

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE

FEBRUARY 25, 2018

FORMATIVE DISCUSSIONS FOR ADULTS In this six-session study, we will consider the various aspects of forgiveness, a concept perhaps more central to Christianity than to any other religion. Christians differ widely in their interpretations of how forgiveness should be practiced. Some urge forgiveness as a Christian duty under all circumstances, while others argue that certain conditions must be met before forgiveness can be meaningful or effective. How do we sort through such competing claims and interpretations? And how do we get past some of our emotional barriers to real forgiveness? These are the kinds of the questions we will explore together in this study of a theme particularly well-suited to the season of Lent but fit for any season of our lives. The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston will lead the 10 a.m. session in Education Wing Room D.



THE GREAT FISH FRY TOUR Missed the first two frys? **NEVER FEAR!** You have two more opportunities!
5:30 pm \$10/adult \$5/child

- **Friday, March 16:** St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church, 4131 Clime Road, Columbus, OH 43228
- **Friday, March 23:** Our Lady of Victory, Parish Life Center, 1559 Roxbury Rd., Columbus, OH 43212

THE NEXT NEW MEMBERS CLASS WILL MEET MARCH 4 AND 11 AT 10 A.M. Contact Rev. Emily Corzine ecorzine@first-church.org for more information.

DEEP GRIHA BBQ First Community Church will host a dinner to raise funds for Deep Griha, USA and to solicit for Child Sponsorships. This year's event will be held on **Sunday, March 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 at North Campus.** The dinner will feature the delicious food of City Barbeque as well as some tantalizing vegetarian dishes. We are pleased to welcome Dick Celeste as our guest speaker. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under. Sign-up sheet will be in the First Church office.

FREE BOOKS Check the mezzanine in Parish Hall – help yourself!



CONGREGATIONAL CONCERTS presents organist Dexter Kennedy on **Sunday, March 4, at 4 p.m.** Mr. Kennedy, winner of the 24th Chartres International Organ Festival, plays music by Bach, Heiller, Litaize, Muffat, Reubke and others on both Beckerath and Kimball organs. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information on the program and artist, please see concertsatfirstchurch.org.

MARK THE DATE! LENTEN SMALL GROUPS The theme this year is *Forgiveness*. In addition to our traditional neighborhood groups, Rev. Tim Ahrens will lead a group in the Parlor at church on Wednesdays at 12:15-1:45 p.m., and Rev. Emily Corzine will host a web-based gathering, an evening time from the comfort of your own home – great for working families. Interested? Email Marty Worth mworth@first-church.org if you want to participate or would like to host and or lead a group in your neighborhood. The neighborhood groups will meet 4 times:

Wednesdays: February 28, March 7, 14 and 21 at 7 p.m.

- Meet at Church – Rev. Tim Ahrens Wednesdays 12:15-1:45 p.m. tahrens@first-church.org
- Web-based meet online (group to determine time) – Rev. Emily Corzine ecorzine@first-church.org

Neighborhood Groups

- Elaine Warren – Gahanna 614-337-9935 melainewarren232@gmail.com
- Janet Newcity – Victorian Village 43201 jnewcity@gmail.com
- Marty Worth – Upper Arlington 614-228-1741 ext. 14 mworth@first-church.org

Please contact the group most convenient to you to say you will be attending.

RALLY TO END RACISM All Faith groups are called to action on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who once said, “A time comes when silence is betrayal.” The Ohio Council of Churches and the Ohio Conference UCC are providing buses to the Rally in Washington, D.C., April 3-4. The Columbus bus will depart at 10 p.m. on April 3, arriving for the Interfaith Service of Prayer on April 4, 7:30 a.m. at the Lincoln Memorial. Participants then walk 1.3 miles to the National Mall for the Rally. Return bus will arrive in Columbus approx. 1 a.m. April 5. Bus fare will be reimbursed by the Ohio Conference UCC and First Church. A copy of the registration is needed for reimbursement from First Church. Use this link to register for bus transportation: <https://ohcouncilchs.org/calendar-of-events>.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS Lindy Miller; Carl Miller; Virginia O'Neill; and families and friends who mourn the loss of loved ones, including Gail Johannes, Emily Johannes, and Barb Clapham, on the death of their husband, father and brother, Bill Johannes; Joan Lebold, on the death of her son-in-law, Jay Stoerker; and Pavan Peter, on the death of his aunt.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Bob Murdock, father of Melissa Weygandt; the Bice Family; Ben Brewer, friend of Melva Fisher; Ruth Smith, sister of Judy Smith; Lois Mitchell and John Mitchell, mother and brother of Melissa Mitchell; Chelsea Donelson, friend of Valerie Conlin-Losinski; Ward Porch; Joyce Marcum, sister of Betty Conn; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD We pray for the victims of the school shooting in Parkland Florida. We pray for all students and educators. We pray for all who struggle with mental illness. We pray for all Olympians.

IN GOD'S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE This week we pray with and for the people and churches of Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

MISSIONARIES This week we pray for Joanines Adorno-Diaz serving in India.

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.

NOTES OF SUPPORT FOR PARKLAND The Congregation is invited to write a note of encouragement to the students, faculty and parents of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida after each worship service. We encourage children to draw pictures if they cannot write. Note cards, pens and markers will be provided in the Parish Hall. We will collect and send all the notes at one time.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, February 25: Lent II

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
– Parish Hall
9 a.m. – Exultate Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
9 a.m. – Jubilate Choir – Music Activities Room
10 a.m. – First Church Choir Warm Up – Choir Room
10 a.m. – Faith Formation Time – Education Wing
Room D
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
6 p.m. – High School Youth Group – Parish Hall

Monday, February 26

6 p.m. – Budget and Finance – Ralph Fanning Room
7 p.m. – Deacons – Education Wing Room D

Tuesday, February 27

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

Wednesday, February 28

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room
12: 15 p.m. –Lenten Small Group – Ralph Fanning Room
4 p.m. – Office Closes

Thursday, March 1

6 p.m. – First Church Ringers – Education Wing Room J
7:15 p.m. – First Church Choir – Parish Hall

Saturday, March 3

9 a.m. – Hymnal Supplement Committee – Choir Room
9:30 a.m. – Youth to COST – meet at church

Sunday, March 4: Lent III

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
– Parish Hall
9 a.m. – Exultate Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
9 a.m. – Jubilate Choir – Music Activities Room
10 a.m. – New Members Class – Parlor
10 a.m. – First Church Choir Warm Up – Choir Room
10 a.m. – Faith Formation Time – Education Wing
Room D
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
12:30 – Confirmation – Education Wing Room D
4 p.m. – Organ Recital: Dexter Kennedy – Sanctuary

COPIES OF TODAY'S SERMON can be found in the office or at the Broad Street entrance to the Sanctuary.

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK Today – Michael Koscher, Julia Myers; 27 – Kim Hopcraft; 28 – Connie Johnson, Melva Fisher, Denny Wojtanowski; 29 – Tammy Alexander; 3/1 – Emily Kutschbach-Schmidt; 3/2 – Hudson Cave, Sheldon Taft; 3/3 – Lyle Barkhymer, Bruce Panek, Mitchell Gelpi

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK 2/27 Denny and Carmen Wojtanowski; 3/1 Ellen and Peter Borriin; 3/3 – Debbie Yontz and Keith White

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 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** or <http://www.first-church.org/give.aspx> and then click or copy the link into your browser to set up an account and pay with your credit card or through your checking or savings account.

easyTithe

<http://www.easytithe.com/dl/?uid=Firs444421>

PayPal

<https://www.paypal.com/signup/accountCreate>

- **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

February 18 – \$845.01 – Deep Griha Scholarships

NEXT WEEK'S MISSION OFFERING

Deep Griha

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Minister	Timothy C. Ahrens, D. Min.
Associate Minister	Emily Krause Corzine, M. Div.
Minister of Music	Kevin Jones, M. M.
Director of Christian Education	Mark S. Williams, M. Ed.
Commissioned Minister for Social Justice	Tom Brownfield
Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction	Jacquelyn Dean
Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus	G. Dene Barnard
Jubilate and Exultate Choir Director	Sandra Mathias, Ph.D.
Business Manager	Sharon Leidheiser
Program Manager	Martha Worth
Office Manager	Amy Wagner
Building & Grounds Superintendent	Mark Dahnke
Custodians	William Lee, Jimmy Sibrian
Wedding Coordinators	Janet Axt, Margaret Cipriani, Diana Chandler, Amy Wagner, Katie Wagner
Nursery Staff	Simone Ellerson, Natalie Barker, Taylre Arnold, Miranda Brooks

DIACONATE

Senior Deacon	Janet Newcity
Deacons	Anthony Brown, Valerie Conlin-Losinski, Bert Cook, Martha Fulleman, Shelly Gies, Todd Jacobson, Dayna McCrary, Karen Mozingo, David Nassau, Cori Page, Allison Lowery Palmer, Jorge Polo, Alex Rodriguez, James Velo

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator	Joe Baszynski
Moderator-Elect	Lynn Wallich
Treasurer	Joe Hoffman
Assistant Treasurer	Matt Myers
Secretary	Nancy Loy
Assistant Secretary	TBD

COMMISSIONERS

Administration	Chris Glaros, Elect - Greg Kellison
Church Growth/Vitality	Tom Kiesel and Mary Anne Jacobson, co-chairs; Elect - Maria Brown and Lisa Fravel-Dean
Education	Chris Gelpi, Elect - Jennifer Provenzano
House & Grounds	Gary Leidheiser, Elect - Mark Brown
Justice & Mercy	Dawn George, Elect - Nicole Moss
Music, Arts, & Heritage	Joel Mathias, Elect - Drew Wade
Nominating Chair	Kent Shimeall
Member-at-large	Pavan Peter
Youth-at-large	Miriam Myers
Deacon Council Representative	Todd Jacobson

TRUSTEES

Chairperson	Chris Farquhar
Treasurer	
Trustees	Brian Cave, Tom Hadley, John Martin, Sheldon Taft, Keith White, Gerry Worth,

WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG

Parent/ Children Worship Resources

A Worship Activity Pack for Parents and Children, crayons and Children's Bulletins are available at each entrance. Included in the pack is a delightful coloring book, "Be The Church," that teaches wonderful lessons about who we are as a faith community. Ask an usher/greeter or Deacon for your own copy!

**“GET ME TO THE CHURCH ON TIME”
UPDATES ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

We are striving to keep everyone informed on upcoming construction projects and schedules, how you can get into the church parking lots, and how you will access the building.



Church Electrical Service Underground Installation

This project, paid for by the City of Columbus, will install new electrical transformers near the Carriage House. Underground ducts will be installed to connect the electrical feed from the transformer to the existing underground feeders coming into the church building. Once operational, telephone poles along the alley will be removed.

Construction Start: Week of February 26, 2018

Anticipated Completion: 4-5 weeks

Current Activity: Pending. The ramp between the West Lot and the alley will be closed during this work. Some parts of the West Lot will be closed for trenching and equipment access.

Parking Access: The West Lot can be accessed from Cleveland Avenue. North Lot unchanged.

Building Access: From the North Lot, unchanged. From the West Lot, use the sidewalk at the center of the lot to come around the construction fence to the West or Broad Street doors.

Gladden Social Justice Park

This church project will transform the south end of the West Lot along Broad Street and along the east side of Cleveland Avenue into a community green space with numerous special features and artwork.

Anticipated Completion: August 1, 2018

Current Activity: Excavation and debris removal continues.

Parking Access: The parking lot entrance from Broad Street to the West Lot is closed for the duration of project. The West Lot can be accessed from Cleveland Avenue, the alley north of the Carriage House,

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and from the North Lot and Gay Street via the alley except as noted above.

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Creative Campus Roadway Improvements

This City of Columbus project will upgrade the roadway, sidewalks, pedestrian safety, lighting and aesthetic elements of Cleveland Avenue, Gay Street, Ninth Street and Washington Avenue.

Construction Start: February 26, 2018

Anticipated Completion: October 22, 2018

Upcoming Activity: Gay Street will be closed from Cleveland Avenue to Washington Avenue. Cleveland Avenue will be northbound only starting March 12. Ninth Street will temporarily be changed to 2-way traffic. Major construction will be on-going in 7 Phases with various completion dates.

Parking Access: The West Lot can be accessed from Cleveland Avenue northbound from Broad Street only, and from the North Lot via the alley. Access to the North Lot will be from Ninth Street northbound from Broad Street. Coming from the north we recommend exiting 71 South at Broad Street. From 670, take Cleveland Avenue to Long Street. East on Long Street to Washington Avenue south to Broad Street.

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Building Exterior Restoration – Phase 1

This church project will be performed on the eastern ‘Parish House’ part of the building and will include removal and rebuilding of all windows, replacement of steel lintels, and tuck pointing all mortar joints. Offices and meeting spaces will be relocated during this time. Scheduling for all meetings and use of the building is mandatory.

Construction Start: April 2, 2018

Anticipated Completion: August 31, 2018

Activity and Access: More information coming soon.

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