

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE

DECEMBER 24, 2017

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

CHRISTMAS EVE CONCERT On Christmas Eve at 10:30 p.m. immediately preceding the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion 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.

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.

RACHAEL GARDNER PURDY SERVICE FOR ORDINATION Join us on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 2 p.m. Reception to follow.



Thank you to all that helped with the Cookie Mission especially Tammy Anderson who chaired the event and made sure cookies were stuffed into tins, cleaned the room and all that comes with doing a big mission project, and to Barbara Clapham, who washed and lined all of the cookie tins. Also, thank you to Susan Sitler for assisting Tammy with this important mission project. There was a nice selection of candies and cookies; thank you First Church!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS Lindy Miller, Chris Hayler; Carl Miller; Virginia O'Neill; and families and friends who mourn the loss of loved ones, including Janet Stoneking, on the death of her father, Jim Stoneking; Robert Davis, Jr., on the death of his aunt, Rose Sanders; and the family of Joyce Campbell.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Shirley Graf, sister of Lynn Wallich; Donald Hayler, father of Chris Hayler; Kent Rambo's mother; Ward Porch and parents Rev. Trip and Brittany Porch; Joyce Marcum, sister of Betty Conn; 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 victims and families of the Amtrak train accident in Dupont, Washington. We pray for the victims of the bus accident in Costa Maya, Mexico. 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 Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan.

MISSIONARIES This week we pray for Elena Huegel serving in Mexico.

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.

OFFERING TOTAL FOR LAST WEEK'S MISSION
December 17 – \$740.52 – Church World Service:
Hurricane Relief

NEXT WEEK'S MISSION OFFERING
Good Samaritan



REMAINING WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON

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

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK 25 – Diana Kutschbach; 26 – Trisha Bishop; 27 – Rachel Axt, Logan Kirker; 28 – Paul Leidheiser Jr., McAshan Dean; 29 – Jim Organ, Benjamin Rowley, Amanda Dean; 30 – Tracy Cloud-Thomas, Jamie McWilliams

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK 26 – Becky and Sheldon Taft; 27 – Sarah and Tom Trace Jr., Jane and Dick Ward; 28 – Rebecca and Ian Baird, Francille and John Firebaugh; 29 – Pam and Andrew Welsh-Huggins

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

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 Communion Christmas Eve Service – Sanctuary

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day

All Day – Bethlehem on Broad Street – Parish Hall (7 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Tuesday, December 26

6 p.m. – Laundry Love – WashLand Laundromat, 1469 West Broad Street

Friday, December 29

Noon – Office Closes

Sunday, December 31

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

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

WAYS TO PAY YOUR PLEDGE If you still need to pay your 2017 pledge here are options for you, you can also talk to a minister or Sharon Leidheiser 614-228-1741 or email any of us:

Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds and CD Transfer We accept these towards a pledge. If you have stocks, bonds, CD's or an IRA that are not performing well and want to avoid possible capital gains you can instead transfer the security to our account at Charles Schwab to apply to your

IRA Distribution Over age 70 ½? Consider making a direct transfer from your IRA to First Congregational Church to fund your pledge. The benefits are: no income taxes are paid on the distribution from your IRA; the gift counts toward the minimum required distribution (RMD).

Direct Deposit-Payroll Deduction at work Many companies will allow you to make a payroll deduction from your paycheck. Church members find this easy because the company takes it out automatically every pay period. Each company has a different way of setting up this deduction, contact your Human Resources representative or Payroll Specialist at work to see if this is an option. The most common at First Church.

Write your check to First Church and indicate in the memo field PLEDGE so we know the money applies to your pledge. You can place the check in the Offering Plate at worship or mail it to the church.

Cash We always accept cash! Please put the cash in an envelope and put your full name and amount on the line labeled PLEDGE. Please do not mail cash.

Bill Pay with your bank Online banking is another way to pay your pledge. You can set up the First Church as a payee or vendor in your list with payment to be automatically mailed to First Church as often as you'd like. Just indicate on the memo field: Pledge & Your Name so we can credit the check to the appropriate account. Contact your bank for details or I can help.

Money Order or Cashier's Check Please do not send money through the mail. If you do not have a checking account and the other payment options do not apply, we recommend you send a money order or cashier's check with your full name written on the check and write PLEDGE.

Online Credit Card Giving You can pay online through easyTithe or PayPal. Simply go to our web site www.first-church.org click on Give and then click on either easyTithe or PayPal You will need to set up an account. You can pay with your credit card or through your, debit card, checking or savings account. The actual links for online giving are:

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

PayPal: https://www.paypal.com/donate/token=QDIetS_BNfJuWUYJDOdx7ZqxR8eK3rx1VAjlKqZ_C58ofgz-M_amFPnx0hiXzUuH0Mk3im

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.*

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 Fullermann, 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

WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG