

First Church News

First Congregational Church, UCC Columbus, Ohio

"Enter to Worship - Depart to Serve"

October
2011
Vol. 159,
No. 10



What is So Wonderful About God's Gifts?

By The Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister
(tahrens@first-church.org)



Our theme for the stewardship season is "God's Wondrous Gifts." Our focus is on God. We are considering how amazing God can be and is in our lives. God is wondrous and worthy of praise. God bestows upon us gifts, talents and abilities, which invite us to pause and give thanks . . . to God.

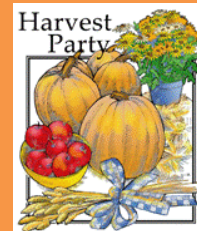
Each morning when I pray, I consider the verses of scripture we are receiving each week and our connection to the glory and wonder of God. It has become increasingly clear to me each morning, that I am the luckiest man in the world. I am blessed by my wife, my children and each one of you.

Each one of you is a wondrous gift of God.

Have you ever thought of yourself as a wondrous gift of God? You should. You are creative, beautiful, joyful, intelligent, gifted in so many ways. Together, our composite picture is brilliant and amazing. I was aware of that last Sunday in worship and during the congregational meeting. I had a great seat – watching you during Rev. Kate Huey's sermon and again during the conversation and vote taken in the meeting. We have engineers and artists, theologians and philosophers, gifted musicians and teachers, dancers and dreamers, business leaders and students. The list of wondrous gifts, occupations and creative sparks in our community of faith goes on and on.

Josh Hollar is one of our new members. His work is to lay the foundation for new homes that are built throughout central Ohio. He told me that without a firm and solid foundation, no home will stand. While I always believed this, he went on to describe in great detail how a foundation is laid for a home. I was astounded. It is an intricate and somewhat lengthy process when done right.

We have a firm foundation in our congregation to serve the Lord our God with gladness. I invite you to see each person around you in worship as a wondrous gift from God. Then, in thanksgiving to God for the wondrous gift he has created you to be, return thanks this week, this season, this year and next. As Rev. Huey said, "We are created to be generous." Let us be generous together.



First Church Harvest Party Sunday, October 2

4:30-9 p.m.

The Hudson Home

385 Larkspur Dr., Galloway
(Map available in the office)

Sloppy Joes, cider and s'mores
provided

Bring a dish to share

A-H - veggies; I-Q - salad/pasta;

R-Z - dessert/chips

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From the Pastors



New members and family members pictured above are, back row, left to right: Malinda Breedlove-Wilson, Rev. Barbara Cunningham, Allison Palmer, Michelle Caster, Sean Breedlove-Wilson, Karen Clay, Josh Hollar, Rev. Earl Fritz, Nicholas Bruckelmeyer; front row, left to right: Lynn Wallich, Brennan Breedlove-Wilson, Danielle Howard, Rachel Lithgo. Not pictured are Andrea Rower, Steven Anderson, Victor Campbell and Pauline Fritz.

A Big First Church Hello to All Our New Members

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

What a joy it is to welcome our 15 new members and their children, who joined First Church on September 25! It is a privilege to introduce them to you:

Karen Clay and her husband, **Rod**, enjoy their grandchildren and watching movies. Karen is interested in participating in our outreach ministries.

Andrea Rower enjoys vocal choral music, traveling and interior decorating. She recently ran her first 5K and is interested in the bell choir. Her partner, **Nicholas Bruckelmeyer**, likes biking, cooking and architecture. He has an interest in congregational outreach as well as children's mission and our building ministries.

Danielle Howard enjoys hiking and camping. She is looking forward to participating in our outreach ministry and helping out in the children's library. Her partner **Malinda Breedlove-Wilson** also enjoys outside activities – fishing, hiking and gardening. Together they are celebrating life with her sons **Sean** and **Brennan**.

Lynn Wallich enjoys reading, movies and swimming. She is a teacher and leader by heart and vocation.

Allison Palmer has two children, **Alex** and **Lyss**. She enjoys politics and karate, time with her children and writing.

Josh Hollar is engaged to **Rachel Lithgo**. They spend a lot of time outdoors and are involved in sports.

Victor Campbell teaches at Mount Carmel and enjoys writing, and his partner, **Steven Anderson**, is a theater director with CATCO-Phoenix. They both appreciate the friendliness, preaching and music here at First Congregational.

Michelle Caster is a medical student at OSU. She is interested in outreach ministries and recently set up a community service organization. Michelle had been searching for a UCC church home – we're glad God led her to us!

The **Rev. Earl Fritz** and his wife, **Pauline**, have been associate members and were pleased to become full members this past weekend.

The **Rev. Barbara Cunningham** returned to the congregation this week to join as an associate member.

We welcome everyone and look forward to participating in ministry and community together!

Upcoming Sermon Titles

October 2 - World Communion Sunday

Communion meditation by Dr. Neela Onawale, co-founder and executive director of Deep Griha Society
Texts: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46



October 9 - Laity Sunday

Several Leaders share how "God's Wondrous Gifts" have touched their lives of faith.
Texts: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 23, Phillipians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

October 16 - Pentecost 18

Sermon: "Give to God"
Texts: Exodus 33:12-23, I Thessolonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

October 23 - Pentecost 19

Sermon Title: "What is the 'Something Extra' in your Life?"
Texts: Deuteronomy 34:1-12, I Thessolonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

October 30 - Consecration Sunday

Sermon title: "God's Wondrous Gifts"
Texts: Micah 3:5-12; I Thess. 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

'The Future's Broadening Way' - One Year in and Two to Go!

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

I sit through a lot of meetings at First Church. Most are significant in some way. In some meetings, I can't quite figure out where we are going. It is probably how some of you feel with my sermons (at times). ☺

Recently, I have been blessed and blown away by one powerful truth that I would like to share. The people who chose to step



forward and invest in our future in the heart of Columbus through the 2010 capital campaign are delivering on their promises. I am so proud of you!

I hear stories about folks who are taking on extra work to pay their commitment to the campaign. I hear stories of people who are moving stocks and bonds around to pay their commitment to the campaign. I am so moved by your stories.

A year ago, many of us invested in the long-term future of First Church. We agreed to pay our generous commitments over three years. Some have paid it all! WOW! Some are paying in monthly installments. Some are still deciding what to do. Thanks be to God for all of you who have been able and willing to step up. You are amazing!

I want to suggest that if you chose not to commit to the campaign – waiting to see what the future holds – NOW is the time to get on board. With our long range plan laying out a road map for the next three years, I feel like the future is bright.

We fell short of the goal of \$4.5 million in 2010. But we have two more years to reach our goal. With \$1 million more, we can do it! I would love for everyone to feel the door is still open for you to broaden our future's way.

I love this church. I love each one of you. I hope that our passion for this place, our love for one another and our enduring love for God will help us reach our goal. How about it? Will you join me?

Grave plots in Greenlawn Cemetery Donated To First Church

In early September, First Church received five grave plots from an anonymous donor. A family that had been connected with our church through the generations, gave the gravesites to the trustees for use at the church's discretion. We are grateful that the family thought of our church when seeking the best way to share the gift of these plots.

We also received two grave plots in 2008. At that time, the hope was that the plots would be used for either a retired pastor of the church or someone in need. Please be in touch with me, 614-228-1741, ext. 13, or Shledon Taft, chairperson of the trustees, if you have thoughts on how best to utilize these gifts to our congregation.

– Rev. Tim

Julia Hadley's Gift to First Church

Julia Gardiner Hadley was born in Columbus on Nov.12, 1925, and died at home on May 24, 2011. Julia was a 56-year member of First Church and our first woman deacon. She loved this church. She participated in the East Side Fellowship, in book and Bible studies and in folding the newsletters. She shared books with me freely. She loved reading and films, but most of all, Julia loved people! Her son Fred said it best at the time of her death: *"While other people spend their lives collecting things, my mother collected friends. And she loved and treasured each one of them."*

In September, First Church received a generous gift from the estate of Julia for \$100,697. At the family's request, this gift has gone to the trustees and is being invested in unrestricted funds. Some of the money has gone to fulfill Julia's pledge to the annual budget and the capital campaign. We are honored and delighted to be remembered in Julia's will. May we, like Julia Hadley, be generous in remembering our congregation today and for years to come. – Rev. Tim

Don't Forget Virtual Bible Study!

Each Monday night, we are "virtually" studying the Bible from 7:30 to 8 p.m. The Stewardship Committee has come up with this exciting new concept. Each week, I share some insights and you have the opportunity to respond and interact. You need to sign up for each week's session. You can do so at our home page www.first-church.org. See you online! – Rev. Tim

October Music Notes

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

Here is the First Church concert schedule for the upcoming month:



TUESDAYS AT FIRST

Tuesday, October 4, 12:15 p.m.

Tuesdays at First concert followed by homemade lunch (\$5 donation)

James Bobb plays the first of three concerts of J. S. Bach's *Clavier Übung III*

Tuesday, October 11, 12:15 p.m.

Tuesdays at First concert followed by homemade lunch (\$5 donation)

Soprano Kristin Jarvis, Rochester, New York, sings arias of Bach, Handel, Purcell and Mozart.

Tuesday, October 18, 12:15 p.m.

Tuesdays at First concert followed by homemade lunch (\$5 donation)

James Bobb plays the second of three concerts of J. S. Bach's *Clavier Übung III*

Tuesday, October 25, 12:15 p.m.

Tuesdays at First concert followed by homemade lunch (\$5 donation)

James Bobb plays the last of three concerts of J. S. Bach's *Clavier Übung III*

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERT

Sunday, October 23, 4 p.m.

Congregational Concert – Choral Evensong with the First Church Choir

The First Church Choir sings the beautiful service settings by Orlando Gibbons, Daniel Pinkham and Herbert Sumsion from their recent trip to the Washington National Cathedral. Jubilant psalm settings for voices and strings by Telemann, Purcell and Monteverdi will also be heard.

COMPLINE

Sunday, October 16, 9 p.m.

Plan to join us for the evening service of Compline, offered the third Sunday of each month (unless there is a Congregational Concert) 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 and provide a reflective oasis before the week begins anew.



First Church Free Produce Giveaway For Those in Need

Saturday, October 29
9-11 a.m. (Set Up Begins at 8 a.m.)
In Conjunction with
the Mid-Ohio Food Bank

Watch the bulletin and Web site
(www.first-church.org)
For More Details

Please donate grocery bags and boxes. Bring them to the church office.

The Gift of Contemplative Prayer: Seeing with the Eyes of Love: A four-part series Mondays, October 3-24, 2011, 7-9 p.m.

Led by Dr. Jan Hoffman and Rev. Margot Connor at the Spirituality Network at First Church. The cost is \$80. Space is limited. Preregistration is required and can be done at www.spiritualitynetwork.org/events.

Everything Belongs by Richard Rohr will be the book used. The series will explore what it means to live in the "both/and" of God's infinite love. Each of the four evenings will include prayer, teaching and discussion based on topics from the book, and suggestions for take-home exercises to help participants apply this to their daily lives.

First Church to Join in CROP Walk on Oct. 9

This year will be the 33rd Annual Columbus CROP Hunger Walk when it takes place on Sunday, October 9. The youth here at First Church have taken the walk on as a project, and it is hoped that a good number of members are involved this year. Details of this year's event are listed below:



Location: Genoa Park (just east of COSI)

Registration: 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. Groups are welcome to begin walking immediately after registration.

Walk Route: This year there will be a 1 mile option and a 4 mile option. Our new route will incorporate the new Scioto Mile, Bicentennial Park and Audubon Park. The new route offers incredible views of downtown Columbus and a great way to experience the new parks downtown. The Columbus CROP Hunger Walk will be the first large event to incorporate these new parks!

For more information on the CROP Walk, go online to www.cropwalkonline.org/columbusoh.

First Church Women's Retreat Set For November 11-13

The annual women's retreat, to be held at Temples Hills the weekend of November 11, has been a long tradition here at First Congregational Church. It is a time away from family and work located in an idyllic setting that promotes relaxation and renewal of mind, body and spirit. It is also a wonderful way to build long lasting relationships. Watch for more information in the church newsletter, Web site and bulletin boards, or contact Jackie Dean, parish life commissioner.

Missed an Edition of the First Church News?

Find it Online at www.first-church.org

'Each One Bring One Sunday' Set During UCC's 'Mission: 1'

United Church News

Building on the success of last year's Friend-Raising Weekend, the UCC will hold "Each One Bring One Sunday", on November 6, where UCC members are asked to invite friends and family to join them for worship.

"Each One Bring One Sunday" falls during "Mission: 1," the UCC's 11-day campaign to raise awareness and aid to combat food-related injustice. During Mission: 1, from November 1 to 11, churches will donate 1 million healthy food items to local pantries; raise \$111,111 for national food-related justice ministries; raise \$111,111 for East Africa famine relief; and send 11,111 letters about food-related justice to Congress as part of Bread for the World's "Offering of Letters" campaign.

The children and youth of First Church will work with the Mid-Ohio Food Bank as part of the local Mission: 1 effort. They will kick off the collection process October 16 by collecting food and items for care packages for children in the Franklin County area. They also will collect money to donate. Every dollar donated to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank provides \$8 in food for the needy. The project ends November 6.

Something New is Coming --



Mark it down!

Our Fall New Members Class
Will take place over four consecutive Sunday mornings:
Oct. 30 – Nov. 6 – Nov. 13 – Nov. 20
Participants will be received during worship on Dec. 11.

(For more information, call the church office)

Challenge and Hope

By Jess Peacock, First Church Intern
(jesspeacock@ymail.com)

"But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." – Amos 5:24

We find ourselves, as a nation and as a world, living within extraordinary (though not unheard of) times and circumstances. As we continue to slowly and painfully crawl out of a global economic recession, all of us have become witness to ever increasing acts of injustice spanning all walks of life, creating (forgive me if I ring the class warfare gong) a new standard of the haves and have-nots. The middle class is all but vanished, leaving just 1% of the population controlling almost 50% of the financial wealth in the United States. This dynamic has bred endless opportunities for oppression and injustice across the societal spectrum.



This is all to say that, while the news is often depressing and difficult to stomach, the church as a whole (and First Congregational in particular) is presented with the opportunity to stand in the gap when injustice flourishes in our communities. Dr. Washington Gladden knew this, as "he grasped something that was only dimly sensed until his day: the Gospel is not intended merely for the salvation of individuals but also for the transformation of society." (www.first-church.org/History.aspx)

To speak of "the transformation of society," one must be realistic about the innumerable hurdles to leap in order to begin such a process. At times, the challenges can seem overwhelmingly oppressive, and hope so distant.

Emilie Townes writes, "To combine challenge with hope is powerful. For together they enable us to press onward when we are at the verge of giving up; to draw strength from the future to live in a discouraging present. Challenge and hope make it possible for us to see the world, not only as it is, but also as it can be, so that it can move us to new places and turn us into a new people. This has the relentless and timeless force of water on the rock . . . ultimately, the water wears the rock away through an unwillingness to alter its course."

The solutions will not arrive quickly or without a considerable amount of struggle and spent resources (material, spiritual, emotional, physical). Justice, unfortunately, does not come quickly; it will not happen

today or even this year, and it will not happen all at once. However, being aware of this challenge, and living with the hope that the challenge will one day be answered as the water gradually wears down the rock, is why I have chosen to intern at First Congregational Church. The legacy of social justice that Dr. Gladden established within the community continues today, fueling the river of justice in Columbus as it pushes inexorably toward a transformed society.

WIFI Now Available at First Church

By Sharon Leidheiser, Business Administrator
(sleidheiser@first-church.org)

Our church is getting more and more technically friendly.

For members and guests of First Church we now have WIFI available for committees or groups at First Church wanting to connect to the Internet with their laptop.



The rooms that have access to wireless connections are: adult library, parlor, large conference room, parish hall and the office. The account name is **FCGuest**. See a staff person for the password to log in. Happy surfing . . .

Cum Christo Weekends Scheduled

You are invited to participate in a weekend of Christian learning and renewal with Cum Christo. The October 13-16 men's weekend and November 11-13 women's weekend are currently accepting applications.

Future scheduled weekends in 2012 include: Men: March 22-25; Women: April 10-13. Contact Paul Flocken at (614) 403-4910 or Arlene Reynolds at arlene@aol.com to learn more about the Cursillo method of piety, study, action and group reunion.

Blood Drive Coordinator Needed



First Church is scheduled to host its next American Red Cross blood drive on Sunday, November 20, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. We're hoping a member will be able to coordinate this event. Contact the office at 228-1741 or email Denny Mahoney at dmahoney@first-church.org if you would like to help us out by being the coordinator. The Red Cross is a great organization to work with!

Fall Treasurer's Notes

By Jim Fewlass, Treasurer



With fall officially here, there are a few First Church high notes:

* First Church is blessed by being in the black.

* Gracious Giving has already exceeded the \$12,000 goal with some amounts still outstanding from this appeal.

* About 1/3 of the revenue from the Capital Campaign has been received.

Fall financials to watch:

* Please focus your attention on the Stewardship drive that is in full swing with brochures, postcards, on-line classes.

* Commissions, committees and individuals will look in the Long Range Planning documents for places to focus our attention.

Children, and parents of children, are urged to use the "Mission Sunday" envelopes for their church school contributions. Make sure that children write their first and last names on the envelopes. Children are an important part of our stewardship now and in the future of First Church. Let's help teach them stewardship early.

One final note:

Most of the physical plant – the sanctuary and parish house – are 80 years old this year. Our zeal for mission, social justice and compassion are exceedingly commendable.

If we are to continue to excel in these areas, we will need to turn our attention to the stewardship of our building. Stewardship of stone and glass is an important aspect of our mission. If we put off or neglect the needs of our 80 year old, all the other aspects of our mission will ultimately falter.

Keep eyes and ears open for the short- and long-range maintenance, repairs, improvements and protections of our building.

Fall Clean-Up Day is October 22

We will be holding a fall clean-up day on October 22, 8 a.m. to noon, for anyone who wants to volunteer some time to join us in cleaning up the church grounds. If you're interested in helping out, please call Tom at 228-1741, ext. 22, or email to tluff@first-church.org.



Also, if anyone is interested in contributing perennials (homegrown or otherwise) to the church gardens, please let me know what you have so we can coordinate a landscape plan. – **Tom Luff, building manager**



**A LOOK
at the
BUDGET**

Monthly Budget Update

Current Pledge Income

Pledges Budgeted -- \$529,872
August Actual -- \$40,893,05

YTD Actual -- \$338,301.90

YTD Budgeted -- \$353,248

Needed Each Month -- \$41,268.90

August Mission Offerings

Back Bay Mission -- \$255.00

CRIS -- \$347.65

Kairos -- \$255.82

Good Samaritan -- \$2,976.86

Total Mission -- \$3,835.33

Missions Offering Schedule

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



October 2 - Deep Griha

October 9 - CROP

October 16 - CATALYST

October 23 - CATALYST

October 30 - Neighbors in Need

Help Fill a Bin

By Marty Worth, Program Manager
(mworth@first-church.org)

The folks who visit our church on the second Monday of the month have small personal needs in addition to the “big” things they are asking for (i.e., keep utilities from being shut off; food for the kids; work boots; bus passes to get to a new job, or to look for a job; etc. etc.) Many of you provide those with your mission checks.

However, there are “small” things we would like to be able to offer as people leave on that day, as a gift and token of concern. We think church members could help to provide some of those. These would include things such as:



- bars of soap
- shaving cream
- razors (disposable)
- mouth wash
- deodorant
- shampoo
- body wash
- toothbrushes & toothpaste

These are ongoing items of need, and we would like to “stockpile” such items in order to offer two or three to each person each month. **Clearly marked bins are located outside the office and at the Education Wing door at the back entrance to the parking lot.**

There is an easy way to do this! When you come to church, you can bring a few things and drop them in a bin. Please bring full-size items (not samples). Good resources are weekly coupons in the newspaper and the Dollar Store is a treasure trove for such items. Buy one or several. You have no idea how appreciative our clients are for these small gifts. Thank you in advance, and for all that you do.

Thanks also to all who gave to Good Sam on two recent Sundays. Your donations totaling \$2,600 allowed us to serve more people than we expected.

Rev. Ahrens to Speak at Greenlawn

On October 1 at 11 a.m., as part of the First Saturday presentations at Greenlawn Cemetery, Rev. Tim Ahrens will talk about Washington Gladden, who is buried at the cemetery. His talk will take place at the mausoleum.

Gahanna Small Group to Meet For Bible Study Starting Oct. 12

The Gahanna area small group will meet for a four-week Bible study beginning Wednesday, October 12, from 7 to 8 p.m., at the home of Elaine Warren, 232 Rocky Fork Dr. S. The series will conclude November 2.

We will focus on the Psalms, their importance in the life of Israel and in the life of Christians. Insights from Walter Brueggemann’s book *The Message of the Psalms* will be discussed. Brueggemann is an important scholar of the Hebrew scriptures and will be our Gladden lecturer in May 2012.

Brueggemann underscores both the individual and corporate dimensions of the Psalms. Not only have the Psalms been important for individual piety, but also they have been important in calling us as God’s people to do justice in the human community. – **Elaine Warren**

Thursday Fellowships Meet Oct. 6, 13

The First Thursday Fellowship will meet at the home of Arlene Reynolds, 273 Erie Rd., **Thursday, October 6, at 10 a.m.** Following refreshments, our new building manager, Tom Luff, will speak to the group about his background and his view of our building. Tom is glad to have this opportunity to meet folks with whom he does not regularly come in contact with and welcomes any questions you might have. Everyone is welcome.

What’s in the church archives? The **Second Thursday Fellowship** will learn about First Church’s treasure trove from Rick Sayre following refreshments at 10 a.m. on **Thursday, October 13.**

BOBS Meeting Set for November 19

There will be a meeting of those interested in helping with this year’s Bethlehem on Broad Street on November 19, 10 a.m., in Room D of in the Education Wing. So far, First Church members who are volunteering include: Nancy Burba, Francille and John Firebaugh, Paul Fishel, Paul Flocken, David Holt, Jim Kyle, Becky Taft and Bill Wirsching. We are so glad that our new building manager, Tom Luff, has agreed to serve on the committee. Anyone interested in helping BOBS during December is welcome. Please email or call Arlene Reynolds (arlene@arlene.com or 268.9875) for more information. – **Arlene Reynolds**



Visiting Angels

An exhibit of angels wrought in counted cross stitch by Frieda Bennett, a resident of northwest Columbus, will be on display in the Parish Hall for the next few weeks. Frieda Bennett has been engaged with counted cross stitch for at least 15 years, completing more than 30 projects. Counted cross stitch is very exacting and becomes a kind of meditation, quickening the heart as the design takes form.

Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum



Given to Building Endowment Fund in celebration of the life of Harry Campbell by:

David and Ardis Holt

Given to the Jackie Owen Music Endowment Fund in celebration of the life of Jackie Owen by:

William Owen

Given to the Barnard Music Fund by:

Kevin Ayres in honor of G. Dene Barnard

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 church pews and the office.

Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles for the November *First Church News* is October 21 at noon. It will be published Tuesday, November 1.

Member Happy October Birthdays

1: Melinda Anderson	20: Frank Hussey
2: Craig Oyler	20: Nancy Bouman
2: Peter Murray	20: Hadley Bachman
2: Lauren Glaros	21: Reggie Cannon
2: Jon Leidheiser-Stoddard	21: Gary Leidheiser
4: Charlie Weaver	21: Jennifer Dean
5: Ed Koetz	22: Alan Miller
5: Keith White	22: Carter Rodriguez
5: Jessica Catenacci	23: Betsy Hubbard
6: Andrew Welsh-Huggins	24: Sharon Walquist
6: Tammy Wharton	24: Celeste Feather
8: Marian Whitney	24: Jill Paulus
8: Bert Cook	25: Murley Miller
8: Deana Armstrong	25: Kevin Carrico
9: Dawn George	25: Matt Zeiger
9: Pam Welsh-Huggins	25: Michael Warrick
9: Jennifer Bryant	26: Gail Johannes
10: Nate Weygandt	26: Kathie Cole
11: Tony Lee	26: Heather Biggers
12: May Day Fewlass	26: Barbara Mason
12: Hugh Schultz	27: Mary Ann Goetz
12: Barb Poppe	27: Shawn Finley
14: Drew Wade	27: Carl Miller
15: Janet Lyons	28: Greg Halbe
15: Kathleen Ferguson	28: Stephanie Koscher
16: David Wyatt	28: Eddie Anderson III
17: Dene Barnard	29: Queenie Lee
17: Jackie Dean	30: Geoff Dean
17: Nicole Baas	30: Melissa Simpson
18: Carol Rodriguez	30: Mark Knueve
18: Gayle Henderson	31: Martha Huey
19: Mike Knerr	31: Mike Bockbrader

Member Happy October Anniversaries

1: Lucille and Walter Kropp
2: Julie Light-Gregory and Courtenay Gregory
3: Michelle and Scott Winberry
5: Barb Poppe and Bill Faith
7: Kathryn Bamberger and Steve Brandehoff
7: Lauren and Chris Glaros
7: Valerie Conlin-Losinski and David Losinski
9: Carrie and Dave Ghose
11: Cori and Ben Rowley
11: Jan and Richard Kevan
13: Amber and Joe Lane
14: Jenny and Joe Provenzano
14: Priscilla and David Mondiek
16: Gretchen and Eddie Fleurant
18: Amy and Scott Fulton
21: Kathy and Tom Brownfield
24: Leslie and David Fulford
27: Christa and Eric Ewing

OOPS! If we miss your birthday or anniversary, contact Denny Mahoney at 228-1741, ext. 17, or dmahoney@first-church.org.

Calendar

Sunday, October 2

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D
10 am – Worship – Sanctuary
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D
4:30 pm – Harvest Party – Hudson Home
6 pm – Sonreir – PH

Monday, October 3

7:30 pm – Stewardship Webinar

Tuesday, October 4

12:15 pm – Tuesdays at First Concert – San
12:45 pm – Tuesdays at First Luncheon – PH
5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – LC
7 pm – Deacons – LC
7 pm – Mission Committee – PFR
7 pm – Education Committees – Ed Wing, Room D

Wednesday, October 5

11 am – Book Study

Thursday, October 6

10 am – First Thursday Fellowship – Reynolds Home
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, October 8

10 am – First Church Quilters – LC

Sunday, October 9

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
12 pm – CROP Walk – Genoa Park
6 pm – Sonreir – PH
6 pm – Middle School Group – Middle School Room

Monday, October 10

6:30 pm – Technology Committee – Adult Library
7 pm – Trustees – LC
7:30 pm – Stewardship Webinar

Tuesday, October 11

12:15 pm – Tuesdays at First Concert – San
12:45 pm – Tuesdays at First Luncheon – PH
1:30 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
6 pm – Music Committee – Parlor
7 pm – Executive Committee – PFR

Thursday, October 13

10 am – Second Thursday Fellowship – Parlor
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, October 15

9 am – House and Grounds – PFR

Sunday, October 16

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D
6 pm – Sonreir – PH
9 pm – Compline – San

Monday, October 17

7:30 pm – Stewardship Webinar

Tuesday, October 18

12:15 pm – Tuesdays at First Concert – San
12:45 pm – Tuesdays at First Luncheon – PH
7 pm – Council – LC

Wednesday, October 19

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, October 20

4:30 pm – Parents of Preschoolers – West Lawn
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Friday, October 21

12 pm – Nov. Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, October 22

8 am – Fall Clean-Up Day
12 pm – Faith Mission Meal

Sunday, October 23

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D
10 am – Choir – San
10 am – Worship – Sanctuary
11 am – Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
4 pm – Congregational Concert – Sanctuary
6 pm – Sonreir – PH
6 pm – Middle School Group – Middle School Room

Monday, October 24

6:30 pm – Stephens Ministers – Adult Library
7 pm – Budget and Finance – LC
7:30 pm – Stewardship Webinar

Tuesday, October 25

12:15 pm – Tuesdays at First Concert – San
12:45 pm – Tuesdays at First Luncheon – PH
1:30 pm – Card Care Ministry- PFR
7 pm – Personnel – LC

Thursday, October 27

6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, October 29

10:30 am – Parents of Preschoolers – Church Lawn

Sunday, October 30

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D
10 am – Choir – San
10 am – Worship – Sanctuary
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
6 pm – Sonreir – PH

Monday, October 31

7:30 pm – Stewardship Webinar

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on October 2 and 16 during Fellowship Hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated.

Prayers

October Fellowship Hour

October 2: Numbers
 October 9: Proverbs
 October 16: Psalms
 October 23: Romans
 October 30: Ruth

October Acolyte Schedule

October 2: Sarah Ahrens and Anna Rambo
 October 9: Ben Allen and Emma Rau
 October 16: Courtney Batchelor and Merry Roach
 October 23: Annie Rose Cooke and Dylan Hopcraft
 October 30: Ben Allred and Joe Spofforth
 (Schedules online at www.first-church.org)

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.

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

Elizabeth Janette Hamilton – September 4
 Henry Taylor Walton and Joseph Matthew Walton – September 18
 Hudson Kingsley Fleurant – September 18
 Danielle Howard and Brennan Breedlove-Wilson – September 25

Weddings

LaTeia Hennes and Stephen Kern – September 10
 Julie Stratton and Ryan Tirey - September 10
 Corrine Parker and Stephen Menches – September 17

Church Staff

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

Church Council

David Holt..... Moderator
 Gerry Worth.....Vice-Moderator
 Judy Smith, Bev Cook.....Secretary/Assistant
 Jim Fewlass, Cindy Conn.....Treasurer/Assistant
 Sandy Bennett, Neal Brower.....Administration/Assistant
 Melissa Prendergast.....Church Growth
 Tanya Miller.....Education
 Wally Giffen, Charlie Weaver...House & Grounds/Assistant
 Fran Panek, Bruce Panek.....Mission/Assistant
 Jackie Dean, Abby Cave.....Parish Life/Assistant
 Mary Weaver.....Senior Deacon
 Elaine Warren.....Deacon
 John Deliman, Jim Gallagher...Music, Arts, Heritage/Asst.
 Melody Leidheiser.....Nominating Chair
 Sheldon Taft.....Trustees
 Emma Welsh-Huggins.....Member-at-large
 Tom Brownfield.....Member-at-large

~ Remember Your Loved Ones ~
 With a Dedication of Flowers

Contact Marty Worth at 614.228.1741, ext. 14,
mworth@first-church.org

The First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
444 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3821

DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT

*Please Deliver By: **Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011***

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 Web site: 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