

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE

APRIL 9, 2017

PLEASE JOIN US FOR ALL HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 9

9:00 a.m. – Parish Hall

10 a.m. – Faith Formation Hour

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



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.



DEDICATIONS FOR EASTER FLOWERS AND MUSIC ARE DUE TODAY

SPRING RETREAT APRIL 21-23 AT PILGRIM HILLS CAMP AND

RETREAT CENTER 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 (food, lodging and all program costs). All confirmands will be attending and their mentors are encouraged to attend as well. Pilgrim Hills is located an hour northeast of Columbus off Route 62 at Brinkhaven. The brochure and registration forms are in the church office and on the website. **Deadline for registration is Monday, April 10.** We have space for 70 people– let's fill it! See Mark S. Williams (mwilliams@first-church.org) for more information.

FLOWER/VEGETABLE SALE FOR YOUTH ONGOING! The youth groups of First Church will be taking orders for their spring flower sale now through **Saturday, 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, 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.

THE FIRST CHURCH GOLF LEAGUE will tee up starting Thursday, April 27, and go for 10 weeks every Thursday at 5 p.m. 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 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!

LAST CONGREGATIONAL CONCERT OF THE SEASON Handbells Columbus returns to the First Church stage for the final concert of the 2016-2017 season on April 23 @ 4 p.m. Handbells Columbus is a community handbell ensemble formed in 2006 to provide advanced ringing opportunities for Central Ohio handbell ringers, several whom were members of the former Symphonic Handbells of Columbus. This year, they welcome composer and organist Karen Buckwalter.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS TIME TO RENEW OR SIGN UP 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!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS Scott Barker; 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 Kristen Blanks, on the death of her grandfather, Dominick Maimone; Dick, Rick and Anne Bennett and family, on the death of Sandy Bennett; and Larry Walquist and family, on the death of Sharon Walquist.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Dick Kevan, husband of Jan Kevan; Ronald Lee, brother of William Lee; Bob Childs, brother-in-law of Martha Huey; James Barnard, brother of Dene Barnard; James, Lynn Roseberry; Joe and Marjorie Kufel, parents of Sharon Leidheiser; and Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams; and Rich Stopek and family, on the loss of his mother.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD We pray for the victims and their families of the St. Petersburg bombing. We pray for the people of Syria after the attack with chemical gas this week. We pray for those affected by famine in South Sudan. We pray for the victims of mudslides in Columbia and Peru.

IN GOD'S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE This week we pray with and for the people and churches of Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania.

MISSIONARIES This week we pray for Loren McGrail serving in Israel/Palestine.

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 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. – Middle and High School Youth Groups – Parish Hall

Monday, April 10

Labyrinth Open 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
9 a.m. – Good Samaritan Day – Ralph Fanning Room

Tuesday, April 11

Labyrinth Open 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
11:30 a.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

Wednesday, April 12

Labyrinth Open 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room
7:15 p.m. – Holy Week Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

Thursday, April 13 Maundy Thursday

Labyrinth Open 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
6 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Dinner and Holy Communion – Parish Hall
7:30 p.m. – Tenebrae Service – Sanctuary

Friday, April 14 Good Friday

Labyrinth Open 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m. – Good Friday Service – Sanctuary

Saturday, April 15

Labyrinth Open 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 16 Easter

7 a.m. – Sunrise Service – Broad Street Entrance Steps
8:45 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
10 a.m. – Easter Brunch – Parish Hall
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK TODAY- Becky Taft, Lisa Morris;
10-Emily Cave, Loretta Hoffman, Jane Werum; 11-Jan Kevan, Merry
Roach, Janice Taft; 12-Marcy Essig, Rick Pfeiffer; 13-Sarah Frank,
Jennifer Weaver; 14-Jacquelyn Lowery; 15- Tammy Anderson, David
Holt

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK 13-Natalie and Scott Barker;
14-Rachel and Peter Unkovic; 15-Michele and Tom Leighton



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, Taylre Arnold

DIACONATE

Senior Deacon	Alec Deitz
Deacons	Kris Brant, Anthony Brown, Valerie Conlin-Losinski, Bert Cook, Martha Fullemann, Dean Hafey, Todd Jacobson, Karen Mazingo, 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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