

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE

DECEMBER 18, 2016

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

The 2016 collectible features the Clerestory Windows of the Nave. Ornaments will be available for pickup after the 9 a.m. service and during the Fellowship Hour in the Narthex after the 11 a.m. service. It is also available for purchase during the week in the church office.



**NEED FUDGE? SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED!** 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.

**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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *There will be no Faith Formation Sessions or Fellowship Hour on December 25 or January 1.*

**SONGS OF STRUGGLE CONCERT 1960-65 MUSIC AND IMAGES OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT** Mark your Calendars for Saturday, January 14, 2017 from 7-8:30 p.m. Bill Cohen and Paisha Thomas will sing songs from the early civil rights movement, when blacks and whites marched together, were beaten together, and even died together. Admission is free, but there will be a freewill offering to benefit First Church.

**OHIO STATE VS. MICHIGAN: SAVE THE DATE!** Want to see a game against TTUN without getting a second mortgage? Church Vitality invites you to attend the OSU Women's Basketball game on Saturday, January 7, 2017 at Noon. Tickets are \$9 each and parking is free. Reserve your tickets by contacting Marty Worth [mworth@first-church.org](mailto:mworth@first-church.org).

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**MEMBERS** Grace Glaros; Kay Neffinger; Tom Gies; Mary Weaver; Wendy Reber; Alex Cole; Steven Ferris; Nicole Moss; Betsy Zahn; Julie Stewart; Ron Cook; Jane Weddle; Larry and Sharon Walquist; Bernie Martin; Ray Pendell; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including Sarah Giffen, on the loss of her mother; Leslie Boltz and family, on the death of her father, Harry Guynn; and Anne Hudson, on the death of her brother.

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY** Elsie George, mother of Marti Rideout; Willene Castleberry, sister of Ann Morganstern; Wendell Smith, father of Sarah Lange; 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; Joan Kuendig; 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 and families of the Coptic church bombing in Cairo, Egypt. We pray for the people of Aleppo, Syria. We pray for peace throughout world.

**In God's Hands: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** This week we pray with and for the people and churches of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, and Togo.

**Missionaries** This week, we pray for Toni Reynolds, serving in the Dominican Republic.

**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

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

ADVENT

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

### 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,  
Room D  
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary  
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall  
4 p.m. – Lessons and Carols – Sanctuary (prelude begins at 3:30)  
6:45 p.m. – Christmas Pageant Rehearsal – Sanctuary

### Monday, December 19

9 a.m. – BOBS – Kitchen  
7 p.m. – Personnel Committee – Ralph Fanning Room

### Tuesday, December 20

9 a.m. – BOBS – Kitchen  
Noon – Newsletter Deadline  
2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

### Wednesday, December 21

9 a.m. – BOBS – Kitchen  
11 a.m. – Book Study: Falling Upward – Parlor

### Thursday, December 22

9 a.m. – BOBS – Parish Hall  
9 a.m. – Noon – Youth Activity for BOBS – Parish Hall  
7:15 p.m. – First Church Choir – Sanctuary

### Friday, December 23

9:00 – BOBS – Parish Hall  
Noon – Office Closes

### Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

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

### Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day

All Day – Bethlehem on Broad Street  
9 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK Today-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

**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.*

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[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