

January 2010

# The Lamplighter

First Christian Church  
620 N. Main St.  
Findlay, OH 45840



*"You are the light of the world...no one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket...let your light shine before others..."*

*Matthew 5:14-*

## *From the Interim Pastor .....*

As the New Year unfolds before us, we stand at the threshold of our 126<sup>th</sup> year as disciples of Christ in Findlay, and at the crossroads of God's call to us to be the church in this place.

Throughout the pages of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, God is constantly calling people out from where they are to a new place, to where God wants them to be in the world... or in life.

This month we will be further exploring a possible future relationship with the First United Church of Christ (UCC) in Findlay. A twelve-person council of six representatives from their congregation and six from ours will meet here at our church on Sunday afternoon, January 17 at 3:00 pm to further discuss the possibility of merger.

Moreover, we will hold two worship services together – one on January 31 at their church, and one on February 28 at ours – to meet each other, worship, fellowship, and celebrate the Lord's Supper together.

On January 31, Sunday School will begin at 9:00 am at the First United Church of Christ at 2100 Greendale Ave; worship will begin at 10:00 am followed by a coffee hour. We will repeat the same sequence at First Christian Church on February 28, beginning with Sunday School at 9:30 am, and followed by Worship at 10:30 am.

Please join us for these exciting introductory services, fellowship, and celebration of the Lord's Supper.

We really don't know yet, of course, where God is leading us. But we do know that God is with us, and we respond to God's call in faith and trust the journey, one step at a time.

Happy New Year,

**Bob**



*Dear Friends,*

*Thanks so much for your kind cards and generous gifts. It has been such a joy to serve you all over the past year, and I look forward to the future into which God is leading us in the year ahead as a church family.*

*Blessings and Peace to all of you in the New Year,*

**Bob**



**CHECK THIS OUT**

First Christian Church website can be found at  
[www.findlayfcc.org](http://www.findlayfcc.org)

## WHAT'S NEXT?

I have been a Methodist, a Lutheran (while I was in college), a member of the United Church of Christ and the First Christian Church. I have been a leader, a “follower”, a choir member, an accompanist, a committee member, and a committee chair. When you stop and think about it, any church is fortunate to have all of these “positions” as members of their congregations. Imagine any church with all leaders and no followers. Perhaps worse, imagine a church with all followers and no one willing to assume leadership roles and organize efforts to complete various tasks.

On Monday, December 10, we held the first Church Council meeting that has been held in over a year due a combination of reasons. One being the sabbatical that the congregation endorsed while Pastor Nikki was here. We were going to examine the direction First Christian Church should go. Then Pastor Nikki resigned. We were so blessed to have Robin Kretzinger continue her leadership role until our current officers were elected.

Of course, we are wondering what awaits us in the future. Are we going to sit and twiddle our thumbs? I certainly hope not. I hope each of us will find at least one activity in which each of us will be involved and there are so many—Bible study, bell choir, youth group, prep for fellowship hours, sending a card to support someone who might need it or maybe just to let them know you care. Helping a neighbor and/or a charitable organization by a donation of any kind also carries the lessons of our church throughout the world.

Our Church Council met and discussed our new roles. I believe that when a new direction is found for our congregation, everyone will do it together. I pray that each and every member of this church receives the warmth of helping other people— regardless of the temperature outside!!!

-Jane Snyder

## Mitten & Hat Tree News

The mitten and hat collection was a success again this year. Thirty-five pair of gloves, ten hats and five pair of socks were donated. Thank you to all who were able to give.

## CABIN FEVER FOODATHON! COMING SOON!

Are these long winter days getting to you? Are you tired of eating your own cooking? The same things day after day? Are you repeating the same stories over and over again to your family? Come join us on January 17 for a Cabin Fever Foodathon which will be held right after worship. This will be a time for fellowship and good eating! Bring your favorite comfort food—be it chili, pie, cookies, salad, or casserole. Mark your calendars now for this time to be with others and enjoy someone else’s cooking! And please mark the sign-up sheets on the table across from the office with what you are bringing so we don’t end up with all cookies and pies!

### St. Francis’ Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

# January

## BIRTHDAYS

- 6—Cheryl Neely
- 15—Kelly Stahl
- 16—Kyle Fakes
- 17—Linda Pitkin
- 17—Gene Cleary
- 17— Ed Foreman
- 19—John Snyder
- 20—A.J. Koehler
- 25—Kasey Wagner
- 29—LaVera Hover



## ONGOING

### PRAYER CONCERNS:

Lyt Wells, Kathy Brinkman, Sandy Frantz, Pansy Slaybaugh, and Greg Longworth

## IMMEDIATE PRAYER CONCERNS:

### *Please pray:*

- ◆ For Evelyn Wilson’s family as they mourn her loss.
- ◆ For all of us as we discern where God is leading us as a congregation of the Disciples of Christ Church.
- ◆ For the Pastoral Search Committee as they proceed in their efforts to locate a new pastor for our church.
- ◆ For the Building Committee as they continue to discern how best to use our church building.
- ◆ For those who are alone and lonely, that their hearts may find peace and joy in their relationship with God.
- ◆ For all our service men and women who are defending our safety here and abroad.




God bless thy year!  
 Thy coming in, thy going out,  
 Thy rest, thy traveling about,  
 The rough, the smooth,  
 The bright, the drear.  
 God bless they year!



## Sundays at FCC for December

	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
Worship	61	71	78	55
Sunday School	20	11	No SS	15
Sunday School Offering	\$3.00	\$1.00	_____	_____
Loose	\$9.00	\$7.00	\$2.25	\$13.00
Envelopes	\$1,452.00	\$1,632.00	\$1,735.00	\$5,425.00
Interest	\$249.17	_____	\$17.50	_____
Other	\$85.00	\$95.00	_____	_____
Total Operating Fund	\$1,798.17	\$1,935.00	\$1,754.75	\$5,438.00
Other	\$49.00	\$42.00	\$884.00	\$146.00
Total All Funds	\$1,847.17	\$1,777.00	\$2,638.75	\$5,584.00

## January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>December 27</b> 9:30 am- Sunday School 10:30 am- Worship	<b>December 28</b>  No Bible Study  <b>Pastor Bob</b>	<b>December 29</b>  No Bible Study  <b>on vacation</b>	<b>December 30</b>  NO CHOIR OR CHIMES PRACTICE	<b>December 31</b>  	<b>January 1, 2010</b>	<b>January 2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:30 am- Sunday School 10:30 am— Worship	<b>4</b>  No Bible Study  <b>Pastor Bob</b>	<b>5</b>  No Bible Study  <b>on Vacation</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00 Taize Prayer  7:00 pm— Chimes	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:30 am- Sunday School 10:30 am- Worship	<b>11</b> 11:00 — Bible Study  7:00 pm— Board Meeting	<b>12</b> 11:00 — Bible Study  6:00 pm— Elder's Meeting	<b>13</b> 9:00 am— Taize Prayer  7:00 pm— Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30 am- Sunday School 10:30 am- Worship Cabin Fever Foodathon—right after Worship 2:30 pm - Fox Run	<b>18</b> 11:00 — Bible Study  7:00 pm — Membership/ Fellowship Team Mtg.	<b>19</b> 11:00 — Bible Study	<b>20</b> 9:00 am— Taize Prayer  7:00 pm— Chimes	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30 am- Sunday School 10:30 am- Worship	<b>25</b> 11:00 — Bible Study	<b>26</b> 11:00 — Bible Study	<b>27</b> 9:00 am— Taize Prayer  7:00 pm— Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31 Services at            First United            Church of Christ</b> 9:00.Sun. School 10:00 am- Worship	<b>February 1</b> 11:00 — Bible Study	<b>Feb. 2</b> 11:00 — Bible Study	<b>Feb. 3</b> 9:00 am— Taize Prayer 10:00— Hannah Circle 7:00 pm - Choir	<b>Feb. 4</b>	<b>Feb. 5</b>	<b>Feb. 6</b> 4:00-7:00 pm— Family Fun Night

## SERVING SCHEDULE

### January 3

**Minister:** Rev. Robert Bowen  
**Children's Sermon:** Patty Koehler  
**Organist:** Anna Stembler-Smith  
**Music Minister:** Carrie Norris  
**Greeters:** John Snyder, Kathleen Shaffer, Robin Kretzinger, Martha Stoner  
**Nursery:** Pat Sharninghouse & Rebecca Wolfe  
**Elders:** Carole Cleary & Linda Pitkin  
**Deacons:** Barb Brown, Deb Kirk, Dale Yoder  
**Coffee Hour:** Team #1: Heather Kretzinger, Kathleen Schaffer, Kathy Brinkman  
**Counter:** Terry Fancher & Robin Kretzinger

### January 10

**Minister:** Rev. Robert Bowen  
**Children's Sermon:** Robin Kretzinger  
**Organist:** Anna Stembler-Smith  
**Music Minister:** Carrie Norris  
**Greeters:** Bill Peters, Dale Yoder, Cindi Beltz, Kathleen Schaffer  
**Nursery:** Jenny Williamson & Jessie Stahl  
**Elders:** Terry Fancher & Kathy Brinkman  
**Deacons:** Patty Koehler, Melissa Brown, Zach Stahl  
**Coffee Hour:** Team #2: Ben & Sarah Feller, Tim & Lisa Wolfe, Betty Longworth  
**Counter:** Terry Fancher & Andy Koehler

### January 17

**Minister:** Rev. Robert Bowen  
**Children's Sermon:** Zach Stahl (Penny Sunday)  
**Organist:** Anna Stembler-Smith  
**Music Minister:** Carrie Norris  
**Greeters:** John Snyder, Karol Smith, Ken Varney, Martha Stoner  
**Nursery:** Andy & Patty Koehler  
**Elders:** Barb England & Carole Cleary  
**Deacons:** Nancy Peters, Bill Peters, Cindi Beltz  
**Coffee Hour:** Cabin Fever Foodathon  
**Counter:** Terry Fancher & Bill Peters

### January 24

**Minister:** Rev. Robert Bowen  
**Children's Sermon:** Heather Kretzinger  
**Organist:** Anna Stembler-Smith  
**Music Minister:** Carrie Norris  
**Greeters:** Cindi Beltz, David England, Ed Davies, Barb England  
**Nursery:** Mary Byal & Takara Nicholson  
**Elders:** Kathy Brinkman & Barb England  
**Deacons:** Mary Fancher, Tim Wolfe, Heather Kretzinger  
**Coffee Hour:** Team #4: Bill & Nancy Peters, Karol & Lloyd Smith, Pat & Dale Yoder  
**Counter:** Terry Fancher & Karol Smith

### January 31

Please join us at  
**First United Church of Christ**  
 2100 Greendale Ave.  
 (corner of Greendale and Bright Rd.)  
 9:00—Sunday School  
 10:00 —Worship  
 Coffee Hour after Worship



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Sunday Schedule  
9:30am Sunday School  
10:30am Worship Service  
Followed by Fellowship-Coffee Hour

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## Some Inspirational Thoughts for the New Year!

- ◆ You must feel confident enough within yourself to follow your own dreams.
- ◆ Appreciate yourself by allowing yourself the opportunities to grow, develop, and find your true sense of purpose in this life.
- ◆ Don't stand in someone else's shadow when it's your sunlight that should lead the way.
- ◆ Laugh at your mistakes and praise yourself for learning from them.
- ◆ Pick some flowers and appreciate the beauty of nature.
- ◆ Say hello to strangers and enjoy the people you know.
- ◆ Don't be afraid to show your emotions laughing and crying make you feel better.
- ◆ Love your friends and family with your entire being they are the most important part of your life.
- ◆ Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?
- ◆ Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.
- ◆ Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.
- ◆ Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.
- ◆ If someone hurts you, betrays you, or breaks your heart, forgive them. For they have helped you learn about trust and the importance of being cautious to who you open your heart to.
- ◆ If someone loves you, love them back unconditionally, not only because they love you, but because they are teaching you to love and opening your heart and eyes to things you would have never seen or felt without them.
- ◆ Make every day count. Appreciate every moment and take from it everything that you possibly can, for you may never be able to experience it again.