

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE

DECEMBER 10, 2017



Congregational Dinner and Children's Play

Tonight at 6 p.m. in Parish Hall

Please bring a dish to share according to last name: A-H bring a dessert. I-P bring a side or salad. R-Z bring a casserole or entree.

SILENT ADVENT AUCTION TODAY! For their 2017 Advent Art project, the Middle School class adapted a Puerto Rican Christmas holiday tradition, in hopes of raising funds for hurricane relief in Puerto Rico. The island, a U.S. protectorate, is overwhelmingly Christian and celebrates the holiday in many of the same ways as mainland Americans. However, among their unique traditions is a special recognition of “Dia de los Tres Reyes Magos,” also known as Three Kings Day or Epiphany, which falls on January 6 each year. The night before, children all over Puerto Rico gather grass or hay that they place in a shoebox for the Magis’ camels. Overnight, the Kings visit, their camels eat the grass or hay, and in its place the Kings leave gifts and treats for the children. While we do not know how (or even whether) the children decorate their shoeboxes, the Middle School class – inspired by both the beauty of the island and the devastation that Hurricane Maria brought to it – decorated boxes to be used for your Christmas holidays, whether that means cookies and oats on December 24, filling them with gifts for others, or adopting the Puerto Rican Three Kings Day celebration. Please bid generously and often! Or offer a giving match, which will allow us to double the value of the winning bid to our hurricane relief fundraiser. This project is being led by Bill and Susan Rhoads.

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 1-pound or ½-pound boxes, will be on sale after each worship service and during office weekday hours beginning the end of November through December. Order forms are available in the office. Contact Mark Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org for more details regarding special orders.

FIRST CHURCH’S 2017 ORNAMENT NOW AVAILABLE First Church is continuing our exciting program in celebrating the history of the church through an ongoing keepsake ornament project. The 2017 collectible

features the Clerestory Windows of the Nave and is \$18. All ornaments, except 2007, are still available in limited quantity at \$10 each, or you can purchase all the previous nine ornaments for a discounted price of \$50. This year’s ornament is available after the 9 a.m. service and during the Fellowship Hour in the Parish Hall after the 11 a.m. service, as well as in the church office. Contact Mark S. Williams, (mwilliams@first-church.org) for more information.

NEED A HOSTESS GIFT OR A GIFT FOR FRIENDS OR FAMILY? Sacred Earth is offering holiday chocolate, coffee, and tea baskets with fair trade items for just \$15. Baskets will be available starting Sunday, December 3, during our Fellowship Hour and again on Sunday, December 17 (the first and third Sundays of December). Please look for a sign up in the church office where you can indicate which option you would like and date you prefer. If you need a basket for another time, please call Sarah Giffen at 614-471-9665.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS Carl Miller; Sophie Baird; Virginia O’Neill; and families and friends who mourn the loss of loved ones.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Sam Lebold; Don and Jane Mead, parents of Cindy Deliman; Mary Catherine Ninos, sister of Helen Ninos; Rose Sanders, aunt of Robert Davis, Jr.; Dave Belcastro and Debbie Anderson; the O’Rourke Family; Alice Anderson, mother of Eddie Anderson and sister of Duan Cannon; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD We pray for the communities and people affected by the wildfires in Southern California. We pray for those who flee persecution around the world. We pray for those who are victims of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

IN GOD’S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER Cycle This week we pray with and for the people and churches of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

MISSIONARIES This week we pray for Brigette Eale, serving in Kenya.

Need Prayer? If you have any prayer requests or joys to share, please contact Amy Wagner, Office Manager at awagner@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 10 or the ministers: ecorzine@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 21, or tahrens@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 13.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 9 & 11 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR ADVENT I

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 9 & 11 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR ADVENT II

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 9 & 11 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR ADVENT III

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 4 P.M.

A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRELUDE BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 3:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

11:00 A.M. – WORSHIP SERVICE FOR ADVENT IV

3:00 P.M. – FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

7:30 P.M. – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE INCLUDING THE DRAMA OF
THE NATIVITY

10:30 P.M. – NATIVITY CONCERT *MAGNIFICAT!*

11:00 P.M. – CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 9 & 11 A.M.

COMMUNITY LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF
CHRISTMAS

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, December 10: Advent II

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion – Parish Hall
9 a.m. – Exultate Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
9 a.m. – Jubilate Choir – Music Activities Room
10 a.m. – First Church Choir Warm Up – Choir Room
10 a.m. – Faith Formation Time – Education Wing, Room D
10 a.m. – New Members Class – Education Wing, Room C
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parlor
12:30 p.m. – Deacons and Ushers Meeting – Parlor
6 p.m. – Christmas Dinner /Children’s Play – Parish Hall
7:30 p.m. – Youth Pageant Rehearsal – Sanctuary

Monday, December 11

9 a.m. – Good Samaritan Day
7 p.m. – Trustees – Ralph Fanning Room

Tuesday, December 12

11:30 a.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room
12:15 p.m. – Yoga – Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. – Sacred Earth – Ralph Fanning Room
5:45 p.m. – Yoga – Sanctuary
7 p.m. – Executive Committee – Ralph Fanning Room

Wednesday, December 13

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room
Noon – Volunteer Luncheon – Parish Hall
4 p.m. – Building and Office Close

Thursday, December 14

6 p.m. – First Church Ringers – Education Wing Room J
7:15 p.m. – First Church Choir – Parish Hall

Friday, December 15

6 p.m. – Confirmation Field Trip to Tifereth Israel

Saturday, December 16

10 a.m. – BOBS Deliveries

Sunday, December 17: Advent III

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion – Parish Hall
9 a.m. – Exultate Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
9 a.m. – Jubilate Choir – Music Activities Room
10 a.m. – First Church Choir Warm Up – Choir Room
10 a.m. – Faith Formation Time – Education Wing, Room D
10 a.m. – New Members Class – Education Wing, Room C
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
4 p.m. – Lessons and Carols – Sanctuary (prelude at 3:30 p.m.)
7 p.m. – Youth Pageant Rehearsal – Sanctuary

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, Diana Chandler, Amy Wagner, Katie Wagner
Nursery Staff	Evin Wimberly, Simone Ellerson, Natalie Barker, Taylre Arnold

DIACONATE

Senior Deacon	Alec Deitz
Deacons	Kris Brant, Anthony Brown, Valerie Conlin-Losinski, Bert Cook, Martha Fullemann, Dean Hafey, Todd Jacobson, Karen Mazingo, David Nassau, Janet Newcity, Jorge Polo, Alejandro Rodriguez, Hugh Schultz

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator	Kent Shimeall
Moderator-Elect	Joe Baszynski
Treasurer	David Holt
Assistant Treasurer	Joe Hoffman
Secretary	Pat Patterson
Assistant Secretary	Nancy Loy

COMMISSIONERS

Administration	Sue Cook, Elect - Chris Glaros
Church Growth/Vitality	Kent Rambo and Mary Anne Jacobson, co-chairs; Elect - Tom Kiesel and Mary Anne Jacobson
Education	Helen Ninos, Elect - Chris Gelpi
House & Grounds	Eric Klintworth, Elect - Gary Leidheiser
Justice & Mercy	Al Glover, Elect - Dawn George
Music, Arts, & Heritage	Sharon Ferguson, Elect - Joel Mathias
Nominating Chair	Brian Cave
Member-at-large	Neal Brower
Youth-at-large	Joe Spofforth
Deacon Council Representative	Janet Newcity

TRUSTEES

Chairperson	Lisa Morris
Treasurer	Bill Johannes
Trustees	Chris Farquhar, Francille Firebaugh, Tom Hadley, Bill Heer, Lisa Morris, Sheldon Taft, Keith White, Gerry Worth

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 an envelope found in the pew, 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 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, Building Endowment, House and Grounds Special Projects, etc.*

OFFERING TOTAL FOR LAST WEEK’S MISSION

December 3 – \$848 – UCAN

NEXT WEEK’S MISSION OFFERING

Church World Service – Hurricane Relief

COPIES OF TODAY’S SERMON can be found in the office or at the Broad Street entrance to the Sanctuary.

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK Today – Tiana Daines, Victoria Daines; 11 – Sam Spofforth; 13 – Joe Provenzano, Joe Baszynski; 14 – Maria Brown, Atticus Buzzell, Dan Ward, Betty Conn, Suzie Rhoads, Lori Horne, Gretchen Weller; 15 – Anne Bennett, Bianca Catenacci

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK Today – Diana and Bob Kutschbach; 12 – Caitlin Clark Graham and Michael Bukach; Linda and Ron Reiger

444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885

PHONE: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741

WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG



Christmas Dedications

POINSETTIAS for the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve
The flowers may be taken after the 11 o'clock service.



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 15.

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email _____

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

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

In Celebration of _____

In Memory of _____

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