

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

DEPART TO SERVE

JANUARY 10, 2016

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES The Adult Education classes on Sunday morning start the year with two new tracks that will entice many to attend. Rev. Mary Kay Beall Carter will lead the “Opening the Word” track with “The UCC Stillspeaking Bible Study.” This is a wonderful five-week study for those who are new to the UCC and those who would enjoy a refresher concerning our denomination. In the “Life and Faith” track this morning, Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens will facilitate a class on “Bread Initiatives”. The Education Hour begins each Sunday at 10 a.m. on the first floor of the Education Wing.

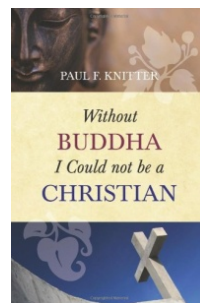
LONG-RANGE PLANNING MEETINGS First Church’s Long-Range Planning Committee invites members of the congregation to discuss the proposed long-range plan on Sunday, January 17, at 12:15 p.m. and Sunday, January 24, at 10 a.m. in the Large Conference Room. Members may attend either session. The agenda will be the same for both sessions. The Long-Range Plan will go before the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Copies of the plan are available in the church offices and at the entrances to the sanctuary.

PREPARING FOR LENT During the season of Lent, we will focus on Prayer. We welcome everyone to send your favorite prayer(s) or ones which you have written to share with the congregation. Please send them to Mark Williams mwilliams@first-church.org by January 24.

HEATHER GIFFEN’S ORDINATION ON JANUARY 17 AT 3 P.M.

The entire congregation is invited to the ordination of Ms. Heather Giffen into Christian Ministry. Heather completed her undergraduate degree at Muskingum University in New Concord, OH and her Master of Divinity degree at United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, MN. She received the call to Christian Ministry as an Associate Pastor of the Church of the Apostles United Church of Christ in Lancaster, PA. Heather is ready to be ordained. Join us for this wonderful celebration!

THE NEXT BOOK STUDY SELECTION is entitled *Without Buddha I Could Not Be Christian* by esteemed theologian Paul F. Knitter. This book is available for purchase in the church office for \$15 (cash or check). The Book Study Group



JANUARY 31 – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND CHILI COOK OFF

We will have ONE service on January 31 at 10 a.m. and will follow the service with our 164th Annual Congregational Meeting at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Following the meeting, all are invited to the Parish Hall for our Fourth Annual Chili Cook Off!



Meets in the Parlor at 11 a.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

ATTENTION MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH The Youth Groups will be traveling to Snow Trails for a fun evening of snow tubing on Friday, January 15 if we have snow. The cost is only \$10 for each youth. We will meet in the parking lot of Costco in Polaris at 4:30 p.m. Deadline to register is January 13. More information will be posted throughout the church. Contact Mark S. Williams, mwilliams@first-church.org if you have any questions.

MAKE YOUR COMMITMENT The Budget and Finance Committee and officers are finalizing the 2016 budget for the church council to approve next week. In order to do that, we still need anyone who has not pledged to turn in their pledge this week. Currently we have 211 pledging units with a total dollar amount of \$638,764. However, we are behind in pledging by \$37,000 in comparison to pledges for 2015, and we need even more than that to meet our budgetary needs for 2016. If you have not pledged, PLEASE call Sharon Leidheiser at 614-228-1741 ext. 11 to make your commitment or email her at sleidheiser@first-church.org or go online to our website <http://www.first-church.org/AnnualGivingForm.aspx> and submit your pledge.

JANUARY FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

January 17 Micah
January 24 Numbers
January 31 Proverbs

January Acolyte Schedule

January 17 Alyssa Batchelor Courtney Batchelor
January 24 Alaina Thompson Nina Zimmerman
January 31 Trenton Helmer Nick Boriin

January Offering Schedule

January 17 BREAD
January 24 Columbus Coalition for the Homeless
January 31 Good Samaritan Fund

Joys & Concerns

MEMBERS: Mark Williams, on the death of his brother, Jim Williams; Dean Hafey, on the death of his mother, Bonnie Lou Hafey; Kay Neffenger and Deb Thompson, on the death of their mother and grandmother, Peggy Baumberger; Melissa Kulwicki and her aunt and uncle, Jim and Tommie Moore, on the death of Melissa’s cousin, Tammi; Arlene Reynolds, Paul and Lou Flocken and family, on the death of their granddaughter and niece, Rebekah Salser-Hambor; Bob Davis, on the death of his mother; Joe Baszynski, on the death of his grandmother Loraine Hanson; Gerhard Wolff; Martha Loy; Lucille Kropp; Grace Glaros; Bernie Martin; Van Barndt; Ray Pendell; Wib Smith; and for families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Vesta Williams, mother of Sandy Bennett; Hannah and Jazlynn Szlapak, friends of Katie Gies; Carolyn Spellman, mother of Loretta Hoffman; Michael Harbin and Warren McPherson, on the death of Warren’s father, Thomas; Nell Cole’s brother; and Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD: We offer prayers for peace around the world as we continue to seek ways to curtail gun violence.

IN GOD’S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE This week in the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray with and for the people and churches of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Iran and Iraq..

MISSIONARIES: This week, we pray for Andrew Sherton Cooper, serving in Lesotho.

If you have any prayer requests or joys to share, please contact the church office (avagner@first-church.org or 228-1741, ext. 10) or one of the ministers: ecorazine@first-church.org or 228-1741, ext. 21, or tabrens@first-church.org or 228-1741, ext. 13.

- **MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016 AT 7 P.M.–** Interfaith Scripture Study
- **MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016 AT 9 A.M. –** Good Samaritan Day
- **FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016 AT 4:30–** Youth



Snow Tubing: Meet at Costco Polaris Parking Lot

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, January 10 – Baptism of Our Lord

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion – Parish Hall

9 a.m. – Teen and Treble Choirs Rehearsal – Choir and Music Activities Rooms

10 a.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

10 a.m. – Christian Education – Ed Wing, Rooms C / D

10 a.m. – BREAD Discussion – Large Conference Room

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

6 p.m. – High School Youth Meetings– Parish Hall

Monday, January 11

9 a.m. – Good Samaritan Day – Parlor

7 p.m. – Interfaith Scripture Study – Parish Hall

7 p.m. – Trustees Meeting – Parlor

7 p.m. – Deacons Meeting – Education Wing Room D

Tuesday, January 12

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

6:30 p.m. – Christian Education – Education Wing Room D

7 p.m. – Budget and Finance Special Meeting – Large Conference Room

Wednesday, January 13

9 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Large Conference Room

Thursday, January 14

7:30 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Parish Hall

Friday, January 15

4:30 p.m. – Snow Tubing – Meet at Costco Polaris Parking Lot

Sunday, January 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion – Parish Hall

9 a.m. – Teen and Treble Choirs Rehearsal – Choir and Music Activities Rooms

10 a.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

10 a.m. – Christian Education – Ed Wing, Rooms C / D

10 a.m. – BREAD Discussion – Large Conference Room

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

12:15 p.m. – Long-Range Planning Discussion – Large Conference Room

3 p.m. – Heather Giffen’s Ordination – Sanctuary

6 p.m. – Middle and High School Youth Meetings– Parish Hall

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK 12-Linda Mumford; 13-Jim Fewlass, Eddie Fleurant, Abby Cave, Kendra Worley; 14-Katie Waller, Emily Bennett; 15-Thom Smith; 16-Pam Kallner, Lisa Warrick, Phil Atkins, Maggie Myers; 17-Alyssa Batchelor, Caroline Zeiger; 18-Joe Cheng

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK 16-James and Carol Woodard; 17-Andrea Rower and Nick Brunkelmeyer

ABOUT YOUR OFFERING TODAY All our offerings support the Ministry of First Church through its programs, outreach, and related groups as, together, we witness to God’s love. Thank you for your gifts.

- **Offertory envelopes** are provided in the pews for members or visitors.
- **Submitting a pledge?** Please use those envelopes, marking the “Pledge” box.
- **Church Support:** Checking this box directs your gift to general ministry support.
- **Mission:** Please specify today’s mission so your gift is distributed correctly.
- **Online Giving:** Simply go to our web site www.first-church.org click on **Give** and then click on **Online Giving**. You will need to set up an account. You can pay with your credit card or through your checking or savings account. You may use the QR link or:



<https://www.faithstreet.com/church/first-congregational-church-of-columbus-columbus-oh/giving>

Other Gifts: Please designate your intention: *Memorials, flowers, fund raising projects, music, education, etc.*

SHARE THE LOVE There are so many things to love about First Church. Please consider sharing our love with others by:

- "Like" our church's Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchCbus>



- Follow us on Instagram @firstchurchcbus



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP

<i>Senior Minister</i>	Timothy C. Ahrens, D. Min.
<i>Associate Minister</i>	Emily Krause Corzine, M. Div.
<i>Minister of Music</i>	Kevin Jones, M.M.
<i>Director of Christian Education</i>	Mark S. Williams, M. Ed.
<i>Commissioned Minister for Social Justice</i>	Tom Brownfield
<i>Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction</i>	Jacquelyn Dean
<i>Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus</i>	G. Dene Barnard
<i>Treble Choir Director</i>	Sandra Mathias, Ph.D.

DIACONATE

<i>Senior Deacon</i>	Tom Kiesel
<i>Deacons</i>	Kathryn Bamberger, Sandy Bennett, Kris Brant, Valerie Conlin-Losinski, Sue Cook, Jackie Dean, Alec Dietz, Dean Hafey, Anne Hudson, Paul Leidheiser, Mary Lightbody, Jonathan Miller, Hugh Schultz, Lynn Wallich

CHURCH STAFF

<i>Business Manager</i>	Sharon Leidheiser
<i>Program Manager</i>	Martha Worth
<i>Office Manager</i>	Amy Wagner
<i>Building Manager</i>	Thomas Santiago
<i>Custodian</i>	William Lee, Jimmy Sibrian, Onofre Franco-Chavez
<i>Wedding Coordinators</i>	Janet Axt, Margaret Cipriani
<i>Nursery Staff</i>	Evin Wimberly, Simone Ellerson, Natalie Barker, Taylre Arnold

We encourage you to carefully review the many opportunities of programs, meetings and ministries this week and in coming weeks here at First Church through today’s *Depart to Serve* Leaflet, Facebook page, Twitter, Website or Newsletter.