

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE

JANUARY 3, 2016

HEATHER GIFFEN'S ORDINATION ON JANUARY 17 AT 3 P.M.

The entire congregation is invited to the ordination of Ms. Heather Giffen into Christian Ministry. Having completed her undergraduate degree at Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio and then having completed her Master of Divinity degree at United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, Minnesota, and having received the call to Christian Ministry as an Associate Pastor of the Church of the Apostles United Church of Christ in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Heather is ready to be ordained. Join us for this wonderful celebration!

JANUARY 31 - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND CHILI COOK OFF

We will have ONE service of worship 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 Parish Hall for our Fourth Annual Chili Cook-off! Please mark your calendar and plan to attend our annual congregational meeting.



SNOW TUBING The Youth Groups will be traveling to Snow Trails for a fun evening of snow tubing on Friday, January 15, if we have snow. The cost is only \$10 for each youth. We will meet in the parking lot of Costco in Polaris at 4:30 p.m. The deadline to register is January 13. More information will be posted throughout the church. For more information, contact Mark S. Williams.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING MEETINGS First Church's Long-Range Planning Committee invites members of the congregation to discuss the proposed long-range plan on Sunday, January 17, at 12:15 p.m. and Sunday, January 24, at 10 a.m. at the church. Members may attend either session. The agenda will be the same for both sessions.

- **MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016** – Annual Reports due to Amy Wagner awagner@first-church.org
- **MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016 AT 7 P.M.**– Interfaith Scripture Study
- **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016 AT 11 A.M.** – Book Study: “Showdown”
- **MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016 AT 9 A.M.** – Good Samaritan Day
- **FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016 AT 4:30**– Youth Snow Tubing: Meet at Costco Polaris Parking Lot



Looking Ahead...

January 10 - The Baptism of Our Lord

Preacher: Rev. Emily Corzine
Baptismal Meditation: “Claimed”
Texts: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17 – Second Sunday After Epiphany

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday
Preacher: Rev. Deb Click
Texts: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; I Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 24 – Third Sunday After Epiphany

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ahrens
Sermon: “In Word and Deed”
Texts: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19, I Corinthians 12:21-31a; Luke 4:14-21

January 31 – Fourth Sunday After Epiphany – Youth Sunday one service at 10 a.m.

164th Annual Congregational Meeting
Texts: Jeremiah 1:4-20; Psalm 71:1-6; I Corinthians 13; Luke 4:21-3

Joys & Concerns

MEMBERS: Arlene Reynolds, Paul Flocken and family, on the death of their granddaughter and niece, Rebekah Salser-Hambor; Bob Davis, on the death of his mother; Joe Baszynski, on the death of his grandmother Loraine Hanson; Gerhard Wolff; Christina Holt; 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: Carolyn Spellman, mother of Loretta Hoffman; Jim Williams, brother of Mark Williams; Michael Harbin and Warren McPherson, on the death of Warren's father, Thomas; Alfred Castillo, uncle of Ed Solis; Nell Cole's brother; and Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD: We offer prayers for peace around the world. We pray for all those affected by flooding across the country.

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 Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, and the Occupied Palestine Territories.

MISSIONARIES: This week, we pray for Michael Joseph, serving in Columbia.

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, January 3 – Christmas II

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion – Parish Hall
10 a.m. – Christian Education – Ed Wing, Rooms C / D
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

Monday, January 4

Annual Reports Due
7 p.m. – Interfaith Scripture Study – Parish Hall

Tuesday, January 5

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room
5 p.m. – Budget and Finance Special Meeting – Large Conference Room
6:30 p.m. – Christian Education – Education Wing Room D
7 p.m. – Justice and Mercy – Large Conference Room

Wednesday, January 6

11 a.m. – Book Study: *Showdown* – Parlor

Thursday, January 7

7:30 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Parish Hall

Sunday, January 10 – Baptism of Our Lord

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. – BREAD Discussion – Large Conference Room
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
6 p.m. – High School Youth Meetings– Parish Hall

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK 4-Mark Williams; 5-James Woodard, Tom Hadley II; 6-Emily Cooke; 7-Harry Guynn, Gary Gray; 8-Michaele Bishop; 11-Ray Pendell

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK 5-Malina Gnanatheeban and Pavan Peter

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.*

SHARE THE LOVE There are so many things to love about First Church. Please consider sharing our love with others by:

- "Like" our church's Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchCbus>
- Follow us on Instagram @firstchurchcbus



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.