



**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
April 21, 2024**

LIVE STREAM
[YouTube LINK](#)
Or
[Facebook LINK](#)

Broadcast of Service on WCTV
Tuesday – 10:30 am, 4:00 pm, 9:00 pm
Wednesday - 8:00 am
[WCTV LINK](#)

TIME OF GATHERING

WELCOME

Pastor Sarah West

TIME OF PRAISE

OPENING MUSIC

Jacob's Ladder

arr. Ritter

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns

No. 234

TIME OF PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (Using "Sins")

*Using whichever language is closest to your heart,
an alternative example is available on the back cover.*

CHILDREN'S CHAT

ANTHEM

Soon and Very Soon
(Chancel Choir)

Crouch

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Roger Wright, Elder
1 John 3:16-24

MESSAGE

"Love in Action"

Pastor Sarah West

SONGS

Because Of Your Love
Wonderful Merciful Savior

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation to Share

Roger Wright, Elder

Offering

Music

St. Anthony Chorale

Brahms

*If you are a visitor, please do not feel obligated to contribute
as the plates are passed. Rather use this time to share your
personal offering of gratitude to God.*

Doxology

No. 46

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Keyshia Beverly

Words of Institution

Pastor Sarah West

Prayer

Roger Wright, Elder

Sharing in the Meal

Music

You will be invited to come forward and receive communion.

*If you prefer to remain seated,
a Deacon will serve you in your pew.*

TIME OF SENDING

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHP

Pastor Sarah West

HYMN

I Would Be True

No. 608

BLESSING

Keyshia Beverly

CHORAL BENEDICTION

In Christ There Is No East or West
(vs. 4)

CLOSING MUSIC

Trumpet Tune

Stanley

*We have been blessed by your presence here today in
worship Go forth and be a blessing!*

SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

SERMON NOTES

What is God saying to me?

What is God wanting me to do?

Serving in Today's Worship Service:

Sarah West	Senior Pastor
Roger Wright	Elder
Keyshia Beverly	Dir. of Child and Family Ministries
Anne West, Joan Acuff, Judy Baker, Kayla Bowles,	Deacons
LuAnn Beavers-Willis, Val Baughman	
Gary Oliver	Contemporary Music Leader
Zig Novak	Guitar
Michelle Moore, Kate Gray	Vocalists
Donna Kronander	Organist
Janet Dye, Ken Dye, Amos West	Tech Booth
Val Baughman, Jerry Baughman	Welcome Center

CHURCH LIFE

Sympathies to Barb Horner, Tiffany and Dean Testa and Austin, Aidan and Alex Valentine; Hilary and Dave Hrutkai and Justin and Madelyn; and Rick and Stephanie Horner and Blake and Julia, on the death of their son, father, brother, and uncle, Greg Horner, April 12.

Birthdays 80+: Lois Garman celebrates her 93rd birthday Apr. 27.

Pentecost Geranium Sale - Help celebrate Pentecost on May 19 by purchasing geraniums for decorating the church. Cost is \$4.50 per plant. Order forms are available in the Gathering Area. The geraniums will then be planted on the church grounds.

Did You Know? The Bible contains over four hundred references to singing! Here is just one of them; "Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!" (Psalm 47:6). The Contemporary Praise Team is in need of more singers and musicians. You would not have to participate every Sunday but would be on a rotating schedule. Please contact Gary Oliver, Kevin Kaufman, or Val Baughman if you feel the call in your heart to join this important part of our worship service. Come sing your praise to the Lord!

April Newsletter Now Available - Hard copies of the April *Caller* are available at the entrance doors to the Sanctuary for those who do not receive the newsletter via email.

COMMUNITY

Women's Ministry Dinner Night Out - THIS Tues., April 23, 6:00 pm, Great Oaks Tavern. Please join us for dinner and fellowship. Let us know to save you a seat! What to bring: a smile, friendly conversation, and money to cover your meal. Sign up in the Gathering Area.

Women's Ministry Book Study - Still Standing: She Will Not Fall, written by Keyshia Beverly, will be used for the study. You are welcome to attend the final session THIS Fri., April 26, at 7:00 pm in the Chalice Room.

VBS Volunteers Needed - We are in need of volunteers for VBS station leaders, assistants and group leaders. If interested, sign up in the Gathering Area or see Keyshia Beverly or sign up online.

VBS Donations Needed - Stop in the Gathering Area and grab a smiley face or two. Write your name on the donation sheet next to the items you choose to donate. Drop off items in the office by May 15. Thank you!

Help Needed - Do you enjoy digging in the dirt, being outdoors beautifying God's creation? Then our FCC Garden Group is for you! Join us as we serve our church by caring for the church gardens. Interested? Please call or text Karol Tucker (330-608-6546).

COMPASSION

Red Bag Items - Canned Meat - Non-perishable items of any kind are always welcome. Used printer cartridges, cell phones and chargers, and eyeglasses are also being collected. Pick up a bag from the Gathering Area and drop off your items in the Outreach Collection Center.

Feeding Medina County Food Distribution - THIS Thurs., April 25, at Art Wright Stadium from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. Volunteers needed to help set up - arrive at 9:40 am.

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen - Every Tues., 4:00 pm, in the parking lot of Wadsworth Towers, 190 Main St. Stop by for a "Hot Meal to Go!" There is a one meal per person limit.

Come on The Mission Trip to Camp With Us! Spend any part of Mon. through Thurs., May 13-16, at Camp Christian doing various work projects, sleeping in the lodge, eating hot meals in the dining hall, having Vespers, and then relaxing the rest of each evening. Our projects include attaching downspout extensions to the buildings, painting the gym restrooms, painting 10 green lawn chairs and some swings. Meals are paid for by the Outreach Committee if you are attending for the first time. For returnees, meals are \$15/day. Sign up in the Gathering Area and pay in the church office. For questions contact Karen Rule: 330-336-3251 or karenrule@gmail.com.

REGIONAL

2024 Summer Camps and Conferences - For all of the information you will need on summer camps being held at Camp Christian, click on the following link: <https://www.ccinoh.com/camp-christian/summer-programs/form-downloads-and-links.aspx>

ABOUT TOWN

Folk Tails - Animal Stories from Around the World - TODAY - Grace Lutheran Church, 2:30 pm. The production is put on by The Wadsworth Foolfighters.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL21:

Today	6:00 pm	Elevate	Youth Room
Monday		Office Closed	
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Wmn's Mnstry Event	Offsite
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rhs	Sanctuary
"	7:00 pm	Bells of FCC	Sanctuary
Thursday	6:30 pm	Worship Comm Mtg	Fellowship Hall
Friday	7:00 pm	Wmn's Mnstry Book Study	Chalice Room
Next Sunday	6:00 pm	Elevate	Youth Room

"I Wish" and "Thinking of You" Cards - The cards are available in all of the pews. Fill out the cards, place them in the Offering Plate or Offering Box and the office will handle the distribution.

Childcare is available in Room 100 of the Ed Wing. **This is for children ages 0-5 years old.**

Kids Cart - To help make worship a welcoming place for families, children, youth, and kids-at-heart, we have arranged a "Kids Cart" for the Sanctuary! Toys and the cart itself will be cleaned each week to maintain a safe and sanitary environment for children and adults alike.

Church Calendar - Looking for the time and location of a meeting or an event? The Church Calendar is available on the FCC Webpage.

Flower Calendar - The Flower Calendar is available at the Welcome Center in the Gathering Area. Cost of each arrangement is \$20.

April Trustee of the Month - Bill Dague - 330-620-1926. Contact Bill if you have any building issues when staff is not present.

**APRIL 21, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**



The Good Shepherd comes with power to love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd
Monday	Acts 4:5-12	Peter and John before the council
Tuesday	1 John 3:16-24	Love one another
Wednesday	Luke 15:1-7	Parable of the lost sheep
Thursday	Ezekiel 34:11-16	God, the true shepherd
Friday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	The resurrection of Christ
Saturday	Psalm 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. Psalm 23:4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Shepherding God, we thank you that your care for us is never ending and filled with your abundant goodness and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, just as you are with us and protect us each day like a good shepherd, we thank you for feeding us with this food, a sign of your abundant love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God in Jesus, the Good Shepherd, give you comfort and peace.



**MILESTONES
MINISTRY**

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APRIL 21, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Shepherd Me, O God



taking faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about a time you experienced fear or anxiety.
- How does Jesus, the Good Shepherd, comfort and protect you during fearful times?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 10:11-18.

The focus in John 10 on being the good shepherd is directly related to Jesus healing the man born blind in John 9. The man born blind was cast out of the synagogue, out of the religious community, out of a protective sheepfold. Jesus as the good shepherd knows us and loves us enough to lay down his life for us. Jesus does not abandon us or cast us out. Unlike the disinterest of a hired hand who runs away when our needs are the greatest, Jesus cares for us as those who need the protection of a shepherd. This is the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. He has power and he uses that power to care for us and to give us the abundant life, the life overflowing with goodness (John 10:10). All of this power to love, to give us life overflowing with goodness and abundance, comes not from the abusive power of Pharisees, synagogues, or any disinterested individuals or institutions, but from the divine. This is the command that Jesus has received from God and passes on to us, the command to love sacrificially.

Discuss: When has your life been blessed by the sacrificial love of another?

Pray: **Loving God, help us to know that we are not abandoned in our time of need, but blessed with overflowing love through the power and grace of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you give sacrificially to someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Both readings from John 10 and Psalm 23 follow the theme of shepherd. Draw the shape of a sheep on a sheet of paper. Write Jesus in the center of the shape and then words you would use to describe a good shepherd. Think or talk about what the words you wrote mean to you. Finish with prayer using the words from Psalm 23:6 as a reminder of God's comfort: **You, LORD, are my shepherd. I will never be in need. Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life, and I will live forever in your house, LORD. Amen.** (CEV)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



fccwadsworth.org/give



Feel free to give via our online options or
mail a check to the church at –

First Christian Church
116 E. Boyer Street
Wadsworth, OH 44281

Website Information - Want to find out about everything that is going on at FCC? Then check out our Website. Use it as a reference and SHARE with friends looking for a church home. fccwadsworth.org

Instagram - We are on Instagram as fccwadsworth. Please FOLLOW us! [INSTAGRAM LINK](#) For those of you who have Facebook, please check to see if you have actually LIKED our page. It is a public page and you may be following but haven't LIKED. Please take a moment to check. Thanks! [FACEBOOK LINK](#)



Visitor Welcome Form

Thank you for worshipping with us today! Please fill out this form to receive more information about First Christian Church and all we have to offer. Drop in the Offering Box or the Offering Plate when completed.

Name(s): _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.*

Alternate Lord's Prayer

*Loving Creator, we honor you,
and we honor all that you have made.
Renew the whole world
in the image of your love.
Give us what we need for today,
and a hunger to see the whole world fed.
Strengthen us for what lies ahead;
heal us from the hurts of the past;
give us courage to follow your call
in this moment.
For your love is the only power, the only home,
in this world and in the world to come.
Amen.*