



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE - MARCH 27, 2016

BUTTERFLIES TEACH ABOUT RESURRECTION The Christian Education Ministry uses the life cycle of the Painted Lady butterfly to illustrate the concept of resurrection. This lesson has been used for many years with great enjoyment. A new approach will be used due to Easter being early this year. Instead of releasing the butterflies on Easter, each child (family) will receive one butterfly to take home. Instructions will be given to each child on how to care for this beautiful insect. Start planning now by getting a shoe box and decorating it for your butterfly. We encourage everyone to take pictures of the process and share with us on the church website and Face Book page. This will continue the learning of Easter and be environmentally friendly to the butterflies.

Here is the story to share with your child: *The “baby butterflies” arrive as larvae. They must quickly be put into individual cups with food to last them through this part of their life cycle. We watch them grow until the worms look too big for their cups. Within two weeks, the worm attaches itself to the lid of the cup and forms a chrysalis. They hang there for another week looking dead. There is no movement or visible change. The children have compared the chrysalis to a cave. If we’re really lucky, we will be able to observe the butterflies emerging from their chrysalis. It takes about two hours for the butterflies to pump fluid to their wings and for them to dry and harden. At this point, they can fly and go looking for something to eat. At this point you may release the butterfly outside. The release of Painted Lady butterflies is environmentally friendly because they will pollinate our flowers.*

“PRAY & PLAY” SPRING RETREAT APRIL 15-17 Join the First Church family as they head toward the hills – Pilgrim Hills that is. Our Spring Retreat, “Pray & Play,” is Friday evening, April 15, through Sunday morning, April 17. Please mark your calendars and plan to bring your whole family or just yourself. Our weekend will include hiking, nature talks and activities, devotions, basketball, fishing, a folk dance for all ages, a campfire with s’mores, crafts, singing and worship at camp Sunday morning. All First Church children and youth are able to attend at no cost thanks to an Alma Keeler grant. Adults are \$95 each, which includes food, lodging and program costs. Deadline for registration is April 10. We have space for 70 people– let’s fill it! Brochure and registration forms are available in the church office and on the Web site. Contact Mark S. Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org for information.

MBTI WORKSHOP SATURDAY, APRIL 9 FROM 9:30 A.M. – 12 NOON IN PARISH HALL What’s your personality type? If you would like to discover why you do what you do, or how you are wired in your brain, this workshop is for you. For example, are you an Introvert or Extravert? A Sensor or an Intuitive? A Thinker or a Feeler? A Perceiver or a Judger? If you find yourself sitting alone in a corner at a party or family gathering, there is a reason for that. If you find that you are the “life of the party” everywhere you go, there is also a reason for that. Rev. Ahrens is offering this MBTI workshop. Past participants, both couples and individuals, have loved coming away with new insights into the dynamics of who they are and what they do. We have over 20 people already signed up, and we can easily have accommodate 30 or more. Contact Rev. Tim at tahrens@first-church.org or Amy Wagner, awagner@first-church.org and sign-up. If you don’t have email, call the church office at 614-228-1741, ext. 10. All participants will need to fill out and have scored your MBTI in advance of the class. We have Questions and the Answer sheets in the church office. They must be back to me by Wednesday, April 6.

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 614-228-1741, ext.13.

ORGANIST JASON ROBERTS IN RECITAL, SUNDAY, APRIL 10 AT 4 P.M. Jason Roberts, Associate Director of Music, Organist and the Director of the Boy and Girl Choristers at the famed St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City, presents an organ recital at First Church as part of the Congregational Concerts series. His program will include the music of Marcel Dupré, Maurice Ravel and others, as well as a grand improvisation to close the concert. Jason is a sought-after recitalist in the U.S. and was chosen to play last summer at the Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Hartford, CT. An avid improviser, he won first prize at the AGO National Competition in Organ Improvisation in 2008 and was a finalist at the St. Alban's International Organ Competition in 2011 (Improvisation). Jason is a seasoned choir trainer, whose entire life has revolved around the Anglican Church, having begun singing as a Chorister in the Cathedral Choir in Perth, Australia.

APPEAL FOR NEW CHOIR VESTMENTS As the First Church Choir's vestments wear and increasingly show their age, it has become apparent to the Music Committee and Choir members that they have served their design life and need to be replaced. Over the years, they have seen weekly usage in worship and special services, concerts, tours to Nashville, Washington D.C., New England and the United Kingdom. The Music Committee forwarded the proposal for new vestments to Council for approval to fundraise. As part of the fundraising for new vestments for the First Church Choir, we will also undertake a campaign to replace the very-long-in-the-tooth Treble Choir vestments – most of which are more than 40 years old! The cost for an adult cassock and cotta is \$203. The cost for a child's cassock and cotta is \$186. We will need to purchase 60 adult robes and 20 children's robes so that we have the variety of sizes that are required. If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of these vestments, or if you would like to sponsor a complete vestment (or two), perhaps as a memorial or in honor of a current chorister, please send a check to Marty Worth, Program Manager, c/o First Church (444 East Broad, Columbus, OH 43215), and note "choir vestments" in the memo line. Forms are available in the Main Office, or on the homepage of the website, www.first-church.org. Thank you for your generosity and support of the choral program and music in general at First Church. Our choirs enliven our community worship life and contribute so much to the overall experience of First Church.

FIRST CHURCH JOYS AND CONCERNS

Keep these members and friends in your prayers during the week.

MEMBERS: John Carter; Arlene Reynolds; Madeline Helmer; Wib Smith; Sandy Bennett; Lucille Kropp; Bernie Martin; Ray Pendell; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including Gretchen Weller, on the death of her mother, Marcia Smith; Elaine Stewart and family, on the death of her wife, Darla Luebbe; Mary Anne Jacobson, on the death of her father; Bert Cook, on the death of his father.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Sam, nephew of Christy Carlson; Ron, brother-in-law of Kim Hopcraft; Joe LaBute and his family and friends; Marjorie Kufel, mother of Sharon Leidheiser; and Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD We pray for the citizens of Brussels, Belgium, who experienced terrorist attacks which left many dead and injured.

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 China, Hong Kong, and Macao.

MISSIONARIES: This week, we pray for Nancy Lott Henry, serving in India.

If you have any prayer requests or joys to share, please contact the church office (awagner@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 10) or one of the ministers (tahrens@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 13 or ecorzine@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 21).