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PATHWAYS NOVEMBER 2021

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

Find us on social
media @FCCStow!



Get Out To Vote!

Tuesday, November 2nd

Your vote is your voice! Your vote affects our state, community, housing, education, employment, and healthcare. Help make a difference and help make your voice heard!

Church Work Day: Saturday, November 6th

The Trustees invite any and all to lend a hand on Saturday, November 6th, any time between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to help with some yard clean-up around our church. Come for the whole time, or just come for as much time as you are able to give. Many hands make light work!

Governing Board

Monday, November 15th

Governing Board will meet Monday, November 15th at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

This meeting will include voting on the proposed 2022 church budget. There will be no Governing Board meeting in December.

Loaves and Fishes Plus Pantry

The November Loaves & Fishes free dinner, plus pantry, is set for Sunday, November 21st from 4-6 p.m.

And you guessed it, a thanksgiving dinner that can't be beat even by Alice's Restaurant will be the menu fare served. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated!

**Pastor's Pen,
November 2021**

Things are about to get hairy here at First Christian Church! And no, I am not talking about the upcoming 2021 budget proposal.

(Although you might be onto something if that's what you were thinking. So come on folks! Get those *estimate of giving cards* in please!) But things are about to get hairy around the church for another reason—*No Shave November!*—a month-long journey during which participants forgo shaving and grooming in order to evoke conversation and raise cancer awareness.

No-Shave November has been a tradition for years as November marks the beginning of the cold weather months. But in 2009 the eight children of Matthew Hill decided to reinvent the activity to raise awareness and money for charity after their father passed away from colon cancer in November 2007.

Participants of *No-Shave November* had always been willing to ditch their razors, so for more than ten years this family has been encouraging participants to go a step further with their no-shaving efforts by donating the savings from not shaving for a month to cancer fighting foundations. Since starting this challenge "*No-Shavers*", as we are called, have donated the cost of grooming (from a few dollars on razors to \$100 on a salon visit) and helped the Matthew Hill Foundation raise over \$10 million dollars for their cancer fighting efforts. From a few Facebook followers willing to donate their hard-earned money, to thousands of donors championing against cancer, *No-Shave November* has become a nationwide celebration.

The rules of *No-Shave November* are simple: put down your razor for 30 days and donate your monthly hair-maintenance expenses to the cause. If there is a strict dress-code at work that's ok—the foundation encourages participation of any kind; so grooming and trimming are perfectly acceptable.

The overall goal of *No-Shave November* is to grow awareness by embracing the hairiness, which many cancer patients lose. Yes, that might sound a bit counterintuitive—grow hair in awareness to those who lose their hair? Sure, why not? Especially if it gets people talking and supporting a worthy cause. And remember; the Hill family was using a pre-existing practice and taking it to a new level to create awareness and support. So by letting



hair grow wild and free, it *fre*es up money to be donated, AND it gets people talking about *wild* and *hairy* issues, like for instance, "*Why is the pastor looking so scruffy?*" Which can be responded to by saying, "*Oh, that's because he's participating in 'No-Shave November' which seeks to create a broader awareness to cancer prevention, help save lives, and aid those fighting the battle of cancer.*"

In July of 2017 I lost my Dad, Al Rumburg, to colon cancer. But my Dad wasn't the only person in my life affected and impacted by cancer. There are others. Too many others. And I know each of you have a loved one who has been impacted by cancer. And I know many of you yourselves have fought, or continue to fight, a battle with cancer. And so this is just one small way I am acknowledging, remembering, and honoring those who I know and love who have been impacted by this awful disease.

I have a "no-shave" page and a nominal goal, so if you are interested in it let me know. But that's not why I write this. I write this so that we all might, in this month of November when we will celebrate Thanksgiving, add another item to our long lists of items we are thankful for.

I am thankful for my Dad who, though has been gone for more than four years, still guides me and inspires me to do the best I can. I am thankful for those I love who survive and that I still have them in my life. I am thankful for the blessed time I had with those who didn't survive. I am thankful for those who refuse to give up on what seems like a futile effort to find a cure. I am thankful for each of you who sees my hairiness and understands me well enough to know that there is a faithful reason behind the effort. I am thankful for those who know that *to do even the tiniest something is infinitely more than doing nothing.*

November is a time to reap and gather; a time to remember and give thanks; a time to celebrate all that is good around us—most especially the abundance that comes from God. And November is a time, for me at least, to embrace the *hairiness* of life. So if things get a bit too hairy for you, or if they are too un-kept for what you think a pastor ought to look, I hope you will take a second to remind yourself that in the hairiness of life, there is love to be found. May we all find it. And may we all do whatever we can to help others find it too. Happy Thanksgiving.
Your Pastor and Friend,
Jonathan

Church Workday

November 6, 2021, from 9am to 1pm

Don't forget! The Trustees are hosting our Fall Church Workday to prepare our church for winter and clean up from this fall! All are welcome! This workday will be mainly outdoor cleanup, such as raking leaves and hauling them to Williamson Road for city pickup and cleaning out gardens around the church.

Please come and help with our fall cleanup!

Thanks,
Trustees

"The Colors of Christmas" A Community Event

Tuesday, December 14th, 5-8p.m.

A Community Tour Celebration of *The Colors of Christmas!* is set to take place on Tuesday, December 14th from 5-8 p.m. This will be your chance to journey across the City of Stow and experience the joy of Christmas as local churches provide festive lights, live nativities, singing and more to help make your holiday season merry and bright.

Our church will be among the area churches participating in this event, and the Membership Team is coordinating our display **THAT WILL INCLUDE**, wait for it...vignettes of our **Search For The Christ Child** event! Yep, we are busting out the angels, the wise ~~guys~~ men, shepherds (and any shepherd dogs!), Mary and Joseph, and maybe even mean old King Herod if we can pull him out of retirement! All parts will be condensed but will still have our drive-thru guests see AND hear the Christmas story come to life! Last year, we had over 100 families drive through and visit our display— This year, we're going bigger and WE NEED YOU!

If you would like to participate in anyway— set-up, character portrayal, greeters, tear-down, or working Christmas lights you could loan or even donate please reach out to Cora Dowey at coradowey@yahoo.com (330-592-3170) or Jonathan and let them know!

This event is sponsored by the City of Stow and the Stow Parks and Recreation. A map of

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Trunk or Treat 2021

We had a great afternoon at our annual Trunk or Treat event! (Despite the rain moving us inside) Over 120 kids and their families went trick-or-treating through Fellowship Hall and Disciples Hall. Thank you to everyone who came out to the event, all who donated candy and treats to pass out to our trick-or-treaters, and special thanks to the 15 families and groups that hosted a trunk and your flexibility with the day of change to move inside. Check out pictures of Trunk or Treat on the church Facebook page!

- -Anna and Richelle

Child Care

Available during 10:30 a.m. Worship.

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, November 7th!

11:45 to 1:15pm

Veterans Outreach

We will be serving food to some of our local veterans in celebration of Veterans Day! Lunch will be provided.

Sunday, November 21st !

11:45-1:15pm

Thanksgiving meal

We will be making our very own thanksgiving meal! Cooking together is a great way to grow together. As our youth grows so must our connections to one another! We will be making all of the thanksgiving staples such as mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, stuffing, and of course Turkey!! We invite the parents to join in our celebration and there will be a sign up sheet for ingredients to be donated.

participating churches will be on the City of Stow's Website in early December.

Ingathering Outreach Preparation Begins!

Christmas Ingathering preparation is in full swing! We are receiving information from the schools, stocking up on socks and hats and gloves, cutting and tying fleece blankets, and getting ready to shop! If you are interested in shopping for a family and I have not yet contacted you, please call or email me (330-524-2228 or jnahalpin@sbcglobal.net) so we can discuss how you can get involved in this amazing ministry! If you are not a shopper, we will gladly accept your donation and do the shopping for you!! Thank you for your generosity that makes this ministry awesome, year after year.

-Ann Halpin, World Outreach Team.

"Devoted to Generosity" Consecration Campaign Concludes

We have heard our narrative budget, we have been made aware of the impact our annual giving has not just within our church, but beyond our walls as well, and we have heard the biblical call to be missionaries of charity, of love and affection. All of it has been part of the faithful encouragement to continue to do the good and faithful ministry God has called us to do and to continue to be the loving church God calls us to be—a church devoted to generosity. That is our aim for 2022.

On the last Sunday of October we concluded our 2022 *Devoted to Generosity* consecration campaign through the making of our estimated pledge of giving for next year. As living expressions of God's generosity may our pledge to God be in response to all God has given us.

If you were unable to be in either worship service on that Sunday there is still time to get your estimate of giving card in, and so you are encouraged to drop it off any time to the church office. You can even just drop it in the mailbox by the upper doors, as all mail dropped down in there is secure and only retrieved by church staff. Or you can submit your pledge card online via our church website.

Together we are witnesses to the abundant life we know in Jesus Christ. May our giving be an act of joy, generosity, and faithfulness to all God has done, and continues to do for us.

A Heartfelt Thank You From The Rumburgs

With full hearts, we want to say to each and every one of you who celebrated Pastor Appreciation month with us and for us, thank you. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your outpouring of love, thanks, and appreciation. It has been, and continues to be overwhelming, and we are so very grateful for each and every sentiment, note, card, gift, hug, kind and supportive word, and pizza you have shared with us. (It fills my spirit, and stomach, knowing you all know how much I love pizza!) Thank you so, so much. Each of you and the support you give to our family is a blessing and a gift. Please know in this season of Thanksgiving, and in all seasons of the year, our family gives thanks for our First Christian Church family.

With thanks, gratitude, and love,
Jonathan, Julie, Violet, and A.J. Rumburg

Thanksgiving At First Christian, Stow

While we once again won't be gathering together this year for our traditional Thanksgiving time of worship and potluck dinner, let us aim to keep the tradition of giving thanks for our church by all of us taking some time on Sunday, November 21st to pause around our tables and consider the thanksgivings and blessings that flow through our church family to our community and beyond.

Even when we are apart, God is at work to bring us together in the body of Christ.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

With Thanks, From The Stow-Munroe Falls Library

Dear Pastor Rumburg and First Christian Church of Stow,

Thank you for once again loaning your parking lot to the library for our Touch-A-Truck event. We could not have done this event without you—literally!!

Sincerely,
Kristin Casale
Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library

More Thanksgivings! **From Freedom House**

A letter came in the mail that you all should know about!

Dear Friends,
Thanks to your support, when veterans experiencing homelessness living in the Portage County area and Across Ohio turn to Freedom House for help, we are able to give them the critical programs and support they so desperately need. Freedom House is the only facility in Portage County that provides refuge and supportive programming to homeless veterans, and we couldn't do it without support from the community, like you. You have made it possible for us to continue to provide safety, support and comfort to our veterans. Your support gives our veterans the opportunity to achieve their goals of having a safe place to call home.

With heartfelt thanks,
Lisa McGhee-Burton
Program Manager
Freedom House

P.S. Thank you for the delicious food donation. We greatly appreciate your support for our veterans at Freedom House.

Congregational Conclave Continues

Session 2: November 7-December 5th
Please attend at least ONE Conclave Gathering
A Congregational Conclave— *“an assembly that is designed to have special authority and influence.”* And assembly we have! Thank you to everyone who has come to be part of this ongoing Congregational Conclave. Now that we have done this first session, where we have looked at the strengths and weaknesses of our church, we are set to take the next step in this discernment process that will lead us from intent to impact.

These conclaves are our chance to assess the state of our church, the community and culture around us, while also providing each of us the opportunity to give voice and discernment as to how

we feel God is calling and directing First Christian Church of Stow, Ohio to faithfully move forward.

To provide ample opportunity for all to participate, we will conduct this second session of the Congregational Conclave in that same manner as the first—spanning 5 weeks. We ask you to attend at least one 45 minute session. (You are welcome to attend more though!) Sessions will be held in-person on Sunday mornings, and then there will be one session held via zoom on a Wednesday evening.

Self-assessment in a community is not easy, but we ask that you take time before attending to consider the lifestyle of our church, what we celebrate about it, and what might need to change, and then come with an open mind and heart and share your thoughts and hear the thoughts of others. We hope you'll join us as we begin to discern what kind of church we are being called to be next year, in five years, and beyond.

Session 2 Schedule: November 7th to December 5th.

Sunday 11/7/21: 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.,
Disciples Hall
Sunday 11/14/21: 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.,
Disciples Hall
Sunday 11/21/21: 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.,
Disciples Hall
Sunday 11/28/21: 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.,
Disciples Hall
Wednesday 12/1/21 6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.,
Via. Zoom
Sunday, 12/5/21: 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.,
Disciples Hall

Relay for Life Craft Bazaar **November 13th**

This year the communities of Twinsburg, Hudson, Tallmadge, Cuyahoga Falls, Stow, and Munroe Falls have joined to form the 2022 American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Summit County. The First Christian Church of Stow, located at 3493 Darrow Rd. is hosting the fifth annual Relay For Life Craft Bazaar, on Nov. 13 2021 from 9am-3pm. This fundraiser welcomes both crafters and vendors. Questions, contact Becky @ 330-221-0632, Pam @ 330-688-7317, Donna @ 330-815-0877 or email Becky @ rblankenship001@neo.rr.com

All proceeds to benefit the Relay For Life of Summit County.

Thank you for your consideration, Donna Stanley.

Update from the Finance/Stewardship Team
Financial Giving from the Congregation for January – October 2021

We won't close the financial books for October for a couple more days, but I wanted to provide a status of where we are currently with our congregational giving. The numbers below are not final but I believe they are a close estimate of the final numbers.

The Total Income budget amount is \$21,181 per month. This includes congregational giving and other income sources like building rental.

For the month of October, so far, our income is \$24,963. For the month this is above the budget amount by \$3,782.

Year to date our income has been \$224,777. This is above the budget for Year to date by \$12,963 (6.1%).

This is very good news and brings us much closer to meeting our Leap of Faith amount!

As we saw in August, there has been some increased use of the building rental, but the bulk of this increase for October has come from congregational giving.

Here is the information in table format:

2021	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct	YTD
Actual Income	\$65,146	\$66,007	\$68,661	\$24,963	\$224,777
Budget Income	\$63,544	\$63,544	\$63,544	\$21,181	\$211,813
Actual Income-Budget Income	\$1,602	\$2,463	\$5,117	\$3,782	\$12,963
% Actual Over Budget Income	2.5%	3.9%	8.1%	17.9%	6.1%

As we shared last December, the budget approved by the Governing Board and the congregation for 2021 has the total expenses higher than the total income. We refer to that gap as our Leap of Faith, with the hopeful expectation that throughout the year we will be able to both increase our income and control our expenses appropriately.

The 2021 Leap of Faith amount is \$20,046 for the full year, which is 8% above our budget income.

if you personally are feeling financially stable and would like to make an additional gift to the church above your normal giving, those are always appreciated. Any increases will help position us to be able to increase the outreach assistance we can provide to our community, both local and globally.

Please let any member of the Finance/Stewardship team know if you would like to see our full reports, we are happy to share them.

Tech Grant

Don't forget! We're still raising funds for our tech grant to expand our online footprint and quality of streaming services as Christian mentioned on Sunday. Our current total is \$2,777, and our goal to reach is \$5,000. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please make a note on your donation for "Tech Grant."

