



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Stow, OH

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

PATHWAYS

JUNE 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!

Annual 4th of July Pancake Breakfast!

7-10 a.m., Sign Up Sheets In The Gathering Area

Sign up online <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA8AD2BA7F9C70-57221572-4thofjuly> or find the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area! There's still a number of slots to fill for both shifts. If you can't volunteer, there's information about how to help provide for a raffle prize down below with Outreach—There's plenty of ways to help out! Share Facebook event with your friends, families, and neighbors, and invite folks to join us for the parade!

Vacation Bible School 2025: Road Trip!

Sunday, July 13th – Thursday, July 17th, 6-8 p.m. each night

Children 3-5th grade are all invited to hop on board and get “On The Go” with God! This awesome road trip will include incredible crafts, super science experiments, delicious snacks, and memorable Bible stories for kids! More info below, and registration can be found at fccstow.org/vbs

CHRISTMAS IN JULY!

Early Outreach Planning & Assistance for Christmas Ingathering Outreach

Though it's just warming up, we have a big need for when it gets cold! The Ingathering Outreach team is asking for us all to think ahead this year and do our “Christmas Shopping” a little early! Details below regarding this Outreach campaign.

Week of Compassion Mission Trip

SIGN UP DEADLINE SOON!

Return to Mayfield, KY, June 22nd – 28th

We are returning to a community much-in-need this year for the Week of Compassion Mission trip. Please see below for information. The deadline to sign up is this Friday, June 13th.

Nursery Attendant Position Search Continues

The Christian Education & Stewardship teams are working diligently to find a long-term Nursery Attendant who can serve the needs of our congregation's young families during worship services. If you know someone who might be interested, please contact Anna or Richelle, or let the church office know!

Loaves & Fishes + Pantry, June 15th, 4-6 p.m.

Pastor's Pen, June 2025

It's beginning to look a lot like... Christmas in July!? But... but... it's only June. And it's Pentecost. And school just let out. And it's supposed to be the carefree days of an easy-going summer. And it's baseball season. And "*May-Cember*" just ended. (*May-Cember* is the new *December* because the month of May is just as packed and just as crazy, but also just as fun and festive, as the month of December with all of its craziness and fun times!) And if that is what you are thinking and wondering, you are absolutely right, and yet, it is nonetheless beginning to look alike Christmas!! Confused? That's ok. You all know I confuse folks often, so how is this time any different!? Let me explain.

Yes, it is summer, my favorite time of the year, but we all know before the dogdays of summer really settle in, we are going to be seeing retail stores projecting and prophesying about the future. Before our 4th of July Pancake breakfast, it's likely we will see "*Back to School*" ads and sales. And before we even get to Labor Day, Marc's and Hobby Lobby will have Christmas décor on their shelves. And you all know I am right. And we all groan about it, but yet, it all still happens.

Related sidebar... When I worked as a Shipping and Receiving Manager at a retail department store after college and before I went to seminary, one summer we got in the store these wildly annoying dancing Santa Clauses that played Brenda Lee's "*Rockin Around The Christmas Tree*" to which the Santa would shake his booty to. (Yes, your pastor just wrote in his Pastor's Pen "shake his booty." But please, when relaying the ridiculousness of your pastor to others, note that I was NOT talking about me shaking my booty. It was a dancing Santa that was shaking his booty.) Anyway... These dancing Santas came into the store in July, so I asked the store manager if we were supposed to just store them until the fall, and she said, "*Nope, they go out on the floor today.*" And so on that July day, out went Santa. And no sooner was the display Santa shaking his booty was someone vehemently complaining about this premature holiday faux pas! But what happened next was the cherry of Santa's nose! (Get it?! In "*'Twas the Night Before Christmas*" by Clement Moore (originally titled "*A Visit From St. Nick*", Santa's nose is described to be like a cherry. I crack myself up!!) Anyway... (again) Shortly after vehemently vocalizing her disdain for Santa and his

booty shaking in July, I saw this *same* person checking out and among their purchases was none other than a dancing Santa!!! So if retailers will soon be kicking off their holiday hustle in order to maximize their bottom line, the Outreach Team decided our church would take a page out of their playbook and have a Christmas In-July In-Gathering Outreach campaign kick-off!

Every year First Christian Church of Stow serves over thirty families through our Christmas In-Gathering Outreach program—and usually, it's more than forty or more families. And we do this in a faithful effort to help make sure Christmas is a little bit merrier and a little bit brighter for those who could use a little help making sure Christmas is such for their family. It is an outreach program that you, the congregation, and friends of the congregation, support generously. And while that generosity is incredible, we all know that by the time the holidays come around in November and December, we are starting to feel the stress and strain of the season and our budgets because while we want to help support the church outreach ministries, as well as other worthy charities, we also have our own Christmas' to prepare and buy for. Add in rising costs of food, goods, and services, and suddenly our ability to be as generous as we want to be is harder and harder.

And so, to help alleviate some of that strain, the Outreach Team is preparing to hold a *Christmas in July In-Gathering Outreach Campaign*. This is NOT the full campaign. This is NOT to replace what will be done and asked for in November and December. This is simply to get a little bit of a head start—just to help ease the strain as well as bridging the gap that is always needing to be spanned. So throughout the month of July the Outreach Team will be inviting us to consider some early support of this outreach program. Please see an article further in this issue of the Pathways for more information. And then please also be ready to hear more information about this program and its impact that will be shared throughout the month of July.

So here is hoping and praying your summer is off to a wonderful and carefree start. And here is hoping and praying too, that you and yours, and those who we will serve in December, will have a very Merry Christmas!

Your Pastor and Friend,
Jonathan

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!

Vacant Nursery Attendant Position: The Search Continues!

The Christian Education Team and the Stewardship Team have begun work to find a new nursery attendant for Sunday mornings. (10:30 a.m. September through May; 10:00 a.m. June through August.) More information about the position is available via the church office. If you know someone who might be interested in the position please encourage them to inquire about this opportunity.

Please know that in this time of transition we will still continue to offer nursery care each Sunday. Anna and Richelle will partner in staffing the nursery, along with volunteers from the congregation, so that any family who wishes to utilize the nursery can continue to do so.

Rubber Ducks Game and Fireworks, Saturday, August 23rd First Pitch is set for 6:05*

**Note this out of the ordinary start time!*

Once again FCC Stow will spend a summer evening with the Akron Rubber Ducks. This summertime tradition for our church and friends is a great opportunity to enjoy a carefree night at Canal Park watching the Rubber Ducks “*hit ‘em where they ain’t,*” and then enjoy a spectacular fireworks display after the game. And that is going to happen again this summer on Saturday, August 23rd.

Tickets are just \$15! What a bargain! A night at the ballpark and fireworks for just

twelve bucks!?! You can't even walk past the Target door-buster dollar deals for twelve bucks! Of course, if you are bringing your kids our grandkids with you then sure, things might get a little more pricy—soda-pops, hotdogs, popcorn, peanuts, Cracker Jack, Dippin Dots, and the infamous Rubber Duck bubble blower gun—but can you really put a price on making memories like that?! (Does anyone want to take the preacher's kids with them to the game?! Because the preacher might "*still be working on his sermon for Sunday*" and unable to pay for—I mean—be there to make those memories!) See Bill Dowey or contact the church office to reserve your tickets!

Pentecost Sunday

June 8th, 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!

Summer Kicked Off
At the Church Picnic!
Thank you! Thank you!

The All-Church Picnic always marks the unofficial beginning of summer! And so we want to extend a special thanks to the Membership Team for getting summer started—and getting it started with a wonderful picnic filled with food, fellowship, and some wildly entertaining cornhole play! And special thanks to all of

you who came out for the picnic and shared a dish or two for the bountiful feast that was shared by all!

Summer Worship Hours Start May 26th!

First Service 8:30—Coffee Fellowship
9:30—Second Service 10:00

Summer worship hours have begun! And that means first service will happen at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel, and second service will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Please note that there will be coffee, and maybe a few treats—after first service and before between services so that we can say hello and have a bit of fellowship time with those who just came from first service and those getting set to head into second service. This coffee fellowship, as usual, will be held in our Library and will offer a special opportunity for folks from the two services to see and greet one another. And then, because it just kind of organically happens, Coffee Fellowship will still happen after second service as well.

Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast!!

Friday, July 4th, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Wait, when is the 4th of July Breakfast?

If this event is not on automatic recurrence in your phone for every 4th of July until Jesus returns, then why not?! In Stow, Ohio, what is the 4th of July without a giant parade, hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream, sparklers, fireworks and PANCAKES! It's an incomplete 4th of July, that's what it is!

This 4th of July we will again throw open the doors of the church and welcome into our building hundreds of people from the community who will come to indulge upon the tasty, all-you-care-to-eat pancakes, along with breakfast sausage, and **REAL** maple

syrup—not that fake stuff! (Except for the sugar free syrup we offer for those guests who need it, that stuff is tasty too!)

This of course will require many volunteers to serve in numerous roles! Please consider how you can help support this time-honored 4th of July Stow event! One great way is to invite your friends and neighbors! Invite your co-workers and even the people who walk their dog past your house every day because we don't want anyone to have an incomplete 4th of July!

Oh, and one more thing! Do you know our church offers HALF PRICE admission to the Pancake Breakfast for all those who participate in the Firecracker Run?! It's true! Coupons are in the runners packet. Because who doesn't want to crush some pancakes smothered in butter and syrup after running four miles!?!? Sign ups for positions are available in the gathering area pulpit, or at the sign-up genius here!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA8AD2BA7F9C70-57221572-4thofjuly>

Youth Group Summertime Gatherings
Time and Place TBD—But trust us! You won't want to miss out!

Youth Sunday has come and gone, and now schools out for the summer. And while the Youth Group does take a bit of a respite for the summer, there is still plans in the works for our “youts” to gather together for some good old-fashioned summertime fun. This might just include one of our notorious putt-putt outings where everyone leaves crying because once again no one can beat Jonathan. Perhaps we will spend an afternoon “floating” the mighty Cuyahoga River...or at least the part of it that mildly meanders for a mile or so. Or maybe a church family will graciously invite us to come to their house and enjoy a dip in their

swimming pool. You just never know what will be put into the works for these summertime Youth Group Gatherings so keep your eyes peeled for information about them that will be forthcoming very soon!

Summer Camps and Conferences at Camp Christian!

This summer four students from our church family will be attending camps at Camp Christian, along with one adult who will be an Assistant Director at a camp. Ava Lazor, Violet Rumburg, and Abby Artl will be attending Chi Rho Camp Emmaus, June 29th to July 5th. And A.J. and Jonathan Rumburg will be attending Ribbit Camp, June 29th to July 2nd.

Ribbit Camp is a three-day camp for grades 2-5. Otter Camp is a weeklong camp for students 3rd-5th grades. And there are two Chi Rho Camps for grades 6th-8th, each a weeklong from Sunday to Saturday. And then there is a weeklong camp for CYF Conference that is for those who have completed grades 9th-12th. See the Christian Church in Ohio website for specific dates for each camp.

All camps are lead and supervised by a Director, Assistant Directors, Counselors, and a Camp Staff. Youth from across the state come for an unforgettable time that includes bible study and evening worship at the hallowed Vespers spot, but also hiking, boating, fishing, swimming and more fun and games than you might think a church camp would have. (Did you know Jonathan more than once jumped in the lake, which at the time may or may not have been against Camp rules! Camp is also where he go his call to go into ministry!) Plus, there are nightly activities that include the incredibly fun Ho-Down, Skit-Night, Talent Show, Dance, and Banquet.

Camp Christian, just two hours from Stow, has been an unforgettable place for spiritual development, friendships, and fun for countless youth of our church across the decades, and we know it can be for you too! Any and all Youth who want to attend Camp, regardless of ability to pay for the registration fee, can attend the camp of their choice as scholarships are available through our church as well as the Regional Church Office.

With dedicated counselors, campers will be led through a week-long Christian experience in which, through classes, workshops, and organized play, they will strengthen their knowledge, deepen their faith, and build everlasting friendships. Each camp is deeply rooted with wonderful traditions, but all have the same goal—strengthening our faith in Jesus.

Christmas Outreach in July!

An Outreach Team Idea To Make Sure Christmas in December is Very Merry!

Many people think our Christmas Ingathering is only for a few weeks in December but it's already on the minds of our church's Outreach Team! What we were discussing was the food collection we do for the families in December. Last year we were short many items so we are having a "Christmas in July" campaign. We are going to be targeting food items that often get overlooked. We are asking for boxed potatoes, canned tuna or chicken, canned soup, pudding and Jello-cups and graham crackers. (Please check expiration dates so they are in 2026.) Of course, we would be happy to accept donations earmarked for Christmas Ingathering 2025!

Graduate Recognition

We invite anyone who would like their high school or college graduation recognized by their church family to send information about your graduation - name, school, degree, along with some information about what might be coming next for you. Please email this information to christianed@firstchristianstow.org.

Vacation Bible School 2025: Road Trip! **Sunday July 13 - Thursday July 17, 6-8pm**

All children age 3 – 5th grade are invited to Road Trip VBS, where we will be On the Go with God! This Road Trip includes amazing science, creative crafts, fun recreation, delicious snacks and memorable Bible stories along the way. Travelers will learn that God is always with us as we share the good news of Jesus with the world. Our adventure runs from Sunday July 13 through Thursday July 17, 6-8pm each evening. Register at www.fccstow.org/vbs

VBS Volunteers Needed: Join us "On the Go with God!" for our Road Trip!
Sign up in the Gathering Area or talk to Anna or Richelle for opportunities to serve, lead and have fun with us at Road Trip VBS!

Loaves & Fishes + Pantry **June 15th, 4-6 p.m.**

We're happy to report that the sliders were a hit this month! Thanks to crew and new that made the meal happen!

June 15th we will serve hot dogs. The meal is 4-6p.m. The third Sunday is always Father's Day so will be a little short on help. Any extra hands will be appreciated!

Loaves & Fishes + Pantry May Recap

Our Loaves & Fishes + Pantry showed an increase over April. We served 45 families both a hot meal of Sliders & Sides and a selection of shelf stable food items. As always, the paper towels and toilet paper donated by our members proved to be the most popular items.

A breakdown of the families we served reveals that 10 live in Portage County with the remaining 35 in Summit County. 19 families live in the 44224 (Stow) zip code. Cuyahoga Falls and Tallmadge had 5 families each, with the remainder spread over eastern and northern Summit County from Northfield to Akron.

So far this year we've served 35 separate families for the first time, which represents 20% of total families served. During all 2024 we served 54 separate families for the first time, which comes out to 12% of total families served.

During January through May of 2024 we served 195 families. So far this year we've served 197 families. This is sort of a good news/bad news situation. The increase in new families with steady total numbers indicates that some families no longer need our services (good!) but more new families need our services (bad!).

Regardless, this is an important outreach of our church and everyone should be proud of providing this outreach.

Mission Trip 2025: Return to Mayfield June 22nd-28th, Sign Ups Still Available

We are returning to Mayfield, Kentucky for the last week of June, for another great week of restoration, fellowship, and service! Sign ups are available through the end of THIS WEEK! If you're still interested, or have questions, we have plenty of room for more volunteers, but we need your registration made by June 13th AT THE LATEST!

You can hear more about our Mission Trip from last year's volunteers, Jonathan, Christian, Ann & Joe Halpin, or Barb Bell, or hear from them last year as well! See the YouTube link below to hear the testimonials from this life-changing and eye-opening experience.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xM1JvEYFOcU&t=1523s>

While it's difficult to face the tragedy that has struck Mayfield, or any other town receiving assistance from Long-Term Recovery operations like Week of Compassion, it is all the more meaningful for those who attend the mission trip and have those stories to share. Volunteers can expect to meet incredible people, from survivors, like Maimie, who we met last year, to the plethora of other committed and sacrificing givers, who have decided to give their time to this effort.

There's also a great number of opportunities for anyone interested in the locale to visit as well. We will be staying closer to Mayfield this year, but Paducah, the nearest downtown area, is not far from our stay.

There's plenty to do, along their riverwalk, and many historic places to visit.

If you have felt the call to attend a mission this summer, please contact the church office. This trip welcomes all manner of ability, and youth 16 or older are able to attend.

**Thoughts and Memories of
First Christian Church
From Betty Lappin**

Tammie Menke, one of the members of the Stow Historical Society, thought of reaching out to Betty Lappin for some of her thoughts and memories about First Christian Church of Stow as our oldest members! Below are some of the thoughts she shared as they talked about the church

Betty Lappin first went to the original First Christian Church with her family. She took piano lessons from Jeanette Spaght. Around her teenage years she began playing the organ when the organist, Jeanette Gregory, retired upon getting married. Her Dad would take her to church to practice. Betty played the organ for the church during services, and special occasions for many years until she had her own boys. She can recall when they moved the new organ into the church.

She and her husband Harley Lappin raised their family in First Christian Church. Four boys, Don, Dick, Dutch, and Jeff. She has many fond memories and special friends that she keeps in touch with.

We're all incredibly grateful for our church family, who've faithfully served Stow and First Christian Church for so many years.

**Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors
School Supply Drive
July 1st – July 18th**

Good Neighbors will be providing supply-filled backpacks to local students-in-need, but they need your help! School supplies needed include:

Thick markers (10-pack)
Thin Markers (10-pack)

Glue Sticks (2-pack)
Black Pens (10-pack, BIC)
Blue Pens (10-pack, BIC)
Red Pens (10-pack, BIC)
Dry Erase Markers
College Ruled & Wide Ruled Loose Paper
Yellow Highlighters
College Ruled & Wide Ruled Spiral Notebooks

**Disciples Hall Yoga Class
Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

Correction: The starting time for Yoga is 5:45 p.m. on Wednesdays! Your donations for admission participate in and provide for various outreach programs throughout the church, including Bulldog bags, Week of Compassion, and our Loaves & Fishes + Pantry Outreach program.

Yoga is for Every Body and Everybody!

**Bodysculpting Classes
Mondays, 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.**

The next 8 week session of Bodysculpting starts Monday, April 28 in the multipurpose room off the preschool hallway.

The class meets Mondays from 5:30-6:30pm. Anyone is welcome to take a complimentary class to see what it's all about. Bring your own set of dumbbells, a mat for floor work and water bottle. For more information, contact Sandy Haskell at sjhaskell63@gmail.com.

“Body Sculpting™ is a strength training workout to help tone the body without building muscular size or bulk. Using a set of 5-pound dumbbells (or whatever weight you're comfortable with), Body Sculpting™ is designed to help retain lean muscle tissue

while boosting metabolism. Body Sculpting™ also helps to increase bone density aiding in the prevention of the development of osteoporosis.”

Poodle Skirts & Promise
A 1950s Benefit for Family Promise
Sept. 4th, Save the Date!

Make sure you mark your calendars for a RETRO GOOD TIME! This event will feature Music, an Auction, a Raffle, Great Food, and Fun Photo Ops with Vintage Automobiles! More details will be posted when received from Family Promise.

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/>

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=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR0541QapPKOBc64o_K65o8GByuaHP_L9OQP87vGqzvBMQgnBjR76_cWa2Mk_aem_wNEeThG-RPFaCl_ArtwAjg

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.

Think – Pray – Connect
Families from March

05/04/25

Richard Sellers & Family

1925 Hawthorne, Stow OH 44224

Please send condolences, encouragement, and support to the family of Richard Sellers. Sharon Sellers died into the arms of her Savior on Monday. Please keep them in your prayers as they grieve their loss of Sharon and make memorial arrangements. Details about services will be coming soon.

05/11/25

Richard Sellers & Family

1925 Hawthorne, Stow OH 44224

Please send condolences, encouragement, and support to the family of Richard Sellers. Sharon Sellers died into the arms of her Savior last week. Please keep them in your prayers as they grieve their loss of Sharon.

05/18/25

Beth & Randy Weiser

4048 Westminster Ln, Stow OH 44224

Please send condolences and support to the family of Beth & Randy Weiser. Joy Kasserman, Beth's Mother, died suddenly on Saturday, April 26th. Please keep Beth, Randy, and their daughters, Megan and Katie, in your prayers during this time.

05/25/25

Chuck & Janice Kobb

4760 Gate Post Lane, Kent OH 44240
Please send congratulations and well-wishes to Chuck in appreciation of his time here at First Christian Church of Stow, and wish them well as they open a new chapter of life. Thanks to Chuck & Janice for everything they've done here!

06/01/25

John & Janice McCreight

453 Swank Dr., Tallmadge OH 44278-1509

Ott Electrical Service

4191 Karg Industrial Pkwy, Kent, OH 44240

Many, many thanks to John McCreight for organizing the work of restoring the Chapel, and thanks to Joe Ott & company for restoring the lights!

06/08/25

**The Family of
Joan Alkyer**

3068 Kent Road 506C,
Stow OH 44224-4457

Please send condolences & support to the family of Joan Alkyer, in light of Joan's passing on May 30th.