

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE

July 31, 2016

SERMON SERIES: MENTAL ILLNESS: THE JOURNEY IN, THE JOURNEY

OUT For five weeks of Sundays, beginning on August 7, Rev. Ahrens will lift up hope in the midst of the darkness of “brain diseases.” For too long, we in the church have hidden away from dealing with brain diseases. While we openly lift up prayers, tell stories and engage in care for those with various cancers, heart and lung diseases and more, we hide from the needs of family, friends and members with various brain diseases or Mental Illness. Various forms of mental illness affect at least 1 in 5 people in a given year. As a result, our church and family systems are deeply affected by mental illness. Please bring anyone you know whose life has been touched by brain diseases to this sermon series. Bring friends, co-workers, family, neighbors, and those with brain diseases or those affected by them who have been forgotten, forsaken, and left out of church to our series beginning August 7.

Here are the titles of the five sermons:

August 7: *“When Mental Illness Hits: Out of the Depths I Cry to You” – Psalm 130*

August 14: *“Depression: From the Pit of Despair We Can Rise in New Life”*
– Psalm 40:1-3

August 21: *“Mental Illness and God’s Sufficient Grace” – II Corinthians 12:8-9*

August 28: *“The Resurrected Mind: No Death Today” – John 20:1-18*

September 4: *Communion Meditation: “Hope for Today and Tomorrow:
Not Easy But Not Impossible” – II Corinthians 4:18*

SPECIAL ELECTION ON ISSUE 1 - VOTE AUGUST 2 This Tuesday, there will be a major decision made by voters of the City of Columbus on the structure and design of our City Council. The question before voters is Issue #1. It proposes, initially, to change from a seven-member council elected citywide to a 13-member group, with 10 chosen from districts and three elected citywide. As Columbus grows, the number of wards would, too. The largest City Council would become is 25 members. A “yes” vote supports this growing Council structure. A “no” vote means we keep the structure the way it is. It is easy to lose track of a single issue election in an election year as packed with decisions at many levels – all the way to the White House. But, this special election will change the structure, design and business model of running our city for a long time. All Columbus citizens are encouraged to vote – one way or the other. The polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.

THE CUPBOARD IS BARE! TOILETRIES NEEDED FOR GOOD

SAMARITAN DAY The next Good Samaritan Day is Monday, August 15.

Thank you for the contribution of personal hygiene items. They are really appreciated. We are in **desperate need** of the following items:

- Men’s shampoo and/or body wash
- Women’s shampoo and/or body wash
- Women’s deodorant
- Men’s deodorant
- Disposable razors and shaving cream
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes



A good source for these items in **full sizes** are Dollar Stores where everything in the store is \$1. Please leave your donations in the bin outside the church office. Thank you for your continued support of this vital outreach to the community.

WOMEN’S RETREAT ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016 9 A.M. – NOON

A “Sacred Listening Circle” is a spiritual practice where individuals have an opportunity to connect more deeply with others in a non-judgmental and confidential setting. It is a way of becoming more aware of the leading of the spirit of God in our daily lives through faith sharing and listening. Margene Whittenburg and Jackie Dean, both Wellstreams graduates in Spiritual Formation and Directions, will be the facilitators. Bring a brunch item to share. Beverages will be provided. It is our hope that this introduction will lead to ongoing women’s listening groups here at First Church. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Dean at 614-868-0485. Sign up in the church office.

THE 2016-2017 CONCERT SERIES BROCHURE IS AVAILABLE

You can find the brochure on the music bulletin board and at the entrances of the Sanctuary. Please take one for yourself and one to share with a neighbor. This season promises to be another of excellence and you are invited to attend the Congregational Concerts on Sundays at 4 p.m., First Tuesdays 12:15 p.m. concerts followed by lunch and the Choral Evensongs presented by the First Church Choir. Bring a friend!

SECOND QUARTER STATEMENTS Your second quarter statement of giving for January 1 – June 30, 2016 is now available in your church mailbox. Please help the church save postage by picking up your statement. First Church appreciates all donations to its programs, missions and budget – thank you. If you have any questions concerning your statement, contact Sharon Leidheiser at: sleidheiser@first-church.org or 614-228-1741 ext 11.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS Arlene Reynolds; Rick Henderson; Lou Flocken; Mike Petras; Janice White; Abby Salak and Melissa Prendergast and their daughter, Ruth Eloise; Bernie Martin; Ray Pendell; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including the family and friends of Ann McIsaac.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Zach, son of Lori Buehler, for health issues; Rosalie Owens, friend of Susan Sitrler; Shari Veleba, friend of Pat Liebchen; Christopher Smith, nephew of Sue Salak and cousin of Abby Salak; Lois Beery, friend of Mary Kay Carter; Paul Hunt, cousin of Mary Kay Carter; Jason Wood, grandson of Melva Fisher; Billy Crawford, friend of Amy Wagner; Joe and Marjorie Kufel, parents of Sharon Leidheiser; Frankie Williams, mother of Mark Williams; Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD We pray for the community and Catholic Parish in St. Etienne-du-Rouvray, France with the deadly attack on Father Jacques Hamel. We pray for an end to the ISIS led attacks around the world, especially in Syria. We pray for communities to gather and engage in communication about racial tensions. May there be strides made throughout the world on issues of hunger, human trafficking, and immigration. We pray for the riders participating in the 2016 Pelotonia Ride on August 6 and 7.

IN GOD’S HANDS: THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE This week in the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray with and for the people and churches of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

MISSIONARIES: This week, we pray for Glen Hebert and Marilyn Cooper, serving in Ecuador.

If you have any prayer requests or joys to share, please contact the church office (avagner@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 tabrens@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 13.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, July 31

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
3 p.m. – Memorial Service for Ann McIsaac – Sanctuary
4 p.m. – Reception following Memorial Service – Parish Hall

Monday, August 1

Noon – First Church Care Ministry – Ralph Fanning Room

Tuesday, August 2

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room
5:30 p.m. – Sacred Earth – Ralph Fanning Room
7 p.m. – Justice and Mercy – Ralph Fanning Room

Wednesday, August 3

11 a.m. – Book Study – Parlor

Sunday, August 7

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

JULY FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

July 31 Colossians

JULY ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

July 31 Alex Palmer Alyssia Palmer

JULY MISSION OFFERING SCHEDULE

July 31 Children's Defense Fund

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS 1-Isabella Kirker; 2-Helen Spears; 3-Jensan Allred, Lourdes Henderson, Melody Leidheiser, Nancy Livingston; 4-Dayna McCrary, Bill Rhoads; 5-Deb Anderson, Ellen Boriin, Barb Clapham; 6-Meg Rhoads, Denise Vogt

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES Today-Kelley and Mitchell Dean, Jenny and Lou Flocken; 4-Mary Kay Beall Carter and John Carter; 7-Duan and Reggie Cannon, Loretta and Joe Hoffman, Catherine and Steven Kennedy II



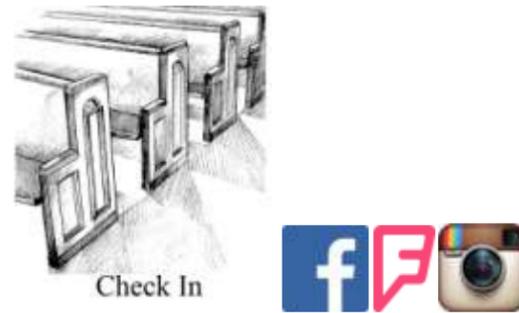
ABOUT YOUR OFFERING TODAY All our offerings support the Ministry of First Church through its programs, outreach, and related groups as, together, we witness to God's love. Thank you for your gifts.

- **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** and then click on **Online Giving**. Set up an account and pay with your credit card or through your checking or savings account. You may use the QR link or:



<https://www.faithstreet.com/church/first-congregational-church-of-columbus-columbus-oh/giving>

Other Gifts: Please designate your intention: *Memorials, flowers, fund raising projects, music, education, etc.*



If you have a Facebook, Foursquare, or Instagram profile, please **CHECK-IN** and let friends know you are worshipping with us today. If you are on Twitter, please hashtag your tweets with #firstchurchcbus."

Please don't forget to silence your device before worship begins.

We encourage you to carefully review the many opportunities of programs, meetings and ministries this week and in coming weeks here at First Church through today's *Depart to Serve* Leaflet, Facebook page, Twitter, Website or Newsletter.

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 |
| Interim Building and Grounds Superintendent | Milt Allen |
| Custodians | William Lee, Jimmy Sibrian |
| Wedding Coordinators | Janet Axt, Margaret Cipriani, Amy Wagner, Katie Wagner |
| Nursery Staff | Evin Wimberly, Simone Ellerson, Natalie Barker, Taylre Arnold |

DIACONATE

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|---------------|--|
| Senior Deacon | Lynn Wallich |
| Deacons | Sandy Bennett, Kris Brant, Valerie Conlin-Losinski, Sue Cook, Alec Deitz, Dean Hafey, Anne Hudson, Paul Leidheiser, Mary Lightbody, Dayna McCrary, Janet Newcity, Jorge Polo, Alex Rodriguez, Hugh Schultz |

CHURCH COUNCIL

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Moderator | Brian Cave |
| Moderator-Elect | Kent Shimeall |
| Treasurer | Cindy Conn |
| Assistant Treasurer | Joe Baszynski |
| Secretary | Nancy Braverman |
| Assistant Secretary | Pat Patterson |

COMMISSIONERS

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Administration | Allison Palmer, Elect - Sue Cook |
| Church Growth | Matt Myers, Elect - Kent Rambo |
| Education | Jennifer Okezie-Watts, Elect - Helen Ninos |
| House & Grounds | Charlie Weaver, Elect - Eric Klintworth |
| Justice & Mercy | Tracy Ross, Elect - Al Glover |
| Music, Arts, & Heritage | Al Waddell, Elect - Sharon Ferguson |
| Church Vitality | <i>Chair and Elect Currently Vacant</i> |
| Nominating Chair | Elaine Warren |
| Member-at-large | Mary Kay Beall Carter |
| Youth-at-large | Eddie Anderson IV |
| Deacon Council Representative | Alec Deitz |

TRUSTEES

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| Chairperson | Francille Firebaugh |
| Treasurer | Bill Johannes |
| Trustees | Patricia Groseck, Bill Heer, Lisa Morris, Sheldon Taft, Charlie Weaver, Keith White, Gerry Worth |

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