

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE

MARCH 19, 2017

SPECIAL BOOK PRESENTATION AT 10 A.M. TODAY Join us in the Alma Keeler Children's Library located on the second floor of the Education Wing for a presentation about *Poppa's Ring*, a wonderful children's book about First Church member Bill Willis. Set in Columbus, Ohio during the month of July, *Poppa's Ring* provides a quick glimpse into the more personal life of Bill as a hands-on father, grandfather and role model. Join author Linda Fleming-Willis for the presentation at 10 a.m.; books will be available for purchase and signing after both worship services today.

FAITH FORMATION DISCUSSIONS FOR ADULTS The Faith Formation Discussion for Adults on Sunday morning continues each week with Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens leading the "Opening the Word" track with "Our Spiritual Journey Through Lent". This is a wonderful series will also feature Rev. Phil Hart as they focus on the words of our Long Range Plan as also a spiritual plan for individuals, our church and the community. The Faith Formation Time begins each Sunday at 10 a.m. in room D on the first floor of the Education Wing.

REGISTER FOR THE SPRING RETREAT: APRIL 21-23 Spring retreat is a time to get away with members and friends of our church family. This year's spring retreat will be Friday evening, April 21, through Sunday morning, April 23, at Pilgrim Hills Camp and Retreat Center, which is located one hour northeast of Columbus off Route 62 at Brinkhaven. *All* First Church children and youth can attend at no cost thanks to an Alma Keeler grant requested by the Parish Life Committee. Adults are \$95 each, which includes food, lodging and all program costs. All confirmands will be attending with their mentors. Register online at: <http://filecabinet.eschoolview.com/75910DAB-9010-45CF-BCB8-BD2535E758CB/Spring%20Retreat%20Brochure-2017.jpg>

IT'S NOT TOO LATE: LENTEN SMALL GROUPS You can still join a Lenten Small Group for one of the three remaining meetings: March 22, 29 and April 5 at 7 p.m. Hosting and Leading Groups are: Meet at Church – Nicole Moss leading - Cell: 614-746-4808 nsydneym@aol.com; Lynn Wallich Victorian Village (43201) Cell: 614-563-2560 lrw25@yahoo.com; Marty Worth – Upper Arlington 614-228-1741 ext. 14 mworth@first-church.org; Virtual Group – Rev. Emily Corzine 614-228-1741 ext. 21 ecorzine@first-church.org.

IT'S TIME FOR CAMP REGISTRATION! Registration forms are available in the church office. Camp schedule and descriptions are available online at: <http://www.journeythehills.org>. Registration forms are also available in the church office. Thanks to the generosity of longtime member Alma Keeler, we can offer a 50% camp scholarship on the registration fee (after the \$75 deposit) to any First Church child or youth who wants to go to camp. *A request for these funds must be made by the parent / guardian. This is not automatic as in the past.*

DIALOGUE ABOUT DEATH: TUESDAY, MARCH 28 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Death can be messy. Death can be weird. Death can be beautiful. Death can be joyous. We are all going to die and we don't know when. How do we talk about death? How do we tell our loved ones what we long for at the end of our life? How do we talk with a medical team about how we want to spend our last days on earth? How do we help our loved ones to do the same? Join Marcia Miller, Cathe Kobacker, and Lori Moffett from Yoga on High for a heartfelt community discussion about end of life care that will give you the tools to start the discussion with people in your world. Register for the class at <http://yogaonhigh.com/workshops-retreats/workshops/dialogue-about-death>. There is a \$5 fee, but scholarships are available.

2017 YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP Here is the Projected Cost for each person participating in the Youth Mission Trip. Airline ticket: \$283.17; Metro Travel: \$25.00; Hotel: \$176.25; YSOP: \$143.00; Food: \$250.00 = TOTAL PROJECTED COST: \$877.39. Those who have registered are Eddie Anderson, Chutney Anderson, Chase Wagner, Joe Spofforth, Sophia Polo, Nina Zimmerman, Will Zimmerman, Luke Zimmerman, Miriam Myers, Mia Provenzano, Rev. Tim Ahrens, Matt Myers, Missy Zimmerman, Betsy Hubbard and Mark Williams. **We welcome partial or full sponsorships to help our youth in this ministry.**

2017 SOFTBALL NEWS: CO-ED TEAM FORMING

If you are interested in year #2 for our co-ed softball team for the summer of 2017, please contact Rev. Ahrens at tahrens@first-church.org or call 614-228-1741, ext.13. There is room on the roster for more players, especially women!! Deadlines for getting in the league are fast approaching.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS Valarie and Phil Stichter; Sandy Bennett; Julie Stewart; Ron Cook; Jane Weddle; Sharon and Larry Walquist; Bernie Martin; Ray Pendell; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including Cheryl Hoskinson, on the death of her friend, Paul McGinnis. We hold in our prayers our seminarians, Joyce Oyler, Shea Watts, and other Members in Discernment in the United Church of Christ.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY James Barnard, brother of Dene Barnard; James, nephew of Margaret Cipriani; Lynn Roseberry; Rick Harmon, brother-in-law of Amy Wagner; Bill Taylor, friend of Melva Fisher; Patricia Aileen Tekaucic, mother of Val Christopher Tekaucic; Jennifer Flocken; Rena Finch, sister-in-law of Arlene Reynolds; James Baker, brother of Allen Baker; Joanie Krohn, sister of Melanie Brown; Kathie Daniels, daughter of Gleva Stephens; Cassie Linger; Brenda Butt; Joe and Marjorie Kufel, parents of Sharon Leidheiser; Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones; families and community friends who struggle with any form of mental illness.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD We pray for immigrants and refugees around the world. We pray for our brothers and sisters in the Muslim and Jewish communities in this country. We pray for the communities who have been victims of threats, violence and destruction. We pray for those affected by significant storms across this country.

IN GOD'S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE This week we pray with and for the people and churches of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

MISSIONARIES This week, we pray for Teresa Henry, serving in India.

NEED PRAYER? If you have any prayer requests or joys to share, please contact the church office (awagner@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 10) or one of the ministers: ecorzine@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 21, or tahrens@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 13.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, March 19: Lent 3

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion – Parish Hall
9 a.m. – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir Room
10 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
10 a.m. – Faith Formation – Education Wing Rooms C/D
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – BREAD Network Member Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room
12:30 p.m. – Confirmation Class – Education Wing Room D
6 p.m. – Middle and High School Youth Group Meetings– Parish Hall

Monday, March 20

Newsletter Deadline
7 p.m. – Personnel –Parish Family Room

Tuesday, March 21

11:30 a.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room
7 p.m. – Church Council – Ralph Fanning Room

Wednesday, March 22

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room
7 p.m. – Lenten Small Groups

Thursday, March 23

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

Friday, March 24

1 p.m. – Faith Mission Meal Preparation – Kitchen

Sunday, March 26: Lent 4

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion – Parish Hall
9 a.m. – Teen Choir – Choir Room
10 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
10 a.m. – Faith Formation – Education Wing Rooms C/D
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
12:30 p.m. –Stewardship Committee – Parish Family Room
6 p.m. – Middle and High School Youth Groups Meeting– Parish Hall

LAUNDRY LOVE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR MARCH 28 Contact Mark Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org if you are able to help from 6-7 p.m. at WashLand Laundromat, 1469 W. Broad Street in West Franklinton.

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:** 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, etc.*



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK Today-Greg Kellison, Tom Leighton; 3/20 Brett Bachman, David Mailer, Tom Worley; 3/21 Eric Ewing, James Gaugh, Rezi Haghiri, Dorothy Horn; 3/22 Debbie Kelly, James Powell; 3/24 Amy Wagner

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK 3/20 Janice and Mariner Taft

YOUTH FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SALE STARTING SOON! Plan to purchase your flowers and vegetables from our youth to help support their mission trip. The deadline for orders is April 15. The flowers and vegetables will be delivered Mother's Day weekend. Order forms will be available soon from youth and online! Welcome to Spring!

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
Treble 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	Evin Wimberly, Simone Ellerson, Natalie Barker, Taylre Arnold

DIACONATE

Senior Deacon	Alec Deitz
Deacons	Sandy Bennett, Kris Brant, Anthony Brown, Valerie Conlin-Losinski, Bert Cook, Martha Fullemann, Dean Hafey, Todd Jacobson, Karen Mozingo, David Nassau, Janet Newcity, Jorge Polo, Alejandro Rodriguez, Hugh Schultz

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator	Kent Shimeall
Moderator-Elect	Joe Baszynski
Treasurer	David Holt
Assistant Treasurer	Joe Hoffman
Secretary	Pat Patterson
Assistant Secretary	Nancy Loy

COMMISSIONERS

Administration	Sue Cook, Elect - Chris Glaros
Church Growth/Vitality	Kent Rambo and Mary Anne Jacobson, co-chairs; Elect - Tom Kiesel and Mary Anne Jacobson
Education	Helen Ninos, Elect - Chris Gelpi
House & Grounds	Eric Klintworth, Elect - Gary Leidheiser
Justice & Mercy	Al Glover, Elect - Dawn George
Music, Arts, & Heritage	Sharon Ferguson, Elect - Joel Mathias
Nominating Chair	Brian Cave
Member-at-large	Neal Brower
Youth-at-large	Joe Spofforth
Deacon Council Representative	Janet Newcity

TRUSTEES

Chairperson	Lisa Morris
Treasurer	Bill Johannes
Trustees	Chris Farquhar, Tom Hadley, Bill Heer, Lisa Morris, Sheldon Taft, Keith White, Gerry Worth

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