

THE FIRST WORD



First Christian Church

FALL 2017

Vol. 19 No. 5

From your Pastor



Dear Members and Friends,

I recently read a devotional from Dr. David Jeremiah and I honestly thought he was writing about me. It moved me to share with you a part of my life's story as well as some of his reflections .

Years ago, I was representing one of the best manufacturing companies in the country. My life and future seemed secure and it seemed as if nothing could stop me. But then one day, the company was sold and the new owners over the next few years stripped the company of its profits, leaving a shell of what it used to be. Many nights I spent worrying about the loss of business, the loss of security, and of course the pending loss of the job I truly loved. Searching for answers, trying to make sense of "life", I turned to God's word. In 1 Kings 17, I read about how Elijah's brook dried up and the hopelessness that overcame him. However, the Lord had other plans for Him. He was led to Zarephath, where he witnessed a miracle of flour and oil that never ran out, and kept a family from starving. His brook dried up, but because he witnessed to the needs of this small family, God's gift of flour and oil overflowed. I left my position but soon found another. During that time was when God started speaking to me, moving me, encouraging me to seek Him, and ultimately bringing me into ministry, and to be with you. We must always remember that God never deserts us or leaves us stranded. So if you find that your brook seems to have dried up, somewhere He has a jar of oil and a measure of flour waiting for you. Disappointments happen, dreams crash, even our health can fail. Just remember, there is always a next step, a new blessing, and yes even grace to claim from God's guiding hand.

In His Peace,
Rich



September, 2017



Schedule

Oct 1st World Communion Sunday
 Oct 1st Belmont Tower 2:00
 Oct 1st Crop Walk 2:00
 Oct 4th After School Program begins
 Oct 8th Brian Nabor's Chamber Choir
 Oct 29th Pastor Appreciation Potluck
 Nov 5th All Saint's Day
 Nov 19th Thanksgiving Sunday



On Sunday, September 17th, Bruce Kramer and Shannon Lange from the Dale-Roy School joined us for worship. They told of the many services that are available for Ashland County and Kim Mercer presented a check to them that came from the donations at our Fourth of July Celebration.

On Sunday October 8th, Brian Nabors will bring his Shelby Chamber Choir to perform for us during worship. Please mark your calendars so you won't miss this Sunday with Brian's awesome young people. We will be taking a collection to help out the choir with the cost of new outfits.



They will have a lunch here following worship. If you can make some cookies or brownies please let me know. Thanks!

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

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AFTER SCHOOL Program

Our After School program will be starting up on Wednesday, October 4th.

There will be a sign up sheet if you would like to donate snacks for our students. We would like "good for you" snacks—not too much sugary items please! - - - See Jan Robinson for any suggestions. Thanks!

TIME CHANGE!

FALL back on Sunday

November 5th!

CROP WALK

Sunday October 1st. 2:00 at Christ United. See Dick Reich if you will walk or sponsor a walker. Please help hunger locally and world wide!!

After School Program



Beginning on October 4th we host our after school program for youth from Ashland Middle School. This is the third year that this outreach program by our church has provided a safe space for these youth to experience positive and healthy relationships with older teens and adults. The time together consists of a healthy snack, recreation, living skills, creative arts options, and homework assistance. This year **Pastor Rich, Linda Gardner, Jan Robinson, Sue Detrow and Ellie Wells** will be working with the young people. We also have volunteers from the AU Theta Phi Alpha sorority. We thank these girls for their interest in our program.

We continue to receive positive and encouraging feedback from the Middle School and their appreciation for what we are doing here. The success of this program certainly lies with the number of volunteers who have given of their time and shared their love with these kids who just desperately need someone who cares.

Our own young people, **Nate Whitmer, Alexis, Lauren & Rachel Hastings** also work with the students each week. **Nate and Peter Zimmerman** are Honor students and are available to help with homework and science projects. We also thank those who have furnished snacks each week. Feel free to stop at church on one of our Wednesday afternoons to see what is taking place and how these young lives are being impacted through this program.

If you have a project you think the young people would enjoy, please see Jan, Linda or Rich. It can be cooking, sewing or crafts. We try to offer a variety of things for them. If you are at all creative, we can use you - - even for an hour or so!

We will have a sign-up for **snacks** if you can help out there. We try to offer them fruit, cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, pizza, grilled cheese sandwiches—they are always hungry! Thanks for your interest!



We received a thank you letter from Ashland County Board of Developmental Disabilities thanking us for our donation to Dale Roy School in the amount of \$331.50. (this was what was collected at our Fourth of July Celebration).

Ministry Appreciation Month

The month of **October is **Ministry Appreciation** Month. Please remember to thank **Pastor Rich and Brian Nabors** for their ministries to our church. We will end the month with an **"Appreciation Potluck"** on **Sunday, October 29th**. More information to follow.**



What's Happening!



We received a Thank you from the staff at Safe Haven for all the donations given to the shelter by our congregation and for the generous check we also gave them back in May. Safe Haven was our 'Random Act of Kindness' for the month of May.

On May 26th we hosted two seventh grade science classes for their "Living Skills Day". The young people and their teachers were so thankful for the use of our building for this day. They cooked a meal, sewed on buttons, learned CPR, and learned banking skills. As a "thank you" each child brought an item for the Safe Haven Shelter. We also received many Thank You's from these students.



We get so many thank you's from our friends at Belmont Tower. We have a worship service the first Sunday of each month and they are always ready for us! They love Rich's message and of course love Brian when he plays the piano and leads the singing. We serve communion each visit. It is heart warming to see how happy and thankful they are. You might want to come and join us some Sunday and feel the love!



On Sunday, June 18th Rich Pate was installed as our Pastor. Rev Stephen Bentley from the Region was here to make this official! Many of Rich's family and friends were here to celebrate with us. A reception followed the service.

Pastor Rich is a Godsend here at First Christian. It has been a year now since he answered our call and we are indeed blessed to have him as our pastor. Our thanks and love to Rich and Donita!



BIRTHDAYS



Oct 1 Ryann Hastings	Nov 7 Ada Sue Workman	
Oct 6 Seth Shakley	Nov 9 John Whitmer	
Oct 8 Fern Snook	Nov 17 Dick Gordon	
Oct 17 Jennifer Burns	Nov 18 Kevin Repp	
Oct 20 Wayne Smith	Nov 21 Jim Detrow	
Oct 23 Jan Robinson	Nov 24 Alice Baker	Dec 7 Adam Bell
Oct 23 Sara Stewart	Nov 26 Frances Rasmussen	Dec 18 Lauren Scott
Nov 3 Ryan Dull	Nov 30 Shawn Brady	Dec 23 Katelyn Komendera
Nov 5 Marilyn Franklin	Dec 5 Jane McVey	Dec 31 Bob McCormic

We have been doing “**Random Acts of Kindness**” each month. For the month of September we will be collecting items for Garry Burgett and his fellow soldiers who have recently been deployed. We hope to have 30 care packages to send to these soldiers. There are certain items that are allowed and need to be in individual packages. Instant Coffee, Individual Drink Mixes, Condiment packages, Small Foot Powder, Black Socks, Tuna (in the envelopes), Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, Spam, Canned Chicken (small cans), nuts, Granola Bars w/protein, Multivitamins w/Extra C, Cough Drops and/or C Drops, Lip Balm w/sunscreen, Small or Travel size Body Wash, Dude Wipes or Travel Size Wipes, Magazines, Crossword, Newspapers. The small cans with lift tops are the best and other items need to be individually wrapped and sealed.

Garry’s address is: PV2 Garry Burgett

BCD, 317 BEB

3—10 MTN DIV
Q West

APO AE 09351



We know Garry would appreciate cards or letters from people in our congregation.



Our Christian love and sympathy is extended to:

*Jean Hignett and her family in the loss of her sister, **Joan Hignett** whose service was here at the church on September 2nd.*

*The family of **Joann Byers** whose service was here at the church on September 23rd.*

*Jana Williams and family in the loss of her daughter, **Jamie Williams**. Her service was here at the church on August 22nd.*

*The family of **June Ingram** who passed in July. Her service was here at the church on July 8th.*

*To Chuck Case and his son in the loss of his wife, **Sandra**. Sandy's service was here at the church on June 27th.*

*To the family of **Robert Beverly** who passed on May 29th. His service was at Heyl Funeral on June 1st.*

*To the family of **Stefan Andrew** who passed on July 26, 2016. His service was at Denbow-Gashe Funeral Home on May 6th.*

*To Donita Pate and family in the loss of her father, **Freeman Harper** who passed on May 6th. His service was held at Christ United Methodist on May 6th.*

*To the family of **Bill and Janet Jones**. Bill passed on March 29th and Janet passed on May 1st.*



**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

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