

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE

DECEMBER 11, 2016

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND CHILDREN'S PLAY TONIGHT AT 6 P.M.!

Potluck Dinner: Please bring a dish to share according to last name:

- **A-H** bring a side or salad
- **I-P** bring a casserole or entrée
- **R-Z** bring a dessert

Enjoy the play that follows the dinner!



Christmas Dinner

IF YOU WOULD LOVE TO HELP DELIVER COOKIES TO MEMBERS, please go to the Fanning Room after the 11 a.m. service to pick up a tin!

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. Order forms are available after each worship service in the Narthex. See Mark Williams mwilliams@first-church.org for details regarding special orders.

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

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. 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) 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 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.

LAUNDRY LOVE ministry needs liquid detergent, dryer sheets and large garbage bags. Please place donations at each entrance in the laundry baskets. The next Laundry Love day is December 27.

PLEDGE FINAL PAYMENTS 2016 We are in December and it's time to make sure First Church reaches its pledge budget for 2016 of \$646,374. Many of you are on target to meet your pledge goal and First Church would like to thank everyone for their donations. For those of you behind, you have until Friday, December 30 at 12 noon to hand deliver your final payment or snail mail post marked by Saturday, December 31 to complete your pledge. You can also pay by credit card, call Sharon Leidheiser for details 614-228-1741 ext. 11.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS Tom Gies; Mary Weaver; Wendy Reber; Alex Cole; Steven Ferris; Nicole Moss; 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 Leslie Boltz and family, on the death of her father, Harry Guynn; and Anne Hudson, on the death of her brother.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Ronald Lee, brother of William Lee; Nancy Bellissimo, mother of Joe Bellissimo; James Barnard, brother of Dene Barnard; Alice Paugh, mother of Janet Axt; Jackie Miller, grandmother of Melissa Kulwicki; James 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 the victims of the Oakland warehouse fire. We pray for persons grieving the loss of a loved one this Advent season.

IN GOD'S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE This week we pray with and for the people and churches of Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.

MISSIONARIES This week we pray for Bruce Van Voorhis who is serving in Hong Kong.

NEED PRAYER? If you have any prayer requests or joys to share, please contact the church office (awagner@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 10) or one of 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

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 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

9 a.m. – Cookie Mission – Ralph Fanning Room

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

Monday, December 12

9 a.m. – Good Samaritan Day

7 p.m. – Trustees – Large Conference Room

Tuesday, December 13

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

7 p.m. – Executive Committee – Ralph Fanning Room

Wednesday, December 14

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room

Noon – Volunteer Luncheon – Parish Hall

6 p.m. – BOBS Planning Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room

Thursday, December 15

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

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

Saturday, December 17

9:30 a.m. – House and Grounds – Parish Family Room

Sunday, December 18: Advent IV

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall

9 a.m. – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir Room

10 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

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

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

4 p.m. – Lessons and Carols – Sanctuary (prelude begins at 3:30)

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! January 14 7-8:30 p.m. Songs of Struggle Concert
1960-65 Music and Images of the Civil Rights Movement

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK Today- Sam Spofforth; 13-Joe Provenzano, Joe Baszynski; 14-Maria Brown, Atticus Buzzell, Betty Conn, Suzie Rhoads, Lori Horne, Dan Ward, Gretchen Weller; 15-Anne Bennett, Bianca Catenacci; 16-Leslie Larson, 17- Lucina Clark, Dale Leidheiser

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK 10-Diana and Bob Kutschbach; 12- Caitlin Clark Graham and Michael Bukach, Linda and Ron Reiger

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 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

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

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 _____

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.

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 _____

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.

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 _____

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.