spirit!

## **Graduate Recognition Sunday**

**Sunday, May 20, Both Services**

## **Summer Schedule begins**

**on Sunday, June 3, 2018**

**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)

## **Relay For Life at Stow Glen**

**Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>!**

Volunteer to walk or tend a booth.



From the  
Pastor's  
Desk

Pentecost was originally an Old Testament festival called the “*Feast of Weeks*” beginning on the fiftieth day after the beginning of Passover, and was originally an agricultural festival centered on celebrating and giving thanks for the “firsts fruits” of the early spring harvest (See Lev. 23, Ex. 23 and 34). In the Christian calendar it falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter and....

Wait... can we cut the theological history lesson for a second and go back to that idea of “*Feast of Weeks*”? Is that what they did? Because if it was actually a feast that lasted for weeks, then we need to scrap the whole “Pentecost” title and tongues of fire theme, and start using again “*Feast of Weeks.*” Because who wouldn’t want to **FEAST** for **Weeks!**

I can imagine it now...endless pepperoni and sausage pizza from all the pizza places, mostly though from Coccia House in Wooster. Bottomless wavy Lays potato chips with tub after tub of Smith’s French onion dip. All you can eat wings, complete with blue cheese and celery. Rita’s slushies. Handel’s ice cream. Faye Haws’ chocolate chip cookies. Mike Drew’s award winning soups. Pat Mahaffey’s roasted lamb. Bill Dowey’s baked salmon. All the sandwiches from Mike’s Place. The world famous onion rings from Bishop’s restaurant also in Wooster. Larami Ball’s cupcakes. My wife’s pulled pork. And among it all (and more!) an eternal stream of my mom’s tater-tot casserole. Add your menu to this list and we have the kind of church celebration that would bring non-church people into the church on Christmas, Easter, and “*Feast of Weeks*”!

It’s a nice image, one that I may have had a bit too much fun writing. But it’s fun to dream. It’s good to dream. In fact, it’s biblical. Acts 2 tells of how the early church dreamed dreams—dreams of glory filled days that were like feasts of abundance, and the most abundant abundance was that of hope.

The Church today needs to dream dreams like it has never dreamed them before. We find ourselves in a sort of “Babylonian-like” exile where the church has been castigated as an entity not to be trusted, not to be valued, not to be seen as useful because it is no longer a place of love, compassion, inclusion, or even hope. The Church is being made irrelevant by the voices of a few who seem to speak the loudest, and their message is that if you are not of a certain way of life, belief, political party, and even socioeconomic status, then you are not worthy of God’s love.

But is that our church? Is First Christian Church of Stow a place that cannot be trusted to share the

true Good News of Jesus Christ—that all are loved, that all are holy and beloved children of God, and that God loves all people no matter who they are, what they have done, or what they have left undone? Is First Christian Church of Stow a place where the lost and least among us can be found and embraced?

Pentecost, or what I hope will become the “*Feast of Weeks*”, is the Church’s celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit. It comes from the realization that God’s very life, breath and energy lives in, with, and among us. It is a reminder that what we do as God’s faithful people and as God’s faithful church is not done in vain, nor should it be done simply out of habit. We are faithful people and a faithful church because God is with us, God has called us, and God is using us, i.e.—God is empowering us to be the hands and feet of Christ in our world today.

For Christians, Pentecost Sunday is a day to celebrate hope—a hope evoked by the knowledge that God, through the Holy Spirit, is at work. It is a celebration of newness, of re-creation, of renewal, of purpose, mission, and calling as God’s people. It is a celebration of God’s ongoing work in the world. Yet, it is also a recognition that God’s work is done through the people of God as the Holy Spirit is poured out upon us all.

So on Pentecost Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, go ahead and wear red to symbolize and celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit being poured out upon us and dancing in our midst as tongues of fire. But let us celebrate for weeks and weeks and weeks—say 52 weeks!—the hope filled joy and love that God has given to all through the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Your Pastor and Friend,  
Jonathan



### **Youth Group May 6<sup>h</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**

The Youth Group will meet this month on Sundays May 6<sup>h</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. On May 6<sup>h</sup>, we will meet at the church, right after worship, for a regular Youth Group meeting until 2 p.m. Lunch will be served. At this meeting we will do a special artistic project followed by a mystery “hands-on” learning experience!

Then on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> after church, we will travel to Gorge Metro Park in Cuyahoga Falls for lunch and a hike. Youth are asked to bring a sack lunch to eat at the park before our hike. Parents please plan to pick you youth up at Gorge Park at 2 p.m.

And then “Save The Date” for Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> when we will have our annual Putt-Putt tournament at the Downview Golf Center! We will have a pizza lunch there, followed by our tournament, batting cages, and driving range! If you beat Jonathan in Putt-Putt you will receive a special prize! Come join the Youth Group for these fun adventures!!

### **Summer Camps and Conferences at Camp Christian!**

Each summer there are week long camps for youth who have completed the third grade all the way through High School and beyond. There is Otter Camp for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade, Portahoga Chi Rho Camp for grade 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, and CYF Conference for grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Each camp is lead and supervised by: a Director, Assistant Directors, Counselors, and a Camp Staff, and sees dozens of youth from across the state come for an unforgettable week that not only includes Bible study and worship, but also hiking, boating, fishing, swimming and more games than you might think a church camp would have. (Did you know that Jonathan once took second place in the annual camp ping-pong tournament!?) Plus, there are nightly activities that include the incredibly fun Hoe-Down, Skit-Night, Talent Show, Dance, and Banquet.

Camp Christian, just two hours from Stow near Columbus, has been an unforgettable place for spiritual development, friendships, and fun for countless youth of our church across the decades, and we know it can be for you too! Any and all youth who want to attend Camp can, regardless of ability to pay for the registration fee. Scholarships are available through our church as well as through the Regional Church Office.

### **A Celebration of Life Jim Murfin**

As many of you know, Jim Murfin lost his battle with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy on October 4, 2017. At that time, we chose an intimate family service at the grave side. We then began planning a celebration of his life to take place in the spring. Since many of our family and friends live some distance away, this would allow them to attend as well.

We are inviting you to come and share with us, as we remember a strong, supportive, curious, generous, loving and determined husband, father, and grandfather. Whether he touched your life through family, church, business, or through his hobbies you are invited to come and share with us as we compile a memory box so that Alessandra and Ethan can their “Papa” in years to come.

On Saturday, May 26, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., an Open House will be held in Disciple Hall of the First Christian Church of Stow. Light refreshments, music and memories will be the order of the day.

Come when you can and stay as long as you like.

Judy Murfin  
Melissa and Jeremiah Pope  
Allison and Peter Moyer

### **Save The Date: Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>! Relay For Life at Stow Glen**

Save the date! Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> our church will once again participate in the Relay For Life walk that will be held on Stow Glen. We will need walkers and folks to help staff our booth at the event. For more information see Sue Naylor or Janice McCreight.



## **News from the Music Department**

### **Child Care anyone?**

Hello! This month I would like to take the opportunity to ponder the question of providing child care during choir rehearsals. It's always a goal of any church leader, be he/she a pastor, music director, committee chair, etc., to recruit members of the church to participate more fully in the groups that serve our church. To that end we often find ourselves asking the question, "Do our younger adults with children refrain from taking part in a choir or a committee because of young children at home?" I have worked at churches over the course of my career who have addressed this question by providing child care at the church, during rehearsals or meetings. If this is of interest to any of our congregation, and we can fill a need, I would be happy to provide child care during Thursday evening choir rehearsals, 6 to 7:15 for Joy Bells, and 7:30 to 9 for Chancel Choir. We could also do the same for the Wednesday evening Joyful Noise rehearsal. There would be no charge to you for this service.

Obviously, in order to provide child care, we would need to find someone who is willing and able to sit with the kids. So, this is my appeal to any high-school student who is looking for a little extra spending money, or an adult who would love to watch over some little ones for an hour or so. If you are someone who would like to serve as a "critter sitter" please let me know. Call (330-760-5177), email ([ckobb@att.net](mailto:ckobb@att.net)), or indicate your interest on a Connection Card and drop it in the offering plate. We can talk about an appropriate fee for your time.

Of course, there may not be a need for this service at this time, but "If you don't ask, you won't know." And it's possible that the need for child care at rehearsals may arise later. In either case, I'd like this to be a standing invitation.

### **Have you ever wanted to read music?**

I have been asked on occasion if it is possible to have a special class for people interested in learning to read music. They want to learn what the notes mean, how to read rhythms, how to follow the music as it moves up and down the staff, and basic music vernacular. The summer seems like the best time to start. Two times have been suggested, 1) on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30, or 2) on Sunday morning, right after church, 11:00ish to noon. If anyone is interested in this class, please contact me via phone, email or a connection card. You don't have to be a member of the choir to join us.

Have a blessed May!  
Chuck Kobb

### **Building Renewal Information**

We have recently revived and expanded the Sanctuary Renewal project to cover the entire building. We are fortunate to have at our disposal funds given specifically to the church to pay for building maintenance, and these funds should be able to cover most of our needs. Here's a list of items that we will address:

1. Chapel: foundation repairs to eliminate water leaks.
2. Choir Room: replace ceiling and flooring; repair walls.
3. Chi Rho Room: repair and repaint walls; refurbish bathroom (after foundation repairs).
4. The Parlor: remodel with new lighting, furniture, carpeting and repaint walls.
5. Kitchenette: complete gutting, new counters, microwave (after foundation repairs).
6. Handicap Bathroom: Repaint and refresh space.
7. Youth Room: complete carpeting, replace worn out and unsuitable furniture
8. Lower Lever Men's Room: complete overhaul by expanding into adjacent void space and make handicap accessible.
9. Piano House: new roof
10. Sanctuary Lighting: refurbish chandeliers, modernize secondary lighting.

The team is working on a scheduling these projects. The top priority is fixing the leaks in and around the Chapel basement. After all, water is a building's greatest enemy. We plan to fix the root cause of the problem. You should see some results in the next couple of months. Some projects, like the Choir Room, will happen over the summer. We'll keep you posted on our progress.

**Summer Worship Hours Start June 3<sup>rd</sup>!**  
**First Service 8:30—Coffee Fellowship 9:30—**  
**Second Service 10:00**

On Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> we will begin our summer worship hours. First service will remain unchanged 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 still be held in our Library and Gathering Area and will offer a rare opportunity for the two services to see and greet one another.

So mark your calendar for the start of our summer worship times on Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Pentecost Sunday**

*May 20<sup>th</sup> the Birthday of the Church!*

On Pentecost we celebrate the birthday of the Church, remembering the awesome power that descended on the people of God through the Holy Spirit, resting on them as if it was tongues of fire. This day is among our most holy days in the life of the church, so let us ignite our spirits and show our excitement for this grand day through our worship. Wear red as a symbol of the Holy Spirit!



**Graduate Sunday – May 20**

Graduate Sunday is the day that we honor and recognize all who are graduating in 2018. If you or someone you know in the church

family is graduating this year, please let us know on the back of your connection card or by calling the church office (330-688-4450).

**Save These Summer Dates**

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Ice Cream X-treme     | June 26           |
| Pancake Breakfast     | Wednesday, July 4 |
| Vacation Bible School | July 8-12         |
| Rubber Ducks Game     | August 25         |



**Cleveland  
Christian  
Home's 5K Walk  
& Run for the  
Kids**

Judy Mahaffey, FCC Elder

Our church participated in this year's Cleveland Christian Home's Walk for the Kids at the Cleveland Zoo. We had a small, but enthusiastic team representing FCC Stow. It is a very well organized event with an amazing breakfast spread and some lovely door prizes. As an added bonus, our walk was through the zoo! The weather didn't quite cooperate but the overall turnout was still excellent with hundreds of people in attendance. Our team raised over \$300.

**Thanks to Margaret Fisher's many, many years of dedication to this walk,** we are a long-standing benefactor of the Cleveland Christian Home. For more years than many can remember, (including Margaret!), she has generated supporters, collected donations, and then walked many a mile for the kids CCH supports. In recent years, like this one, when walking outside was not an option; Margaret would walk at a local mall. Thank you Margaret for your long time, faithful dedication to this cause and for the model of ministry you have exemplified! Make plans to join the team for next year's walk. It's a fun event for a great cause!

**Guild Meeting**

The Dorcas-Rebekah Guild will meet on Thursday, May 10 at noon in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited to attend. Bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and beverage will be available.

**Monday Afternoon Study Group**  
**1:30 p.m. in the Church Library**

The Monday Afternoon Study Group will complete the year on Monday May, 21<sup>st</sup>. The final two weeks of the year will feature the documentary "The Heretic". This film follows the life and work of Rob Bell, a pastor, author, and speaker our group has heard from and listened to on several occasions. Bell, however, is one of the most polarizing figures in modern day Christianity because he challenges deeply held ideals and traditions while grappling with some of the most important questions of our time: Can faith and science coexist, or do belief and progress stand in opposition? Is religion insufficient for explaining the complexity of our modern world, or does it give language to something even greater? And do spiritual traditions simply serve to further divide our world, or can they offer real help and hope for a better tomorrow?

So come and take in this documentary in two-parts on Mondays, May 14<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. Who knows, since its summer, maybe there will even be some summer time treats! No need to sign up. Simply come if you are able. All are welcome!

**May Doughnut Days Are Here Again!**

In an effort to have a broader community presence, our church will once again hold our May Doughnut Days each Friday in May from 7:30 to 10 a.m. This means that during these hours anyone can pull into our parking lot, drive up the ramp under the portico, and receive a delicious doughnut and a cup of coffee all for the incredibly, unbelievably cost ~ FREE! (Well, I suppose you it will "cost" you something as Rick Lloyd is usually there and will bend your hear for a couple of minutes!)

Please share this invitation to your friends and neighbors, because after all, who couldn't use a doughnut and a cup of coffee—for free!?!? And assure them there are absolutely no strings attached to the doughnuts. No one will ask for a donation. Jonathan won't try to preach a sermon. This is all simply to have a good will presence in our community to any and all who want to stop by. After all, kindness and generosity can be contagious!



**Thank You**

Dear Church Family,

Well, you did it again . . . you made me "homesick" and thanks!

Thank you for lifting me up in prayer. Thank you for your kindness and love and concern. Thank you for the cards and notes.

I am so grateful for the care of family, hospitals and rehab staff ~ I am so blessed. I continue to give thanks and praise God.

I keep my church family in my prayers and all your good works as you serve and witness to our Lord Jesus Christ. You are a blessing to so many.

In gratitude and  
Christian love,  
June Neff

**Introducing ~~**  
**The Nest Early Learning Center**

A Preschool Program  
inspired by the Reggio-Emilia  
approach to early learning

The Nest is a brand new, privately owned preschool program that will be hosted here at First Christian Church of Stow. The curriculum will be Christ-centered.

There are part-time and full-time opportunities for children between the ages of 2 and 4. Please contact Anne Reiman at

[missannepreschool@gmail.com](mailto:missannepreschool@gmail.com) or  
937-716-9577,

Take a moment to check out their  
new website at

[www.thenestearlylearningcenter.org](http://www.thenestearlylearningcenter.org)

Soon we will have a link from our  
website to theirs.