

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**DEPART TO SERVE**

**JANUARY 17, 2016**

**HEATHER GIFFEN'S ORDINATION TODAY AT 3 P.M.** The entire congregation is invited to the ordination of Ms. Heather Giffen into Christian Ministry. Heather completed her undergraduate degree at Muskingum University in New Concord, OH and her Master of Divinity degree at United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, MN. She received the call to Christian Ministry as an Associate Pastor of the Church of the Apostles United Church of Christ in Lancaster, PA. Heather is ready to be ordained. Join us for this wonderful celebration!

**LONG-RANGE PLANNING MEETINGS** First Church's Long-Range Planning Committee invites members of the congregation to discuss the proposed long-range plan today at 12:15 p.m. and Sunday, January 24, at 10 a.m. in the Large Conference Room. Members may attend either session. The agenda will be the same for both sessions. The Long-Range Plan will go before the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Copies of the plan are available on the church website, in the church office, and at the sanctuary entrances.

**SPECIAL ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH** During the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 31, the children and middle school youth will enjoy the talents of Candace Mazur-Darman from the award winning Dramatic-Impact Theatre Company. For more than 30 years Candace has been a successful teaching artist in central Ohio. She is the founder of Dramatic Impact, a nationally acclaimed children's theatre company. Candace has brought her dynamic story play to classrooms around Ohio and venues such as the Columbus Arts Festival, Dublin Irish Festival, First Night Columbus, COSI, Delaware Arts Castle and Franklin Park Conservatory, just to name a few. As a teaching artist for Very Special Arts Ohio and the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education, Candace works in inclusive classrooms to enhance teaching and learning through arts-integrated residencies and differentiated curriculum. Her career has reached thousands of children providing a safe and nurturing environment from which imaginations can explore and grow. The children and youth will perform her original work, "How the Animals Do God's Work."



**JANUARY 31 – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND CHILI COOK OFF**  
We will have ONE service on January 31 at 10 a.m. and will follow the service with our 164<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Following the meeting, all are invited to the Parish Hall for our Fourth Annual Chili Cook Off!

All are invited to bring their favorite chili for taste testing!



**MAKE YOUR COMMITMENT** The Budget and Finance Committee and officers are finalizing the 2016 budget for the church council to approve Tuesday, January 19. In order to do that, we still need anyone who has not pledged to turn in their pledge today. Currently we have 232 pledging units with a total dollar amount of \$673,884. To date, we are behind in pledging by \$3,702 in comparison to pledges for 2015, and we need even more than that to meet our budgetary needs for 2016. If you have not pledged, PLEASE call Sharon Leidheiser at 614-228-1741 ext. 11 to make your commitment or email her at [sleidheiser@first-church.org](mailto:sleidheiser@first-church.org) or go online to our website <http://www.first-church.org/AnnualGivingForm.aspx> and submit your pledge.

**TOILETRIES FOR GOOD SAMARITAN DAY** The next Good Samaritan Day is Monday, February 8. Thank you for the contribution of personal hygiene items; they are really appreciated. Currently, the cupboard is bare. We are in need of the following items:

- Men's shampoo and/or body wash.
- Women's shampoo and/or body wash
- Women's deodorant.
- Men's Deodorant
- Disposable razors and shaving cream
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes.



A good source for these items in **full sizes** are Dollar Stores where everything in the store is \$1. Please leave your donations in the bin outside the church office. Thank you for your continued support of this vital outreach to the community.

**PREPARING FOR LENT** During the season of Lent, we will focus on Prayer. We welcome everyone to send your favorite prayer(s) or ones which you have written to share with the congregation. Please send them to Mark Williams [mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org) by January 24.

# Joys & Concerns

**CONGRATULATIONS** to and prayers for Heather Giffen on her Ordination today!

**MEMBERS:** Sarah Giffen, on the death of her father; Sandy Bennett and family, on the death of her mother, Vesta Williams; Mark Williams, on the death of his brother, Jim Williams; Dean Hafey, on the death of his mother, Bonnie Lou Hafey; Kay Neffenger and Deb Thompson, on the death of their mother and grandmother, Peggy Baumberger; Melissa Kulwicki and her aunt and uncle, Jim and Tommie Moore, on the death of Melissa's cousin, Tammi; Arlene Reynolds, Paul and Lou Flocken and family, on the death of their granddaughter and niece, Rebekah Salser-Hambor; Bob Davis, on the death of his mother; Gerhard Wolff; Martha Loy; Lucille Kropp; Grace Glaros; Bernie Martin; Van Barndt; Ray Pendell; Wib Smith; and for families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY:** Nancy Livingston's mother, Mildred Livingston, who is celebrating her 103 birthday; Denny Griffith; Manuela Abad, aunt of Thomas Santiago; Hannah and Jazlynn Szlapak, friends of Katie Gies; Carolyn Spellman, mother of Loretta Hoffman; Nell Cole's brother; and Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams.

**THROUGHOUT THE WORLD:** We pray for those suffering oppression in Egypt, Somalia, Ethiopia, Iraq and Syria. We pray for our brothers and sisters who are homeless, jobless, and lonely, without hope or resources.

**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 Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.

**MISSIONARIES:** This week, we pray for John Campbell-Nelson, serving in Indonesia.

*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 228-1741, ext. 10) or one of the ministers: [ecorzine@first-church.org](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org) or 228-1741, ext. 21, or [tabrens@first-church.org](mailto:tabrens@first-church.org) or 228-1741, ext. 13.*

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

### Sunday, January 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

- 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, Rooms C / D  
10 a.m. – BREAD Discussion – Large Conference Room  
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary  
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall  
12:15 p.m. – Long-Range Planning Discussion – Large Conference Room  
3 p.m. – Heather Giffen’s Ordination – Sanctuary

### Monday, January 18 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Church Office and Building Closed All Day

### Tuesday, January 19

- 2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room  
6 p.m. – Personnel Committee – Parish Family Room  
6 p.m. – BOBS Committee – Large Conference Room  
6 p.m. – Budget and Finance Committee – Adult Library  
7 p.m. – Church Council – Parish Hall

### Wednesday, January 20

- 10 a.m. – Book Study: *Without Buddha I Could Not Be Christian* – Parlor  
1 p.m. – Deadline for Newsletter

### Saturday, January 23

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

### Sunday, January 24 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

- 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, Rooms C / D  
10 a.m. – Long-Range Planning Discussion – Large Conference Room  
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary  
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall  
6 p.m. – Middle and High School Youth Meetings– Parish Hall

**MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK** 19-Jordan Cole, Cameron Wade; 20-John Deliman, Mike Henderson, Catherine Baird; 22-Sebby Kulwicki; 24-Joyce Ward, Sarah Lange, Kevin Butler, Benjamin Hunter; 25-Aryn Mason, Jack Koscher, Chase Washington

**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](http://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.*

## SANCTUARY FLOWER DEDICATIONS

There are opportunities available to celebrate a special event or remember a loved one through dedicating the sanctuary flowers on Sunday morning throughout the year. We have had flowers to celebrate baptisms, special anniversaries and special events here at First Church, for example. Did you know the Sanctuary flowers on Sunday are part of the ministry of First Church? Each Sunday, the Deacons make bouquets from the arrangement to deliver to those on the prayer list. If there has been a dedication, a bouquet is given to the family. The cost of the flowers is \$65, which covers what the church is charged by the florist. It is possible for a group of people to share the cost and dedicate the flowers on a specific Sunday. If you would like to dedicate flowers for Sunday 11 a.m. worship, please sign up on the flower chart located on the bulletin board outside the church office, or you can contact Marty Worth ([mworth@first-church.org](mailto:mworth@first-church.org)) and specify date or dates requested.



## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

### LEADERSHIP

<i>Senior Minister</i>	Timothy C. Ahrens, D. Min.
<i>Associate Minister</i>	Emily Krause Corzine, M. Div.
<i>Minister of Music</i>	Kevin Jones, M.M.
<i>Director of Christian Education</i>	Mark S. Williams, M. Ed.
<i>Commissioned Minister for Social Justice</i>	Tom Brownfield
<i>Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction</i>	Jacquelyn Dean
<i>Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus</i>	G. Dene Barnard
<i>Treble Choir Director</i>	Sandra Mathias, Ph.D.

### DIACONATE

<i>Senior Deacon</i>	Tom Kiesel
<i>Deacons</i>	Kathryn Bamberger, Sandy Bennett, Kris Brant, Valerie Conlin-Losinski, Sue Cook, Jackie Dean, Alec Dietz, Dean Hafey, Anne Hudson, Paul Leidheiser, Mary Lightbody, Jonathan Miller, Hugh Schultz, Lynn Wallich

### CHURCH STAFF

<i>Business Manager</i>	Sharon Leidheiser
<i>Program Manager</i>	Martha Worth
<i>Office Manager</i>	Amy Wagner
<i>Building Manager</i>	Thomas Santiago
<i>Custodian</i>	William Lee, Jimmy Sibrian, Onofre Franco-Chavez
<i>Wedding Coordinators</i>	Janet Axt, Margaret Cipriani
<i>Nursery Staff</i>	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.