



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE - APRIL 16, 2017

WHY BUTTERFLIES? We learn in many ways and through different senses. One way our faith is taught is through the use of symbols. As adults, we understand that the communion bread and wine on Sunday morning are symbols of the body of Christ. Children are likely to see these symbolic items in a more literal way. Using a child's imagination and symbols enables us to teach very complicated lessons in a way they are capable of comprehending. As they mature they will make the transition between the symbolic and the theological. Butterflies have long been used as a symbol for new life. Their rapid growth from larvae to caterpillar enables a child's short attention span to recognize the changes. The spinning into a chrysalis stage, where they appear to be dead, sets the stage for their "birth" as beautiful butterflies. The release of butterflies on Easter morning is the final symbol – that of resurrection. The children may not be able to articulate why we release butterflies on Easter morning, but they are learning by observing and participating in this symbolic gesture.



SCHEDULING OR LEASING A ROOM If you need to schedule or lease a room at the church please contact Sharon Leidheiser at 614-228-1741 ext. 11 or Sleidheiser@first-church.org to make arrangements and to verify the room you need is available. Please schedule at least 1 week in advance. For a special request please email the information. Thank you!

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS: TIME TO RENEW OR SIGN UP First Church is enrolled in Kroger's Community Rewards Program which will link purchases made with your Kroger's Plus Card so that a portion of the sale is donated back to First Church. A portion of your qualifying purchases will be donated to your choice of the following: First Congregational Church #84966 – used for the church general budget; or First Church Choir #81813 - proceeds used to support choir activities. Your enrollment expires after March 31, so please re-enroll each year. To renew, please enter www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow into your web browser. Thank you for your support!

SEEKING A CHURCH IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS? CHECK US OUT! First Church has been a light in the city for 165 years. We worship every Sunday at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. with two different services. We engage our community by living our faith for the cause of justice and mercy in our city, the nation and the world. Come back often and engage your spiritual journey here with us. If you are interested in learning more about First Congregational Church, UCC, please contact a Deacon following worship or contact Associate Minister, Rev. Emily Krause Corzine at ecorzine@first-church.org or 614-228-1741 x21.

A NEW MEMBER CLASS is forming for May. Please contact Emily Corzine at ecorzine@first-church.org or 614-228-1741 x21 if you are interested.

LAST CONGREGATIONAL CONCERT OF THE SEASON Handbells Columbus returns to the First Church stage for the final concert of the 2016-2017 season on April 23 @ 4 p.m. Handbells Columbus is a community handbell ensemble formed in 2006 to provide advanced ringing opportunities for Central Ohio handbell ringers, several whom were members of the former Symphonic Handbells of Columbus. This year, they welcome composer and organist Karen Buckwalter.

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William C. Heer, given by his family.

FIRST QUARTER STATEMENTS are in the member mailboxes by the elevator. Please pick up your statement to save us the cost of postage for mailing. Thank you!

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK Today -Virginia O'Neill, Julie Trace, Katie Trace, Nina Zimmerman; 19-Madalyn Dean, Christopher Gelpi; 20-Alejandro Rodriguez; 21-Gretchen Fleurant, Kim Kutschbach; 22-Emma Welsh-Huggins, Thomas Welsh-Huggins

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK 18-Maria and Anthony Brown, Christina and David Kirker, Sharon and Gary Leidheiser, Joyce and Craig Oyler; 20-Laura and Hamish Baird, Mary Anne and Todd Jacobson; 21-Cathy and Wayne Redenbarger

FIRST CHURCH JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

MEMBERS Kaye and John Martin; Scott Barker; Madeline Helmer; Valerie and Phil Stichter; Julie Stewart; Ron Cook; Jane Weddle; Bernie Martin; Ray Pendell; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including Jim Griffen, on the death of his friend, Danny McNeeley; Kristen Blanks, on the death of her grandfather, Dominick Maimone; Dick, Rick and Anne Bennett and family, on the death of Sandy Bennett; and Larry Walquist and family, on the death of Sharon Walquist.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Donna, mother of Neal Brower; Holly Reed, sister of Kathy Reed; Laelynn Hope LaRosa and family, friend of Brittany Logel; Betty Garrison, mother of Kim Hopcraft; Dick Kevan, husband of Jan Kevan; Ronald Lee, brother of William Lee; Bob Childs, brother-in-law of Martha Huey; James Barnard, brother of Dene Barnard; James Smith, Joe and Marjorie Kufel, parents of Sharon Leidheiser; and Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams; and Rich Stopek and family, on the loss of his mother.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD We pray for the victims and their families of the school shooting in San Bernardino. We pray for the people of Syria after the attack with chemical gas. We pray for those affected by famine in South Sudan. We pray for churches of Egypt.

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 Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.

MISSIONARIES This week, we pray for Jeffrey Mensendiek, serving in Japan.

NEED PRAYER? 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: ecorzine@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 21, or tahrens@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 13.