

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

**NEXT NEWSLETTER:**

May 22 printing, so please get your June 2020 info in by May 20th!

After many weeks of juggling pastoral care issues, funerals, and the COVID-19 pandemic I have taken up the offer of a few days off. That being said I will be off the remainder of this week, returning on Monday May 4th. With small group Zoom discussions just starting this was a good time for me to do this. I will be resuming them next week, with a few new ones starting. Please watch your email for those links next week if you have been part of planning one so far.

For those making phone calls to our most isolated and vulnerable, please continue to check on them. As a church this is a vital piece of ministry right now that Pastor Jeff and I cannot do ourselves. We are so appreciative of your help and I know those you are calling appreciate it too. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ. I look forward to hearing how our members are doing.

Many blessings and much love,

Pastor Karen

May 2020  
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# The Newark Christian

Serving God's Transformation of Licking County

## Notes From My Knapsack "...for a later date"

Friends, I thank you for your forbearance & cooperation through these difficult times. As a church family, we've gotten a great deal handled which other congregations are still struggling with. I also know many of you are seeing things other churches are doing that you wish we could provide, and I hope none of the suggestions or ideas as they've come in have been missed. Pastor Karen and I are monitoring the church email and office voicemail as well as our own inboxes, and we want everyone to feel heard.

As we've worked on putting forward some worship materials, by email and through video links, we've also had the challenge of pastoral care and the church's ministries under severe limitations, and those needs for prayer and presence where possible have come first.

So we ask that you lift up the family of Darlene Bear, who died last Tuesday and whose obituary you can read at this link. While her passing was not unexpected, the circumstances created challenges for the whole family, and we ask God's grace & peace to her children Brent & Tina and their families, and her sister Connie who was with her at the end along with Pastor Karen. Of course as a church we're used to dealing with our own grief and loss through going to calling hours, attending funerals, and helping the family with a meal after the committal. None of these are possible "at this time" as so many obituaries and death notices are obligated to say. We grieve Darlene's loss, and celebrate her battle with cancer and love she showed to the end for so many of us.

(cont.)

Phone 740-366-4961

Email:  
[secretary.newarkcentral@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.newarkcentral@gmail.com)

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[newarkcentralchristian.org](http://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.



(from pg. 1)

We also ask your blessings for the family of Wayne "Butch" Davisson, who died today (Apr. 27) at a memory care facility in Worthington where he had been for some years. The coronavirus struck that nursing home, and his passing is part of the struggle we're in the middle of right now to protect the more vulnerable from COVID-19 where we can. Butch was just 73 years old, and while many of you might not have known him, his is another loss we will have limited ways to mourn.

Also we just learned from Shari Nelson of the death of her brother, Thomas Thornton, in Hawaii recently. He had not lived in Ohio for some time, many of our older members knew his late mother Hazel and of course Shari, and we lift her up in this time of muted sorrow.

In all of the questions and uncertainties we have, with only some fairly grim certainties to look forward to, I have to admit a huge area of concern I have is how we minister safely, and effectively, to those in assisted living and nursing care facilities. In so many cases, even a phone call is very challenging, even stressful for them, and video links online are just not an option without someone sitting right there to help navigate . . . and there, too, vision becomes a barrier. Many ministers worry that the most distant "return to normal" will be nursing home and hospital visitation, and we're constantly looking for ways we can reach through some of those barriers, safely.

We are so encouraged, though, by how people have embraced worship as we are having to do it for a season. We've all had occasion to reflect on what Christ's communion is, what it means, and how we observe it "together apart," and that has, in the long run, given us something to build on. You have shared with us how you've shared and sent the links to sermons and music and yes, communion to family and friends, and our common prayer is that this will be a fertile season for evangelism of an entirely unexpected sort.

Route 66 Bible Study will continue to have a Facebook element, where new content each week gives you a place to comment, ask questions, and "like" and we also are sending out a link to a 4:30 pm Zoom conference for the Route 66 crew on Wednesdays to "get together" for 35 minutes or so. Add in a Friday "Nudge" and on Saturday late afternoon, the worship email for Sunday services (or you can go to church Saturday night now, too!), and we are doing all we can right now.

Finally, your congregational leadership is continuing to monitor what the State of Ohio is recommending and our local Health Department guidelines, and work on how we can do just as much as can be done. Right now even June seems very far away; we will be on video worship for a while yet, and as we enter June hope to be able to offer a "drive-in" plus outdoor worship at the lodge, but all that is dependent on factors we're still working out.

So pray for each other and our leaders, pray for our church and those who are yet to hear a saving and refreshing Word, and pray that we might see an end soon to illness and sorrow and a new growth of joy and celebration!

In grace & peace,

Pastor Jeff

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**Since we are holding off on releasing a calendar here are the birthdays and anniversaries. We know that this is an important piece to our fellowship that we want to continue.**

**May Birthdays**

- 1 Dennis Kohler
- 2 Cheralyn Hay
- 2 Isabel Mangus
- 4 JoAnn Moore
- 5 Kevin Goodin
- 6 Sara Palur
- 9 Marsha Kohler
- 13 John Lockwood
- 14 Jeff Bell
- 15 Mike Halter

- 22 Julia Walden
- 25 Judy Schmitt
- 26 Barb Fulton
- 26 Chris Gill
- 27 Joe Hedrick
- 27 Stacie McFarland
- 27 Kendra Foltz
- 28 Marie Bailey
- 29 Katie Leibas
- 30 Brenda Gentry

**May Anniversaries**

- 9 ~ Dick & Barb Lescody
- 19 ~ Jeff Gill & Joyce Meredith