

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## DEPART TO SERVE

DECEMBER 4, 2016

**TODAY IN FORMATIVE DISCUSSIONS FOR ADULTS** Discover the meaning of the season with *O Come, O Come Emmanuel: Reflections on Four Seasonal Hymns*. Written by Mary Louise (Mel) Bringle and Beverly Howard, this four-session adult study looks at the meaning of four popular Advent and Christmas hymns. This curriculum will encourage adults to discuss the importance of the hymns, explore the meaning of the featured text, and learn more about the hymn writers. Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston, Rev. Mary Kay Beall Carter and John Carter will lead these sessions at 10 a.m. in Room D of the Education Wing.

**YOUTH SELLING FUDGE FOR HOLIDAYS** The First Church Youth Groups will be selling a variety of fudge again this year as a fundraiser during the holiday season. The fudge, either ½ pound or pound boxes, will be on sale after each worship service and during office weekday hours. This makes a perfect gift for the holiday season. Consider giving a box of fudge as gifts for your business/employees. Order forms are available after each worship service in the Narthex. See Mark Williams [mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org) for details regarding special orders.

### FIRST CHURCH'S 2016 ORNAMENT NOW AVAILABLE FOR \$18

First Church is continuing our exciting program in celebrating the history of the church through an ongoing keepsake ornament project. Each year, one of our beautiful stained glass windows is featured as a keepsake ornament. The 2016 collectible features the Clerestory Windows of the Nave. All the keepsake ornaments, except 2007, are still available in limited quantity at \$10 each or you can purchase all the previous eight ornaments for a discounted price of \$50. This year's ornament presale began November 27 and the ornaments will be available for pickup after December 9 after the 9 a.m. service and during the Fellowship Hour in the Narthex after the 11 a.m. service. It also will be available for purchase during the week in the church office. Contact Mark S. Williams, ([mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org)) for more information.

**A CHRISTMAS APPEAL** At Christmas, Gladden Community House staff provide gifts to families in Franklinton who struggle with poverty. \$20 gift cards from Walmart are given to teens and seniors who are known to be in need. Leave gift cards in the church office until December 19, or checks may be written to the church with "Gladden Christmas" in the memo. Thank you from Justice and Mercy.

**INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH?** First Church is hosting two (2) new member orientations. *You are invited to join us for ONE (1) of them.* Each session will cover the same material and last about 1-1 ½ hours. Join us today at 12:30 p.m. in the Ralph Fanning Room or tomorrow, Monday, December 5 at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. All new members will be received at the worship services on December 11 at either worship services (9 a.m. or 11 a.m.).

**LAUNDRY LOVE** ministry is in need of liquid detergent, dryer sheets and large garbage bags. Please place donations at each entrance in the laundry baskets.

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**MEMBERS** Alex Cole; Steven Ferris; Nicole Moss; Alyssa Dean; Betsy Zahn; Julie Stewart; Ron Cook; Jane Weddle; Sharon Walquist; Bernie Martin; Ray Pendell; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including Anne Hudson, on the death of her brother.

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY** Nancy Bellissimo, mother of Joe Bellissimo; James Barnard, brother of Dene Barnard; Alice Paugh, mother of Janet Axt; Anne Huser, niece of Andrew MacGregor; Jackie Miller, grandmother of Melissa Kulwicki; Jim Smith, brother of Thom Smith; Linda Bowers; Shirley Graf, sister of Lynn Wallich; Lois Beery, friend of Mary Kay Beall Carter; Gidget, family member of Bill Johannes and Barb Clapham; Joe and Marjorie Kufel, parents of Sharon Leidheiser; Frankie Williams, mother of Mark Williams; Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

**THROUGHOUT THE WORLD** We pray for all those affected by the attach on the OSU campus. We pray for persons in Eastern Tennessee affected by the wildfires. We pray for persons affected by the recent tornadoes in Alabama and Tennessee. We pray for those who were killed and injured in the plane crash in Columbia.

**IN GOD'S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE** This week we pray with and for the people and churches of Liberia and Sierra Leone.

**MISSIONARIES** This week, we pray for Jerri Handy, serving in Mexico.

**NEED PRAYER?** If you have any prayer requests or joys to share, please contact the church office ([awagner@first-church.org](mailto:awagner@first-church.org) or 614-228-1741, ext. 10) or one of the ministers: [ecorzine@first-church.org](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org) or 614-228-1741, ext. 21, or [tahrens@first-church.org](mailto:tahrens@first-church.org) or 614-228-1741, ext. 13.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH

November 27, 9 and 11 a.m. – Advent I

Sermon: "Unexpected Arrival"

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

December 4, 9 and 11 a.m. – Advent II

Communion Meditation: "In Those Days"

Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13;

Matthew 3:1-12

December 11, 9 and 11 a.m. – Advent III

Sermon: "Tell Only What You Hear and See"

Isaiah 35: 1-10; Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

December 18, 9 and 11 a.m. – Advent IV

Sermon: "When Angels Intervene"

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7;

Matthew 1:18-25

4 p.m. – Festival of Lessons and Carols

(Prelude Begins Promptly at 3:30)

December 24 – Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

3 p.m. – Family Christmas Eve Service

7:30 p.m. – Pageant of the Nativity

Meditation: "Living in the Moment"

10:30 p.m. – Nativity Concert featuring Francis Poulenc's *Gloria*

11 p.m. – Candlelight Service

Communion Meditation – "Shepherds Why This Jubilee?"

December 25 – Christmas Day

9 a.m. – Sermon: "Flakes of Grace"

January 1 – Christmas I

10 a.m. – Worship Service for the First Sunday of Christmas

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

### Sunday, December 4: Advent II

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

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

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

10 a.m. – Faith Formation Time – Education Wing, Room D

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

12:30 p.m. – Confirmation Class – Education Wing Room D

12:30 p.m. – New Members Class – Ralph Fanning Room

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

### Monday, December 5

7 p.m. – New Members Class – Parlor

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

### Tuesday, December 6

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

7 p.m. – Justice and Mercy – Ralph Fanning Room

### Wednesday, December 7

11 a.m. – Book Study: *Falling Upward* – Parlor

### Thursday, December 8

6 p.m. – First Church Ringers Rehearsal – Education Wing Room J

7:15 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Parish Hall

### Friday, December 9

6 p.m. – Confirmation Trip to Congregation Tifereth Israel, 1354 East Broad Street

### Saturday, December 10

9 a.m. – Children’s Play Practice – Parish Hall

10 a.m. – First Church Quilters – Ralph Fanning Room

1 p.m. – Discovery District Trolley Hop – Sanctuary

### Sunday, December 11: Advent III

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

9 a.m. – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir and Music

Activities Rooms

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

10 a.m. – Faith Formation Time – Education Wing, Rooms C and D

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

6 p.m. – Christmas Dinner and Play – Parish Hall

7:30 p.m. – Pageant Rehearsal – Sanctuary

**MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK** Today-Elaine Warren, Frank Cook, Whitney Marker; 6-Betty Cobb, Karl Danneberger, Diane Rambo, Alex Vore; 7-Ben Allred; 8-Janet Axt, Kent Rambo; 10-Brian Thomas, Tiana Daines, Victoria Daines

**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:** Go to our web site [www.first-church.org](http://www.first-church.org) click on **Give** or <http://www.first-church.org/give.aspx> and then click or copy the link into your browser to set up an account and pay with your credit card or through your checking or savings account.

#### **easyTithe**

<http://www.easytithe.com/dl/?uid=Firs444421>

#### **PayPal**

<https://www.paypal.com/signup/accountCreate>

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885  
PHONE: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741

[WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG)

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Senior Minister	Timothy C. Ahrens, D. Min.
Associate Minister	Emily Krause Corzine, M. Div.
Minister of Music	Kevin Jones, M. M.
Director of Christian Education	Mark S. Williams, M. Ed.
Commissioned Minister for Social Justice	Tom Brownfield
Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction	Jacquelyn Dean
Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus	G. Dene Barnard
Treble Choir Director	Sandra Mathias, Ph.D.
Business Manager	Sharon Leidheiser
Program Manager	Martha Worth
Office Manager	Amy Wagner
Building & Grounds Superintendent	Mark Dahnke
Custodians	William Lee, Jimmy Sibrian
Wedding Coordinators	Janet Axt, Margaret Cipriani, Amy Wagner, Katie Wagner
Nursery Staff	Evin Wimberly, Simone Ellerson, Natalie Barker, Taylre Arnold

#### **DIACONATE**

Senior Deacon	Lynn Wallich
Deacons	Sandy Bennett, Kris Brant, Valerie Conlin-Losinski, Sue Cook, Alec Deitz, Dean Hafey, Anne Hudson, Paul Leidheiser, Mary Lightbody, Dayna McCrary, Janet Newcity, Jorge Polo, Alex Rodriguez, Hugh Schultz

#### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Moderator	Brian Cave
Moderator-Elect	Kent Shimeall
Treasurer	Cindy Conn
Assistant Treasurer	Joe Baszynski
Secretary	Nancy Braverman
Assistant Secretary	Pat Patterson

#### **COMMISSIONERS**

Administration	Allison Palmer, Elect - Sue Cook
Church Growth	Matt Myers, Elect - Kent Rambo
Education	Jennifer Okezie-Watts, Elect - Helen Ninos
House & Grounds	Charlie Weaver, Elect - Eric Klintworth
Justice & Mercy	Tracy Ross, Elect - Al Glover
Music, Arts, & Heritage	Al Waddell, Elect - Sharon Ferguson
Church Vitality	<i>Chair and Elect Currently Vacant</i>
Nominating Chair	Elaine Warren
Member-at-large	Mary Kay Beall Carter
Youth-at-large	Eddie Anderson IV
Deacon Council Representative	Alec Deitz

#### **TRUSTEES**

Chairperson	Francille Firebaugh
Treasurer	Bill Johannes
Trustees	Patricia Groseck, Bill Heer, Lisa Morris, Sheldon Taft, Charlie Weaver, Keith White, Gerry Worth

## COOKIE MISSION ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11



Help those less fortunate and shut-in members of First Church enjoy some cheer by providing Christmas cookies and/or candies on Sunday, December 11. Christmas is a time for giving to others, and this is one way church members can give back to the community and shut-in members. You can bake, help prepare packages for delivery or deliver.

Please indicate below how you would like to participate:

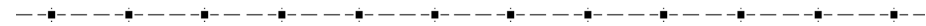
\_\_\_\_\_ I can bake 4 dozen cookies/candies and deliver them by 10 a.m. to the Ralph Fanning Room.

\_\_\_\_\_ I can package cookies for delivery (meet between 8 - 10 a.m. in the Ralph Fanning Room.)

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to deliver cookies to a shut-in (after 11 a.m. service).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## NEED A HOSTESS GIFT OR A GIFT FOR FRIENDS OR FAMILY?

Sacred Earth has options for you! We will offer chocolate, coffee, and tea baskets with fair trade items plus an appropriate accessory which coordinates with each theme (i.e. a tea strainer, tea bag rest, etc.) and a mug for \$15. Please sign up in the church office, indicating which option and date you prefer. Baskets will be available during Fellowship Hour on the first and third Sundays of December. If you need a basket for another time, please call Sarah Giffen at 614-471-9665.

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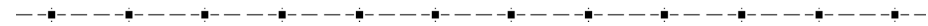
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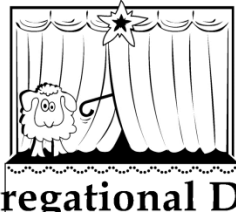
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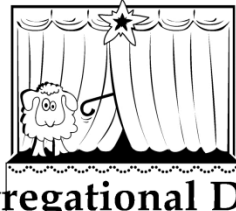


**Congregational Dinner  
and  
Children's Play**

**DECEMBER 11 at 5:30 p.m.  
in Parish Hall**  
We'll welcome the Mistletoe Marchers, a festive parade of children from pre-K through first grade; the Christmas Chorus, a merry band of second graders

introducing the production; and the First Church Christmas actors. The play will be preceded by a pot luck dinner. Please bring a dish to share according to last name: **A-H bring a side or salad. I-P bring a casserole or entree; R-Z bring a dessert.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Will attend \_\_\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children  
Family name \_\_\_\_\_

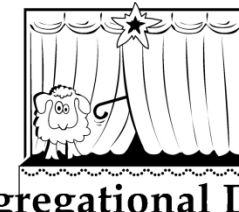


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**Two Opportunities for Christmas Dedications**

- POINSETTIAS for the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. The flowers may be taken after the 11 o'clock service.
- PROVIDE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC for Christmas Eve worship.



Complete this order form (*indicate the dedication*) and return with payment to the church office or place in the offering plate with payment (check or cash). **The deadline for ordering is December 18.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ at \$10.00 each =Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Music \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to *First Congregational Church*; please write *Christmas Dedication* on memo line.

In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**Two Opportunities for Christmas Dedications**

- POINSETTIAS for the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. The flowers may be taken after the 11 o'clock service.
- PROVIDE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC for Christmas Eve worship.



Complete this order form (*indicate the dedication*) and return with payment to the church office or place in the offering plate with payment (check or cash). **The deadline for ordering is December 18.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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- POINSETTIAS for the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. The flowers may be taken after the 11 o'clock service.
- PROVIDE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC for Christmas Eve worship.



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