



First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
Stow, OH

3493 Darrow Road, Stow, Ohio 44224  
330.688.4450  
www.firstchristianstow.org

## PATHWAYS

AUGUST 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!



### **Youth Updates! Kick Off and More!**

**Sundays, August 12<sup>th</sup>. 2-4 p.m. and August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1-3 p.m.**

Youth Group will be heading out to Hiram Farms for their kick off, and later be heading to Fun 'n' Stuff!

### **Music Notes – First Rehearsals in September!**

Wait no longer! Music programs will be starting again through September! There's information about each choir, what they need for the upcoming year, and how you can get involved! There's information for Chancel Choir, Joy Bells, Joyful Noise, Children's Bell Choir, AND Children's Choir!

### **August 7<sup>th</sup> Church Chat POSTPONED**

As many of our members are out for various reasons, we are delaying the upcoming Church Chat until we can meet with more than a few members! Stay tuned for updates in the upcoming bulletins!

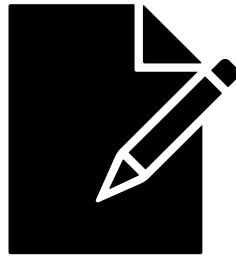
**Loaves and Fishes + Pantry, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 4-6 p.m.**

### **ACME Community Cash Back**

**August – December**

Save your receipts from now until December 25<sup>th</sup>! There will be a box in the gathering area to drop off your receipts.

## Elder's Epistle, August 2022



Greetings Everyone,

Our church recently received a Thank You note following our Loaves & Fishes + Pantry on July 17:

“To all who were involved with the takeout meals and food pantry:

I felt the nudging of the Holy Spirit to come there last p.m. This past week has been difficult. Saturday I lost my income.

We've seen God provide already — especially through your church and the kind man who greeted us at the door was so heartwarming.

We had supper last evening and the rest of the meal made 3 lunches for my husband to take to work. We are so thankful for all the bags and bags of

groceries. I've used some cans last night to stretch our food.

We think we can make it weeks without needing to go to the store.

Please know your kindness blessed our hearts w/hope that God cares and will provide.”

This note is a testament to the power of faith, hope and charity. Faith that the Lord will provide; hope that we will survive the dark times; and charity defined as gifts given with love. All of our outreach efforts are a visible demonstration of our love for our fellow human beings.

Our first two Church Chat sessions were devoted to an analysis of who we are as a church in the year 2022. The final session on August 7th will be used to help determine where we want to go in the years to come. Combined with what Jonathan brings back from his time of renewal we can chart a course for our church that will keep us a vital and vibrant spiritual congregation.

Shalom,  
Tom Safford  
Elder Chair

**Acme Community Cash Back!**  
**August 4<sup>th</sup> – December 25<sup>th</sup>**

Save all your Acme Receipts from August 4<sup>th</sup> through December 25<sup>th</sup>! There will be a box in the sanctuary to deposit your receipts in on Sundays. Proceeds will benefit Dorcas Rebekah Guild, Mary Martha Guild, and our Blanket Ministry.

**Music Notes**  
**August 2022**

Hello all. We are over halfway through summer, and the regular choir season will be starting up again before we know it. First, let me thank all of you who have provided or will be providing special music this summer. We have had such a wide variety of music (from brass to voice, solos to ensembles, Classical music to contemporary Christian Music, youth to adults) that I am amazed at the amount and level of talent we have at FCC! Praise God!

Looking ahead, I want to share the plans we have for the beginning of the fall season. This is typically when all the choirs begin rehearsing and then sharing their gifts in the worship services, and this year will be no exception. However, we will begin a little later than usual this year. The plan is as follows for each choir:

- Chancel Choir
  - o Thursday, September 15, 7:30-9:00 in the choir room (We will sing on Sunday, September 18 at the 10:00 service.)
- Joy Bells
  - o Thursday, September 15, 6:00-7:15 p.m. in the bell balcony
- Joyful Noise

***COMMUNITY OUTREACH***

**Loaves and Fishes + Pantry**  
**August**

Our July 17 Loaves & Fishes served carry out meals for around 66 people. They all enjoyed a BBQ pulled chicken sandwiches with assorted sides and dessert.

Those people also went home with a selection of groceries. 4 of these families were first time visitors. A couple of those families and recently entered a period of hardship. We are grateful that we were able to assist them in their time of need and help them get through tough times.

We're looking forward to our next Loaves & Fishes + Pantry on August 21.

The August drive thru meal will be August 21st 4-6p.m. Mike Kostensky is donating meat and cheese to make subs. We will also have cooler corn and ice cold watermelon. Saturday morning at 11 a.m we will be assembling subs. Helpers also needed for distribution on Sunday.

**Good Neighbors Donations**

Thank you to all who donated to the Back to School drive for Good Neighbors. Our collection filled an entire shopping cart. They were especially grateful for the 8 backpacks.

They will be distributing next week.

The Christian Women's Group would like to have a picnic in the Fall. Look for more details. If you have any suggestions or ideas, call Mary Ellen 330-815-4223 and let her know!

- Wednesday, September 7, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Children's Bell Choir (Crusader Bells)
  - Sunday, September 25, begin 10 minutes after the service and meet for 30 minutes
- Children's Choir (yes, we're back!)
  - Sunday, September 25, during Children's Church

The Children's Choir will be starting up again after a long hiatus with a new director, Cora Dowey (actually, she is not "new," having done this before). Andrea and Molly have decided that now is a good time for them to step away and direct their energies in other directions. I can't thank them enough for all their hard work and time and energy We have been blessed by the quality of the programs the children have presented over the years. Thank you!

The Children's Choir will be meeting during the Children's Church time on Sunday mornings. Our goal for them this year is to teach them Christian children's choruses and have them sing in church on the last Sunday of each month, beginning in October.

Chancel Choir is always open to new members, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, or Bass. If you have previous experience singing in a choir, please consider joining us on Thursdays. We have a great time of fellowship, prayer and music making.

Joy Bells is also looking to recruit new ringers. If you have experience reading music and/or have rung before, this is the place for you. We have 5 octaves of bells to ring but are currently ringing three and a half. Lots of room for more.

## ***STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE***

### **August Youth Group**

***Friday, August 12th!***

***2pm-4pm***

***Volunteer at Hiram Farms***

We will be spending a couple of hours helping out at Hiram Farms! We will meet at the church at 1pm and provide transportation. Parents can pick up at the church around 4:45pm.

*\*I will have release forms for any parents or students who will be attending. So please let me know if you will be able to make it! \**

***Sunday, August 21st!***

***1pm-3pm***

***Youth group kick off at Fun n Stuff!***

This year's youth group kick off will be at Fun n Stuff! Please bring \$5 for activities. Food and transportation to Fun n Stuff will be provided.

**From Katie Taylor**  
**August Youth Group Activity!**

Can you believe the summer is almost over?! School will be starting back up and that means it's time for our youth group kick off! This month we will be going to Hiram Farms for a service project on August 12th from 2pm-4pm. Any adults or youth that will be attending will need to fill out the release form in order to participate. So, please let me know if you will be able to make it! We will also be having our annual youth group kick off on Sunday August 21st! This year it will be at Fun n Stuff in Macedonia. To help cover the cost of two hours of unlimited gaming I'm asking for each youth to bring \$5. Food and transportation to Fun n Stuff will be provided. Parents can pick up their child at Fun n Stuff at 3pm. We will discuss this year's theme and all of the fun and exciting things we have to look forward to in the coming year! -Katie Taylor, Director of Youth

**National Faith & Blue Weekend**  
**Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. –**  
**2:00 p.m.**

The Mission of Faith & Blue is to build and reinforce the bond between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Join the Summit County Sheriff's Office as they host this second annual day of fun, fellowship, and resolution. This family-friendly community event is free and open to the public. It will be hosted at The Akron Fulton Airport, 1600 Triplett Blvd., Akron, OH 44306. There will be fun activities, live performances, giveaways, games, and an interfaith prayer. For more information, please

***STEWARDSHIP***  
***CHALLENGE***

This is a list of what a good steward is written by blogger Jay Morris. As I read them, I thought that many of the were appropriate for this time of sabbatical in our church. I would like to share them with you throughout the month. **Good stewards embrace innovation and change.** They understand that while the organization's principles are unchanging, the means to achieving them are not. They welcome new ideas and fresh perspectives. That is what this time in sabbatical is all about. As we prepare for the church chat next week. Let us be open to new ways of giving of ourselves, our tithes, time and talents, let us be open to where God is taking us. We will now receive our gifts, tithes and offerings in the plate at the back of the church, through online giving, or maybe a new, inventive way that you come up with.

contact [faithandblue@sheriff.summitoh.net](mailto:faithandblue@sheriff.summitoh.net) or 330-643-2154 Pantry Stocking:

**Stocking Tree!**  
**Refilling our Pantry for the**  
**Community**

Please read on to see how you can help the World Outreach Team refill our pantry during the cost of living challenges of inflation, an impending recession, and summer heat.

Good morning and thank you in advance for helping stock our First Christian Church Pantry.

As you leave this morning, you will find a “Tree” with tags hanging from the limbs. Each tag represents “1” item. We understand that MANY people in this church want to help others, that is why we chose to break the donations down into single items.

You are welcome to take more than one. What we ask is: PLEASE ONLY BRING WHAT YOU HAVE SELECTED AND ONLY ONE PER TAG. (Weight is an estimate on our part – please use your discretion when purchasing) (canned goods are placed in a dispensing frame). Our Pantry is VERY limited in space. We currently stock 56 items: including a few personal care items. All of this is contained within a 4-foot x 8-foot shelving unit. So, you can see, when we say we have limited space, we mean it.

We will come back to you in the future when we need more items.

There will be a green wagon, or a grey cart for you to put your donated items on. It will be placed by the tree.

Thank you again for helping,  
Your World Outreach Team