



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

PATHWAYS

APRIL 2025

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

Find us on social
media @FCCStow!

Stow Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m.-1p.m.

Silver Springs Park, 5238 Young Rd., Stow

Look for more details and how you can help our church's involvement in this community event!

Palm Sunday and the Beginning of Holy Week, April 13th

"Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Let us join our voices with the voices of the crowds who rejoice and celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem! A Children's Processional will be part of the opening of this time of worship. Any and all children (and parents if they would like) are invited to meet in the Gathering Area just before worship where palm leaves will be handed out, and then the group will process in during our opening hymn.

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil

Maundy Thursday time of worship on April 17th, at 6 p.m. in Disciples Hall.

Community Good Friday worship, April 18th, 12:Noon

Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil, April 19th, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. More information inside.

Easter Sunday

April 20th, 10:30 a.m.

He is Risen! Risen indeed!

Let us join with Christians around the world who will all be shouting these praises in celebration of the one who conquered and overcame death so that we would have everlasting life!

Baptism Sunday

April 27th, 10:30 a.m.

On this special Sunday in the life of the Church and in the life of First Christian Church of Stow, we will rejoice and celebrate and give thanks for the three students who have completed this year's Pastor's Class. During this time of worship these students will make their confessions of faith, be baptized into the body of Christ, and will receive their first communion.

Then, stick around after worship for a one-of-a-kind coffee fellowship hosted by our Christian Education Department and extend the right hand of Christian fellowship the newly baptized.

Loaves and Fishes + Pantry April 27th, 4-6p.m.

Free monthly dinner! Drive-Thru/Carry Out, 4-6 p.m. Please note this is a rescheduled date of one week later!

Youth Group in April

Youth group will have activities through the whole month while preparing for Youth Sunday (Which is also Mother's Day, May 11th)! All youth are invited to bring a friend and play some fun games! Schedule below.

April 2025, Pastor's Pen

Ahhh... the month of April has arrived. Spring is here, finally! And though Northeast Ohio always does its best, as we turn our calendars, to remind us it still has a bit of winter left for us, just turning the calendar to April gives my mind, body, and spirit a sense of relief from the icy, cold grip of the waning season at last loosening from around my soul. And while April brings such a blessing, this April also brings: the blessed conclusion of Lent, Holy Week, and our celebration of our risen Lord and Savior on Easter. This April is set to be special. And yet there's another momentous occasion this April brings! And it's all because the stars and celestial bodies have all uniquely aligned to create for a rare and special time of unity.

This April, and the arrival of spring marks the approach and aligning of three important religious holidays, all coming later than most people are used to. Let me explain, but in no particular order.

First, the date the Catholic/Protestant Easter Day falls every year is based on the Lunar calendar and the Gregorian calendar. The date of Easter is determined by the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox, which this year was on March 20th. So using that rubric, this year Easter falls on April 20th, one of the latest dates it can be. So the Lunar calendar, with roots in the Gregorian calendar, determines when we celebrate Easter every year.

Next, the Eastern Orthodox Church bases its liturgical year on the Julian calendar, which will typically result in Orthodox Easter Day being set and celebrated a week, or even two weeks later than the Catholic/Protestant Easter Day. The Great Schism of 1054 CE broke communion between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church, but the major calendar shift didn't happen until 1582 when Pope Gregory XIII introduced the Gregorian Calendar, which the Orthodox Church wanted nothing to do with it. But this year, the Julian Calendar, Gregorian Calendar, and the Lunar Calendars all align and mark Orthodox Easter on April 20th.

And lastly, the Jewish calendar is a Lunisolar calendar based on lunar months that begins with the first day of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. That New Year's day, then determines when all Jewish holidays will occur—holidays and holy observances like Passover. In Israel, Passover is celebrated for exactly seven days to respect the Hebrews that had to flee their homes for seven days.

Jewish people that live outside of Israel celebrate the holiday for eight days per tradition. And this year, the Jewish celebration of Passover begins at sundown on April 12th, and then concludes after nightfall on, you guessed it, April 20th.

Yes, often Easter and Passover overlap. And yes, even Orthodox Easter and Passover have at times butted up against each other. But when I tried to find out when they all aligned to be celebrated and conclude their holy days of the season, I couldn't find a reliable source with an answer. What I did find, however, was a quote from Pope Francis who spoke of this rare and special alignment, saying, "*This must not be allowed to pass by in vain.*" Pope Francis has continued to emphasize the sense of opportunity for unity this alignment is creating—particularly with the Eastern Orthodox Church—but also the opportunity for ecumenical unity between all Christians and all Jews by fostering interfaith dialogue, understanding, and yes even unity. All of which is possible, despite our differences, because at the core of our religious and faith traditions is a call, a command to treat all people with dignity, respect, compassion, and love. And so, because these holy days, observances, and celebrations all converge on the same day, we should see it as an opportunity to seek out, find, and discover what we share in common instead of citing our differences as reasons to stay apart.

For all of us, Easter represents the new life we have been given and assured through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And that new life can begin this April. It can begin when we seize the opportunities presented to us—by dates on a calendar, happenstance, or when the stars align—and live out the call and command Jesus taught and showed us, and extended love and dignity to our neighbors. We can begin this new life when we strive to find what unites us instead of what divides us.

It's April, and spring is finally here. (As is baseball season!) But this April is set to be even more special and more spectacular than ever before. So let's not allow this month, the stars and celestial bodies, and this special time of unity pass us by. Let us embrace the new life Jesus makes possible and embrace also the blessed opportunities for unity that are uniquely aligning this month. Happy Easter.

Your Pastor and Friend,
Jonathan

Chapel Renewal Dusting Crew Needed **Monday, April 9th, 11 a.m.**

The Chapel is nearly ready! The pews have been set in place, the piano is scheduled to be tuned, the curtains are ready to be hung, and we are oh so close to it all being completed. There is one aspect of our Chapel Renewal that still needs tending to though. Dust!! All the hymnals and bibles that will go back in the Chapel are needing to be dusted, as do the chancel chairs and other Chapel “accoutrements.” Many hands make light work, so anyone able to come to the church on Monday, April 9th at 11 a.m. to help with this need would be most appreciated. Come when you can, leave when you need to. If all the dusting can’t be completed on the 9th, we will invite anyone who is able to help finish the task on Sunday, April 13th after worship.

Summit Bells Concert **April 4th, 4 p.m., in The Sanctuary**

Visit First Christian Church of Stow for a Concert by Summit Bells! The performance will begin at 4 p.m., free and open to the public! This concert will include an eclectic program of various styles. Summit Bells will take a free will offering to help continue and grow their ministry with the purchase of new equipment. Held in the Sanctuary.

Outreach Team Meeting **April 8th, 7 p.m., in The Library**

Outreach is the one of the most active, and most exciting committees to be on at First Christian Church! We have something to be involved with every month. There will be a meeting on April 8th at 7 p.m. in the library to discuss new ideas and ongoing projects. Come check us out! All are welcome.

April – May Youth Activity

- Discussion: “Little Jesus on The Cross”
 - o Activity: Battleship
- Discussion: “Thank you Little Jesus”
 - o Nerf Battle
- Prep for Mother’s Day/Youth Sunday
 - o Subject: “A Little Jesus Among Us”
- Mother’s Day/Youth Sunday

Nursery Attendant Update

Christian Education Team and Elders would like to share that our current Nursery Attendant, Megan Weiser, will need to step away from her role at the end of April. If you see Megan, please be sure to thank her for her service to our children at FCC Stow!

Work has started to find a new Nursery Attendant, please share this opening with anyone you know that may be interested.

The Nursery Attendant is responsible for childcare for children ages 0 to 5 while their families attend church service. The role involves engaging in age-appropriate activities, ensuring the safety and well-being of the children, and maintaining a clean and organized environment.

Requirements for Nursery Attendant:

- Two hours on Sunday Mornings: 10am-12pm September-May & 9:30am-11:30am June-August
- Experience working with children ages 0-5
- Must be at least 18 years age
- Completion of CPR / First Aid Training
- Must complete and pass Background Check

Interested candidates can apply by emailing a resume to christianed@firstchristianstow.org

Church Nursery Volunteers

In the interim while we search for a new Nursery Attendant. The Christian Education Team is seeking volunteers to staff the Nursery on Sunday Mornings so that any family who wishes to utilize the nursery can do so. Youth Group helper(s) will be available to assist you as well. There is a sign-up sheet located near the Worship Activity Bags in the Sanctuary for anyone interested in assisting in providing Nursery Care for our children ages 0-5. Thank you!

Kid 'n' Parent Prom: **A Night Under the Stars** **Saturday, May 9th, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

First Christian Church of Stow is excited to host The Kid ‘n’ Parent Prom: A Night Under the Stars!

Join us for an evening of dinner, dancing, and memory-making! The admission cost of \$12 per person includes dinner, dancing with our DJ Bret from One-T Entertainment, a photo booth, and more! Children must be at least Kindergarten-age through 6th grade to attend. Our doors open at 5:45 for general seating.

Pre-Registration is required!

Pre-Registration includes the two following items:

1. Please fill out the linked Google Form: [Kid 'n' Parent Prom 2025 Registration Form](#)
2. Please submit your payment for your party in one of the following ways:
 - [Our Vanco Payment System or Paypal and note your payment as "Kid 'n' Parent Prom 2025"](#)
 - Send a check to 3493 Darrow Rd. Stow OH 44224 with "Kid 'n' Parent Prom 2023" in the memo, addressed to First Christian Church of Stow.
 - Pay with Venmo or PayPal at the door (We will have QR Codes for those services available).

The dance will be hosted in our gym, on the lower level of the church, closer to our Kent Road Entrance. The address for the church is 3493 Darrow Rd. Stow, OH 44224, but for the event, you may want to enter from our Kent Rd. entrance, across the road from the Marhofer Chevrolet dealership.

For more information please call 330-688-4450. You may also email FCCStow@FirstChristianStow.Org with any questions or concerns you may have

Volunteers will be needed! Write on the back of your connection card or contact the office if you can help out!

Loaves & Fishes + Pantry March Recap

Shortly after our Loaves & Fishes + Pantry on Sunday March 16 one of our neighbors posted this on the church's Facebook page:

"Hi, I wanted to take a minute to express my sincere thank you for the blessings I received this evening at the food pantry. I am so grateful for the food, laundry soap and everything, including the warmth and love I felt from the lovely people there!

Thank you so very much. I pray the God continues to bless your wonderful church!"

We served hot meals and groceries to 44 different families between 4:00pm and 6:00pm. It's safe to say that each family feels the same way about what we do.

This is all possible because of the hard work and dedication of volunteers and because of the spiritual and financial support of our church.

Remember Loaves & Fishes + Pantry will be on April 27 next month to avoid a schedule conflict with Easter Sunday.

Women's Mini-Retreat
Disciples Hall, May 10th, 9a-12p

Need just a morning to breathe in The Spirit? There's so many ways to pour out your soul in this world, but Anyone interested in going on the Women's Retreat is invited to this Half-Day mini-retreat! Come and Bloom where you're planted!

Held in Disciples Hall. Contact Barb Bell or Barb Eppley with any questions.

Loaves & Fishes + Pantry
April 27th, 4-6 p.m.
(Moved due to Easter)

Friends, please note that the upcoming Loaves & Fishes + Pantry meal has been moved back a week to April 27th, as Easter will be landing on the 3rd Sunday this year!

Meal is to be announced later, but will surely be delicious, nutritious, and exactly what folks need! All helping hands are welcome!

Interweaving Sacred Prayers
An Evening with Faith,
Collaboration & Collaboration

Hosted by Women's Interfaith Spiritual Heritage (WISH) and Akron Area Interfaith Council

This unique project of community-activated art will foster connections among diverse faith groups. Join

in the weaving process of a unique tapestry. Bring a dish to share and talk about your faith experience. Participants will bring fabrics/textiles that have personal meaning and turn them into strips for the six-foot loom. Prayers, poems, spiritual expressions from every faith will be written on the strips and then woven into the single tapestry -- a tapestry of unity.

Just as weaving has been an art and craft form that has spanned thousands of years across all cultures, prayer also is woven into the lives of all people of faiths and uniquely connects our faith traditions. A handwoven tapestry will be created by the faith communities of Akron. The tapestry will become a symbolic representation of the interfaith work, prayers and relationships that exist in our community.

Choose One of Three Dates:

Event dates: Wednesday, April 2, 6:00 - 8:00 PM,
Saturday, April 26, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, or Thursday,
May 8, 6:00-8:00 PM

Event Location: Summit Artspace 140 E. Market St., Akron

Advanced registration only through Eventbrite.
(You may need to create an account on Eventbrite)
Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1146440858469?aff=oddtcreator>

Contact for more info: neowish2020@gmail.com
For More Information: <http://www.neowish.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/womensinterfaithspiritualheritage>
<https://www.facebook.com/AAICOH>

Master Singers Chorale Concerts
Requiem in C minor
Sun, Apr. 27th, Sat, May 17th

Join Master Singers Chorale for performances of Luigi Cherubini's *Requiem in C Minor*! This piece was a favorite of Beethoven, so you know it's good! No bones about it, you won't want to miss this performance!

Two performances are available at different locations. See below, and follow Master Singers Chorale online for more information.

Sunday, April 27th, 4:00 p.m.
St. Noel Church
35200, Chardon Rd.
Willoughby Hills, OH

Saturday, May 17th, 3:00 p.m.
Bath Church, UCC
3980 W. Bath Rd.
Akron, OH

Palm Sunday
April 13th, 10:30 a.m.

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem was marked by crowds who were preparing for the Jewish Passover, and then flooded the streets waving palm branches and throwing down their coats and cloaks, shouting shouts of "*Hosanna, Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*" They all hailed Jesus as the messianic king they hoped and believed him to be. This day marks the beginning of Holy Week, Jesus' final agonizing journey to the cross.

You are invited to come and begin this week-long journey and walk with Jesus, who would use these holy days to teach, preach, command, convict, heal, give, and bless any and all. You are invited to walk with Jesus who willingly suffers and dies so that we might have eternal life. All are invited. All are welcome.

Additionally, a children's palm processional will be done at the beginning of this service. Meet in the Gathering Area just before worship to receive a palm leaf, and then process in during the opening hymn of worship.

Maundy Thursday Agape Service
Thursday, April 17th 6 p.m.

Maundy Thursday at First Christian Stow is always a holy and sacred night and is set to be such once again this year as we gather to share in a light meal with one another, and then segue into worship on this holy night, together in Disciples Hall, where the space will once again be transformed into that sacred upper room where Jesus gathered with his Disciples on the night before his crucifixion. There we join with our Savior to share with him a meal intended to fill us up spiritually more than

physically because this meal, like the one Jesus shared with his Disciples, leads to a profound and moving time of worship where the dim setting, impactful music, moving and touching prayers, holy scripture, and living words of institution take on a deeper and more powerful meaning than any other time of the year.

Please plan to make this time of worship part of your Holy Week remembrances and celebration. A light dinner will be served at 6 p.m., followed by worship around 6:35, with an aim to conclude by 7:20 p.m. The Chancel Choir will rehearse after this time of worship.

Good Friday Time of Worship **Friday, April 18th, 12:05 p.m.**

This time of scripture, communal responses, and meditation will take us through the passion narratives found in the Gospels while guiding us in considering and remembering again the sacrifice Jesus made so we would have eternal and everlasting life. You are invited and encouraged to make this part of your Holy Week experience.

This service will begin just a few minutes past noon to give folks time to arrive during their lunch hour, and will conclude before 1 p.m.

Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil **Saturday April 19th, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.**

The Apostle Paul calls for us to “*pray without ceasing.*” He didn’t mean we have to be on our knees or kneeling before a chancel 24/7, but rather that we are open to God’s presence with us at all times, and that a prayerful life is what ought to lead us in our daily lives.

As we seek to focus on our Holy Week walk, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the confusion and fear of Maundy Thursday, to the agony of Good Friday, may we aim to take a part of Holy Saturday to intentionally be in prayer for the new life made possible through the life, death, and soon resurrection of our Savior Jesus.

To do this we invite you to be part of this annual prayer vigil on Saturday, April 19th. This prayer-vigil will be held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the church, or in any location of your choosing—your home, a park, a quiet spot, or maybe even the front steps of our Chapel where you can let the sounds of the busy road and the people passing by

guide your prayers for our community and the world around us.

Let us join our hearts and minds and spirits together, no matter the distance between us, and go to God in prayer.

Easter Sunday **April 20th, 10:30 a.m.**

Easter is the great and glorious celebration of the Christian faith that proclaims not only that Jesus is raised from the dead, but that Jesus is Lord of the world! When we declare Christ is our Lord, his victory over death becomes our salvation. As the Apostle Paul proclaimed in Romans 8:39, “There is nothing in life and nothing in death that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!”

All are invited and welcome to join with Christians around the world in praising our risen Lord and Savior, and celebrate the Good News that life and love are the powers that rule the world.

Baptism Sunday **Sunday, April 27th, 10:30 a.m.**

To say it is “*special*” to complete Pastor’s Class and arrive at their day of baptism for a young person and their family doesn’t seem like a big enough endorsement of what the day really is. Yes, it is special, but there is also the holiness and sacredness of the day as well, because unlike our birthdays that come around every year, our baptisms happen just once. Therefore, Baptism Sunday is a special, rare and profound day of *becoming* for a young person, and their family, and for their church family. It is the day when a young person consciously makes the decision of their own accord to step into the body of Christ and become a Christian who has accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. It is the day when parents and family witness their child, grandchild, sibling, niece, nephew begin not just a new chapter in their life, but a new life in a new way, as a child of God who has committed themselves to carrying, sharing, and living out the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is the day when a church family celebrates the hope, peace, joy, and love of God being poured out in this holy sacrament.

This year we celebrate and honor three students who have completed Pastor’s Class and are making

the step to make their confession of faith and be baptized into the body of Christ. Please hold in your prayers Elizabeth Aukeman, Rosey Johnson, and A.J. Rumburg as they make this next step in their faith journey. Let us pray they remember their day of baptism for the rest of their lives as a reminder of God's grace and love having been poured out upon them in a new way, and that through their baptism they come to know deeply of God's constant and abiding presence surrounding them in each and every day.

Summer Camp Dates and Information!

Camp Christian, Summer 2025
From CCINOH.com!

We are so excited to share with you (below) the 2025 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. The two Disciples Fellowship Retreats are open to all ages. You will also note that the United Church of Christ will be hosting several camps at Camp Christian in 2025. As always, all of these programs are open to anyone (in the correct age bracket) to register for. It does not matter where or if you have church membership.

You may also the full schedule at the following link:
<https://www.ccinoh.com/camp-christian/summer-programs.aspx>

Registration and more information for the Camps and Programs hosted by the Heartland Conference United Church of Christ are available at <https://heartlanducc.org/storycontinues/>

Lordy, Lordy! Look Who is Turning 40 + 63 Years Young! Happy Birthday Betty Lapin!

Mark your calendars and get out those birthday cards and stamps and be ready to celebrate and offer birthday wishes to our very long-time FCC member and church family member, and dear friend Betty Lapin! On Tuesday, April 15th Betty will turn an amazing **103** years young! (Incidentally, according to a recent church poll, 103 years is actually a

LONGER length than any of Jonathan's sermons have ever felt! Hard to believe but it's true.)

Let us join with Betty's family and friends in this incredible celebration and let us do so with a flood of birthday cards, well wishes, and our prayers for her more than a century of embracing her role as a holy and beloved child of God all while receiving and then sharing in any way she could, the countless blessings God has poured out upon her.

Advance Retreat @ Camp Christian April 11th – 13th

Young adults from age 19-30 (at least one year out of high school) are invited to spend this weekend at Camp Christian for this year's Advance Retreat, "The Waters of Life: *Making Waves*." This year's retreat will focus on navigating the shifting tides of an ever-changing culture. Young Adults are invited to dive into an unforgettable journey of activism, identity, and transformation. They will also explore how to build a strong community, challenge injustice, and nurture hope in uncertain times.

Registration can be found online at
https://wmt.suran.com/tool/event_registration_v2/at_tendees?guid=9c7d601604c911f094d781398c00fbb_a

Kid & Parent Prom: A Night Under the Stars May 9th, 6-8 p.m., Disciples Hall

First Christian Church of Stow is excited to host The Kid 'n' Parent Prom: A Night Under the Stars! Join us for an evening of dinner, dancing, and memory-making! The admission cost of \$12 per person includes dinner, dancing with our DJ Bret from One-T Entertainment, a photo booth, and more! Children must be at least Kindergarten-age through 6th grade to attend. Our doors open at 5:45 for general seating.

Pre-Registration includes the two following items:

1. Please fill out the linked Google Form: [Kid 'n' Parent Prom 2025 Registration Form](#)
2. Please submit your payment for your party in one of the following ways:

- - [Our Vanco Payment System or Paypal and note your payment as "Kid 'n' Parent Prom 2025"](#)
 - Send a check to 3493 Darrow Rd. Stow OH 44224 with "Kid 'n' Parent Prom 2023" in the memo, addressed to First Christian Church of Stow.
 - Pay with Venmo or PayPal at the door (We will have QR Codes for those services available).

The dance will be hosted in our gym, on the lower level of the church, closer to our Kent Road Entrance. The address for the church is 3493 Darrow Rd. Stow, OH 44224, but for the event, you may want to enter from our Kent Rd. entrance, across the road from the Marhofer Chevrolet dealership.

For more information please call 330-688-4450.

You may also email

FCCStow@FirstChristianStow.Org with any questions or concerns you may have

Additionally, we're looking for sponsors! If you know companies that might be interested in helping make a magical night for all our families, send their information our way!

ALL CHURCH OUTING

Rubber Ducks Baseball Game, Aug. 23rd

Get your tickets early and get them fast! Check with Bill Dowey for more information. You won't want to miss a pitch this summer!

Save the Dates for VBS!

July 13th – 17th 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

More information coming soon! For those interested in helping out, contact the Christian Ed Team about joining the Christian Ed Committee!

Early Bird Registration for Camps

Ends May 1st!

The registration deadline is just a month away! Make sure you get your registration in for Camp Christian camps and conferences! The link below can be used to find their form downloads and links, or search for Christian Church in Ohio Registration. You can also come into the office and Christian can help you find the registration for the camp you want to attend!

Additionally, for most, if not all camps, there are scholarships available on their website. Please speak with Jonathan for more information about camps, registration, and what to expect.

https://www.ccinoh.com/camp-christian/summer-programs/form-downloads-and-links.aspx?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR0541QapPKOBc64o_K65o8GBYuaHPL9OQP87vGqzvBMQgnBjR76_cWa2Mk_aem_wNEeThG-RPFaCl_ARTwAjq

All-Church Picnic

May 19th @ 12 p.m., Noon

Save The Date!

Please mark your calendars and get ready to welcome the summer with a little picnic kickoff! We're headed to Little Stone Pavilion at Water Works Par, 2025 Munroe Falls Ave., Cuyahoga Falls. Please remember to bring your own place setting, and a side to share! The membership team is providing the entrée for the meal, and we just need help filling it out!

Summer Camp Dates and Information!

Camp Christian, Summer 2025

It might be March, and the warm sunny summer days of summer probably still seem so far away, but trust us when we say it's time to start thinking about Summer Camps and Conferences at Camp Christian! Please look over the list of camps and their dates and consider which one is best for you and/or your child. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jonathan. And please remember, no one who wants to go to camp will be denied this opportunity due to financial restraints. Both our church and the regional church have

scholarship funds available to ensure all students who want to attend camp at Camp Christian can. Again, please contact Jonathan for information about camp scholarships.

-Friday, May 16th – May 18th: **Camp Our Way**—For special needs campers age 7 – *young adult, each camper brings a companion.*

-Friday, May 23rd-Sunday, May 25th: **Disciples Fellowship Retreat** — *For all ages*

-Sunday, June 8th – Tuesday, June 10th: **Grandparents & Me Camp**, (Concurrent Camp) – *For children completing Kindergarten, 1st, or 2nd grade AND their grandparent!*

-Sunday, June 8th – Sunday, June 14th: **Otter Camp, Elementary** (Concurrent Camp) – *For children completing 5th grade & those completing 3rd & 4th grades ready for a full-week camp.*

-Wednesday, June 11th – Saturday, June 14th: **Grands, Me & Family** (Concurrent Camp) – *For children ages 4-13 with a grandparent OR parent.*

-Sunday, June 15th – Saturday June 21st: **Music, Mime, Art, Dance, Drama / Camp OUT** (Concurrent Camp) Both camps—*For Children and Youth ages 8-18*

-Sunday, June 22nd – Saturday, June 28th: **SportsCamp**—*For children and youth ages 7 – 18*

-Sunday, June 22nd – Friday, June 27th: **Adult Conference**—Northwest Christian Church, Upper Arlington (**NOT** at Camp Christian)

-Sunday, June 29th—Wednesday, July 2nd: **Ribbit Camp**, Elementary (Concurrent Camp) *For Children completing 2nd grade and/or 3rd and 4th graders whose parents want a shorter camp experience for their children*

-Sunday, June 29th-Saturday, July 5th: **Chi Rho Camp Emmaus**—Junior High (Concurrent Camp) *For youth completing 6th, 7th, & 8th grades.*

-Saturday, July 6th – Saturday, July 12th: **CYF Conference**—High School (Concurrent Camp) *For youth completing 9th, 10th, 11th, & 12th grades*

-Sunday, July 6th – Saturday, July 12th: **Created to Be Me Camp**—Junior High (Concurrent Camp) *For youth completing 8th grade*

-Sunday, July 13th – Saturday, July 19th: **Chi Rho Camp Corinth**—Junior High *for youth completing 6th, 7th, & 8th grades*

-Sunday, July 20th – Sunday, July 27th: **Advance Conference**—Young Adults *for adults 19-30 (out of high school)*

-Friday, August 29th—Sunday, August 31st: **Disciples Fellowship Retreat**—For all ages

Coffee Fellowship Opportunities **After Second Service in the Library**

Just a reminder for those who aren't yet in the know-- Coffee Fellowship is held after second service for all of us to chat, share a brief refreshment, and get connected! Now you're in the know!

Signups for helping with Coffee Fellowship are on a clipboard just outside the library doors. If you have any questions about how to host Coffee Fellowship, Lisa Roseman or Jacob Aukeman can fill you in on all the details. Help connect and fellowship with your church family!

Pastor's Class **Sundays @ 9:15 a.m., In Library**

All youth in fifth grade or older who have not been baptized, and their parents, are invited to be part of this year's Pastor's Class set begin on Sunday, March 9th. The class will meet weekly on Sundays at the church, at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in being part of the class, please contact the church office, indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card, or please contact Jonathan.

Mission Trip w/ Week of Compassion **Dates available June 8th-28th 2025**

Friends, as we have seen this year, there is no shortage of need for relief and assistance from organizations like Week of Compassion. This year again, we are looking at domestic long term recovery mission trips so that we can go and be a part of Week of Compassion's restorative work. Charlie Redman, our volunteer team leader last year, will be in Kentucky again this June 8th through 28th. Please let us know if you are interested and available during that time. We will get more specific details soon.

This year, we are looking at traveling to Western Kentucky, where we worked last summer. If you recall, Mayfield and the surrounding towns are still in long-term recovery from a tornado in 2021, and floods in 2023. If you want to see last year's worship service that reviewed our mission trip, see the following link to that Sunday Service: ["Gifts to Live On, Part II" | Sunday Worship, June 2024](#)

If you or someone you know is interested in helping with another mission to Kentucky, please reach out to the church office and let us know. We're aiming to have a few more than last year's mission trip, so that we can increase our impact this summer!

Kid & Parent Prom 2025 **Friday, May 9th, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

We're back with our second time hosting The Kid 'n' Parent Prom (K-6th Grade). Please share this information with anyone you know in the area with kids who are looking to join us for an evening of dinner, dancing, and memory-making! The admission cost of \$12 per person includes dinner, music, and more! Children must be at least Kindergarten through 6th grade aged to attend. More information will be posted as we approach the date—Please look online for our Facebook event and share it with folks you know!

Ping Pong Club **Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.**

Break out your paddles and get ready to serve! We have a new group meeting on Thursday nights, 6 p.m. in the Gym* to play ping pong! We're currently playing singles, doubles, and some other "fun" game types. All skill levels are welcome!

We currently have two tables, but if the group continues to grow, anyone who has a table at home is invited to donate their table, and we will find a way to get it to the church.

*We meet in the Gym typically, but every 4th Thursday is Bulldog Boxes—Because of that, we will be meeting in one of the classrooms instead, as long as we are able to move tables and fit into a room, we will continue to play! Check the church calendar if you're unsure of where we're at.

Faith, Collaboration, and Creation **By Women's Interfaith Spiritual Heritage**

This unique project of community-activated art will foster connections among diverse faith groups. Join in the weaving process of a unique tapestry. Bring a dish to share and talk about your faith experience. Participants will bring fabrics/textiles that have personal meaning and turn them into strips for the six-foot loom. Prayers, poems, spiritual expressions from every faith will be written on the strips and then woven into the single tapestry -- a tapestry of unity.

Just as weaving has been an art and craft form that has spanned thousands of years across all cultures, prayer also is woven into the lives of all people of faiths and uniquely connects our faith traditions. A handwoven tapestry will be created by the faith communities of Akron. The tapestry will become a symbolic representation of the interfaith work, prayers and relationships that exist in our community.

Choose One of Three Dates:

Event dates: Wednesday, April 2, 6:00 - 8:00 PM,
Saturday, April 26, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, or Thursday,
May 8, 6:00-8:00 PM

Event Location: Summit Artspace 140 E. Market St., Akron

Advanced registration only through Eventbrite. (You may need to create an account on Eventbrite)

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1146440858469?aff=oddtcreator>

Contact for more info: neowish2020@gmail.com. See

website: <http://www.neowish.org> <https://www.facebook.com/womensinterfaithspiritualheritage> <https://www.facebook.com/AAICOH>

Think – Pray – Connect
Families from March

03/09/25

Jack & Retha Baughman

70 East Ralston Ave., Akron OH 44301

Please hold Jack in your prayers for his health & wellbeing, as he's been having continued health issues.

03/16/25

Joan Alkyer

3068 Kent Road 506C, Stow OH 44224

Please send support to Joan as she hasn't been feeling well recently. Your cards & Prayers are appreciated!

03/23/25

Emily Sanko

1324 10th St. NW Canton, OH 44224

Please pray for the family of Emily Sanko, as she has an older relative who's been hospitalized for 10 days with no discernible cause to their fever and illness.

03/30/25

Dave & Dorothy Robinson

3555 Marsh Rd. #312, Stow OH 44224

Please pray, reach out to, and send encouragement to the Robinsons. Dave & Dorothy have been sick for several days, but are still at home, managing symptoms.