

January 2009
Edition

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



The Lamplighter



"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 5:14-16, NRSV

From the Interim Pastor,

With the holidays behind us and a new year unfolding before us, we stand at the threshold between the years as a community of faith. I, personally, am very grateful to be standing here with you at this time and in this place in the long, rich history of this remarkable congregation.

Churches, like people, go through cycles of ups and downs, highs and lows in their lifetime; but also, like each of us, the best maintain a continuing, resilient thread of strength and compassion which becomes foundational when it comes time to reinvent themselves again, as every church must.

I have been so grateful to witness this tenacity of love in our church family, whether while praying quietly in the Taize Group or sharing our lives in the warm fellowship of the Hannah Circle, watching small children put together a nativity scene in Sunday School or breaking bread together at the Lord's Table in worship, listening to the choir at Christmas or setting up luminaries on the front steps of the church on a windy Christmas Eve. That old church

camp song is true: *"They will know we are Christians by our love,"* and the word for the season is gratitude.

Thank you for being a part of my life, sharing yours with me, the many gifts you have given me in our short time together, and for the future hope we share.

As we journey together into the dawn of a new year, the Bible echoes its truth:

"Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14)

Grace and Peace,

Bob

Thank You

My deepest thanks and appreciation to all of you for your kind and generous Christmas gifts and cards for me and my family. It has been a real joy and honor to be with you and serve as your pastor.

President of Disciples of Christ to be First Woman to Give Sermon at Inauguration

The Rev. Sharon Watkins will deliver the sermon at the traditional National Prayer Service on January 21, the day after Barack Obama is sworn in as president, the Presidential Inaugural Committee announced Sunday. The National Prayer Service is a tradition dating back to the nation's first president, the inaugural committee said. The service includes prayers and hymns delivered by various religious leaders.

Watkins, the general minister and president of the 700,000-member church **Disciples of Christ**, will be the first woman to deliver the sermon at the inaugural event. It takes place at the National Cathedral in north-west Washington.

"I am truly honored to speak at this historic occasion," Watkins said in a news release from the committee. She added, "I hope that my message will call us to believe in something bigger than ourselves and remind us to reach out to all of our neighbors to build communities of possibility."

FEBRUARY 2009-JANUARY 2010 Coffee Hour Schedule

Updated 1/10/09

Please continue to follow the 2008 Schedule for the rest of January 2009 (Sorry if I doubled anybody up)

NOTE: We are now working in teams of two, as we had several families opt out.

Directions:

Prepare one pot of Decaf Coffee and one pot of Regular Coffee.

Provide a cold beverage (e.g. Juice, Punch, etc.)

Provide snacks (e.g. cookies, donuts, crackers, fruit, veggies, the possibilities are endless!)

Set up Table with cups, napkins, plates, creamer, sugar, sweetener, and an offering basket.

Help serve your treats after church.

Clean Up when done: Wipe down tables, do dishes, clean up kitchen area.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Kretzinger.

Team #1 Heather Kretzinger Kathy Schaffer Kathy Brinkman	"2009 2/1	3/22	5/10	6/28	8/16	10/4	10/26	12/14
Team #2 Ben & Sarah Feller Tim & Lisa Wolfe	2/8	3/29	5/17	7/5	8/23	10/11	11/2	12/21
Team #3 Tiffany Scherf Bill & Linda Pitkin	2/15	4/5	5/24	7/12	8/30	10/18	11/9	12/28
Team #4 Bill & Nancy Peters Karol Smith	2/22	4/12	5/31	7/19	9/6	10/25	11/16	"2010" 1/4
Team #5 Barb & Melissa Brown Patty Koehler	3/1	4/19	6/7	7/26	9/13	11/1	11/23	1/11
Team #6 Angie Wagner Deb Kirk	3/8	4/26	6/14	8/2	9/20	11/18	11/30	1/18
Team #7 Carol Cleary Dale & Pat Yoder	3/15	5/3	6/21	8/9	9/27	11/15	12/7	1/25

January

BIRTHDAYS

14—Devan Scherf
 15—Kelly Stahl
 16—Kyle Fakes
 17—Linda Pitkin
 17— Gene Cleary
 17—Ed Foreman
 19—John Snyder
 25—Kasey Wagner
 29—LaVera Hover



ANNIVERSARIES

2—Dick & Clara Cramer
 15—Jerry & Pat Riker



IMMEDIATE PRAYER CONCERNS:

- ◆ For Kathy Brinkman as she recovers from her surgery.
- ◆ For Sandy Frantz as she continues to recover. She has moved to Briar Hill Nursing Home in North Baltimore and is in Room 112 in the Health Center.
- ◆ For Diana Kuhn’s (the church office secretary) mother as she recovers from pneumonia and other asthma related problems.
- ◆ For us as a community of believers as we journey together through our worship time.
- ◆ For all our service men and women who are defending our safety here and abroad.
- ◆ For our church, that we find a permanent pastor that will meet our needs.


ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS:

Margaret Truman, Phyllis Kennedy, Joe & Jessica Forst

Sundays at FCC for December					
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	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 24	December 28
Worship		72	62		41
Sunday School			No SS	No SS	5
Sunday School Offering	\$7.00	\$4.00	_____	_____	\$3.00
Loose	\$16.00	\$25.02	\$125.00	_____	\$20.00
Envelopes	\$1,433.00	\$1,988.00	\$1,596.00	\$80.00	\$5,829.00
Interest	\$260.84	_____	_____	_____	\$24.27
Other	\$100.00	_____	_____	\$106.61	\$66.00
Total Operating Fund	\$1816.00	\$2,017.02	\$1,721.00	\$186.61	\$5,932.27
Other	\$10.00	\$28.00	\$91.00	_____	_____
Total All Funds	\$1,826.84	\$2,045.02	\$1,812.00	186.61	\$5,932.27

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 28 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship	December 29 NO Bible Study	30 NO Bible Study Pastor Bob	31 NO Taize Prayer Group Happy New Year's Eve! out of office	January 1  HAPPY NEW YEAR!	January 2	January 3
4 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship	5 11:00 am—Bible Study	6 11:00 am—Bible Study	7 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group 10:00—Hannah Circle 6:00 pm—Choir	8	9	10
11 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship	12 11:00 am—Bible Study	13 11:00 am—Bible Study Elders Meeting—6:00 pm	14 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group 6:00 pm—Chimes	15	16	17
18 PENNY SUNDAY 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship After Worship, Worship Committee meets at Heathers for Meeting & Lunch	19 11:00 am—Bible Study	20 11:00 am—Bible Study	21 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group 6:00 pm—Choir	22 DEADLINE FOR LAMPLIGHTER	23	24
25 9:30 am-Sunday School 10:30 am-Worship	26 11:00 am—Bible Study	27 11:00 am—Bible Study	28 9:00 am—Taize Prayer Group 6:00 pm—Chimes	29	30	31

SERVING SCHEDULE

January 4

Minister: Rev. Robert Bowen
Children's Sermon: Patty Koehler
Organist: Anna Stembler-Smith
Music Minister: Carrie Norris
Greeters: Nancy Peters, Carole Cleary, John Snyder, Martha Stoner
Nursery: Sarah Clevidence & Mary Fancher
Sound: Justin Thompson
Elders: Tom Thompson & Robin Kretzinger
Deacons: Barb Brown, Patty Koehler, Deb Kirk
Coffee Hour: Team #4: Bill & Nancy Peters, Fred & Ann Kretzinger, Karol Smith, Dale & Pat Yoder
Counter: Terry Fancher

January 11

Minister: Rev. Robert Bowen
Children's Sermon: Patty Koehler
Organist: Anna Stembler-Smith
Music Minister: Carrie Norris
Greeters: Bill Peters, Dale Yoder, Kathleen Schaffer, Ann Kretzinger
Nursery: Linda Pitkin & Zack Stahl
Sound:
Elders: Carole Cleary & Barb England
Deacons: Sarah Feller, Nancy Peters, Bill Peters
Coffee Hour: Team #5: Barb Brown, Melissa Brown, Patty Koehler
Counter: Terry Fancher & Bill Pitkin

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS



January 18

Minister: Rev. Robert Bowen
Children's Sermon: Heather Kretzinger (Penny Sunday)
Organist: Anna Stembler-Smith
Music Minister: Carrie Norris
Greeters: Carole Cleary, Karol Smith, John Snyder, Martha Stoner
Nursery: Patty & Andy Koehler
Sound: Ben Feller
Elders: Kathy Brinkman & Linda Pitkin
Deacons: Karol Smith, Angie Wagner, Heather Kretzinger
Coffee Hour: Team #6: Bill & Linda Pitkin, Deb Kirk, Angie Wagner
Counter: Terry Fancher & Bill Peters

January 25

Minister: Rev. Robert Bowen
Children's Sermon: Beth Linhart
Organist: Anna Stembler-Smith
Music Minister: Carrie Norris
Greeters: Nancy Peters, David England, Karol Smith, Barb England
Nursery: Sarah Feller & Mary Byal
Sound:
Elders: Tiffany Scherf & Lloyd Smith
Deacons: Dale Yoder, Mary Fancher, Heather Kretzinger
Coffee Hour: Team #7: Pat Sharninghouse, Beth Linhart, Bob & Tammy Thompson
Counter: Terry Fancher & Karol Smith

The Lamplighter (USPS 904-040) is published monthly by the First Christian Church, 620 North Main Street, Findlay, Ohio 45840-3581. Second class postage paid at Findlay, Ohio. Postmaster: DATED MATERIAL PLEASE DELIVER.

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

HELP WANTED:

CONSTITUTION RENEWAL GROUP

Robin Kretzinger is looking for individuals who are interested in updating the Constitution of FCC. If you are interested, please let Robin know, as meetings will begin the first week of February (Exact time has not been decided, but it will be on a night between Saturday and Tuesday).



PASTORAL SEARCH GROUP

If you are interested in participating in the pastoral search process for a permanent pastor, please let Robin know, as this project will also begin the first week of February.

TRUSTEES NEEDED

The church is in need of two (2) new Trustees. A trustee does not have to know how to fix things, rather just be available to help coordinate getting the right people to help. If you are interested, please let Robin know.

If interested, or if you want more details, call Robin after 5:30 p.m. at: 419-420-0013
or e-mail at: robinandheather@woh.rr.com

 *WFC COLLECTION OF
WARM HATS AND GLOVES* 
FOR NEEDY A SUCCESS!

The collection for new and gently used hats, gloves, mittens and socks on December 7th & 14th was a great success with over 54 pairs of gloves and mittens, 18 hats and earmuffs and 6 pairs of socks collected. Thanks to everyone who donated to help others keep warm this winter

