



3493 Darrow Road, Stow, Ohio 44224
330.688.4450
www.firstchristianstow.org

PATHWAYS

JUNE 2024

*You show me the path of life. In
your presence there is fullness of joy.*
Psalm 16:11

Find us on social
media @FCCStow!

Annual 4th of July Pancake Breakfast!

7-10 a.m., Sign Up Sheets In The Gathering Area

Sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA8AD2BA7F9C70-49499764-4thofjuly#/> or find the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area! There's still a number of slots to fill for both shifts. If you can't volunteer, there's information about how to help provide for a raffle prize down below with Outreach—There's plenty of ways to help out! Share the Facebook event with your friends, families, and neighbors, and invite folks to join us for the parade!

Mission Trip Meeting: Wednesday Night, 6:45 p.m.

Documentary viewing with Last Planning Meeting to Follow

Everyone is invited to join us for a viewing of a documentary made last fall that will show much of the damage and impact on the community that the tornado and flood damage cause to Mayfield, Kentucky. Afterwards, we will have a brief final meeting to confirm travel plans, and talk about our week in Mayfield.

VBS: Camp Firelight!

Sunday July 14 - Thursday July 18, 6-8pm

Join us on our Summer Camp Adventure, right here at home! Children will learn about trusting God and letting their light shine! Don't forget to share the event on Facebook and let your friends and family know! Sign up sheets are available in the Gathering Area.

All-Church Workday

June 22nd, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

If you have a few hours to share on Saturday Morning, stop by the church and help out with one or two jobs, or stay the whole time! There's plenty to do, from cleaning up the flower beds to changing lightbulbs around the church. If you have any questions, contact John McCreight!

Summer Worship Hours – On Until Labor Day

First Service 8:30—Coffee Fellowship 9:30—Second Service 10:00

In between services will be a special time of coffee fellowship for those who just came from first service and those coming to second service. This coffee fellowship will be held in our Library and Gathering Area and will offer a special opportunity for folks from the two services to see and greet one another!

Pastor's Pen, June 2024

It's June! And that means summertime!! I'm pretty sure I say this for every June Pastor's Pen, but I love summer. Maybe it's because I loathe winter so much (unless I get to go out and play in the snow, which isn't often because shoveling snow is not the same as playing in the snow!) But I love summer mostly because it brings about the opportunities for some of my favorite activities: swimming, biking, hiking, more swimming, camping, Whiffle Ball, picnics, more swimming, catching fireflies (and then letting them go!), slushies, more swimming, earlier mornings and later evenings, baseball games, and of course more swimming. And yes, this is all about *playing*.

Remember when you were a kid how summertime was full of play? Many of you have told me the pattern of your childhood play—you'd leave in the morning, maybe come back home for lunch, then be gone again until the streetlights started to come on. And oh, how the days were filled with play.

Author Brené Brown outlines three key "*properties of play*." First, play is time spent without purpose. Second, play is something we engage in that we don't want to end. And three, in play we lose a sense of ourselves, and we don't feel inhibited. When I consider the things I listed above, all of them fall within these three properties.

Researcher Stewart Brown (no relation to Brené Brown) studied violent offenders and found they all had exceedingly restrictive or zero play during their formative years. Brown makes the conclusion that, "*Play is essential to creativity, empathy, trust, boundaries, and how we grow an active and vital imagination.*"

We live in a culture that values almost solely *hard work and production*. When we do value play it's within the context of competition and striving for victory, which takes...wait for it... *hard work and production!* Do you see the problem here? We have created a culture that no longer values play, and because we have, we *play* very little. Maybe we give ourselves the chance to do it for a week with our family during the summer, but then it's back to hard work and production. Maybe we tell ourselves we are too old to play, and such things are for children. But Brené Brown and Stewart Brown would wholeheartedly disagree.

And so would I! And I disagree because, as Brown says...

"Play is essential to creativity, empathy, trust, boundaries, and how we grow an active and vital imagination."

Last week Violet and A.J. had their last day of school. Julie took the obligatory last day of school pictures. An hour later we both were at Woodland's Field Day as volunteers to help run a fun water game. A couple hours later we went to Lakeview for their Field Day, again volunteering to help, this time a fun frisbee toss game. (Which by the way, kids today really need to work on their frisbee throwing skills. Whoops! See, even I am guilty of turning play into work! Ugh.) Nonetheless, the excitement and vibe and energy were amazing and fun and joy-filled, and I didn't want the day to end, which makes for a very good day.

So what is something you love to do or something you used to love to do, that is or was so much fun you didn't want it to end, that you lost all track of time, and you didn't feel self-conscious doing? What is "*play*" for you? This is a great question to ask at the beginning of the summer, but on all days too because we need to invite play into our homes, into our families, into our hearts, and most especially into our souls. It's my hope and prayer we will all have many more days this summer that we won't want to end because they are filled with play, filled with excitement and energy, filled with joy and fun.

And we need to invite play into the church as well! And this summer we will—the church picnic was a blast. And coming up this summer we will have that chance with the 4th of July Pancake Breakfast, Vacation Bible School, camps at Camp Christian, the RubberDucks's game, and more. There will be chances for us to play with our family and friends and with our church family. And I hope we take full advantage of each opportunity. And if you can't find anyone to play with, give me a call. Maybe we can go swimming! Or get slushies, or just take a walk, or whatever you want to play! Happy playing everyone!

Your Pastor and Friend,
Jonathan

Mission Trip with Week of Compassion
Meeting: June 12th, 6:45 p.m., Sanctuary

Please join us this Wednesday night, whether you're going on the mission trip or not! We will begin the meeting by viewing a 45 minute documentary that will show some of the damage and results of the 2019 floods and 2023 tornado that ravaged the area of Mayfield, Kentucky. For those who are going on the trip, please stay after the viewing so that we can finalize our plans for the trip and discuss other needs.

Registration can be made at the link below. If you need help with it, please contact the office and let Christian know. Sign up with your information and don't forget to use the password as well, when it requests one.

<https://week-of-compassion.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=75840>

Password: Stow2024

Vacation Bible School 2024: Camp Firelight
Sunday July 14 - Thursday July 18, 6-8pm

All children age 3 – 5th grade are invited to Camp Firelight VBS, where we will be on a Summer Camp Adventure with God! This includes amazing science, creative crafts, fun recreation and memorable Bible stories that will show children they can trust God all the time! The adventure runs from Sunday July 14 through Thursday July 18, 6-8pm each evening. Register at www.firstchristianstow.org/vbs.

VBS Volunteers Needed, Join us on our way to Camp Firelight!

Sign up in the Gathering Area or talk to Anna or Richelle for opportunities to serve, lead and have fun with us at Camp Firelight VBS!!



Prayer Request Email List

Friends, while many of us are getting updates regularly, there's now an easy way to get connected with the church's concerns and praises by signing up to the prayer request email list at the link below. If you have a prayer request you'd like to share, you can always directly email the church office at Fccstow@firstchristianstow.org with the concern. If you know anyone who might like to be signed up for Prayer Requests, please share with them the link below!

<https://www.firstchristianstow.org/prayer-chain/>

Think – Pray – Connect
Families from May

05/05/24

Joan Alkyer

3068 Kent Road 506C
Stow OH 44224

Joan had heart surgery on Thursday that resulted in an ICU stay. She is recovering well since then. Please lift Joan up in prayers and send her well wishes!

05/12/24

Andrea Drews

491 Gibbs Rd Akron OH 44312

Please join us in praying for and sending well wishes to Andrea as she is in recovery from her surgery.

05/19

Andrea Drews

491 Gibbs Rd Akron OH 44312

Please join us in praying for and sending well wishes to Andrea as she is in recovery from her surgery.

Barb Ague

74 Paddison Ave
Cuyahoga Falls OH 44223

Bill Ague, Barb's Father, passed away on May 5th. Funeral services will be held this Saturday, May 25th. Please pray for Barb and her family.

05/26/24

Robert & Miriam Jones

281 Morrison Ave
Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221
Please pray for and is ill and in the hospital

06/02/24

Lynn Fauvie

2669 Northland St., Cuyahoga Falls OH 44221
Lynn had a surgery in early May and is continuing to recover at home.

Richard Sellers

1925 Hawthorne, Stow OH 44224
Richard had a scheduled follow-up procedure just over a week ago.

Coffee Fellowship Opportunities After Both Services in the Library

Just a reminder for those who aren't yet in the know-- Coffee Fellowship will be happening *between* services for the summer at 9:30 and will be available after second service as well! Now you're in the know! There's still plenty of slots ahead of this Sunday for volunteering to host coffee fellowship! Help connect and fellowship with your church family!

Music Notes, June 2024

Good day. First of all, I want to thank all of you who came to the Summit Bells concert last month and I would especially like to thank FCC for hosting us. It was a pleasure to play for you and we hope to do it again next year.

The Summer season of music is here! The choirs are taking a well-deserved rest from their outstanding efforts this year but now it's time to fill the Message in Music with volunteers from the congregation. If anyone is interested in singing or playing an instrument for a Sunday morning service, please contact me at 330-760-5177 (text or call) or email me at ckobb@att.net. Thank you! Have a wonderful summer and God bless you, my friends.
Chuck

All-Church Workday June 22nd, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Church Workday Saturday morning June 22 from 9:00 to 1:00. You can help make the church ready for this year's influx of guests that attend the 4th of July Pancake Breakfast! Tasks include cleaning up flower beds/gardens, trimming shrubs, making sure the kitchen is clean, replacing burned out bulbs & florescent tubes. Your help will make a difference! Questions? Contact John McCreight @ 330-814-3825

4th of July Pancake Breakfast Returns! July 4th, 7 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Mark your calendars! The 4th of July Pancake Breakfast is back! That's right! We're partnering with the Boy Scouts to restart this popular event from 7:00 to 10:00 am on the 4th. Please help spread the word to friends and family! Your invitation goes a long way towards filling the church with fellowship. Of course, many hands make light work, and we are looking for volunteers for set-up, cooking, serving and clean up! There will be several roles to be filled after the Boy Scouts take on their responsibilities, so see below to sign up! Volunteer schedules will be put into two blocks of time, 6:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., and from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to cover clean up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA8AD2BA7F9C70-49499764-4thofjuly>

Bulldog Bags Items Donated From Last Year (2023-2024)

Below is a review of the items that were donated by our church to Bulldog Bags, which is an important part of support for families with children in the Stow Munroe Falls School System.

September: Toothpaste (11), Toothbrushes (35)
October: Mac n cheese cups (142)
November: Cup of soup (50)
December: Hot chocolate packs (300)
January: Ramen noodle (100)
February: Cereal cups (76)
March: Fruit snacks (340)
April: Fruit cups (56)
May: Cereal cups (40)

Thank you for your donations! Though it's hard to put a dollar on, this totals to 1,150 different items donated!

Fall Hiking Spree in Cuyahoga Falls **Invite a friend and take a hike!**

Start planning your hikes soon! Starting September 1st, Residents of Summit County can earn rewards for their hiking in Summit Metro Parks! (Out-of-County hikers can pay \$10 for their first-year hiking, and \$5 for returning hikers). All you have to do is sign up on

<https://www.summitmetroparks.org/hiking-sprees.aspx>, download the participant form, and complete at least *eight* of the designated trails between September 1st and November 30th to receive rewards! You can update your form as you hike your chosen trails, and when you've completed the minimum of 8, stop by or send the form to the Summit Metro Park offices to receive your rewards! There's a total of 13 different trails available for hiking in the Summit Metro Parks network—Check out the map on the Spree webpage to find your best hiking options.

Freedom House Raffle Basket **Gift Cards Needed!**

While we have the opportunity to host hundreds of folks for such an event like the 4th of July Pancake Breakfast, Outreach will be hosting a wonderful way to help Freedom House! Please consider donating any gift cards you can to the Outreach Committee so we can create an enticing raffle basket for folks to buy into. (And, a friendly reminder: If you purchase gift cards at Sam's Club, you pay a little less than the total cost of the gift card!)

Mail at Camp Christian **+ Camp Mailing Address**

Don't forget to send mail to all the kids at Camp Christian! That mailing address is 10335 Maple Dell Rd., Marysville, OH 43040

Rosie Johnson is at camp this week for Otter Camp

Abby Ardle & Violet Rumburg will be at Chi Rho Camp the week of June 16th – 22nd
Ava Lazor will be at Chi Rho July 7th – 13th
AJ Rumburg and Jonathan will be at Ribbet Camp June 30th – July 3rd

Summer Worship Hours **8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**

Just a reminder! Our "Chapel" services will continue to be held at 8:30 a.m. every Sunday morning, and our normal Sanctuary time has moved back by 30 minutes to 10:00 a.m. until Labor Day. Both services will be held in the Sanctuary until further notice.

Youth Group Putt-Putt Planning **& More Summer Fun!**

Parents of those in Youth Group, please keep your eyes on the group chat and make sure Emily knows when your youth student will be available for rescheduling the Youth Putt-Putt Open of 2024 at Downview Sports Center! Additionally, let Emily know if you're going to be out for any extended periods of time this summer... There's a couple offers to use a church member's pool and host the youth for a day throughout the summer. Be on the lookout for the Youth Pool Party announcement!

2024 Summer Camp Schedule **At Camp Christian**

The Christian Church in Ohio is excited to share with you the 2024 Summer Program Schedule! There are Summer Programs at Camp Christian for Children and Youth from Kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as Advance Conference for Young Adults. You will also note the two Disciples Fellowship Retreats which are open to all ages. We have also included Adult Conference, which is open to all adults and is held at Northwest Christian Church in Columbus. Registration and more details about all of this coming this Winter.

We hope you'll save the dates and share this schedule with folks from your Congregations, Families, and Communities!! The first campsite event to kick off the summer schedule is the Disciples Fellowship Retreat on Friday, May 24th

– Sunday, May 26th. The Regular season of camps begins with Grandparent’s Camp – Elementary on Thursday, June 6th.

The full schedule can be viewed at the following link, <https://www.ccinoh.com/camp-christian.aspx>, as well as each date on the Regional Calendar. We hope you’ll be able to participate in this great annual tradition of retreat, refocusing, and reverence.

Summer is fast approaching! Camp Christian has a huge variety of camps, many of which are listed below. If you or a family with children you know are interested in camp, but the cost of enrollment may be too much, don’t forget that there’s scholarships and sponsorships are available through the Christian Church in Ohio website

Grandparents Camp

June 6th -8th at Camp Christian

For children completing Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grade (May/June 2024) and their Grandparent

Rabbit Camp - Elementary

June 30th - July 3rd at Camp Christian

For children completing 2nd grade and/or 3rd and 4th graders whose parents want a shorter camp experience for their children.

Otter Camp - Elementary

June 9th - 15th at Camp Christian

For children completing 5th grade & those in 3rd & 4th grades ready for a full-week of camp.

Encore Music Camp - Junior High & High School

June 30th - July 6th at Camp Christian

For those youth completing 6th- 12th grades.

Created to be Me

For those youth completing 8th grade.

June 23rd - 29th

Chi Rho_Camp - Junior High

For those youth completing 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.

2 OPTIONS - Emmaus June 16th-22nd OR Cornith July 7th-13th

It does not matter where you live or what church

you attend. You can sign up for whichever week fits best into your schedule.

CYF Conference - High School

For those youth completing 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades.

2 OPTIONS - Week #1 June 16th-22nd OR Week #2 July 14th-20th

It does not matter where you live or what church you attend. You can sign up for whichever week fits best into your schedule.

Advance Ministries Summer Conference - Young Adults

July 21st - 28th at Camp Christian

For all adults ages 19 to 30 (at least 1 year out of high school.)

Adult Conference

June 17th - 21st at Northwest Christian Church

1340 Fishinger Rd., Columbus, OH 43221-2398

For adults of all ages.

FRAUD ALERT! Artificial Intelligence And How to Protect Against It!

AI (Artificial Intelligence) enabled attacks are on the rise. Phishing emails have increased by 1,265% since the launch of ChatGPT. AI cloning models for voice and video are expected to emerge throughout the year. We can expect to see a rise in AI-related cyberattacks and fraud scams in 2024. Huntington Bank has sent communication warning us as a business to be vigilant in our attempts to protect ourselves from these attacks. This information is pertinent to individuals as well. Let’s start with some definitions:

- **Voice cloning or phishing:** digital simulations of trusted voices are used to request financial transfers, sensitive information.
- **Deepfakes:** Threat actors use these to create convincing video and audio recordings to impersonate public figures, executives or other trusted individuals.
- **AI-generated images or videos:** often used to create fake identities on social media, fabricate compromising situations for blackmail, or generate convincing evidence to support fraudulent claims.

What can we do as individuals in defense against Cyber Criminals and Fraudsters?

- Consider enhancing verification processes on your phone or computer through multiple factor authentication, biometric verifications, and similar methods.
- Learn about the threat of AI-enabled scams, including how to spot potential attempts, such as inconsistencies in voice or video communications.

Business Email Compromise

This was the top form of cyberattack identified in 2023. These threats are effective because they prey on our instinct to be helpful, and it can be very difficult to identify. Unfortunately, AI is only making it easier for cybercriminals to impersonate legitimate and trusted sources to fool victims.

Some common scenarios include:

1. Executive transaction request: A fraudster masquerades as an executive asking for a time-sensitive transaction, such as an immediate funds transfer or gift card purchase.
2. Executive data request: Similar to the executive transaction request, scammers pose as an executive to request HR, payroll, or employee data, including earning statements and tax records.
3. Specific payment methods: Attempts often include requests for funds to be transferred via wire transfers, gift cards, or other online payment platforms.

Educating yourself on the tactics threat actors use in their attempts, as well as what to do if an email or text is suspected to be from an illegitimate source, can protect you and your church or other organization you may belong to. Be aware of these

RED FLAGS

- Portraying a sense of urgency, a crisis, or insisting on confidentiality.

- Sending messages at inopportune times when you might respond in a hurry without thinking clearly.
- Refusing to communicate in person or verbally.
- Asking for unusual payment amounts or payment without proper justification.

Practices to help protect against: **CHECK FRAUD**

- Use electronic methods to make payments whenever possible.
- Deliver checks to a post office instead of dropping them in the mail.
- Consider switching recurring payments from check to ACH debit.
- Review and reconcile your monthly statements immediately.
- Notify your bank immediately if you discover a check has been forged or stolen.

Cybercriminals are increasingly using AI tools to understand and generate human-like text. These tactics make it easier for victims to be manipulated into performing actions or divulging confidential information. First Christian Church of Stow has been a target of these attempts. Text messages have been sent pretending to be Jonathan asking for a gift card to be purchased. Others have pretended to be Chuck Kobb, asking for confidential payroll information. Stay alert and be aware and if anything does not feel right, stop and ask. We need to be smarter than the criminals. Keep calling the church, Jonathan, Christian, or another church employee or officer. Don't stop until you get help making an informed decision before you respond to a suspected fraudulent call, text, email, etc.

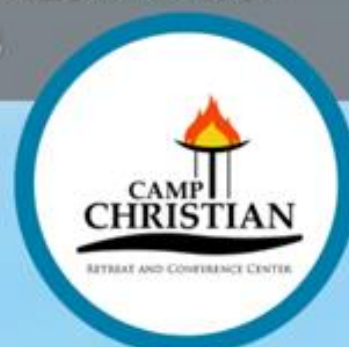
SUMMER IS COMING...

PLAN AHEAD WITH THESE ADVENTURES IN OHIO!

SUMMER CAMPS 2024



**TEMPLED HILLS CAMPS
ARE LISTED IN PURPLE
CAMP CHRISTIAN CAMPS
ARE LISTED IN BLUE**



- **May 24–26: Disciples Fellowship Retreat, all Ages**
- **June 6–8: Grandparents Camp – Elementary. For children completing K–2 AND their Grandparent (or another related adult other than their parents)**
- **June 9–15: Otter Camp – Elementary. For children completing 5th grade & those completing 3rd & 4th, ready for a full-week of camp**
- **June 12–15, June 30 – July 3, July 14 – 17: Grands & Family, ages 4–13 (with Parent or Grandparent)**
- **June 16–22: M.M.A.D.D. (Music, Mindfulness, Art, Dance, Drama). Ages 8–18**
- **June 16–22: Camp "Out" (LGBTQIA+). Ages 8–18**
- **June 16–22: Chi Rho & CYF Week 1 Concurrent Camp – Junior High & High School. For youth completing 6–8th grades and youth completing 9th–12th**
- **June 17th–21: Adult Conference at Northwest Christian Church, Columbus**
- **June 23–29: Sports Camp. Ages 7–18**
- **June 23rd–29th: New Camp: Created to Be Me. For youth completing 8th grade.**
- **June 30th–July 3rd: Ribbit Camp. For children completing 2nd–5th grade, that may experience camp for the first time with a shorter week**
- **June 30th–July 6th: Camp Encore, Vocal and Drama Camp. For youth completing 6th–12th**
- **July 7–10: Pathfinder. Ages 10–14**
- **July 7–10: Family Camp, all ages**
- **July 7th–13th: Chi Rho Week #2. For youth completing 6th–8th**
- **July 10–13: Seek and Sip. Ages 21+**
- **July 14th–20th: CYF Week #2. For youth completing 9th–12th**
- **July 21st–July 28th: Advance Conference. For adults ages 19 to 30**
- **August, 30th–September 1st: Disciples Fellowship Retreat, all ages**



**REGISTER
TODAY!**

**SCAN THE QR CODES
OR GO TO:**

**HEARTLANDUCC.ORG/TEMPLED-HILLS
CCINOH.COM/CAMP-CHRISTIAN**

