

First Christian Church
 Disciples of Christ
 442 Hummel Ave,
 Lemoyne, PA 17043
 717-763-4537
 www.lemoynedisciples.org

Senior Minister: Rev. Diana Hodges-Batzka
 Pastor: Linda Leiser
 Organist: Mary E. Snyder
 Church Secretary: Sara Zettlemyer



The Messenger NOVEMBER 2011

Saints Alive – Living Generously!

“Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. And when I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.”

—1 Corinthians 16:1-4, NRSV

This November during our stewardship emphasis we are going to explore how we are called to live generous lives, responding in deep gratitude to God’s blessings. Our theme is “Saints Alive! Living Generously” and is based on 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (NRSV). Beginning November 6, we will share stories during worship and consider how people in our past have taught us about generosity, how people in the present give generously and how we can all lay the foundation for generous giving in the future. The image that we will be using is a tree, specifically the Tree of Life. Found in the Bible from the beginning in Genesis 3 to the end in Revelation 22, the Tree of Life is a metaphor for God’s generosity from the beginning of creation until the end. And so, we will have a tree in the sanctuary which we will be invited to help fill with symbols of God’s generosity in our lives. On **Sunday, November 20** during worship at 10:15 a.m., we will have our commitment Sunday where we will offer our commitments for the upcoming year to God. Join us as we experience this exciting time of growth and giving to-



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I remember the first time I was introduced to the concept of stewardship. I was probably about 8 or 9 and all the children of the church were invited to draw a picture about stewardship. A lot of the other children drew pictures of money - good pictures of money. Many of them were better artists than I was. But, I remember dividing my page into three sections and each section had a name: time, talent and treasure. I worked really hard on that picture, making sure that I spelled the words correctly and that I drew to the best of my ability. I offered my time and my talent to God. I turned my picture in, thinking other children's were better, but knowing I had done my best. I soon found out, my picture was chosen to be on the front cover of the bulletin on our stewardship Sunday. I was so happy that what I had shared with God was multiplied (literally!) and shared with others. This November, we are having a special emphasis on stewardship. And yes, it is about prayerfully considering offering our money to God. But, it is also more than that. It is about looking at our relationship with God, seeing God's many blessings in our lives, and responding to God's giving and providing. We offer what we can to God from our time, our talent and our treasure. God will use it and multiply it. Join me as we give God thanks for all the saints who showed generosity.

Peace,
Pastor Diana



OUT OF THE BLUE

As I was walking down an alley in Harrisburg on my way to the Dauphin County Courthouse I came across the "residence" of a homeless person. It was hot and we were experiencing all that rain. Their nightly covers were thrown over a trash bin drying out for the next evening. I guess they would be there unless the trash men or another homeless person took them.

You could tell that they huddled in a doorway of the large city church there. That was probably their sleeping and eating quarters.

I felt bad. Where was this person now? What did they do all day? Was it a male, female or a couple? I don't know anything about this kind of existence, but to see it, not quite in its entirety, it really bothered me and still does several weeks later.

I always fuss about not wanting to have leftovers because they never seem to get eaten and I dislike throwing out food. Since that encounter, I feel even worse about cleaning out the fridge of uneaten food. There have been thoughts of how to help this person and any others who call that alley home. Winter is coming; I have plenty of blankets to keep me warm inside my home. I have plenty of food to eat. My clothes are clean and fresh just as what I eat is fresh. I cannot imagine it any other way. That was, until I saw this alley residence.

What can I as an individual do to make the lives of these homeless people just a little bit better? What can we do as a church to recognize the straits these people are in? I have some ideas and it really would not take much. Can First Christian Church of Lemoyne fulfill a mission to the homeless in our area? I know we can! If you are interested in helping, let's have some conversation and see what we can do as a faith community to make someone's life a bit better than it is.

Didn't Christ ask us to feed the hungry and take care of our neighbor? He sure did, so let's concentrate on this as a mission outreach not for our glory, but for the glory of God!

Journeying down the alleys around us,

Upcoming Events

Another great community project sponsored by Girl Scout Troop 20689 and First Christian Church

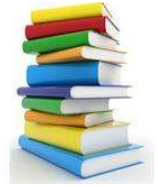
Community Book Swap / Book Giveaway!

November 1 from 6:30 to 8pm

at the First Christian Church

Bring your books to donate,

leave with books you have not yet read!!!



Home Communion Blessing

On **Sunday, November 6** during the 10:15 a.m. worship service, during communion we will have a special blessing of the home communion containers that are used each month by our Elders. As part of the Elder's spiritual leadership of the church, they take communion each month to our homebound members or members in the hospital.

Church History Telling Pot Luck

Join us **Sunday, November 6** after worship for a special potluck as we gather together to tell stories! We aren't going to be telling any old story or tall tales. Rather, we will come together to share our stories of FCC. Whether you have been a member for one week or 50 years, you have a story to tell about FCC and its ministry. So come, join us as we share our stories and the Church's story. You are invited to bring a dish of your choice to share.



Annual Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, October 30 following worship, the congregation received a copy of the proposed budget, approved by the board. The congregation then had two weeks to review the budget. On **Sunday, November 13 following worship**, we hold our second congregational meeting to vote on the proposed 2012 budget.

Mark your calendars. The annual Community Thanksgiving Eve service will be held on the evening of **Wednesday, November 23 at Calvary United Methodist Church**, located at 700 Market St. in Lemoyne, PA 17043. Additional details will follow.



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 27 at 10:15 a.m.

Please join us for our annual Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, November 27 at 10:15 a.m. During this service on the first Sunday of Advent, we begin the season by remembering the meaning of the decorations around the church and begin to prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We are also looking for **helpers on Saturday, November 26** to help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Many hands make for light work, so please sign-up to help!

Outreach Ministries

*Reaching out...Partnering with others....
To serve our community*



New Hope Christmas Blessing Express

Christmas is such a joyous time... a time for us to share the birth of our savior with family, friends, neighbors, even strangers. This bright, happy holiday also brings with it a huge burden on families who are financially challenged. Those families, struggling to put dinner on the table or keep their children in warm enough clothes, often see Christmas as a difficult time. Understanding it is not about affording a tree, a turkey dinner or presents for your children does not make it any easier when they go back to school after the Christmas break.

New Hope Ministries will be offering Blessing Express to families in need. Blessing Express will allow family members to shop for gifts for their family. A gift wrapping station will also be available.

Our church will be one of many helping to stock the Blessing Express store. The "Tree of Hope" is located near the bulletin board and contains tags with needed items. Please take a tag (or 2, or 3, or...) and bring the unwrapped item and lay it below the "Tree of Hope." As we receive gifts, to be shared with others, something beautiful will happen, not only to the tree, but to our hearts!

All gifts must be received by NOVEMBER 27th!

Questions please see Tom Runkle or Diana Onstott



DONATIONS REQUESTED

Girl Scout Troops 20689 and 20682 will be making Thanksgiving food baskets for families within our community. The dinner baskets will be delivered to the families the Monday before Thanksgiving. This year, because we have been told of several families who would benefit from this, we are asking for help. Below is a list of items we are hoping to supply for the Thanksgiving baskets. You may give all donations to Diana Onstott on Sunday mornings, leave them clearly labeled in the freezer or refrigerator downstairs! Donations must be received by Nov 20th.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Turkey | Frozen or canned peas |
| Boxed stuffing mix | Frozen or canned carrots |
| Fresh potatoes | gravy |
| Fresh yams | Apple Pie |
| Dinner rolls | Pumpkin pie |
| Cranberry sauce | Reddi whip or cool whip |
| Frozen or canned corn | Large plastic laundry basket |

On Tuesday, October 18, many of the Girl Scouts who meet at FCC were a part of a flag ceremony at the State Capital as a part of recognizing all the women in the House of Representatives. Below they are pictured with the Representatives and Mrs. Corbett.

We are so proud of them!



2011 Thanksgiving Offering

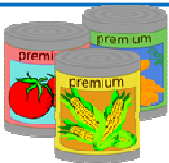
www.disciplesmissionfund.org



2011 Thanksgiving Offering November 12 and 20!!

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the colleges, universities, seminaries, and divinity houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These learning communities are an extension of the church, challenging students to understand and respond to God's call to serve. Your support provides scholarships, church relations programs, and chaplaincy offices. Most importantly, your support of the 2011 Thanksgiving Offering helps Disciples raise up servant leaders!

Change Jars and Blessing Box offerings will be added to the Thanksgiving Day offering received on Nov 12th and 20th and used by Disciples to help raise up servant leaders.



PANTRY SUNDAY

The first Sunday of each month we will receive NON-PERISHABLE goods to be delivered to Five Loaves Food Bank servicing Wormleysburg and Lemoyne. Please be generous!

Next opportunity to give is **Nov 6th**

BLESSING

Nov 20th

Share your blessings!

Funds will go to the
Thanksgiving Day Offering

BOX



Crop Walk Thank You!

Thank you so much for your support of FCC's participation in the 2011 Harrisburg CROP Walk. As a church team, we raised \$230 in the fight against hunger in our community and worldwide. Over the past 40 years, the Harrisburg CROP Walk has raised over \$1.5 million dollars! Thank you for joining us in solidarity with those who have to walk for everything.

New Hope Ministries Update

New Hope Ministries offers a big "Thank you" to those who donated and volunteered during the September 9-11 and September 23-25 food drives at eight different Giant Food Store locations. They collect 52,937 pounds of food! New Hope is also in need of egg cartons. They are receiving large "flats" of fresh eggs on a regular basis now, and we need dozen-sized egg cartons to put the eggs in for our clients. You can drop them off at the church and they will be delivered to the Mechanicsburg West Shore Center.



Christain Growth

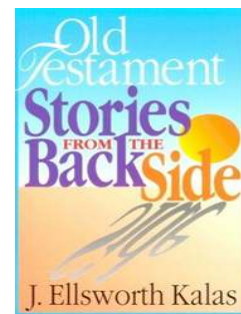


Children's Sunday School Begins!

Are you ready to **Live B.I.G.**? Children of all ages are invited to join us as we discover how to hear, see, and live our **Belief In God**. Children will come together to learn the stories of the Bible and how to apply them to their daily lives. In this “one big room” style class all the ages are together to create community and relationships between all our children. Older children and younger children build relationships as they help each other. The class meets in the children’s room on the Sanctuary level and is taught by Melissa Ford.

Old Testament from the Back Side Adult Sunday School at 9 a.m. Continues through the end of the year!

Don't know much about the Old Testament? Think you know all about the stories from the Old Testament? Either way this class is for you! Come and explore favorite Old Testament Bible stories in an exciting and thought provoking way. This class is based on material by popular author J. Ellsworth Kalas, who brings a new perspective to selected Old Testament stories by approaching them from the “back side”—through a unique starting point, a creative retelling, a new “lens,” or the eyes of a minor or unsympathetic character. The class will be taught by various people including Pastor Diana, Tom Runkle and Keith Aubel. The class meets in the Sunday School class room on the sanctuary level.



2011 Fall Youth Retreat at Camp Laurelview

Keynote speaker: Rev. Janet Hellner-Burris, pastor of the Christian Church in Wilkinsburg
Start time: 7:00 pm, November 18—Wrap-up: 10:00 am, November 20

For Grades 7-12
Topic: Forgiveness
Cost per person: \$50.00

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT JOHN OWEN AT 724-600-5130

OR THE REGIONAL OFFICE AT 724-834-5023

MAKE CHECKS TO: Christian Church in PA



Girl Scouts and the Education Department of Holy Spirit Hospital offer CPR AND FIRST AID training! (*Adult, Child, Infant and AED*)

Dec 10 from 8am to about 4pm. \$65.00 fee per student

Materials including a book and DVD will be mailed prior to the class for advance study!

You will have 1/2 hour lunch break, so plan on bringing a bag lunch and water bottle!

To Register for this class please contact Diana Onstott (717-975-8543) by Nov 25!

The CPR instructional material used for this class has been developed by the American Heart Association.



Learn and Live

Preparing for Advent and Christmas

We would like to do our very own original Advent Booklet of meditations again this year. You still have some time to would write an original meditation that is relevant to the season or submit a short story or poem that is special to you. Please see that Pastor Linda has your contributions on or before November 6.



Poinsettias 2011

For Christmas, First Christian Church will decorate its sanctuary with Poinsettias. If you would like to participate by ordering Poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones and friends, please see the pdf form (*that was attached to this email*) to make your selection, attach your payment, and then mail to church office.

Holiday Chorus

The chorus will have their first practice date on **Tuesday, November 1st at 7 PM.** Anyone that enjoys singing is invited to attend!

Please note that all practices thereafter will be each Tuesday starting at 6:30 PM.



Church Office Holiday Schedule

Due to staff vacations around the holidays, the church office will be closed:
Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25
Monday, December 26 – Monday, January 2
The church office will reopen on January 3, 2011.
In case of pastoral emergencies, you can reach Pastor Diana at (717) 579-1955 or Pastor Linda at (717) 732-0368.

Thank you. Two simple words that convey so much. In many ways these words seem TOO simple to be able to convey how thankful I am to this congregation. For the past few months, I have been extremely thankful to this congregation for the outpouring of hospitality and welcome that has taken place. I have also been so thankful that I have been so embraced as your pastor. Most recently, I am so grateful for the wonderful installation and meal. It was a wonderful day filled with laughter, hugs, and hope for the future. The simple words "Thank You" do not seem sufficient to express my gratitude for all that you have done for me, not just this past week, but since I first met you all. But the two words "Thank You" are the words that we have, so thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

Thank You

Peace,
Pastor Diana



Thank you to everyone who helped provide hospitality for the Fall Regional Board Meeting on Saturday, October 15. From the delicious soups to fabulous desserts to helping in the kitchen, thank you for all the ways that you help FCC help the Regional Board. They were deeply appreciative as always.

Serving During November 2011

Thanks to all those who serve!

Diaconate

- 6 - Ted Willoughby, Diana Onstott, Jack Wagner, Dick Shatzer, Glenn Haagen
13 - Linda Runkle, Lisa Yerger, Willie Colon, Donna Colon, Stuart Knickerbocker
20 - Lois Haagen, Glenn Haagen, Russ Miller, Ted Willoughby, Diana Onstott
27 - Debbie Holler, Ken Holler, Lisa Yerger, Russ Miller, Kelly Manning

Elders

- 6 Rhoda Aubel
13 Keith Aubel
20 Harold Turner
27 Coralyn Campbell



Greeters

- 6 - Linda Runkle, Bob Lambert, Henry Miller
13 - Scott Leiser, Joan Kain, Harold Turner
20 - Velma Hughes, Ted & Sue Willoughby
27 - Jean Trout, Jane Welsh, James Reeser

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNION PREPARATION

Month of November: Willie & Donna Colon

Scriptures & Sermons

- 6- Matthew 25:1-13
"Jesus' Stories: The Sleepy Ones"
13- Matthew 25:14-30
"Jesus' Stories: The Unopened Gift"
20- 1 Corinthians 16:1-4
"Saints Alive! Living Generously"
27- Isaiah 40:1-11
"Show Us the Way: The Prophets"

Income and Expenses

Month of September

Congregational Offerings Received	\$5,900.00
Interest From Trust Funds	3,540.29
Misc. Income	476.98
Total	\$9,917.27
Bills Received and Paid	\$10,934.34

Thank you for your generosity!



*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*



John Michels, Carl Haubert, Coralyn Campbell, Dot Atkinson, Sally Smith, (FCC Family) Harvey Boltz (S. Boltz) Kendra (L. Leiser) Bridget Gloss (S. Leiser) Destiny, Donna Dickens (Pastor Diana) Family of Mary Ann O'Brian (C. Campbell) Julie Janney (B. Davis) Linda Warner, Meredith Willoughby, Janet Warner, Dottie Daller (S. Willoughby) Donald Bane (D. Wolff) Mary Guis (Aubel's) Megan Gossard (L. Miller) Casey Snyder, Marcy Koser, Michael Danzas, Janet P., Marie H., Terri S., Dan Keating, Suzie Eply, (M. Snyder)



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UPCOMING EVENTS!!

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- November 1 - Chorus practice beginning at 7 P.M.
 - November 1 - Christian Growth, Worship & Outreach meeting at 6:30 P.M.
 - November 1 - Cabinet meeting at 7:30 P.M.
 - November 1 - Community Book Swap from 6:30– 8 P.M.
 - November 2 - Ministerium Meeting @ FCC beginning at 11:00 A.M.
 - November 5- “School for Congregational Leaders” Toftrees Resort, State College, 8:30 AM- 5:30 PM
 - November 6 - “Pantry Day”
 - November 6- Church History Pot Luck– Following Worship.
 - November 8 - Chorus practice beginning at 6:30 P.M.
 - November 13 - Stewardship/Finance Meeting- After worship.
 - November 13- Congregational Meeting– after worship.
 - November 15 - Chorus practice beginning at 6:30 P.M.
 - November 20 - “Blessing Box Sunday”
 - November 20 - Board Meeting- After Worship.
 - November 22 - Chorus practice beginning at 6:30 P.M.
 - November 23- Thanksgiving Eve Service at Calvary United Methodist begins at 7 P.M.
 - November 27- Elder's Meeting- After Worship.
 - November 27 - Hanging of the Greens
 - November 29- Chorus practice beginning at 6:30 P.M.