

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE

APRIL 2, 2017

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY following the 11 a.m. service to consider a motion to approve the general plans for a park to be constructed on part of the West Lot.

INTERFAITH MARCH FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE TODAY AT 2 p.m. Join us and our interfaith brothers and sisters in a march for peace and justice. We'll gather as a community to support one another in celebrating our faith diversity. We'll have a light lunch in the Ralph Fanning Room following the Congregational Meeting, and then we'll move quickly to Genoa Park, gathering behind COSI. We can carpool to and from the event. Please register soon so we can plan for lunch and carpooling. First Congregational Church UCC is one of the co-sponsors of this event.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS TIME TO RENEW OR SIGN UP Did you know that you can make contributions to First Church simply by doing your grocery shopping at Kroger and using your Kroger Plus Card? First Church is enrolled in Kroger's Community Rewards Program which will link purchases made with your Kroger's Plus Card so that a portion of the sale is donated back to First Church. A portion of your qualifying purchases will be donated to your choice of the following: **First Congregational Church #84966** – used for the church general budget; or **First Church Choir #81813** - proceeds used to support choir activities. **Your enrollment expires after March 31, so please re-enroll each year.** To renew, please enter www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow into your web browser. Thank you for your support!

FLOWER/VEGETABLE SALE FOR YOUTH ONGOING! The youth groups of First Church will be taking orders for their spring flower sale now through April 15. You may view the order form online on the church website. There are many varieties of flowers and hanging baskets, as well several varieties of tomatoes, vegetables and peppers. They come in small plants for your garden or in planters for your patio or deck. The flowers and vegetables are supplied by Strader's Greenhouse of Columbus. Payment is due at the time of ordering. The flowers will be available for pick up on May 13-14.

LOCATION AND TIME FOR A LABYRINTH WALK

The Labyrinth will be located on the first floor of the Education Wing in Room D. The Labyrinth will open after each service on Palm/Passion Sunday and will remain open the rest of Holy Week during regular church office hours (7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.), and before and after the Maundy Thursday Service, the Good Friday Service and on Holy Saturday from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. If you are unable to walk the Labyrinth, the Gladden Chapel will be open for meditation during the same hours. Since this may be a new experience for many of our children and youth, we have put together a detailed colorful section about Labyrinths in our "Children's Resources for Holy Week" folder. The "Children's Resources for Holy Week" folders are available at each entrance to worship, Children's Library and in the church office. We hope you will plan to attend the Maundy Thursday Dinner (April 13) at 6 p.m. and service. Also, we will have a Good Friday Service on Friday (April 14) at 7:30 pm. Childcare will be provided for all services.



FAIR TRADE EASTER BASKETS Do you need an Easter basket for someone special or a hostess gift? Sacred Earth will be selling Fair Trade baskets for \$15. Please sign up in the church office with your preference for tea, coffee, or chocolate options. Baskets will be available on April 2 and April 9. Please call Sarah Giffen at 614-471-9665 with questions.

THE FIRST CHURCH GOLF LEAGUE will tee up starting Thursday, April 27, and go for 10 weeks every Thursday at 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome – from beginners interested in learning the sport to those looking to sharpen their skills. The league plays at the 9-hole Gahanna Municipal Golf Course, 220 Olde Ridenour Rd., Gahanna, with tee offs between 5 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. Cost is \$11 per round (\$9 for seniors) for 10 rounds for a total of \$110 (\$90 for seniors), due on the first Thursday that we play, April 27. A sign-up sheet is in the Church Office, or contact Frank Cook, league representative, at fhc2@aol.com, or by phone at 614-933-0012, or in Church on most Sundays. If you have questions, call Frank.

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. Last year we had a great team that made the playoffs and never forfeited a game! But, there is room on the roster for more players, especially women! If you are interested, we would love to welcome you! Deadlines for getting in the league are fast approaching.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS Nancy Braverman; Madeline Helmer; Valerie and Phil Stichter; Julie Stewart; Ron Cook; Jane Weddle; Bernie Martin; Ray Pendell; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including Dick, Rick and Anne Bennett and family, on the death of Sandy Bennett; Larry Walquist and family, on the death of Sharon; Bill Nirote, on the death of his mother; Allen Baker, on the death of his brother James Baker; and Tammy Anderson, on the death of her grandmother, Sarah Ellen Ullom.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Dominick Maimone, grandfather of Kristen Blanks; Bob Childs, brother-in-law of Martha Huey; Travis, Stephanie and Hannah, friends of Heather Whaling; Betsy Williams, aunt of Cindy Conn; James Barnard, brother of Dene Barnard; James, nephew of Margaret Cipriani; Lynn Roseberry; Patricia Aileen Tekaucic, mother of Val Christopher Tekaucic; Joe and Marjorie Kufel, parents of Sharon Leidheiser; and Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD We pray for the victims and families of the nightclub shooting in Cincinnati. We pray for the people of Peru who suffer from torrential rain, flooding and water insufficiency.

IN GOD'S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE This week we pray with and for the people and churches of The Balkans – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia.

MISSIONARIES This week, we pray for Nia Sullivan, serving in South Africa.



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, April 2: Lent 5

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion – Parish Hall
9 a.m. – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir Room and Music Activities Room
10 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
10 a.m. – Faith Formation – Education Wing Rooms C/D
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
12:15 p.m. – Special Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary
12:30 p.m. – Confirmation Class – Education Wing Room D
2 p.m. – Interfaith March for Peace and Justice – Genoa Park

Tuesday, April 3

11:30 a.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room
5:30 p.m. – Sacred Earth – Parish Family Room
6:30 p.m. – Christian Education – Mark Williams' Office
7 p.m. – Executive Committee – Ralph Fanning Room
7 p.m. – Justice and Mercy – Parish Family Room

Wednesday, April 4

11 a.m. – Book Study: *The Prophetic Imagination* – Parlor
6 p.m. – Music Committee – Parish Family Room
7 p.m. – Lenten Small Groups

Thursday, April 5

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

Saturday, April 8

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

Sunday, April 9: Palm Sunday

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion – Parish Hall
9 a.m. – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir Room and Music Activities Room
10 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
10 a.m. – Faith Formation – Education Wing Rooms C/D
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
6 p.m. – High School Youth Group – Parish Hall

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK TODAY-Laura Baird, Pete Boriin, Bill Lange, AnnaSophia Severson; 4-Peter Unkovic, Al Waddell; 7-Stefanie Bohnert, Dana Schultz; 8-Liz Cook, Mitchell Dean, Katherine Erickson, Nancy Loy, Amy Mailer, Amanda Mason, Anna Rambo

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK 4-Abby and Brian Cave, Amy and David Mailer

PLEASE JOIN US FOR ALL HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 9

9:00 a.m. – Parish Hall
11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 13

6 p.m. Dinner and Holy Communion – Parish Hall
7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service – Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 14

7:30 p.m. The Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday
featuring Heinrich Schütz's "St. Matthew Passion"
(with projected images)

Easter Sunday, April 16

7 a.m. Sunrise Service – Broad Street entrance steps
8:45 & 11 a.m. Easter Services – Sanctuary
10 a.m. Congregational Brunch – 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 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.*

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, Tayire 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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