

THE FIRST WORD



First Christian Church

Vol. 20

Lent & Easter 2018

From your Pastor



Dear Members and Friends,

Two carpenters were working away on a building project. One asked the other, “Do you know what the most powerful nails in the world are?” He answered that he didn’t know but offered, “possibly U.S. Steel?” “No” said the first. “The strongest nails in the world are the three nails that held Jesus Christ on the cross.”

For some, Jesus’ death is history. To others, it’s a religious event. To some of us, his brutal death on that Roman Cross is a deeply personal event. How personal? It is a life changing, and yes, an eternity changing event and can be summed up by two words. Two words found in Galatians 2:20. “I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

See them? Two little words that make all the difference—“For Me.” What was done on the cross was done “For Me.”

The season of Lent is fast approaching. It is a time to examine ourselves, reflect on the purpose of our lives in Christ, where we have gone astray. And also how to rejoin Jesus on our journey toward wholeness in God.

But it all starts with the realization and understanding that Jesus went to the cross— “For Me”.

In His Peace,
Rich

February 2018



SCHEDULE FOR LENT AND EASTER

Feb 14 Ash Wednesday Service 6:00



Mar 25 Palm Sunday



Mar 29 Maundy Thursday 6:00



April 1 Easter Sunday
(Breakfast 9:30 Service 10:30)



We have received "Thank You's" from many in our Shut-In and Home Bound members for the Christmas gift bags. Jane McVey, Pauline Deever, Dale Wells, Dick Gordon and Wayne Smith all gave us verbal thanks. Dick & Vera Baum sent a lovely note thanking us as did Ed Snook. We know our Christmas Remembrance gifts mean so much to all of them.

We also received Thank you notes from Steve & Christine Koch for the warmth and compassion shown to their family at the passing of Penny Koch.

A note from Keith & Stephanie Imhoff with thanks for the lovely service in remembrance of Jim Imhoff and for the wonderful meal.

A thank you note from Safe Haven for remembering them at Christmas time with gift bags and gifts and a generous donation for the young children who spent their Christmas there.

Also a Thank you from Associated Charities for the \$565.00 donation from our Shoe Fund.

Please note !!



Pastor Rich has office hours on **Tuesdays - 10:00 to 2:00.** You can also call the office if you need a different time to meet with him. 419-289-743

AFTER SCHOOL Program

Our After School program is moving right along. We have 7 young people at the present time. There is sign up sheet if you would like to donate snacks for our students. We would like "good for you" snacks—not too many sugary items please! - - - See Jan Robinson for any suggestions. Thanks!

SPRING FORWARD

Daylight Savings begins
March 11th

Just a reminder!

As a reminder, we are now locking our two doors at the south end of the church during our service on Sunday morning. You will need to use the sanctuary entrance if you arrive after 10:30.

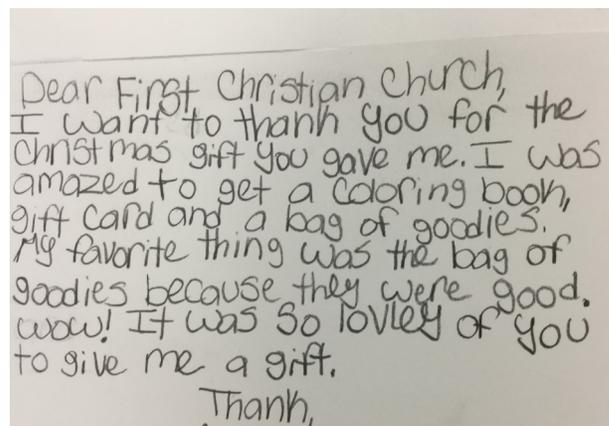
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



Our Wednesday After School program for Middle School students is going well. At the present time we have five girls and two boys. We continue to work on “life skills” such as cooking, sewing, letter writing, and games to promote trust and interaction with others. We have science projects, art projects, and of course help with homework. The young people recently made **apple pies** from scratch with Pastor Rich. Our congregation brings healthy snacks for each Wednesday and there is a sign-up sheet in the gathering room if you care to help out. We thank our volunteers, Linda Gardner, Jan Robinson, Sue Detrow, Ellie Wells, and Pastor Rich Pate. Our student volunteers are Nate Whitmer, Peter Zimmerman and Abby, an AU student. Feel free to drop in to meet our students and join in the fun. We are always open for ideas for projects so please let us know if you have one. The Middle Counselors have told us that we are having positive on our student’s lives.

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The young people wrote “Thank You” notes to the church for the Christmas gifts we gave them. They are on display in the gathering room. One of the girls wrote “I’m in the After School Program and I want to thank you for the gift bag, gift card and coloring book you gave me at Christmas. I was so surprised. My favorite thing was the coloring book and colored pencils because I love to color. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.”



Pie baking with Rich!



Sue showed the kids how to make a hurricane in a bottle!



Jan helped the young people with Thank You notes to the church for the Christmas gifts!.



What's Happening!



We get so many **thank you's** from our friends at **Belmont Tower**. We lead a worship service on the first Sunday of each month and they are always ready for us! They love Rich's message and of course love Brian when he plays the piano and leads the singing. We also serve communion at each visit. It is heart warming to see how happy, blessed and **thankful** they are. You might want to come and join us some Sunday and feel the **love!**



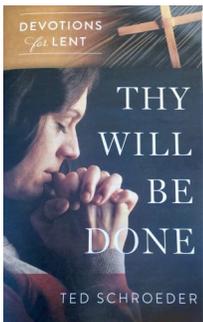
For our **Random Act of Kindness** for January, we asked for SOUP for a Food Pantry in West Salem called The Lord's Pantry. The response was tremendous! So far we have delivered 100 boxes of crackers, 4000 servings of ramen noodles, and over 1400 cans of soup to the pantry !! Plus, we will be making another trip. Thank you to all who have contributed.



Our Leadership team met on Sunday, February 4th. They are working on a few new ways to become more visible and relevant in our community. More information will be forthcoming in the near future. Arlene Whitmer is the chair, plus the chairs of Elders, Linda Gardner, Trustees, Jenny & Mitch Hastings, Finance, Kim Mercer and three at large, Sara Stewart, Amy Shakley, and MaryAnn Welch. Pastor Rich is also present.

BIRTHDAYS

Feb 3 Echo Burgett	Feb 20 Dick Scott	
Feb 8 Albert Zimmerman	Feb 21 John Kirby	
Feb 11 Gertrude Sparks	Feb 23 Donita Pate	
Feb 13 Jordan Repp	Mar 2 Glenn Gallaway	
Feb 13 Logan Repp	Mar 6 Nancy Steigerwalt	Mar 26 Garry Burgett
Feb 14 Lexie Shakley	Mar 9 Sue Detrow	Mar 27 David Bell
Feb 18 Bob Bell	Mar 22 Miriam Brady	Mar 27 Ellie Wells
Feb 19 Dick Reich	Mar 22 Carol Wertz	Mar 31 Kim Mercer
Feb 19 Lee Conwell	Mar 25 Randy Gearhart	Mar 31 Stephanie Fryman



*Be sure to pick up your copy of our Lent Devotional book
"Thy Will Be Done"*



We have been running in the black with our outreach giving as well as paying our expenses. We thank God for this wonderful and frankly new experience for us. Over the past year we have reached out to many different ministries and agencies in our community with our time, talents, and resources. We have received several donations for debt reduction in the amount of \$2,500.00 that went directly to the principal. If anyone would care to make a donation, please see Kim Mercer or mark your check 'loan reduction'. We give praise and thanks to God as we share in His unending bounty with all His creation.



Our Christian love and sympathy is extended to:

The family of Penny Koch who passed away on November 15, 2017. Penny's service was held on Saturday, November 25th.

The family of Robert Lowry who passed on November 21, 2017. His sister was Lucille Boyd. His service was held November 28, 2017 at Denbow-Gasche.

The family of Lorene Gardner who passed away on December 27, 2017. Her service was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

Carol Imhoff and her family in the passing of Jim Imhoff on January 2, 2018. His service was held on Monday, January 8th.

Gary Mowry and family in the passing of his Mother, Elmina Mowry. Her service was held on January 27th at Denbow-Gasche Funeral Home.

The family of Jean Hignett who passed on Saturday, January 7, 2018. Her service and burial was Saturday, February 3, 2018.



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