



First Christian Church (*Disciples of Christ*)

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Rev. Lauren A. Roe, Senior Minister

Kim Paul, Director of CE, Children & Youth Ministries

**As children of God, we strive to extend radical hospitality
through worship, mission, faith formation, and community.**

WEEK OF COMPASSION: HEARD AND SEEN

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. (Phil. 4:8-9, NRSV)

A Message from WoC Executive Director

In October 2024, I found myself in Ukraine, immersed in an after-school program organized by our ecumenical partners in response to the ongoing conflict. This program served as a beacon of hope, offering Ukrainian children a chance to pursue their education against the backdrop of relentless conflict. On this particular day, the weather outside mirrored the somber realities of their lives. Inside the warm and inviting space, a miracle was unfolding. Children nestled around a table, laughter bubbling up as they decorated whimsical animal-shaped cakes, freshly baked by one of their teachers just an hour before. I joined them, my heart swelling with joy as I picked up a brush, ready to bring color to my cake alongside them. It had been far too long since I engaged in such simple pleasures, and I was immediately struck by the children's creativity.

As we decorated, I took a moment to check in with them, curious about their thoughts and feelings. Their replies struck me deeply. Each child expressed how these gatherings had become their cherished ritual, a daily escape that filled their hearts with happiness. They looked forward to the precious moments that not only provided an opportunity to see friends and familiar faces but also offered a reprieve, where the joys of painting, crafting, and camaraderie flourished amid the shadows of reality. Even as the rain continued to fall outside, within that room, a vibrant tapestry of connection and joy was taking shape. This was the work of peacemaking, the work of bringing wholeness in a fragmented world. This is work we do together, across the entire church, and with many partners.

This is the essence of Week of Compassion—the work of the church in creating sanctuaries of healing, joy, and hope in the face of trauma and devastation. For 80 years, Week of Compassion has evolved to meet new challenges, and Disciples have continued to respond to needs around the world.

Following Paul's counsel to Philippi, we recount the things we have HEARD AND SEEN (Philippians 4:8-9). The shared work of Week of Compassion matters – to people in crisis, and as people of faith. The gifts you give make an impact around the world, ensuring that the stories, needs, and celebrations of vulnerable communities are heard and seen – and that our whole church is equipped to respond.

Over the last 80 years, your gifts have meant the recovery of a community, the welcome of new neighbors, and hopeful futures uncovered in the face of extraordinary challenges. We give thanks for the many ways you embody what you have HEARD AND SEEN, what you have learned and received in Jesus Christ: the call to care for vulnerable communities, throughout the year, throughout the world.



In gratitude,

Rev. Vy Nguyen
Executive Director,
Week of Compassion

A WORD FROM THE HEART

by Rev. Laureen A. Roe

In recent weeks, we have experienced the loss of dear people of our faith community. These losses have been hard. They were at the very fabric of who we are as a faith community. Much of who we are today is because of the faith and love they have shared over the years. Each of us is grieving on some level. During this season of grief, we lean on one another. Your love is beautifully expressed as so many come together to provide a bereavement meal for the families. Immediately following a death this meal provides space for the family and friends to pause together for sharing and healing.

In the days ahead, continue to share your compassion and love with one another. The time for grief and healing continues. Especially for the families and close friends. Just as we surrounded them with love at the bereavement dinners, please do so now with prayer, notes of care, and stories of times you shared with their loved ones.

Our prayers during these days are important. Joyce Rupp writes in her book *Praying Our Goodbyes*, "Grief has a way of plundering our prayer life, leaving us immobile and empty" (p.61). Those fresh in grief, need us leaning into the promises of scripture like we find in Isaiah, *He will swallow up death forever. The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces* (Isaiah 25:8a).

Lean into these promises and surround those grieving in a bubble of prayer as they may be lost in the fog of grief. We pray not for them, but in their place. We become their conduit to God. Where their prayer lives may stumble and fall, we pick them up and carry them. And, when our prayer lives may stumble and fall, there is someone within the community of faith who carries us. This is the beauty of our faith community.

with love, Laureen 😊

WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING

During the month of February, FCC-Z will focus on the mission and ministry of Week of Compassion (WoC). Many are familiar with the vital work they do during times of natural disasters. We often take up special offerings for WoC to go directly to areas impacted. Most recently we did this for the fall hurricanes and the California wildfires. FCC-Z sent \$8095 for hurricane relief. The offering collected during February is for areas of ongoing crisis in the world like the Ukraine, Argentina, and Africa. Each week in worship an area being helped through WoC will be highlighted. WoC is our ministry arm that reaches to the least, the last, and the lost around the world. Please prayerfully consider giving to Week of Compassion during February. For online giving click [here](#).

WHAT'S UP WITH THE BOARD?

The Board of First Christian Church met on January 9 at 7:00PM. Committee and team reports were shared. Minor updates to the Safe Sanctuaries policy were approved. The Board approved adding cyber insurance to the church insurance policies.

2024 GIVING STATEMENTS

2024 Giving Statements have been sent. They were sent via email or regular mail. Please contact John Grubbs in the church office if you have questions or did not receive yours.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

February Worship will follow the Gospel of Luke lectionary readings exploring the early days of Jesus' ministry. Below is a glimpse:

February 2

"Hometown Connection"

Scripture: Luke 4:22-31

Focus: how Jesus' ministry impacts the people of his hometown. How does yours?

February 16

"Healings, Blessings, and Woes"

Scripture: Luke 6:17-26

Focus: Jesus preaches on the plain. How does his message resonate today?

February 9

"The Catch"

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11, 6:12-16

Focus: Jesus calls his first disciples. Have you heard his call for you?

February 23

"Living the Love"

Scripture: Luke 6:27-38

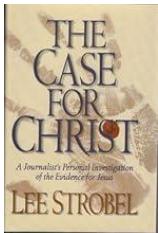
Focus: Jesus says, "love your enemies." What does that look in our lives and culture today?

NOTE: Ash Wednesday is March 5. Please mark your calendars. Worship opportunities at 1PM and 7PM.

LIBRARY BOOK THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST:

Strobel, Lee. The case for Christ. 1998.

Call number: 232.9 STR



In the introduction Strobel tells us that for much of his life he was a skeptic, but decided to take a second look at Jesus when his wife announced that she had become a Christian. The author is a former legal editor of the *Chicago Tribune*. He presents a series of interviews with experts in theology, archaeology, history, and medicine approaching these conversations as though preparing for a courtroom trial.

This is very readable and offers recommendations for further study at the end of each chapter.



Outreach January 2025 Update

Gracious Givers 2024

In December, we collected 487 snacks for Zane State TRIO program.

Gracious Givers 2025

In January, we collected hand warmers for Christ's Table. We delivered 240 before the frigid weather this month.

In February, we are collecting peanut butter for Eastside Community Ministries.

Month	Organization	Item Collected
February	Eastside Community Ministries	Peanut Butter
March	Avondale Youth Center	Easter basket "Stuffers"
April	ZCS	Cereal

Christ's Table 2025:

We served on January 25th with a great group of volunteers and were able to open the doors early as a warming station.



Our dates are:

Date	Coordinator
March 22	Rick Griffin
May 24	Denise Baker
July 19	Lisa Tice
September 20	Christy McCandlish
November 22	Kris Hawk

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUTH GROUP?

In response to their summer mission trip, the youth decided to use a portion of the funds from the Kelly Perry Memorial Fund to provide seasonal Blessing Bags to Homeless Hands. The youth did the research, selected the items and packed the bags. The winter bags include: 1 pair of waterproof gloves, 1 fleece lined toboggan, 1 pair of wool socks, 1 Clif bar, 1 flashlight, and 2 sets of batteries for the flashlights. The bags (along with the meals from the Grandparent and Me event) were delivered during the bitter cold week in January.

This summer, the youth are planning a mission experience right here in Ohio. Our youth have invited other Disciples of Christ churches in our region to join them in an "at home mission experience". Each participating church will plan service days in their community. Youth will spend time in each community serving together, worshipping, and growing in their faith. We are in the early stages of planning this event, but are looking forward to this unique opportunity to serve with other youth from our region in our own communities.

DISCIPLES ON WHEELS

February 2 @ 11:00AM

Elementary age children are invited to join us on February 2nd from 11 am- 1 pm. Following worship, we will share a quick lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Before we pile in the church van, we will decorate Valentine cookies and sign Valentine cards for three of our homebound members. Then we are off to deliver some love to them! Participants are asked to bring 12 signed Valentines (just sign them- no names on the envelopes) to share with the other participants. Use the QR code to reserve a seat in the church van.

Disciples on Wheels
Hearts on the Move
February 2nd
11:00 am - 1:00pm

Use the QR Code to secure a reservation

Elementary age children are invited to help us deliver Valentines to several of our homebound members AND receive Valentines from their friends at FCC-Z

GRANDPARENT AND ME DAY

While students were off school for Martin Luther King Jr Day, forty grandparents and grandchildren joined us for our first ever Grandparent and Me day. We shared the parable of the Good Samaritan and considered the question, "Who is my neighbor?" We decided that according to Jesus, our neighbors are the people with whom we chose to share love, kindness and help. And those people can be people who live near us or far away, people we know or people we don't know, people we like or people we don't like. Because loving your neighbors starts with taking care of the people we know, every child made a Comfort Creature to give to someone they know that needs a little cheering up. The grandparents made their Comfort Creatures for their grandchildren. And because God also calls us to care for the neighbors we don't know, our families made 80 meals to share with our friends at Homeless Hands who were experiencing the challenges of a bitter cold week.



We are so grateful for grandparents who play such an important part in sharing the faith with future generations. That is why the grandparents who attended went home with a hardcopy of the picture book "Who is my neighbor?" by Amy-Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (provided by the Kelly Perry Memorial Fund) and a story retelling packet for the parable of the Good Samaritan. These gifts will help them to keep sharing this important faith story with their grandchildren at home.



CHI RHO CAMP BEACH PARTY

February 15 @ Camp Christian

All 6th, 7th and 8th graders are invited to spend the day at Camp Christian on February 15th. Kim is driving the van to this beach themed bash. Registration is required, so be sure to let Kim know to save you a seat in the van. We will leave the church at 8:30 am and return at 3:30 pm.

Plan NOW for 2025 Summer Programs at Camp Christian!!



Help us prepare for Summer!

- Saturday, May 10th – **Camp Christian Work Day**
Tasks suited for a wide range of ages and abilities

Summer Programs – Camps, Conferences, & Retreats

- Friday, May 23rd – Sunday, May 25th – **Disciples Fellowship Retreat** – For All Ages
- Sunday, June 8th – Tuesday, June 10th – **Grandparents & Me Camp** (*Concurrent Camp*)
For children completing Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grade AND their Grandparent
- Sunday, June 8th – Saturday, June 14th – **Otter Camp** – Elementary (*Concurrent Camp*)
For children completing 5th grade & those completing 3rd & 4th grades ready for a full-week of camp
- Wednesday, June 11th – Saturday, June 14th – **Grands, Me & Family** (*Concurrent Camp*)
For children ages 4-13 with grandparent or parent
- Sunday, June 15th – Saturday, June 21st – **Music, Mime, Art, Dance, Drama / OUT** (*Concurrent Camp*)
Both Camps – For Children and Youth ages 8 to 18
- Sunday, June 22nd – Saturday, June 28th – **SportsCamp**
For Children and Youth ages 7 to 18
- Sunday, June 29th – Wednesday, July 2nd – **Ribbit Camp** – Elementary
For children completing 2nd grade and/or 3rd and 4th graders whose parents want a shorter camp experience for their children
- Sunday, June 29th – Saturday, July 5th – **Chi Rho Camp Emmaus** – Junior High
For youth completing 6th, 7th & 8th grades
- Sunday, July 6th – Saturday, July 12th – **CYF Conference** – High School (*Concurrent Camp*)
For youth completing 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th grades
- Sunday, July 6th – Saturday, July 12th – **Created to Be Me Camp** – Junior High (*Concurrent Camp*)
For youth completing 8th grade
- Sunday, July 13th – Saturday, July 19th – **Chi Rho Camp Corinth** – Junior High
For youth completing 6th, 7th & 8th grades
- Sunday, July 20th – Sunday, July 27th – **Advance Conference** – Young Adults
For all adults ages 19 to 30 (out of high school)
- Friday, August 29th – Sunday, August 31st – **Disciples Fellowship Retreat** – For All Ages

More information about all of these programs, plus summer events not at Camp Christian, will be available soon at www.ccinoh.com.

COFFEE HOUSE

February 10 @ 6:00PM

The youth invite you to join them for our Coffee House on February 22 from 6-8:30 pm. Visit with friends, enjoy our musical guests, and indulge in desserts and hot beverages (coffee, cocoa and hot tea). Invite a friend, they will be grateful you did. Donations will be accepted for the FCC Youth Summer Mission Work.



Musical Guests include:

FCC Praise Team

The Blood Sisters (Anne Heddleson Blood and sisters)

Kris Geis

Randy Green

Adam Jones

The Macs (McCandlish Family Band)

CPR/AED AND FIRST AID/CHILD ABUSE REPORTING TRAINING

First Aid and CPR/AED Training will be offered here at the church by Mark Doerfler from the Mid-East Career Center and Melissa Wood from Muskingum County Adult and Child Protective Services. Participation is limited to 15 participants and priority will be given to our staff and children and youth ministry volunteers. Other church members are welcome to participate as space allows.

The church will cover the cost of the training for all staff and children and youth ministry volunteers. The charge for other participants will be \$25, which is a reduced fee. (Similar training outside of the church would typically cost \$50-\$60.) The training schedule is:

February 12, 4-7 pm- CPR/AED

February 26, 4-7pm- First Aid/Child Abuse Reporting






















Our Child Protection Policy outlines our expectations/requirements for this training as follows:

First Aid/CPR/AED training will be offered annually to all children and youth ministry volunteers. The Director of Christian Education and the paid nursery staff must be certified as a condition of their employment. Youth group leaders, Sunday School teachers, CWW Storytellers and Mission Trip Leaders are strongly encouraged to receive training. Nursery volunteers, CWW greeters, and VBS volunteers are invited to participate in training as well.



FEBRUARY 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>Sundays: 9:00am Christian Education classes 10:00am Worship 4:00pm Chi Rho Middle School Youth Group 4:00pm CYF High School Youth Group</p>						<p>1 1st Day of Black History Month 10:30am Needle Workers</p> 
<p>2 Youth Group 4-5pm</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4 6:30pm Cub Scouts Mtg.  Worship Team Meeting 7-8PM</p>	<p>5 1pm Worship  Christian Ed Meeting 6:30-7:30pm</p>	<p>6 10am Needle Workers 6pm Property Committee</p> 	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 Youth Group 4-5pm</p> 	<p>10 6:30pm 4-H </p>	<p>11 6:30pm Cub Scouts Mtg. </p>	<p>12 1pm Worship 4-7pm CPR/AED training  </p>	<p>13 10am Needle Workers</p> 	<p>14</p>	<p>15 8-9am Men's Breakfast  9am-12pm Climate Lobby Meeting</p>
<p>16 Youth Group 4-5pm</p> 	<p>17 10am-1pm Grandparent & Me Day</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 1pm Worship </p>	<p>20 10am Needle Workers</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22 6pm Coffee House </p>
<p>23 Youth Group 4-5pm</p> 	<p>24</p>	<p>25 11:30am Pairs & Spares @ Pizza Cottage </p>	<p>26 1pm Worship 4-7pm CPR & AED Training  </p>	<p>27 10am Needle Workers</p> 	<p>28</p>	



2025 Schedules



Date	Greeters	Elders		Worship Leaders	Deacons	Pew Crew
		Offering	Communion			
Feb						
2nd	Denise Baker & Jana Fulks	Anne Blood	Brady Neal	Susan Grubbs	Michelle Neal, Jerry Sturtz, Amy Wilson, Jim Wilson, Denise Baker, Reece Neal	Nancy Morrow & Kim Fouch
9th	Joan Barr & Kim Fouch	Cato Coleman	Marcia Coleman	Ellen Dagneau	Michelle Neal, Jerry Sturtz, Amy Wilson, Jim Wilson, Denise Baker, Reece Neal	Nancy Morrow & Kim Fouch
16th	Lori Ward & Kari Ward	Beth Fineran	Mary Arnold	Kim Fouch	Michelle Neal, Jerry Sturtz, Amy Wilson, Jim Wilson, Denise Baker, Reece Neal	Nancy Morrow & Kim Fouch
23rd	Jason, Ana, & Alex Kehrberg	Susan Grubbs	Ellen Dagneau	Philip Hunt	Michelle Neal, Jerry Sturtz, Amy Wilson, Jim Wilson, Denise Baker, Reece Neal	Nancy Morrow & Kim Fouch



2025 Schedules



Date	Greeters	Elders		Worship Leaders	Deacons	Pew Crew
		Offering	Communion			
Mar						
2nd	Dave & Betsy Devoll	Connie Coleman	Lori Buchanan	Cato Coleman	Bev Dick, John Dick, Lori Ryan-Griffin, Rick Griffin, Ed Henderson, Marianne Henderson	Sandy & Virgil Untied
9th	Mike & Amy Whitson	Bill Factor	Jason Kehrberg	Peggy Moon	Bev Dick, John Dick, Lori Ryan-Griffin, Rick Griffin, Ed Henderson, Marianne Henderson	Sandy & Virgil Untied
16th	Lori Ryan-Griffin & Melissa Lichtner	Joan Barr	Anne Blood	Courtney Jackson	Bev Dick, John Dick, Lori Ryan-Griffin, Rick Griffin, Ed Henderson, Marianne Henderson	Sandy & Virgil Untied
23rd	Philip & Rolanda Hunt	Brady Neal	Cato Coleman	Denise Baker	Bev Dick, John Dick, Lori Ryan-Griffin, Rick Griffin, Ed Henderson, Marianne Henderson	Sandy & Virgil Untied
30th	Joyce Haddox & Kim Fouch	Marcia Coleman	Susan Grubbs	Mike Whitson	Bev Dick, John Dick, Lori Ryan-Griffin, Rick Griffin, Ed Henderson, Marianne Henderson	Sandy & Virgil Untied



FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

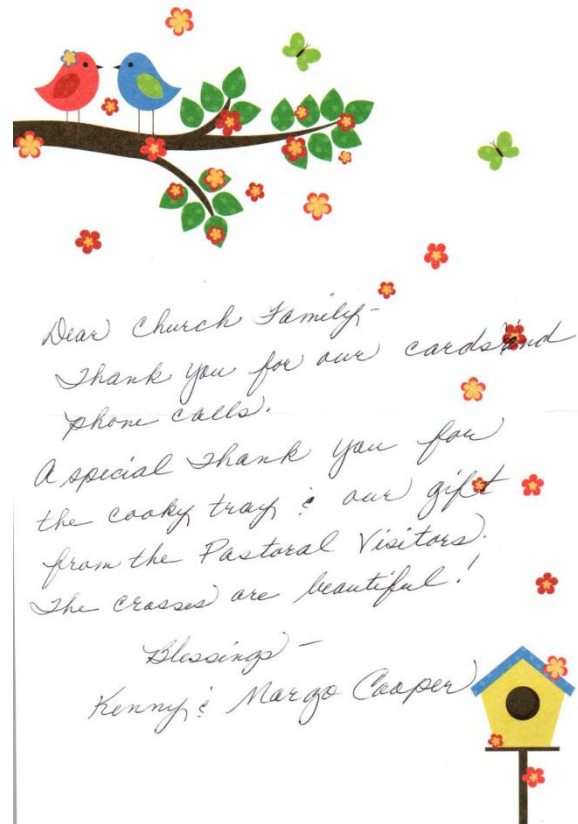
Delaney Jones	February 1
Lori Griffin	February 2
Lydia Huy	February 2
Lowell Body	February 3
Ashley Gordon	February 3
Parker Ward	February 3
Kaye Bednarczuk	February 4
Brian Untied	February 4
Beth Flickinger	February 5
Brandon Heddleson	February 5
Kelsey Gaskill	February 5
Bill Anderson	February 6
Melissa Lichtner	February 6
Mindy Waite	February 6
John Dick	February 10
Robert Fox	February 13
John Grubbs	February 13
Lauren Baker	February 13
Rylee McCuen	February 13
Mark Burnell	February 14
Genette Spragg	February 14
Mickey Spragg	February 14
Marianne Henderson	February 15
Adam Jones	February 16
Carol Hunt	February 17
Phil Short	February 18
Ted Garber	February 24
Shaye Wensyel-Jones	February 24
Connor Baldwin	February 24
Johnathan (JP) Lichtner	February 25
David King	February 26
Matt Tice	February 26
Taylor Rhodes	February 27

Happy Anniversary to:

Greg & Errin Rhodes	February 6
Harry & Lori Burnell	February 7
Christy & Matt McCandlish	February 11

Your Special Day

We typically list special birthdays as 80, 85, 90, and each year thereafter. We list anniversaries at 50, 60, 70, etc. However, we are happy to share your special day whenever it is; just let us know.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUEST



February