

THE FIRST WORD



First Christian Church

Vol. 24

August 2019

From your Pastor

Dear Members and Friends,

Have you ever had your mind changed? Have you ever looked at someone, and were certain, because of your first impression, that you knew everything about them?

You know what I mean. The new neighbor who plays music too loud. Or maybe the “irritating” waitress at your favorite restaurant. But then something happens, and everything you thought you knew gets turned upside down. The neighbor comes over and helps you shovel out your driveway. The waitress brings you a dessert as a thanks for always being kind to her. I think we all have our own stories of how we really misread our neighbor.

In the book of John, Jesus says, “I am The Good Shepherd; I know my sheep, and my sheep know me.” This, along with many other often used sayings, give us a picture of Jesus. But is this picture complete or is it our own preconceived idea in comparison with what The Bible teaches?

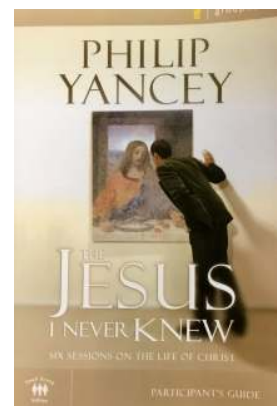
Years ago, I read a book by Philip Yancey that changed the way I see Jesus. For most of my life, I saw Him as a kind, loving, and soft-spoken Savior. (And truly He is.) However, upon reading this book, as well as the scriptures, what emerged was a whole new dimension of Jesus. I was challenged to see Jesus as the Bible presents Him - not only loving, but a Savior who is brilliant, creative, crafty, challenging, fearless, compassionate, and completely unpredictable.

To my surprise I discovered that there is a 6 week Bible study based on Mr. Yancey’s book. I am pleased to announce that starting Tuesday, September 10th, at either 10am, or 6pm, we will begin this eye opening study. I encourage you to attend, and of course bring a neighbor, and together let’s discover “The Jesus I Never Knew.”

In His Peace,

Rich

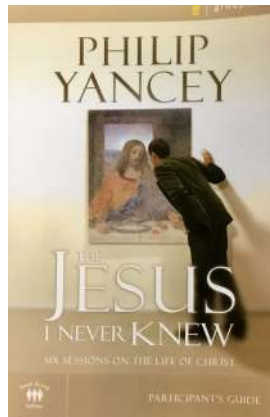
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Aug. 25 Outdoor Worship & potluck lunch
Aug. 31 Host for Cross Country bus drivers
Sept. 1 Belmont Tower Service 2:00
Sept. 10 Fall Bible Study (10:00 or 6:00)

Our study "The Jesus I Never Knew", by Philip Yancey, starts September 10th, 10 a.m. or 6 p.m. Study guide is \$10.00. Sign up in the gathering room or see Rich for more information. Feel free to bring a friend.



We would like to thank the Samaritan Foundation and anonymous donors for their gifts toward the purchase of a defibrillator (AED) and new first aid kit.

Please note !!



Pastor Rich has office hours on **Tuesdays - 10:00 to 2:00**. You can also call the office if you need a different time to meet with him. 419-289-7439

Just a reminder!

As a reminder, we are now locking our two doors at the south end of the church during our service on Sunday morning. You will need to use the sanctuary entrance if you arrive after 10:30.

Thank you Trustees!!

Over the past two months we have had the parking lot sealed and striped, the front yard trees trimmed, and the landscaping at the front entrance completed. Our property looks beautiful!

Give and Take

Our Random Act of Kindness is to replenish our "Give and Take" shelves of canned food and non perishable items that are needed in our community.

MORE HAPPENINGS!



Outdoor Service on Sunday the 25th. Potluck to follow. Jan Robinson is supplying Hot Dogs, Hot Chicken Sandwiches and Sloppy Joes. Please bring a dish to share. Table service and drink is provided. Bring lawn chairs and a friend or neighbor

Have you noticed it is much quieter in the kitchen? Thanks to the memorial gifts in memory of Mary Ann Welch, as well as a gift from the Bereavement committee, we were able to purchase a much needed new refrigerator.



Have you seen George zipping around the yard on our new mower? We've never seen him move so fast!!

We would like to thank George Paulsen and Ralph Wertz for the hours they spend each week keeping our property trimmed and beautiful.



Our annual "Fireworks on the Lawn" party, this past July 4th was a great success!

We had over 200 people on our front lawn celebrating the birth of our nation. We offered free parking and restrooms, water, popcorn, ice cream and plenty of "family" fun. We collected over \$300.00 in donation that went toward supplying Hygiene Kits for Church World Services disaster relief.

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***In sympathy we remember the families of Albert Zimmerman,
Marilyn Franklin and Mary Ann Welch.***



Please pray for our shut-ins and homebound

Joyce Bradley, Sherry Burns, Jane Foster, Dick Gordon, Carol Imhoff, Betty Imperio, Bernice Lambert, Jane McVey, Kate Miller, Wanda Mish, Marie Pate, Dick Scott, Wayne Smith, Gertrude & Keith Sparks, Dale Wells and Beverly Zimmerman. A visit, call or a card means so much to these members and friends who can't be with us each week.



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