

THE FIRST WORD



Fall 2018



First Christian Church

Vol. 22

From your Pastor

Dear Members and Friends,

For as long as I can remember, (and each year the “long” gets longer) there is always a morning in September where the sky is a clear beautiful blue, the sunshine is a wonderful shade of gold, and the air is filled with a chill and crispness that lets you know Autumn has arrived. As I write these words, it is 85 degrees and muggy. Not at all a sign of change, but be assured, Autumn is on its way.

We all enjoy the change of seasons because they are anticipations of things to come. For Fall, it is the harvest, the collecting of the bounty from the seeds planted last Spring.

Like the seasons, we all have changes in our lives. Beginnings, endings, good days and bad. “For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under Heaven.” (see Ecclesiastes 3 for more on the subject).

These seasons of change can bring about great blessings to us, but we must be obedient in following God through these changes, even if we don’t fully understand or welcome them.

The point is, through each season of change we must “keep on keepin’ on!” Maybe Paul says it better in Galatians 6:9. “and let us not grow weary of doing good. for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

We at First Christian Church have, over the past 183 years, gone through many changes. And I am sure we will experience many more as we continue to plant His word for a bountiful harvest.

No Matter how long or difficult the road may appear, never give up. There is always a new season just around the corner, and in God’s perfect timing, He will reward us for our faith and perseverance. — - - But until then, “keep on keepin’ on”!

In His peace,
Rich

September 2018

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



The Shelby Chamber Choir, under the direction of Brian Nabors will be singing for us on Sunday, October 21st during our worship. This is a Sunday you don't want to miss! His choirs are awesome!



We hope you like and are inspired by our new sign. It is a great way to stay in touch with our community. If you have ideas, or want to reach out, or tell of upcoming events, please contact Sue Detrow, Ellie Wells or Rich Pate.



Our beautiful pavilion is available for parties and family gatherings. For information, rental fees, etc. Please contact Shelley Carpenter through the church office. (419-289-7439) Please leave a message and someone will get back to you!

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. 419-289-7439

AFTER SCHOOL Program

Our After School program will be starting on the 26th of September. Please keep this program in your prayers! Watch for a sign up sheet for snacks!

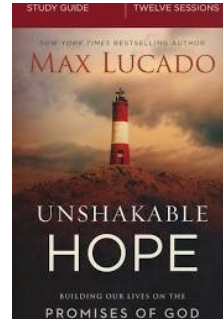
Just a reminder!

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.

CROP WALK

The Crop Walk is on Sunday, October 7th. If you would like to walk or sponsor a walker, please see Dick Reich. Please help end hunger in our community and world wide.

**“BROWN BAG”
BIBLE STUDY GROUP**



Starting September 25th at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. we will have a 12 week study entitled “Unshakable Hope” by Max Lucado. Each study is approximately 90 minutes, including time for lunch or supper. Contact Rich to reserve your place — and bring a “brown bag” and a friend!

THANK YOU !



To our friends of First Christian Church,

We want to again thank you for your outpouring of love. The generous gift given to us for our trip overseas was most appreciated. The trip was fantastic but your gift make it even better. Visiting new and exciting places is a great adventure, but we both are happy to be back home, surrounded by such a loving and caring church family. Blessings, Donita & Rich

Dear First Christian Church, I wanted to thank the church and everybody who gave me gifts, cards and money. Since this was my graduation from college, I did not expect to receive anything, so this truly means a lot to me. Much more meaningful are the hugs and love upon returning to Ashland. I am still determining my future, but I thank you for your prayers and continued support. Thank you, Chantelle Brady

Dear First Christian Church Family, Thank you very much for the kind gift and scholarship. This church has done more for me than I can describe. From strengthening my relationship with Jesus, to introducing me to a wonderful church camp, to being the home of the after school program, to overall amazing support. This church is a blessing. Thank everyone of you, you are all fantastic people. I will continue to see you at church and tell all of the stories I get from college (maybe not all!) lol All the best, Nate Whitmer

What's Happening!!



We are always doing something in the community.
Your response is greatly appreciated!

We continue our worship services the first Sunday of each month at Belmont Tower. On September 2nd we met in the Chapel of the new addition. The chaplain with Belmont worshipped with us. The residents love Rich's message and of course love Brian as he plays the piano and leads the singing. Communion is served 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!**



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On Saturday, September 1st we again opened our church to the Bus Drivers of the Ashland High School Cross Country Invitational. Todd Whitmer was host this year and enjoyed talking with the drivers who came for a place to visit, have coffee and donuts. We thank Todd for making them all feel welcome.

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www.firstchristianashland.org

There is a fresh new look for our website firstchristianashland.org We have been working with Spire Advertising on updating the website so that it is easier to view on tablets and mobile devices. In addition, there will be an option to give offering/donations through PayPal or credit/debit card. Also soon, you will be able to listen to messages and music. Do visit and let us know what you think. We thank Sue Detrow, our webmaster, for all the work she does.

Our Random Act of Kindness is to bring in an item or two for our Give & Take shelves and take an item that you or someone else needs. We like to give our After School students a chance to shop now and then too!



BIRTHDAYS



Sep 4 Todd Whitmer	Oct 12 Ron Brown	
Sep 5 Ralph Wertz	Oct 17 Jennifer Burns	
Sep 6 Kyle Bell	Oct 20 Wayne Smith	
Sep 7 Durita Kirby	Oct 21 Carolyn Stoller	Nov 24 Alice Baker
Sep 12 Kevin Scott	Oct 23 Jan Robinson	Nov 24 Mona Campbell
Sep 17 Emma Gearhart	Oct 23 Sara Stewart	Nov 24 Monta Donelson
Sep 20 Betty Imperio	Oct 23 Mary Bee	Nov 26 Frances Rasmussen
Sep 21 Rachel Burgett	Nov 3 Ryan Dull	Nov 30 Shawn Brady
Sep 27 Bernice Lambert	Nov 5 Marilyn Franklin	
Sep 30 Nate Whitmer	Nov 3 Ryan Dull	Dec 5 Jane McVey
	Nov 5 Marilyn Franklin	Dec 7 Adam Bell
Oct 1 Ryann Hastings	Nov 7 Ada Sue Workman	Dec 10 Kenneth Bee
Oct 1 Dale Campbell	Nov 9 John Whitmer	Dec 18 Lauren Scott
Oct 6 Seth Shakley	Nov 17 Dick Gordon	Dec 23 Katelyn Komendera
Oct 8 Ferne Snook	Nov 18 Kevin Repp	Dec 23 Logan Zehner
	Nov 18 Ada Scott	Dec 31 Bob McCormic
	Nov 21 Jim Detrow	

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our church golf team was the winner of the league this past season. The members of our team are David Bell, Kevin Repp, Bill Jackson & Dwight McElfresh. The subs are Jack Daup, Adam Bell and Mitch Hastings. So proud of these wonderful golfers!

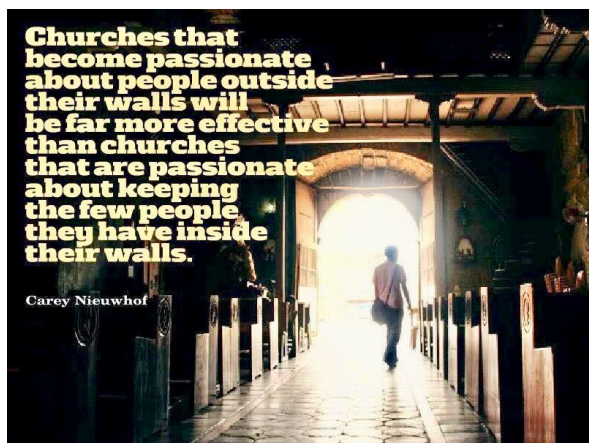


Church Finance Update

Thanks for your continued financial support of the church. We are meeting our budget requirements . Over the past year we have reached out to many different ministries and agencies in our community with our time, talents, and resources. A “Mortgage Reduction” gift is a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one. If you would care to make a donation, please see Kim Mercer or simply mark your check ‘mortgage reduction’. We give praise and thanks to God as we share in His unending bounty with all His creation.

Our Christian love and sympathy goes out to the family of Pauline Deever who passed on July 17, 2018. Pauline was 100 years old.

The Rachel Group meets at the church on the first Thursday of each month. They meet at 10:00 and sometimes go out to lunch following their study. Check with Sara Stewart for more information on this women's group.



I borrowed this from Facebook and thought it was something to seriously keep in mind! Ellie



Please pray for our shut-ins and homebound

Joyce Bradley, Sherry Burns, John Cochie, Jane Foster, Dick Gordon, Carol Imhoff, Betty Imperio, Bernice Lambert, Bob McCormic,, Jane McVey, Kate Miller, Wanda Mish, Dick Scott, Wayne Smith, Ed Snook, Gertrude & Keith Sparks , Dale Wells and Al & Bev Zimmerman. A visit, call or a card means so much to these members and friends who can't be with us each week.



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