

Weekly Update FYI

COLLEGE FIRST
CHURCH OF GOD

Love. Equip. Send.

October 15, 2025

Dear College First family,

It has been said that prayer is the primary work of God's people. We advance on our knees. Anytime is a good time to pray, but the Great Lakes Conference of the Churches of God has designated today through Friday, October 15-17, as special days to fast and pray for our city, region, nation, and world. It's not too late to sign up for a time to pray (wherever you are). The prayer guide for the three days can be found here.

Today's noon prayer on Zoom begins at noon today here.

I'll be leading a special prayer gathering on Zoom tomorrow (Thursday) at noon.

My five prayers for College First Church of God are direction, protection, passion, unity, and good fruit.

Drowning in debt? Trying to stretch your paycheck? Wondering how to be a good steward of God's blessings? Financial Peace University begins tonight at 6 PM. It's not too late to sign up...just send an e-mail to merlewalter@ymail.com.

We are hiring an Assistant Custodian for weekend duties. Please let me know if you know of a potential candidate.

The new Stone Table Church in Kenton is having another Outdoor Worship Night on Saturday, October 25 at 5 PM (211 E. Carrol Street). All are welcome to enjoy the parade, Trunk or Treat, food, and music. Bring lawn chairs.

Please pray for the Kairos Weekend at the AOCI prison in Lima beginning tomorrow through Sunday. These events are powerful, life-changing experiences for both prisoners and staff.

Blessings,

Kirk

P.S. Thanks for the prayers for my step dad, Sam. He came home Monday, praise the LORD!



Ryan Ogg 10/16
Nate Tice 10/16
Wendy Jolliff-Schlitz 10/17
Bart Fenimore 10/18
Nicky Inman 10/18
Rick Runion 10/20
Emily Harris 10/20
Kimberly Reese 10/20
Richard Day 10/22
Ruth Challen 10/23
Nancy Baughman 10/24
Anna Welker 10/24
Earl Mills 10/25
Lori Nichols 10/28
Dwayne Shafer 10/31
Amy Baird 10/31
Faith Gingerich 10/31

Upcoming Events

10/15: Financial Peace University, 6-7:30 PM
10/15: Zoom Prayer Call, Noon
10/16: Zoom Prayer Call, Noon
10/19: Young Adult Lunch, 11:30 AM
10/26: Hymn Sing, 6 PM
10/31: Finally Friday, 6-8 PM
11/9: Congregational Meeting, 5 PM

TITHES/OFFERINGS....\$28,022.25
ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS....\$542.95
BUDGET.... \$19,738.00

You can now give online via PayPal, in addition to giving on the church website. Please scan the QR Code provided. Any questions, please call the church office.



Save the Date!

The University of Findlay will host "Mental Health and the Church Conference" on November 1, from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM at the Alumni Memorial Union. Various mental health topics will be discussed! More details to follow next week!



Please join the Great Lakes Churches of God 72 Hour Prayer and Fasting October 15, 16, 17, 2025 by scanning the barcode above or by going to this website, bit.ly/3ISUFtW, to sign up. Thank you!

**Operation Christmas Child**

We will be collecting Operation Christmas Child boxes during the months of October and November. The **last day** for collection of Operation Christmas Child boxes will be on Sunday, November 16.

Please drop off boxes to room 203 (Classroom) at College First. Operation Christmas Child boxes are on display in front of the church office. Any questions, please call the church office.



- Jan Below
- Linda Bratt
- Christine Cole
- Becky Crawford
- Paula Dewey
- Briella Fletcher
- Jill Gordon
- Ledger Han
- Missy LaRocco
- Phyllis Miller
- Lee Osmun
- Cindy Sims-Perry
- Doug Rosendale
- JoAnn Wilson

E-MAIL PRAYER GROUP - Praises and prayer concerns for the church body as a whole are sent out via e-mail by Connections Pastor Kimberly Reese. To submit a prayer request or to be added to the Prayer Chain recipient e-mail list please contact Pastor Kimberly at kreese@collegefirst.org.

Pastor and Staff Appreciation Month

Dear College First Congregation,

As we do each year, the month of October is set aside as Pastor and Staff Appreciation Month. This is a wonderful time to send cards, messages, and baked goods to our amazing Pastors and Staff.

Please reach out to all of the College First Pastors and Staff to let them know how much we all appreciate the great work and care that they perform each and every day here at the church and beyond.

If you want to give a monetary gift, please save that for the month of December, as we will be collecting monetary gifts for the annual Staff Christmas Gift during the end of the year. As always, please be in prayer for our Pastors and Staff, as they carry out the good work of Christ and building His kingdom.

Nate Tice

President, Church Council



IF YOU FIND JESUS - TAKE HIM WITH YOU.



First Responders

Our first responders dedicate a career helping the sick, the distressed, and the hurting all while bringing calm to the chaos that unfolds in the midst of complex tragedies. Their role involves providing assistance to individuals requiring support, distinguishing them as essential contributors during periods of need. Yet our police, firefighters and EMS workers also need help in their areas of need.

Although many first responders choose this career path for various reasons, fully aware of the associated physical risks, mental health concerns in this profession have increasingly emerged. This is a critical area requiring focused attention and support. While these brave individuals play a crucial role in our communities, they are subject to a higher risk of mental health illness. Galatians 6:9 encourages us to “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”. Though first responders are expected to help others, reflecting the nature of Jesus, carrying this responsibility alone can be overwhelming. It is important to demonstrate compassion for individuals engaged in kingdom work by recognizing the challenges they may encounter, and to know we can offer support through understanding, friendship, prayer and hands-on support.

The average individual may witness trauma up to three times in their life. First responders have the potential of not only witnessing trauma and human suffering every shift but must work and remain composed regardless of their emotions compiled around these repeated events. First responder’s work schedules can be long and often with interrupted sleep or no sleep at all. Eating healthy and properly can be difficult as time management is subject to calls and disasters. Often the work required is physical, taking a first responder from a sedentary position to an instant adrenaline rush requiring skill and collectedness. What a battle for the physical body these professions endure that also impact our mental health! Sleeping, treating your body kindly, and eating a nutritious diet all aid our minds response, yet first responders are not always afforded this tool. Proverbs 18:14 says, “A man’s spirit will endure sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?”. Our spirits are sensitive to the overwhelming nature of the events and demands that the men and women serving us confront each day. The persistent exposure to crisis and suffering can become more than anyone can carry if their struggles remain unspoken or unaddressed. As believers we have an amazing opportunity. The body of Christ is uniquely positioned to show love and offer support to those experiencing a crushed spirit. By extending compassion, understanding, and practical assistance, we can ensure that first responders do not have to shoulder their burdens or crushed spirits alone.

Although the human body possesses innate reactions to trauma, these individuals have received training to suppress their personal emotions and maintain composure in challenging circumstances. These professions receive substantial public attention, which leads to both positive and negative feedback. When that crisis call comes in, it often follows closely on the heels of the last, giving first responders little opportunity to decompress or recover from previous incidents. This relentless exposure can extend beyond the workplace, affecting their personal lives and relationships. The emotional burden may surface at home, with irregular hours, accumulated stress, and a sense of isolation, particularly when others have not shared these intense experiences. As a result, the ongoing challenges of the profession often influence the well-being and connections of those who serve on the front lines.

To combat stress our body produces cortisol, often referenced as ‘the stress hormone’. This hormone plays a vital role in helping us function in response to threats. While this hormone is beneficial when operating temporary, there are major physical and mental health risks associated when it is chronic. The first responder’s career demands this hormone day in and out. Statistical data indicates that occupational and emotional stressors significantly affect the lives of first responders. Overall, these individuals experience higher rates of PTSD, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicide compared to the general population. While statistically this is true, it parallels with the other truth that those who are grounded in faith and community are better equipped to be resilient. A promise we often hold on to in times of suffering is knowing God has promised us ‘a joy that comes in the morning’ (Proverbs 30:5). During challenging periods and prolonged hardships faced by first responders, the possibility of experiencing joy remains. This verse serves both as a promise for the future and as an affirmation of faith even during toiling.

Left without help those we call in a time of need are they themselves suffering in need. While the pandemic has made speaking about mental health more acceptable, there is still a large bridge to gap in connecting first responders with mental health access. While mental health professionals can and do assist these men and women and is more often available via insurance and planning, there is still a lack of daily support, open conversations, and efforts to break stigmas in the profession.

Churches and friends: What an honor and responsibility we share in building one another up, especially for the men and women who serve as first responders. According to 1 Peter, each of us has received a unique gift from God, and we are entrusted to use these gifts to encourage and support one another. Let us intentionally put our gifts to work by using our voices, resources, prayers, intercession, friendship, hospitality, and teaching to help others process their challenges before they become overwhelming. Your gift may create a supportive space for individuals facing internal troubles, giving hope as they believe for those joyful mornings.

-By Christina Carbajal



What Opportunities Are Available?

Thank you for the volunteers who have helped with game days, practices, and be team chaplains!

Upward games and practices are still going on!!! And we still need **MANY** volunteers to help out as we enter our last month of Upward! We need **YOU** to help bridge the gap for our kiddos and families in several different ways:

- **Team Chaplains:** We are seeking several individuals to be team chaplains- this means 2-3 people coming to our practices to read a simple devotion (which we will provide). These devotions are just a couple minutes long, but they are an integral part in spreading the Word of God to our kiddos. There are still opportunities to be a team chaplain!
- **Set up/tear down crew:** We are looking for 4 individuals to help us set up at 5:30 on Thursday evenings, and/or setting up/tearing down on Saturday mornings around 7:20 am or 12:45pm for about 45 minutes. We still have LOTS of spaces to fill for this!
- **Hosts:** We love to have 2 people at the field gate on Saturday mornings from 8:30-10:30 or 10:30-12:30 to welcome families, players, cheerleaders and direct them on where to go. This is a wonderful way to show God's love to the family, friends, and participants of this year's Upward Flag Football season. We still need many people to be hosts!

Sign-up sheets are in the atriums at both College First and Winebrenner! Also you can sign-up online at this link: bit.ly/3JSWAyN. And you do not need to come to every game.....whatever fits *your* schedule.

And this year's newest way to get involved: **Team Sponsors!** In the atriums you will find lists of teams- feel free to grab a paper, hang it on your fridge or mirror at home and aim to pray over the team that you select. This is a wonderful opportunity to help us continue to dedicate this season to showing God's love to the Upward community, equipping the participants and their families with God's message of salvation, and sending God's family into the community to further His Kingdom.

For more information, please e-mail Faith Gingerich, Upward Director, at upward@collegefirst.org.

HYMN SING

& DESSERT SOCIAL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 / 6:00 PM

Save the date and plan to come.



Please join us in this wonderful event! On February 13, 2026, along with St. Mark's United Methodist and Movement Church, here in Findlay, we will celebrate anyone living with disabilities, ages 14 and older.

According to timtebowfoundation.org, "Each (Night to Shine) event is unique to its location (nationwide), but some cornerstone activities included across all of them are a red carpet entrance complete with a warm welcome from a friendly crowd and paparazzi, hair and makeup stations, shoeshines, limousine rides, karaoke, gifts, a catered dinner, a Sensory Room, a Respite Room for parents and caregivers, dancing, and a crowning ceremony where every guest is honored as a King or a Queen - the way God sees them each and every day."

As you can imagine, this event will need **A LOT** of volunteers. Volunteer sign-up sheets are available in front of the church office and at the welcome table at Winebrenner. You can also sign up by scanning this QR Code as well:



For more information about the Findlay Night to Shine please go to: findlaynighttoshine.org. Night To Shine will be held at the University of Findlay Alumni Memorial Union.

With your help, let's make dreams come true and shine God's love! **THANK YOU!!!**

YOUNG ADULT LUNCH

JOIN US FOR CONNECTION, COMMUNITY, PASTA & CAKE

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMINGS:

9 & 11 AM
COLLEGE FIRST CHURCH


10 AM
WINEBRENNER

COLLEGE FIRST FELLOWSHIP HALL

OCTOBER 19



11:30 AM



IF YOU FIND JESUS - TAKE HIM WITH YOU.

FLYING SOLO

SINGLE MOMS BIBLE STUDY!
WITH CHILDCARE!
THURSDAYS 7-8PM



JOIN US FOR ENCOUNTER!



EVERY WEDNESDAY 6PM-7:30
PRESCHOOL THROUGH 5TH GRADE

Finally Friday: CF Kids
For ages K-5th, come and celebrate Halloween at College First! Wagon rides, games, costume competition (G rated costumes please), and plenty of candy. Any questions please contact Nicky at ninman@collegefirst.org or the church office.



BOO BASH

FRIDAY
31ST OCTOBER
6PM-8PM



FINALLY FRIDAY
AND UPWARDS PARTY



Candy Collecting
College First Kids Ministries is collecting Halloween candy for October's Finally Friday/Upward Party.

We will be accepting candy the whole month long....no candy restrictions! Any questions, please contact Nicky or the church office.

International Student Ministry Donations Needed

Our international students are in need of space heaters, mattresses, men's winter coats, desks, and bicycles. If you have any of these items to donate, please contact Pastor Nancy at nhiser@collegefirst.org.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:00AM 11:00AM

SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY, 1100 N. MAIN ST.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

10:00AM @ WINEBRENNER

WINEBRENNER TLB AUDITORIUM, 950 N. MAIN ST.

SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE

LIVESTREAM 9:00AM

FACEBOOK PAGE & YOUTUBE CHANNEL

GO TO THE WEBSITE 'ONLINE WORSHIP' PAGE FOR LINKS

1100 N. Main St. Findlay, OH 45840

PHONE: 419-422-7365 **FAX:** 419-423-9449

E-MAIL: office@collegefirst.org

WEBSITE: www.collegefirst.org

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 9AM-4 PM, Friday 9 AM-2 PM



church center

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, & TikTok!
Download the Church Center app!

Love. Equip. Send.

Staff Directory

Kirk Schneemann, Lead Pastor
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Kimberly Reese, Connections Pastor
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Nancy Hiser, Pastor of Student and Young Adult Ministries
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Katie Thomas, Admin Assistant
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Chad Smith, Custodian

Church Elders 2025

Deb Anders, Next Generation

Alvin Trusty, Connection and Discipleship

Nate Tice, Outreach and Missions

Randy Ewing, Property Management

Jon Rupp, Stewardship and Finance

Dave Green, Worship