

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

DEPART TO SERVE

FEBRUARY 14, 2016

VALENTINE'S DAY YOUTH FUDGE SALE The youth are selling ½ lb. boxes of homemade fudge in a variety of flavors after worship services in the Parish Hall TODAY to benefit the youth summer mission trip.

LENTEN COLORING POSTERS Coloring has always been a big hit with the young but now it has regained popularity with adults as a form of meditation and prayer. During the season of Lent a series of Lenten Coloring Posters will be located in the Parish Hall for “Children of ALL Ages” to come together and color. The Lenten themed posters are large enough for many of ALL AGES to gather and color.

- *Poster 1: February 10 (Ash Wednesday - Mark 9:30-37): **Welcome.***
- *Poster 2: February 14 (Mark 10:17-31): **Give.***
- *Poster 3: February 21 (Mark 10:32-52): **Serve.***
- *Poster 4: February 28 (Mark 12:13-17): **Listen.***
- *Poster 5: March 6 (Mark 12:28-44): **Love.***
- *Poster 6: March 13 (Mark 13:1-8, 24-37): **Watch!***
- *Poster 7: March 20 (Palm Sunday - Mark 14:3-9): **Risk.***
- *Poster 8: March 24 (Maundy Thursday - Mark 14:22-42): **Take. Eat.***
*And March 25 (Good Friday - Mark 15:16-39): **Forsaken.***
- *Poster 9: March 25 (Easter - Mark 16:1-8): **Go! Tell!***

BOLLYWOOD AND BAR-BEE-QUE Deep Griha of Pune, India is actively involved with the “empowerment of the marginalized through capacity building and sustainable rural and urban development programs”. The major fundraising event of the year is **BOLLYWOOD & BAR-BEE-QUE** on Sunday, **March 6, 2016 at First Community Church's North Campus, 3777 Dublin Road Columbus 43221.** Last year, Neela Onawale and her daughter, Ashlesha, visited our church and spoke of the need to sponsor a child in a school setting where they receive health care and academic materials, job training and meals. Tickets to Bollywood and Bar-bee-que (that's City Barbeque!) can be purchased online at fcchurch.com and then going to the Missions tab to find Deep Griha. In addition, our main office will sell them: \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. This is a great family event, offering dancing, henna painting, music, fabulous dinners (including vegan dishes) and yummy desserts (East Indian and homemade American)!

HELP STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CENTRAL OHIO The Justice & Mercy and Christian Education Commissions are joining together to fight the social justice issue of Human Trafficking in central Ohio. Today after worship, we invite you to join us in the Parish Hall to put labels on hotel soaps. The soaps will be distributed throughout hotels in the Columbus area with the national hotline number for help. This is a major problem during the Arnold Classic in early March. Please take a few minutes to help with the labeling.

SOFTBALL NEWS If you are interested in a softball team for the summer of 2016, please contact Rev. Ahrens ASAP. Last year we did not field a Sunday afternoon co-ed team because no one stepped up to the plate to help or to lead us. So, if the interest is there from the membership, could someone please step-up soon? If you love to play ball, please call... deadlines for getting in the league are fast approaching. Contact Rev. Ahrens at tahrens@first-church.org or call, 228-1741, ext.13.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS: Kathy and Tom Brownfield and family, on the death of Kathy's brother, Van Barndt; Bert Cook; Nell Cole, on the death of her brother; Gerhard Wolff; Alyah Dean; Mike Rippel, on the death of his aunt; Lucille Kropp; Grace Glaros; Bernie Martin; Ray Pendell; Wib Smith; and for families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Friends and family of MarShawn McCarrel; Marjorie Kufel, mother of Sharon Leidheiser; Thea Cesner, friend of Pat Patterson; Mark Williams' former student who is facing chemotherapy treatment; Anna Shine, niece of Diana Kutschbach; and Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD We pray for the victims and families of the earthquake in Taiwan; the train accident in Germany; ongoing victims of human trafficking around the world and in our community.

IN GOD'S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE This week in the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray with and for the people and churches of Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

MISSIONARIES: This week, we pray for Ben Lyvers, serving in India.

If you have any prayer requests or joys to share, please contact the church office (awagner@first-church.org or 228-1741, ext. 10) or one of the ministers: ecorazine@first-church.org or 228-1741, ext. 21, or tahrens@first-church.org or 228-1741, ext. 13.



SIGN UP FOR LENTEN SMALL GROUPS

This Lenten season the Small Groups will be focusing on “Prayer”. They begin next week.

We hope to have small groups meeting in the following areas:

- Downtown/Bexley/German Village
- Dublin/Hilliard
- Westerville
- Clintonville
- Reynoldsburg/Groveport/Canal Winchester
- Gahanna

Areas with hosts are:

- Upper Arlington/Grandview – Marty Worth
- Victorian Village – Lynn Wallich & Bev Cook
- Bethel Rd & 315 area – Don Streibig
- Lewis Center/Powell – Jenny Provenzano

You are welcome to attend any of these groups. Contact Marty Worth mworth@first-church.org

Additionally, Jackie Dean, Commissioned Minister of Spiritual Direction, will be leading a group that will meet at the church on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to Noon. Childcare is available on request; please let the office know by Thursday of each week.

The groups will meet 4 times: Wednesdays, February 24, March 2, 9, & 16 or on the best day for the group.

Please indicate your interest below:

_____ Yes, I want to participate in a small group in the _____ area.

_____ I am willing to host a group in my home.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Today – 1st Sunday in Lent

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

9 a.m. – Teen and Treble Choirs Rehearsal – Choir and Music Activities Rooms

10 a.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

10 a.m. – Christian Education – Ed Wing; Adult Ed – Rooms C / D

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

6 p.m. – High School Youth Meetings– Parish Hall

Monday, February 15

Office Closed All Day

Staff Retreat – Mark Williams’ Home

7 p.m. – Personnel Committee Meeting – Parish Family Room

Tuesday, February 16

Noon – Care Ministry Luncheon – Large Conference Room

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

7 p.m. – Council – Large Conference Room

Wednesday, February 17

11 a.m. – Book Study: *Without Buddha I Could Not Be Christian* – Parlor

Thursday, February 18

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

Friday, February 19

Noon – Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, February 20

8:30 a.m. – House and Grounds Meeting – Parish Family Room

Sunday, February 21 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

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

9 a.m. – Treble Choir Rehearsal – Music Activities Room

10 a.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

10 a.m. – Christian Education – Ed Wing; Adult Ed – Rooms C / D

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

6 p.m. – Youth Group Meetings– Parish Hall

February Fellowship Hour Schedule

February 21 Ruth

February 28 Samuel

February Crucifer Schedule

February 21 Adam Wade

February 28 Joe Spofforth

February Acolyte Schedule

February 21 Nick Boriin Peter Spofforth

February 28 Chutney Anderson Cassidy Hopcraft

February Offering Schedule

February 14 Kaleidoscope

February 21 Back Bay Mission

February 28 Deep Griha

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:** Simply go to our web site www.first-church.org click on **Give** and then click on **Online Giving**. You will need to set up an account. You can pay with your credit card or through your checking or savings account. You may use the QR link or:



<https://www.faithstreet.com/church/first-congregational-church-of-columbus-columbus-oh/giving>

Other Gifts: Please designate your intention: *Memorials, flowers, fund raising projects, music, education, etc.*

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK 14-Joel Mathias; 16-Peggy Alexander, Dick Ward, Tom Farquhar; 17-Craig Clay, Tyler Reid, Rachel Henderson; 18-Cindy Conn; 19-Ron Cook; 20-Michael Frost, Jr., Dylan Hopcraft; 21-Cathy Redenbarger, Joe Lane; 22-Charisma Jones

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK 16-Amy and Bill Wagner; 18-Sallie and Karl Danneberger; 19-Cami Curren and Thom Smith

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP

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.

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, Alex Rodriguez; Hugh Schultz

CHURCH STAFF

Business Manager Sharon Leidheiser

Program Manager Martha Worth

Office Manager Amy Wagner

Building Manager Thomas Santiago

Custodian William Lee, Jimmy Sibrian,

Onofre Franco-Chavez

Wedding Coordinators Janet Axt, Margaret Cipriani

Nursery Staff Evin Wimberly, Simone Ellerson,

Natalie Barker, Taylre Arnold

We encourage you to carefully review the many opportunities of programs, meetings and ministries this week and in coming weeks here at First Church through today’s *Depart to Serve* Leaflet, Facebook page, Twitter, Website or Newsletter.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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