

The Z-Disciple

SEPTEMBER 2020

First Christian Church

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Blessed to Be a Blessing...

Our online and drive-in worship services have made it possible to worship together as a congregation for the past five months, but we all agree it is just not the same as being together in person. We miss that personal connection that allows us to witness the growth of the children and know when someone needs some extra encouragement or rejoice with them at milestones reached. Our children and youth have been quite active during these months, gathering for Sunday School and Youth group meetings regularly on Zoom. Our virtual VBS was a lot of fun for the children and a blessing to families. We may know that all this is going on, but most of us have not witnessed it first hand as we have in other years. So, it was a real blessing for all of us who gathered at our drive-in service on Sunday as we held a blessing for children, teachers and parents. We invited families who felt comfortable doing so to get out of their cars so we might offer a blessing. We presented Bibles to those who are entering Kindergarten and Third grade as is our tradition. We offered a blessing for our children, youth, and families but those of us witnessing this service were blessed as well.

During these last five months when we have been apart, our children have continued to grow, they continue to be excited and a bit anxious about what the new school year will hold. They continue to giggle and be excited about receiving a Bible and being part of something larger than themselves. It was fun and inspiring for us all as we shared with them on Sunday.

This year presents a special challenge for parents concerned about keeping children safe and yet providing them the best opportunities to learn. It is a challenging one for teachers and administrators as they make necessary adjustments to classrooms and routines to keep children healthy and engaged in learning. And it is no doubt a challenge to our precious children, eager to see friends and explore new learning opportunities against a backdrop of a pandemic. Let us hold them all in prayer as they begin a new school year in over the next couple of weeks.

We mailed 65 backpack blessing tags to our children and youth last week that read, *Blessed to Be a Blessing*. Isn't that our call as followers of Jesus Christ? We are all blessed so that we might be a blessing to others. Let's live into the example of our children by doing just that and trusting God to make it so.

Shalom,
Dawn



In Sympathy

Scott and Michelle Robison on the death of Scott's mother, Shirley Robison, on August 10th.

Congratulations!

Tate David Hill was born July 10th to Dana and Ryan Hill in IL. He is the second grandson to Tanya and Jerry Sturtz.

Noah Alexander Vousden was born August 15th to Lauren and Alex Vousden in Columbus. Deborah and Mel Granberg are his proud grandparents.

New Addresses

A couple of our members have made a move this month. Please keep them in your prayers as they make the transition involved in a move.

Cheryl Smith, 18410 N. 97th Drive, Sun City, AZ 85373.
Sandy Grizzard, 5011 Myers St. Apt. 3, Midland, MI 48640

Book of Revelation Bible Study. It has been several years since we last visited the Book of Revelation in our Bible study. I am planning such a study for September/October via Zoom. Those who have indicated an interest so far prefer a weekday evening so I would like to suggest we begin our study on Wednesday, September 16th at 7 p.m. If you are interested in a Bible Study on the Book of Revelation, please let me know (friendship register, email or text or phone is fine). Once we know who is interested, we will send out the Zoom link. If you have question, please call Dawn.

Upcoming Anniversary Events

We put much thought and planning into events, activities, and speakers to celebrate our 150th anniversary in 2020. Of course, most of these events have had to be postponed. The Anniversary Committee will meet soon to revise the calendar. In the meantime, join us for these special events on **Sunday, September 6th**:

We welcome **Rev David Garshaw** to share the message at our services on September 6th.

David and Natalie were long time members of our congregation while they lived in Zanesville. David has served churches in Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. They make their home in Indiana. David will preach at our online service, 8:30 sanctuary and 10:30 drive in service.

Ice Cream Social: Join us for a socially distanced ice cream social at 6:30 p.m. on the 6th. Bring your own lawn chairs and enjoy homemade ice cream made by the men of the church. The ice cream will be pre-served in individual containers and toppings will be served if you choose.

Help us prepare by signing up on the friendship register at worship or calling the church office to let us know you will attend.

Attention Board Members

Thursday, September 10th is the next board meeting. Watch for the link to the Zoom presentation which will be sent with board reports prior to the meeting. Chairpersons are asked to submit their reports by Monday, September 7th.

First Christian Church Plan for Returning to In-Person Church Services in the Building

Everyone wants to know when things in the life of First Christian Church can get back to the familiar patterns that we know and love. The Pastors and Welcome Back Team, Elders and Board continue to wrestle with this question while seeking to honor our worship, study and fellowship traditions in the way that will keep everyone safe. Thank you for your patience.

After lengthy discussions and prayer over the past several months we have decided to be guided by the Ohio Public Health Advisory System and its status for Muskingum County. This information is available to all on the [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system/) website: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/public-health-advisory-system/> The website also has a Summary of Alert Indicators and a Risk Level Guidelines. These explain how each county's level is assigned and how each level should affect our actions. The data is updated weekly on Thursdays.

There are four levels of increasing severity: Level 1: Yellow; Level 2: Orange; Level 3: Red; Level 4: Purple Muskingum County currently is in a Red Level 3. Our worship services will continue to be streamed each Sunday morning but we will use these levels to determine the status of our in-person worship.

- If Muskingum County is in the Purple level-- FCC services will be on-line only.
- If Muskingum County is in the Red --FCC services will be streamed on-line and only the 10:30 Drive-in worship service will be held.
- If Muskingum County is in Orange or yellow level FCC services will be streamed on-line, Drive-in and in person limited to 50 individuals or families.

We hope that using this system will bring a measure of stability to our church life. If the Ohio Department of Public Health declares the COVID-19 crisis over or if there is a safe and effective vaccine available to the public, FCC we will be able to return to normal church worship and fellowship activities using modifications learned during the pandemic.

A Word About Our Worship Service Format:

Online: Our worship service is streamed live on-line each Sunday morning beginning at 8:30 a.m. Once the live version ends, a recorded version will be available to view anytime during the week through our website zvillefccc.com or YouTube channel. We anticipate that we will make our on-line service available into the future.

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service: Since July, we have invited persons who have difficulty viewing the online service to join us in the sanctuary while the service is streamed. Our sanctuary can hold 50 individuals or families in a socially distanced manner. Masks are required. (See Returning to Sanctuary worship guidelines for details)

10:30 Drive-in Service: Since May we have been worshipping in our parking lot each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Our worship service is transmitted through your car radio and music provided by our band. We have enjoyed being able to gather together in this way during the summer months. The Drive-in format is the safest in-person format for worship and we plan to continue to provide this service through the month of September. At the end of September, we will reevaluate but as the weather becomes less favorable, we will move this service to the Fellowship Hall which can hold 65 individuals or families (if county level permits in building worship). It is safer to have our two Sunday worship services utilize different spaces. We hope to eventually move this service back into the sanctuary.

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. Service: Beginning September 9th (as long county level permits) we will resume our 1:00 p.m. worship service but will move it to the sanctuary. This will allow up to 50 individuals or families to attend. This service will follow the format of our Sunday services. This will open up the opportunity for those who want to be back in the sanctuary for whom the 8:30 hour does not work. At the end of the month we will evaluate the response we have had to this service adjust it accordingly.

We have made arrangements for our building to be professionally cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis in addition to our custodian's frequent cleaning of high touch areas.

First Christian Church Plan for Returning to In-Person Church Services in the Building

Returning to Sanctuary Worship –What to Expect

We have been working toward making worship in our sanctuary available for those who choose to return to worship in our building. Please understand that although we are taking steps to move toward returning our worship services to the sanctuary, the COVID 19 epidemic is far from over. New cases continue to be reported every day. Our priority has always been to keep our members, especially the most vulnerable, safe while meeting their needs for worship and pastoral care. Therefore, it is important that we take care in our return. The Welcome Back Team has established the following guidelines that we hope you will follow out of love and care for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Worship Service Capacity & Seating: We have measured the pews, and marked off with tape, seating that is socially distanced from another. You will be able to choose where you sit within the areas so marked. Deacons will be on hand if you have questions. Members of your household may be seated together in a pew. We ask all others to keep a distance of 6 feet. Our sanctuary has the capacity to seat 50 people/family units with social distancing. At this time, that will be the limit permitted in the sanctuary. The fellowship hall holds 65. We are working on a system to track how many plan to attend and if we get close to our capacity, we will utilize it.

Service Order: Our worship service has changed a bit to accommodate new guidelines. For instance, we will not be passing offering or communion trays through the pews. Upon entering the sanctuary, you will be given portable communion elements (or you may bring your own). Offering plates will be placed by the doors. We will not be including congregational singing in the service at this time (according to the CDC singing greatly increases the risk of virus spread) Our pianist Susan will provide instrumental and some vocal music from behind a plexiglass partition. Our service will be shorter to reduce the amount of time the congregation is in the same indoor space. We will not include a formal time of greeting one another and our pastors will not shake your hand as you leave. A smile, wave or other distanced greeting will show you care about each other.

Friendship Registers: At this time, we will still provide paper bulletins and ask that you complete the friendship register that lets us know you are in attendance. This is mandatory so that we can provide contact tracing information in the event that someone becomes ill.

Face Coverings: Out of love and care for your brothers and sisters in Christ, we ask that you bring and wear your own face covering throughout the service. If you don't have one, we will be happy to provide you one. We understand that some of you have health reasons that make wearing a mask difficult. If that is the case, you can wear a looser type face covering and practice social distancing.

Staying Home: If you feel sick or don't feel comfortable coming to worship in the sanctuary at this time, we encourage you to stay home. We trust that everyone's goal is to protect ourselves and care for each other. You are welcome to view our on-line worship service.

Plan for Returning to In-Person Church Services in the Building Continued:

Traffic Flow: As weather permits, we will prop open all doors so that your contact with door handles is not necessary. We ask that, at this time, you enter through the front door if at all possible. At the close of the service the pews closest to the back of the sanctuary will be dismissed first. We invite you to reserve your conversations and visits with one another until you are outside in the courtyard or parking lot.

Sunday School and Coffee Hour: At this time, we will not hold Sunday School in our building but classes are welcome to gather outside on the church property. We will also not serve coffee.

We need YOU! Our worship services can move into the building only with the cooperation of our congregation members. Following these guidelines, we show love and care for one another. If you have questions or concerns, please give us a call. These guidelines will be updated regularly as we learn new information about COVID 19 virus. We hope that conditions will improve and allow us to return to the worship and activities we enjoy as a congregation. Thank you for your help as together we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A NEW YEAR OF Children and youth MINISTRY begins!

Children worship and wonder online story begins September 6th

The weekly story and wondering questions will be posted online for your family to enjoy in the comfort of your home. In response to the feedback we received, this will be a shorter service than the videos that we posted in spring. Please note that Creative Worship bags will continue to be provided at the Drive-In Worship service.

JC and Kingdom Kids (K-5th Graders) Monday, September 7th, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Canoe Creations- Creek stomping!

Let's take advantage of the opportunity to be outdoors together while the weather is good! Put on your outdoor clothes, rubber boots and mask and join us for a day of stomping in the creek and enjoying the wonder of God's creation. We will meet at Canoe Creations Ministry in Blue Rock (6400 Cutler Lake Rd) where Al and Amy Parker will lead our adventure. Please RSVP by August 30th so that we have an accurate count for our deposit.

Chi Rho and CYF Kick-off(6th-12th Grade) Sunday, September 13th, 6 p.m. at Spangler Memorial

Although our year together may look different, we will continue to live into our call to LOVE GOD AND LOVE EACH OTHER! The youth leaders can't wait to see all of you for a physically distanced gathering. Kim will be in touch later with more details.

K-5 Sunday School- Parent check-in Monday, September 14th, 7 p.m. Zoom meeting

We understand that this year more than ever, families are going to need time to adjust to being back in school and establish what after school activities they will be able to participate in. The K-5 Sunday School class is going to take a short break at the beginning of the school year to allow families to focus on their new school routines. We ask that you join us for this meeting on September 14th to provide feedback on scheduling Sunday School Zoom meetings. We can discuss the day, time, and frequency that best meets the needs of our families. The Christian Education Committee is in the process of choosing a new curriculum that is well suited for both the online platform and in person lessons (so that we can adapt as needed throughout the year). This will also be an opportunity for families to share how the beginning of the school year is going and find support in their church family. Please email Kim if you are able to join the meeting and she will send you the Zoom link.

***As we are all growing accustomed to, in person gatherings are subject to change. The leadership will keep a close eye on the spread of COVID19 in our community and make changes to our plans as needed in order to keep everyone both safe and connected.**

A Note About our Child Protection Policy

We celebrate that our church has made a commitment to be intentional about protecting the safety of our children and volunteers. A copy of our Child Protection Plan is available in the literature rack outside of the church office. As a part of this plan all Children and Youth Ministry Volunteers have attended a Child Protection Policy training and completed a background check. If we do not already have a Christian Education Form on file for your child, or if there have been any changes to your contact information or your child's medical information, please pick one up from the literature rack outside the office. Completed forms can be turned in to Kim Paul.



Food Collection for Eastside Community Ministry

When we have not been in our building it has been difficult for those of you who want to donate food items to our food collection cart. We have moved the cart to the parking lot for our Sunday services.

SOUPer Bowl will not be held this year but our congregation has sent a donation from Outreach offerings so that this event may still be a blessing to those who are hungry. Thank you!

Christ's Table—September 26th is our next day to serve at Christ's Table. If you can help, please call Kris Hawk at (740) 624-0810, or indicate on your friendship register at the worship service.

Christ's Table Coordinators--We would also like to have a couple additional coordinators. A coordinator simply makes sure the door is open and coordinates volunteers during our service time on our Saturday service. Several coordinators allow us to spread this job out over the year. If you can help in this way, please let Kris Hawk or the church office know. We will provide training.

Week of Compassion Outreach Update:

Week of Compassion has been responding to several recent disasters: the Iowa derecho, California fires, and Beirut explosion. Responses to these disasters are complicated by the global pandemic. In California, N95 masks, normally given to assist residents in dealing with poor air quality, are in short supply. Shelters have restrictions on the numbers of people permitted due to social distancing. In Beirut, approximately 200 people died, thousands more were injured, hundreds of buildings were destroyed, and 85% of the country's grain was decimated.

In all three examples, evacuations and shelters are complicated by the pandemic and social distancing restrictions, volunteers are fewer with travel limits and health risks, and the pandemic has left many families with no financial cushion due to layoffs and furloughs. And even as I type this, two hurricanes are threatening the Gulf of Mexico. Your Week of Compassion gifts are at work in our nation and around the world where disaster relief is urgently needed. Thank you.

Thank You Notes

Thank You

Our thanks to Mark and Shonda Delbert from High Point Cleaning who professionally disinfected our church building and will do so on a regular basis in addition to Mickey's regular cleaning of high touch areas.

A note from Trish Church

To my dear Church family,

I don't know how I could have made it through this without all of your kindness and prayers. I just want all of you to know how much I appreciate each and every one of you. Richard loved you all. Thank you so much for your kindness, prayers and support. Virtual hug!

Thank You from Lynn Starr

I want to thank the Youth of the church who worked so hard completing my yard work. It was a blessing!

From Cheryl Smith

Thank you to the First Christian Church congregation for the true love and fellowship I received. I will miss you all.

Bible Presentation to Kindergarten and 3rd Graders



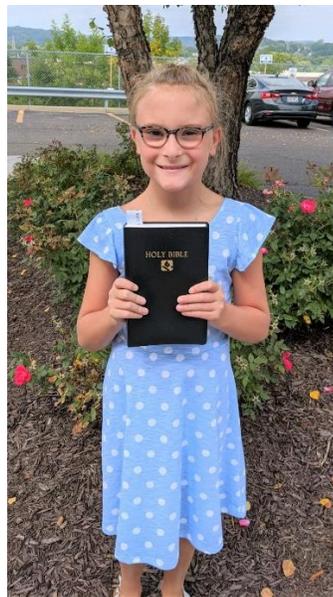
Bo Beight



Lillian Appleby



Alex Kehrberg



Lucy Robison



Bridget Beight

SEPTEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Joe Burns	September 1
Nolan Kimberly	September 1
Tanya Sturtz	September 2
Harry West	September 3
Rodger Joe Davis	September 4
Dick Lear	September 4
Carol Sarbaugh	September 4
Vicki Wheeler	September 5
Marilyn Thorn	September 7
Carolina Casey	September 9
Randy Roberts	September 9
Jody Baker	September 12
Rick Griffin	September 12
Olivia Allen	September 13
Toby Supplee	September 14
Kim Paul	September 17
Bo Beight	September 18
Connie Hardcastle	September 18
Matthew Baldwin	September 20
Scott Barr	September 20
Jonathan Devoll	September 22
Aaron Kehl	September 22
Charlotte McGuire	September 22
Joyce Haddox	September 23
Kyndall Stephens	September 23
Carl Coleman	September 27
Phil Phillips	September 27
Cody Ward	September 27
Kevin Gaskill	September 28
Alana Huizenga	September 28
Anna Paul	September 28
Susan Frye	September 29

Happy Anniversary to:

Judie & Jeff Snyder	September 1
Kevin & Kim Dunn	September 9
Lori & Ed Ward	September 15
Cody & Renee Ward	September 23
Jane & Bob Worstall	September 23
Jim & Amy Wilson	September 28

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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CHURCH
DIRECTORY
ON YOUR MOBILE
DEVICE!**

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Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory*  and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.

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