



## **Pray and Play This Spring**

**By The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens**

“Life is more fun if you play games.”

— Roald Dahl, *My Uncle Oswald*

So many people have celebrated that we had a mild winter. If temperature and snow is our only gage of a season, then I would have to agree. But in this “mild winter,” so many people in our congregation have lost family members and friends. Death in our church family made this our most severe winter in recent memory. I rejoice that winter has blown away and Spring is springing all around us.



I write this on the first day of Spring. The daffodils are strutting their stuff, the crocuses have blown through the earth. Our tulip tree is beginning to bloom. The cherry blossoms are crying out “We are here!” Four Mallard ducks just landed in my above ground pool and they are splashing around. My dogs Charlie and Dug are dancing (or are they rumbling?) in the back yard. It is good to be alive! Spring is HERE!

Roald Dahl is right. “Life is more fun if you play games.”

So, every man, woman and child of First Church, all our friends and members – I am extending a special invitation for you to join me to play in the hills. We are going to Pilgrim Hills April 15-17. It will be so much fun! We will play games. We will hike.

We will sing and make s’mores. We will fish and we will do some really cool team-building and board game playing and card game playing. Oh, we will also worship and delight in God’s presence in nature. It will be a BLAST!

All the children – birth to 18 – are FREE (thanks to a grant from the Alma Keeler Fund). Adults are \$95. We will have scholarships for those who can’t afford to go. We will make it possible for everyone to go.

Come and play... and pray! And if you can’t make it to Pilgrim Hills – play and pray right where you are!

Delight in this season unfolding before us.

Yay Spring! Yay God!

## **What is Your Personality Type? – an MBTI Workshop**

**Saturday, April 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 Noon in Parish Hall**

**By The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens**

For nearly 25 years I have worked with couples and individuals on Personality through the Myers Briggs Type Inventory (MBTI). We have had tons of fun as we have discovered each other’s personality types. This spring, I will offer an MBTI workshop at First Church. If you would like to discover why you do what you do, or how you are wired in your brain, this workshop is for you. For example, are you an Introvert or Extravert? A Sensor or an Intuitive? A Thinker or a Feeler? A Perceiver or a Judger? If you find yourself sitting alone in a corner at a party or family gathering, there is a reason for that. If you find that you are the “life of the party” everywhere you go, there is also a reason for that. Sign-up in the office or email me at [tahrens@first-church.org](mailto:tahrens@first-church.org). When we have done this workshop in the past, couples and individuals have loved coming away with new insights into the dynamics of who they are and what they do. Did I mention we will have a lot of fun?

We have over 20 people already signed up. We can easily have 30 or more. So.... Contact me or Amy Wagner, [awagner@first-church.org](mailto:awagner@first-church.org) ASAP and sign-up. Call the church office if you don’t have email. 614-228-1741, ext. 10.

All participants will need to fill out and have scored your MBTI in advance of the class. We have Questions and the Answer sheets in the church office. They must be back to me by Wednesday, April 6. Thanks.



### **In this issue...**

<b>Upcoming Sermon Titles</b>	<b>page 2</b>
<b>Education News</b>	<b>page 4</b>
<b>Music News</b>	<b>page 8</b>
<b>New Members</b>	<b>page 11</b>
<b>Joys and Concerns</b>	<b>page 12</b>
<b>Church News</b>	<b>page 12</b>
<b>Church Council News</b>	<b>page 14</b>
<b>Calendar of Events</b>	<b>page 15</b>

## **“Without Buddha I Could Not Be A Christian” Continues...**

**By The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens**

Have you ever explored Buddhism? Have you ever wondered about the confluence of Christianity and Buddhism? If the answer is “yes” come join us for the new Wednesday book study on Paul Knitter’s book, “Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian.” I will be teaching this class. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 12 noon in the Parlor. Come join 15-20 people who love reading, fellowship and exploration. This current book will be ours to study until we are done. Then, we will open another book and explore a something new. I hope to see you in class.

## **Summer Softball Team Coming Together - Still Need More Women Players**

**By The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens**

Thanks to the 10 people who responded to playing softball on Sunday afternoons. We still need five more women players to make our Roster complete. Would you like to play? If you are interested in playing for the summer of 2016, please contact Rev. Ahrens ASAP. Last year we did not field a Sunday afternoon co-ed team because no one stepped up to the plate to help or to lead us. So, if the interest is there from the membership, could someone please step-up soon. If you love to play ball, please call... Registration is due in April. Contact me at [tahrens@first-church.org](mailto:tahrens@first-church.org) or call, 228-1741, ext.13.



## **Sermon Titles for April and Early May**

### ***April 10 – Third Sunday of Easter***

Preacher: Rev. Corzine  
Sermon: “Unlocked Doors”  
Texts: Acts 5:27-32; John 20:19-32

### ***April 24 – Fifth Sunday of Easter***

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ahrens  
Sermon: “Resurrection People Work for Justice”  
Texts: Acts 11:1-18; John 13:31-35

### ***April 10 – Third Sunday of Easter***

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ahrens  
Sermon: “Turned Around for Justice”  
Texts: Acts 9:1-20; John 21:1-19

### ***May 1 – Sixth Sunday of Easter***

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ahrens  
Sermon: “Behold, A New Columbus”  
Texts: Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22-22.5; John 14:23-29

### ***April 17 – Fourth Sunday of Easter***

Preacher: Mr. Tom Brownfield  
Texts: Acts 9:36-43; John 10:22-30

### ***May 8 – Seventh Sunday of Easter***

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ahrens  
Sermon: “Mothers For and Mothers Against”  
Texts: Acts 16:16-34; John 17:20-26



# Faith Based Social Services – In the World for the Sake of the World

## A Public Forum on Faith Based Social Services

Sunday, April 3rd, 2.00 – 5.00 p.m.

First Congregational Church 444 E Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215



Sponsored by the Interfaith

Association of Central Ohio

### Presentations and Panel Discussion

- Mark Ferenchik – Columbus Dispatch will serve as Moderator and Facilitator

### Panelists and Presenters

- June Gutterman – CEO, Jewish Family Services
- Larry Crowell – CEO, Lutheran Social Services
- Rachel Lustig – CEO, Catholic Social Services
- Dawn Tyler Lee – Deputy Chief of Staff for External Affairs, Office of the Mayor

### In this first of a series of Public Forums on Faith Social Services, there are 4 basic questions.

1. Faith Based Social Services – How did they come into existence, what is the history, what is the role of faith values?
2. Faith Based Social Services – What do we do, where do we serve?
3. How do we collaborate and cooperate with one another, with other community organizations and with government agencies?
4. Hearing what we have heard, what can we do even better, how can we engage the community, the people and the resources necessary to serve.

### Program Schedule for Faith Based Social Services Public Forum

- 2:00 Gathering, welcome and opening introductions of our respective players – Agencies and the City  
Panel Discussion of a few topics
- 3:15 Break for coffee, snacks and fellowship
- 3:30 Return to discussion and an opportunity for the audience to engage in questions
- 4:30 Concluding on a Note of Hope --- and an Invitation



# Education

by Mark S. Williams, Christian Education Director (mwilliams@first-church.org)



## 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 place your order with any youth member or after worship during the Fellowship Hour. You may view the order form online on the church Website; the forms are also included in this newsletter on pages 5 and 6. There are many varieties of flowers and hanging baskets to choose from. The groups also are selling 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 14-15.

## Teacher/Connections Breakfast May 1

The Christian Education Department will host a Teacher and Worship Connections appreciation breakfast on Sunday, May 1, in the Children's Library. All teachers and Worship Connection leaders will be recognized in both services that day.



## Youth Mission Trips Agreements

Agreement to Participate forms for the West Franklinton Youth Mission Trip and the UCC National Youth Event at Disney are now available outside the Director of Christian Education office and after each service in the Parish Hall. Brochures are also available with details about the trip. Make plans now and get your name on the list. There is a separate form for youth and one for adults for each event. We are asking a \$50 deposit for each participant. This West Franklinton trip will be June 5-10, 2016 and the UCC National Youth Event will be July 26-30. Please contact Mark S. Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 15 for more details.

## Sponsor a Youth to the National Youth Event

The United Church of Christ National Youth Event only happens every 4 years. This might be the only chance for some youth to attend in their life as a youth. They have been working hard to raise the funds to attend this wonderful event however the cost of the flight is somewhat of a challenge to raise. The cost for lodging, meals, and programs is \$527 per youth and the flight is \$347. Please contact Mark Williams if you would like to sponsor a youth.



## You can Help in Franklinton!

The congregation is being asked to help in several ways with our Youth Mission Trip to Franklinton in June. Here are the ways you can help:

1. Provide lunch for a day for the youth participants and the home we are serving or an evening meal at First Church during the week.
2. Provide paint brushes, paint trays, yard waste bags, and Home Depot gift cards.

More items needed for the work week will be listed in the May newsletter.

# First Congregational Youth Flower Sale

Customer's Name:		Salesperson:	
Address Line 1:		Order Date:	
Address Line 2:		Amount Collected:	
Phone Number:		<b>Orders Available for pick up Saturday May 14th</b>	
<b>All Orders must be turned in by April 15th</b>			
Email Address:			

**Flats are 3-12=36 plants**
**All Flats on this page \$15.00**
**We apologize, but we cannot mix or sell 1/2 flats**

<b>FLOWERS</b>						
QTY	ITEM	QTY	ITEM		QTY	ITEM
	<b>AGERATUM</b>		<b>IMPATIENS</b>			<b>PETUNIA</b>
_____	Hawaii Blue	_____	Accent Bright Eye		_____	Rose Madness
	<b>ALYSSUM</b>	_____	Accent Burgandy		_____	Rose Morning Madness
_____	Clear Crystal White	_____	Accent Carmine		_____	Royal Madness
_____	Clear Crystal Purple	_____	Accent Coral		_____	Salmon Morning Madness
_____	Clear Crystal Mix	_____	Accent Cranberry		_____	White Madness
	<b>BEGONIA BRNZ LF</b>	_____	Accent Lavender Blu		_____	Total Madness
_____	Bada Boom Mix	_____	Accent Mix		_____	Patriot Mix
_____	Bada Boom Pink	_____	Accent Orange		_____	Merlot Mix
_____	Bada Boom Rose	_____	Accent Pink			<b>PETUNIA</b>
_____	Bada Boom Scarlet	_____	Accent Red			<b>DOUBLES</b>
_____	Bada Boom White	_____	Accent Red Star		_____	Blue Dbl. Madness
	<b>BEGONIA GRN LF</b>	_____	Accent Rose		_____	Salmon Dbl. Madness
_____	Bada Bing Pink	_____	Accent Salmon		_____	Red. Dbl. Madness
_____	Bada Bing Rose	_____	Accent Violet		_____	Red & White Dbl. Madness
_____	Bada Bing Scarlet	_____	Accent White		_____	Madness Mix Dbl.
_____	Bada Bing White	_____	Accent Pastel Mix			<b>PORTULACA</b>
_____	Bada Bing Mix	_____	Accent Lilac		_____	Margarita Mix
_____	Maestro Mix	_____	Accent Salmon Picotee			<b>SALVIA</b>
	<b>COLEUS</b>		<b>LOBELIA</b>		_____	Blue Rhea
_____	Care Free Mix	_____	Blue Moon		_____	Early Bonfire Tail
_____	Sunvelvet Red		<b>MARIGOLD</b>		_____	Summer Jewel Red
_____	Wizard Jade	_____	Bonanza Orange		_____	Sizzler White
_____	Wizard Mix	_____	Bonanza Mix		_____	Sizzler Purple
	<b>DAHLIA</b>	_____	Bonanza Harmony		_____	Vista Red
_____	Figaro Mix	_____	Bonanza Yellow			<b>SNAPDRAGON</b>
	<b>DIANTHUS</b>	_____	Bonanza Bee		_____	Rocket Mix
_____	Raspberry Parfait	_____	Bonanza Flame		_____	Montego Mix
_____	Strawberry Parfait	_____	Janie Orange			<b>VINCA</b>
	<b>DUSTY MILLER</b>	_____	Janie Yellow		_____	Peppermint Cooler
_____	Silver Dust	_____	Safari Yellow		_____	Grape Cooler
	<b>GAZANIA</b>	_____	Safari Scarlet		_____	Red Cooler
_____	Daybreak Mix	_____	Taishan Orange		_____	Mix Cooler
	<b>HYPOESTES</b>	_____	Taishan Yellow			
_____	Assorted Colors					

**See back for Vegetables and Potted Plants**

**VEGETABLES**

QTY ITEM  
 Single Plant(3 plants) - \$3 (S)  
 Flat – 36 plants \$15(F)  
 (please circle S or F)

**CATALOUPE**

\_\_\_ S /F Burpee Hybrid  
 \_\_\_ S /F Earlidew

**CUCUMBER**

\_\_\_ S /F Burpee Hybrid  
 \_\_\_ S /F Bush Pickle  
 \_\_\_ S /F Bush Crop

**EGGPLANT**

\_\_\_ S /F Black Beauty

**PEPPERS**

\_\_\_ S /F Bell Boy  
 \_\_\_ S /F Gypsy  
 \_\_\_ S /F Hungarian Wax  
 \_\_\_ S /F Habanero  
 \_\_\_ S /F Jalapeno  
 \_\_\_ S /F Red Cayenne  
 \_\_\_ S /F Pimento  
 \_\_\_ S /F Red Chill  
 \_\_\_ S /F Sweet Banana  
 \_\_\_ S /F Sweet Cherry

**PUMPKINS**

\_\_\_ S /F Spirit  
 \_\_\_ S /F Big Max

**SQUASH**

\_\_\_ S /F Zucchini  
 \_\_\_ S /F Butternut  
 \_\_\_ S /F Table Ace Acorn

**TOMATOES**

\_\_\_ S /F Beef Steak  
 \_\_\_ S /F Better Boy  
 \_\_\_ S /F Big Boy  
 \_\_\_ S /F Big Beet  
 \_\_\_ S /F Celebrity  
 \_\_\_ S /F Mr. Stripey  
 \_\_\_ S /F Bush Champion  
 \_\_\_ S /F Lemon Boy  
 \_\_\_ S /F Early Girl  
 \_\_\_ S /F Health Kick  
 \_\_\_ S /F Roma  
 \_\_\_ S /F Sweet 100  
 \_\_\_ S /F Brandywine Red

**TOMATOES 4 1/2"**

\$2.00 each (S) or  
 Flat of 12 plants \$18 (F)  
 (please circle S or F)

\_\_\_ S /F Early Girl  
 \_\_\_ S /F Big Beef  
 \_\_\_ S /F Better Boy  
 \_\_\_ S /F Big Boy  
 \_\_\_ S /F Grape Cherry

**TOMATOES 1 GAL.**

\_\_\_ \$10.00  
 \_\_\_ Early Girl  
 \_\_\_ Big Boy  
 \_\_\_ Better Boy  
 \_\_\_ Big Beef  
 \_\_\_ Lemon Boy  
 \_\_\_ Grape  
 \_\_\_ Roma

**WATERMELON**

\_\_\_ Crimson Sweet

**FLOWERS**

**ZONAL GERANIUMS**

4 1/2' Pots \$3.00each(S)  
 Flat of 12 \$36(F) (please  
 circle S or F)

\_\_\_ S /F Red  
 \_\_\_ S /F White  
 \_\_\_ S /F Pink  
 \_\_\_ S /F Salmon  
 \_\_\_ S /F Violet  
 \_\_\_ Bicolor

**BEDDING GERAMIUMS**

1 pak of 3 - \$2.00 (S)  
 Flat of 36- \$24.00(F)  
 (please circle S or F)

\_\_\_ S /F Red -pak/ flat  
 \_\_\_ S /F White-pak/flat  
 \_\_\_ S /F Pink-pak/flat  
 \_\_\_ S /F Salmon-pak/flat

**10" STOCK GERANIUMS \$14.00**

\_\_\_ Red  
 \_\_\_ Salmon  
 \_\_\_ Pink  
 \_\_\_ White

**10"HANGING**

**BASKETS**

\$15.00 each

QTY ITEM

Bacopia  
 \_\_\_ White  
 \_\_\_ Blue

Begonia Non-stop

\_\_\_ red  
 \_\_\_ salmon  
 \_\_\_ yellow  
 \_\_\_ pink  
 \_\_\_ white  
 \_\_\_ orange

\_\_\_ Ferns

Fuchsia

\_\_\_ red on white  
 \_\_\_ red on purple

Geraniums Ivy

\_\_\_ pink  
 \_\_\_ dark red  
 \_\_\_ white w/red eye  
 \_\_\_ lavender blue  
 \_\_\_ salmon  
 \_\_\_ red/white bicolor

Geraniums Zonial

\_\_\_ red  
 \_\_\_ white  
 \_\_\_ pink  
 \_\_\_ salmon  
 \_\_\_ violet

Impatiens

\_\_\_ mix  
 \_\_\_ salmon  
 \_\_\_ white  
 \_\_\_ pink  
 \_\_\_ red  
 \_\_\_ orange  
 \_\_\_ violet

Impatiens New Guinea

\_\_\_ red  
 \_\_\_ white  
 \_\_\_ purple  
 \_\_\_ salmon  
 \_\_\_ orange  
 \_\_\_ bicolor

Lobelia

\_\_\_ blue  
 \_\_\_ purple

Million Bells

\_\_\_ pink  
 \_\_\_ blue

\_\_\_ yellow

QTY ITEM

Petunia Cascades  
 \_\_\_ yellow  
 \_\_\_ blue

Petunia Waves

\_\_\_ pink  
 \_\_\_ purple  
 \_\_\_ rose

Purslane

\_\_\_ yellow  
 \_\_\_ orange  
 \_\_\_ rose  
 \_\_\_ scarlet  
 \_\_\_ apricot

Torenia

\_\_\_ blue  
 \_\_\_ rose

**4 1/2" POTTED PLANTS**

\$2.50 Each(S)  
 or \$25.00 for flat of 12(F)  
 (please circle S or F)

\_\_\_ S /F Vinca Vine

\_\_\_ S /F Sprenger

\_\_\_ S /F Spikes

New Guinea Impatiens

\_\_\_ S /F white  
 \_\_\_ S /F pink  
 \_\_\_ S /F purple  
 \_\_\_ S /F red  
 \_\_\_ S /F salmon  
 \_\_\_ S /F bicolor

**4 1/2" WAVE PETUNIAS**

\$2.00 each(S) or flat of 12 for  
 \$24.00(F) (please circle S or F)

\_\_\_ S /F red  
 \_\_\_ S /F white  
 \_\_\_ S /F pink  
 \_\_\_ S /F rose  
 \_\_\_ S /F purple  
 \_\_\_ S /F lavender  
 \_\_\_ S /F blue

*Thank you for  
 supporting our  
 youth on their  
 summer  
 mission trip!*

**Please circle (S) for single  
 plant or (F) for flat of plants**



## Laundry Love on April 26

The children and youth of First Congregational Church invite you to join them in a year-long mission project called "Laundry Love." "Laundry Love" is an initiative in partnership with individuals, groups and local Laundromats throughout the US. The initiative helps to wash the clothes and bedding of individuals and/or families living in poverty. From the infant to the aged, and across a broad spectrum of ethnicity, culture and personal story, Laundry Love seeks to nurture the well being of each person through intentional networking and friendship.

The Children and Youth will be collecting quarters and donations of laundry detergent and dryer sheets from the congregation. We would love for members and friends to join us the last Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at WashLand Laundromat, 1469 West Broad Street in West Franklinton to serve those in need. Justice and Mercy Commission, Good Samaritan Fund and The Gladden House are also partnering with this important mission. We always welcome everyone to come and volunteer. This mission is solely dependent on your generous giving. Please continue to save your quarters, which is our biggest need at this time.

This is the first step in connecting with the West Franklinton community as the youth prepare to serve the area on the 2016 Mission Trip. So continue saving your quarters and donate to this worthy cause. **The next Laundry Love day will be April 26.** Come join us in serving those in need.

## Spring Retreat

Join the First Church family as they head toward the hills – Pilgrim Hills that is. Our Spring Retreat, "Pray & Play," is Friday evening, April 15, through Sunday morning, April 17. Please mark your calendars and plan to bring your whole family or just yourself.

Our weekend will include hiking, nature talks and activities, devotions, basketball, fishing, a folk dance for all ages, a campfire with s'mores, crafts, singing and worship at camp Sunday morning. All First Church children and youth are able to attend at no cost thanks to an Alma Keeler grant requested by the Parish Life Committee. Adults are \$95 each, which includes food, lodging and all program costs.

So, what can we do on a retreat that we can't do in a meeting room at church? Given the costs of time and money involved in staging a retreat, is it really worth it? Jesus thought so. The Bible offers numerous stories of Jesus walking away from the constant crowds to carve out a time and space to be alone.

Taking ourselves out of our daily routine – opening our hearts and minds to the people and places around us – is at the heart of a successful retreat. It is important to carve out time and space to give ourselves over to something deeper, something that will last far longer than the retreat itself.

Pilgrim Hills is one of the United Church of Christ camp and retreat centers. It is an hour northeast of Columbus off Route 62 at Brinkhaven.

Brochure and registration forms are in the church office and on the Web site. **Deadline for registration is April 10.** We have space for 70 people– let's fill it! Brochure and registration forms are available in the church office and on the Website. Contact Mark S. Williams at [mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org) or 614-228-1741, ext. 15 for more information.

Come Join the Fun!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
100 COLUMBUS DR

Pray & Play

Spring Retreat

Pilgrim Hills  
April 15 - 17, 2016

Registration Deadline is April 10th

Registration Materials are in the Church Office and Web site  
Contact Mark S. Williams for more information at  
[mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org)

Create PDF files without this message by purchasing ourPDF printer (<http://www.ourpdf.com>)

# From the Minister of Music

By Kevin Jones, Minister of Music

(kjones@first-church.org)



## Holy Week and Easter Music

Thank you to all who supported Easter music dedications this year. This allowed us once again to welcome a brass quintet and timpani for Easter morning at both 8:45 and 11 a.m. services, as well as support some of the music for Good Friday. Thank you for your continuing support. As we proceed now into Eastertide, we continue to hear beautiful music that supports the Easter message of resurrection, new life and hope.



## Choir News

### Liturgical Appearance Schedules

**Treble Choir** – Rehearsals April 3 and 24 at 9 a.m., and April 10 at 8:30 a.m.

Sing in Worship April 3 at 11 a.m.

Sing in Worship April 10 at 9 a.m.

*No rehearsal April 17*

**Teen Choir** – Rehearsals April 3, 10, and 24 at 9 a.m.

Sing in Worship April 3 at 11 a.m.

*No rehearsal April 17*

**First Church Ringers** – Rehearsals April 14 and 21 at 6 p.m.

Ring in Worship April 24 at 11 a.m. (meet at 10:30 a.m.)

**First Church Choir** – Rehearsals April 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 7:15 p.m.

Dress rehearsal for Bernstein *Chichester Psalms* April 30 at 10 a.m.

Sing in Worship April 10, 17, and 24 at 11 a.m.

*No Choir April 3*



## Music News

### Organist Jason Roberts in Recital, Sunday, April 10

Jason Roberts, Associate Director of Music, Organist and the Director of the Boy and Girl Choristers at the famed St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City, presents an organ recital at First Church on Sunday, April 10, at 4 p.m. as part of the Congregational Concerts series. His program will include the music of Marcel Dupré, Maurice Ravel and others, as well as a grand improvisation to close the concert.

Jason is a sought-after recitalist in the U.S. and was chosen to play last summer at the Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Hartford, CT. An avid improviser, he won first prize at the AGO National Competition in Organ Improvisation in 2008 and was a finalist at the St. Alban's International Organ Competition in 2011 (Improvisation).

Jason is a seasoned choir trainer, whose entire life has revolved around the Anglican Church, having begun singing as a Chorister in the Cathedral Choir in Perth, Australia, where his family lived for several years. His love of teaching children brings a sense of continuity to the Choristers program with a fresh and vital approach. His considerable gifts in improvisation have enriched St. Bart's hymn singing and extemporized musical moments in the liturgy.

Prior to St. Bart's, Jason was at St. James's Church in West Hartford, CT, where he built one of the largest choral programs in the Hartford area, which included 35 children and more than 30 adults. He holds degrees from Rice University, Yale University and the Manhattan School of Music.

### Appeal for Choir Vestments

As the First Church Choir's vestments wear and increasingly show their age, it has become apparent to the Music Committee and Choir members that they have served their design life and need to be replaced. Over the years, they have seen weekly usage in worship and special services, concerts, tours to Nashville, Washington D.C., New England and the United Kingdom. The Music Committee forwarded the proposal for new vestments to Council for approval to fundraise. As part of the fundraising for new vestments for the First Church Choir, we will also undertake a campaign to replace the very-long-in-the-tooth Treble Choir vestments – most of which are more than 40 years old!

New vestments in the same color/style (purple cassocks/cottas) will be purchased from C.M. Almy, located in Armonk, New York. Vestments are constructed in their USA shop. The cost for an adult cassock and cotta is \$203. The cost for a child's cassock and cotta is \$186. We will need to purchase 60 adult robes and 20 children's robes so that we have the variety of sizes that are required. (The Teen Choir will not get new robes as theirs are only two years old.) The vestments will be ordered as the money is raised. It is hoped that they will be dedicated and worn next Fall for the first time.

If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of these vestments, or if you would like to sponsor a complete vestment (or two), perhaps as a memorial or in honor of a current chorister, please send a check to Marty Worth, Program Manager, c/o First Church (444 East Broad, Columbus, OH 43215), and note "choir vestments" in the memo line. If you would like to dedicate or memorialize a vestment, please include a note indicating such. Forms will also be available in the Main Office.

Thank you for your generosity and support of the choral program and music in general at First Church. Our choirs enliven our community worship life and contribute so much to the overall experience of First Church. Thank you!

**CONCERTS  
AT FIRST CHURCH**

2015 2016

First-Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
444 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[www.concertsatfirstchurch.org](http://www.concertsatfirstchurch.org)

**Jason Roberts, organist**

Apr  
10

4pm

Associate Director of Music at St. Bartholomew's Church, NYC, plays music of J.S. Bach, Marcel Dupré, Maurice Duruflé and Mozart.

## Choral Evensong on Sunday, May 1 at 4 p.m.

The First Church Choir will sing the final Choral Evensong of the 2015-2016 season on Sunday, May 1, at 4 p.m. Music featured will be the "Gladden" Preces and Responses by Kevin Jones (newly composed for this occasion), and the Canticles by American composer Lee Hoiby. The Easter anthem, "Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem" by C.V. Stanford will round out the music for this liturgy. Immediately following the evensong, the Choir will present Bernstein's joyously exuberant *Chichester Psalms*. Although scored for full orchestra, we will be presenting the reduced orchestration for harp, organ and percussion. Please join us at this last in the series of Concerts at First Church 2015-2016.



## Choral Evensong & Concert



4pm



The First Church Choir sings Choral Evensong on  
May 1 at 4 pm  
New responses by Kevin Jones; Canticles by Lee Hoiby

Following the Evensong, the choir will present Leonard  
Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* in the choir, harp, percussion and  
organ arrangement.

Featuring organist Nicholas Guardokus.



## First Church Joys and Concerns

**MEMBERS:** John Carter; Arlene Reynolds; Madeline Helmer; Wib Smith; Lucille Kropp; Bernie Martin; Ray Pendell; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including Gretchen Weller, on the death of her mother, Marcia Smith; Elaine Stewart and family, on the death of her wife, Darla Luebbe; and Mary Anne Jacobson, on the death of her father.

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY:** Samira Santiago, daughter of Thomas Santiago; Len Weaver, brother of Charlie Weaver; Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams; and the family and friends of Joe LaBute.

**THROUGHOUT THE WORLD:** We pray for the citizens of Brussels, Belgium, who experienced terrorist attacks which left many dead and injured.

**In God's Hands: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle:** This month in the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray with and for the following people and churches:

- *Week of April 3:* Brunei, Malaysia, and Singapore
- *Week of April 10:* East Timor, Indonesia, and Philippines
- *Week of April 17:* Japan, North Korea, South Korea, and Taiwan
- *Week of April 24:* Djibouti and Somalia

*If you have any prayer requests or joys to share, please contact the church office ([awagner@first-church.org](mailto:awagner@first-church.org) or 228-1741, ext. 10) or one of the ministers ([ecorzine@first-church.org](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org) or 228-1741, ext. 21 or [minister@first-church.org](mailto:minister@first-church.org) or 228-1741, ext. 13).*

## Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the **Social Concerns Endowment Fund** and the **Music, Arts, and Heritage Endowment Fund** by the estate of Jim and Evalyn Roehm

Given to the **Johannes Landscape Maintenance Endowment Fund** by Bill and Gail Johannes

Support the ministry of your choice by making a gift in honor or remembrance of a loved one. A list and description of all endowment funds is on the church website at [www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx](http://www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx). The Celebration Gift form can be found in the church pews or on the church website at [www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx](http://www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx)



## April Fellowship Hour Schedule

April 3	Ephesians
April 10	Galatians
April 17	Haggai
April 24	Hosea

## April Acolyte Schedule

April 3	Miriam Myers	Samantha Myers
April 10	Alex Palmer	Trenton Helmer
April 17	Tori Lute	Madeline Helmer
April 24	Allysa Batchelor	Alaina Thompson

## April Offering Schedule

April 3	Youth Mission Franklinton
April 10	Outdoor Ministries
April 17	Sacred Earth
April 24	National Youth Event

## April Crucifer Schedule

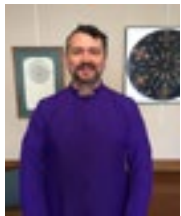
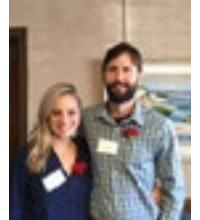
April 3	Cameron Wade
April 10	Adam Wade
April 17	Dylan Hopcraft
April 24	Will Zimmerman

# Church News

## Welcome, New Members!

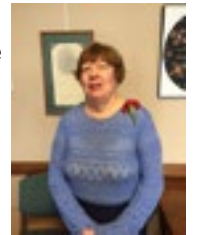
First Church welcomed 6 new members in February. We are excited that they have joined us on our journey of faith as a community and welcome them in to fellowship of First Church. We hope that you'll take a few moments to introduce yourselves to them over the next few months and make them feel welcome.

**Caitlin and Mike Bukach:** Caitlin and Mike were married here at First Church in December of 2015. They were looking for a church for their wedding and found First Church to be so welcoming. They often frequent the 11am service. Caitlin is a product manager for CoverMyMeds and enjoys yoga. Mike is a communications manager for CoverMyMeds and likes running. Together they love to travel and their dogs, Woofy and Clementine.



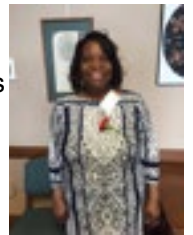
**Ryan Jones:** A bass in the First Church Choir, Ryan, grew up in a UCC church in Dayton and found First Church when he moved to Columbus. After returning from time away, he signed up to be in the choir over 2 years ago. He is impressed with how wonderful everyone is. He is a massage therapist and lives in German Village with his partner, Heath. He loves cooking, music, pipe cigars and hockey.

**Leslie Larson:** Leslie joins us from Westerville UCC. She found First Congregational Church after Keene Lebold's memorial service. Her husband, Bill, is Keene and Joan's nephew. She is retired and worships primarily at the 9 a.m. service.



**Nicole Moss:** Grew up in the Unitarian Universalist church and remembers finding First Church on the Sunday after the Sandy Hook Shooting. She said she was drawn to First Church as she was seeking something significant related to God. She is an attorney with Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services. She lives in Old Towne East with her wife, Shari.

**Linda Slocum:** Linda grew up at Shiloh Baptist Church. She is a teacher in Columbus City Schools. She is the Director of Letting Kids Succeed, a summer enrichment program for children and youth in Columbus. First Church is the home for that program for 10 weeks every summer. She teaches Sunday school for 2nd/3rd graders here. She attends the 9am service. Linda loves arts and crafts.



Interested in joining us on our journey of faith? Want more information about First Church? Our next New Member Class will be held on Monday, May 16(7-8:30 p.m.) and new members will join in worship on Sunday, May 22. Please contact Rev. Emily Corzine, [ecorzine@first-church.org](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org) or Amy Wagner, [awagner@first-church.org](mailto:awagner@first-church.org) if you are interested or have more questions.

# Church News

## The First Church Golf League

The First Church Golf League will tee up starting on Thursday, April 28, and go for 10 weeks every Thursday at 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome -- from beginners to those looking to sharpen their skills. The only competition is you trying to improve on your game. Keeping score is optional.

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. Rounds usually last about two hours. Cost is \$10 per round (\$8 for seniors) for 10 rounds for a total of \$100 (\$80 for seniors), due on the first Thursday that we play, April 28. Players must have their own clubs, balls and bag. Push carts are available for \$2 per week and electric carts are also available.

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. If you have questions, call Frank.

## Young Ambassadors Ohio (YAO) Luncheon and Concert at First Church

by Carly Kutschbach

The Ohio Conference UCC & the German Reform Church of Westphalia have a long standing partnership. Several of their youth each year come to work in the UCC Outdoor Ministries Youth Camps as part of the partnership. Speaking for myself, I have truly enjoyed these counselors and getting to know them and sharing the differences and similarities between their culture and our culture. This past year we expanded the exchange and had 12 German youth come to Ohio and spend three weeks with our youth, touring, doing mission work, learning our culture and worshipping.

This summer we are sending 13 youth from the Ohio Conference to Germany. Four of the youth are from First Congregational Church – Carly Kutschbach, and Will, Luke & Nina Zimmerman. They will be leaving on July 1 and returning on July 23. This is more than just a youth exchange. It will allow our youth to experience their Reformation heritage (as 2017 is the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation!), learn about racism issues in Germany, be an ambassador of peace on Christ's behalf, experience the culture and do some mission work with the German youth.

The youth are working to raise funds to go on the trip as a group. On Sunday, May 22, we are having a German Luncheon (complete with brats, sauerkraut, German potato salad & the fixings!) after church at 12:30 pm. The youth will be there to answer your questions and share their travel plans.

Following the luncheon, we will have a concert with Rev. Dan Doty, UCC Minister at Trinity UCC in Wadsworth, singing some German Opera and Art Song. Rev. Doty is a professionally trained opera singer. He sang at the General Synod Closing worship in Cleveland last year and it was AMAZING!! You will not be disappointed!!

Look for more details about the luncheon and concert in your upcoming Worship Bulletins!!

Invite you friends and families to come, too!

Thanks for your support!

## Thank You

The family of Herman C. Ahrens, Jr. would like to thank our extended family at First Congregational United Church of Christ for your outpouring of prayers, love and support during this time of mourning and transition. All of you embody the three-word theology of Herman Ahrens: "God is Love."



## Second Thursday Fellowship Meets on April 14

Join us in the Choir Room on the second floor on April 14 from 10:30 a.m. until Noon for the Second Thursday Fellowship. Our speakers and "musicians" will be John Carter and Rev. Mary Kay Beall Carter. All are welcome!

# Church Council News

## March Council Meeting

By Nancy Braverman, Council Secretary

First Congregational Church Council met on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. A few highlights from the meeting:

Will and Luke Zimmerman, two of our church's four youths who will participate in a Ohio UCC student exchange program to Germany, along with their mother, Missy Zimmerman, appeared before council. (The other exchange students are Nina Zimmerman and Carly Kutschbach.) Will and Luke discussed the program and their efforts to fundraise for travel expenses. The Justice and Mercy and Education committees, along with the council, have voted to help subsidize expenses for the students. In addition, the Zimmermans plan to host a German dinner as a fundraiser followed by a concert, hosted by the Kutschbachs - all on May 22. Save the date and watch the bulletin for details.

Associate minister Emily Corzine will be off the grid for just a bit in April, attending two continuing education seminars. She will learn more about staffing and supervision of a large congregation with the Iowa Conference UCC, April 12-13. And from April 18 to 21, she will be in Pittsburgh, focusing on religious fundraising and stewardship.

A new committee to study stewardship and fundraising at First Church has been formed and will meet on April 9. The goal is to make stewardship a year-round effort rather than restricting it to a few months in the fall. Another goal: to come up with more and innovative ways for people to give and the church to receive gifts. Ideas and volunteers are welcome! Contact Moderator Brian Cave.

Coming up: The council will plunge into the church's long-range plan at the next meeting, April 19, 2016. We are getting started by reviewing SMART goals (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, timely) proposed by the church's various commissions. It should be a meaty meeting!

# Justice and Mercy News

## The Nehemiah Action Assembly:

**Monday, May 9 – Celeste Center at the Ohio State Fairgrounds**

by The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

On Monday Night, May 9, over 2,500 people from 54 congregations of the BREAD Organization will gather at The Celeste Center on the Ohio State Fairgrounds to lift our voices for social justice. I hope and pray you are there. This will be the largest gathering of interfaith witness for justice in Ohio in 2016. The First Congregational UCC Justice Ministry Network is reforming now to identify our commitments and bring people that night. Let's mark our calendars now. Let's bring our friends, co-workers, family and neighbors. Let's make this happen. I know you care about the problems facing our city and all of Central Ohio. I know you want to be a part of the solution. Come to the BREAD Nehemiah Assembly on May 9.

# April Calendar

## Sunday, April 3

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall  
9 a.m. – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir and Music Activities Rooms  
10 a.m. – Christian Education – Education Wing, Rooms C and D  
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary  
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall  
2 p.m. – Interfaith Association of Central Ohio Public Forum – Parish Hall  
6 p.m. – High School Youth Group Meeting – Parish Hall

## Monday, April 4

6:30 p.m. – Christian Education Committee – Mark Williams' office  
7 p.m. – Hebrew / Christian Scripture Study – Parish Hall

## Tuesday, April 5

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

## Wednesday, April 6

11 a.m. – Book Study: *Without Buddha I Could Not Be Christian* – Parlor

## Saturday, April 9

7:30 a.m. – Stewardship Meeting – Large Conference Room  
9:30 a.m. – Myers Briggs Type Inventory Workshop – Parish Hall  
10 a.m. – First Church Quilters – Parish Family Room

## Sunday, April 10

8:45 a.m. – Treble Choir Rehearsal – Music Activities Room  
9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall  
9 a.m. – Teen Choir – Choir Room  
10 a.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room  
10 a.m. – Christian Education – Education Wing, Rooms C and D  
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary  
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall  
4 p.m. – Congregational Concert: Jason Roberts, Organist – Sanctuary  
6 p.m. – Middle and High School Youth Groups Meeting – Parish Hall

## Monday, April 11

9 a.m. – Good Samaritan Day – Large Conference Room  
6:30 p.m. – Trustees Meeting – Parlor  
7 p.m. – Hebrew / Christian Scripture Study – Parish Hall

## Tuesday, April 12

7 p.m. – Executive Committee – Large Conference Room

## Wednesday, April 13

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Large Conference Room  
12 noon – Hebrew / Christian Scripture Study Make Up Class – Large Conference Room  
6 p.m. – Music Committee – Parlor

## Thursday, April 14

10:30 a.m. – Second Thursday Fellowship – Parlor  
6 p.m. – First Church Ringers Rehearsal – Education Wing Room J  
7:15 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Parish Hall

## Friday, April 15

7 p.m. – Spring Retreat Begins – Pilgrim Hills

## Saturday, April 16

All Day – Spring Retreat – Pilgrim Hills  
8:30 a.m. – House and Grounds – Parish Family Room

## Sunday, April 17

Spring Retreat Ends after Worship – Pilgrim Hills  
9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall  
10 a.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room  
10 a.m. – Christian Education – Education Wing, Rooms C and D  
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary  
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

## Monday, April 18

7 p.m. – Personnel Committee – Parish Family Room  
7 p.m. – Hebrew / Christian Scripture Study – Parish Hall

## Tuesday, April 19

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room  
7 p.m. – Church Council – Large Conference Room

## Wednesday, April 20

11 a.m. – Book Study: *Without Buddha I Could Not Be Christian* – Parlor  
1 p.m. – Deadline for Newsletter Articles

## Saturday, April 23

9 a.m. – Faith Mission Meal Preparation – Kitchen

## Sunday, April 24

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall  
9 a.m. – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir and Music Activities Rooms  
10 a.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room  
10 a.m. – Christian Education – Education Wing, Rooms C and D  
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary  
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall  
12:15 p.m. – Deacons Meeting – Large Conference Room  
6 p.m. – High School Youth Group Meeting – Parish Hall

## April Calendar Continued

### Monday, April 25

6 p.m. – Budget and Finance Meeting – Large Conference Room  
7 p.m. – Hebrew / Christian Scripture Study and Seder– Temple Israel

### Tuesday, April 26

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room  
6 p.m. – Laundry Love – WashLand Laundromat, 1469 West Broad Street

### Wednesday, April 27

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Large Conference Room

### Thursday, April 28

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

### Friday, April 29

7 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

### Saturday, April 30

10 a.m. – Concert Rehearsal – Sanctuary

## Member Anniversaries in April

4/4 Abby and Brian Cave  
Amy and David Mailer  
4/7 Meredith and David Sugar  
4/13 Natalie and Scott Barker  
4/14 Rachel and Peter Unkovic  
4/18 Christina and David Kirker  
Sharon and Gary Leidheiser  
Joyce and Craig Oyler  
4/19 Heather and Mark Whaling  
4/20 Laura and Hamish Baird  
Mary Anne and Todd Jacobson  
4/21 Cathy and Wayne Redenbarger  
4/28 Anita Babu and Joe Cheng

## Member Birthdays in April

4/1 Bill Catus  
4/2 Laura Baird  
Pete Boriin  
Bill Lange  
AnnaSophia Severson  
4/4 Jack Allen  
Peter Unkovic  
Al Waddell  
4/7 Stefanie Bohnert  
Dana Schultz  
4/8 Liz Cook  
Mitchell Dean  
Katherine Erickson  
Nancy Loy  
Amy Mailer  
Amanda Mason  
Anna Rambo  
4/9 Becky Taft  
Lisa Morris  
4/10 Emily Cave  
Loretta Hoffman  
Janice Taft  
Jane Werum  
4/11 Jan Kevan  
Merry Roach  
4/12 Marcy Essig  
Rick Pfeiffer  
4/13 Jennifer Weaver  
4/14 Jacquelyn Lowery  
4/15 Tammy Anderson  
David Holt  
4/16 Julia Trace  
Katherine Trace  
Nina Zimmerman  
4/19 Christopher Gelpi  
4/20 Alex Rodriguez  
4/21 Gretchen Fleurant  
Kim Kutschbach  
4/22 Emma Welsh-Huggins  
Thomas Welsh-Huggins  
4/23 Emma Dean  
Malcolm Giffen  
4/24 Kathryn Bamberger  
Noah Brooks  
Wally Giffen  
4/25 Lori Buehler  
Dean Hafey  
4/26 Ben Horne  
4/27 Chris Farquhar  
4/28 Neal Brower  
Frank Cook III  
4/29 John Martin  
4/30 Susan Sitler





## **FIRST CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

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.

### **DIACONATE**

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

### **CHURCH STAFF**

Business Manager Sharon Leidheiser  
Program Manager Martha Worth  
Office Manager Amy Wagner  
Building Manager Thomas Santiago  
Custodian William Lee, Jimy Sibrian  
Wedding Coordinators Janet Axt, Margaret Cipriani  
Nursery Staff Evin Wimberly, Simone Ellerson, Natalie Barker, Taylre Arnold

### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

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  
Administration-Elect Sue Cook  
Church Growth Matt Myers  
Church Growth-Elect Kent Rambo  
Education Jennifer Okezie-Watts  
Education-Elect Helen Ninos  
House & Grounds Charlie Weaver  
House & Ground-Elect Eric Klintworth  
Justice & Mercy Tracy Ross  
Justice & Mercy-Elect Al Glover  
Music, Arts, Heritage Al Waddell  
Music, Arts, Heritage-Elect Sharon Ferguson  
Church Vitality Denise Vogt  
Church Vitality-Elect Kelly Dodd  
Nominating Chair Elaine Warren  
Trustees Francille Firebaugh  
Member-at-large Mary Kay Beall Carter  
Youth-at-large Eddie Anderson IV  
Deacon Council Rep. Alec Deitz



FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH

**The First Congregational Church, UCC**

444 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741

Email: [home@first-church.org](mailto:home@first-church.org)

Web site: [www.first-church.org](http://www.first-church.org)

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Closed Major Holidays

**“An Open & Affirming Faith Community”**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS**

Worship at 9 a.m. ~ Parish Hall

Worship at 11 a.m. ~ Sanctuary

TO: