

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

DEPART TO SERVE

JANUARY 24, 2016



**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 164th 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!



SECOND LONG-RANGE PLANNING MEETING First Church's Long-Range Planning Committee invites members of the congregation to discuss the proposed long-range plan today at 10 a.m. in the Large Conference Room. 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."



WELCOME ALL RETIREES The Second Thursday Fellowship will meet on Thursday, February 11 at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor to hear Frank and Sue Cook talk about their travels in Ethiopia and Japan.

VALENTINES FOR NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

On Saturday, January 30, the children of First Church invite everyone to help make Valentine Day Cards for the patients of Nationwide Children's Hospital. We will be in the Parish Hall from 10 a.m. until Noon. We need stickers, glue sticks and many hands to help in this mission project.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR The youth will be selling Valentine's Day Fudge and Pancake Dinner tickets the next two Sundays. The Annual Pancake Dinner is February 9.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PLEDGE FOR 2016 Current pledge commitments for 2016 have exceeded 2015 by \$2,767, and that's something to celebrate. We have \$680,104 in pledge commitments and 236 households have pledged for 2016 so far. However, we still need more pledges to meet the 2016 budget. If you have not pledged, PLEASE call Sharon Leidheiser at 614-228-1741 ext. 11 to make your commitment, email Sharon at 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.

Joys & Concerns

MEMBERS: Mike Rippel, on the death of his aunt; 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; 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: CCAD faculty, staff and students and the family and friends of Denny Griffith, who died January 18; Betty Johnson's aunt and uncle, Raleigh and Brenda Amburgey, on the death of their daughter; 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 Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.

MISSIONARIES: This week, we pray for Nate Bailey, serving in Israel Palestine.

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

- **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1 AT 7 P.M.** –Interfaith Scripture Study in the Parish Hall
- **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 AT 12:15 P.M.** – First Tuesdays Concert featuring organist David Crean, followed by lunch in the Parish Hall
- **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016 AT 9 A.M.** – Good Samaritan Day
- **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 10:30 A.M.**– Second Thursday Fellowship meeting in the Parlor



THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, January 24 – 3rd 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

Monday, January 25

- 7 p.m. – Interfaith Scripture Study – Parish Hall

Tuesday, January 26

- 2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room
6 p.m. – Laundry Love – Wash Land Laundromat,
1469 West Broad Street, West Franklinton

Wednesday, January 27

- 9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Large Conference Room

Thursday, January 28

- 6 p.m. – First Church Ringers Rehearsal – Education Wing Room J
7:30 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Parish Hall

Saturday, January 30

- 10 a.m. – Youth Sunday Practice – Sanctuary
10 a.m. – Valentine Making –Parish Hall
1 p.m. – Youth Fudge Making – Kitchen

Sunday, January 31 – Youth Sunday / Annual Meeting

- 9 a.m. – Teen and Treble Choirs Rehearsal – Choir and Music Activities Rooms
9 a.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
10 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
11 a.m. – Annual Meeting – Sanctuary
12:15 – Annual Chili Cook Off – Parish Hall

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK 26-Julie Stewart; 27-Tanya Miller; 28-Teresa Polo, Alec Deitz, Katie Kutschbach; 29-Jane Ward, Amy Fulton, Wayne Henry, Sarah Mitchell; 31-Hamish Baird, Laura Collins

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.*

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 by January 24.

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) 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.