



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Stow, OH

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PATHWAYS

JUNE 2022

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

Find us on social
media @FCCStow!

Summer Worship Hours!

One Service at 10:00 a.m.

For this special and unique summer of sabbatical for our pastor and a sabbatical focus for us as a congregation, our Sabbatical Interim Team and Elders will be leading us in worship each Sunday for just one service at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Sunday worship will still be livestreamed via Facebook Live and then will be posted to our YouTube Channel after worship. This summer will give us a rare chance to be in worship with our church family members who we perhaps might not see as often due to attending our different services.

Pentecost Sunday, June 5th **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!

They're Back! Ice Cream X-treme AND the 4th of July Pancake Breakfast!

Finally these two signature events of our church are returning this summer! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 18th for Ice Cream X-treme and Monday, July 4th for the Pancake Breakfast! Both events are open to the community and will require many hands to help make light work of all that need to be done to make these events happen! More information inside this issue of the Pathways about how you can get involved!

Summer Team Meetings

If you have any team meetings going on this summer, email the office ahead of time so that Christian can set up your zoom meeting in advance!

Loaves and Fishes + Pantry, June 19th, 4-6 p.m.

Dolly Neaffer Memorial

June 4th, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Memorial at 11, Luncheon to Follow)

Pastor's Pen, June 2022



Though my last Sunday in worship was on May 22nd, I still had some loose ends to tie up on Monday the 23rd before my time of sabbatical and clergy renewal could officially begin. So among the items I tended to was to pen one more Pastor's Pen for this issue of the Pathways to simply say a few words, chief among them being... Thank You.

Thank you for the support, encouragement, generosity, well-wishes, excitement, prayers, and love each of you have poured out to me and my family and our entire church family as we enter into this time of renewal and sabbatical. I am truly touched and so very grateful for it all. I love this church and I love each of you for everything you have blessed me and my family with—and not just talking about the amazing chainsaw you gifted me! Sure the chainsaw is among it all, but my love is especially rooted in your faithfulness to God and to God's call for us as a church. Time and time again our church family has listened to God's still small voice amidst the cold din of a world that has forgotten or given up on God. You have always been ready to listen and then respond in faithfulness to where and to what God is calling us to go and do. You have always embodied the words and commands of Jesus to love God with all your heart, mind, and spirit; and to love your neighbor as yourself. You have never sought perfection, yet you have striven first and foremost for faithfulness. You have let yourselves be God's little stones, knowing that with God's perfect power, and God's perfect aim we can bring down the giants of today.

Which is why I step into this time of sabbatical and renewal with great confidence that it can and will be the time of renewal I know I need, while also a time of preparation for all that God will do in us and through us again when we come back together in September. I know that even in my absence your commitment and faithfulness will remain because it is rooted in God, God's love, and God's call. And that is yet another incredible gift you give to me—time and space to do what I need to do without worry or concern about being away for so long. Thank you, again, for that gift.

So as we all step off into this time of sabbatical and renewal, let us all go forth with confidence that the one who leads us, leads us still. Let us go forth with wonder and excitement and eagerness to listen again to God's still small voice for all God has to say. Let us go forth as those who at the first Pentecost were implored to do—readied to see visions and primed to dream dreams. Let us go forth knowing that though we are apart, we are still knit together in the body of Christ. And may you go forth knowing each of you and your families, our church family, and the ministries of the church are all in my prayers; that I will be thinking of you often, missing you very much, and getting ready for when we are together again. Thank you my friends. Thank you so very much.

May the grace of God, the constant and abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, and the unconditional love of Jesus Christ rest and abide with each of you today, tomorrow, all summer long, and forevermore.

Your Pastor and Friend,
Jonathan

Graduation Sunday
Sunday, June 5th

This Sunday, we will be recognizing all of our High School and College Graduates during church! Contact Anna and Richelle and let them know if you have a graduate who would like to be recognized and celebrated!

June Graduation Parties!

Through the month of June, we have several graduating students, and a couple of graduation parties! If you want to visit them, help them celebrate their work, and enlighten the young graduates with your post-graduation, adult wisdom, below is the details of their graduation parties!

Elise Fauvie Graduation
June 19th, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Our Church Family is Invited!
To celebrate Elise Fauvie's High School Graduation!
When? June 19th
Where? Heritage Barn, 5238 Young Road, Stow, OH 44224
Time? 2:00-5:00pm

Many of you have helped raise her, teach her, gave her confidence and love, and have been an example of Christ's love her entire life. Please join us in celebrating this milestone!

Kaedyn Chaney Graduation
Sunday, June 12th, Disciple's Hall

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Loaves & Fishes + Pantry
Summary for 2021

During 2021 our Loaves & Fishes + Pantry served 274 families consisting of 749 individuals. These families consisted of 217 children, 255 adults, and 277 seniors.

In addition to the hot meals prepared by our volunteers, we also gave out 6,727 pounds of food and 738 pounds of produce. This provided roughly 4,494 meals. Between food distributed and hot meals prepared FCC Stow provided about 5,243 to hungry people in our community.

The retail value of the food we distributed was \$8,183. So that's \$8,000 freed up for hungry people to spend on other necessities such as utilities or clothing or additional food.

Needless to say, this was all made possible by our dedicated volunteers and the support of every member of our church. Well Done!

Our May meal distribution was blessed with miracles. Thanks to many we had enough cookies. We found plastic forks upstairs when it appeared we didn't have enough. Take out bags were located when I thought we were out. I defrosted two boxes of chicken when it was supposed to be one. So we baked it all then needed it all.

June's meal is on Father's Day June 19th 4-6 p.m.. We will be having sloppy joes, potato chips and coleslaw. Many of our regular volunteers have family commitments so we need extra help.

The Neaffer-Damcott family invites you to an open house in Disciple's Hall immediately after church on Sunday, June 12 until 1pm to celebrate Kaedyn Chaney's graduation and departure for Fort Jackson Army Base

Welcome to the Family!

We are excited to share that recently Rick and Jenny Fitt set their church membership here at First Christian Church of Stow! Rick and Jenny Fitt and their daughter/step-daughter Emma Bullock have been coming to the church for a while and felt God leading them to make FCC Stow officially their home church. We are thrilled God has led them to be part of the church family! Please express your joy to them when next you see them!

Camp Wishlist

We are SO looking forward to another awesome Summer at Camp Christian!! As in years past, many of you have asked for a list of needed items to physically donate to Camp Christian for the Summer Camps and Conferences. Some of our sporting equipment, crafting, free time activity, curriculum, and maintenance supplies could use an upgrade/restock. We created this Amazon wish list with several items that would be great additions to have around Camp Christian for our summer programs!

<https://a.co/iBAaV1T>

Please feel free to purchase items from this list and have them shipped directly to Camp Christian, or if you would rather

CHRISTIAN ED

Food Truck Party VBS: On a Roll with God!

Sunday July 10 - Thursday July 14, 6-8pm

All children age 3 - 5th grade are invited to a Food Truck Party - where we will be On a Roll with God at Vacation Bible School! This party includes amazing science, creative crafts, fun recreation and memorable Bible stories that will help children turn to God for all they need and join God in providing the needs of others.

Register at firstchristianstow.org/vbs. Contact Anna and Richelle for more information, christianed@firstchristianstow.org

Team Members Needed for Food Truck Party VBS

We need you to join us on our way to Food Truck Party VBS! Contact Anna and Richelle to sign up for opportunities to serve, lead, and most of all, HAVE FUN at Food Truck Party! Volunteer sign-up also available at firstchristianstow.org/vbs

Join us as we get On a Roll with God!



send a monetary gift towards the purchase of these items, that's OK too.

Please consider donating to help

Camp Christian

upgrade/restock some of our sporting equipment, crafting, free time activity, curriculum, and maintenance supplies for this Summer.



Thank you so much for your love, generosity, and support of Camp Christian!!

Church Chats: Sabbatical Summer Sundays, June 5th, July 3rd & August 7th, 7 Minutes After Service Ends – 12:00

As we passed through Lent, into Easter, and reflected recently on the prophesying of Ezekiel, Jonathan has asked us a number of questions that we ought to pursue: “What are we *cultivating*?” “What are we *letting go of*?” And most recently, “Can these bones *live*?” Now that we’re finally into the summer and Jonathan is leaving, we’re left to ask, “What does *Sabbatical* mean? With these questions in our hearts and minds, we will be meeting just 7 minutes after service ends on June 5th, July 3rd, and August 7th. During this time, we, as a church, will ask these questions and share in the fellowship with a light lunch (to be determined). Keep watching your bulletin and slides for more information and announcements!

3rd Annual Scramble for Kids Shaker Heights Country Club Monday, June 27th, 10:00 a.m. Start

If the sunshine and warmer weather has you dreaming of golfing, you are in luck! You can join golfers on the greens in June on a championship Donald Ross course while supporting the Cleveland Christian Home! **Scramble for Kids** provides intensive mental health services to children whose lives have been struck by trauma, violence, or poverty. Last year, **Scramble for Kids** raised \$116,000 to provide food, clothing, shelter, and therapy to children in Cleveland Christian Home. They plan to raise even more this year! If you’re able to support this event, check out www.cchome.org/scramble.

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Adult Conference, Camp Christian

June 27 – July 1, 2022

Northwest Christian Church, Columbus

Together in Harmony & Unity

We're looking forward to a very exciting Adult Conference this year! Rev. Allen Harris, Ohio Regional Minister, is our Vesper Speaker. Dr. Walter Taylor, Professor Emeritus at Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, is our daily Bible Lecturer. Conferees may choose two of the four classes we are offering. Our teachers and their classes are:

- Rev. Christopher Stark, Pastor – "Very Good and Pleasant: Seeking Reconciliation in the Midst"
- Revs. Drs. Betty & Irvin Green, Pastors – "Within Our Togetherness: Conflict in the Church" - This class will explore recognizing conflict, seeking harmony, the quest for unity, and holding it all together.
- Dr. David Belcastro, Professor – "Cultivating Hearts for Congregational Harmony"
- Rev. Kerry Reed & Ms. Myra Hayduk, Retired – "Traveler? Sojourner? Emigrant? Refugee?" –As heirs of the Incarnation, this class will explore the nature of our interactions with the "strangers" among us.

The registration deadline for Adult Conference is coming up quick AND, the block of rooms at the hotel are filling up, so please get registered ASAP.

For more information about Adult Conference, including how to register, and who to contact for questions, go to <https://www.ccinoh.com/ministries/adult/adult-conference.aspx>.

Campers Going to Camp Christian This Summer

Summer camps are finally here! This year, we have a number of our family attending camp, including some of our Sabbatical-taking family members. If you're really missing Jonathan in this second week of Sabbatical, you can always write to him at camp!

If you're still interested in going to camp, there's still time! The first weeks of camp start on June 9th. If you'd like to go to camp, registration forms can be either sent to you directly or printed for you in the office on Sunday. See below for each week of camp!

Grandparents Camp: June 9th – 11th
 Chi Rho Camp #1: June 12th – 18th
 CYF Conference #1: June 19th – 25th
 Otter Camp: June 26th – July 2nd

Adult Conference: June 27th – July 1st
 Ribbit Camp: July 6th – 9th
 Chi Rho Camp #2: July 10th – 16th
 CYF Conference #2: July 17th – 23rd
 Advanced Conference: July 24th – 31st

We have the following family going to camp this year: Ava Lazor, Abbey Artl, Violet Rumburg, Emma Bullock, A.J. and Jonathan Rumburg. The mail address for camp is 10299 Maple Dell Rd, Marysville, OH 43040.

Trustee Workday Update

Thanks to Linda & Jim Taylor, Troy & Logan Onesti, John Hagat, Tom Stanley and Tony & Sue Falcione for your help with the workday we had on May 14th! We made a lot of progress in cleaning up and reorganizing the Church spaces!! Special thanks to Tom for dumpster diving looking for my lost keys (they were in the next can to be emptied) and Tony for helping check some bags not dumped yet. And for Logan, the money you found did get in the offering plate, thanks!

Thanks also to our volunteer crew, Rick & Sue Lloyd, Jim Hindel, Tom Stanley, Gary Eppley and John Hagat for taking care of the mowing, edging, flower bars, shrubs, etc. The danger of making lists is that it is easy to miss something or somebody. Sorry if I missed you with this heartfelt Thanks! It takes a lot of hands to keep God's Church functioning and welcoming!!!

Thanks & God bless!!
 John McCreight

The 2022 Plant Sale is on!

There's a great variety of plants available, from Ferns, to lillies, to hastas. This is the perfect time to liven up your

living rooms and put a pop of color on the yard. Whatever your decor goals, there's a plant for you in here.

Thanks to Ann and Molly Halpin for pulling this together! See below for details.

- Plant orders are due June 8th.
- Make sure you leave your name with each plant you order

- Leave your contact information at the bottom of the Google Sheet in the numbered slots.

Click the following link and fill out the form with your order and contact information:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CuJPluvLuazOzswMeIKilb1jeb-I2WEsRTu18rzZYiw/edit?usp=sharing>

Elders Epistle

(Ed. Note: Pathways will not have a Pastor's Pen article for the duration of Jonathan's Sabbatical. The Elders will share their thoughts and news of the church through this monthly Elders Epistle.)

Greetings Everyone:

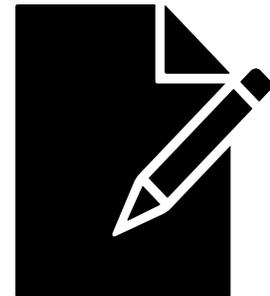
The Send Off Picnic was a big success and all who attended had a good, if chilly, time. Special thanks to the Membership Team for all the planning and hard work that went into the picnic.

During the sabbatical the pulpit will be filled by a combination of the Revs Dawn Remster, Jim Bane, and Roger McKinney. When you meet them please give them a warm FCC Stow welcome.

This sabbatical is being funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs as administered by the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. The use of the term "Clergy Renewal" is intentional as explained in this excerpt from the lillyendowment.org website:

National Clergy Renewal Programs are open to Christian congregations whose pastors serious about parish ministry and who can envision the program as a means of renewing the pastor's commitment to the congregation and ordained ministry. The annual programs are designed for those congregations and pastors who have a strong relationship with one another, a high degree of mutual trust and support, and are eager to see their relationship strengthened, renewed and continued.

The key word is "renewal", which is a two-way street. Not only is this a time for Jonathan to renew his "commitment to the congregation and ordained ministry" but for us renew and strengthen our trust and support for Jonathan and his ministry here at First Christian Church - Stow.



Circle the dates of June 5, July 10, and August 7. Following our service on those Sundays Christian and the Elders will be hosting sessions where where we will investigate ways that we can strengthen and renew our church. There will be a light meal provided by the Membership Team. Each session will run about an hour.

We strongly encourage everyone to attend as many of these sessions as possible. These session are the means by which we support Jonathan in his renewal. He'll be working on his commitment to us, and we'll be working on our commitment to him!

Please don't hesitate to contact the church office or any of the Elders if you have any questions, concerns, or needs (spiritual or otherwise). Our Interim Team is standing by if you have any need for pastoral care.

With the help of all of you we can make this summer a resounding success and use this renewal time as a springboard to lead our church to bigger and better things.

Shalom,

Tom Safford
Elder Chair

Finance and Stewardship update forthcoming
Pathways will be sent out again once it's finished!



CHURCH CHATS

SABBATICAL SUMMER

JUNE 5TH

JULY 10TH

AUGUST 7TH

7 MINUTES AFTER SERVICE

UNTIL 12:00

**LIGHT LUNCH, FELLOWSHIP,
AND DISCUSSION ABOUT OUR SABBATH
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**