

Chimes

March 2012



My dear sisters and brothers,

This week we have seen the world at its worst. Our youth have known what no young person should know. Our televisions are telling a story that should never need telling. We are offering prayers of the sort no one should ever have to offer. We are bringing to God questions that will not be satisfactorily explained. The shots fired by a student at Chardon High School on Monday have taken three lives and wounded two more, and the event is hitting us all. We who speak of the “brokenness of the world” have seen just how broken it is. And more than just seeing it, we *feel* it.

It goes without saying that the Chardon High School shooting will be with this community and church not just weeks but months, and in ways even years. One of the pains of being human is that severe damage done—to bodies, to souls, to memories—cannot be undone or truly healed this side of God’s lasting new creation. There will be no quick fix. Healing may come, but it will not be without scars.

Our faith tells us that God knows this, even as deeply as God’s own self in his Son, Jesus Christ. John’s Revelation vision that proclaims God’s victory over sin, evil and every form of destruction depicts the risen, reigning, heavenly Christ as “a Lamb, *looking as if it had been slain*” (Rev. 5:6a). And when the risen Christ first appeared to disciples he still wore execution marks on his hands and his side. The church is the body of Christ in the world as a people that lives with wounds.

The wounds of the church, this community, our world, were in full view Monday night as we gathered to pray in our worship space. On that night, even though we had seen the world at its worst, we were being the church at its best: throwing our lives upon God and around each other; inviting others in to share in our trouble and begin to hope for redemption; giving witness not just to the horror we knew, but to the love of God which, in the face of it all, is sturdy enough to bear us, bind us together, and create a future into which we may walk.

We who have seen the world at its worst may now be the church at its best. This area is only starting to determine what healing and going forward will mean, but I am convinced that this church will be part of God’s purpose to mend lives and give people strength to walk into the future with hope.

The day before the shooting our church gathered for an installation service in which we declared the church’s gospel ministry is, in the words of the liturgy from our *Book of Order*, “to lift the people’s vision toward the hope of God’s new creation” and “to support... people in the disciplines of the faith in the mist of the struggles of daily life.” For our youth, for our friends, for our schools, for our leaders, for each other, we may now be such a church even as we ourselves struggle and grieve. We may be people of the God whose love “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Cor. 13:7).

By the grace and strength of the Lamb that was slain, may it be so.

LENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship

Sermons during Lent explore how classic biblical spiritual practices such as fasting, confession, meditation, solitude, and corporate worship make us available to the gospel and help us grow in the Spirit. Each week the bulletin will contain suggestions for practicing a spiritual discipline through the week and deepening our everyday relationship with God.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 1 9:30am

Through music, drama, Word and communion, we will begin our journey through the week God made holy through Jesus' cross and resurrection.

Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7:00pm

In this intimate service we continue the drama of Holy Week by sharing the Lord's Supper and receiving his presence among us as the Lover who commands us to love.

Good Friday, April 6, 7:00pm

This time of prayer, reflection on the cross, and remembrance of Jesus dying for us.



Easter Sunday, April 8, 9:30am

Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Church office hours:
9:00 am-2:00 pm
Mondays -Thursdays.

Contact Information
Christ Presbyterian Church
12419 Chillicothe Rd.
Chesterland, OH 44026
440-729-1688

Website:
www.christpcusa.org

Church Office e-mail:
office@christpcusa.org
karen@christpcusa.org

Pastor e-mail:
matt@christpcusa.org



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



The goal of the Children's Ministry committee is to provide children with the opportunity to accept Christ as their one and only Savior. Once this commitment to Christ is made, our desire is that they would continually grow closer to Him through reading the Bible, praising God and fellowshiping with one another. Our prayer is that the children and volunteers would seek to glorify Christ alone in their daily lives.

Upcoming dates:

- **Now, through Lent**, Children's Bell Choir Rehearsal. Rehearsals will be downstairs in room 6 at 11:00am.
- **March 10**, Ice Skating Event
10:15-11:00 Breakfast at the Church
11:00-leave for Ice Skating at Gilmore
11:30-1:00-ice skating

GILMOUR ACADEMY ICE ARENA
2045 SOM Center Rd.
Gates Mills, OH 44040
440.449.7491
(Cost: \$4.00/child, \$5.00/adult, \$2.00 skate rental)
- **March 16**, Roller Skating party: 4:30pm-6:30pm

CHAGRIN VALLEY ROLLER RINK
7151 S. Main St.
Bentleyville, Oh 44022
- **March 25 and May 13**, Joyful Noise performances Rehearsal is during worship hour.
- **April 1st** (Palm Sunday), Children's Bell Choir leads in worship.
- **VBS: June 11-14, 9:00am-noon**; The evening program is Thursday, June 14 at 7:00pm



UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music serves to inspire personal meditation, encourage praise, and lead the congregation in group worship. CPC's music program includes many avenues for all levels of musical talent:

- Chancel Choir to provide songs relating to the morning's message
- Joyful Noise for children's enthusiastic participation
- Children's Handbell Choir and Adult Handbell Choir
- Soloists and small vocal or instrumental groups to add variety to morning worship

For more information, contact Choir Director, Josh Chenoweth at #440-231-1345.

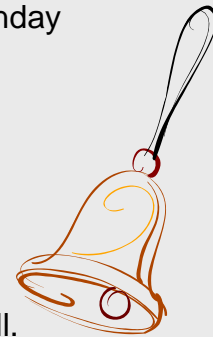
Music Ministry also includes:

- Organ and piano music for worship, weddings and funerals.
Contact Sue Congdon at #440-729-1035
- Praise Team, providing contemporary arrangements of new and traditional music.
Contact Bob Russell, Jr. at #440-729-3547

All of these groups welcome new participants, regardless of musical experience. Check the church calendar for rehearsal dates and times.

Performances on Good Friday and Easter Sunday

- Adult Bell Choir Rehearsal:
Sundays 10:30-11:00am
- Youth Bell Choir Rehearsal:
Sundays 11:00am-11:30am
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal:
Thursdays at 6:30pm



Sign-up for the Bell Choir in Fellowship Hall.

WEB SITE

Our church Web site, www.christpcusa.org, provides a wealth of information regarding our ministries, missions, church forms and even a list of library resources. Listen to Sunday sermons on your computer if you miss a day of worship, or read the message in text format. Check the calendar for upcoming events and meetings. In the coming months, our site will be updated with a new design.

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

HOMEBUILDERS SMALL GROUP STUDY: COME GROW YOUR MARRIAGE WITH US

CPC will be running a 6 week scripture based small group study for couples after Easter. Each interactive session runs 60 minutes and presents biblical truths and practical life applications for your marriage. We will likely be meeting on Sundays and using the "Improving Communication in your Marriage" module.

If interested, sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact Bill or Tina Fischer at 440-729-4515.



CHAPEL CIRCLE: MEETING FOR BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies of Chapel Circle invite you to join them for their Bible study meeting. The studies are held monthly, in alternating homes of the women. During the winter months, meetings are held at CPC.

Their next meeting will be held in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 21 at 11:00am. Nancy Kule will lead Lesson 2 pp, 13-20. Janet McIntee will give the devotion.

Carpool lunch at Danny Boys to follow.

Call: Barbara Kross for more information at #440-729-3045.

THE EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

This committee will be looking to define what the true meaning of Evangelism and Outreach is and forming a mission statement. Once this is accomplished we look forward to seeing where God will take us and what he would have us do. Please join us on the journey. We appreciate ideas and energy.

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ADULT MINISTRIES is pleased to present this year's Lenten series, a study of spiritual disciplines based upon Scripture and Richard Foster's compelling work, Celebration of Discipline – A Path to Spiritual Growth. During the six Sundays in Lent, now through April 1, we will gather in the sanctuary at 11am for a video presentation followed by break-out meetings where we will discuss a different discipline each week. These will include the disciplines of fasting, meditation, solitude, submission, confession and worship. Each session will approximately an hour. We hope you will participate in this time of study and personal growth

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

If you have a passion for knitting or crocheting, please join our Prayer Shawl Ministry held the second Wednesday of every month. It's a fun way to get out and do something different. The shawls are made with love and prayed over, then given to someone in need. They mean so much to the people who receive them. The next "session" is: **Wednesday, March 14 10:00am to noon, Here at CPC.**

For more information, Call Sheila McKenzie at, 440-729-9620.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:

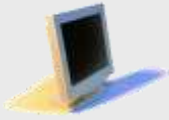
It's been many years since CPC has planned a Progressive Dinner. Several members have suggested that we provide an opportunity to participate in this fun, food - filled event. If you would be willing to provide your home for one of the courses: Hors d'oeuvres, Soup or Salads, and Desserts please contact Linda Russell at 729-3547 or wwr549@yahoo.com. There will be a sign-up for people to supply the food at each location. You just need to supply the space! If you would like to help plan this event or any others just let me know! Our Committee would love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

Upcoming dates for Fellowship Events:

- Progressive Dinner - May 19th
- Captains Baseball Game - June 1 (details coming soon)
- Church Picnic & Golf Outing - July 29



GET CONNECTED



WILLING TO DONATE A NO-LONGER-BEING-USED FLAT SCREEN MONITOR?

CPC is looking for a screen for the financial computer in the Session office. Along with your donation, you will be given charitable acknowledgement for tax purposes as incentive.

Contact Rusty Wenger at #440-218-2231 or rgw9350@gmail.com or Jim Hart at #440-729-0633 or jimhart100@gmail.com.

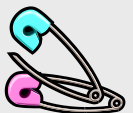


DOES THE COMPANY YOU WORK FOR HAVE A "MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM"?

If so, you can make a contribution to any organization through this type of Gift Program. Ask your employer if they provide a charitable match for employees. Then, talk to Rusty Wenger at #440-218-2231 or rgw9350@gmail.com to include Christ Church.

PAPER PRODUCTS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD PANTRY: When you are out shopping, keep the CPC Food Pantry in mind. Canned goods and non-perishables are always needed, but the more immediate needs at this time are personal items such as toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, shampoo and laundry soap. If you know of someone in need, contact the church office at 440-729-1688.

CHILDCARE: CPC is currently looking to hire additional Childcare staff. If you or anyone you know is interested in employment in the Church Nursery for a few hours on Sunday mornings, contact Jen Congdon at #440-622-6563 or jen@christpcusa.org or call Nancy Moritz at #440-729-7322 or bnmoritz@gmail.com



Notes from Session

Session met on Tuesday February 21 and we had a discussion about doing a picture directory. All agreed that this would be great but we need to find someone from the congregation to spearhead this project.

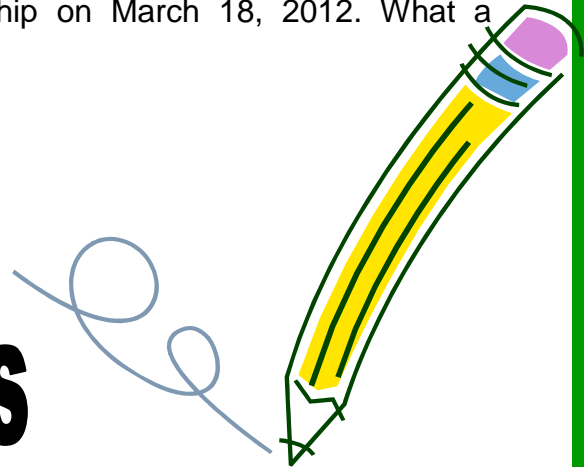
We will be starting a class for the children and youth to understand the sacrament of communion so they may participate on communion Sundays. We will be having communion on Easter Sunday.

On Saturday February 18 we had a special Session Meeting/New Members Class and 13 new members were added to the rolls of Christ Presbyterian Church. It was fantastic to be a part of this happening just to hear the enthusiasm of the people involved. They were all excited about becoming members and doing what they can to grow the church. They will be introduced to the congregation and receive membership on March 18, 2012. What a blessing!

In His service,

Your Clerk of session
Chuck Scott

News from Deacons

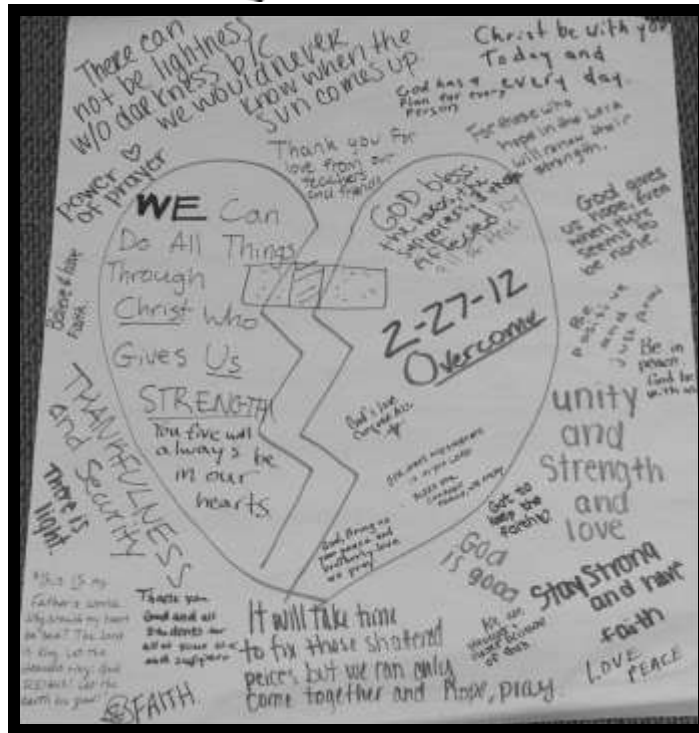


The Deacons, along with some Session members, were treated to a very nice talk given by Sara Shinger from Geauga County Job and Family Services at our last meeting. Sara is the Community Support/Volunteer Coordinator. She gave us information on many programs that our church could become involved with in connection with our mission and outreach functions. More information on this will be Forthcoming.

Our Session representative told us that Sue Scott and Pat Gedeon will be working on a schedule for meetings with Pastor Matt. Some of these meetings will be held after church and in peoples' homes. The purpose of these gatherings will be to get to know Matt and to discuss our wants, needs, and wishes for our church. Everyone will be invited to one of the get-togethers which will be held beginning in February.

All of our committees gave their reports and everything is going well. We are working on plans for a small reception for Pastor's ordination service, on Feb. 26th. Please remember to donate supplies for the Geauga Dog Warden's facility; a box is in the Fellowship Hall. The Deacons received some very nice and meaningful thank you letters from the holiday families we helped. They will be put on the bulletin board in the upstairs hall, please take a minute to read them. Have a blessed Lenten season CPCers and stay healthy!

Barb Albrecht, Secretary



CHS

2/27/2012



ADMIRING THE SUNDAY FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS?

If you are interested in purchasing a Sunday floral arrangement in honor or memory of someone, contact Lila Latta at 440-953-1946. Make \$20 checks payable to CPC with "Deacons" on the memo line.