

Franklin Circle Christian Church

The Messenger

May 2015



Celebrate 14 Years Of Ministry At Franklin Circle Christian Church Sunday, May 17th A Celebration Of Service!

Pastor Allen, who has been called to be the Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ) Capital Area (MD/DC/DE) will be concluding his fourteen years of ministry with Franklin Circle Christian Church in May.

CELEBRATION: His last “official” Sunday will be May 17th.

Worship, which is always a celebration, will be especially festive that day and will begin at 10:30 a.m. Following the service we will host a reception for Pastor Allen in the Parlor from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. After greeting him, those who wish will move to the gym for a dinner, which will be both our Third Sunday Meal as well as a farewell banquet for our pastor. There will be a program at 2:00 p.m.

FOOD: The main dish and rolls/butter will be provided by the Food Ministry Team, but all the side dishes, salads, and desserts (cookies only!) will be potluck style. Suggestions for what to bring include (according to last name): **A-K side dishes, examples: fruit dishes, rice, or pasta; L-S veggies and/or salads; T-Z Dessert - cookies only.** You are asked to bring more than enough to share with our guests.

PARKING: Since we expect a full house that day, for worship and for the dinner, we are especially requesting the following: please walk, bike, or use public transportation if at all possible. If you must drive, please car-pool with others who live near you or on the way. We will have use of the Lutheran Hospital parking lot across Franklin Blvd. (however do NOT park in the Masonic Temple lot).

GIFTS: Pastor Allen has requested that **no gifts be given him.** He has designated the Stained Glass Window protection campaign as the recipient of any gifts folks may wish to give in his honor. Please make out your check to “Franklin Circle Christian Church” and in the memo put “Windows - Pastor Appreciation.” However, please know that cards are always appreciated by Pastor Allen!

MARATHON: Yes, May 17 is the annual Rite Aid Marathon, but we believe that, **other than Rt. 2 (the “Shoreway”), which will most likely be closed all morning long,** most of the streets to the south of the church will be open by the time most folks will be heading to church. For more details and a course map, call the church office to request a copy or go online to: <http://www.clevelandmarathon.com>

Please note that on **Sunday, May 24th,** the day of our Memorial Day Commemoration, Pastor Allen will be our “guest preacher,” at the request of the Elders of the church.

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As I wind down my fourteen-year ministry here at my beloved Franklin Circle Christian Church, I have been getting a bit nostalgic... go figure! One of the things I was thinking most intensely about has been what life was like here fourteen years ago when I arrived and what things are the same and what are different. The list of changes is long, very long, and for the most part quite wonderful. But the list of things that are the same is smaller. Two things that I instituted first thing when I arrived that still remain strong and true to me are my encouragement of the use of the Rule of Christ and my benediction.

The Rule of Christ refers to the section of scripture in Matthew 18 that deals with how we should approach our differences in church life. I believe it was at the very first FCCC Board Meeting that I handed out a worksheet, copied on blue paper, which walked one through the steps. I have shared this almost every year of my ministry, sometimes in Board Meetings, sometimes in leadership retreats, sometimes in counseling.

The advice is still as worthy as when Jesus shared it with his disciples: when you find yourself in conflict with another member of the community, before you do anything – even before you go to the pastor and try to set up an appointment with her or him – you sit down with the person with whom you have the conflict and talk things out with him or her. If that doesn't resolve the conflict, you ask one or two leaders, perhaps Elders or maybe the pastor, to meet with the two of you. It is not until both of these paths are exhausted that you take it to the community. And throughout the process self-examination, honest self-appraisal, and confession are required.

This continues to be the most precious *and rarely used* piece of faithful counsel I give. I have found that we live in a culture where communication around the edges, and the drama that naturally ensues, appear to be the most gratifying ways of dealing with conflict and thus the most used. The original sheet I passed out is available from the church office, but two online versions that are nicely done can be found at:

<http://fairmontmn.umcchurches.org/RuleofChristPacket.pdf>

http://www.westmichiganconference.org/Rule_of_Christ_intro.pdf

The second thing that I have offered to you has been my weekly benediction. Even though occasionally I have mangled it due to my faulty memory, or on rare occasion have substituted it with another, I have offered it to you as my passionate wish for you. I am indebted to the ideas of the Rev. John Spong in his book, ***"Why Christianity Must Change Or Die,"*** as well as the words of theologian Paul Tillich, who Spong quotes, for my weekly blessing. I offer it to you now as my ongoing wish for you, my beloved congregation, as we part. May it provide a source of strength and hope for you in the coming years.

"And now, may God, who is the source of all this life, call us to go and live life fully; and may God, who is the essence of all this love, call us to go and love wastefully; and may God, who is the ground of our very being, call us to go and have the courage to be ourselves. Amen!"

God's Grace Is Abundant,
Allen

Congratulations!

Amber Bessner and Wolfe Pavlick will be serving as part of the CYF Leadership Team this summer for Week 1 CYF Conference. **Kayley Michuta** was selected as employee of the month for February at the Kent Wendy's! **Kerri Stewart** was accepted into the National Honor Society this spring. **Kiaira Woods** was chosen to go to Chicago for an essay she wrote at her school. Congratulations to all!



Thanks!

Thanks go out to **Debbie McNair** (Lisa Gloria McNair's mother-in-law) Who knit and donated a box packed with hats, scarves, and mittens which she donated to our Disciples Closet! What generosity! Thanks to **Monique Lowther** for over and above work on the gardens and purchasing and planting flower seeds. Watch for her success!

Giving Thanks To Ted Brogan, Usher Extraordinaire!

On Sunday, April 5, Easter Day, Ted Brogan completed his term as Usher for Franklin Circle Christian Church. He has been an usher of our church since he was 21 years old, when Walter Mills asked him to become one. For those of us doing the math, that is over 68 years of ushering! He was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Deacon Chair Jeff Mazo, an engraved award by friend and former usher, Ralph Eyring, and an Honorary Usher pendant by former usher and Elder, Joe Stanley. Thank you, good and faithful servant! Ted has ushered alongside several devoted FCCC members remembered by many of us, including Bob Mock.



Baptisms/Reaffirmations Abound!

On Sunday, March 8th, our congregation celebrated the baptisms of David Perusek and LaShawna Riley, both who came through confession of faith. Then on Sunday, April 12, we celebrated the baptisms of Debbie Stephens, Imani Eccleston and Kelly Jo Brown through confession of faith and the reaffirmation of baptism of Robert (Bobby) Horrocks III. Both days were filled with joy and excitement, and were signs of the ongoing life of this vibrant congregation. They received baptismal certificates from the Board of Elders and cakes were part of a reception, along with new Bibles, from the Christian Education Team. Please feel free to welcome them into the full life and membership of the Church Universal!



FCCC Invited To Participate In March Against Violence May 9

Dear Faith Leaders and Community Leaders,

God Before Guns is proud to announce that again this year we will recognize Mother's Day with a march and rally in downtown Cleveland on Saturday, May 9. The arrangements are essentially the same as last year: march across Hope Memorial (Carnegie) Bridge and rally at Market Square Park near the West Side Market. Details are on our website.

Our theme is "Protect Our Kids from Gun Violence." We will highlight the need to protect our kids from unsafely stored guns at home and at friends' homes, from guns in schools, and from guns that are casually carried and carelessly used on the streets and in other public places.

We need your support. You can show your determination to reduce gun violence by joining us in this visible demonstration of commitment. You can also help by spreading the word at faith communities, through other organizations, and to your friends. [Flyers are posted around FCCC.] If you are on Facebook you can also share the posting on the God Before Guns Facebook page. The first step is to like the page, then share the announcement with your FB contacts.

Last year we drew more than 100 participants. We hope you will join us and help us show that support to reduce gun violence is growing.

David Eggert, Chairperson

God Before Guns


E-Mail: godbeforeguns@gmail.com

Web: www.godbeforeguns.org

Twitter: [@godbeforeguns](https://twitter.com/godbeforeguns)

Elders And Deacons

| Date | Presiding Elder | Table Elder | Table Elder |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 5/3 | Brian Colvin | Carrie Walker | Sharon Thomas |
| 5/10 | Brian Colvin | Sue Schimmel | Sharon Thomas |
| 5/17 | Sue Schimmel | Carrie Walker | Sharon Thomas |
| 5/24 | Sue Schimmel | Robert Horrocks | Larry Crell |
| 5/31 | Sue Schimmel | Robert Horrocks | Larry Crell |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--|--------------|---|
| Communion | See Jeff Mazo | Worship Leader | 5/3 | Available |
| | | | Sue Schimmel | 5/10 |
| Set-up / Video | |  Community Hour | 5/17 | 3rd Sunday Meal— Community Meal in Gym |
| Deacons | See Jeff Mazo | | 5/24 | Michelle Brown |
| | See Jeff Mazo | | 5/31 | Circle Sabbath Sun - No Community Hour |
| | See Jeff Mazo | | | |
| | See Jeff Mazo | | | |
| Greeters | See Jeff Mazo | | | |



In Memory...

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family friends on the death of...

Delores Ackerman (longtime FCCC friend and supporter) on April 20th ;

Vicky Ball (Lance Miner's beloved aunt, who worshipped with us) on April 2nd ;

Donald Chandler (Barb White's brother-in-law) on March 25th;

Jack Christopher Stanley (Joe's father) on March 23rd;

Anne Tobias (Diane Howard's cousin).



Outreach and Community Service Team

Start thinking about items you might want to donate to our Treasures From Our Attics sale to be held May 23rd (Memorial Day Saturday) from 9am to 5pm.

The sale will be in the gym with money raised going to our Emergency Fund. You must price your own items, and make sure they are in saleable condition.

Refreshments will also be sold. If you are interested in volunteering, please see Marge, Kevin, David, Larry, or Phillip. Set-up and drop off of goods to be sold will be on Friday, May 22st from 6-9pm.



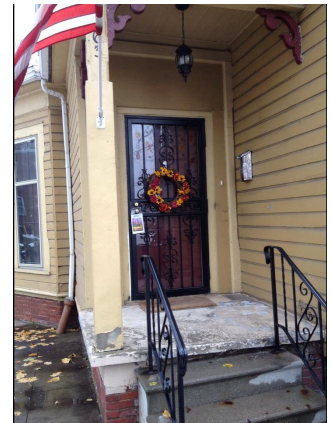
| Date | Sanctuary | Children | Youth | Total |
|------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|
| 3/15 | 70 | 7 | 8 | 85 |
| 3/22 | 74 | 8 | | 82 |
| 3/29 | 88 | 7 | | 95 |
| 4/5 | 167 | 18 | | 186 |



ATTENDANCE



Congregation-Wide Evangelism Event “From Our Doorstep To Yours!” Saturday, May 9th, from 9 a.m. – noon The Evangelism & Publicity Team, always open to fun new ideas, is sending our congregation out into the community to get to know the neighborhood around the church and to offer an invitation to our church, On Saturday, May 9th, from 9 a.m. to noon we will venture out in small groups to the streets around



Ohio City equipped with bags to hang on the doors of our neighbor’s homes and apartments. The bags will have flyers about events coming up, from the Treasures From The Attic sale to all of the summer festivals that we will be participating in. We’ll even be including a seed packet with a label inviting them to “Come grow with us” as a gift! There are other special gifts if the house seems to include children or pets. We will also offer a silent prayer for the residents of each home we visit. We are NOT knocking on doors, we are simply leaving an invitation.

The 9:30 a.m. Children's Education is NEW and just for YOU! The adults have their Sunday School and now so do you. This is the start of a wonderful day with God! We learn a memory verse to help us do a multiple choice quiz, word search, crossword puzzle, and a decoder sheet. Sometimes we color a picture and sometimes we do a craft. Come check it out!!! Anyone age 3 yrs. and up can join us. **We are on the 3rd floor—the middle door on the balcony of the Chapel.** We don't meet in June, July, and August.



Children Worship & Wonder is going great. We continue from the 9:30 education time’s memory verse and jump into the story. Then, the children do art to tell what that story meant to them. This is for 3 yrs. old- 2nd grade. I want you to know I am trying some things this year. First, we have a Facebook group, [FCCC CWW](#). Second, we have a YouTube channel, [FCCC CWW](#). We are no longer doing Class

Dojo.

Christian Children's Fellowship takes that same story from the 9:30 a.m. Children’s Education and 10:50 a.m. Children’s Worship and goes even deeper. Sometimes we even go through different books and verses to find the deeper meaning God is trying to tell us. This is for 3rd-5th grade. This makes for a long day but God's Lesson and Love is soooo worth it!! We will be planning summer fundraisers to help pay for camp (the cost of which went up again) and get the floor repaired for the worship center. Christian Children's Fellowship Officers are: Bobby Horrocks, President; Kelly Jo Brown, Vice-President; Liana Horrocks, Secretary. This place means a lot to the kids and me. I wish that more kids would come for CCCF.



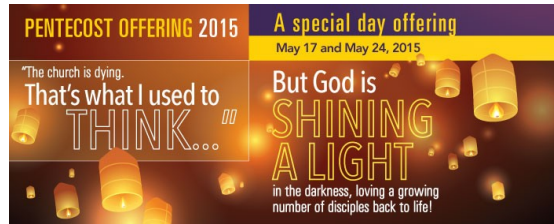
I am so proud of our two members who joined the church on Easter and were baptized on April 12th, Kelly Jo Brown and Bobby Horrocks. The best part of my job is watching them grow up and flourish, the hardest part is letting them go.



Blessings to ALL in the Name of the Lord and Love of Christ. Have a nice day, a great week, and awesome month. Michelle Brown, Children's Minister.

The Pentecost movement is growing, contrary to expert opinion *Pentecost Offering celebrated on Sundays, May 17 and May 24*

Despite expert opinion, Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation declares that the Church is not dying, but is alive amid a thriving Pentecost movement. Hope Partnership invites everyone to join this movement as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) celebrates the 2015 Pentecost Offering on **Sundays, May 17 and May 24**.



"This year's offering theme, new churches are growing in the light, focuses on the great progress Disciples are making in starting new churches and introducing more individuals to Christ, despite expert opinion that the Church is dying," says Charlie Wallace, minister of New Church Strategies for Hope Partnership. "We are excited about the Pentecost Offering message this year, which emphasizes the importance of shining light in dark places, spreading the gospel and loving people back to life during challenging times," he adds.

"This year's promotional materials include a Pentecost video that takes a unique approach to conveying the message that the Church is not dead, but rather that we are spreading the truth and light during challenging times," says Wallace. The video was created and produced by Rev. Elizabeth Myer Boulton, founder and creative director of the SALT Project. Boulton, a former new church pastor, understands firsthand the significance of the Pentecost Offering. "I know that the contributions made to the Pentecost Offering enable new church pastors to share the gospel in communities throughout the United States and Canada," says Boulton.

Each year, the Pentecost Offering supports the Disciples new church movement by making it possible for the Church to recruit, assess, train and coach new church leaders. One half of the offering is dedicated to each respective Region or Area where the offering is taken, while the other half is used by Hope Partnership to support new church ministry.

"A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps inspire dreams, enables our new church pastors to develop clear vision and keeps the new church movement alive," says Gilberto Collazo, president of Hope Partnership.

To date, the Pentecost Offering has supported the start of 850 new churches in the United States and Canada, spreading the gospel to more than 60,000 individuals, who may not have had a relationship with God. Every week during worship, 28 languages are spoken in Disciples congregations.

"We are encouraging Disciples congregations to celebrate Pentecost Offering on **Sundays, May 17 and May 24** and to play the inspiring video during worship," says Wallace. To learn more about the Pentecost Offering or to view the two-minute video, visit www.hopepmt.org.

You Are Invited To The Second District Police-Citizen Committee Meetings



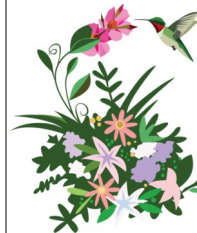


On the 2nd Tuesday of every month, at 7:00 p.m., there is a Second District Police-Citizen Committee Meeting. It is held in the Applewood Center (3518 W. 25th St). in the gymnasium off of Daisy Ave. At these meetings, you can meet and work with other citizens and the Second District Police to provide a safe and secure community, to resolve safety concerns, plan events all over the district, and improve the quality of life in our city. For more information, please call 216-664-3293.




From The Christian Education Team

We are currently looking to hire a Nursery Assistant. Please speak to Patty Groetsch, Nursery Teacher, for more information. A Job Description is available.

Key: **CH**-Chapel: **CMC**-Chapel Media Center: **COM**-Computer Room: **FR**-Friendship Room: **G**-Gym: **K**-Kitchen:
P-Parlor: **S**-Sanctuary; **Y**-Youth Room; **CCF**-Christian Children's Fellowship

| May 2015 | | Sunday Class and Service Schedule: 9:30-10:30 am * Adult and Children Class 10:30 am * Worship 10:50 AM * Nursery/Children's Worship & Wonder*12 PM Christian Children's Fellowship | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  <p>FAREWELL to the <i>Pastor</i></p> | | | | April 30 Visiting Mission Trip Group from Southside Christian Church, Lima, Ohio; through Sunday, May 3/P | 1 4:30 PM Community Youth Program 7:30 PM AA/P Mission Trip Group | 2 10:00 AM Tumbling/G 2 – 5 PM Community Youth Program/G Mission Trip Group |
| 3 12:15 PM Elders Meeting/P 7:00 PM NA/G | 4 9:30 AM Staff Meeting/FR 1 – 3 PM Disciples Closet 5:30 PM Yoga/P 6:30 PM Youth Group/Y | 5  <p>ELECTION DAY *****</p> Polls Open 6:30 am. – 7:30 p.m. | 6 5:00 PM Tumbling/G 6:00 PM Yoga/P 7:00 PM Bible Study/C | 7 7:15 PM Choir/S | 8 7:30 PM AA/P | 9 10:00 AM Tumbling/G 2 – 5 PM Community Youth Program/G |
| 10 Mother's Day 2 – 5 PM Community Youth Program/G 7:00 PM NA/G | 11 NO Staff Meeting 1 – 3 PM Disciples Closet 5:30 PM Yoga/P 6:30 PM Youth Group/Y | 12 4:00 PM Anger Management/G 6:00 PM Community Meeting/S 7:00 PM Out On Franklin LGBTQ Group/P | 13 10:00 AM District 2 Clergy Meeting/P 5:00 PM Tumbling/G 6:00 PM Yoga/P 7:00 PM Bible Study/C | 14  | 15 10:00 AM Church Women United/C 4:30 PM Community Youth Program 7:30 PM AA/P | 16 10:00 AM Tumbling/G 2 – 5 PM Community Youth Program/G |
| 17 CELEBRATION OF SERVICE FOR PASTOR ALLEN 12-2 Reception/P 12:30 – 2 Dinner/Potluck/G (11:00 AM Third Sunday Meal will coincide with above) 7:00 PM NA/G | 18 9:30 AM Staff Meeting/FR 1 – 3 PM Disciples Closet 5:30 PM Yoga/P 6:30 PM Youth Group/Y | 19 4:00 PM Anger management/G 7:00 PM Ideals Class/Brogans | 20 5:00 PM Tumbling/G 6:00 PM Yoga/P 7:00 PM Bible Study/C | 21 7:15 PM Choir/S | 22 7:30 PM AA/P | 23 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Treasure from out Attic Sale |
| 24 ~ Pentecost Memorial Day Sunday 2 – 5 PM Community Youth Program/G 7:00 PM NA/G <hr/> 31 12:00 PM Food Bag Sunday 2 – 5 PM Community Youth Program/G 12:15 PM Elders Mtg. 7:00 PM NA/G | 25 Memorial Day  | 26 10:00 AM Christian Education Meeting/C 4:00 PM Anger Management/G 7:00 PM Out On Franklin LGBTQ Group/P | 27 5:00 PM Tumbling/G 6:00 PM Yoga/P 7:00 PM Bible Study/C | 28  <p><i>You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem... and to the ends of the earth.</i> <small>ACTS 1:8, NRSV</small></p> 7:15 PM Choir/S | 29 4:30 PM Community Youth Program 7:30 PM AA/P | 30 10:00 AM Tumbling/G 2 – 5 PM Community Youth Program/G |

May 2015 Birthdays and Anniversaries ‡

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| | |  | | | 1 Marcello Alicea | 2 Jennifer Strong |
| 3 Sherry Steigerwald  | 4 | 5 | 6 Casandra Linder | 7 | 8 | 9 Samantha Raspe |
| 10 Kristine mahoney | 11 |  | 13 | 14 ‡Carrie Culleen & Randy Knapp | 15 Theresa Inman | 16 |
| 17 Don Hudson | 18 Joe Wolf  | 19 | 20 Eddie Butcher | 21 Lucy Andres Dana McFadden | 22 Michael howkins Betteanne Stewart | 23 Destubt Bryant- Jones |
| 24 ‡Monica & Dog Pavlick 31 Debbie Degennaro Diane Wohlgemuth | 25 Iziah Podmore ‡Jake Pruitt & Cody Corrigan | 26 Kelly Jo Brown Tony Linder | 27 | 28 Abbie Hays ‡Rachael & Jason Aquila | 29 Larry Yost | 30 Mike Scott, Jr. |

General Assembly News:

General Assembly Opportunity To Understand One Church, Three Expressions

One of the many traits that make the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) unique is the way we relate between congregation, region, general ministries and the General Assembly. You can learn more about these relationships at the 2015 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Columbus, Ohio, July 18-22. It is at the assembly that representatives of our self-governed congregations (one expression of Church) learn what the self-governed general ministries are doing on their behalf.

The assembly also offers accountability for those ministries. And those people gathered for the General Assembly can speak back to (not for) the congregations and the third expression, regions, with the items discussed during business sessions. All is done in covenant and mutual accountability, unlike more top-down structures. Beginning in late April, business items will be available to read on the website – ga.disciples.org – where you also can register online.

Communion Volunteers Needed!

We still need volunteers to help with Communion preparation, serving and cleanup at one or more of the Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday worship services at the General Assembly in Columbus this summer. In order to clarify some previous confusion, please note that although all Communion volunteers are encouraged to register for the Convention, they are not required to do so if only attending the service to serve. Also, if a volunteer wishes to take advantage of other convention activities and programs for the day he or she will be serving, single day registration (\$50.00) is available both on-line and on-site.

Please contact the Communion Committee Chair, Alan Veatch (Karl Road Christian in Columbus) with questions or to provide volunteers (e-mail: aveatch@chcv.com; Work: 614/846-2000; Cell: 614/296-6616). Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about the General Assembly, go to <http://ga.disciples.org/>.

Cleveland Christian Home Walk & Run for the Kids ~ May 2, 2015

Join Cleveland Christian Home in Fighting Against Child Abuse and Neglect!

Please join with other Disciples Of Christ congregations and individuals, as well as many folks from the community, for the 5K Walk & Run for the Kids May 2nd at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo! The 5K Run and Walk supports CCH's important work with children and families struggling with mental illness, abuse, neglect, severe emotional and behavioral conflicts and other serious concerns. The run begins at 9:15 a.m. and the walk begins at 10:15 a.m.

Participants can choose to have a fun filled leisurely day at the Zoo with family and friends, run in our 5K race, or simply walk the course.

Walk-up registration will be available on event day beginning at 7:30 am, but an additional fee of \$5.00 per individual or family will apply. Ask your friends and family to sponsor you and earn chances to win a new iPad! Every \$300 raised earns you an entry in the iPad drawing. Door Prizes ~ Everyone will get 3 chances to Win! - See more at: <http://www.cchome.org>

Registration Fees:

(Ages 12 and up)

Adult Runner: \$25.00

Adult Walker: \$20.00

(Ages 2 - 11)-(Under 2 yrs. Free)

Child Runner: \$10.00

Child Walker: \$5.00

Spectator Ticket: \$6.00 Cleveland Christian Home must purchase a zoo ticket for every person that enters the zoo. So, if you want to cheer on a runner or walker, you must purchase a Spectator ticket to cover this cost. (Note: Does not include t-shirt or continental breakfast.)

Cleveland Christian Home exists to be a haven of hope and healing for children, youth, and families struggling with mental illness, abuse, and neglect. Founded as an orphanage in 1900, today's Cleveland Christian Home annually serves approximately 800 children, youth and families. Programs include community-based services for children living at home and residential treatment for boys with severe emotional and behavioral disturbances.

May 2015

Franklin Circle Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
1688 Fulton Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-3096



For ALL God's Children

We Put The
Fun In
Dysfunction

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Worship - 10:30 am

Adult Sunday School - (9:30 am Sept—May)

Children's Worship & Wonder - 10:50 am Sun.

Mid-Week. Bible Study - 7:00 pm Wed. (Sept-June)

Youth Group (Middle and High School) - 6:30 pm Mon.

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Mon-Thur.

Contact us:

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Mission Statement

Our mission is to empower disciples to serve and glorify God. We care for the spiritual needs of a culturally diverse community, encourage creativity, and awaken people to the joys of life with Jesus Christ. We are open to and affirming of all people, regardless of gender, race, age, culture, ethnic background, sexual orientation, economic circumstance, or difference in ability as we continue to embody our vision of God's peace and justice.