

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE

DECEMBER 17, 2017

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS The Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held today at 4 p.m. The prelude featuring the First Church Ringers, Exultate Choir, Jubilate Choir and organist G. Dene Barnard will begin at 3:30 p.m. Doors open at 3. Come early to assure a good seat. The service will consist of the traditional nine lessons for Christmas interspersed with congregational carols, anthems and motets. "Once in royal David's city," "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" will be sung by choirs and congregation. The First Church Choir will sing anthems by Richard Allain, Herbert Howells, Kenneth Leighton, John Rutter and William Walton. Readers representing the congregation and the wider Columbus community will aid in leading the service.

CHRISTMAS EVE CONCERT On Christmas Eve at 10:30 p.m. immediately preceding the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service, the First Church Choir presents a concert in honor of the Nativity titled Magnificat. Magnificat, or The Song of Mary, is based in the Gospel of Luke, and this year will feature Magnificat verses by Luther and Bach, two organ chorales, a Magnificat by Herbert Howells, and Vaughan Williams' "Fantasia on Christmas Carols." Please come a little early on Christmas Eve for beautiful music in the splendor of the John Russell Pope Nave filled with poinsettias and candlelight.

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.

THERE IS NO FAITH FORMATION TIME ON DECEMBER 24 AND 31.

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 ½-pound boxes of fudge will be on sale after each worship service and during office weekday hours through December. Contact Mark Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org for more details.

LAUNDRY LOVE IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26 Please contact Mark Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org if you can volunteer from 6 to 7 p.m. at WashLand Laundromat, 1469 West Broad Street in West Franklinton.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS Chris Hayler; Carl Miller; Virginia O'Neill; and families and friends who mourn the loss of loved ones.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Donald Hayler, father of Chris Hayler; Ward Porch and parents Rev. Trip and Brittany Porch; Joyce Marcum, sister of Betty Conn; Roberta, mother of a Good Samaritan client; Sam Lebold; Don and Jane Mead, parents of Cindy Deliman; Mary Catherine Ninos, sister of Helen Ninos; Rose Sanders, aunt of Robert Davis, Jr.; Alice Anderson, mother of Eddie Anderson and sister of Duan Cannon; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including Margaret Cipriani, on the death of a family member.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD We pray for the people of New York City after the terror attack. We pray for the communities affected by the wildfires in Southern California. We pray for those who flee persecution around the world. We pray for the people of Israel and the Palestinian people. We pray for those who are victims of sexual harassment or sexual assault. We pray for all who struggle this holiday season.

IN GOD'S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE This week we pray with and for the people and churches of China, Hong Kong and Macau.

MISSIONARIES This week we pray for Michael Joseph serving in Colombia.

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 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

Monday, December 18

6 p.m. – Budget and Finance – Ralph Fanning Room
7 p.m. – Personnel Committee – Ralph Fanning Room

Tuesday, December 19

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. – Budget and Finance – Ralph Fanning Room

Wednesday, December 20

11 a.m. – Book Study: On Tyranny – Parlor
Noon – Newsletter Deadline 4 p.m. – Building and Office Close

Thursday, December 21

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

Friday, December 22

9 a.m. – BOBS – Parish Hall
Noon – Office Closes

Saturday, December 23

9 a.m. – BOBS – Parish Hall
9 a.m. – Noon – Youth Activity for BOBS – Parish Hall

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve

9 a.m. – BOBS – Parish Hall
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
3 p.m. – Christmas Eve Family Service – Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. – Christmas Pageant – Sanctuary
10:30 p.m. – Nativity Concert – Sanctuary
11 p.m. – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service – 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 Mozingo, 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 10 – \$1,272.50 – BOBS

NEXT WEEK'S MISSION OFFERING

UCC Christmas Fund

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 – Dale Leidheiser; 18 – Mary Alice Kuhn; 19 – Larry Dixon, Nate Solis; 20 – Christa Ewing; 21 – Joyce Canfield, Bonnie Sparhawk, Andy Thomas; 22 – Rick Henderson; 23 – Marty Worth

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK 19 – Gerry and Marty Worth; 20 – Teresa and Jorge Polo; 22 – Pauline and Earl Fritz; 23 – Jane and Mike Weddle

444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885

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WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG



BETHLEHEM ON BROAD STREET

For over 30 years, First Church has hosted Bethlehem on Broad Street, an ecumenical ministry of hospitality, affectionately known by its acronym, BOBS. BOBS is continuing our tradition of brightening Christmas day for hundreds of guests and volunteers, too. You can learn more about BOBS at www.bethlehemonbroadstreet.org.

Every donation, in-kind gift and volunteer hour is needed and greatly appreciated.

Please indicate below how you would like to participate and place in the offering plate, we will follow up to confirm details:

- Cook a turkey and deliver on Thursday 12/21 or Friday 12/22
- Bake a pie and deliver on Friday 12/22, Saturday 12/23, or Sunday 12/24
- Volunteer on Christmas Day 12/25 morning shift
- Volunteer on Christmas Day 12/25 afternoon shift
- Help with cleanup after Christmas on Tuesday 12/26
- Donation: mark BOBS in check memo or go to www.first-church.org to give online

Name: _____

Phone#: _____ Ok to Text? Y or N

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