

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
 (Disciples of Christ)  
 587 Mt. Vernon Road  
 Newark, Ohio 43055

**Worship Texts & Themes  
 Dates to Remember**

**Saturday, Oct. 6 - Regional Assembly, 10 am @ Gender Rd. Christian Church**

Our Regional Assembly is Sat., Oct. 6 at Gender Road Christian Church in Canal Winchester; it will run from 10 am to 4 pm, all are invited, and **everyone** has a vote. The resolution is available on the Welcome Center, or ask Pastor Jeff if you have any questions.

**Sunday, Oct. 7 - World Communion Sunday**

**Sunday, Oct. 14** - Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 & Hebrews 4:12-16 "Scalpels, cleavers, & chef's knives"

**Sunday, Oct 21** - Job 38:1-7 & Job 38:34-41 "That's the question"

**Monday, Oct 22** - FaithForward 7:00 pm

**Sunday, Oct 28** - Jeremiah 31:7-9 & Psalm 126 "Bringing in the sheaves"

**We will mark our All Saints observance on Sunday, Nov. 4; also that is time change weekend.**

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**The Newark Christian**

Serving God's Transformation of Licking County

Church Office Hours:  
 Mon – Wed – Fri  
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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We're on the Web!  
 Visit us at:  
 newarkcentralchristian.org

Our mission:

- To lead people to faith in Jesus Christ
- To work through the Holy Spirit, and
- To understand through the Holy Bible.

We seek to:

- Grow in knowledge,
- Cultivate the grace of Christ,
- Strengthen the unity of all Christians, and be
- Always moving towards the Kingdom of God.



**Be Kind  
 To One  
 Another**

Ephesians 4:32



Jesus showed kindness in many ways; being kind is not just an idea, but a habit, a practice, a discipline. As Disciples of Christ, we would show the Kindness of Christ as he instructed us, caring for one another and continuing the ministries that show others what Christian kindness looks like.

Our practical support of the many ministries of this congregation joins hands with the direct support so many of us can give to feeding and repairing and sharing. There will be more information offered up in the next few weeks during worship and through the "Nudge" about our mission & stewardship, and our Sharing Sundays for presenting our estimates of giving for 2018 will be on:

October 21 & October 28 in worship.

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Our handbell and chancel choirs are returning to practice on Thursday, Nov. 1; in worship Nov. 4!



Your generosity was overwhelming!

Thank you so much, for the financial help and all your prayers, when my husband Ben suffered from botulism in 2015. He has come a long way and is doing better.

Thank you again, Linda & Ben L.

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Many thanks to all of you who wrote or messaged or shared directly with me your blessings and prayer intentions. The procedure went much more smoothly this time, and we hope my "voiceless" period will be much shorter. Certainly to Karen and others for covering for me during the last week or so of September, and for your understanding as I work through these minor but problematic issues with my vocal cord muscles!

In Grace & Peace,

Pastor Jeff

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There is a need to revisit any covenant made-to reaffirm a covenant. Of the thirty-six church leaders in the photo-signature, only four are still active in general and regional ministry positions, not counting myself. I believe this "Nashville Covenant" marked a turning point in our church leadership. But we so easily forget even the most important of moments. We get distracted, and soon, without noticing it we have drifted. We become too isolated from one another-feeling safe in our silos. We lose sight of the journey we committed to travel together.

And so, given the difficult journey we have been on together, I pray, that as the Christian Church in Ohio gathers in assembly on October 6, it will be a moment where we are able to affirm:

Praising God,  
We will live and speak with confidence and hope  
In the future that God is creating.

Grace and peace to you,  
John M. Richardson  
Interim Regional Minister  
jrichardson@ccinoh.org

[From the Christian Church in Ohio interim regional minister. . .]

#### **Reflection on Affirming Covenant**

As we approach the date for our Regional Assembly, I have been thinking about our covenant with one another as members of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ).

When I began serving in regional ministry in North Carolina in 2003, I quickly realized the large Bible I had used to read scripture from for years in a local congregation was not practical to carry with me as I traveled to different congregations to teach and preach. So, I purchased a smaller size of the same translation, and from the same publisher.

Taped near the front cover of what came to be known as my "traveling Bible" is a copy of a statement called "An Affirmation of Covenant," with a photo of those who wrote it-the photo as a way of everyone "signing" the statement we crafted together, on the third Sunday in Advent 2004. All thirty-six individuals in the photo were general and regional church leaders at that point in time. The photo was taken with us standing around the Campbell statue in front of the building in Nashville, Tennessee, which was, at that time, the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. At that time there was speculation, misinformation and distrust among regional ministers and general church leaders. Affirming who we are and the ministry to which we are called was an important moment in our life together.

#### **An Affirmation of Covenant**

As leaders of ministries that serve the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

We make the covenant with God and each other.

We do so because:

God is a witness to all that we do, separately and together;

We are called by God to be servant leaders in mission to the world;

As the church, we are one Body in Christ.

#### **Therefore we will:**

Pray daily for each other;

Trust and respect each ministry and each other;

Communicate openly and directly;

Honor the diversity of persons and perspectives;

Be open to the counsel of one another.

#### **Praising God,**

we will live and speak with confidence and hope  
in the future that God is creating.

--Signed this Third Sunday in Advent in the Year of our Lord 2004

This covenant did not make us better church leaders the moment the words were written and the picture made. However, as I reflect back over the past 14 years, I believe it was a turning point, where we stopped maintaining distance from one another, and talking to others about each other, and began walking toward God's call upon our lives, our ministries and our church. We began to understand our life and ministry together in a different way-a healthier and holier way.

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