

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE

JULY 30, 2017



JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE 11 A.M. SERVICE Coffee and Fellowship returns today. We hope that you will be able to find a few minutes to come downstairs, meet someone new, and catch up with those who you know. We are currently planning one Fellowship event/month utilizing

existing groups and individuals or small groups to host additional Fellowship events on available weekends. A sign-up sheet with open dates is posted on the Church Vitality bulletin board located across from the church office. If you are interested in hosting Fellowship, being a part of a Fellowship Hosting Group, or simply finding out more about this ministry, please contact Mary Anne Jacobson either through email at marytoddj@gmail.com or via text/phone at 612-718-9834.

“EXTRAVAGANT LOVE AND WELCOME: UNITING ALL IN ONE

COMMUNITY” BY REV. DR. TIM AHRENS To be “extravagant” is to do much more than is necessary or wise (by the world’s standards). When we are extravagant, we exceed the bounds of reason, actions, demands, opinions or passions as we feel called to give more, spend more. Do more and extend more than others do. Extravagance is often looked down on by others. They want to know, “Why are you spending so much?” or “Why are you so outgoing in your words on my behalf?” “Why did you do SO MUCH when so much was not required?” To be extravagant in our love and welcome of others is to follow the way of Jesus – the model of Extravagant Love and Welcome! That is a good thing!

15 years ago, on September 8, 2002 First Congregational UCC, Columbus, Ohio became an Open and Affirming Church. On that day, by a 98% vote of approval, we decided welcome ALL people. We committed ourselves to welcoming all people of ALL ages, races, sexual orientations, ethnic and national backgrounds, mental and physical abilities and different socioeconomic, political and theological backgrounds.

So, how have we done as a community of faith for the last 15 years? How have we been a truly open and affirming congregation? What have

we done well? How could we have done better? More personally – how have you done as an open and affirming Christian? When was the last time you were “extravagant” in your love and welcome for another person? Where are areas of growth for you as you seek to live into your own extravagant love and welcome of other people?

For five consecutive Sundays, beginning, August 6, I will reflect on what it means to be open and affirming. I will share some areas of growth we have experienced, some areas where we could improve and a future vision of becoming MORE extravagant in our love and welcome to our community of faith and beyond. I hope you join me on this journey. Here are the sermon titles. In addition, through prayers, music, and more, we will open ourselves to God’s love and welcome in our community of faith in new and beautiful ways. I look forward to seeing you in church.

Sermon Titles:

August 6 – “Micah 6:8: DO Justice, LOVE Kindness, WALK Humbly with God”

August 13 – “Loving and Welcoming ALL Ages and Races”

August 20 – “Loving and Welcoming ALL Sexual Orientations and Ethnic and National Backgrounds”

August 27 – “Loving and Welcoming ALL with a Range of Mental and Physical Abilities”

September 3 – “Loving and Welcoming ALL with Different Socioeconomic, Political and Theological Backgrounds”

BECKERATH ORGAN PRESENTATION On Sunday, August 6 immediately after the 11:00 a.m. worship, Minister of Music Kevin Jones will lead a brief introduction, history, and function of the Beckerath Organ. Join us to hear and see more about this world class instrument. Bring your questions and your interest. Climb into the Gallery or remain in the Nave for this brief exploration!

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE SEATING MEETINGS The Board of Deacons will be hosting three meetings on handicapped accessible seating in the sanctuary, on Sunday, August 6 at 10 a.m., and on Sunday, August 13 at both 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.. in the Ralph Fanning Room, located immediately across the hall from the Church Office.

FIRST CHURCH SUPPER CLUB The Fall Group begins with a Kick-Off Potluck on Tuesday, August 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall. Sign in the church office or email Rev. Corzine at ecorzine@first-church.org. Deadline is August 15.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

CONGRATULATIONS to Rylan Antonio Ahrens on his baptism today. Rylan is the son of Luke and Kirs Ahrens, brother to Benton, and grandson to Susan Sitler and Tim Ahrens.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sarah Evans and Sean Evans who were married here yesterday.

MEMBERS Frank Hussey; Don Erickson; Lindy Miller; Bernie Martin; Ray Pendell; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Joyce Marcum, sister of Betty Conn; Joseph and Marjorie Kufel, parents of Sharon Leidheiser; Becky Liefeld, sister of Kathy Reed; Karen Davis, cousin of Judy Smith; Tim Griffen, uncle of Jim Griffen; Ellen Strout; Diane Hymans; Patrick Prendergast, father of Melissa Prendergast; Paul Avona; Rev. Louis Dorsch; Rev. Roger Miller; Abbas H. Al-Qaraghuli; and Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including William Lee, on the death of his brother Ronald Lee; and Eamonn Coyle and Jeff Worth, son of Marty and Gerry Worth, on the death of Eamonn’s sister, Anne Coyle.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD We pray for the political unrest in Yemen. We pray for an end to the famine in South Sudan. We pray for those affected by wildfires. We pray for those who are risk of deportation. We pray for the victims of gun violence on our streets.

IN GOD’S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE This week we pray with and for the people and churches of the Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe.

MISSIONARIES This week we pray for Niko Tapeko, serving in Fiji.

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 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, July 30

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

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

Tuesday, August 1

11:30 a.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

Wednesday, August 2

11 a.m. – Book Study – Parlor

Sunday, August 6

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

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Celebrate!

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK Today – Fran Panek, Kent Shimeall, David Temple; 8/1 – Isabella Kirker; 8/3 – Jansan Allred, Lourdes Henderson, Melody Leidheiser, Nancy Livingston; 8/4 – Dayna McCrary, Bill Rhoads; 8/5 – Deb Anderson, Ellen Boriin, Barb Clapham

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK 7/31 – Kelley and Mitchell Dean, Jenny and Lou Flocken; 8/3 – Margaret and Lyle Barkhymer; 8/4 – Mary Kay Beall Carter and John Carter

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.*



OFFERING TOTAL FOR LAST WEEK'S MISSION

July 23 – \$937.04 – Faith Mission Meals

NEXT WEEK'S MISSION OFFERING

Making a Difference

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 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, Francille Firebaugh, Tom Hadley, Bill Heer, Lisa Morris, Sheldon Taft, Keith White, Gerry Worth

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