



## Joyful Worship Celebrations Coming Up

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister ([tahrens@first-church.org](mailto:tahrens@first-church.org))

I am happy to announce that the next six Sundays will be glorious, joyful family-friendly worship at 9 and 11 a.m.!

At 9 a.m., we need all the children to assist us in serving holy communion. Plus, with food for thought and food for the body set in the informal Parish Hall "sanctuary," we will delight in praising God together.

At 11 a.m. each week, Dr. Wilson and I will be sharing Children's Time as an interactive teaching of the stories in scripture. Following this time, we have added "Worship Connections" for ages kindergarten through fifth grade (**Janine has the details on Page 2**). This, added to the infant and toddler care already in place all morning, guarantees something for the whole family in worship!

The themes of worship are listed below with sermon titles. Each week will be a wonderful celebration of our faith. Bring friends, family and neighbors as we celebrate together. I hope to see you in church as we end this church year and begin a new one with Advent. Join us!

Here is the full list of worship celebration in the upcoming weeks:

**October 24** – NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED AND BAPTISMAL SUNDAY – Baptismal Meditation - "The Spirit of Children: God's Kingdom Is Coming" **October 31** – CELEBRATION SUNDAY! – Sermon title: "In Christ All Things Are Possible!" **November 7** – ALL SAINTS DAY – Necrology of our loved ones; Communion Meditation: "We Are Chosen for Salvation" **November 14** – ALL CHURCH LUNCHEON! Sermon title: "A Generous God Creates Generous People" **November 21** – THANKSGIVING SUNDAY - REIGN OF CHRIST THE KING – Sermon title: "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing" **November 28** – ADVENT I – Sermon title: "Watch Out for Righteousness"



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## Stewarding the Stories of God at Work

Storytelling is a great way to involve people of all generations in proclaiming the amazing love of God. The church is called to be a steward of the stories of God at work in our lives and through our lives. It is surely true here at First Congregational Church. **Be sure to save the date: November 14** to hear the familiar, and not-so familiar, musical retelling of Noah and the flood. This musical event will be the showcase of our "Celebration of our Ministries/God Provides More Than Enough" stewardship luncheon banquet. Be sure to watch for your invitation and sign up opportunities.

# From the Pastors

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## God's Worshiping People

By the Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson, Associate Minister  
([jwilson@first-church.org](mailto:jwilson@first-church.org))

First, let me say something out loud that I hope everyone already knows: We love to have children in worship at both the 9 and 11 o'clock services! They bring us joy in their smiles, their bouncing, and their learning how to whisper. They take us back in our lives helping us remember who first taught us about God's love. And for those who were not in church until adulthood, children offer the opportunity to find ways to extend our faith to the not-yet-adult-ones.



Children also call us to remember the wisdom of our loving God who delivered the Christ to the world as a baby instead of as a grownup. How blessed we are at First Church to have all ages and stages worshipping together. We also enjoy providing a special time for younger children and families to worship apart on occasion and learn from others. We've renamed this special opportunity, "Worship Connections".



Worship Connections takes place following the Children's Time in the 11 o'clock worship. They meet in the preschool classroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, across the hall from the Children's Library. Worship Connections is geared primarily

for kindergarten through fifth grader (elementary age). Childcare is always available for the younger ones in the education wing 1<sup>st</sup> floor. (This helps the lesson planners with matching skill set activities; however, we never turn the younger ones away if they want to be in the group.)

We encourage the Middle School and High School youth to remain in worship with their families, each other, or with their youth and Sunday school teachers unless they have signed up to be helpers in Worship Connections. Teens are also encouraged to participate leading worship as acolytes, readers and greeters.

In Worship Connections the teachers continue the lectionary lesson of the day – the same lesson being preached and experienced in the sanctuary. We encourage parents and grandparents to talk about worship on the way home. Tell them what you heard in the sermon and how you felt during your time of worship. Invite them to do the same. The opportunities to expand faith in families begin one small conversation at a time.

In addition to the scripture lesson, Worship Connection leaders also teach worship skills including - prayer, call to worship, communion and baptism. We encourage you to be at ease as you do the same thing in worship with them. (It's a fun adventure to help them hold the Bible or hymnal while you guide their eyes across the words. It's even ok if it crashes to the floor every now and then!)

Each of us have the opportunity to keep our baptismal promises and intentionally pass along our faith to the next generation – in worship, in the halls, in classrooms and in fellowship time. *We are the community of faith and we need each other.*

I hope you will also prayerfully consider volunteering to serve as a leader or helper in Worship Connections – not every week, maybe for one or two Sundays a year. You will be surprised how easy and rewarding it is. We work in pairs, so you will always have a helper. All materials are prepared ahead of time for you. Men, women and teens are all welcome and encouraged to sign up to participate in this fun ministry. All you need to do is bring your joy and let the kids increase it for you!

## "For Everything There is a Season" Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister  
([tahrens@first-church.org](mailto:tahrens@first-church.org))

The author of Ecclesiastes reminds us "for everything there is a season." There is a time and place for everything under heaven. Birth and death and the fullness of life and the emotions of living are contained with each season of the year and each season of our life and faith cycles.

In the midst of all seasons of life, God is with us. We may feel God's stillness or God's active presence. No matter, God is with us.

Being attuned to the seasons of life is so essential in the spiritual life. While we may not understand why something happens in one season, we might come to fully embrace it in the next season.

An example of this happened when I stepped into the fully-restored and beautifully painted and designed Youth Room. I was struck by the colors and the furniture. All things worked together perfectly. What

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## A Letter From Deep Griha Founder

*This is a letter from Neela Onawale of Deep Griha in India, talking about her life since her husband's death in the spring.*

Dear Friends in Columbus (First Community Church and First Congregational Church):



My last week of April and the first week of May 2010 was as if I was caught in a whirlwind!! The whirlwind distorted everything around me, caused deep hurt, caused great damage and loss and left me in a state of shock and confusion for some time.

It was a challenge to my faith. It was hard to accept this as God's plan but then he assured me over a period of time that Bhaskar had run the race, had accomplished the tasks set aside for him, had finished the race and that from now on, the Lord is with me for the rest of my life, to hold my hand, guide me to fulfill his plans in my life and help me finish my race.

It took a while to get used to be alone on this road. During this phase of sudden sadness, shock, confusion I received many phone calls, letters, cards, e-cards, emails, ensuring me of the love and support through prayers of loved ones. This love and support enabled me to wait upon the Lord and He has renewed my strength so that I can mount up with wings as eagles, I will run and not be weary I will walk but not faint, for he is there to hold me and guide me.

I was overwhelmed with the love that was poured on me and my dear ones during this time of trial. I cannot thank everyone individually but just pray to the Lord to bless each one of them.

I watched the 13 June memorial service (at First Community) for Bhaskar live on the computer screen. It did touch me, but I did not get the full essence, since I had very mixed feelings while watching it live and I had tears rolling down, something was churning inside of me! I wished to hug each one present there on the screen!

After I received the quilt and the DVD, (which I watched over and over again. Thanks, Randy), I was deeply moved by the whole ambience, the music, the singing, the words of the sermon and the words of the tribute for Bhaskar said from the heart. Thanks Dick, Deborah, Jim, the choir and everyone present for the service to make it so special for me.

The prayer quilt is beautiful. It elevated my spirits, I am happy to own this beautiful gesture of love and care and yes, it will keep me reminded of the love of each one of you always and will keep me warm. I read the names of those who signed the prayer quilt booklet several times. I am sure there would have been some who wished but could not attend the service and sign on that booklet and could not tie a knot but did say a prayer for me. As a proud owner of this prayer quilt I am showing it around to family and friends. I distributed copies of DVDs to the dear ones here.

The Bhaskar Memorial Fund was received with all humility and a deeply thankful heart. I do not have words to thank you all for the generous support and especially the love behind it.

I am very sorry it has taken me so very long to respond to all these lovely gestures of love but I am sure you will understand. Thanks again for being there for me. Love you all.

God bless,  
Neela

## UCC Fall Youth Event is Nov. 19-21

This year's Ohio Conference UCC Fall Youth Event for young people in grades 9-12 will be held November 19-21 at Pilgrim Hills camp near Belleville, Ohio.

The registration fee is \$110 for youth or adult. The registration deadline is November 5, and late registrations will not be accepted.

The special guest will be Adam Kukuk. Adam is a multi-instrumentalist and performs, accompanies, composes, and leads worship and workshops in eclectic musical styles.

As the music director and organist at Pilgrim UCC (Tremont), Adam led music ranging from Bach to Joan Osborne to South African freedom songs. Formerly a co-director of The Ohio Conservatory, Adam is a gifted musical instructor to students of all ages and competencies, at one time teaching more than 40 private piano students in addition to group music theory classes.

To register or for information, go to [www.ocucc.org](http://www.ocucc.org).

## Music Notes

By James E. Bobb, Minister of Music  
(jbobb@first-church.org)



## October 2010

### Congregational Concerts

#### October 24, 4 p.m.

Congregational Concerts continue with special emphasis on music of Bach. Harpsichordist Aya Hamada plays a recital on our Bechtel harpsichord, concluding with a Bach concerto for two harpsichords and strings. I join her for that work with my own von Nagel harpsichord.

#### November 21, 4 p.m.

The First Church Choral Society offers a Bach Festival. The themes of thanksgiving and praise are abundant in the festive Reformation Cantata *Gott, der Herr, ist Sonn' und Schild* (God, the Lord is sun and shield), BWV 79 with strings, oboes, trumpets and timpani.

A select chamber choir will perform Cantata *Herz and Mund and Tat und Leben*, BWV 147. Each cantata contains a famous chorale setting: *Now thank we all our God* in BWV 79, and the movement known in English as *Jesu, joy of man's desiring* in BWV 147. Pre-concert talk at 3:40 p.m.

#### December 19, 4 p.m.

### Festival of Lessons and Carols

That glorious song of old is sung once more in the radiance of candlelight with this traditional service of scripture, carols and congregational song. Join First Church choirs, ringers and organs for this highlight of the Christmas season. Prelude begins at 3:30 p.m.

### Tuesdays at First

Our midday Tuesdays at First concert series for the fall will conclude October 26 with an organ recital by Organist Choirmaster Emeritus, G. Dene Barnard. The half-hour recital at 12:15 p.m. is followed by homemade lunch (\$5 donation). A book study is offered before the recital at 11 a.m. and examines Jim Wallis's latest book, *Rediscovering Values* (on Wall Street, Main Street and Your Street).

## Compline

Plan to join us for the evening service of Compline, offered the third Sunday of each month, except on Congregational Concert days, at 9 p.m. This 30-minute service of unaccompanied plainsong chant is illuminated by candlelight. It is a beautiful, peaceful, prayerful way to end the Lord's Day. Compline at First Church will be January 16, February 20, March 20, April 17 and May 15.

### (REV. AHRENS, Concluded from Page 2)

caught my eye most of all was a painting of sunflowers I had not seen in many years. "The Sunflowers" were a gift given by the staff of the Columbus Museum of Art in memory of Jennifer M. Keefer.

Jen Keefer was only 33 when cancer claimed her life. Like the sunflower, Jen was bursting with life, light and love when she died in 2003. She left behind husband Tony and two young children Ellie and Hank. I baptized Jennifer and I still remember her dancing down the aisle in a bright red dress on her baptismal day. She could light up a room like few others I have known. When she died, we were left only with memories and this beautiful gift of sunflowers.

In Spain, in late June, we would drive for miles and miles through countryside covered with sunflowers. Whole fields of yellow turned their broad faces to the sun in adoration. What a sight to see nothing but the yellow delight filling the landscapes east and west. Tall and strong, the sunflowers seemed to worship the light which gave them daily strength and vibrancy.

In this new season of life at First Church, the sunflowers have returned in full bloom in our youth room. With the return of the sunflowers, Jen's light returns as well. I am reminded that is God's time and in God's creation, everything has a season and time and place under heaven.

In this glorious season of turning and returning, may God's light shine in and through you to others. And may our God's light guide our steps into unity and love through Christ Jesus our Savior.

## Adult Education Hour Offers Varied Topics

By Mark S. Williams, Christian Education Director ([mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org))



Here is the lineup for the remainder of the fall's Adult Education Hour, held Sunday at 10 a.m.:

### 10/24 and 10/31

*Sharing the Journey* – The Rev. Tim Ahrens, our senior minister, will share the events and insights from his sabbatical.

### 11/7-11/21

*Peacemakers in a World of War* – Featured speaker is the Rev. Dr. James Childs, professor of systematic theology at Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

### 11/28-12/19

*Hallelujah!* – Led by the Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson. Explore the Advent related scriptural texts of Handel's *Messiah*, including:

- \* Comfort, Comfort My People
- \* Who Shall Abide the Day of His Coming?
- \* For Unto Us a Child Is Born
- \* Glory to God in the Highest

## Women's Retreat Set Nov. 12-14



All women of First Church and their guests are invited to attend the women's retreat November 12-14, at Templed Hills, located one hour north of

Columbus. This year's theme is "Autumn Leaves: A time to discover God's purpose for your life."

The cost is \$90 and covers meals and lodging. Registration forms are available in the church office. Contact Jackie Dean ([idean@first-church.org](mailto:idean@first-church.org)) if you have questions or need financial assistance.

### The Importance of Genesis Columbus Museum of Art Thursday, November 18, 7 p.m.

Join our senior minister, the Rev. Timothy Ahrens, Rabbi Michael Ungar and Imam Hany Saqr for a discussion about the meaning of the Book of Genesis to the major Abrahamic religions. Admission is free

## UCC's 'Friend-Raising' Weekend Aims to Bring Guests to Worship

United Church News

A new 60-second video message from the United Church of Christ will help kick-off the Stillspeaking Ministry's National Friend-Raising weekend November 5-7.

"We will launch our next video ad on Friday, November 5, with the help of members and friends who will share it with millions across the Internet," said the Rev. Felix Carrion, coordinator of the UCC's Stillspeaking Ministry. "As we learned earlier this year, our best broadcasting arsenal is our members' enthusiasm to advance our messages forward via social networking."

The new commercial will be the centerpiece of a special "friend-raising" emphasis November 7. Members are asked to be intentional about inviting others to join them at church services that day.



"We are asking churches to promote Nov. 7 as

Stillspeaking Friend-Raising Sunday, a day set aside to be intentional about inviting our family, friends and neighbors to come to church with us," Carrion said.

After services November 7, all UCC churches will be invited to record their visitor tally online at <http://www.ucc.org/god-is-still-speaking/friendraising.html>. On November 9, a national count of visitors will be announced in the UCC's weekly Keeping You e-Posted e-newsletter.

The congregations with the most visitors overall and most visitors per capita of membership will receive a new God is Still Speaking banner and a supply of red lapel pins and copies of the inaugural issues of the StillSpeaking Magazine for every member of the congregation. Carrion is also offering to visit the winning churches to say thank you in person.

"We want to underscore the primary goal of the Stillspeaking Ministry, which is to grow the United Church of Christ in visibility, yes, but also numerically," Carrion said. "This will be a day to let our UCC light shine."

# First Church News

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## You Can Help First Church When Shopping at Kroger

By David Holt, Treasurer

Did you know that you can make contributions to First Church simply by doing your grocery shopping at Kroger and using your Kroger Plus Card?



First Church is enrolled in Kroger's Community Rewards Program which will link purchases made with your Kroger's Plus Card so that a portion of the sale is donated back to First Church.

A portion of your qualifying purchases will be donated to your choice of the following:

\* **First Congregational Church #84966** – Church Council has allocated – 50% towards the annual Youth Mission Trip and 50% towards operating costs.

\* **First Church Choir #81813** - proceeds used to support choir activities.

\* Your enrollment expires March 31 each year so be sure to re-enroll each year.

### Here's how to enroll (re-enrollment starts at step 3):

1. Enter **customer.kroger.com** into your web browser.
2. If you do not already have an online account, then click "**Get started Sign up today**" (at the bottom right). **Enter your email address** and **create a password**, follow the on-line instructions and options. Kroger will send you an email message, to activate your account **click on the link in the message** or cut and paste the address into your browser.
3. Once you have an activated online account, go back to **customer.kroger.com** (or **krogercommunityrewards.com**) to sign in.
4. Select **My Account/Account Settings**, select **Community Rewards**, and select **Edit Community Rewards Information**.
5. Find your organization by entering your organization's name or NPO number (**#84966-First Congregational Church** or **#81813-First Church Choir**), then click "**Search**."

6. Be sure to click on the circle to the left of your organization so that it becomes highlighted. Click "**Select Your Organization**".
7. Click "**Save Changes**".

Thank you for making these efforts to support First Church!

## Blood Drive Scheduled for Nov. 21

By Beth Buchholtz

Our next blood drive will be held November 21 – the Sunday before Thanksgiving. What better way to give **THANKS** for your good health than by **GIVING** blood to save a life!

Every two seconds, someone in America needs blood, and the Red Cross needs the help of 650 donors every day in Central Ohio. By donating blood, we can help save the lives of accident victims, patients with cancer and other diseases, as well as those undergoing surgery. At any given time, this can help a fellow member of our church.



Our blood drive is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. People as young as 16 are able to donate (with parent/guardian permission). To schedule an appointment, call the church office during the week (614-228-1741) or sign up on Sundays in the office.

## UCC Retreat Offered November 6

"A Day with God and Self," a day-long retreat for educators, clergy and laity offering an opportunity for individual and group spiritual guidance, will be held November 6, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the UCC Ohio Conference's Pilgrim Hills Pettyman Center. The cost is \$30.

The leaders will be Janet Burkhart, a licensed minister and retired director of Christian Education at Trinity UCC, Wooster, Ohio, and Shirley Weyrauch, Christian education coordinator at Christ Church UCC in Orrville, Ohio.

Registration must be received two weeks before the retreat date. Call the Ohio Conference office at 800-282-0740 to request a brochure or you can print a registration form at [www.ocucc.org](http://www.ocucc.org).

# First Church News

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## 'A Taste of Jamaica' to Help CATALYST Students

By Heather Biggers

"A Taste of Jamaica" will be held in the Parish Hall after each worship service this Sunday, October 24, to benefit the CATALYST program.

For \$5 you will get: 2 pieces of Jerk Chicken (not too spicy); rice and peas ( a Jamaican staple, we will use brown rice and the "peas" are actually small kidney beans); and Jamaican lunch vegetables (cabbage, carrots and onions)

The lunches will be sold "to go," so whether you attend the 9 or 11 a.m. service, you will be able to enjoy! Please sign up in the church office if you are interested in buying a lunch so we will have an idea of how much to prepare.

CATALYST is a mission relationship between the First Congregational Church and the people of the garrison communities of Kingston, Jamaica, and the Grace and Staff Community Development Foundation. CATALYST serves the many exceptional secondary and college students found in these violent and impoverished areas.

CATALYST is the designated offering this Sunday. We need to raise \$2,570 by the end of the 2010.

What our students need money for:

\* **Secondary Scholarships** Eighteen of our CATALYST students are still in secondary school and require assistance with school fees. \$75 per scholarship for 18 students totals \$1,350.

\***SAT/PSAT guides** Twelve of our CATALYST students, as well as many of the other students, will need an SAT or PSAT guide. One guide will be used by numerous students. 6 SAT/PSAT guides at about \$20, online plus shipping, totals \$240.

\***SAT and PSAT Test Fees** Twelve CATALYST students will be taking the SAT and PSAT. That's \$40 for 12 students at a cost of \$480.

\* **Study Guides** Our college students need help with their subjects, especially chemistry, differential equations and psychics. We will use Schaum's or Barron's study guides on these and other subjects. The cost is \$250.

\* **Books and food** Our college students in Jamaica are

having difficulty getting money for books and food. Most students are using the textbooks in a library, sharing or going without. Many of our students only have one meal a day at lunch. If they don't eat at school, they don't eat at all! While there are programs to feed younger children, nothing exists to help those in college. Lunch costs about \$3 per day. The total is \$250.

## Sacred Earth Rummage Sale Raises \$1,200 for Green Effort



On September 18, the Sacred Earth Committee held a rummage sale and turned your unused "stuff" into \$1,200. These funds were contributed to the capital campaign, designated for repairs and improvements to our existing church home.

Sacred Earth was founded to raise ecological awareness, as well as financial support for the "greening of First Church." The committee's fundraising thus far has replaced ballasts in church lighting to improve both output and cost. Our contribution to the capital campaign will continue such efforts to improve energy usage throughout our buildings.

The Sacred Earth Committee thanks all who contributed merchandise to the sale. We especially appreciate the contributions of time and talent of those who helped with the collection, pricing, setup and cleanup. We look forward to a bigger and better sale in our future.

- Rev. Sarah Reed

## Nominating Committee Looking for a Few Good Names

The Nominating Committee is looking for members who are able to help lead our congregation. Whether your talents are in the areas of nurturing, organizing, encouraging or administration, there are many ways to serve. We have opportunities for you to serve as deacons, church council members and trustees. We will be filling positions for the 2011 church year.

Give some thought to what you may be able to do, or if you know others who may have gifts of service to share with the congregation. Questions or thoughts? Contact one of these committee members: Sue Cook, Nancy Loy, Charlie Weaver, Matt Stevens or Mary Ann Goetz.

- Nancy Loy

# First Church News

## Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum



Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Karen Carpenter by:

**Jane Werum**

Given to the Building, Church Support, Mission, Education, and Music/Arts/Heritage Endowment Funds by:

### The Estate of Barbara Heer

*Your gifts, payable to the First Congregational Church, are very much appreciated. Celebration Gifts may be designated to the Remembrance Fund or an Endowment Fund and given in honor of a particular moment in the life of friend or family member. The gold-colored Celebration Gift folders can be found in the pews and in the office.*

## Spirituality Network Plans Fall Series

Our cultural heritage gives us images of the Divine that are overwhelmingly masculine. How do women recognize and claim that they, too, are created in God's likeness? Join us on the second Tuesday of each month as we explore a variety of topics that help us to connect to uniquely feminine aspects of the Divine.

Spirituality Network, 444 East Broad St.  
**In order for us to plan accordingly, please preregister at: 614-228-8867, or spiritnetwk@hotmail.com.**  
Suggested donation: \$5

**November 9, 2-4 p.m. – *What's for Dinner? Co-creating a Theology of Hospitality***, led by the Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson, associate minister of First Congregational Church. Is "southern" the first word that you pair with "hospitality," or maybe even the only word? Join us for a time of study, reflection and the shared creation of a theology of hospitality – a meeting place of faith and life.

**November 30, 2-4 p.m. – *Creating an Advent Wreath***  
Registration fee \$25 (this session only). Bobbi Gill will lead a contemplative session on creating an Advent wreath.

## Thursday Fellowships to Meet in November

The **First Thursday Fellowship** will have its next meeting on Thursday, November 4, at Betsy Zahn's home, 2459 Sherwood Villa, at 10 a.m. The speaker will be Anne Hudson, commissioner of the Missions Committee.

Don Streibig, former director of the Ohio Arts Council and the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA), will be guest speaker for the **Second Thursday Fellowship** meeting at 10 a.m. on November 11 at the church.

Don will talk about celebrities such as Alec Guinness, James Cagney, Montgomery Clift, Robert Redford, Lillian Gish and Gypsy Rose Lee, whom he encountered while managing the historic Ohio Theatre and during his 13 years as Army Special Services director in Europe.

Everyone is welcome to both fellowships.

## Thanksgiving Food Collection is Nov. 21



The Mission Committee will be gathering canned and non-perishable food items for distribution to the Gladden House and Broad Street Presbyterian food pantries on Sunday, November 21. Please bring your donations to either the 9 or 11 a.m. service and place them in the collection area. The committee will see that the food is delivered for Thanksgiving distribution.

These are suggested non-perishable items to bring: canned vegetables and fruit; pasta; rice; dried beans; instant mashed potatoes; boxed meals such as Hamburger Helper; tuna; canned meats; cereal; boxed macaroni and cheese mix; soup; peanut butter; and spaghetti sauce.

## Mission Offerings Schedule

In November, the undesignated loose offerings will benefit the following missions that First Church supports:



**November 7** - Ohio Darfur Solidarity Network  
**November 14** - Good Samaritan Program  
**November 21** - Bethlehem on Broad Street  
**November 28** - Bethlehem on Broad Street



## Book Study Looks at Bonhoeffer

A new Wednesday morning book study has begun, with a discussion of *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Prophet, Martyr, Spy* by Eric Metaxas. It is led by the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens at 11 a.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Metaxas writes a thorough biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, one of the most fascinating Christians of the 20th century. Bonhoeffer was all that Metaxas says in the title and so much more. He was a seminary professor, a profound author and Biblical scholar, and one of the most insightful men living in the maelstrom of international conflict of our last century.

The names of Martin Luther King Jr. and Dietrich Bonhoeffer should be familiar to Christians living in our time. Bonhoeffer once wrote, "Silence in the face of evil is evil itself: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act." This class will prove to be one of our best as we gather to consider our words and actions based on the Gospel and our teacher, Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

### Course Outline

**November 3** - Tubingen, 1923 to New York, 1931 - Chapters 2-7, pp. 41-118

**November 17** - Berlin, 1931- The Church Battles - Chapters 8-15, pp. 119-233

**December 1** - The Conference at Fano - Mars Ascending, 1938 - Chapters 16-20, pp.234-320

**December 15** - the Great Decision - Bonhoeffer Scores a Victory - Chapters 21-25, pp. 321-404

**January 5** - Bonhoeffer in Love - Cell 92 at Tegel Prison - Chapters 26-28, pp. 405-474

**January 19**- Valkyrie - Freedom - Chapters 29-31, pp. 475-544

## Monthly Update



**A LOOK  
at the  
BUDGET**

### Current Pledge Income

Annual Budget - \$587,779  
September Actual - \$41,129  
YTD Actual - \$413,560  
YTD Budget - \$440,838  
Below Budget - \$27,278

### September Mission Offerings

Downtowners - \$310.25  
United Church Homes - \$390.00  
Gladden Community House - \$655.74  
Church World Service - 424.05  
Good Samaritan - \$435.00  
Total - \$2,215.04

## Member Happy November Birthdays

1:	Carrie Ghose	24:	Sandra Kirk
3:	Sarah Garbe	24:	Scott Warrick
3:	Tom Bishop	25:	Sarah Ahrens
4:	Cindy Burnell	26:	Anne Clark
5:	Caitlin Stewart	27:	Bill Boden
6:	Michael McCrary	27:	Beth Iannarino
6:	Nate Vogt	27:	Dan Williamson
7:	Matt DeCastro	27:	Rhonda Daniels
8:	James O'Neill	28:	Nell Cole
9:	Brianna Burkett	28:	Megan Perry
9:	David Leidheiser	28:	Reel Chaudhri
10:	Ann Aeschbury	29:	Dave Ghose
12:	Julia Hadley	30:	Mike Deemer
12:	Don Streibig		
13:	Melanie Brown		
13:	John Aeschbury		
14:	Amanda DeCastro		
15:	Barbara Reed		
15:	Sadie Oldham		
16:	Dorothy Ringer		
16:	Barbara Knox		
17:	Judy Smith		
17:	Joyce Oyler		
18:	Sarah Reed		
18:	David Hamann		
19:	Paul Flocken		
20:	John Matchett		
22:	Jane Weddle		
23:	Bill Wagner		

## Member Happy November Anniversaries

4:	Stephanie and Mike Koscher
6:	Jennifer and Mark Leidheiser
7:	Amy Jo Nicholson and Mohamed Obeid-Salim
8:	Joanna and Jamie McWilliams
8:	Vanessa Cotere and Mike Deemer
9:	Susan Sitler and Rev. Tim Ahrens
10:	Janette and Randy Hoffman
10:	Lesley and Karl Schaab
10:	Kim and Ken Storey
15:	Missy and Doug Zimmerman
21:	Katie Kreimer and Dean Mansfield
26:	Sandy and Mike Valinis
26:	Sarah and Wally Giffen
26:	Kathie and Guy Cole
28:	Rhonda and Joe Daniels
29:	Janet and Rick Pfeiffer

If we miss your birthday or anniversary, contact Denny Mahoney at 228-1741, ext. 17, or [dmahoney@first-church.org](mailto:dmahoney@first-church.org)

*Come Honor  
Arlene Reynolds  
Sunday, October 31  
During Fellowship Hour*

# Church Calendar

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## **Sunday, October 24 (Taste of Jamaica Lunches)**

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room  
9 am - Early Worship Service - PH  
10 am – Choir – Choir Room  
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D  
11 am - Worship Service – San  
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH  
4 pm – Congregational Concert – San  
6 pm – Youth Groups – PH

## **Monday, October 25**

6:30 pm – Stephen Ministers – Adult Library  
7 pm – Capital Campaign Committee – PFR

## **Tuesday, October 26**

11 am – First Tuesday Book Study – LC  
12:15 pm - First Tuesday Concert – San  
12:45 pm – First Tuesday Luncheon – PH  
1:30 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC  
7 pm – Personnel – LC

## **Wednesday, October 27**

7 pm – Adult Education – LC

## **Thursday, October 28**

6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Choir Room  
7:15 pm – Choral Society – PH  
8 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

## **Sunday, October 31**

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room  
9 am – Early Worship – PH  
10 am – Choir – Choir Room  
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D  
11 am – Worship Service – San  
12 pm - Fellowship Hour (Honor Arlene Reynolds) – PH  
2:30 pm – Inclusion Rally – San

## **Monday, November 1**

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – PFR  
7 pm – Capital Campaign – PFR

## **Tuesday, November 2**

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC  
6:30 pm – Children 's Education – Ed Wing Rm D  
7 pm – Deacons – LC  
7 pm – Mission Committee – PFR  
7:30 pm – Youth Ministry Team – Room C

## **Wednesday, November 3**

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

## **Thursday, November 4**

10 am – First Thursday Fellowship  
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Choir Room  
7:15 pm – Choral Society – PH  
8 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

## **Sunday, November 7 (All Saints)**

### **(DST Starts, Set Clocks Back 1 Hour)**

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room  
9 am – Early Worship – PH  
10 am – Choir – Choir Room  
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D  
11 am – Worship Service – San  
12 pm - Fellowship Hour – Parlor

## **Monday, November 8**

6:30 pm- Trustees – LC  
7 pm - Executive Committee – PFR

## **Tuesday, November 9**

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC  
6 pm – Music Committee – Parlor

## **Wednesday, November 10**

9 am – Staff Retreat Off-Site  
7 pm – Budget and Finance – LC

## **Thursday, November 11**

10 am – Second Thursday Fellowship – PR  
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Choir Room  
7:15 pm – Choral Society – PH  
8 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

## **Friday, November 12**

Women's Retreat – Templed Hills

## **Saturday, November 13**

Women's Retreat – Templed Hills  
10 am – First Church Quilters – LC

## **Sunday, November 14**

Women's Retreat – Templed Hills  
9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room  
9 am – Worship – PH  
10 am – Choir – Choir Room  
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D  
11 am – Worship – San  
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PR  
12 pm – Stewardship Luncheon - PH  
6 pm – Youth Groups – PH

## **Tuesday, November 16**

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC  
7 pm – Church Council – LC

## **Wednesday, November 17**

11 am – Book Study – PR

## **Thursday, November 18**

6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Choir Room  
7:15 pm – Choral Society – PH  
8 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

## **Saturday, November 20**

9 am – House and Grounds - PFR

## **Sunday, November 21**

8 am – Blood Drive – Ed Wing  
9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room  
9 am – Worship – PH  
10 am – Choir – Choir Room  
10 am – Education Hour  
11 am – Worship – San  
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH  
4 pm – Congregational Concert - San

### **Save the Date!**

**What:** UCC Ohio Conference Annual Gathering

**When:** June 10-11, 2011

**Where:** Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio

**Who:** Rev. Anthony Robinson, teacher, preacher  
and author is the main speaker

# Prayers

**Prayer Request:** Please let us know of a prayer concern for yourself, a family member or other church member by calling the Rev. Timothy Ahrens at 614.228.1741, ext. 13, by using prayer request cards found in each pew or by emailing tahrens@first-church.org.

*Please pray for those who continue to walk through grief and loss, for those battling illness and addictions in their families, for all serving in Iraq and elsewhere and for others in need. Please offer prayers for those who are lonely, lost and hurting. Pray for our nation as we face all too much anxiety, fear and uncertainty with faith, hope and love. May God bless you in your giving and in your living in Christ's love and grace. Amen.*

## Baptisms

Scott Patrick Winberry Jr. – October 3

## Marriages

Julie Light and Courtenay Gregory – October 2

Melanie Wilson and Jedidiah Lee – October 16

## Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on November 7 and 21 during Fellowship Hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated.

**~ Remember Your Loved Ones ~  
With a Dedication of Flowers**

Contact Marty Worth at 614.228.1741, ext. 12,  
mworth@first-church.org

## November Fellowship Hour

November 7: Hosea  
November 14: Jeremiah  
November 21: Kings  
November 28: Leviticus

## November Acolyte Schedule

November 7: Will Zimmerman and Luke Zimmerman  
November 14: Nicholas Warrick  
November 21: Cameron Wade and Adam Wade  
November 28 Ben Allred and Victoria Washington  
(Schedules online at [www.first-church.org](http://www.first-church.org))

## Next Newsletter Deadline

**Articles Due:** Monday, November 8, by noon

**Worship CDs Available:** We provide copies of worship services on CDs. The CDs are available in the literature rack outside the church office after worship. A \$1 donation for the CD can be left in a container on the church office counter.

### Church Staff

Timothy C. Ahrens.....Senior Minister  
Janine Wilson.....Associate Minister  
James E. Bobb.....Minister of Music  
Mark S. Williams.....Director of Christian Education  
Jackie Dean.....Interim Director of Chr. Ed.  
G. Dene Barnard.....Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus  
Sharon Leidheiser.....Business Administrator  
Martha Worth.....Program Manager  
Bill Beckett.....Building Manager  
Denny Mahoney.....Office Manager  
Kelvin Murphy.....Custodian  
Frank Wall, William Lee.....Custodians  
Nikki Boop, Rosemary Pawandiwa.....Nursery  
DeAndree Norris.....Nursery  
Linda Mumford.....Wedding Coordinator  
Jane Chavers.....Wedding Coordinator  
Fran Panek.....Wedding Coordinator

### Church Council

Melody Leidheiser.....Moderator  
Sarah Reed.....Vice-Moderator  
Trish Bishop, Judy Smith.....Secretary/Assistant  
David Holt, Jim Fewlass.....Treasurer/Assistant  
Frank Cook, Sandy Bennett.....Administration/Assistant  
Wayne Piper.....Church Growth  
Diane Cole, Priss Endo.....Education/Assistant  
Wally Giffen, Vince Papsidero..House & Grounds/Assistant  
Anne Hudson, Patrick Keller.....Mission/Assistant  
Julia Myers.....Parish Life  
Gerry Worth.....Senior Deacon  
Kevin Butler.....Deacon  
Jane Chavers, John Deliman.....Music, Arts, Heritage/Ast.  
Nancy Loy.....Nominating Chair  
Jordan Knerr.....Member-at-large  
Doug Buck.....Member-at-large

**The First Congregational Church**  
United Church of Christ  
444 E. Broad St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3885

DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT  
*Please Deliver By: Monday, October 25, 2010*

TO:

[Empty dashed box for recipient information]



**The First Congregational Church, UCC**

444 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741  
Email: [home@first-church.org](mailto:home@first-church.org) Web site: [www.first-church.org](http://www.first-church.org)  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Closed Major Holidays

**“An Open & Affirming Faith Community”**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS**

Worship at 9 a.m. ~ Parish Hall  
Worship at 11 a.m. ~ Sanctuary