

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

NEXT NEWSLETTER:

Please stay tuned for upcoming communications, and secretary.newarkcentral@gmail.com is still the best place for messages -- that's also where to request being put on the email list for the "Nudge" & newsletter!

Worship & other plans ahead --

Friends, we wish we had a clearer view of the future than we do, but we can affirm that God is in control, and that we have a large at-risk population, whose care is what the Lord is calling us to be faithful in conserving to right now!

Please consider sharing our online Worship service materials on your own social media, or by email with friends -- we are still called to evangelism even when we're needing to stay close to home!

Newark Central YouTube Playlists:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7opxsRkX0ZEgVNfxrfnj8g/playlists>

Our elders are meeting at the church building on Monday, August 3rd at 7:00 pm, and the cabinet is meeting "distanced" at the church on August 5th, at 7:00 pm and also on Zoom video (link available by request). Pastor Jeff will be preaching for us August 2nd & 9th.

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The Newark Christian

Serving God's Transformation of Licking County

Phone 740-366-4961

Email:
 secretary.newarkcentral@gmail.com

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.



As we continue to have little enough to put on a monthly calendar page, we are posting the month's birthdays and anniversaries here (instead of on the back of the calendar as we've done in the past. If you see mistakes or omissions, please email secretary.newarkcentral@gmail.com and let us know so we can update our files!

+ + +

August Birthdays

- 1 Kenny & Kyle Fry
- 4 Michael Ziech
- 5 Karen Gebhart
- 7 Richard Hayden
- 9 Jan Tomlinson
- 9 Julie Quickle
- 13 David Stewart
- 13 Carol Thompson
- 15 Abigail Buchanan
- 16 Kelsey Goodin
- 17 Vicki Palur
- 18 Samantha Frizzell
- 20 Karen Crothers
- 21 Jane Beeney
- 23 Drew Buchanan
- 26 Joyce Meredith Gill
- 28 Rev. Jeff Gill

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August Anniversaries

- 11 Steve & Judy Schmitt
- 13 Rick & Karen Crothers
- 19 Joe & Teresa Jones
- 19 Ron & Carol Thompson
- 28 Harry & Dianne Cline

July 30, 2020

Central Christian Church Members,

It is hard to believe that we have been dealing with COVID-19 for 4 ½ months now. As we look back, it is impressive how much we have learned since March 15. The most important lesson is how much we value certain things and people that we ordinarily take for granted. Things like family, friends, the freedom to come and go as we please, and holding church services in our own building (that includes singing).

As church leaders there is one additional lesson, we have learned...we did not have COVID-19 in our pre-approved church budget plan. Because of this pandemic, our church attendance, giving, and expenses are not as we anticipated they would be. Pastor Gill has done and continues to do an exceptional job of eliminating expenses that make the most sense. We are doing our best to make church services and Bible studies available in the parking lot and/or on our computers and other devices. We continue the work of the church through Zoom meetings and/or social distancing. However, the reality is that our attendance is down and giving is down.

As a congregation, we are known for our generosity, supporting the local food pantry, the Salvation Army, ramp ministry, assistance from our medical loan closet, outreach: local, regional, and worldwide, and so much more. We give to our church, friends, and causes that motivate us. Today, we challenge you to look at your personal giving situation. There are multiple ways you can give such as online giving directly from your personal bank account to the church account, the online app "Abundant," writing a check each week and dropping it in the offering plate or in the church mailbox. Giving is an expression of our faith that affirms God as our provider and His ability to supply all that we need.

As stewards for this church, we ask for continued prayers as we remain focused on what is best in the long run while managing short-term needs and objectives.

Jan Tomlinson Ron Thompson Earl Stevenson

Board Moderator Elders Chairman Trustees Chairman

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

~ Acts 20:35

Notes from my Knapsack ~ a concluding word from Pastor Jeff

To my friends and fellow Christians --

"And in conclusion . . ."

These are often welcome words! When a speech or sermon has reached its appointed term, there's a comfort in knowing that a wrap-up is on the way, that we know it's time to move to the next step or stage or even, God bless us, go on downstairs to Fellowship Hall for a dinner.

The worst thing a preacher can do is say "and in conclusion" about halfway through their message. If you say it, you gotta mean it. Ditto with "my last point" which had best not have three or four more coming along.

As a pastor, who does the funerals and weddings and baptisms for a congregation, one thing I have to wrap up is that I won't be that person for you now. I will be around, and I hope to find new ways to be present (along with that newspaper column I had before we joined up in 2012 & I'll continue to have as long as they'll print me), but I'm not the pastor for you after August 9th. There are some halfway completed services I will do the last steps for later this fall, thanks to COVID, but I'm stepping back from public events and pastoral work.

I will still sing your praises and in many ways still be your fellow worshiper, if from a distance. And yes, I will keep saying "Newark Central" because there are just too many "Central Christian" churches in Ohio & beyond, but I'll speak your name and maybe even send some folks your way.

Unlike Paul in Acts 20, I'm not vanishing from your sight. But I am saying "in conclusion" for this term of ministry, the eight years and more we've had since the spring of 2012, and will exit the platform and turn from the pulpit with gratitude, and many, many thanks.

In grace & peace,

Pastor Jeff