



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE - APRIL 1, 2018

ATTENTION ALL BOOK LOVERS! BOOK CLUB MEETING ON SUNDAY, APRIL 8 Read something lately that has you bursting to discuss? If you love books, the First Church Book Club may be for you. The focus will be on fiction, with an occasional non-fiction thrown in at the group's discretion. Meet Jackie Dean and Elaine Warren for a brief organizational meeting in the Parlor following the 11 a.m. service on April 8. Can't make the meeting? Contact Mary Anne Jacobson at marytoddj@gmail.com with ideas, suggestions, and requests.

FORMATIVE DISCUSSIONS FOR ADULTS ON APRIL 8, 15, 22 AT 10 A.M. IN ROOM D Equality Ohio will present a series of courses on Becoming Faithfully Inclusive:

- **Faithful Kinship:** In this training we will explore the idea of "being an ally" and answer the question "who are my kin?"
- **Sanctuary:** creating a welcoming space for the genderqueer community and their families: In this training we will discuss the spiritual and physical characteristics of a faith community that is ready to serve as a sanctuary for those with gender-nonconforming identities.
- **Tending and Keeping the Soul:** What are the unique challenges to soul care that LGBTQ people face in the context of faith communities? How can a faith community begin to create a culture that cares for the souls of LGBTQ members? What about when our leader is also an LGBTQ person?

REGISTRATION FOR THE SPRING RETREAT IS NOW ONLINE Go to www.first-church.org to register. The deadline is April 10. The Spring Retreat will be April 20-22 at Temple Hills Camp and Retreat Center.

THE FIRST-EVER CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL ON SATURDAY, APRIL 14 AT 4 P.M. Congregational Concerts will present a Children's Choir Festival on Saturday, April 14, at 4 p.m. in the First Church Nave. Envisioned and organized by First Church Jubilate Choir director Dr. Sandra Mathias, the Children's Choir Festival will gather nearly 100 treble voices from around the Central Ohio region to work with renowned choral master Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, formerly music director of the American Boychoir, and the newly-appointed artistic director of the Los Angeles Children's Chorus. The concert is free and open to the public. Please come, invite your family and friends, and bring a young singer who may be inspired by experiencing this amazing festival of young voices!

SAFE CHURCH POLICY TEAM PLANS PRESENTATION AND DRILL ON APRIL 15 The Safe Church Policy Team has been working for over a year on updating and improving safety procedures. On April 15, the team will give a presentation after each worship service to review Fire, Severe Weather and Interruption of Worship procedures. At the end of the presentation, the congregation will practice a Severe Weather drill.

FLOWER/VEGETABLE SALE FOR YOUTH THROUGH APRIL 15 View the order form at www.first-church.org or place your order with any youth member.

SAVE THE DATE

- Saturday, April 7 at 1 p.m. Memorial Service for Robert Pusecker
- Sunday, April 29 Interfaith March for Peace and Justice

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. If you are interested in learning more about First Congregational Church, UCC, please contact Associate Minister Rev. Emily Krause Corzine at ecorzine@first-church.org or 614-228-1741 x21.

FIRST CHURCH JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS Nancy Jeffrey; Rick Henderson; Andrew McGregor; Herb Goetz; Wally Giffen; Alaina Thompson; Nell Cole; Jude Gelfius; Don Streibig; Lindy Miller; Carl Miller; Virginia O'Neill; and families and friends who mourn the loss of loved ones, including Cindy Deliman, on the death of her uncle.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Jim Fletcher, cousin of Paul and Gary Leidheiser; Dan Pendell; Brooke Chute, cousin of Amy Wagner; Ben Brewer, friend of Melva Fisher; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including Susan Pusecker, on the death of her husband, Robert.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD We pray for all who work for social justice in this community, nation and world. We pray for peace in our world. We pray for our world leaders and for collaborative efforts for diplomacy. We pray for an end to gun violence and for those who contemplate acting on thoughts of violence. We pray for the communities of Parkland, Florida and Great Mills, Maryland and for all schools and communities who face the threat of violence. We pray for the family and friends of Stephon Clark and for the City of Sacramento, California.

IN GOD'S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE This week we pray with and for the people and churches of Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia.

MISSIONARIES This week we pray for Mark Behle serving in Lesotho.

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.

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.

- Use the QR code - click to give.
- 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. Pay with credit card or through your checking or savings account. Use the links for easyTithe or PayPal.
- Other Gifts: Please designate your intention: Memorials, flowers, fund raising projects, music, education, Building Endowment, House and Grounds Special Projects, etc.



OFFERING TOTAL FOR LAST WEEK'S MISSION

March 25 – \$2,048.00 – Good Samaritan Fund

NEXT WEEK'S MISSION OFFERING Camp Scholarships

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK 1 – Bill Catus; 2 – Laura Baird, Pete Boriin, Bill Lange, AnnaSophia Severson; 3 – Nicole Spears; 4 – Peter Unkovic, Al Waddell; 6 – Meg Brown; 7 – Stefanie Bohnert, Dana Schultz

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK 4 – Abby and Brian Cave, Amy and David Mailer

REMINDER: THE WEDNESDAY BOOK STUDY WILL NOT MEET THIS WEEK.