



The Witness

Circleville First Church

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Anchored student ministry



Lisa Burroughs recently assumed the Youth Director's position after **Sam Davidson** (Thank you, Sam) stepped down.

She said, "I was helping out in the classroom when Sam was youth director. When he announced he was

stepping down from that position, **Pastor Jay Neff** asked if I would be interested in that leadership position."

Lisa said, "We have formed a good group of leaders to help in the youth department. Our goals are to develop relationships with the youth, create a safe environment, become trusting leaders that they can rely on and be there for them throughout journey to draw closer to Jesus. We want them to be educated as Christians, to know the Word and apply it to their daily lives so they can be prepared when they face adversity."

Lisa is a Payroll Administrator for the Pickaway County Auditor Office. She has been married to **Jeff** for 26 years. The couple are the parents of **David** and **Brandon**, who is in active duty in the U.S. Army. (Thank you, Brandon, for your service).

"I used to go to church with my mom, but my **Aunt Sue** started attending Circleville First Church so I visited one day and have been coming ever since. I became a member in 2005," stated Lisa.

Lisa said that she really doesn't have a favorite color but likes pink, green, blue and gray. "I LOVE pizza," says Lisa and her favorite place to eat is at home. She stated, "I used to be really shy and get embarrassed easily but eventually grew out of it. My go to verse is Philippians 4:13."

The youth meets on Wednesday nights at 7 pm. and Sunday nights at 6 pm. If anyone has something to speak about that they think the youth could learn from, feel free to contact me.

"The youth today are facing many of the same things that us adults have but on a larger scale. Social media and the news have everyone not sure of what is true or a lie. We want to make sure the youth knows that God's word is the truth. It is unchanging in a continuously changing world. We want them to feel as part of the church. Please pray for spiritual growth for all the youth and let them see Jesus in you!" concludes Lisa.

Chili Cook-Off/Cake Auction



The annual **Chili Cook-Off/Cake Auction** will be **Saturday, January 25** at 6 pm in the Ferguson/Clark Hall. We need crock pots of chili for the competition and cakes donated for the cake auction. The chili categories are mild, spicy, and specialty. Sign-up sheets will be on the back table for chili and cake donations beginning January 5.

Dinner is \$5 per person which includes chili, baked potato (if you want) and drink. All proceeds benefit the 2020 PNG Mission Trip. It's a fun evening so we hope to see you there.



If you have questions, see **Teresa Riffle**.

HAPPY
New Year

New Year's Resolutions



*My goal for 2019 was to lose 10 pounds. Only have 14 to go...continue in 2020!

*Ate salad for dinner. Mostly croutons & tomatoes. Really just one big round crouton covered with tomato sauce. And cheese. FINE, it was a pizza...Ok, I ate a pizza, are you happy?

*How to prepare Tofu: Throw it in the trash. Grill some meat, chicken or fish.

*I just did a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web.

*I don't mean to brag, but I finished my 14-day diet food supply in 3 hours and 20 minutes.

*A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

*Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.

*Senility has been a smooth transition for me.

*Remember back when we were kids and every time it was below zero outside, they closed school? Yeah, me neither.

*I may not be that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented...I forgot where I was going with this.

*I love being over 70, I learn something new every day and forget 5 other things.

*A thief broke into my house last night. He started searching for money so I woke up and searched with him.

*I think I'll just put an "Out of Order" sticker on my forehead and call it a day.

*November 3, 2019 marked the end of Daylight-Saving Time. Hope you didn't forget to set your bathroom scale back 10 pounds on Saturday night.

*Just remember, once you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed.

submitted by **Jerry Parish**

Jokes of the month



A study of economics usually reveals that the best time to buy anything is last year.

A wife texts her husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen, won't open."

Husband texts back: "Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and then gently tap edges with hammer."

Wife texts back 10 minutes later. "Computer really messed up now."

After church one Sunday, a young boy announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided I'm going to be a minister when I grow up."

"How nice," the mother said. "What made you decide to become a minister?"

"Well," the boy replied, "since I'll have to go to church on Sunday anyway, I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell than to sit still and listen."

submitted by **Bobby Dollison**

Prayer Meetings on Saturday mornings at 8 am

Men's – Sanctuary
Women's - Room A

Second Chance Ministry

January 3 & January 17

7 pm



Verse of the month

All things are new in Christ:



1 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

submitted by **Mike Paul**

Comfy corner creations

Happy New Year Everyone!

Here's an easy, but so hearty and delicious soup for our wintry Ohio days. Enjoy!

Tortellini Soup with Sausage

- 1 pound Italian sausage
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 2 (14.5 ounce) cans chicken broth
- 2 (14.5 ounce) cans RED GOLD DICED TOMATOES
- 1 (15 ounce) can cannellini beans or great northern beans
- ½ teaspoon dry oregano, crushed
- ½ teaspoon dry marjoram, crushed
- ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 package refrigerated cheese-filled tortellini, cooked and drained
- 3 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley

In a large saucepan brown sausage (safe internal temperature 160 degrees). Stir in chopped onion and crushed garlic; cook until onion is soft, about 3 minutes. Drain off excess fat.

Stir in chicken broth, diced tomatoes, beans, oregano, marjoram, red pepper and pasta; bring to a boil. Lower heat and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley.

source: *Back label of a RED GOLD TOMATO CAN. Yay!*
submitted by **Vicki Beavers**



The January bulletin board has been decorated by the **Christian Education Board**. Take a peek!!

Men's Prayer Breakfast

January 18

8 am

Ferguson/Clark Hall



"The Witness" can be read on our church website!

circlevillefirstchurch.com

JOY (just older youth)

Another year gone! A new one and a new calendar will be put together. The committee will meet and plan the year soon.

We had beautiful weather for our trip to Young's Dairy Farm and Clifton Mills. The meal at Young's Dairy Farm was delicious. We will probably go there again. We had a great time of Christian fellowship and good food. The homemade ice was sooo good even though I was full.

It was a fun trip but also very disappointing. After our meal, we went to Clifton Mills for the turning on of the lights. Before we even got to Clifton Mills, we saw cars parked along both sides of the highway. Upon arrival, we were informed that the parking lot was full. We drove for a short time looking for parking. Everywhere we looked, cars were parked on every little street and crowds of people walking down the road (it was dangerous, it was dark and hard to see them). We stopped and after a discussion, voted to go home. If we had stayed, we would have had quite a walk. Pastor Jim Daft and I offered to drop off everyone then we would walk, but the vote was to go home because of the crowd. We still had a great evening. Maybe we will try it again but arrive earlier.

As I state every month, continue praying for all JOY members. Several with health issues and for daily guidance. Pray that we can be an example to someone everyday no matter where we go.

I pray that you all have a great new year!

Love,
Venita

Thank you for serving:



Sean Baldwin, James Benner, Brandon Burroughs, Bob Byerly, Travis Cotton, Elijah Garrison, Trent Holbrook, Brittany Mozingo, Marcus Paul, Andrew Williams and Tanner Wilson. Please pray for these serving our country and their families.

Prayer chain:

If you are not receiving the prayer chain or if you have a prayer request, you can email Tammy at prayer@circlevillefirstchurch.com



Sunday school section

It has been a very busy time; like everyone it seems like October, November and December are so busy and goes by so fast!!

First of all, I would like to **thank everyone** who participated in our Christmas Tree Silent Auction. Whether you bid high enough



to get a tree or just participated by bidding, you are greatly appreciated. Each class always does such a great job decorating the trees. The ideas they come up with are always fantastic; the trees look so pretty sitting in the back room.

I would also like to **thank all of the parents** that allowed their children to go with us to deliver the small Christmas trees and visit our shut-ins. This is always such a blessing. I wish more of you could get involved with this ministry. The smiles on the faces of our shut-ins is worth it all. We give them a tree and a bag of candy, sometimes cookies and we sing Christmas carols as well as visit with them. The boys and girls were so wrapped up in this visitation; they had all kinds of

conversations with our shut-ins, sharing what they are doing. I am so



very proud of these boys and girls, they volunteered to pray with each shut-in as we visited them (they did a great job). After all the visiting, we had fun at McDonald's. I think we worked them (the children) hard, as much as they ate! They had a lot of fun working it off in the play area.

All of the items donated for our missionary family has been sent. We will let you know how they respond after Christmas. **Thank you** all for supporting this ministry.



The bulletin board for January has been decorated by the **Christian Education Board**.

I can't believe we're starting a new year!!

Our Sunday School Department needs your prayers. We want to see more attend Sunday School.

Venita Daft, Sunday School Superintendent

Don't forget!

Stop by the missionary table and sign the cards for our missionaries. Even if you don't know them, sign them to uplift and encourage them.

So blessed...

I know you might not think that having a stroke could be a blessing. I had a stroke the weekend before Pumpkin Show. It affected my eyesight. My previous stroke left me restricted in my eyesight to my bottom left. This time it took my left upper sight.

Ohio State University Hospital gave me a CT scan with contrast of my head and carotid artery. They found an interior aneurism in one of carotid arteries. There was a whole day that went by before they could do another test to verify the aneurism.

Our church was praying and our friend's church in Tennessee was praying.



The day that the test was performed, the doctor said that they couldn't find the aneurism while in the operating room. I said, "Praise the Lord! God healed me!"

Before I left the hospital, I felt that my eyesight had returned to what it was before my stroke.

A few days after being out of the hospital, I had an appointment with my eye doctor. He verified my eyesight was back to where it was before the stroke. He said that I was lucky. I told him that God healed me.

After that, I had an appointment with my neurologist. She said that I was doing great. And she had never seen a stroke patient, that had the eyes affected to regain their eyesight. I told her about the prayers and that God healed me. She said, "Praise the Lord!"

So, I say that this stroke was a real blessing in many ways!
PRAISE THE LORD ALWAYS!!

submitted by **Terry Shaeffer**

Swap shop

Place your ad in the Swap shop for items or services--to give away, for sale or wanted. Leave your name and phone number.

Place your ad in the box on the Welcome Center table or contact Kay Agin by calling or texting her at 740/500-9836 or email her at aginkay@yahoo.com



Praise the Lord

It is by God's grace that we made it through the ups and downs for 2019 and let it be God's will to see us through 2020. Praise Him! Praise Him!

What music do you go to when you want to praise God in song?

Doug George listens to Lauren Daigle. **Becky Tener** also likes to hear Lauren Daigle. **Megan Hottinger** enjoys the music of NEEDTOBREATHE, while **Andrew Hottinger** listens to John Mark McMillan. **Brittany Graul** named radio station 104.9 The River as music she turns to to praise God. The Message 63 on Sirius XM plays in the home of **Tom and JoEllen Byerly**. They also like to hear MercyMe and Ryan Stevenson.



"O sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord all the earth! Sing unto the Lord, bless His name; shew forth his salvation from day to day." Psalm 96:1-2

submitted by **Sue Stonerock**

Aaron & Hur prayer closet

Your help is needed filling the calendar for the Aaron & Hur prayer closet. If you would be willing to be in the prayer closet in a Sunday morning service, please sign the calendar on the Welcome Center table.



1 – 1 **Happy New Year!!**
Church Office—closed
1 – 3 **Second Chance** 7 pm
FC Hall

1 – 17 **Second Chance** 7 pm FC Hall

1 – 18 **Men's Prayer Breakfast** 8 am FC Hall



1 – 25 **Chili Cook-Off/Cake Auction** 6 pm FC Hall

1 – 26 **Movie Night** 6 pm FC Hall



Very unimportant facts

TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.

A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

A snail can sleep for three years.

Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

If the population of China walked past you, 8 abreast, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

If you are an average American, in your whole life, you will spend an average of 6 months waiting at red lights.

Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.

On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite!

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.

The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

There are more chickens than people in the world.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

submitted by **Jerry Parish**

CFC...Our brief history

One day in 1917 while Rev. O.L. Ferguson worked on his house (still standing—447 East Ohio Street), he decided to walk down to the field to get a drink of water from the spring/well. The spring/well was widely known for its clearness and many people used it. (It is now enclosed in stone and is located in front of the PICCA building). As he walked through the field God spoke to him: “This is the place for your camp meeting.” Rev. Ferguson got so excited that he forgot about the drink of water! He went immediately to contact the other committee members.

When they arrived the next Saturday, they all agreed that this spot would be the perfect location for the camp meeting. Before they came, Rev. O.L. Ferguson had talked to the farmer about the land and he said they could have it for \$2,300 for the several acres. After the other committee members had seen it and were in agreement, Rev. O.L. Ferguson borrowed \$100 as down payment from George Arledge.

After the purchase of the property, a meeting was held in August and several names were suggested for the camp. Finally, someone mentioned, “Mount of Praise” since the first tabernacle was to be built on the hill. And the Mount of Praise camp (held every year in August) grew in attendance. People came from Kentucky and surrounding states to attend camp. In 1928 a bigger tabernacle had to be built.

Although Rev. O.L. Ferguson, E.A. Keaton and G.C. McKibban did not know it at the time, they chose more than just the location of a camp meeting that day in 1917. Several years later this place would become the general headquarters of a growing denomination and not long after that a worldwide church!

Starting in 1948, it would house the denominational publishing house which would print the newsletter, Sunday school literature and books. It would also house the denominational Bible college for the training of ministers and the start of the missionary department which would reach around the world.

The plot of land (on East Ohio Street) in Circleville, Ohio became a primary investment for the Churches of Christ in Christian Union.

submitted by **Carolyn Steele**

