



**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
April 28, 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

OPENING MUSIC

arr. Wagner

Ring Joyous With The Sound
(The Bells of FCC)

TIME OF PRAISE

SONGS

Blessed Be Your Name
Jesus You Gave It All

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

O Sing a New Song to the Lord
(Chancel Choir)

Hunnicut

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Jerry Lash, Elder
1 John 4:7-21

MESSAGE

"We're All In This Together"

Pastor Shelby Baxter-Andrews

HYMN

In Loving Partnership

No. 497

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

Invitation to Share

Jerry Lash, Elder

Offering

Music

Come, Gentle Spring

Haydn

*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

Jerry Lash, 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 DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor Shelby Baxter-Andrews

HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians

No. 494

BLESSING

Pastor Shelby Baxter Andrews

CHORAL BENEDICTION

This Is the Day

CLOSING MUSIC

Song of Joy

Boalt

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

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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
Shelby Baxter-Andrews	Associate Pastor
Jerry Lash	Elder
Keyshia Beverly	Dir. of Child and Family Ministries
Carol Sladky, Gwynne Roberts, Janet Dye,	Deacons
Heather Humes, Jennifer Brothers, Maggie Sayre	
Gary Oliver	Contemporary Music Leader
Michelle Moore	Acoustic Guitar
Anne West, Kate Gray	Vocalists
Donna Kronander	Organist
Noah Gromofsky, Bill Dague, Mike Gromofsky	Tech Booth
Betty Gill, Pam Sweezey	Welcome Center

CHURCH LIFE

Birthdays 80+: Amy Mavity celebrates her 83rd birthday Apr. 28, and Brenda Grom celebrates her 84th birthday May 3.

Thank you to The Bells of First Christian for providing Opening Music this morning. Members are Karen Leatherman, Maggie Sayre, Elaine Williams, Sue Elliott, Terri Hansen, Diane Pels, Kristen Sayre, and Karole Heisler.

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!

Large Print Bulletins - Beginning May 5, a limited number of large print bulletins will be available at all entrances to the Sanctuary. Please ask a Deacon if you would like one.

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

COMMUNITY

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 Sunday - NEXT Sunday - Cereal - 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.

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.

Last Call for the Mission Trip to Camp! You must sign up by this Thurs., May 2. We will be working Monday through Thursday, May 13-16. Come whatever days you can. Meals are paid for first timers and \$15/day for others. We sleep in the lodge for free. Sign up in the Gathering Area or 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>

Otter Camp Counselors Needed - June 9-15. Otter Camp is for children completing 5th grade and those completing 3rd & 4th grades ready for a full week of camp. Let the church office know.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 28:

Today	6:00 pm	Elevate	Youth Room
Monday		Office Closed	
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rhs	Sanctuary
"	7:00 pm	Bells of FCC	Sanctuary
Thursday	7:30 am	Generosity Com Mtg	Room 104
"	6:30 pm	Pictorial Directory Com Mtg	Fellowship Hall
Saturday	8:30 am	Elders Retreat	Youth Room
Next Sunday	11:30 am	Youth Banquet	Fellowship Hall

"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.

May Trustee of the Month - Matt Gruver - 330-715-1089. Contact Matt if you have any building issues when staff is not present.

**APRIL 28, 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**



Jesus abides with us like a vine to its branches.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 15:1-8	Jesus the true vine
Monday	Acts 8:26-40	Phillip and the eunuch
Tuesday	1 John 4:7-21	God is love
Wednesday	Ephesians 3:14-19	Christ's love for us
Thursday	Psalms 91	Assurance of God's protection
Friday	Exodus 34:6-7	God of steadfast love and faithfulness
Saturday	Psalms 22:25-31	A vow of thanksgiving
Sunday	John 15:9-17	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, we thank you for your steadfast love that remains with us forever and guides us into the future through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for feeding us with this food and for nurturing our lives with your presence through the true vine, Christ our Lord, who gives us life. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's love lead you to love others. (1 John 4:19)



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APRIL 28, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Like the Murmur of the
Dove's Song*



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:

- When is a time you have felt lost or alone?
- How does knowing of God's love through Jesus help you when you feel anxious or lost?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 15:1-8.

This is the last of Jesus' "I am" statements. Earlier in the Gospel of John he said "I am the bread of life," "I am the light of the world," "I am the gate," "I am the good shepherd," "I am the resurrection and the life," and "I am the way, the truth, and the life." These self-descriptive statements are all introduced with the words, "I am," that is reminiscent of the name for God in the Old Testament. "Yahweh," is translated as "I am who I am." In John, Jesus is presented as one with God without any uncertainty. The final "I am" statement is important because it comes during Jesus' lengthy message to his eleven disciples before his crucifixion (John 14 through 17). Jesus makes it clear that he will not abandon them. He will abide with them. The identity and ministry of the disciples will endure and be full of life because they are intimately part of Jesus, like branches given life by the vine.

Discuss: When the future is uncertain and you feel anxious, lost, or alone, what do you do and how can you be reminded that Jesus abides with you always?

Pray: **Almighty God, give us confidence in your presence and abide with us in our life's journey through Jesus Christ, the true vine who feeds us with your love and strength. 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 encourage and help those who feel lost or alone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ into the world to teach us about love. 1 John 4:12 tells us that *"No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us."* It is this love that we are to show to others. Draw the outline of a body with a heart inside. Write God inside the heart. Then write words inside the body that describe how we can show God's love to one another.

Pray: **Loving God, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Amen.** (1 John 4:7)



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.*