



**THE CHRISTIAN ALERT**  
**May 3, 2021**

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**Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-1:00 pm**  
**330-847-0785**

**Website: [www.championchristianchurch.org](http://www.championchristianchurch.org)**

**Follow us on Instagram @championchristianchurch**

**Facebook @ Champion Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

**10:30 am WORSHIP In-Person and livestream on Facebook**

**[www.championchristianchurch.org](http://www.championchristianchurch.org)**

**May 9, 2021- Pastor Ken Hopkins**

Scripture: John 15:9-17

Sermon: "Where Love Begins"

**CHURCH FAMILY**

Please continue to pray for those recovering in their health and our homebound.

**RUTH CIRCLE MEETING**

The Ruth Circle is holding an informal meeting @ 10:30, Tuesday, May 11, in fellowship hall. Members are asked to bring a sack lunch for yourself. This gathering is to reunite Ruth Circle friends. Please attend only if you're comfortable doing so. Masks will be used inside the church and social distancing encouraged.

Jesus said, "You are my friends if you do what I command you." Does it take you by surprise to be called a "friend" of God? Perhaps it seems presumptuous to identify ourselves that way. Does it seem strange to you that Jesus would follow this word about friendship with the expectation that we obey his command? Perhaps it seems pushy to impose on one's friends this way.

On the last night that our Lord was with his disciples, he says to them, "I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you." It is not just the Quakers who can claim the title Society of Friends. Jesus' words make that an appropriate designation for the church itself. Every place of worship might also be known as a meeting house for the society of friends.

But friendship, as Jesus sees it, is not something which happens instantly. Neither is it the result of our saying, "I want Jesus for my friend." Instead, we hear Jesus make the astounding statement, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit." This is a recurring theme of the Gospel: we did not choose God; God chooses us. Discipleship was not something which Jesus' followers chose. Discipleship chose them. Our friendship with Jesus is not based on our personal affection for him, but on his love for us.

So the Lord goes on, "Greater love has no one than this, that a person lay down his life for his friends." Jesus' friendship encompasses much more than simply experiencing warm fuzzies. His love for us has a Cross-mark. In the most literal sense he laid down his life for his friends ... and for his enemies.

If we want to sing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," we are invited to accept God's call to discipleship and life in the society of friends, repeatedly laying down our lives for the one's Jesus loves.



**HANGING BASKET PICK UP REMINDER**

If you purchased a hanging basket from the Rebekah Circle plant sale they will be available to pick up on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Flowers can be picked up between 10:00 and 6:00 pm

## YOUTH MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

Make plans to enjoy dinner at Texas Roadhouse in Niles, on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 11am - 4 pm. Show this flyer and The Youth Group will receive 10% of your total food purchase. They will put all money towards their upcoming Mission Trip.

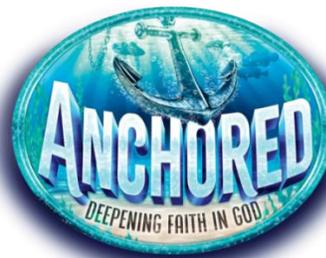


## GRADUATION RECOGNITION

On June 6<sup>th</sup> we will be recognizing our congregation's High School and College graduates. Please call or e-mail the church office at [cccoffice@championchristianchurch.org](mailto:cccoffice@championchristianchurch.org) with the names of those in your family who are graduating so we can acknowledge all their hard work.

## TRUMBULL COUNTY FAIR UPDATE

While news reports indicate that the Trumbull County Fair will indeed take place, it is consensus of our Visionary Council that we CANNOT COMMIT to the Fair contract this year. With the uncertainty of virus restrictions and the availability of our volunteers, we feel this is in the best interest of all concerned. We thank you for your past support, and perhaps next year we will be calling on you once again!



## SAVE THE DATE!

One day VBS Friday, July 23rd  
More information coming soon!  
If you would like to volunteer, please contact Casey ASAP

## Safety and Social Distancing Procedures for Worship

Please do any socializing before or after worship in the parking lot or fellowship hall  
Remember to wear a mask and refrain from physical contact  
Communion packets and worship bulletins will be provided upon entrance  
A hand sanitizing station will be just inside the door for your use  
Seating will be limited to every other pew in family groups  
Please sit beginning at the front of the sanctuary and fill towards the rear  
An offering tray will be placed at the exit of the sanctuary for tithes and offerings  
If using the bathroom, please knock before entering to see if it is available

## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Champion Christian Church will be participating in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday May 31<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to join in and ride on the float, please let Casey Lewis know ASAP. The parade route will begin at St. William's parish parking lot and end at the Champion Township cemetery with a memorial service at the cemetery.