



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Depart to Serve

APRIL 15, 2018

SAFE CHURCH POLICY TEAM PLANS PRESENTATION AND DRILL TODAY The Safe Church Policy Team has been working for more than a year on updating and improving safety procedures. On April 15, the team will give a presentation after each worship service to review Fire, Severe Weather, and Interruption of Worship procedures. At the end of the presentation, the congregation will practice a Severe Weather drill.

FLOWER/VEGETABLE SALE FOR YOUTH ENDS TODAY! View the order form at www.first-church.org or place your order with any youth member.

FORMATIVE DISCUSSIONS FOR ADULTS AT 10 A.M. IN ROOM D Equality Ohio will present a series of courses on Becoming Faithfully Inclusive:

- *Sanctuary: creating a welcoming space for the genderqueer community and their families:* In this training we will discuss the spiritual and physical characteristics of a faith community that is ready to serve as a sanctuary for those with gender-nonconforming identities.
- *Tending and Keeping the Soul:* What are the unique challenges to soul care that LGBTQ people face in the context of faith communities? How can a faith community begin to create a culture that cares for the souls of LGBTQ members? What about when our leader is also an LGBTQ person?

FIRST QUARTER PLEDGE STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE First quarter pledge statements are now available in your church mailbox. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Leidheiser at 614-228-1741 ext.11 or Sleidheiser@first-church.org.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING – SUNDAY, APRIL 29 AT 12:15 P.M.

The Congregational Care Team and nurses are hosting a free Blood Pressure screening in the Parish Family Room, which is located directly to the left of the elevator on the first floor. Screenings will be performed on a walk-in basis. This initiative is part of the growing care ministry of the Congregational Care Coordinating Team.



SUNDAY, APRIL 29 AT 4 P.M. – INTERFAITH MARCH FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE Mark your calendar to join in the second annual Interfaith March for Peace and Justice on Sunday, April 29 in downtown Columbus at Genoa Park, 303 W. Broad Street. Join others around the country and world to

build a community with dignity for all, regardless of religion, race, or place of origin.. For more information, go to www.interfaithmarch.com or facebook.com/interfaithmarch.

NEHEMIAH ACTION ON MONDAY, MAY 7 B.R.E.A.D. is preparing for its big Nehemiah Action which will take place on Monday, May at the Celeste Center. Most of the research has been wrapped up and officials have been invited to attend. First Church Justice Ministry network members are contacting members of the congregation to join this effort to improve the lives of our less privileged neighbors. If you have not yet received an invitation, please contact Barbara Glover, Robert Reber, Antoinette Beynen, or any one of the 48 network members listed on the posters on the east wall of Parish Hall. Tickets and further information is available in Parish Hall today. You can also get tickets in the church office during the week.

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK Today – Michele and Tom Leighton; 18 – Maria and Anthony Brown, Christina and David Kirker, Sharon and Gary Leidheiser, Joyce and Craig Oyler; 19 – Heather and Mark Whaling; 20 – Laura and Hamish Baird, Mary Anne and Todd Jacobson; 21 – Cathy and Wayne Redenbarger

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS Barbara Clapham; Rick Henderson; Andrew McGregor; Herb Goetz; Wally Giffen; Nell Cole; Jude Gelfius; Don Streibig; Lindy Miller; Carl Miller; and families and friends who mourn the loss of loved ones, including Heather Biggers, on the death of her mother, Billie.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Joan Corzine; Jim Fletcher, cousin of Paul and Gary Leidheiser; Dan Pendell; Brooke Chute, cousin of Amy Wagner; Ben Brewer, friend of Melva Fisher; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including the family and friends of Stev Guyer, friend of Mark Dahnke.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD We pray for the victims of the brutal toxic gas attack on the Syrian city of Douma. We pray for all who work for social justice in this community, nation and world. We pray for an end to gun violence and for those who contemplate acting on those thoughts of violence. We pray for peace in the Middle East. We pray for political tensions around the world to end. We pray for all the children of the world. We pray for immigrants and those seeking safety and peace for their families.

IN GOD'S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE This week we pray with and for the people and churches of Belarus, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine.

MISSIONARIES This week we pray for Bruce Van Voorhis serving in Hong Kong.

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.

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK Today – Tammy Anderson, David Holt; 16 – Virginia O'Neill, Julia Trace, Katie Trace, Nina Zimmerman; 19 – Madalyn Dean, Christopher Gelpi; 20 – Alejandro Rodriguez; 21 – Kim Kutschbach

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, April 15: Third Sunday of Easter

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion – Parish Hall

9 a.m. – Exultate Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

10 a.m. – First Church Choir Warm Up – Choir Room

10 a.m. – Safe Church Presentation and Drill – Parish Hall

10 a.m. – Faith Formation Time – Education Wing Room D

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

12:30 p.m. – Safe Church Presentation and Drill – Sanctuary

12:30 p.m. – Hymnal Supplement Committee – Choir Room

1 p.m. – Confirmation Field Trip to see *Paul: Apostle of Christ* – Cinemark Movies 18, 323 Stoneridge Lane, Gahanna

6 p.m. – Middle and High School Youth Groups – Parish Hall

Monday, April 16

6 p.m. – Budget and Finance – Ralph Fanning Room

7 p.m. – Personnel – Parish Family Room

Tuesday, April 17

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

7 p.m. – Council – Ralph Fanning Room

Wednesday, April 18

11 a.m. – Book Study: Writing in the Sand – Parlor

4 p.m. – Building and Office Close

Thursday, April 19

6 p.m. – First Church Ringers Rehearsal – Education Wing Room J

7:15 p.m. – First Church Choir – Parish Hall

Friday, April 20

Deadline for Newsletter

6 p.m. – Spring Retreat – Templd Hills Camp and Conference Center

Saturday, April 21

All Day – Spring Retreat – Templd Hills Camp and Conference Center

Sunday, April 22: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Spring Retreat – Templd Hills Camp and Conference Center

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

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.
- **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

April 8 – \$1,177.87 – Camp Scholarships

NEXT WEEK'S MISSION OFFERING

Sacred Earth Tree Replanting



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 Mazingo, 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	Cindy Conn
Trustees	Brian Cave, Tom Hadley, John Martin, Sheldon Taft, Keith White, Gerry Worth

WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG