

THE FIRST WORD



First Christian Church
Vol. 23

Lent and Easter 2019

From your Pastor

Dear Members and Friends,

It's hard to believe we are fast approaching the season of Lent. It seems like our Christmas Eve Service was just last week. Then we were opening gifts from one another, giving gifts to our shut-ins, as well as an out pouring of gifts given with love to those less fortunate than us. I hope you agree with me that our little congregation truly reached out and made a wonderful difference in many lives this Christmas. I also hope you felt the impact of the greatest gift ever given to the world. For you see, God loves us so much that He gave us His Son.

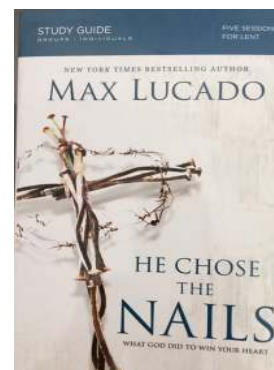
Every gift from God reveals His love for us. Jesus His Son, as an ultimate gift, reveals his love for us by the gift of the cross.

Starting on Tuesday March 12th, we will begin a Lenten Bible study entitled "He Chose the Nails". This five week study by Max Lucado, explores the many gifts that Christ provided for us at His crucifixion. Gifts that impact our lives, and gifts that set us free.

Please prayerfully consider joining us on this very special journey in March. Perhaps as we do, we will hear Him whisper, "I did all this, just for you."

In His peace,
Rich

February 2019



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 3	Baby Bottle Campaign
March 6	Ash Wed Service 7:00 p.m.
March 10	Daylight Savings!
March 12	Tuesday Lent Bible Study 10:30 or 6:00 p.m.
April 14	Palm Sunday
April 18	Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.
April 21	Easter Sunday Service 10:30 Breakfast 9:30

In lieu of Easter Flowers

This year our "In Memory of or Honor of" donations will be put toward the landscaping of the main entrance of our church building and the repaving of the parking lot. These forms will be available by the end of March. If you don't have a form, you can just send a check to the church with "landscape" on it and whom you would like to be remembered or honored. The donation list will be included in our Easter Sunday bulletin.



FCC Pavilion

Our beautiful pavilion is available for parties and family gatherings. For information, rental fees, etc. Please contact Shelley Carpenter through the church office. (419-289-7439) Please leave a message and we will get back to you!

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

AFTER SCHOOL Program

Our After School program is in full swing. It is both challenging and rewarding. We have 12 students this year. Please keep our program in your prayers! Watch for a sign up sheet for snacks!

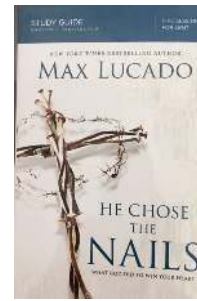
Just a reminder!

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.



Daylight savings begins on March 10th. Please remember to 'Spring Forward' !

“Lent” **BIBLE STUDY**



Starting Tuesday, March 12th at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. we will have a 5 week study entitled “He Chose the Nails” by Max Lucado. The cost of the study guide is \$8.00. Each study is approximately 90 minutes, including time for lunch or supper. Contact Rich to reserve your place — and bring a “brown bag” and a friend!

Baby Bottle Campaign



For our “Random Act of Kindness” in the month of March and April, we will again be participating in the ‘Baby Bottle Campaign’ with the Ashland Pregnancy and Care Center. The bottles will be available on Sunday, March 3rd and are to be filled with your loose change and returned on Easter Sunday.

THANK YOU !

Our shut-in and homebound members are thankful for the outpouring of Valentine cards they have received. Thank you for your response in sending out these cards. We also received many thank you calls and notes for the remembrance bags they received at Christmas. Let us remember them, not only at holidays, but year round! Thanks!



We also thank Shawn Brady for working on the sanctuary entrance and back of our building for his Eagle Scout project. Congratulations to you Shawn for achieving that Eagle Scout award. Shawn also assists with our After School program.



Dear Church Family,

I’m extending a heartfelt thank you for your prayers and cards and especially your love, encouragement and support while I was “off my foot” for 10 weeks following surgery. Support became very important in so many ways. Thank you for supporting Rich as he was “literally” supporting me. It meant so much to both of us.

God Bless you all.

Donita Pate



What's Happening!!

We are always doing something worthwhile in the community.
Your response is greatly appreciated!

We continue our worship services the first Sunday of each month at Belmont Tower. We are now meeting in the Chapel of the new addition. The residents love Rich's message and of course love Brian as he plays the piano and leads the singing. Communion is served at each visit. It is heart warming to see how happy, blessed and **thankful** they are. You might want to come and join us some Sunday and feel this **love!**



www.firstchristianashland.org

If you haven't checked out our website firstchristianashland.org in awhile, we have worked with Spire Advertising to update the website so that it is easier to view on tablets and mobile devices. In addition, there will be an option to give offering/donations through PayPal or credit/debit card. Also soon, you will be able to listen to messages and music. Do visit and let us know what you think. We thank Sue Detrow, our webmaster, for all the work she does.

CHURCH FINANCES!



Thanks for your continued financial support of the church. We are meeting our budget requirements. Over the past year we have reached out to many different ministries and agencies in our community with our time, talents, and resources. A "Mortgage Reduction" gift is a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one. If you would care to make a donation, please see Kim Mercer or simply mark your check 'mortgage reduction'. We give praise and thanks to God as we share in His unending bounty with all His creation.

BIRTHDAYS



March 6 Nancy Steigerwalt

March 9 Sue Detrow

March 22 Miriam Brady

March 22 Carol Wertz

March 25 Randy Gearhart

March 26 Garry Burgett

March 27 David Bell

March 27 Ellie Wells

March 31 Kim Mercer

March 31 Stephanie Frymier

April 4 Stephanie Brown

April 4 Bill Jackson

April 9 Garry Burgett

April 15 Marcia Gallaway

April 20 Andrea Hinckley

April 26 Chuck Case

May 3 Mark Hinckley

May 4 Brian Nabors

May 4 Dana Scott

May 9 Sandy Bally

May 10 Arlene Whitmer

May 14 Gary Mowry

May 16 Bill Gardner

May 16 Kelly Gearhart

May 16 Alexis Hastings

May 16 Lauren Hastings

May 16 Rachel Hastings

May 16 Carol Imhoff

May 21 Dale Wells

May 24 Yvonne Kimball

May 25 Alice Metcalf

May 25 Ruth Miller

May 26 Janice Strine

May 27 Wanda Mish

May 28 Marty Mowry



After School Program



This is the fourth year of our After School Program for Middle School Students who need extra attention and care. This year we have 12 kids, which is the most we have had so far. We took them to the Tin Chandelier last month and we have more outings planned. Pastor Rich, Linda Gardner, Sue Detrow, Stephanie Brown and Ellie Wells are the leaders. Shawn Brady and Mason Smith are our student helpers who are available to help with homework. We work on trust, living skills and crafts. We can always use ideas and snacks! You are welcome to stop in on Wednesdays and see what is happening.

Scriptures for Lent and Easter

March 6 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. Joel 2: 1-12, 12-17, 21

March 10 Luke 4: 1-13 Jesus shows us the way to be, in a wicked world.

March 17 Luke 13: 31-35 Jesus' sorrow for Jerusalem.

March 24 Luke 13: 1-9 Repent or Perish.

March 31 Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32 How do you respond to the wayward who return?

April 7 John 12: 1-8 Jesus anointed

April 14 Palm Sunday Luke 19: 28-40 The triumphal entry into Jerusalem

April 18 Maundy Thursday Service Walking with Jesus to the cross through scripture and song.

April 21 Easter Sunday Luke 24: 1-12 He is Alive!

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, Dick Scott, Wayne Smith, Ferne Snook, Gertrude & Keith Sparks, Dale Wells and Al & Bev 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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Newsletter March 2019