

WHERE TO TURN TO FOR HELP & ANSWERS

Card Ministry | Barbara Florence

Change of Contact Information | Janine Miller

Children's Church | Sarah White

Church Calendar | Janine Miller

Deacons | Fred Berge, Jim Lightle, Steve Paugh, Christy Routzahn, Dan Smith, Brad Timmons, Paul Webb, Bob Entler

Events | Katie Mitchell

Food Pantry | Jim Lightle, Fred Berge, Dan Smith

Membership | Pastor Aaron White

Music Ministry | Carol Wildman, Deanna Mattinson

Newsletter | Janine Miller

Nursery | Ashley Woods

Pioneer Clubs | Jodi Smith

Prayer Chain | Janine Miller

Rental, Church Facilities | Janine Miller

Session | Pastor Aaron White, Rob Vaughn, Jim Hildebrand, Greg Rice, Todd Severt, Chris Cain, Jeff Miller

Small Groups | Don Grigorenko, Aaron Baldauff

Thursday Morning Breakfast Club | A. J. Woods

Technology & Website | Mindy Wildman

HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST

ADMIT YOUR NEED.
"I am a sinner."

BE WILLING TO TURN FROM YOUR SINS.
"I am sorry for my sins, Lord. Please forgive me."

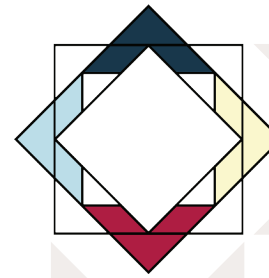
BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU ON THE CROSS AND ROSE FROM THE GRAVE.
"I believe you did what you said you did—that you died on the cross then rose from the dead and have the power to save me."

THROUGH PRAYER, INVITE JESUS CHRIST TO COME IN AND CONTROL YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT.
"Please come into my life and change me. Make me a new person."

IF YOU HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED CHRIST, WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU A BIBLE. CONTACT PASTOR AARON IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
15 N. Chillicothe St.
PO Box P
South Charleston, OH 45368

Phone: 937-462-8479
Email: scharlestonfirst@sbcglobal.net
www.FPCconnect.org



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Do questions arise throughout the week about the context and background of the Meeting With Jesus Bible study? Dive deeper into the text during this interactive Sunday School class.

Pastor Aaron and Don Grigorenko will be leading a Q&A style class beginning today in the Chapel (formerly the Narthex).

Each Sunday they will be discussing that day's scripture passages.

Beginning Feb. 14th | Chapel
(formerly the Narthex)

Ash Wednesday

Our community Ash Wednesday service will be this Wednesday at South Charleston United Methodist Church. This year's Ash Wednesday message will be presented by Pastor Cathy Koozer (UMC).

Wednesday Feb. 17, 2021 | 7pm

Written By

THE Rev. Aaron W. White, Ph.D.

How and When to Help Those in Need

Over a year ago, I wrote a brief article on how to help those in need. I want to “republish” this article for review.

In the past several months, some of the deacons, Session members, staff of the church, and some of you have encountered folks wandering into the church and asking for help of various kinds. Sarah and I have experienced this too. Normally this help is of the financial variety to aid with gas or food.

Because of the bike path, I believe that South Charleston has become one of the stops along with way from Xenia and farther West to Columbus and farther East or North. If that is the case, these requests will continue to arrive at our door, and we need to be ready to respond appropriately.

Very briefly, I would like to give you a few points to help you if you encounter one of these requests.

1) THE GOSPEL IS GENEROUS

First, and most importantly, we are a gospel community, and you are (as I am) one of its ambassadors of hope, grace, generosity and care. We must at all times remember that Jesus said in Matt. 25:40, “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” Our gospel message is not words alone, nor is it simply actions/example. It is both. But this leads us to decisions from wisdom.

2) CONTACT A DEACON

In the specific case of being asked by an individual for money for any need, your first resort should be to direct them to the deacons. The primary role of the diaconate is sympathy and service. This ordained office of the church has avenues to help people, most principally, the food pantry and other forms of monetary assistance, but those requesting this help must follow a process! We are equipped to respond with experience and wisdom to these sorts of requests. Please do not hesitate to reach out!

The discouraging but simple fact is that nine times out of ten those making these requests have become accustomed to making this a way of life and are part of a loose circuit of people who depend on churches and the church’s lack of communication to make ends meet. However, this should not mean we don’t try our hardest to help in all circumstances!

3) IF A DEACON IS UNAVAILABLE, WHAT DO I DO?

If it is not an option to reach out to me or the deacons, here are a few things to keep an eye out for to see if the request is possibly genuine (though there will always be exceptions):

- The one who actually needs support is normally from the community and/or has some connection to someone in the church, or they are a member. Those who are “walking from Cleveland” or “have just drove in from Cincinnati” are very, very rarely making a genuine request.

- The one who needs help will be willing to go through a process to receive that help. If you tell some one that they need to talk with me or the deacons and go through a process, and they get impatient, that is a big red flag.

- The one who needs help will not imposition you. Often those who are preying on churches, or those at the church, will attempt to catch you at an awkward moment. They may catch you when you are the

Events in Our Church Family

COME JOIN US!

TODAY

8:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE
6:30PM CAMPAIGNERS (GILBERT’S)

TUESDAY

9:00AM STAFF MEETING (VILLAGE CUP)

WEDNESDAY

6:00AM IRONMEN FELLOWSHIP (FELLOWSHIP HALL)
6:30PM PIONEER CLUBS
6:45PM WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY (B01)
7:00PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE (UMC)

THURSDAY

5:30PM PRAISE BAND PRACTICE

SUNDAY (2/21)

8:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE
6:30PM CAMPAIGNERS (GILBERT’S)

WEDNESDAY (2/24)

6:00AM IRONMEN FELLOWSHIP (FELLOWSHIP HALL)
6:30PM PIONEER CLUBS
6:45PM WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY (B01)



**ON-GOING
PROJECTS**

Gilbert's Interior Update
Youth Director and Communication
Director Offices
Sanctuary Lighting: Phase 1
Chapel (Formerly Narthex)
Renovation



last in the parking lot, or as church just let out, or after an evening program. This is another big red flag.

- The one who needs help has a normal sounding story. Often those who are attempting to ask for illegitimate support will engage you in a long, exhausting, full-throated, and unverifiable story. Often this story is impossibly tragic. Most frequently, I hear stories about someone's mother being in the hospital or dying and needing cash for gas to the next town, or some variation of that theme.

- The one who needs help will accept other forms of help that is not cash. Simply put: Do not give out cash. The church never gives out cash, we give vouchers to be used at Shoemakers. Cash enables the circuit of enablement. If you are asked for cash, it is not likely a legitimate request.

- Finally, the one who needs help will not guilt or shame you. Those who are attempting to illegitimately ask for support will use their greatest weapon, which is your guilt. They will use heavy religious language and lead you to feel shameful for not helping them. There is no shame in saying no.

More can be said, but these cover the major bases. BUT, if you feel very uncomfortable, please reach out to the village police or direct that individual there.

SUMMARY

To wrap up, let me reiterate one important principle: We are gospel ambassadors. We need to be ready to help at all times, but we are also called to be shrewd as serpents. I am here and so are your deacons when you are stumped. If someone indeed needs help and will submit to the process we have in place, we will help them free of charge, since this is the model of the gospel and what Jesus commands. We are blessed to have a food pantry that is well stocked to address these instances, and a deacon fund to assist in other ways. A process needs to be followed, however. But in the times when this is not the case, we need to do the best thing, not for us or the church, but for that individual and not enable the continued pattern of inauthentic requests for help.

Pastor Aaron

DID YOU MISS THE ANNUAL MEETING?
The video can be found on our website under
FPC Connection: Members



FEBRUARY *Anniversaries*

Feb 16 | Ralph & Robin Wilson | 20 Years

Feb. 18 | Steve & Terri Paugh | 43 Years

Feb. 19 | Jay & Monica Mitchell | 27 Years

Campaigners

Young Life Campaigners has returned!

Campaigners is a Bible study designed for High School students.

Sunday's 6:30p at Gilbert's Youth Center

Pioneer Clubs Wednesdays | 6:30pm

Pioneer Clubs is back!
Last fall we had 70+ students attend weekly, ranging from kindergarten to 6th grade.

Volunteers are always welcome to help assist teachers, lead activities, and share the love of God with students.

Contact Jodi Smith for more information.

Food Pantry Donations

Help us support our community by donating non-perishables food items to the Manna Food Pantry.

January | Soup & Crackers
February | Mac & Cheese and Canned Vegetables
March | Pancake Mix & Syrup
April | Peanut Butter & Jelly
May | Tuna Helper & Hamburger Helper

THANK YOU TO OUR NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Feb. 7 Jenny Severt

Feb. 14 Ashley Woods

Feb. 21 Pam Vaughn

Feb. 28 Becky Mohler

NURSERY

Every effort will be made to keep the nursery clean and sanitized, but parents who leave their children in the nursery need to be aware that there will be other children there, as well as toys that other children have touched.

Our nursery director, Ashley Woods, is asking those who would be willing to serve to please contact her at 740-505-2331. All volunteers must wear a mask and would be serving at their own health risk.