



First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
Stow, OH

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

# PATHWAYS

APRIL 2024

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

Find us on social  
media @FCCStow!

## **Week of Compassion Mission Trip** **Western Kentucky, June 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>**

See inside for more details! With the help of Week of Compassion and with Charlie Redman, we're headed to Mayfield, Kentucky to help the town recover from flood and tornado damage. Sign up with the link below and contact the office for help.

### **Loaves and Fishes + Pantry April 21st, 4-6p.m.**

Free monthly dinner! Drive-Thru/Carry Out, 4-6 p.m.

Fish and fowl! We have sauced fish and chicken to serve to families. Extra hands for these extra dinner options are always appreciated!

### **Youth Group – Youth Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

The Youth Group will be meeting on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> (If Needed), and Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>: 8:30 and 10:30 worship services.

Watch your text messages for more information!

### **Christian Education Updates: Stow Bunny Trail Results and VBS Info!**

#### **VBS: Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> – Thursday July 18<sup>th</sup> 6 – 8 p.m. Each Night**

Thanks to everyone who came to help make candy bags for the Stow Bunny Trail! Above are the dates for VBS, and below in the article is information about VBS and our theme—Camp Firelight! (It's like going to camp, at home!)

### **All-Church Picnic, Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. noon**

#### **Little Stone Pavilion, Water Works Park**

#### **Sunday May 19 at 12:00 noon, 2025 Munroe Falls Ave. Cuyahoga Falls**

Join us for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and kick off summer with a great day out! We hope to see you there!

## Pastor's Pen: April 2024

How was your eclipse? Did it live up to the hype and your expectations? For me, not only did it live up to the hype, but it exceeded the hype and exceeded my expectations. And let me tell you, it is not at all easy to exceed my expectations. So I don't know about you, but I was absolutely blown away by my eclipse experience. I was not at all prepared for what I saw and felt during those few precious minutes of "totality." It was an absolutely incredible sight to behold, something I've only seen before in pictures, and we all know that though a picture might be worth a thousand words, pictures rarely ever do justice to seeing and experiencing something firsthand. It was truly a moving experience. And it was, for me, a spiritual one as well.

A couple days after the eclipse I was talking with a clergy colleague from Kentucky who also got to see the totality of the eclipse. Both of us naturally started to gravitate toward faith language to talk about the event. I shared with him I have heard people say that totality is almost an "other-worldly" experience, feeling like they are momentarily taken to a different place and allowed to see our solar system from a completely different perspective. My eclipse experience helped me to see and understand now just what they meant. My friend and colleague then shared about how his most impactful moment was during the end of totality when the second "diamond ring" appeared. With strikingly vivid language, he said he felt like he was at the tomb of Jesus, at first simply trying to be attentive to the shimmering light of the sun through the moon's valleys, accentuated by the solar prominences, only to then see how the light of the sun turned a stunning white, allowing the diamond ring to appear. My friend said it was an experience so powerful it made him wonder if it was what the Roman soldiers experienced when the stone was being rolled away from the tomb at the resurrection. From there we talked about our small stature in the universe and how we experienced deep awe and wonder during totality, realizing how tiny we are in God's creation.

I have shared with you before that the more I understand science, the more I see it as just how God's hand of creation is still at work today. Additionally, I am more comfortable with who I am in my smallness, seeing it as affirming my significance, not hindering it. My faith leads to me to take the declaration of *belovedness*, given to me by Christ, and hold it in contrast to the immensity of the universe and realize... size does not matter when it comes to God. This is quite the opposite in our world though, where depending on how we understand size, yes it does matter—bigger cars, houses, bank accounts, titles, prestige, etc. Yet the goal of the spiritual life is not to increase but decrease, by voluntarily placing ourselves in the lowest place. My friend said to me, "*The larger the universe becomes, the more my spiritual life is affirmed.*" Put another way, the smaller I become in the physical universe, the more I am comforted by the truth that the Creator of the universe knows me, knows my name, knows my pain and sorrows, knows even my sins, and yet *still* God calls me God's beloved.

My friend and I concluded our conversation, and as I drove on (because we always talk when each of us is driving somewhere) I thought to myself, "*How often do we really look to the heavens?*" In the literal sense, we look to the heavens as a means for exploration and discovery; a place that beacons us to go where no man or woman has ever gone before. But in the metaphorical sense, looking to the heavens should inspire us to gaze in awe and wonder and take in the beauty of creation, while also striving to gaze in awe and wonder at the heavens so that we might fix our gaze upon God who brought all of creation into existence, while saying to ourselves, reminding ourselves, we are God's holy and beloved children. For if we do such, then we won't have to wait for the next eclipse to look to the heavens and take in an absolutely incredible sight to behold.

Your Pastor and Friend,  
Jonathan

**TAKING OUR OUTREACH  
TO THE NEXT LEVEL**  
**Mission Trip with Week of Compassion**  
**Western KY – June 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Looking to serve, make an impact, and change our world for the better? Through the week of June 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be making our way to Mayfield, Kentucky, to do just that! On the very western end of Kentucky, in 2023, 6 to 12 inches rainfall landed during just a 10 hour period, resulting in historic-high, catastrophic flash flooding that harmed the tornado-stricken areas of Mayfield, Paducah, and southern Illinois. For more information on the flooding, see [https://www.weather.gov/pah/FloodingJuly19\\_2023](https://www.weather.gov/pah/FloodingJuly19_2023).

We have heard the call within the church to go out and do the work of restoration, and the opportunity has presented itself. With help from Charlie Redman, and working with Week of Compassion, we are hoping to add more volunteers to the team to increase our impact, as many hands make light work. There is a registration process, and a very small fee attached (\$5 per night). Additionally, if you cannot stay for the entire week, folks have been present for partial weeks before.

Registration can be made at the link below. If you need help with it, please contact the office and let Christian know. Sign up with your information and don't forget to use the password as well, when it requests one.  
<https://week-of-compassion.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=75840>

Password: Stow2024

We will be working in or near Mayfield, KY and will be housed on beds with mattresses in the Disciples Church in Paducah, KY. We may be sharing housing with others in the area for similar missions. Paducah also offers options of other activities such as the National Quilt and Inland Waterways museums, near a historic waterfront and downtown to see.

For those who have more questions, contact Charlie Redman at (330) 283-4320, or to Jonathan here at the church.

**All-Church Picnic, Sunday May 19**  
**at 12:00 p.m. noon**  
**Little Stone Pavilion, Water Works Park**

Little Stone Pavilion is at 2025 Munroe Falls Ave. Cuyahoga Falls

Here comes summer!! Join us for this wonderful afternoon fellowship with great food and great company! Mark your calendars for this year's All-Church Picnic! Please bring your own place setting / table service and a side dish to share! The Membership Team will provide hot dogs, baked beans, watermelon, drinks, desserts and snow cones!

**Stow Community Bunny Trail**

Christian Education Team braved the cold weather on Saturday March 23 and gave out over 400 treat bags at the Stow Community Bunny Trail Hop event at Silver Springs Park. Thank you to everyone who donated Easter Candy and Youth Group for helping prepare all the treat bags for this event!

**Save the Date for Vacation Bible School**  
**Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> – Thursday July 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**6 – 8 p.m. Each Night**

It's time for a summer camp adventure with God at **Camp Firelight VBS!** Kids will learn ways they can put their trust in God when they are afraid, challenged or called to God's work and share the Good News of God's Love.

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School 2024, Sunday July 14 - Thursday July 18, 6-8pm. More details and information coming soon!



## **From Our Hearts to Yours... Thank You**

On behalf of my family, we cannot thank you enough for your outpouring of prayers and support at the passing of my mother Verna Rumburg. Thank you for the cards, flowers, food, emails, text messages, Facebook postings, Connection Card notes, words of condolences, hugs, and many acts of kindness and love. Thank you for your presence at the calling hours and at the funeral. Thank you for asking me how I am doing, and especially how Violet and A.J. are doing. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for me and my family in this time of immense grief and loss. It is all a gift that we are blessed by and remain dependent upon. So, from our hearts to each of yours, thank you, thank you.

It will be my continued prayer that we all take moments to reflect on the blessings of family and friends who show up in any and all ways needed when it is needed most. And I pray too, we all look toward the promised future we have through Christ Jesus, while also embracing the holy blessing of the present we have right today.

With love and our sincerest thanks,  
Jonathan, Julie, Violet, and A.J.

## **Family Promise Bed Sheets Collections Through April**

Glendora House (The Family Promise home for temporary housing) is collecting bed sheets for twin bed sheets to be given to families who are moving to their own permanent housing! There's a blue basket in the Gathering Area where you can leave twin bed sheets for these families. Thanks to Barb Eppley for bringing this to our attention and providing a Church Service Announcement!

## **Prayer Request Email List**

Friends, while many of us are getting updates regularly, there's now an easy way to get connected with the church's concerns and praises by signing up to the prayer request email list at the link below. If you

have a prayer request you'd like to share, you can always directly email the church office at [Fccstow@firstchristianstow.org](mailto:Fccstow@firstchristianstow.org) with the concern. If you know anyone who might like to be signed up for Prayer Requests, please share with them the link below!

<https://www.firstchristianstow.org/prayer-chain/>

## **Youth Sunday Preparation**

Mark your calendars for "Youth Sunday" set to be held on May 12<sup>th</sup>! Planning is already underway! Below are the upcoming days for Youth to practice and prepare for Youth Sunday.

Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, after second service until 1 p.m.

Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, after second service until 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 11<sup>th\*</sup>, morning, however exact time to be determined. (\*And only if needed.)

Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 and 10:30 worship services.

## **Sketti 'n' Skits 2024 Video is Now on YouTube!**

A HUGE thanks to everyone who put together their talents and acts for this year's Sketti 'n' Skits! We had a wonderful St Pattie's Day celebration without green spaghetti, but with plenty of cheer! For those browsing the Newsletter online, the link is below for you to watch!

<https://youtu.be/Dn5LmNlx01M?si=pO6QYV6DYmq4J6GE>

## **Chapel Ceiling Update**

Since our last report, Mr. McShane has been working with our insurance adjustor to get his estimates more detailed. Al Naylor has been in periodic contact with the adjustor. We know that insurance is only going to cover the space between the back chapel wall & the chancel area (I assume unless we can show that damage to those areas is due to the collapse.). So, any additional work will have to be covered by the church.

We were also able to determine that the back wall (the one with the stained glass & clock, etc.) is NOT load bearing. The cross beam (like that one that failed) that is about 4 feet inside the chapel from that wall also carries the weight of the steeple! This is the same beam that Mr McShane “temporarily” shored up because it looked like it could slip. After reviewing this with the Architect, we will probably have “columns” or “pillars” against the outside wall to help hold this cross beam up. Details coming, along with the rest of the design.

Regards,  
John McCreight  
03/31/24

### March TPC

03/03

**Richard Sellers**

**1925 Hawthorne, Stow OH 44224**

*Richard had a pancreas surgery this week but has continued to recover. Wish him well!*

03/10

**Beth Burger**

**171 Graham Rd, Apt. 69**

**Cuyahoga Falls OH 44223**

*Celebrate with Beth for her birthday, which is today!*

03/17

**Liz Smith / Bob Marlowe,**

**Daughter / Son of Jean Lamont**

**1594 Acacia Drive, Akron 44333**

*Please pray, contact, support, and grieve with Liz and Bob, as Jean passed on the 12th.*

03/31

**Lindsey Hindel**

**2675 Prescott Downs, Stow OH 44224**

*Lindsey is on the path to recovery and rehabilitation.*

*Please reach out and wish her well in recovery!*

04/07

**Marjorie Howard**

**Mulberry Gardens Memory Care Rm. #1008**

**395 S. Main St., Munroe Falls OH 44262**

*Please note Marjorie's new address.*

*Share a "Thinking of You from your church family!"*

### Thanks, From the Community— Loaves & Fishes + Pantry

Friends, while there is much thankless work in the world, the support that our World Outreach committee provides is constantly deserving of gratitude and gracious words. Below is a card expressing such thanks from a guest of ours who has been attending Loaves & Fishes + Pantry.

“First Christian,

Thank you for your Sunday meal & food from the food pantry. We look forward to getting T.P. to keep from running out. We share the food with friends who were out of bread. What we need, God provides, just like the birds. We have been hit with so many large bills for heat, electricity, cars, and other costs. So, thank you for the food—We have to go to the store for just a few things, and not often.”

Additionally, we want to continue to express our gratitude for the effort and constant work of the team of Loaves & Fishes + Pantry, for every person who works to feed the community that attends this monthly meal.

### 2024 Summer Camp Schedule At Camp Christian

The Christian Church in Ohio is excited to share with you the 2024 Summer Program Schedule! There are Summer Programs at Camp Christian for Children and Youth from Kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as Advance Conference for Young Adults. You will also note the two Disciples Fellowship Retreats which are open to all ages. We have also included Adult Conference, which is open to all adults and is held at Northwest Christian Church in Columbus. Registration and more details about all of this coming this Winter.

We hope you'll save the dates and share this schedule with folks from your Congregations, Families, and Communities!! The first campsite event to kick off the summer schedule is the Disciples Fellowship Retreat on Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. The Regular season of camps begins with Grandparent's Camp – Elementary on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

The full schedule can be viewed at the following link, <https://www.ccinoh.com/camp-christian.aspx>, as well as each date on the Regional Calendar. We hope you'll be able to participate in this great annual tradition of retreat, refocusing, and reverence.

Summer is fast approaching! Camp Christian has a huge variety of camps, many of which are listed below. If you or a family with children you know are interested in camp, but the cost of enrollment may be too much, don't forget that there's scholarships and sponsorships are available through the Christian Church in Ohio website

### **Grandparents Camp**

June 6th -8th at Camp Christian

*For children completing Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grade (May/June 2024) and their Grandparent*

### **Rabbit Camp - Elementary**

June 30th - July 3rd at Camp Christian

*For children completing 2nd grade and/or 3rd and 4th graders whose parents want a shorter camp experience for their children.*

### **Otter Camp - Elementary**

June 9th - 15th at Camp Christian

*For children completing 5th grade & those in 3rd & 4th grades ready for a full-week of camp.*

### **Encore Music Camp - Junior High & High School**

June 30th - July 6th at Camp Christian

For those youth completing 6th- 12th grades.

### **Created to be Me**

For those youth completing 8th grade.

June 23rd - 29th

### **Chi Rho Camp - Junior High**

*For those youth completing 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.*

### **2 OPTIONS - Emmaus June 16th-22nd OR Cornith July 7th-13th**

*It does not matter where you live or what church you attend. You can sign up for whichever week fits best into your schedule.*

### **CYF Conference - High School**

*For those youth completing 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades.*

### **2 OPTIONS - Week #1 June 16th-22nd OR Week #2 July 14th-20th**

*It does not matter where you live or what church you attend. You can sign up for whichever week fits best into your schedule.*

### **Advance Ministries Summer Conference - Young Adults**

July 21st - 28th at Camp Christian

*For all adults ages 19 to 30 (at least 1 year out of high school.)*

### **Adult Conference**

June 17th - 21st at Northwest Christian Church  
1340 Fishinger Rd., Columbus, OH 43221-2398

*For adults of all ages.*

### **Camp Christian Work Day Saturday, May 11th From The Christian Church in Ohio**

We will once again be hosting volunteers for a day of cleaning, repairing, and general preparation of Camp Christian in anticipation of the Summer Camp and Conference programs!

This workday is so crucial and appreciated by the staff. We all know when Spring arrives there can be an overwhelming amount of tasks to keep up with, even at our own homes.

There are tasks suited for a wide range of ages and abilities. We hope you will join us!

More details, including specific tasks, how to sign up, how to donate, and more can be found at <https://www.ccinoh.com/regional-calendar.aspx?events=11521&action=details>

## **Family Promise 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!** **Their Mission and Needs**

“I am hopeful your 2024 has gotten off to a great start and that you have a wonderful, happy, healthy, and safe new year.

We have much to do in 2024 and so much to celebrate as we are in our 20<sup>th</sup> year of helping families experiencing homelessness obtain sustainable housing and brighter futures. 20 years! The only way we were able to serve for 20 years, and counting, is due solely to supporters like you! Without your time, talent, and treasure, there would be no Family Promise or Family Promise Welcome Home. Without you, there would be 510 families with children that would not have had a chance at sustainable lives over the 20 years of service. This represents over 2,000 individuals of which 60% were children. I hope that makes you smile.

Jeffrey Wilhite, Executive Director  
330-253-8081  
[Director@Familypromisesc.org](mailto:Director@Familypromisesc.org)”

What can you do to help families with children experiencing homelessness? A lot! Acts of compassion have the power to change the lives of families. Volunteers play an essential role in helping families experiencing homelessness attain sustainable independence.

Regular volunteer opportunities:

### **Make a Meal:**

The shelter houses ten families at one time. Making a meal involves delivery of prepared and portioned meals for families to enjoy. Family Promise would provide a list of families and size of families to know how much food is required.

Examples:

- Pizza
- Pasta Dinner
- Salad
- Chicken Dinner

### **Food Bank Pick Up and Drop Off:**

Family Promise of Summit County orders food items from the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank. Pick up and drop off would involve picking up from Akron location and helping unload at shelter. Would need to know availability 3 days in advance for order to be placed.

### **Repair and Renew**

- Assemble Furniture
- Building Maintenance
- Grounds upkeep

### **Inventory**

- Inventory cleaning supplies, hygiene products, baby items, and bedding
- Organize Inventory Closet

### **Hosting A Fundraiser/Grab Bags**

- Host an Ice Cream Social
- Craft
- Create Birthday Bags for those in shelter. (Items for a birthday celebration)
- Host a Supply Drive (Cleaning and Hygiene Products, Twin Size Bedding and Blankets)
- Host a Car Wash
- Host Bake Sale

### **Communications**

- Assist with the Family Promise YouTube Channel
- Ideas for content/stories/people highlights
- Video and photography contributions
- Fundraising ideas/events
- Press releases on our activities

### **Family Promise is always open to new interest and ideas of the volunteers!**

In-kind donations are a great way of supporting the mission of Family Promise. These donations not only provide much-needed items to the families we serve but also help to reduce our expenses, which allows us to use our monetary donations more effectively and efficiently. The following are items we always need.

### **CLEANING SUPPLIES**

- Mop/bucket
- Broom/dustpan
- Garbage bags (13 gallon)
- Garbage cans (13 gallons)
- All-purpose cleaner
- Dish soap
- Floor cleaner
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning sponges
- Toilet paper/paper towels

### **BEDDING/LINENS (NEW)**

- Twin sized fleece blankets/sheets
- Pillows
- Towels/Wash cloths

- Twin sized mattress covers

#### **GENERAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**

- Laundry baskets
- Plastic dishes
- Silverware
- Bathroom rugs
- Shower liners

#### **WELL BABY ITEMS**

- Diapers/wipes
- Baby bath and hygiene
- Baby lotion
- Baby blankets
- Baby socks
- Baby bottles/pacifier
- Baby first-aid

#### **TOILETRY ITEMS**

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Body soap/lotion
- Razors
- Tooth Paste/Mouth wash
- Hair brush/combs

#### **Donation drop off location and hours:**

The Job Center - 1040 East Tallmadge Avenue,  
Akron, OH 44310

Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
and 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

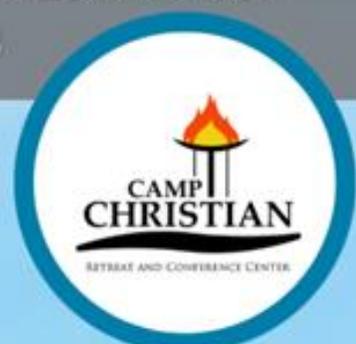
# SUMMER IS COMING...

PLAN AHEAD WITH THESE ADVENTURES IN OHIO!

## SUMMER CAMPS 2024



**TEMPLED HILLS CAMPS  
ARE LISTED IN PURPLE  
CAMP CHRISTIAN CAMPS  
ARE LISTED IN BLUE**



- **May 24–26: Disciples Fellowship Retreat, all Ages**
- **June 6–8: Grandparents Camp – Elementary. For children completing K–2 AND their Grandparent (or another related adult other than their parents)**
- **June 9–15: Otter Camp – Elementary. For children completing 5th grade & those completing 3rd & 4th, ready for a full-week of camp**
- **June 12–15, June 30 – July 3, July 14 – 17: Grands & Family, ages 4–13 (with Parent or Grandparent)**
- **June 16–22: M.M.A.D.D. (Music, Mindfulness, Art, Dance, Drama). Ages 8–18**
- **June 16–22: Camp "Out" (LGBTQIA+). Ages 8–18**
- **June 16–22: Chi Rho & CYF Week 1 Concurrent Camp – Junior High & High School. For youth completing 6–8th grades and youth completing 9th–12th**
- **June 17th–21: Adult Conference at Northwest Christian Church, Columbus**
- **June 23–29: Sports Camp. Ages 7–18**
- **June 23rd–29th: New Camp: Created to Be Me. For youth completing 8th grade.**
- **June 30th–July 3rd: Ribbit Camp. For children completing 2nd–5th grade, that may experience camp for the first time with a shorter week**
- **June 30th–July 6th: Camp Encore, Vocal and Drama Camp. For youth completing 6th–12th**
- **July 7–10: Pathfinder. Ages 10–14**
- **July 7–10: Family Camp, all ages**
- **July 7th–13th: Chi Rho Week #2. For youth completing 6th–8th**
- **July 10–13: Seek and Sip. Ages 21+**
- **July 14th–20th: CYF Week #2. For youth completing 9th–12th**
- **July 21st–July 28th: Advance Conference. For adults ages 19 to 30**
- **August, 30th–September 1st: Disciples Fellowship Retreat, all ages**



**REGISTER  
TODAY!**

**SCAN THE QR CODES  
OR GO TO:**

**HEARTLANDUCC.ORG/TEMPLED-HILLS  
CCINOH.COM/CAMP-CHRISTIAN**

