



First  
Christian  
Church

faith · compassion · community

# CALLER

116 E. Boyer St.  
Wadsworth, OH 44281  
(330) 336-6697  
fccwadsworth.org

**Revealing Christ by building lives of compassionate faith.**

Pastor Sarah West, Senior Pastor  
Pastor Shelby Baxter-Andrews, Associate Pastor/Director of Youth Ministries

**June  
2023**

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Shalom from Shelby	2
Board News	2
Stewardship	3
Visioning	3
FCC News Brief	4
J.O.Y. Fellowship	5
Youth News	6
Outreach	7
Calendar	8

**Don't  
Forget!**



The Garage Sale is here! Fri., June 2, 9:00 am - 7:00 pm and Sat., June 3, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

You can still drop off donations on Thurs., June 1, at the Boyer Street entrance 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. We also need helpers on sale days. Show up if you can spare an hour or two for our version of "Antiques Roadshow".

Tell your neighbors and friends.

On Sun., June 4, following worship, Fellowship Hall will be open for the congregation to take any remaining items before Holmes County Thrift Store collects the rest on Monday.

Proceeds will be shared among Helping Haitians in Need, our Youth programming, and future Outreach projects.

## Outdoor Worship

June 4, July 2, Aug. 6  
10:00 am



Join your FCC family on the church lawn for fellowship and goodies each Sunday after worship.

## Nancy Hachat Memorial Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, June 25  
Fellowship Hall ~ 8:00-10:00 am



Sun., June 25, the Nancy Hachat Memorial Breakfast, benefitting Salvation Army, will serve breakfast 8:00-10:00 am, for free-will offerings. Guests are welcome. Pancake flippers, servers and cleaners can volunteer that morning, starting at 7:00 am.



Volunteers are still needed for VBS. Sign up online at [vbspro.events/p/041ebf](https://vbspro.events/p/041ebf), at the Welcome Center or use the QR Code, or email [jodymlc1@gmail.com](mailto:jodymlc1@gmail.com) for more information.

## 2023 VBS

June 13-16  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

## VBS Decoration Time

Please consider staying after church on Sun., June 11, to help put up the decorations for VBS! Tentative day 2 for set up will be June 12 at 10:00 am, only if things aren't completed on June 11. Sign up at the Welcome Center or just come and help.



## VBS Sunday

June 18

Our VBS kids will be singing songs and filling us in on their experiences from the past week. There will be a slide show, too!



## Camper Commissioning June 11

ALL youth who will be attending Camp Christian this summer will be commissioned during the June 11 worship service.

## Campers Love Mail!

Send mail to our kids & youth at Camp Christian this summer! Check the office for details.

**July Caller  
Deadline  
- June 10 -**



## Free Movie Night

Friday, June 16  
7:00 pm ~ Fellowship Hall

Join us for a movie night in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm, Fri., June 16. We'll be watching Disney's Lightyear and serving popcorn! Lightyear is a movie about the Legendary space ranger Buzz Lightyear as he embarks on an intergalactic adventure alongside ambitious recruits Izzy, Mo, Darby, and his robot companion, Sox. As this motley crew tackles their toughest mission yet, they must learn to work together as a team to escape the evil Zurg and his dutiful robot army that is never far behind. Bring blankets and pillows to get cozy and join us Friday night, June 16!

## Shalom from Shelby

When Thomas Merton discusses faith in his book, New Seeds of Contemplation, he first makes the claim that “the beginning of contemplation is faith.” Faith, he says, is not just a feeling or a vague urge toward the supernatural. It is not an opinion or something proven to you by science. Rather, Merton invites us to think about faith as an act of belief that, “puts the intellect in possession of Truth which reason cannot grasp by itself.”

So what does it mean to have true faith? How can we attain it and how do we know once we have? I like to think about faith as a process by which we believe. It's non-linear and sometimes penetrated by doubts. But doubt is nothing to be ashamed of! In fact, it often strengthens our faith! Merton describes the act of faith as an act “which the intellect is content to know God by loving Him and accepting His statements about Himself on His own terms.” Our faith is about loving God and accepting that God reveals Gods-self to us in unexpected and beautiful ways. In this way, Merton claims, we “receive” God ourselves.

Faith is messy and hard sometimes, but it is also what keeps us going as followers of Christ. “Above all,” Merton says, “faith is the opening of an inward eye, the eye of the heart, to be filled with the presence of Divine light.” As the song goes, “Open the eyes of my heart, Lord... I want to see you.”

Shalom, Shelby

## Board News

Sharon Wright, Board Clerk

### Highlights of the April 11 Board Meeting:

There were 22 Board members, 3 staff, and 4 guests present.

The Board approved the following motions:

- Outreach Committee: \$6,650.93 from the Legacy Foundation Outreach Funds be divided as follows: Camp Christian - \$900; Commission to Every Nation - \$200; Cleveland Christian Home - \$300; Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance - \$200; Feeding Medina County - \$1,600; Francis House Recovery - \$200; Free Clinic of Medina County - \$500; The Garage Ministry - \$200; Helping Haitians in Need - \$800; Wadsworth Salvation Army - \$800.
- Jerry Ritzman: Approval of up to \$2,000 to cover the expenses related to the review of council on the lease agreement between First Christian Church and Wadsworth City School.

Copies of the Board Minutes are available in the office.

## Official Board is on Summer Recess

Next official Board Meeting  
Tuesday, September 12, 7:00 pm

# KINDOM OF GOD WITHIN US AMONG US

GENESIS 11:1-9 • LUKE 17:20-21 • 2 PETER 1:3

*July 29 - August 1, 2023 - Louisville*

## Summer Sermon Series - "Kindom of God: Within Us, Among Us"

This sermon series will focus on the ways God's kingdom was established by Jesus Christ to heal and restore and unite. The series was created by the General Church to engage Disciples churches in scripture study and reflection in preparation for our bi-annual gathering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Louisville, KY July 29 - Aug. 1st.

The theme for the 2023 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is "Kindom of God: Within Us, Among Us." As Rev. Yvonne Gilmore, Associate General Minister wrote: 'Kindom' is not a spelling error or a replacement for the word kingdom. It's a way of connecting the "kin" that God makes and expanding our imagination about Jesus." (more on this in next month's newsletter)

I see this sermon series as an opportunity to come together as the world tries to pull us apart. The General Church introduces the series this way:

In the last few years, violent political radicalization, a literal plague, cascading natural disasters, all have served to deepen fractures in our faith communities and bodies of belonging. We are much more likely to imagine our neighbor as our enemy than as our kin in the body of Christ. Neither this sermon series, nor the long-delayed General Assembly, will heal these deep wounds. But we can conceive of them as a beginning, a chance to communally reimagine the church and the part we play in either its flourishing or its suffering. By using our time as a denominational body and as individual worshiping bodies to dwell on what it means to be the Kin-dom of God, we invite the Holy Spirit to once again reorient us around the True Love which saves and liberates and unites us all. Remember what Paul taught the church in Ephesus: “now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God's people, and you belong to God's household.” We became God's household because Christ came and dwelled amongst us, bringing the Kin-dom of God near. Christ's power and presence is not diminished! Despite our estrangement, we still remain fellow citizens, the household of God. The Kin-dom of God is here.

Join us for this six week series (June 18 - July 23) as we focus on unity and the power of God's Spirit within us and among us!

# Our Call to Mission

*"The only thing that counts is faith working through love."* - Galatians 5:6

## Treasurer's Report

General Fund as of April 30, 2023  
Submitted by Lisa Jones

<u>GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE</u>		<b>\$258,177.18</b>		
	<b>CURRENT MONTH</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE BUDGET</b>	<b>ANNUAL BUDGET</b>
<b><u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u></b>				
Offerings	\$35,777.75	\$186,460.71	\$159,355.00	\$478,065.00
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>				
Personnel	\$22,387.44	\$92,475.03	\$111,571.00	\$334,713.00
Admin/Programs	9,425.52	32,416.62	32,783.96	98,352.00
Outreach	7,057.00	21,663.00	15,000.00	45,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$38,869.96</b>	<b>\$146,554.65</b>	<b>\$159,354.96</b>	<b>\$478,065.00</b>



The Visioning Welcome and Integration of Visitors and New and Current Members objective is led by Diane Pels and Dan Sondles with Task Force members Amy Benson, Michael Fox, Tanya Keaton, Viv Lash, Lucy Sondles, Karol Tucker, and Karen Wilson.

There is not enough room to share all of their ideas, so here are a few they are currently working on.

Swag Bags for visitors with FCC goodies like a notepad, magnet, seed cards, and an FCC informational brochure just to name a few things it might include. Also, new Pew Cards are being developed. An "I Wish" card and a "Thinking of You" card are in the works and are being finalized.

Dan Sondles delivered hand written invitations to the FCC Chili Challenge to our neighbors living on Boyer, Lyman, Prospect, and Reams Court.

I was a welcomed guest at their April 24th meeting and was impressed and excited with all their creative ideas and how they are striving to develop an intentional process of welcome and integration.

Please keep this important Task Force Team in your prayers as well as all our Visioning Task Force Teams.

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7)

Yours in Christ, Val Baughman, Visioning Chair

### Festival of Homiletics



We want to thank the Visioning Team and the congregation for sending us to this year's "Festival of Homiletics" in Minneapolis, MN, May 15-18. This event is considered THE premier annual preaching conference for mainline church pastors. While we were both familiar with it, this was our first time attending in person. What a powerful experience to sit in these grand worshipping spaces with over 1,000 other clergy from all over the country and listen to some of the absolute BEST contemporary preachers! We came away with lots of **information** to inform the way we prepare and deliver sermons but we also came away with a big dose of **inspiration** as well. We are grateful for the church's willingness to invest in our professional development and growth as preachers of God's word. We look forward to putting what we learned into practice!

#### Secret Place Devotional

The Secret Place daily devotional June, July, and August is now available for pick up in the church office!

#### Homebound Members Listing

An information sheet is located by the Registration Table in the Gathering Area for those interested in sending a card or a note to our homebound members.

# First Men

## Men of First Christian Church

Facebook Page: FCC First Men-First Christian Church, Wadsworth, Men's Ministry



### Summer & Fall Plans!

Mark your calendars for upcoming fellowship activities:

All-church softball game & family picnic - August 6

Men's golf scramble & cookout - August 20

Fall kickoff pig roast barbecue - September 17

Men's forum - Monday evenings starting September 18

More details will follow as we get closer.



### FCC News Brief

#### New Member

Michelle Dodd Moore April 30

#### Death

Bob Mooney May 9

#### Funeral

Phyllis Adamek May 5

**Sympathies to** Bob and Pat Mooney, Bethany and Tom Kovacevich, Jessica and Dom Accordino and Jackson and Madeline Kovacevich, and Gabriella, Isabella, and Ellianna Accordino on the death of their father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Bob Mooney, May 9.



Congratulations Seniors - Zeke Taylor, Kayla Bowles, Knox Tuck, Anne West, Brayden Probst, Kayla Kerstetter. Not pictured, Jimmy Errante, and Natalee Studd.

### Dear Church Family

We cannot thank you enough for all the cards and outpouring of love and support during this extremely difficult time. Your prayers and continued prayers are helping us get through this. God has blessed us with wonderful memories of Rick. And He blessed us with all of you and I will always be grateful. In Christ's Love ~ Dawn, David, and Robby Holt

Thank you for the cards you sent while I was in the hospital. Getting to read them was the highlight of each day. Thank you for the home-cooked meals you've been bringing. After two months of hospital food, your meals are such a treat. And lastly, but most importantly, thank you for your prayers that I know are what kept me going and brought me through this. I can't imagine what this journey would have been like without your loving support. With love and appreciation, Karen Rule.

Thank you to all who purchased geraniums for Pentecost Sunday. Look for all 140 of them to be blooming around the church grounds!

### Notes About Folks

Congratulations to Colin Wilson on receiving his ASE Certified Automobile Technician status and his completion of the two year T-ten technician training through Stark State. He apprenticed with Summit Toyota and has been hired full time and he will be attending Master Technician School in Cincinnati in the future.

### Thank You Choir!



Our Chancel Choir will be taking the summer months off to rest up their vocal chords in order to be ready to begin again in the fall! Thank you to Karole Heisler, Jody Meager, Connie Dague, Dora Kaufman, Marcia Stubbendieck, Susan Ritzman, Jerry Ritzman, Tom Kaufman, Michael Fox, Donn Taylor, Carolyn Kiser, Jim Rivers, and Kent Stubbendieck for sharing their talents with us this church year. Bravo! New members are always welcome. We will begin rehearsals in August so that will give you 2 months to think about it!



Fellowship

Just Older Youth

**July Event!**

Picnic at the Kaufman Farm  
Watch for more information!

80+ Birthdays

Jim Rivers	6/16/37
Tom Kaufman	6/19/40

**Akron Rubber Ducks Game**

Fri., June 23

The J.O.Y. Fellowship Group invites one and all to attend an Akron Rubber Ducks baseball game with fireworks after. Tickets are \$12 a piece. This is a double-header with the first game starting at 5:05 pm and the second game starting at approximately 7:05 pm. The Ducks will be playing the Binghamton Rumble Ponies, the Double-A affiliate of the New York Mets. Invite your family and friends and neighbors. You may arrive at anytime for the games. For tickets go to this link: <https://fevogm.com/event/Joyfirst>



50+ Anniversaries

Ron & Sue Carlson	6/11/66	Donna & John Knox	6/16/67
Ann & Tony Mills	6/11/66	Sue & Jack Elliott	6/20/64
Loa & Bob Gerberich	6/14/58	Marilyn & Lynn Slaby	6/23/62
Nancy & Denny Keyser	6/14/69	Jerri & Hal Saltz	6/24/67
Pat & Ray Andre	6/15/57	Sue & Bob Henderson	6/26/64



**Cornhole Champs!**

**June Event  
Crazy Cornhole!**



CONGRATULATIONS  
CLASS OF 2023



Pictured from left to right: Kayla Kerstetter, Jimmy Errante, Brayden Probst, Kayla Bowles, Knox Tuck, Anne West. Not pictured: Natalee Studd, Zeke Taylor

URBAN PLUNGE

All rising 6th graders through graduated seniors are invited to join us for our second annual Urban Plunge mission week, June 5-9! We'll be serving in the mornings, playing games and hanging out in the afternoons, and worshiping together in the evenings before dinner. Sign up today or see Pastor Shelby for more information!

ICE CREAM FRIDAYS

Join Pastor Shelby this summer on Fridays for a sweet, cool treat at Bidingers from 4:30-5:30pm. June 2, July 7, and August 4, 11, 18, & 25.



Our Camp Christian paint crew: Lenora Taylor, Mary Rayburn, Ron Carlson, Ken Dye, Jerry Lash, Keith Longfield and Dan Sondles, put a fresh coat on the Administration building. Thank you painters.



Thank you so very much for the gifts of your time, energy, and faithfulness in painting the Administration Building exterior at Camp Christian. I was there last weekend and it looks great! The best I have seen it in a long time. Your hard work helps to keep not only our camps, retreats, and conferences running better, but our Regional Church offices as well. We are incredibly grateful for all you do to help extend Christ's ministry. Gratefully & Joyfully yours, Rev. Allen V. Harris



## Sunday Morning Worship

Summer Worship Hours  
10:00 am

Outdoor Worship  
June 4, July 2, August 6

YouTube  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/FCCWadsworthMedia>

Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianChurchWadsworthOhio/>

WCTV Channel 17  
Tuesday - 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, 9:00 pm  
Wednesday - 8:00 am

## June Dates to Remember

Find updated information regarding church events on the FCC Webpage, Facebook Page, and the Weekly Update sent out every Friday afternoon.

### Daily

June 1	Garage Sale Drop Off	9:00 am
June 2	Garage Sale	9:00 am
"	Ice Cream Friday	4:30 pm
June 3	Garage Sale	9:00 am
June 4	Red Bag Sunday - Beef Stew	
June 5-9	Urban Plunge	
June 7	Generosity Comm	7:30 am
"	VBS Kick Off Meeting	7:00 pm
June 8	VBS Packet Pick Up	5:00 pm
June 9	VBS Packet Pick Up	10:00 am
June 11	Elders Mtg	11:00 am
"	VBS Decorating	11:00 am
June 12	VBS Decorating (if needed)	10:00 am
June 13-16	VBS	9:00 am
June 16	FREE Movie Night	7:00 pm
June 18	VBS Sunday	
June 18-24	Chi Rho Camp	
June 22	Feeding Medina County	9:40 am
June 25	Pancake Breakfast	8:00am
June 28	DEI Comm	10:00 am



## 1st Annual Wadsworth COMMUNITY Kindness Day

Sunday, June 11, 1:00-4:00 pm

First Christian is excited to be a part of this new local event to celebrate our community and foster togetherness, belonging, and kindness! Stop by our table at Memorial Park for face painting, giant bubbles, a kid's craft, and more! For more information about the event, visit this link:

[LINK \(wadsworthcommunityday.my.canva.site/\)](https://www.wadsworthcommunityday.my.canva.site/)

## Office Hours

9:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
Closed Wednesday  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm ~ Friday



Follow Us!  
fccwadsworth

## FCC CALLER

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

Address Service Requested

\*\*\*\*\*  
Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Wadsworth, OH 44281  
Permit No. 5  
\*\*\*\*\*

Request in Home By June 7, 2023



Due to increasing costs regarding postage, we will be discontinuing sending the *Caller* out monthly as a bulk mailing beginning with the October issue. Hard copies will be available in the Gathering Area for pickup. The *Caller* is available online on our webpage, on the weekly update, and is sent monthly as a separate email. Our

homebound members will continue to receive it by mail. If you would like to receive it through the mail, please contact the office at [secretary@fccwadsworth.org](mailto:secretary@fccwadsworth.org) or give us a call.



## Free Concert! Live Band! Great American Music!!!

Mon., July 3, 7:00 pm, on our front lawn! Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and enjoy a concert of blues, jazz, soul, and R&B led by Michael Fox. Then stay and watch the Wadsworth City's fireworks! Invite your friends! Bring a lawn chair or a blanket. Free popcorn!

## Volunteer Help Needed!

Help is needed with boxing, loading, unloading, and bagging of items for the Salvation Army Pop Up Drive-Thru Food Distributions. Volunteers arrive at 10:15 am and the distribution is held 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 19, and Dec. 8 at the Wadsworth Salvation Army location.