

# Disciples Christian Church Spreading the Word

www.dcchamilton.org

March 2018

**Daylight Savings Time Begins March 11<sup>th</sup>**

## OUTREACH

### **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

The annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" luncheon was held at Disciples Christian Church on Sunday, Feb 4, 2018. A variety of homemade soups, salads, and desserts were provided by our church families. We collected \$576 which will go directly to our local hunger ministry, Chosen. That's up \$76 from last year. A great time of giving, fellowship, delicious foods and sharing God's love before the "Big Game!" A great time had by all!



### **Chosen**

Meals will be served at **Chosen** on Thursday, March 8 and Wednesday, March 14. It's another split month! See Sign-up Sheets on the board.

### **Easter Boxes for Chosen**

We are again putting together Easter Boxes for Chosen. A sign-up sheet is on the white board. Empty Boxes (the size that holds 10 reams of paper) are downstairs in the room to the right of the stairs and may be taken to use for this. Please wrap your box. No tags, but write the gender and size on the box. **Boxes are due Palm Sunday – March 25<sup>th</sup>**. If you can't shop, you may give \$20 to Lynn and she will make the necessary purchases.

Ideas:	Bag of Chips	Socks	Razors
	Popcorn	Shirts	Shaving Cream
	Pop	Underwear	Shampoo
	Candy	Shower Shoes	Make-Up
	Nuts	Jewelry	Deodorant
	Cookies		Soap

## **Community Meals**

We will prepare the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Community Meal at the Presbyterian Church on Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **“Test Prep Allstars”**

Planning is well underway between our congregation and the local educators, to prepare our community 5<sup>th</sup> graders for state assessment testing this spring. Many of you have signed up to help as tutors during our focused Test Prep Allstar sessions and we truly appreciate your willingness to help. A special volunteer training event will be on Saturday, March 10, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. til 11:00 a.m. at the church. The event is to help us become familiar with the test and strategies needed to help the students in the areas of Math, Science, Reading and Writing. Terry White has spent countless hours getting everything ready for the volunteers and children to succeed.

Another way to help is with the Snack Break each evening. We still need individuals to help prepare the fruit and hand it out AND we are still looking for fruit donations for each of the weeks in March and April. Check out the sign-up sheet on the white board in the hallway for ways to help.

Our first tutoring session will be on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. with us focusing on Science that night and the following Wednesday evening. Here is to a great Test Season and bonds with our community being strengthened.

## **St. Patrick’s Baked Potato Luncheon**

Because of the Fellowship Hall Remodeling, we will not have our Baked Potato Luncheon this year. Look for it to return next year!

# **EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP**

## **Chocolate for Lent**

Our focus during Lent is a combined worship emphasis and weekly study, based off the book, *Chocolate for Lent*, by Hilary Brand. With the use of the major motion picture, *Chocolat*, the congregation will take a deeper look in to self-discipline, self-giving, conversion, acceptance and maturing in Christ during the Lenten season. Individuals are encouraged to attend worship and one study group each week to fully benefit from the series; however, worship itself will be of great benefit on its own. The remaining schedule for Chocolate for Lent is the following:

### **March**

4	10:45 a.m.	Worship	Chapter 4 “Getting Real – The Power of Acceptance”
5	6:30 p.m.	Study OR	Chapter 5 “Growing Up – The Process of Change”
6	1:30 p.m.	Study	Chapter 5 “Growing Up – The Process of Change”
11	10:45 a.m.	Worship	Chocolat Unwrapped

## **Men's Group**

Since restarting the Men's Group, the group has had outreach, fellowship and study projects. All in all, good things for the men of the church. We began discussing growth in Spirituality with *Man of God* by Charles Stanley, but we shifted to watching small video clips of his son, Andy Stanley, with brief discussions on them at the end.

The Men's Group recently created a scholarship fund for Camp Christian and designating \$300 for scholarships for kids in our congregation to attend. The Men's Group is challenging everyone to give what you can toward the scholarship fund to Camp Christian for kids in our congregation, especially with the financial difficulties of the region this year.

The Men's Group has two upcoming projects currently in the planning stages. The men plan to host an Easter Breakfast for the church on Easter morning. The other project is to meet on a Saturday morning to deliver cards to the residences surrounding the church. On one side of the card, it will have information about our church, including the service time. On the other side would be the words "**Don't Take Out On God What Man Has Done**" displayed in a design provided by Lynn. The cards are intended to help address concerns that may have happened at other churches or through the history of our building itself.

Join us for the next Men's Meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM located at DCC.

## **WORSHIP**

### **Holy Week Opportunities**

#### **Palm Sunday**

Sunday, March 25, 2018 @ 10:45 a.m.  
Disciples Christian Church  
"Jerusalem Times"  
Mark 11:1-11

Friday, March 30, 2018

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Stations of the Cross Sensory Experience  
Disciples Christian Church

#### **Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, March 29, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Disciples Christian Church  
"Sacred Mealtime"  
Exodus 12:1-14  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Friday, March 30, 2018

7:00 p.m.  
District 12 Good Friday Service  
Anderson Hills Christian Church  
(8119 Clough Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45244)

#### **Good Friday**

Friday, March 30, 2018  
Noon  
The Way of the Cross  
Downtown Hamilton

#### **Easter Sunday**

Sunday, April 1, 2018  
7:30 a.m.  
Hamilton Community Sunrise Service  
RiversEdge Amphitheater

10:45 a.m.  
Worship  
Disciples Christian Church

## **Worship Leader Schedule**

Mar	4	Jan Richards	777-7436
	11	Dave Adamson	939-2213
	18	Debbie Ittel	896-3607
	25	John Pendergest	310-5166
Apr	1	Kathy Baughman	777-3698
	8	Jeri Pendergest	608-5859
	15	Jill White	829-5690
	22	Margaret Adamson	939-2213
	29	Mike Rosser	777-1828

## **MINISTER'S MUSINGS**

“Brown toast, white toast, butter spread on cool toast, black toast, scraped toast, but best of all is hot toast, so thank you Jesus. Three cheers for toast” – *Book of Children's Prayers*

Many of us have heard or even given a prayer of grace around the table similar to this one. The best moments I have ever had with children are when they are expressing their love for God. For children they will thank God for everything down to the smallest bug or even toy with no question. As adults we sometimes forget that all that we have is from God. As we face each day, may we continue to understand that no matter how bad it may seem, there are blessings around every corner. You will notice that the child even thanked God for the black and scraped toast. May you find the same strength to thank God for the rough times of life as much as the joy filled.

“So, thank you Jesus. Three Cheers for Life Itself and the ministry of Disciples Christian Church!”

Rev. Bonnie Goodwin

## **MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

### **Time to “Spring Forward”**

Daylight Savings Time starts Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to set your clocks forward an hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

### **Rev. Bonnie Goodwin on Vacation**

Rev. Bonnie will be on Vacation, Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. If pastoral care is needed during this time, please contact John Pendergest or the Elders.

## **February 2018 Financial Report**

Simplified Report: Everything is fine with the church finances.

Checking Account Balance at 2/28/2018: \$16,024.76

Investment Account Balance (DCEF): \$351,075.00

February Income (Offerings & DCEF Interest): \$5,304.23 actual, \$7,531.11 adjusted

February Expenses/Outreach: \$10,114.05 actual, \$7,831.01 adjusted

\* Adjusted takes into consideration early offerings and the interest from investments in the budget and pro-rates these throughout the year. It also uses normal expenses only. Insurance and budgeted capital improvements are spread throughout the year. This provides a better month - to - month picture of how we're doing than the actual numbers. Adjustments in February are: Income: no adjustments; Expenses: \$2,453 for insurance has been removed (and will be added back in monthly), and \$134.04 for building permits from the designated capital improvement fund has been removed as this is not part of the budget.

## **Information from Trustee Meeting**

The Trustees met on February 11, 2018. Items of interest to the congregation...

1. The Capital Campaign Survey Results are in. Of 29 "Giving Units", 16 responded. The results to the 2 questions of whether we should run a Capital Campaign are neutral. A few (3-4) agree, more (6) disagree and the rest (6-7) marked "neutral". The main reasons given are that many are on a fixed income and giving what they can, and the current financial health of DCC (i.e. we have investments to use.) Based on this, we will not be working with the Disciples Church Extension Fund to run an extensive capital campaign. If you would like to contribute to reduce the amount we need to take from investments, please feel free to do so. We will also be looking at possible fundraisers to raise some money. In addition, we plan to have a pot luck dinner after the remodeling is done, to get together and talk about the questions and results in the survey as well as the financial situation at DCC.
2. We hope to be sending children/teenagers to camp this summer. The past few years, we've used money earned by past youth groups to finance the church's share. This year, the Men's Group has offered to pay what we would ask for in scholarships (saves the Christian Church in Ohio from paying that amount), and we have enough money left to send 2 campers. We are planning on having a luncheon with a camp theme, and collecting money to help send our boys to camp.
3. A Nominating Committee consisting of Bev Rosser, Diane Kinner and Bonnie Goodwin has been put together. Work will begin in late March in order to have a slate of officers to present at the June Congregational Meeting.
4. We will have a Spring Work Day on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. We ask that all members of the congregation who are able participate in this in order to get as much done as possible. A "to do" list will be made and you'll be able to select what you wish to work on. There will be both inside and outside (mulching) jobs. In addition we will be working on getting rid of some stuff we no longer need. We may do this for some of the larger items before the work day.
5. We have an issue with the bathroom lights – when the switch for the hall lights is turned off, the lights in the bathroom go off, and there's no way to turn them back on in the bathrooms. There have been a few instances where this has happened after church. It's a fairly easy fix – the lights will be made to work off the same wiring as the electrical outlets so they are not

connected to the hall switch. We plan to install motion detecting light switches to avoid having them left on. This will be done when the electrician comes to do the work for the Fellowship Hall.

6. Another issue with the Women's ADA Compliant bathroom is that if someone were in a wheelchair, it wouldn't be possible for them to reach the lever on the towel dispenser. This isn't as big a problem in the men's rooms. We're taking a low tech solution here. A hook will be installed to hang a hand towel. The towel will be checked each Sunday to see if it needs washed and replaced. This will be done after the electrical work in the bathroom is completed.
7. We are also looking at the hand rails in the stairway to the basement. There should be a rail on the right side. More research is needed.
8. Snow – we've been reluctant to spend the money to plow the lot mid-week when we know the snow will melt by Sunday. This has led to Bonnie working from home a few times. In early February Dave Adamson used his snow blower and cleared the area near the church after one storm (THANK-YOU DAVE!). We are checking to see if we can get just a portion of the lot plowed for a lower cost, and will take into consideration what is happening at the church during the week when making the decision to plow.
9. Finally, the Christian Church in Ohio recently had an audit of some of their financial procedures completed. Several suggestions were made that apply to us. Nothing is necessarily being done wrong – but more safeguards can be put in place to ensure money is being spent properly. Diane wrote up suggested Treasurer's procedures, and with a few amendments, these were approved by the Trustees. For the most part, these outline what the Treasurer can pay without getting approval for. One of the main items that will affect congregational members is that purchases must be approved by whoever is in charge of the budget item that will pay for them. For instance, if someone purchases items (say plates and cups) from the Fellowship budget, Phyllis as Chair of Fellowship will need to approve the expense (and receipts must be submitted to the Treasurer as is done currently.) This is not intended to complicate things – the approval could be a simple email from the committee chair. The intent is that each chair will know where the money is being spent, and can plan for future projects. For items that are purchased repeatedly (e.g. cleaning supplies, water for the library refrigerator) one approval with the maximum amount to be spent in the year is sufficient. Please also give consideration to getting approval BEFORE you make a purchase to ensure there are funds to cover it. The procedures were discussed with cabinet members in February. If you'd like to see a copy of the procedures, please let Diane know.

## **Fellowship Hall Remodeling**

It's taking longer to get permits than planned, so the work on the remodeling got pushed back a few weeks. Diane has been calling several times a week to see if the Butler County Building Permits are ready. Hopefully they will be available on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Work is anticipated to start around March 1<sup>st</sup>, but may be delayed if permits aren't ready. This first week they are cutting the holes for the concrete footers, getting those holes inspected and pouring cement. The drywall from the existing walls is also coming down.

After that, measurements will be taken for the steel columns and beams and the temporary supporting walls built (but the existing walls not knocked down yet). It will take 2 weeks to manufacture the steel, which takes us to the week of March 19 (at the earliest). If all goes as planned, at this point, the existing walls will be knocked down, and the steel supports put in place. This should take about 3 days. During this time, it's safest not to have many people

in the sanctuary. If things get delayed due to the building permit and this work can't be done the week of March 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have asked that this step be delayed until after Holy Week as we need to be in the Sanctuary for tutoring, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

### **Donations of Money**

In January, it was suggested that I provide information on various things you can donate to through the church. Below is a complete list. It's important that you mark exactly where you want your contributions to go so that our Financial Secretary, Dave Adamson, knows where to put your money.

**General Fund** – Amounts pledged are important for running our church and the outreach/community activities we do. Donating extra may help us avoid using investments. (This is called “General Support” on our offering envelopes.

**Disciples Mission Fund Special Day Offerings** – Throughout the year, we collect for various purposes.

Week of Compassion in February –for disaster relief, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and promotion of mission opportunities.

Easter Offering – Supports General Ministries of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ

Pentecost Offering – for New Church Development

Reconciliation Ministry Offering (Sept/Oct) – for Pro-Reconciling, Anti-Racism Work

Thanksgiving Offering – Supporting Disciples of Christ Higher Education Institutions

Christmas Offering – Supports our Region (Christian Church in Ohio)

When disasters strike, we often collect extra for **Week of Compassion** – to be used for that specific disaster (Hurricanes and Fires in 2017). Money can be given to Week of Compassion at any time during the year.

We serve **Chosen Meals** twice a month – many people make and bring food, others donate money which offsets what needs to be paid from our budgeted outreach funds.

Donations may also be made to **Chosen or Serve City** to help offset operating expenses. (Our Souper Bowl collects for this. Donations can be made at any time.)

**Camp Christian** – The fees collected from campers and others using the camp don't cover all of the operating expenses and the \$3,700 monthly mortgage payment. They ran an operating deficit of around \$50,000 last year. Money given to the “1 in 1,000 Campaign” for Camp Christian will help offset operating expenses and the mortgage payment.

The **Christian Church in Ohio** has several ministries which may be given to. Those include:

Disciples Mission Fund

Ecumenical – Ohio Council

Ohio Regional Operations

Cleveland Christian Home

New Church Support

Ministerial Relief Fund

Inner City/Rural Support

Of these, we've had communications from the Christian Church in Ohio (i.e. Ohio Regional Operations) outlining their dire financial situation. They had a deficit of around \$67,000 in 2017. Plans are in place to reduce expenses for 2018, but that deficit doesn't go away. Giving to the “Leadership Campaign” will help with this.

We have several “**Designated Funds**” which may be donated to:

We will not be conducting a Capital Campaign to pay back our investments for the **Fellowship Hall remodeling**, however, any money you wish to donate for this cause will be used first which means less taken from investments. (After the project is done, money given will be put in the designated capital improvement fund for future capital improvements.) Put this in the “Capital Improvements” Line on your offering envelope.

The church sends children and teenagers to Camp Christian in the summer. Money is needed to assist the parents/grandparents in these expenses. In the past, we’ve used money in the designated “Youth Ministry” Fund. Depending on who goes to camp, there will not be enough to cover all the fees this year. Money given to “**Camp Fees**” will be used for this purpose (as needed this year or in future years.)

The “**Grief Ministry**” Fund is used to purchase food (usually meat) to supplement donations when we provide a dinner after a funeral. Right now, we have \$122.15 left in this fund.

We also have a “**Memorial Fund**”. Memorials may be made when someone passes away. At the present time, this fund is quite small (we used it to help with the Elevator expenses). However, if it grows, a Memorial Committee would determine use of the funds for needed items.

## **Leadership Cabinet**

The Leadership Cabinet continues to meet on a quarterly basis for church calendar/event planning. Our last meeting was on Sunday, February 18, 2018 where we planned the church calendar our through the month of May. Included in our discussions/planning are the following:

- Hygiene Pantry – Hygiene Products available to community once a month.
- Church Work Day – April 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. – Help us clean out the closets and classrooms!
- Camp Sunday and Meal – Camp Promotion Worship and Meal in May to help raise money for the scholarship fund while celebrating our varied camp memories/experiences.
- Family Movie Afternoons for the Community

If any of these ministry ideas interest you or you have an idea for our congregation, see Rev. Bonnie Goodwin. The next Cabinet meeting will be on June 3, 2018 following worship with a light lunch provided.

Who is on the Leadership Cabinet?

President – Diane Kinner  
Vice President – Jill White  
Secretary – Debbie Ittel  
Treasurer – Diane Kinner  
Financial Secretary – Dave Adamson  
Worship Chair – Jan Richards

Fellowship/Education Chair – Phyllis Hurst  
Outreach Chair – Lynn Adams  
Care Ministry Chair – John Pendergest  
Elder Representative – Margaret Adamson  
Trustee Representative – John Baughman  
Minister – Bonnie Goodwin

## **Care Ministry**

The Care Ministry Team has a new member and that is Linda Ashbrook. For many years she has been doing parts of the Care Ministry by sending out cards and notes on behalf of the Elders. She is a natural addition to this ministry team. Linda and John met to identify and clarify what things would be appropriate to fall under the Care Ministry Team, including any resources already available within the congregation.

One event that is coming up from the Care Ministry Team is **“The Third Thirty – Making Your Third Thirty a Great Thirty”** with guest speaker, Christ Pomfret. Chris is a retired aerospace consultant, originally from England, but has been settled in Dayton for the past 25 years. The “Third Thirty” is a concept focused on how to age wisely, happily, respectfully and graciously, using our faith spirituality. It outlines the God-given challenges that we face but often ignore. The Third Thirty opens our minds and helps us generate the confidence we need to face and overcome those challenges, whether we are a caregiver or someone approaching our own “Third Thirty.”

The event is directed on any in the Third Thirty (60-90 years old) AND those who have parents or grandparents in the Third Thirties stage of life. The event will be held on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30 a.m. with a light continental breakfast. The presentation with Christ Pomfret will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude with lunch at Noon. The speaker will be available during lunch for any follow-up questions from those in attendance. Registration for the event is \$10 to cover the costs of the event. Scholarships are available, see John Pendergest for more information. This event will be open to the public beginning April 9<sup>th</sup>! Sign-up now to reserve your spot.

More information about “The Third Thirty – Making Your Third Thirty a Great Thirty” will be available starting this Sunday and throughout the month of March. Flyers and a sign-up sheet will be posted on the white board in the Hallway for those who are interested. The event will be well worth your time.

## **A Message from John Pendergest**

“The other day I took my grandson to lunch and a movie to celebrate his graduation from preschool, it made me reflect back on my son's graduation from the same program some 20 short years earlier and how Blessed I was a year ago to see him graduate from high school and now to see him finish his first year of college. Blessed to see these things as I am losing my sight-reflecting on how time does fly in the fact that things change.

I asked my grandson what was his favorite part of preschool and his response was "the courtyard". I inquired-Why? Gavin answered, because the statue of Jesus and his arms and hands are extended out. Jesus wanted me to shake his hand, so I did. Actually, it is a statue representing "let the children come unto me", but Gavin solid as Jesus wants us to join hands and shake his hand.”

The more I reflected on this in my previous thoughts of time passing and change-I reflected on how constant God's love for us is, and that no matter how much time passes His love never changes. With that constant love, it is not Jesus who walks away, but it is us, but God

is always waiting with extended arms to welcome us back. In the Andy Stanley study, *White Flag*, he makes a reference that we can run from God, but we can't run away from God. How true that is because God never leaves us and welcomes us back at any time. Jesus is always extending his hand to us and all we have to do is, just like Gavin, extend our hand and embrace the hand of God.

Lord-thank you for always being there for us.

My prayer for you in these days of what we see as change, is that you will reflect with vision on the constant of God's love. As I often tell people there is a difference of sight and vision and as I lose my site, my vision has never been stronger. For as it is stated in God's word, "we walk by faith and not by sight". Amen!!!

This story was written about 25 years ago, but is still relevant today as God's love remains constant.

John Pendergest  
Commissioned Minister/Pastor

## MARCH CALENDAR

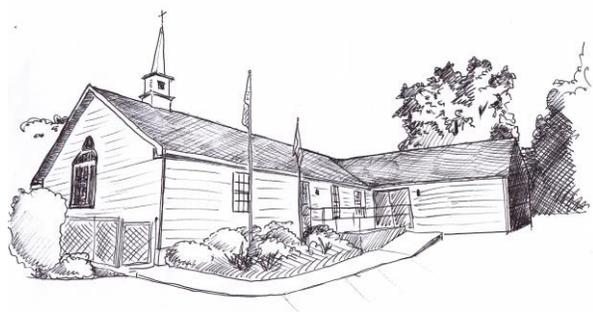
4	10:45 a.m.	Worship	20	7:00 p.m.	Elders Meeting
5	6:30 p.m.	Chocolate Study	22	3:00 p.m.	Community Meal Prep
6	1:30 p.m.	Chocolate Study		6:30 p.m.	Safety Team Meeting
8	5:30 p.m.	Chosen (Sloppy Joe's)	25	10:30 a.m.	Worship
11	<b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>		26	6:30 p.m.	All Star Test Prep
	10:45 a.m.	Worship	28	10:00 a.m.	Newsletter Deadline
13	7:00 p.m.	Men's Meeting		6:30 p.m.	All Star Test Prep
14	5:30 p.m.	Chosen	29	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
15	6:30 p.m.	Praise Team			
	7:15 p.m.	Choir	30	1:00 p.m.	Good Friday
18	10:45 a.m.	Worship			Sensory Experience

## BIRTHDAYS

<u>March</u>		<u>April</u>	
Abby Williams	2	John Pendergest	2
Betty Vangen	6	Cliff Shanholtzer	17
Jill White	12		
Paul Caudill	19		
Kevin Steuart	21		

## PRAYER REQUESTS

John Pendergest, Jacquie Clingan, Marie Garnett, Angel Shanholtzer, Logan Gebhart, Dex Smith and Family, Sarah Adamson, Chosen



Disciples Christian Church  
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