

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DEPART TO SERVE

AUGUST 14, 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

Immediately following worship each week during this sermon series, our own Jonathan Miller will join Rev. Ahrens to lead further discussions on issues raised in the sermons. Please meet in the choir room located on the second floor at the top of the staircase by the Ninth Street entrance.

NAMI CLASSES FOR COPING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Franklin County is offering classes for families to cope with mental illness. The classes will run on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9 p.m. for five weeks from August 24-November 16, 2016 in the Helen Zelkowitz Conference Room at Jewish Family Services, 1070 College Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43209. You may sign up at:

http://www.namifranklincounty.org/uploads/3/4/9/5/34955003/2016_f2f_registration_form_summer_and_fall.pdf



MINDFUL: EXPLORING METAL HEALTH

THROUGH ART You are invited to visit the Ohio Craft Museum, 1665 W. 5th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio to see their MINDful exhibition, which runs through August 21. This powerful exhibition offers an opportunity to understand mental health issues through fine craft. The museum’s hours are 10 a.m.

– 5 p.m. weekdays, and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Call 614-486-4402 or visit www.ohiocraft.org.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS During both services on Sunday, August 28, we will have the “Blessings of the Backpacks” for all of our children and youth. We encourage our students heading back to school to bring their own backpack to church for the blessing. We will also have a special prayer for all those connected to educating our children and youth.

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.

WEEKLY SERMONS ARE AVAILABLE:

- Online on our website: <http://www.first-church.org/Sermons.aspx>
- In the information racks located outside the church office and at the Ninth Street entrance
- Podcasts of the entire sermon series will be posted online at <http://www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx> at the conclusion of the series.

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. 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!

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 Martha Fulleman, on the death of her mother; Al Waddell and Allen Baker, on the death of Al’s father, Arvil Waddell; and the family and friends of Charles Grieser.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Rose Shoemaker, grandmother of Jean Wetmore; Bob Childs, brother-in-law of Martha Huey; Moses Murray, father of Dayna McCrary; Zach, son of Lori Buehler, for health issues; Rosalie Owens, friend of Susan Sitler; Shari Veleba, friend of Pat Liebchen; Lois Beery, friend of Mary Kay Carter; Paul Hunt, cousin of Mary Kay Carter; Jason Wood, grandson of Melva Fisher; 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 all those struggling with any form of mental illness. We pray for the victims and families of gun violence and terrorist acts in this country and across the globe. We pray for the safety and inclusion of millions of refugees around the world. We pray for the victims of the attack on the hospital in Afghanistan.

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 Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia.

MISSIONARIES: This week, we pray for Jayanthi and Jim Wilson, serving in South Africa.

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: ecorxzine@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, August 14

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
10 a.m. – Book Study – Ralph Fanning Room
10 a.m. – Youth Mission Presentation – Parish Hall
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
Noon – Discussion about Sermon Series – Choir Room

Monday, August 15

7 p.m. – Personnel Committee – Parish Family Room

Tuesday, August 16

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room
7 p.m. – Church Council – Ralph Fanning Room

Wednesday, August 17

11 a.m. – Book Study – Parlor

Saturday, August 20

8:30 a.m. – House and Grounds – Parish Family Room

Sunday, August 21

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
10 a.m. – Book Study – Ralph Fanning Room
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
Noon – Discussion about Sermon Series – Choir Room

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS Today-Caleb Frank; 15-Chuck Atkinson, Laura Erickson; 16-Will Fernald, Mary Kay Beall Carter; 17-Jacques Washington; 19-Emma Henderson, Melissa Kulwicki, Karen Sterrett, Henry Unkovic; 20-Amy Trace

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES Today- Barbara Mason and Rhonda Poirier; 16-Lisa Morris and Kent Shimeall; 17-Diane and Larry Dixon; 18-Betty Sparhawk and Nazmi Anik; 20-Karen and Steve Sterrett



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.

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.*

AUGUST FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

August 14 Daniel
August 21 Deuteronomy
August 28 Ephesians

AUGUST ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

August 14 Miriam Myers Samantha Myers
August 21 Matty Provenzano Mia Provenzano
August 28 Cassidy Hopcraft Finnegan Miller

AUGUST MISSION OFFERING SCHEDULE

August 14 YWCA Family Center
August 21 Spirituality Network
August 28 Star House

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

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

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

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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