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# PATHWAYS

JULY 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!

## **July Stow Pride**

July 4<sup>th</sup> is coming up quickly! Two parts of Kent and Darrow Road will be closed. There's a number of events and information available below, as well as the City's schedule for the morning. See the article below to find out more!

### **VBS: Food Truck Party – On a Roll With God!** **Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> – Thursday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 p.m.**

We're excited to host VBS again this year! We're going to have a number of fun projects and crafts along with memorable Bible stories. Volunteers will be needed to make this happen!

### **Church Chats and Review Upcoming**

Thanks to everyone who has been participating in our first Church Chat and writing Sticky Notes for our tree each Sunday! We're coming up on our second chat, hosted on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors** **And Bulldog Bags Updates!**

### **Loaves and Fishes + Pantry, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 4-6 p.m.**

## Elder's Epistle, July 2022

Greetings Everyone:

It's difficult to believe, but here we are in July and one month of Jonathan's sabbatical has already passed. Time does fly when you're having fun! July will bring us Vacation Bible School, which will run from Sunday June 10 through June 14. Richelle and Anna have planned a fun and engaging week featuring a VBS Food Truck Party.

What exactly is a VBS Food Truck Party?

I don't know. You'll have to come to VBS and find out!

On July 7 we're going to have our second Church Chat following our service. The Elders and Christian are working on a selection of questions regarding our church in particular and the direction we want to go when Jonathan

returns. It only takes an hour and includes a light meal. The more people who participate the better we'll be able to help our church get a little closer to "being in the zone".

But the action doesn't end there. On July 30 the Membership Team is hosting a tailgate party at the church followed by an Akron Rubber Ducks game. Last year's Rubber Ducks roster included Steve Kwan and Oscar Gonzalez who are currently tearing up the big leagues while patrolling the Guardians outfield. There's no telling which future stars you'll be able to cheer on. See Bill Dowey for tickets; or just hang around the Gathering Area on a Sunday, he'll find you.

So there's lots to look forward to in July. Here's hoping all of you have a happy, hopeful, fun, and exciting summer.

Shalom,  
Tom Safford  
Elder Chair

## **Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors Annual School Supply Giveaway**

Cuyahoga School Supply is working again to benefit children in our area through the School Supply Giveaway! This school supply distribution will take place on:

Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup> (10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup> or Thursday August 4<sup>th</sup> (10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

Last year, CFGN was able to help 400 local area students due to your generous donations. We are in need of both supply and cash donations. We respectfully request that all donations be made by July 12<sup>th</sup>. Please mail cash contributions to:

Cuyahoga Falls Unit, Good Neighbors Inc.  
PO Box 233

Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44222

Note: School Supplies

The School supplies needed include (please drop off from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays)

Items Needed:

Pens (Black & Red) Glue Bottles

Markers (Thin & Thick)

Colored Pencils Crayons (24-packs)

Dry Erase Markers

Index Cards (Ruled) Mechanical Pencils

## **Annual Parade and Firecracker Run**

### **Events and Road Closures**

The City of Stow will be hosting two major community events on the streets on Saturday, July 4th! First, at 7:30 a.m. the Stow Firecracker Run begins at Holy Family Church, and will travel east on Kent Road to the Stow Community Shopping Center, then back to the church. After that will be the official parade at 10:00 a.m.! See below for the road closings to allow for these events:

Kent Rd (SR 59)

## ***COMMUNITY OUTREACH***

### **Loaves & Fishes + Pantry June Update**

On June 19, our Loaves & Fishes served carry out meals for around 65 people. Sloppy Joes plus sides and cookies were enjoyed by all.

The Pantry provided groceries for 25 families with totals of 24 children, 24 adults and 17 seniors. In addition to four bags of groceries each family received a bag of hand soap, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes. The groceries included bread, cereal, trail mix, green beans, carrots, red beans, rice and a box of Entenmanns.

Although our numbers were down a little from May, we served 8 families who were new to our pantry. June 19<sup>th</sup> was Fathers day,

The drive thru meal at First Christian Church of Stow will be July 17th 4-6 p.m. The menu will be pulled chicken sandwiches with sides. Volunteers always welcome!

We will begin to collect back to school items for the Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors in July. Lists are available on the Outreach display.

Kent Road will be closed from Marsh Road to Englewood Drive at the following approximate times:

- 7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
- 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Darrow Road (SR 91)

Darrow Road will be closed from Graham Road to Pinehurst Road in Munroe Falls at same approximate times:

- 7:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
- 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The only through traffic permitted during the restricted periods will be for emergency vehicles only. If you need more info, you can contact the Stow Parks and Rec office at 330-689-5100, email [parks@stow.oh.us](mailto:parks@stow.oh.us), or go to <http://funinstow.com/stow-fourth-of-july-parade/>.

### **Church Chat Review** **June 5<sup>th</sup>. July 10<sup>th</sup>, August 7<sup>th</sup>**

Thank you to everyone who has joined us for our first church chat! Our second chat is coming up after the holiday weekend. We hope to see you joining us in Fellowship Hall for July 10<sup>th</sup>'s chat!

Just to give you a refresher on our topics from the first church chat, we asked:

- “What does a 3 month long sabbatical mean for a whole church?”
- “What do we want from this time of religious observance and rest?”

The conversation was wonderful to see and hear! Folks were talking so much, they stayed over-time! Hopefully, this next meeting will be prompt on its end, but the energy in the room and engagement was great! Below are the notes we made on our posters during the conversation from June 5<sup>th</sup>:

From the posters we made:

- New Voices

## ***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](http://firstchristianstow.org/vbs). Contact Anna and Richelle for more information, [christianed@firstchristianstow.org](mailto: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](http://firstchristianstow.org/vbs)

Join us as we get On a Roll with God!



- Fill the void
- New roles to solve new problems
- Fresh voices in the pulpit
- Don't revert to old habits
  - Who will decide what works and what doesn't?
  - How will we make it happen?
  - How do we restart post-COVID?
  - *Overcome our exhaustion & complacency*
    - GIVE US A PURPOSE!
- Become more relevant to your youth
  - Find what matters to them
  - What do they find purposeful?
    - More One-On-One engagement?
- "Fruit Salad"
- Keep Experimenting
  - Try- If it doesn't work, try something else.

All this conversation reminds me of a phrase I just learned during my week off in June, as it relates to acting: "Try, fail, Try again, **fail better**." The through line of this conversation seems to be ultimately asking, "What will we try now?" Keep these questions and these thoughts in your hearts and minds as you pray over the course of this summer.

Whatever it will mean to restart after COVID, or how we should become more relevant to our youth, or what we will experiment with, we will continue to do so faithfully, knowing that God has great plans for our church family.

Thanks to our Elders for joining the conversation!

-Christian Sanko, Director of Church Relations

**Church Chats: Sabbatical Summer**  
**Sundays, June 5<sup>th</sup>, July 3<sup>rd</sup> & August 7<sup>th</sup>,**  
**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

## ***STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE***

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he speaks to them on the idea that the individuals of the church all have different gifts and talents that make them valuable to the growth of the early church. I'm paraphrasing a little, but in Chapter 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12 we read,

<sup>12</sup> There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. <sup>13</sup> We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts. In that way, the parts of the body will not take sides. All of them will take care of one another.

<sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy. <sup>27</sup> You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.

As a people, we are all part of this church. The value we bring, what we have to offer is dependent on who we are. But it's all valuable, it's all worthwhile. And it can all be used for the glory of God. This church does so many great things – through our service, through our outreach, through our programming, through our presence. And that's because of what you do, and give, and provide, as a congregation. So as we take time now to present our gifts, tithes, and offerings, think about what gifts God has given you and what else God may be calling you to do.



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 5<sup>th</sup>, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and August 7<sup>th</sup>. 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!

### **Youth Group**

Happy 4th of July! This month we have rescheduled our youth group pool party! Fingers crossed the weather will cooperate. We will be meeting at the Haywood’s around noon on July 24th for a day of fun in the sun! Some food will be provided but please bring a side, dessert or refreshment to share. Thanks again to the Haywood’s for offering to host this party for us! VBS is right around the corner and I encourage our youth to help out if they can. We will also be going putt putt golfing on Sunday July 17th at Downview in Cuyahoga Falls! Transportation and golf will be provided but feel free to bring a snack or money if you want to buy something there. Stay tuned for more fun announcements because next month we will be doing a service project and having our youth group kick off!

– Katie Taylor, Director of Youth

### **Sunday, July 17th!**

**11:15-12:30**

#### ***Putt-putt golf!***

We will be going to the Downview sports center in Cuyahoga Falls! Golf and transportation will be provided.

### **Sunday, July 24th!**

**12-2:30pm**

#### **Youth group pool party!**

The Haywood’s have graciously offered to host a pool party for the youth group! Please bring a side dish, snack, or dessert to share.

Pool address: 190 Van Doren, Cuyahoga Falls, 44221

You can drop off at the Haywood’s house across the street, I will text parents the address.

### **Bulldog Bags Donations and Impact 2021-2022 School Year Impact**

Over the course of this past year, we’ve had a great opportunity to help out Bulldog Bags/Boxes every month with donations of snacks and necessities for families and students throughout the district. See below for how much we donated every month!

- Aug. toothpaste 20, Toothbrushes 70
- Sept. Mac n cheese cups. 90
- Oct ramen noodles 170
- Nov. protein bars 160
- Dec. hot chocolate packets 140
- Jan. toothpaste 17, Toothbrushes 38
- Feb. gold fish bags 160
- Mar. Cereal cups. 57
- Apr. bars of soap 96
- May Mac n cheese 78

Thank you for helping and supporting this ministry, and in turn, supporting the families in need here in Stow. We’re hoping for an even more impactful 2022-2023!

**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**