

First
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

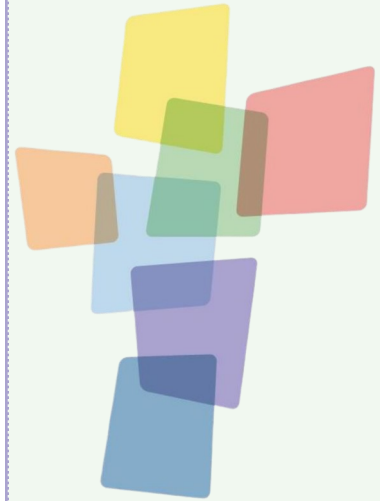
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Weekly Newsletter

BREAKING NEWS



We have been notified that someone who attended church in-person on Sunday, January 9th, 2022, has tested positive for COVID. We are advising anyone who also was in attendance to review the CDC guidelines for exposure and to quarantine and test as necessary.



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WHAT IS SNL?

According to their Facebook page, SNL is “an ecumenical mission outreach geared towards helping and feeding the homeless and hurting in the Covington area. Through the help of multiple churches and volunteers, we seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ and His love and grace.”

From 4:00 PM—5:30 PM, the group serves a meal from our parking lot to any who stop by. They often have live music and will present a brief devotional message for any who are interested.

Additionally, they provide a small food pantry and other social/nursing services as they have availability.

AN UPDATE FROM ‘SNL’

This past Sunday, our Sunday Night Live group (also known as ‘SNL’) was able to hand out donations of knitted hats and scarves from the Knit and Loop group at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Melborne, KY. A total of 14 hats, 8 scarves, and 4 headbands were accepted by guests attending the dinner provided.

We are so thankful to be able to be able to partner in a ministry that provides so much compassion and services to those in need in our community!

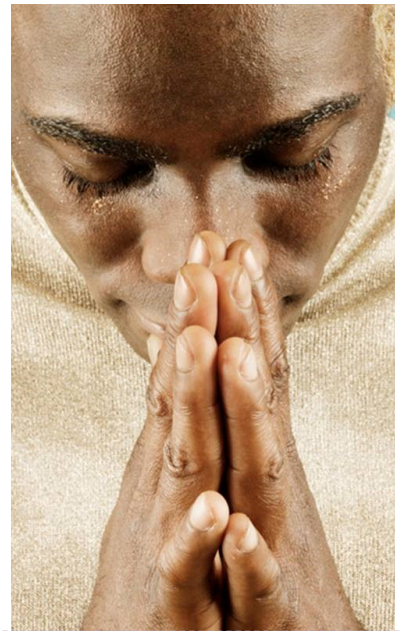
Thank you to Hildy for this heartwarming update!

If you are interested in joining the Knit and Loop group, you can reach out to Hildy directly or contact the church office for more information.



PRAYER LIST

- Tim & Sandy Taylor
- The Unkraut Family
- Jerry Bargo
- Shane Zeis
- Martin Warne
- Felicia Siegman
- Matt Collier
- Jade-lee Young
- Larry Henage
- Pam & Gary Bray
- Kassidy Borchers
- Noah Borchers & Maria Smith
- Sarah Jones & Family



Want to add to the prayer list?

Send us your prayers and praises, so that we can support and celebrate you!

UPCOMING: NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Rev. Tracy Siegman will be offering a New Members Class this upcoming February! If you are a new member with our church, are considering becoming a member, or if you are just looking for a space to talk about the history and theology of our church and the Disciples of Christ, then this class is for you!

The course will last three weeks starting February 15, 2022, and will be on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.

If this sounds like a good fit for you, please contact Pastor Tracy or the church office for more information.





CURRENT: EPIPHANY SEASON

The season of Epiphany is a time when Jesus reveals Himself to us as the Messiah and Son of God through His ministry and teachings. Our Epiphany sermon series is titled *“The Commands of Jesus”* and will run from 1/16/2022—02/24/2022.

During this season, we will be reading scriptures from all four Gospels in order to hear the commands of Jesus. Last week was our annual Star Sunday, where we received our guiding star words for 2022. Wondering what next week will bring? Check the table below!

Let’s Think:

What was your star word last year? Have you discovered its meaning? What is your star word this year? How do you think it will guide you?

DIDN’T GET YOUR STAR WORD?

Don’t worry—you don’t have to miss out on the fun!

Send us a Facebook message or send an email to the church office to have a star chosen and sent to you in the mail!

COMMAND	SCRIPTURE	DATE
Let Your Light Shine	Matthew 5:13-16	01/16/2022
Do Not Worry	Matthew 6:25-34	01/23/2022
Go and Do Likewise	Luke 10:25-37	01/30/2022
Do Not Be Afraid	Luke 5:1-111	02/06/2022
Forgive and You Will Be Forgiven	Luke 6:37-42	02/13/2022
Take Up Your Cross	Mark 8:27-9:1	02/20/2022
Feed My Lambs	John 21:15-25	02/27/2022



ONGOING: SPECIAL RECYCLING EVENT

Throughout the month of January, Hildy will be collecting items to be recycled at the Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub (CRRH). Items should be brought to the collection bin at the back of the sanctuary this month. Examples of items that can be brought for recycling include:

- Holiday lights that no longer work
- Old gift cards or other old plastic cards that no longer have value
- Prescription bottles and small over-the-counter (OTC) medicine bottles (empty, **with personal information removed**)

Here are some additional tips regarding the recycling of medicine bottles:

- **Large** OTC medicine and vitamin bottles can go in Rumpke curbside recycling with the **lid on**. Loose lids may fall through the machines and end up in the landfills.
- **Small** OTC medicine and vitamin bottles **cannot** go in Rumpke curbside recycling. They can, however, be recycled at CRRH and can be brought to the church during the month of January.

ONGOING: PANORAMA FOOD DRIVE

Have you been wanting to bring food donations but don't know what to bring? Let us help!

Consider buying foods that are easily prepared in the microwave or are ready-to-eat already. Use the list below as a guide:

- Instant foods: oatmeal, mac-n-cheese, mashed potatoes, or ramen noodles
- Crackers
- Peanut butter
- Canned meat, such as: vienna sausages, spam, chicken, or tuna
- Canned vegetables, soup, and stew
- Pudding
- Canned fruit, fruit cups, and fresh fruit, such as apples or tangerines
- Packaged dinners
- Chips
- Little Debbie cakes

**FIRST CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

*Welcome Wholly.
Love Authentically.
Share God's Grace
Abundantly.*

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FROM THE PASTOR

In Sunday's service, I shared with you that my star word for 2022 is LOVE. You're probably going to hear about love a lot this year from me, especially with what we can do to love our neighbor.

As the positivity rates for COVID are surging, my concern increases daily. We are going to take a 2-week pause from gathering in person for worship. I know we take every precaution possible when we gather. I know we are all vaccinated and many are boosted. We wear masks. We attempt to practice social distancing (for such a huggy people, we do just okay). We do space out pretty well during service. We offer livestreaming of our service. We're doing everything we can to keep ourselves safe when we gather and offer opportunities for worship for those who prefer to stay home.

Still, I am concerned. I am concerned about your health. I am concerned about my health. I am also concerned about the healthcare and essential workers.

In the beginning of COVID, we were encouraged to wear masks and practice social distancing as a sign of loving our neighbors. Taking precautions to protect our neighbors from us potentially giving the virus to them was a sign that we loved our neighbor. We paused from worshipping in the sanctuary for a very long time to keep everyone safe. We got vaccinated and are getting boosted to stop the spread of the virus - a concern for our world, not just ourselves. This 2-week pause is for our neighbors; I sign we love them. I know we do our best to stay safe in the sanctuary. I believe that a brief pause from in-person worship is a sacrifice we can make to ensure that our gathering (and the associated risk of spreading the virus despite our best efforts) doesn't add to the stress on the healthcare workers.

For the next 2 Sundays, only those leading worship will be present in the sanctuary. Everyone else is encouraged to worship at home. Worship participants and our A/V crew will livestream our service during the regular 10:45 am time. You can worship from home via Facebook, YouTube or the website. If you choose to worship via Facebook, post a comment to say hello to your fellow worshippers.

Thank you all for the grace and love you show to our neighbors. Please pray for the health of our neighbors and those caring for the sick and dying.

With hope,
Pastor T