



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

PATHWAYS NOVEMBER 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!

Christmas In-Gathering Outreach Benefit Luncheon!

Sunday, November 2nd, 11:30 a.m. (Or just as soon as Jonathan gets done preaching!)

As our Outreach Team gets set to lead us through another year of this important and far-reaching Christmas outreach program, they are inviting your support by EATING LUNCH!

Make plans to join in this benefit! Invite your family and friends!

All for the incredible price of FREE! Look for more details inside this issue of the Pathways for how you can get involved!

Get Out the Vote!

Tuesday, November 4th

Your vote is your voice! It is your voice on issues affecting our state, community, housing, education, employment, and healthcare. Help make a difference and help make your voice heard because by not voting your voice isn't heard!

All Church Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 23rd, 11:30 a.m.

Are you feeling lucky?! You should be, because on Sunday, November 23rd all are invited to be part of a special Thanksgiving time of worship during both services, followed by our church's annual **Thanksgiving Pot-Luck Dinner!** See inside for more details about how you can be part of this long time First Christian tradition!

Loaves and Fishes Plus Pantry

The November Loaves & Fishes free dinner, plus pantry, will be Sunday, November 16th from 4-6 p.m. And you guessed it, a Thanksgiving Dinner that can't be beat even by Alice's Restaurant will be the menu fare served. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated!

Governing Board

Monday, November 10th

The Governing Board will meet on Monday, November 10th at 7 p.m. in-person at the church. This meeting will include voting on the proposed 2026 church budget. All Governing Board members are needed for this important meeting.

Bonus! There will be no Governing Board in December!

Christmas In-Gathering Outreach Benefit Luncheon!

Sunday, November 2nd, 11:30 a.m. (Or just as soon as Jonathan gets done preaching!)

As our Outreach Team gets set to lead us through another year of this important and far-reaching Christmas outreach program, they are inviting your support by EATING LUNCH! Yep, that's all you gotta do! Come eat lunch that is being provided and prepared by the staff of the world-famous Mike's Place of Kent! (Sorry, the X-Wing star fighter will remain at the restaurant.)

The luncheon that will feature artfully prepared grilled sausage sandwiches with peppers and onions, Italian wedding soup, gouda macaroni and cheese, along with other savory sides! All for the incredible price of FREE!

And we know what you're thinking! "*How can it be free if it's a fundraising benefit!?*" Great question! It's free to all who come and a "Free-Will" offering will be collected with 100% of those gifts going toward our Christmas In-Gathering Outreach program!

Can you think of any better way to serve families in our community and help make their Christmas merry and bright and filled with the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus Christ than by having lunch!?! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

"Devoted to Generosity" Consecration Campaign Concludes

We have heard our narrative budget, we have been made aware of the impact our annual giving has not just within our church, but beyond our walls as well; and we have heard the divine mandate that "*the righteous live by their faith.*" All of it has been part of the faithful encouragement to continue to do the good and faithful ministry God has called us to do, and to continue to be a church devoted to generosity by being the *difference makers* God calls us to be. That is our aim for 2026.

On the last Sunday of October, we concluded our 2026 *Devoted to Generosity* consecration campaign through the making of our estimated pledge of giving for next year. As living expressions of God's generosity may our pledge to God be in response to all God has given us.

If you were unable to be in either worship service on that Sunday, there is still time to get your

estimate of giving card in. You can drop it off any time at the church office or even just drop it in the mailbox by the upper doors, as all mail drops down in a secure lower section and only retrieved by church staff. Or you can submit your pledge card online via our church website.

Together we are witnesses to the abundant life we know in Jesus Christ. May our giving be an act of joy, generosity, and faithfulness to all God has done, and continues to do for us.

Taking Food Items for Ingathering Outreach Begins November 2nd

Ingathering will begin on Sunday, November 2nd, till December 14th. Several items have been replaced with new items such as shelf-stable boxed milk, Graham crackers, laundry detergent, hand soap, and hair shampoo. Lists will be available in the Gathering area. This year may be quite challenging for the families we serve. A cart will be in the Gathering area for your generous donations.

Thank you
Outreach committee

Advent Study and Reflection A Sunday School Class

November 30th, December 7th, and December 14th

The season of Advent begins at the end of the month, and due to popular demand, another Sunday School opportunity will be held for three weeks of the Advent season. Content and focus for this class is still being crafted and organized so more information about specifics will be forthcoming, but do make plans now to make this class part of your Christmas preparation during the season of Advent.

These three sessions will be led by Jonathan, in the Our Classroom, and will begin promptly at 9:25 a.m. and conclude at 10:00.

All Church Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, November 23rd, 11:30 a.m.

On Sunday, November 23rd, all are invited to be part of a special Thanksgiving time of worship during both services, followed by the return of our church's **Thanksgiving Pot-Luck Dinner!** Please remember to bring your own place setting, to alleviate costs, and if able, bring a side dish or two

for others to fill out the feast. The committee will be preparing the turkey, gravy, and mashed potatoes (AND THANKS TO THEM FOR THAT!)

Thanksgiving is a blessed time to share in a bountiful meal and robust fellowship with our families. So let us do the same as a church family and mark our calendars for this special day of worship to celebrate all we have to give thanks for, and to give glory, honor, and praise to the One who has made it all possible. Thanks be to God. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!!

All Saints Sunday
November 2nd

On the first Sunday of November, we come together to celebrate All Saints Sunday—a special occasion that invites us to reflect on the lives of those who have walked in faith before us. This day is a poignant reminder of the communion of saints, uniting us with loved ones who have passed on and honoring the legacy they left behind.

All Saints Sunday, celebrated on the first Sunday after All Saints Day (November 1), is a time for remembrance and gratitude. It originated in the early Church to honor all saints, known and unknown, who have exemplified Christ's love and teachings. On this day, we not only remember the saints of old but also our own dear family members, friends, and church family who have moved from this life to life eternal.

During our worship service, we will read the names of those from our congregation who have gone to be with the Lord in the past year. Their contributions to our community and their steadfast faith continue to inspire us, so let us come to celebrate their memory, and let us take this opportunity to reflect on our own journeys of faith by asking: What does it mean to be a saint in today's world? How can we carry forward the lessons of those who have inspired us?

Come ready to celebrate through hymns, prayers, and heartfelt sharing as we honor the saints who have gone before us and commit ourselves to live out our faith in their memory. And may this All Saints Sunday deepen our appreciation for the richness of our shared faith and encourage us to continue the work of love and service in the world.

Summits Arts & Craft Holiday Market
Nov, 8th (9a.m. – 4 p.m.)

& 9th (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

There's a new event coming to our church! JG Promotions is hosting the Holiday Market here next month! If you're interested in hosting a table for crafts, art, or as a vendor, please contact Sheena at 330-604-5116. They grew out of their previous location, so please consider checking out this new-to-us event!

ALL CHURCH WORKDAY:
Leaf Pickup
November 8th, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Contact the church office! We need many hands to clean up the green spaces for winter! Raking, tarping, and vacuuming!

Peter Pan Jr.!
Presented by the students of
Kimpton Middle School
November 14, 15, and 16

Peter Pan is one of the most beloved and frequently performed family favorites of all time. And this high-flying Tony Award-winning musical that has been performed around the world and delighted audiences for 60 years has now been adapted for the young thespians at Kimpton Middle School—which will include three students from our church family! Make plans to come and see Ava Lazor, Elizabeth Aukeman, Violet Rumburg and the entire cast and crew bring this perfect show for the child in all of us and relive the dream of soaring high and never growing up! See Julie Rumburg for ticket information.

Loaves & Fishes + Pantry
November 16th, 4-6 p.m.

The November drive thru meal is November 16- 4-6p.m. We are serving turkey with some yummy sides. Thanks in advance for the people making turkeys!

Loaves & Fishes + Pantry October Recap
Our most recent Loaves & Fishes + Pantry on October 19 was typical of the past few months. We

served 49 families and roughly 138 individuals. The main course of Mike's Own Shepherd's Pie™ was a big hit. The groceries we handed out including such favorites as spaghetti sauce and pasta, peanut butter & jelly, chicken chili, cold cereal, chips, canned veggies, tomato soup, bread, Entenmanns plus the ever-popular paper towels and toilet paper.

As of this writing SNAP funding for November is uncertain. If funding is not secured we can expect a greater number of families coming to us for help.

We'll be ready.

Music Notes *from Ralph and Cheryl*

We're loving getting back into the life of the community that is First Christian Church! We're remembering traditional ways of doing music here, and exploring how to do music better than ever... appreciating the gifts of long-time members and discovering the gifts of newer members and children who are growing into faithful youth...

This is music at First Christian Church:

Chancel Choir: Thursdays 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Spiritus: Rehearsals vary.

Joy Bells: Thursdays 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Joyful Noise: Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Resurrection Brass: Rehearsals vary.

The Way, our worship band. Rehearsals are as needed.

Youth Bells: most Sundays, right after worship, in the balcony.

Grace Notes: Sundays 10:15-10:30 a.m.

Children's Choir: Sundays after the Children's Message.

Silent Praise: as needed, occasional Sundays after worship.

Maybe your gift—a necessary gift—is completing the cycle of music (composing and performing) by listening, worshiping, appreciating, and praying for all of us. But if you've ever thought you'd like to try singing in Choir, playing handbells or another instrument, or signing, now is a great time to try it out. We're starting to rehearse inspiring (and fun) music for Thanksgiving Sunday, Advent, and Christmas. Whatever your age or skill level, if you're interested, talk with Ralph and Cheryl; Cora Dowey (children's and youth choirs); Barb Eppley

(beginning/intermediate handbells); or Scott Haywood (brass ensemble).

Something to look forward to: In morning worship on Sunday, December 21 (the fourth Sunday of Advent), all the groups will celebrate a Service of Lessons and Carols.

Food Insecurity and The Government Shutdown

The ongoing government shutdown has resulted in a potential lack of funding for WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Program) and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

The Akron Canton Regional Food Bank (ACRFB) and its associated network partners (including our own Loaves & Fishes + Pantry) are working on helping to alleviate food insecurity amongst those who rely on WIC and SNAP.

If you know someone with food insecurity and is looking for help please direct them as follows:

Go to the ACRFB website at <https://www.akroncantonfoodbank.org/> and click on the 'Find Help' link. That leads to a page where one can search for nearby food pantries.

Anyone you may know with questions about their WIC benefits should contact their Ohio WIC Agency.

The local Ohio offices of Jobs & Family Services will have the latest information regarding SNAP funding.

A Thanks from Bulldog Boxes

First Christian Church Missions:

Thank you so much for being such a strong supporter of Bulldog Bags and Bulldog Boxes. You do so much for both programs by providing space for boxes and donations of items for our boxes during the school year as well as feeding the community!

Thank you for following Jesus' example.

Bulldog Boxes Inc.

Bulldog Bags Collections **2025-2026 School Year**

We're collecting items for Bulldog Bags again! Please see the list below for the WHOLE School year! We can't take items too early, but if you can plan ahead, please do. Additionally, please note: **NO NUTS IN ANY PRODUCTS**. If you can, check to make sure what you're providing doesn't have any nut/tree nut additives. Thanks to all for your contributions!

Box for donations can be found in the Gathering Area!

<u>Due</u>	<u>Items Needed</u>
12/7	Hot Chocolate Packets
1/11	Ramen Noodles
2/8	Deodorant (Travel Size)
3/8	Pudding Cups
5/10	Shampoo (Travel Size)

Acme Community Cash Back **Cash Back is BACK! Aug 1 – Feb 15**

We can't believe it either, but it's once again time to save those Acme receipts! The 2025-2026 Cash Back campaign begins August 1st and runs through February 15th, 2026. As in years past, the money we make helps support our blanket fund. This year, we need the support of this program more than ever, so please remember to put your receipts in the collection box in the Gathering Area. It's an easy way to support a great cause!

Congregational Meeting **Sunday, December 7th**

The Stewardship Team wants to inform the congregation there will be a Congregational meeting on Sunday, December 7th following the 10:30 worship service. This meeting will be to vote on the 2026 budget. Please make plans to attend this important meeting. Copies of the proposed budget will be available in the church office after the November Governing Board meeting.

Church Service Announcements **Recorded Announcements for Church**

Don't forget! For folks who really need to get the word out, we offer pre-recorded Church Service Announcements! CSA's (Both as "Church Service" Announcements, but also "church SERVICE" announcements), will be played after prelude, right before Jonathan opens up our service. We will be recording 15-30 second announcement videos that we will run on Sunday Morning. If you run an outreach opportunity or have an event coming up, we can even provide On-Location recording of where your service or event will take place! Contact fcestow@firstchristianstow.org for Christian or Jonathan to sign up for your CSA before your next church event!

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!

Halloween Costume Drive Success!

Thank you for your Halloween costume donations! With your help, my employer was able to collect and donate 83 costumes this year! The donations were given to Access and Hope & Healing. Both organizations were so grateful to provide free costumes to children of all ages. Looking forward to next year! - Julie

Youth Schedule For Oct-Dec. 2025

11/9/25
Making dinners for the Women's Shelter
11/23/25
Thanksgiving Potluck / Décor for Christmas
11/30/25
Target Shopping for Ingathering?
12/07/25
Target Shopping for Ingathering?
12/14/25

Gift Wrapping for Ingathering!

Think – Pray – Connect
Families from August

10/05/25

John & Lynn Fauvie

2669 Northland St. Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221
Please join us in praying for and sending condolences to John & Lynn Fauvie, as Jim Fauvie, their brother and brother-in-law passed earlier this week into the arms of the Lord.

10/12/25

Dave & Dorothy Robinson

3555 Marsh Rd. #312, Stow OH 44224
Please join us in praying for and sending encouragement to Dave, who had a bad fall this past week alongside a viral infection. Please pray for peace and stability through the healing and recovery process!

10/17/25

Jan and Gene Loch

827 Jennifer Trail, Tallmadge OH 44278

The Lochs both have birthdays between last weekend and this one! Join us in sending them some special birthday wishes!

10/26/25

Bill & Cora Dowey

1947 Hawthorne, Stow OH 44224
Please keep Bill in your prayers for his recovery since having surgery on his Achilles tendon earlier this month.

10/26/25

Lynn & Mona Scott

4187 Vira Road, Stow OH 44224
Please keep Mona and Lynn in your prayers, as Mona is sick with COVID, and Lynn is recovering from it as well.

Clark Aurand & Family

Box 1704, Stow OH 44224
Ed Aurand, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and great-great-grandfather died on Monday, October 27th.