

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE

MARCH 4, 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. The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston will lead the 10 a.m. session in Education Wing Room D.

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERTS presents organist Dexter Kennedy today, **March 4 at 4 p.m.** 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.

SAVE THE DATE: WOMEN'S RETREAT: "ONE THOUSAND AND ONE GIFTS" Most of us spend a great deal of time each day doing things that we think will give us the life we want. Instead, we find ourselves overwhelmed, stretched thin, out of time, frustrated and then just wanting more. One Thousand and One Gifts is a "way of seeing that opens your eyes to gratitude" - the very act of just expressing thanks for the things you already have in your life. Come on Saturday, March 17, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and experience God's presence in your everyday life. Please meet in the Ralph Fanning Room and bring a brunch item to share. Coffee and tea provided. Call Jackie Dean, 614-868-0485 for more information.

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES COLUMBUS – MARCH 24 – 11 A.M. STATE CAPITAL Not one more. We cannot allow one more child to be shot at school. We cannot allow one more teacher to make a choice to jump in front of a firing assault rifle to save the lives of students. We cannot allow one more family to wait for a call or text that never comes. Our schools are unsafe. Our children and teachers are dying. We must make it our top priority to save these lives. Join First Church Youth and UCC Ohio Conference Youth who will meet at the church at 10 a.m. and will walk to the State House. Watch for more details on the church website and Facebook page and via email.

LENTEN SMALL GROUPS The theme this year is *Forgiveness*.

- 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 jnewcity@gmail.com
- Marty Worth – Upper Arlington 614-228-1741, ext. 14 mworth@first-church.org

Remaining neighborhood groups will meet **Wednesdays March 7, 14 and 21 at 7 p.m.** Please contact the group most convenient to you to say you will be attending.

THE GREAT FISH FRY TOUR Two more opportunities!

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



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 bus from Columbus 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. The return bus will arrive in Columbus at approx. 1 a.m. on 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>.

LAUNDRY LOVE MISSION IS IN GREAT NEED OF TRASH BAGS. The mission is always collecting laundry detergent and dryer sheets as well.

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



JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS Don Streibig; Bev Cook; Wally Giffen; Lindy Miller; Carl Miller; Virginia O'Neill; and families and friends who mourn the loss of loved ones.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Brooke Chute, cousin of Amy Wagner; 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 victims of gun violence. We pray for all students and educators. We pray for all who struggle with mental illness.

IN GOD'S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE This week we pray with and for the people and churches of Ireland, United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

MISSIONARIES This week we pray for Karen Campbell serving in Indonesia.

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.

SPRING FORWARD ONE HOUR NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 11!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST 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 –New Member Luncheon – Ralph Fanning Room
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
12:30 – Confirmation – Education Wing Room D
4 p.m. – Organ Recital: Dexter Kennedy – Sanctuary

Monday, March 5

Noon – Care Ministry – Ralph Fanning Room

Tuesday, March 6

12:15 p.m. – First Tuesdays Concert – Sanctuary
12:45 p.m. – Lunch following Concert – Parish Hall
2:30 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room
5:30 p.m. – Sacred Earth – Ralph Fanning Room
7 p.m. – Justice and Mercy – Ralph Fanning Room
7 p.m. – Senior Minister/Member Advisory Board –
Rev. Ahrens’ Office
7 p.m. – BREAD Meeting – Parish Hall

Wednesday, March 7

11 a.m. – Book Study: *Writing in the Sand* – Parlor
12:15 p.m. – Lenten Small Group – Ralph Fanning Room
4 p.m. – Building and Office Close

Thursday, March 8

3 p.m. – Park Planning Committee – Ralph Fanning Room
6 p.m. – First Church Ringers Rehearsal –
Education Wing Room J
7:15 p.m. – First Church Choir – Parish Hall

Saturday, March 10

8:30 a.m. – House and Grounds – Ralph Fanning Room
10 a.m. – First Church Quilters – Parish Family Room

Sunday, March 11: Lent IV

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. – New Members Class – Parlor
10 a.m. – Faith Formation Time – Education Wing
Room D
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
12:15 p.m. –Teacher, Nursery and Usher Training –
Ralph Fanning Room
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
6 p.m. – High School Youth Group – Parish Hall

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 25 – \$368.00 – Faith in Public Life

NEXT WEEK’S MISSION OFFERING

Kaleidoscope



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

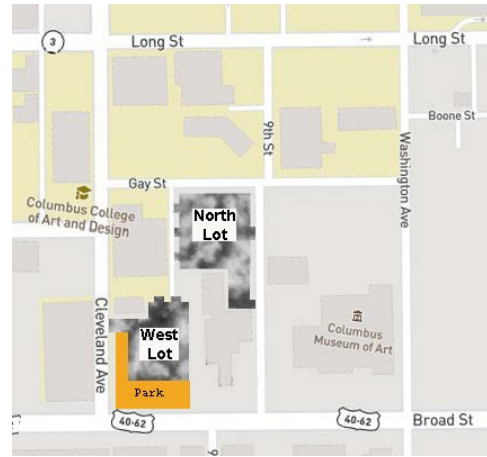
Chairperson	Chris Farquhar
Treasurer	
Trustees	Brian Cave, Tom Hadley, John Martin, Sheldon Taft, Keith White, Gerry Worth,

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK Today – Andrea Bruckelmeyer, Helen Ninos, Julie Roth-Alexander; 5 – Kullen Carrico, Tyler Cave, Phil Stichter; 6 – Shirley Calhoun, George West; 7 – Scott Barker, Christina Kirker, Bob Monahan, Andrew Smith; 8 – Gretchen Atkinson, Madison Fulton; 9 – Heather Giffin

WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG

“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.

Anticipated Completion: 4-5 weeks

Current Activity:

Construction of transformer pads and underground ducts in progress. The ramp between the West Lot and the alley will be closed at times during this work. Northern areas 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 Park 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, and from the North Lot and Gay Street via the alley except as noted above.

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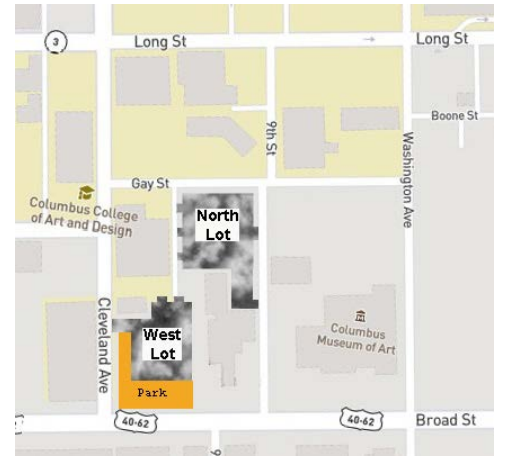
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Creative Campus Roadway Improvements

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.

Anticipated Completion: October 22, 2018

Current Activity: Gay Street now closed from Cleveland Avenue to Washington Avenue. Cleveland Avenue will be northbound only starting March 12. Ninth Street has been changed to two-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 I-71 South at Broad Street. From I-670, take Cleveland Avenue to Long Street. East on Long Street to Washington Avenue south to Broad Street. Enter church parking from Ninth Street. From other directions enter as normal.

Depart the North Lot using Ninth Street south to Broad Street (right turn only), or thru the West Lot or alley. Depart the West Lot using Cleveland Avenue (northbound only after March 12).

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

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

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

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