



Isaiah, the Advent Prophet

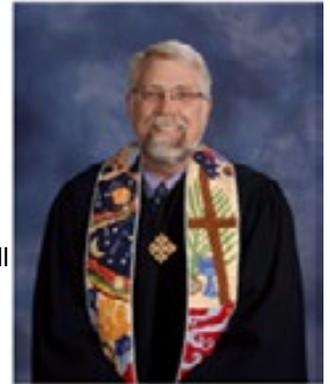
By Rev. Tim Ahrens

We are about to enter the season of Isaiah.... I mean Advent.

More than any other prophet, Isaiah anticipates the coming Messiah and the fulfillment of God's promise spoken to King David in II Samuel 7: "I will raise up your heir after you, and I will make his kingdom firm. It is he who shall build a house for my name. And I will make his royal throne firm forever. I will be a father to him and he shall be a son to me."

The Prophet Isaiah will be present three of the four Sundays of Advent. He will return Christmas Eve. Don't miss him at Lessons and Carols, too. The prophet Isaiah anticipates the coming of Immanuel, God with us, and the glorious day of the arrival of the ideal king, the one who would decisively change the course of history, rule with justice, and bring peace. This is why we call his writings the Immanuel Prophecies. Isaiah's Advent themes are lifted up as preparation, conversion, renewal, hope, consolation, joy, justice, peace, harmony, fulfillment, deliverance, redemption, salvation, and the restoration of the rule of God.

He brings forth prophecy of Immanuel from the earliest chapters. The first prophecy describes the birth of Immanuel: "The virgin shall be with child, and shall name him Immanuel" (Is 7:14). The second prophecy describes his dominion: "For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful" (Is 9:5-6a). The third prophecy describes the justice of his rule: "A shoot shall spout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord. He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the lands afflicted. Justice shall be the band around his waist" (Is 11:1-2,4,5).



Isaiah's mission was not only to point people to the Messiah. He also called people to walk the right path to God. He instilled fervent faith in God in the hearts of his flock, and he brought them courage and fortitude at a time when they were suffering mortal fear from the threat of the new Assyrian Empire. Isaiah also described in glowing terms the future glory of Zion, which inspires our people to the present day.

To quote Isaiah, ***"In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together."***

Isaiah 40

First Church Highlights..Nov. 30 - Dec. 21

Sunday, November 30, 9 & 11 a.m. Worship services for Advent I

Sunday, December 7, 9 & 11 a.m. Worship services for Advent II

Sunday, December 14, 9 & 11 a.m. Worship services for Advent III, Special Congregational Meeting, and Christmas Dinner and Children's Play

Sunday, December 21, 9 & 11 a.m. Worship services for Advent IV

Sunday, December 21, 4 p.m. A Festival of Lessons and Carols Prelude begins promptly at 3:30 p.m.

Sermon Titles for December:

Advent and Christmas Sermon Series:

“A Vision for Now and Forever”

November 30 – Advent I - “Remembering More than our sins...forever” – Isaiah 64:1-9

December 7 - Advent II - “Comforting With Tender Talk” – Isaiah 40:1-11

December 14 – Advent III - “Delighting in Justice” - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

December 21 - Advent IV - “Planting People for Greatness” – II Samuel 7:1-11, 16

December 24 - Christmas Eve:

7:30pm - Pageant of the Nativity - “A Night of Miraculous Wonder”

11:00pm - Candle Light Communion - “A Night to Comfort With Tender Talk” – Isaiah 40:1-11

December 28– Christmas I

9:00 am – Service of Communion, Rev. Clark preaching

11:00 am – A Community Service of Lessons and Carols

Come and join on the journey. Blessings to you for Advent and Christmas.

The Senior Minister Reflects on our Upcoming Special Congregational Meeting to Vote on the Associate Minister

By Rev. Tim Ahrens

On December 14, 2014 First Church will make history. We will vote as a congregation for the first time ever on our Associate Minister. When we do this, we will vote on our first **Associate Minister** as a called pastor of this church. Since the Constitution was ratified in January, 2013, we have not had to implement this section of the constitution – until now. Congratulations First Church!

I hope you all come to the meeting. I hope you meet **Rev. Emily Krause Corzine**. When you do, you will come to know what our committee has come to know – Rev. Corzine is very gifted as a pastor, teacher and preacher. We will be blessed when she comes among us to serve First Church. I have never been through a search process when the committee was so united in its support for the lead candidate. After months of preparation, reading 45 profiles and resumes, and interviewing four people, God sent us Emily as the right choice for our church. As you read the information in the letter sent by our Moderator and our search committee and the information in this newsletter, you will understand what I mean.

Rev. Emily Krause Corzine is an ordained Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), currently serving as Transitional Pastor at Old Stone Presbyterian Church in Delaware, Ohio. Since her ordination, she has served in a variety of positions, including associate capacities in larger congregations (Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Ohio, and First Presbyterian Church, Wooster, Ohio). The areas of ministry where she has served are: young adults, mission, and social justice, in addition to preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and administration. She has also served as a hospital chaplain in Columbus at Riverside Methodist Hospital and in Nationwide Children’s Hospital’s Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit. Prior to entering the ministry, she served as an Assistant Professor of Physical Education at Denison University.

Rev. Corzine’s formal education includes Princeton Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity); Indiana University, (M.S. Kinesiology/Athletic Training); Denison University (B.A. Biology/ Physical Education). She lives in Dublin, Ohio with her husband, Jeff and 17-month old daughter Camryn. Jeff is employed by United Health.

Rev. Corzine has been described by former mentors as having the skill set to work well with people one on one and in groups, plus work well in systems and committees. She is dependable, warm, humble, funny and organized. She has a particular gift in connecting with youth and young adults, while treating the street person with as much dignity as the CEO. She is deeply faithful, wise and compassionate; as well as well-organized, diligent; demonstrates excellent people skills with all ages, preaches and teaches well, and cares deeply about social justice.

I look forward to Rev. Emily Kraus Corzine coming as our pastor. I look forward to many years serving beside her in the pastoral ministry of our congregation. When she begins in early February, there will be joy at 444 East Broad St. for the arrival of one so blessed by God!

Capital Campaign – “The Future’s Broadening Way”

by Rev. Tim Ahrens – tahrens@first-church.org

After four years of giving, our Capital Campaign stands \$80,000 short of our goal. We need everyone to step up and meet their projected giving commitments by December 31, 2014. If you have already finished your gift, “thank you!” If you would like to give more, GREAT! We will gladly receive gifts beyond your goals. If you never made a pledge to the Capital Campaign but would like to contribute something, we are open to your great giving! If you project falling short of your giving goal by December 31, 2014, please let Sharon Leidheiser at sleidheiser@first-church.org know.

They can be reached in the main office – 614-228-1741, Ext. 11 or sleidheiser@first-church.org. The committee needs to project the giving still arriving after the end date. Thanks for all you have done to make the church more beautiful through your generosity. You have opened the future’s Broadening Way on the Corner of Cleveland and Broad! Thanks to you, our future looks brighter every single day. God bless you all!

“Thank You” from the Whole First Church Staff

By Rev. Tim Ahrens

As the year comes to a close, I would like to say “thank you” on behalf of all the staff of First Church. You, the members and friends of First Church make this a place to work and serve God in the heart of this great city. On the edge of Thanksgiving, each of us stops and we give thanks for you!



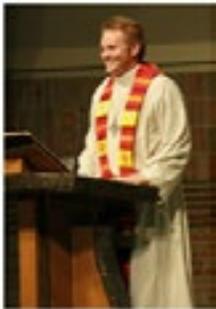
On a very personal note: Thank you for calling me to be your Senior Minister on November 19, 1999. I have now spent more than half of my ministerial years as your pastor. Susan and I have been blessed to be part of such an amazing community of faith. Here our children have grown and headed out into the world. We never dreamed 15 years ago that we would so richly blessed to raise our children in such a blessed community of joy and justice. We are so blessed by each and every one of you. Thank you for being who you are as we venture forward on this journey of life and faith.



Is First Church Your Church Home?

By Rev. Dan Clark

One of my roles as your Interim Associate Minister is to facilitate quarterly New Members classes. The largest class in four years, a group of 12, gathered on June 1st and were received as new members on Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Church. Another group of six gathered at the end of August and were received as new members on September 21st.



Now it is time to turn our attention to the next New Members class, which will be held in the Church Parlor **Monday, December 1st, from 7-9PM.**

So will you join us? If you are not currently a member of First Church, let me ask you this question: Is First Church your church home? Is this where you come for spiritual support? Do you serve here? Do you share your gifts here? Do you bless the rest of us with your presence? Are you moved by the beautiful art, architecture and music? Are you stirred by the thoughtful sermons, education opportunities? Are you comforted by conversations and companionship here? Are you motivated by First Church’s commitment to justice and mercy? Are you welcomed by our hospitality and openness? If some or all of these prompts lead you to reflect on your part in this community, yet you are not a member, perhaps now is the time to take that next step in your spiritual journey.

According to our constitution, “Members are expected to strive to live the Christian life, to foster diligently the spiritual welfare of their fellow members, to bring a Christian presence to the community and the world, and to their fullest abilities to participate in the worship services of the church and to support its benevolences, work and activities.”

If you are seeking to live, care, and contribute here at First Church in the love of God, please sign up for the next New Members class. For questions or more information, please contact Rev. Dan Clark at dclark@first-church.org.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, November 30, 9 & 11 a.m.
Worship services for Advent I

Sunday, December 7, 9 & 11 a.m.
Worship services for Advent II

Sunday, December 14, 9 & 11 a.m.
Worship services for Advent III

Sunday, December 21, 9 & 11 a.m.
Worship services for Advent IV

Sunday, December 21, 4 p.m.
A Festival of Lessons and Carols
Prelude begins promptly at 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24
3:00 p.m. – Family Christmas Eve Service
7:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service including the Drama of the Nativity
10:30 p.m. – Nativity Concert “Of a Rose”
11:00 p.m. – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 28, 9 & 11 a.m.
The First Sunday of Christmas
A Community Festival of Lessons and Carols at 11

Sunday, January 4, 9 & 11 a.m.
Worship services for the Second Sunday of Christmas



ADVENT

Church News. . . .

Introducing Single Serve Cups

Our two-fold mission to sustain the environment and assist small coffee growers has a new item, **Single Serve Cups** of Organic Breakfast Blend coffee. The recyclable and compostable cups are compatible with Keurig K-Cup, but not compatible with Keurig VUE or 2.0 Brewing Systems. On sale 1st and 3rd Sundays for \$10.00 a box, 12 cups per box. *from Sacred Earth which meets first Tuesday of the month 5:30 -7:00 p.m. Join us.*

New Ushers Needed

BE A PART OF THE 'EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME' AT FIRST CHURCH! Help others feel as welcome as you did upon arriving at First Church. Contact Bert Cook bcook1039@aol.com or 614-840-0485 to join an usher team for the 11:00 service! Ushers serve for 1 month at a time and serve twice a year. Thank you.



Halloween at Gladden Community House

Joe Baszynski and Fran Panek are shown assisting the kids in the corn hole games. Also assisting were Chris Farquhar, Cheryl Hoskinson, Greg Halbe and Bruce Panek. "Thanks " 1st Church members for donating the treats. A good time was had by all.
by Dawn George



Bethlehem On Broad Street (B.O.B.S.) Celebrations 2014

There are lots of different ways to mark the holiday season. But for many of those who have participated on our yearly ecumenical fellowship, there is no better way to celebrate the birth of Christ than through Bethlehem on Board Street. As we move into the coldest part of the year, there are many families and individuals with deep and immediate needs for food and clothing. This is particularly true in today's troubled economy.

On **Saturday, December 6, 2014** food, gently used clothes, toys and school supplies will be distributed by Project Help Clothing Ministry from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at McKendree United Methodist Church, 3330 Cleveland Avenue. Contact Sandy Watters-Holley at (614) 475-9615 to donate or to volunteer. BOBS contributes \$1500 for these families.

On **Saturday, December 13, 2014**, over 1200 food boxes with gift certificates for perishable foods will be given out from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Broad Street United Methodist Church, 501 E. Broad Street. David Benson is the general coordinator. Call 614-228-4571. BOBS contributes \$750 to this event.

On **Christmas Day Thursday, December 25**, the Christmas Celebration of Jesus' birthday will be celebrated at the First Congregational Church. **The doors will open at 8:30 a.m. At 9 a.m. we will have our traditional Christmas Service followed by dinner being served from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** There will be hospitality, caroling, entertainment, gifts, toiletries, children activities and free phone calls. There will be no carry-out meals and no transportation.

TO VOLUNTEER OR DONATE, PLEASE go to website; Bethlehem on Broad Street or CALL: 228-7338 AFTER DEC. 1.

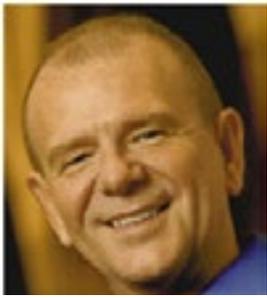
Arlene Reynolds, Coordinator and Becky Taft, Volunteer Room Coordinator



Education Planning for Advent

By Mark S. Williams, Christian Education Director

(mwilliams@first-church.org)



Advent is here and we want to make sure you and your children don't miss all the wonderful activities and resources First Church is providing during Advent. We encourage and invite all our families to participate in this wonderful season.

Advent resources for children, families and adults will be available beginning Sunday, Nov. 23 at the entrance to the worship space and in classrooms. An Advent Children's Activities Calendar and a separate Tween's-Teen's Calendar will be available and is perfect to display on a refrigerator or a family bulletin board. **A variety of booklets** for **family** prayers, scriptures and reflections for each day of Advent will be available. *Wait for the Lord* by Henri J. M. Nouwen is an **individual** devotion booklet for the days of Advent. Please pick up a copy at either service

or in the church office.

The **Children's Christmas Play** will be presented to the church at the **Congregational Christmas Dinner, Sunday, December 14, from 6– 7:30 p.m.** Please watch for details on how to sign up for this FREEWILL dinner. It is not too late for all the children to be a part of this wonderful tradition. The preschool, kindergarteners and 1st graders (Mistletoe Marchers) will be opening the program with the 2nd through 5th graders presenting a Christmas play with a great theme. Julia Myers (JLSimcock@outlook.com) is heading up the "Mistletoe Marchers" and Linda Slocum, lindakslcum@yahoo.com or Mark S. Williams, mwilliams@first-church.org are co- directing the upper elementary Christmas play. Please contact them for more information on how your child can participate.

Each Sunday of Advent, several activities sheets will be available for the children that relate to our Children's Time in worship as well for the 9 a.m. service. Sunday, Dec. 21, the Service of Lessons and Carols will be at 4:00 P.M (Prelude @ 3:30pm). with several activities sheets at the door for the younger children since they remain in the Sanctuary the entire time. Childcare will be available for children 4 and under in the nursery.

The Middle and High school youth will again be presenting an **Art Exhibit** that will be **on display December 14-21 in the Parish Hall and then in the Education Wing December 22-January 5**. This is a wonderful way for our Middle and High school youth to show their talents in original visual, musical, lyrical, and other forms of art that has been gifted to the congregation temporarily during the Advent season. This project is being led by Susan and Bill Rhoads. Be sure to visit the youth exhibit that is throughout the building.

We are pleased again to offer a 45 minute Christmas Eve Service at 3 pm for our congregation. The Christmas story will be told by readers and by children and many Christmas carols are included in this service, which will be early enough to celebrate Christmas, return home still in daylight, enjoy Christmas dinner with family and friends, and tuck the little ones in bed at a decent hour.

The Christmas Pageant will once again be presented by the youth on Christmas Eve at the 7:30 p.m. service. This long-standing traditional service is one of the highlights of the First Church Advent season. This is such a favorite of families who attend. There will also be a special Children's activity gift for this service. Middle and High school youth wanting to participate should contact Mark S. Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org. And of course we will have the traditional candlelight service at 11 p.m. with our First Church Choir.

I hope to see all of you during this glorious season and hope you will find calmness and peace during this wonderful and sometimes hectic time of year.



Middle and High School Youth Putting Tree Up in the Narthex

Education

Youth Selling Fudge for Holidays

The First Church Youth Groups will be selling a variety of fudge again this year as a fundraiser during the holiday season. The fudge, either ½ pound or pound boxes, will be on sale after each worship service and during office weekday hours beginning the week of December 1. This makes a perfect gift for the holiday season. Consider giving a box of fudge as gifts for your business/employees. Order forms are now available. See Mark Williams mwilliams@first-church.org for more details regarding special orders.



First Congregational Church Youth Fudge Order Form

Name _____

Phone _____ Date _____

Email _____

- 1 lbs Chocolate _____@ \$10ea.
- ½ lbs Chocolate _____@ \$5 ea.
- 1 lbs Peanut Butter _____@ \$10 ea.
- ½ lbs Peanut Butter _____@ \$5 ea.
- 1 lbs Chocolate w/Walnuts _____@ \$10 ea.
- ½ lbs Chocolate w/Walnuts _____@ \$5 ea.
- 1 lbs Chocolate Mint Swirl _____@ \$10ea.
- ½ lbs Chocolate Mint Swirl _____@ \$5 ea.
- 1 lbs Peppermint Bark _____@ \$10ea.
- ½ lbs Peppermint Bark _____@ \$5 ea.
- 1 lbs Salty Carmel Chocolate _____@ \$10ea.
- ½ lbs Salty Carmel Chocolate _____@ \$5 ea.
- 1 lbs Chocolate Carmel Swirl _____@ \$10ea.
- ½ lbs Chocolate Carmel Swirl _____@ \$5 ea.
- 1 lbs Buckeye _____@ \$10ea.
- ½ lbs Buckeye _____@ \$5 ea.
- 1 lbs Sugar Free Chocolate _____@ \$10ea.
- ½ lbs Sugar Free Chocolate _____@ \$5 ea.
- 1 lbs Sugar Free Vanilla _____@ \$10ea.
- ½ lbs Sugar Free Vanilla _____@ \$5 ea.
- 1 lbs Butterfinger Chocolate _____@ \$10ea.
- ½ lbs Butterfinger Chocolate _____@ \$5 ea.
- Pecan Roll _____@ \$10ea.

Amount Paid _____

Make checks to First Congregational Church ~ Memo – Youth Mission Trip

Back Bay Mission Trip Agreements

Back Bay Mission Trip Agreements to Participate forms for the Back Bay Mission Trip are now available in the church office and after each service in the Parish Hall. Brochures are also available with details about the trip. There is only room for 40 participants for this trip. Make plans now and get your name on the list. There is a separate form for youth and one for adults. The first deadline for deposit is January 11, 2015. This cross-generational trip will be June 20-27, 2015. Please see Mark S. Williams for more details.



First Church's 2014 Ornament Now Available For \$18

First Church is continuing our exciting program in celebrating the history of the church through an ongoing keepsake ornament project. Each year, one of our beautiful stained glass windows is featured as a keepsake ornament. The 2014 collectible features the Gladden Window - "Charity and Justice" panel. This series started eight years ago. The first ornament (2007) was the "Shepherd Window" that is located in the Gladden Chapel. The 2008 ornament was "The Light of the World" window, located in the sanctuary in the Parable Windows. The 2009 ornament is "Jesus Blessing the Children" panel from the Jeffrey Window, which is located above the Chancel. The fourth keepsake ornament (2010) was the "Evangelists" from the Jeffrey Window. The fifth keepsake ornament was the "Christ sitting on the Rainbow" from the Jeffrey Window and the 2012 keepsake ornament was the "Chi Rho" panel from the Rose Window. The 2013 collectible features the Music (Barnard) Window. All the keepsake ornaments, except 2007, are still available in limited quantity at \$10 each or you can purchase all the previous six ornaments for a discounted price of \$45.



This year's ornament is here and now on sale at the conclusion of the 9 a.m. service and during the Fellowship Hour in the Parish Hall after the 11 a.m. service. It also will be available for purchase during the week in the church office. The 2014 ornament is \$18. Contact Mark S. Williams, (mwilliams@first-church.org) for more information.



DECEMBER 14, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Our annual light-hearted look at the Nativity story. We'll welcome the Mistletoe Marchers, a festive parade of children from pre-K through first grade; the Christmas Chorus, a merry band of second graders introducing the production; and the First Church Christmas actors themselves, all children third through fifth grades interested in participating. This year's show, "A Superhero Christmas Tale" finds who doesn't believe in the real meaning of Christmas. Join us for this romp toward the real meaning of the season.

The play will be preceded by a pot luck dinner. **Please bring a dish to share according to last name: A-H bring a side or salad; I-P bring a casserole or entrée; R-Z bring a dessert.**

Rehearsals continue weekly at 10 a.m. on Sundays (Education Hour, if you're counting) through the day of the play, Sunday, Dec. 14. The only non-Sunday practice is the dress rehearsal the day before, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13, in Parish Hall. Pre-K-1st children will tackle the roles of Mistletoe Marchers; 2nd graders will introduce the spectacle with their very own spotlight-stealing rhymes; and 3rd-5th graders will charm and disarm us with speaking parts to rival Shakespeare or SpongeBob. All are welcome; there are no tryouts or cuts. Questions? Linda Slocum, lindakslocum@yahoo.com or Mark Williams, mwilliams@first-church.org.

Youth Advent Art Project To Help Bethlehem on Broad Street

For several years, our Middle and High School youth have explored Scriptures, traditions, and their own experiences of Christmas through their creation of visual art, poetry, and song. This year, their project will celebrate the Nativity. On December 14, for the second time, we will auction their finished art projects, using the funds raised through the auction to benefit the mission of Bethlehem on Broad Street. We invite you to participate, donate, bid, and support our efforts in prayer as we help to bring the love of Christ to those in need on Christmas day.



A Huge **Thank You** to all who donated, performed, worked, purchased silent auction items and attended the Annual Cabaret. It truly was a great night of fun, laughter, wonderful performances and great food. This event generated over \$2,400 and will help towards the youth mission trip for 2015.

From the Minister of Music

By Kevin Jones, Minister of Music
(kjones@first-church.org)



Choir News

Liturgical Appearance Schedules

Treble Choir – Rehearsals Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21 at 9 a.m.

Sing in Worship Dec. 14 at 11 a.m.

Sing at Lessons and Carols Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. (reh. at 3pm)

Sing in Worship Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. (reh. at 7pm)

No rehearsals Dec. 28, Jan. 4

Teen Choir – Rehearsals Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21 at 9 a.m.

Sing in Worship Nov. 30 at 11 a.m.

Sing at Lessons and Carols Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. (reh. at 3pm)

Sing in Worship Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. (reh. at 7pm)

No rehearsals Dec. 29, Jan. 5

First Church Ringers – Rehearsals Dec. 4, 11, 18

Ring in Worship Dec. 21 at 11 a.m.

Ring at Lessons and Carols Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. (reh. at 2:45pm)

No rehearsals Dec. 25, Jan. 1

First Church Choir – Rehearsals Dec. 4, 11, 18

Sing in Worship Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28

Sing at Lessons and Carols Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. (reh. at 3pm)

Sing in Worship Dec. 24 at 10:30 p.m. (reh. at 9:30pm)

No rehearsals Dec. 25, Jan. 1

We do not sing in Worship on Jan. 4

Festival of Lessons and Carols

The Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 21, at 4 p.m. The prelude featuring the First Church Ringers, Teen Choir, Treble Choir and organist G. Dene Barnard will begin at 3:30 p.m. Come early to assure a good seat. As in past years, the service will be broadcast live on WOSU 101 FM beginning at 4 p.m. Tell your friends and family locally and abroad to listen to the broadcast on the web at <http://wosu.org/2012/classical101/>

The service will consist of the traditional nine lessons for Christmas interspersed with congregational carols, anthems and motets. “Once in royal David’s city,” “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice,” “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” and “O come, all ye faithful” will be sung by choirs and congregation. The First Church Choir will sing anthems by Benjamin Britten, Paul Manz, Conrad Susa, Randall Thompson, Tomàs Luis de Victoria and James Whitbourn. Readers representing the congregation and the wider Columbus community will aid in leading the service. Former Minister of Music James E. Bobb will be accompanying the Choir.



Annual Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols

SUN DEC 21 4 PM Freewill Offering



All the choirs of First Church join to sing Lessons and Carols for Christmas. Music by Britten, Susa, Thompson, Victoria, Whitbourn and much more. The Prelude begins at 3:30 p.m. - *Come early to assure a good seat!* The freewill offering benefits the YWCA Family Center and the First Church Concert Fund.

Music

Christmas Eve Concert

On Christmas Eve at 10:30 p.m. immediately preceding the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service, the First Church Choir will present a Nativity Concert entitled, "Of a Rose." Setting upon the imagery of a Rose, traditionally associated with Mary, the mother of Jesus, the concert will highlight a variety of traditional carols centered on this theme. "There is no rose of such virtue," "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming," a setting of the Magnificat, "Joys Seven" and others. Please come early to the 11 p.m. service on Christmas Eve to enjoy more of the beautiful music of Christmas.

The "O" Antiphons and Advent

Advent begins on November 30th as does a new year in the three-year cycle of Lectionary readings. One of the most beloved Advent hymns of the church is surely "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." In its full English and Latin versions, the hymn contains seven different verses, each one beginning with the word, "O." These seven verses are our 21st century connection to a very ancient text of the church called "The "O" Antiphons." An 'antiphon' is merely a musical response in a religious service. In the monastic tradition, antiphons are sung before the Magnificat at Vespers. During the seven days that immediately precede Christmas, these antiphons are the "O" Antiphons.

Based on the book of the prophet Isaiah that tells of the coming Messiah, each Antiphon is a different title for the Christ:

O Sapientia (O Wisdom)

O Adonai (O Lord)

O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)

O Clavis David (O Key of David)

O Oriens (O "East", literally, probably meaning the coming Sun)

O Rex Gentium (O King of the Peoples/Nations)

and

O Emmanuel (O God with us).

As we sing the hymn throughout the season of Advent, may we all seek to encounter the Christ and his many titles as we await the coming of the Messiah.

"O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

An British Twelfth Night Celebration

A British Twelfth Night Celebration will be performed by The Early Interval on **January 3 at 8:00 p.m.** and **January 4 at 3:30 p.m.**, and will feature medieval, Renaissance and Baroque music from England. Director Ron Cook will give a pre-concert lecture 30 minutes prior to each program. The musical celebration of Twelfth Night will take place in the beautiful acoustics of First Congregational Church.

Come and enjoy the varied sounds of medieval songs, music from the court of Henry VIII, sacred music by William Byrd, and lively country dances. The group will perform vocally and on recorders, crumhorns, medieval and Renaissance harps, violas da gamba, medieval lute, vielles, theorbo, violin, and pipe and tabor.

Ron and Janice Cook, members of our congregation, are founding members of The Early Interval, now in its 37th year. Other performers are Sean Ferguson, Lyz Liddell, Tamara Seckel, Jim Bates and Matt Utt. For more information, please contact Early Music in Columbus at 861-4569 or earlymusicincolumbus.org

Church News. . . .



Cookie Tins Needed!

The Cookie Mission is just around the corner and we need your help. If you have clean cookie tins that you are not using please bring them into the church office to use for the Cookie Mission. Call Sharon Leidheiser at 228-1741 ext 11 for details.

Annual Cookie Mission

First Church's Annual Cookie Mission is calling for volunteers and cookies. On Sunday, Dec. 14, from 8-11 a.m., First Church volunteers will assemble the tins in the large conference room and then after the 11 am service deliver cookies and candies to First Church members that are shut-in and the First Community Church pantry. This annual event has become an

important mission for First Church. Please consider volunteering your time and/or your baking talents for this special gift-giving mission.

Opportunities to help with this mission include:

- **Donate cookie tins.** Please bring to church office **by December 12.**
- **Donate 4-dozen Christmas cookies or candies.** Please bring to church the day of the event. Help fill tins with goodies on **December 14.**
- **Deliver tins** to First Church shut-ins the **week of December 14-20.**

To register for any of the above volunteer opportunities, please call the church office at 614.228.1741.

Holiday Card Making

Come join Church Vitality in spreading some Christmas Cheer! We will be making holiday cards for Bethlehem on Broad Street during Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 7th.



Church News. . . .

How to complete your 2014 pledge!

By Sharon Leidheiser

The end of 2014 is just around the corner and we want to make sure you know all the options for pay your pledge. Did you know there are **7 forms of payment** that First Church accepts towards your pledge?

Stock, Bond, Mutual Funds, and CD Transfers - We accept all of these forms of payment towards a pledge. If you have stocks, bonds, CD's that are not performing well and want to avoid possible capital gains you can instead transfer the security to our account at Charles Schwab to apply to your pledge.

Direct Deposit through Payroll Deduction at work- Many companies will allow you to make a payroll deduction from your paycheck. Church members find this way of paying their pledge easy because the company takes it out automatically every pay period. Each company has a different way of setting this deduction process up, contact your Human Resources representative or Payroll Specialist at your company to see if this is an option and have your company contact Sharon Leidheiser at the church for more information.

Personal Check- This form of payment is the most common at First Church. Write your check to First Church and indicate in the memo field PLEDGE so we know the money applies to your pledge. You can place the check in the Offering Plate at worship or mail it to the church.



Cash - We always accept cash! Please put the cash in an envelope and put your full name and amount on the line labeled PLEDGE. If you need envelopes because you pay with cash, please indicate this on your pledge card and we will put envelopes in your church mailbox. Please do not mail cash.

Bill Pay with your bank - Online banking is another alternative for you to pay your payment. You can set up the First Congregational Church as a payee or vendor in your list with payment to be automatically mailed to First Church as often as you'd like. Just indicate on the memo field: Pledge & Your Name so we can credit the check to the appropriate account. Contact your bank for more details since each bank is different.

Money Order or Cashiers Check - Please do not send money through the mail. If you do not have a checking account and the other payment options do not apply we recommend you send a money order or cashiers check with your full name written on the check and indication that it's to apply to your pledge.

Online Credit Card Giving - We are pleased to offer a new way to pay your pledge. You can now pay online through our Faithstreet online. Simply go to our web site www.first-church.org click on Give and then click on Online Giving. You will need to set up an account. You can pay with your credit card or through your checking or savings account. The actual link is: <https://www.faithstreet.com/church/first-congregational-church-of-columbus-columbus-oh/giving>

We greatly appreciate your pledge commitment for 2014. If you have any questions contact Sharon Leidheiser ext 11.

Church News. . . .



Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church by Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Legacy Fund by Manning & Napier- Investment Advisors, Ray Pendell, Anonymous,
Mr. & Mrs. John Firebaugh, Mr. & Mrs. J.B. Davis, Mr. and Mrs.
George Hudson, Elaine Warren, Chestora Dellenbach, and Jada Wilson

Stained Glass Preservation Fund by Kevin Butler, Mr.& Mrs. Bert Cook, Constance Johnson,
Mr. Tom Worley and Dr. Nancy Loy and Deborah Anderson

Social Concerns Endowment Fund by Analee Alford, Mr. & Mrs. Eric Ewing, Russell Kelm
and Pam Kallner, and Anne Morganstern

Pastor's Fund by Dr. Sandra Bennett, Eric Malmborg, Mr.& Mrs.
Nathaniel Vogt, and Dr. & Mrs. Christopher Washington

Gladden Lecture Fund by Mr. & Mrs. William Farquar, David Holt, and Anonymous

Good Samaritan Fund by Mr. & Mrs. David Ghose, Karen Mozingo, Deborah Poe,
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Rambo, and Anonymous

Samuel D. Gordon Playground Fund by Anonymous

Dorinda White Education Fund by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Weaver and Rev. Timothy Ahrens and Mrs. Susan Sitler

Knight-Perry Fund by Mr. Tom Worley and Dr. Nancy Loy

Honor a friend or family member with a special year-end donation to a First Church endowment fund of your choice. Go to www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx for more information about the First Church endowments and their purpose, The First Church endowment funds provide funding for important aspects of the church that cannot generally be supported by the church's operating budget. Gifts can be made to support an area of interest and in honor or remembrance of a loved one or special occasion. Please accompany your gift with a note or a gold Celebration Gift form found in the church pews. For more information about the First Church endowments and their purpose, please go to www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx

FIRST CHURCH JOYS AND CONCERNS

Keep these members and friends in your prayers during the week.

Members: Jack Davis; Greg Halbe; Lisa Morris, Kent Shimeall and family upon the death of Lisa's father Sam; Catherine Cunningham upon the death of her uncle; Mary Lightbody; Grace Glaros; Bernie Martin; Van Barndt; Gerhard Wolff; Ray Pendell; Ann Mclsaac; Wib Smith; Amos White; Phil Stichter; Kim Hopcraft; Marilee Schneider, Deana Armstrong, Paul Fishel; Jorge Polo; Essie Cannon; Karen Mozingo and AnnaSofia on the death of Karen's mother; and for families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

Friends & Family: Rev. Floyd Starr; Karl Danneberger's mother, Evelyn; Chessie Dellenbach's husband, Louie; Jenny Lukens; Adam, friend of Betsy Zahn's granddaughter; Carolyn Roach, grandmother of Meredith Roach; Dottie Johnson, aunt of Tori Stucke; Daniel Vokhgelt, friend of Alex and Alyssia Palmer; Randy Adkins, Paul Flocken's grandson; Heather Smith, friend of Amy Wagner; Cheryl Everts, friend of Betty Johnson; Patricia Aileen Tekaucic, mother of Val-Christopher Tekaucic; and all those suffering from the effects of mental illness.

Your prayers will remain in the Parish News for three consecutive Sundays unless we are asked to remove or keep them. Please keep informed about those for whom you have requested prayers. Thank you.

2014 Outstanding Lay Leadership Award - Tom and Kathy Brownfield

For the past 6 years, First Congregational Church (FCC) has chosen a person or couple to recognize for outstanding lay leadership. To date those recognized have been Amos and Janice White, Natalie and Bill Wright, Arlene Reynolds, Sarah and Wally Giffen, Twink Starr and Jane and Ralston Werum. At the 11:00 o'clock service on November 23, 2014, Kathy and Tom Brownfield were named for this year's outstanding lay leadership honors.

Justice and mercy for Kathy and Tom Brownfield is a 24 hour a day commitment, starting and ending at home. Yes, they have filled and are filling many roles of service outside their walls, and we will get to those, but let us first celebrate their home and family life—which has included care of their elderly parents and a differently abled brother, Van, who at age 63 is a sweet and happy person now with progressive dementia. When Kathy's father, Rev. William Barndt, passed away in 2008, Tom and Kathy gathered Mother Laura Barndt, Mother Lillian Brownfield and Brother Van into their house and home. "Their individual experiences of dementia had different manifestations but fortunately were pretty much sequential," Kathy observed. Persons with Downs Syndrome tend to have relatively short lives, so Van is pioneering new chapters to the medical record, according to Tom. The couple is now mentor to 8 grandchildren. Mothers Lillian and Laura are deceased.

After 30 years with a financial services company, Tom took advantage of an early retirement buyout in 2002, which has given him time to be a family senior care giver and to pursue many church and community volunteer activities. Kathy is an occupational therapist, working full time or part time as family needs have allowed.

In serving the church, Kathy has worn many hats. Before professional studies in occupational therapy, she served First Church for three years as its Christian Education Director. She has served on the Education Commission, the Downtown Playschool Board and the Womens' Guild Board and was Parish Life Commissioner for several terms. Kathy has been a deacon, a three times Youth Mission Trip leader, a four times Confirmation Mentor and, of course, a Sunday school teacher.

Tom capitalized on his early retirement status to prepare for and pioneer a new career—the unsalaried FCC position as Commissioned Minister for Social Justice. He worked with the United Church of Christ denomination to define the role and then to fulfill its requisite studies and qualifications. This office, and related interests, has lead Tom to community organization roles as:

- Sanctorum Board (Treasurer)
- Worldwide Humanitarian Aid Board (Treasurer)
- Columbus Metropolitan Area Church Council Board (Currently VP Elect)
- United Church Homes Board (Currently Treasurer)
- BREAD Board, Chair of constitutional rewrite committee
- Central Ohioans for Peace
- Save Darfur Coalition (founding member)
- Hunger Network in Ohio
- Columbus Coalition for the Homeless

For First Church, offices held:

- Commissioned Minister for Social Justice (ongoing)
- Deacon
- Administration Commissioner
- Moderator (2 years)
- Treasurer (2 years)
- BREAD Board Representative
- BREAD Team
- Chair of International Missions Committee (1993)
- Chair of Faith Mission Committee
- Stewardship Committee (chair two times)
- Mission Commissioner
- Justice & Mercy Commission
- Youth Mission Trip Leader (several times)
- Habitat for Humanity—Blitz Build roofing foreman
- Confirmation Mentor (2 times)

And for the wider UCC:

- Central Southeast Ohio Association Moderator
- CSEOA Council Member
- Ohio Conference Board member



Moderator Frank Cook presents the 2014 Outstanding Lay Leadership Award to Kathy and Tom Brownfield during worship on Sunday, November 23.

Justice and Mercy Commission News

Marty Worth, Interim Justice and Mercy Commissioner Elect
mworth@first-church.org ~ 614-228-1741 ext 14.



At the November 4 meeting of the Justice and Mercy Committee, the following actions were proposed:

- The Justice and Mercy Committee asked that Council approve the offering for November 23 at the November Council meeting to go to Gladden Community House to help fill their Christmas food boxes. Council approved the offering
- A Mission Endowment Fund Grant request was made to Council to approve a \$500 Mission Endowment Fund Grant from the Justice and Mercy Commission for the Christmas food boxes at Gladden Community House. Gladden very much needs funds to fill the boxes for their neighbors. Request was approved.

Good Samaritan Day is December 8, 2014. If you would like to make a donation of personal care items to be offered to those who come, please put your donations in the brown bin by the office door. Body wash and deodorant for both men and women would be greatly appreciated

Thank you to all who donated to the Good Samaritan Fund in the month of November. \$6,200 was received. That is an amazing response and a testimony to First Church's commitment to those in need. We were able to help 67 people on November 11. That is the most we have ever served on one day. We hope to be able to help that many in December. You are appreciated by all those that you help. The need is ever present. If you would like to contribute to the Good Samaritan Fund, you may send a check made out to First Church marked "Good Sam". Thank you.

— Marty Worth, Fund Administrator.



Project HELP, celebrating its 30th year, is a part of Bethlehem on Broad Street. This year's giveaway of clothing, toiletries, toys and food will be held Saturday, December 6 at Crossroads Baptist Church, 5075 Cleveland Avenue from 9 am to 2 pm. **Volunteers are especially needed Monday, December 1 from 10 am to 1 pm to assist with setup at Crossroads, throughout that week of December 2-5 between 10 am and 6 pm and again from 2-6 pm on the 6th to assist with teardown and packing of items for Faith Mission.**

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Mary Day Fewlass at 614 257-0866 or mdfewlass@aol.com.

Brighten Christmas for Others

Gladden Community House will deliver food baskets and gift cards to families in need this Christmas. Firefighters supply the toys, but gift cards are needed for teens and seniors. \$20.00 gift cards from Walmart are requested as that store is accessible to the west side residents. Gift cards, cash or checks may be left in the church office and are requested by Dec. 18th. Enjoy the Giving.



Justice Ministry Update

by Greg Halbe

Have you ever thought about the different kinds of relationships in your life? Our Justice Ministry team has been giving this question a lot of thought since last May's Nehemiah Action. How are our relationships with family and close friends different from those with our fellow church members, our soccer team, our bank, or our utility company? And what does our understanding of God's will and Jesus's teachings have to say about our behavior in these relationships?

Our family, romantic partners, and close friends are our personal relationships. In these relationships, we crave intimacy, affection, and trust. Success in these relationships demands vulnerability, transparency, and trust. I find Jesus's teachings about love to be pretty clear in these relationships. My ex-wife will tell you, and I freely admit, that I'm not always good about following those teachings, but prayer and reflection almost always reveal the lessons in my mistakes.

Our public relationships are a bit more complicated, at least when it comes to our calling to show and live God's love for all creation. If you've ever challenged a charge on your bank statement, debated a church budget, or questioned your cable bill, you know what tension feels like. Love is not at the top of your list of emotions in those moments. In these settings, vulnerability and transparency is "too much information," and can confuse or even damage these relationships. We calculate what is to our advantage to reveal, and we guard our trust of others.

It's always nice to be liked, but in public relationships that desire can get us in trouble. Jesus certainly exhibited a lack of decorum and tact when he ransacked the bank in the temple square, or when he publicly called out the Pharisees (his community's religious and civic leaders) as "hypocrites," and a "den of vipers" (Matthew 23). When thousands are suffering, our first concern is respect, not affection.

The work of justice starts with listening and sharing our concerns with our neighbors. Our house meetings, which began in October and will resume in January, have revealed widespread concerns about discrimination against minorities and immigrants, inadequate mental health care, and violent crime. In December, we will begin researching new solutions to the problem of violent crime, and we will look for new help in our efforts to make Columbus more welcoming to all and to fill the gaps in our mental health care system.

Our Great Nehemiah Action, on May 4 at the Celeste Center, will be a culminating moment in each of these efforts, when we ask our community's decision makers to adopt our solutions to these problems. Organizing this great assembly, following the Biblical model in Nehemiah 5, will require strong networks of communication, mutual support, and mobilization. We will begin building that network with a Justice Ministry gathering at our church in March.



Fellowship Hour Schedule

December 7 Acts
December 14 Search Committee
December 21 Colossians
December 28 Corinthians

December Acolyte Schedule

December 7	Peter Spofforth	Alex Palmer
December 14	Mia Provenzano	Alaina Thompson
December 21	Miriam Myers	Samatha Myers
December 28	Chutney Anderson	Eddie Anderson

Offering Schedule

December 7	BOBS
December 14	BOBS
December 21	Christmas Fund
December 21 - Lessons and Carols	Concert Fund / YWCA Family Shelter
December 24	Christmas Fund
December 28	Good Samaritan Fund

POINSETTIAS

POINSETTIAS for the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. The flowers may be taken after the 11 o'clock service.

Complete this order form (be sure to indicate the dedication) and return with payment to the church office or place in the offering plate with payment. The deadline for ordering is December 7.

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Poinsettias ____ at \$10.00 each Total \$ _____

(Make checks payable to First Congregational Church: on Memo line, write "Poinsettias")

In Celebration of _____

In Memory of _____



December Calendar of Church Events

Sunday, November 30

9 am – Worship – Parish Hall
9 am – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir Room
10 am – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
10 am – Christian Education – Ed Wing, Rooms C and D
11 am – Worship - Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Ed Wing, Room D
6 pm – High School Youth – Parish Hall
6pm – Middle School Youth – Middle School Room

Monday, December 1

Noon – Care Ministry – Large Conference Room
6:30 pm – Church Vitality Group – Associate Minister's Office
7 pm – Deacon Meeting – Large Conference Room

Tuesday, December 2

9am – 3 pm – Youth Fudge Making – Kitchen
5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – Large Conference Room
7 pm – Justice and Mercy Committee – Large Conference Room
6:30 pm – Christian Education Committee – Education Wing Room D

Wednesday, December 3

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, December 4

6:15 pm - First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Parish Hall

Friday, December 5

5:30 pm – Confirmation Field Trip to Tifereth Israel

Saturday, December 6

9am – 3 pm – Youth Fudge Making – Kitchen

Sunday, December 7

9 am – Worship – Parish Hall
9 am – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir Room
10 am – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
10 am – Christian Education – Ed Wing, Rooms C and D
11 am – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
12:30 am - Confirmation Class
6 pm – High School Youth – Parish Hall

Monday, December 8

9 am – Good Samaritan Day
Noon – Care Ministry – Large Conference
7 pm – Trustees – Large Conference Room

Tuesday, December 9

9am – 3 pm – Youth Fudge Making – Kitchen
7 pm – Executive Committee – Parish Family Room

Wednesday, December 10

Noon – Volunteer Luncheon – Parish Hall

Thursday, December 11

10 am – Thursday Fellowship - Parlor
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Parish Hall

Saturday, December 13

9 am – Play Rehearsal – Parish Hall
10 – 11:30 First Church Quilters

Sunday, December 14

8 am – Cookie Mission – Large Conference Rm
9 am – Worship – Parish Hall – New Member's Join
9 am – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir Room
10 am – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
10 am – Christian Education – Ed Wing, Rooms C and D
11 am – Worship– Sanctuary – New Members Join and Baptism
Noon – Special Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
6 pm – Christmas Dinner /Children's Play – Parish Hall
7:30 pm – Youth Pageant Rehearsal – Parish Hall

Monday, December 15

Noon – Care Ministry – Large Conference Room
7 pm – Budget and Finance – Large Conference Room
7 pm – Personnel – Large Conference Room

Tuesday, December 16

7 pm – Church Council – Large Conference Room

Wednesday, December 17

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, December 18

6:15 pm – First Church Ringer – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Parish Hall

Saturday, December 20

9:30 am – House and Grounds – Parish Family Room

Sunday, December 21

9 am – Worship – Parish Hall
9 am – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir Room
10 am – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
10 am – Christian Education – Ed Wing, Rooms C and D
11 am – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
4 pm – Lessons and Carols – Sanctuary
6 pm – Youth Pageant Rehearsal – Sanctuary

December Calendar of Church Events Continued

Monday, December 22

9am – Noon - Youth BOBS
9 am – 5 pm – BOBS – Parish Hall

Tuesday, December 23

9am – 5 pm – BOBS – Parish Hall

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

9:00 – 5:00 – BOBS – Parish Hall
Noon – Office Closes
3 pm- Worship – Sanctuary
7:30 pm – Christmas Pageant – Sanctuary
11 pm – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25- Christmas Day

All Day – Bethlehem and Broad Street

Sunday, December 28

9 am – Worship – Parish Hall
11 am – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

Wednesday, December 31

Noon – Office Closes

Member Birthdays

12/1 John Rau
12/2 Avelea Bachman
Aubrey Schmitt
12/3 Bernie Martin
Leslie Fulford
Molly Van Gorden
12/4 Elaine Warren
Frank Cook
Whitney Marker
12/5 Madeline Hadley
Reid Bowers
12/6 Betty Cobb
Kay Davis
Karl Danneberger
Diane Rambo
Alex Vore
Ella Bishop
12/7 Denise Thompson
Ben Allred
12/8 Janet Axt
Kent Rambo
12/10 Brian Thomas
Tiana Daines
Victoria Daines
12/11 Sam Spofforth
12/13 Joe Provenzano
Joe Baszynski
Anna Sugar

12/14 Dan Ward
Pamm Greene
Betty Johnson
Suzie Rhoads
Lori Horne
Gretchen Weller
12/15 Anne Bennett
Bianca Catenacci
12/17 Dale Leidheiser
Lucina Clark
12/18 Mary Alice Kuhn
12/19 Carol Hussey
Larry Dixon
Bob Davis Jr
Barry Bastian
12/20 Margaret Browne
Christa Ewing
12/21 Joyce Canfield
Dorothy Leachman
Bonnie Sparhawk
12/22 Rick Henderson
Ellie Winberry
12/23 Marty Worth
12/24 Lee Hadley
12/25 Diana Kutschbach
Elisabeth Hire
Benjamin Brant
12/26 Trisha Bishop
12/27 David Fulford
Rachel Axt
Logan Kirker
12/28 Paul Leidheiser Jr
McAshan Dean
Thalia Weygandt
12/29 Jim Organ
Benjamin Rowley
Amanda Dean
12/30 Jamie McWilliams
12/31 Jim Roehm
Nicki Campbell
Jon Anderson
Catherine Cunningham
CJ Dean

Member Anniversaries

12/10 Diana and Bob Kutschbach
12/12 Linda and Ron Reiger
12/19 Gerry and Marty Worth
12/20 Teresa and Jorge Polo
12/22 Pauline and Earl Fritz
12/23 Jane and Mike Weddle
12/26 Becky and Sheldon Taft
12/27 Sarah and Tom Trace Jr
Jane and Dick Ward
12/28 Rebecca and Ian Baird
Francille and John Firebaugh
12/29 Pam and Andrew Welsh-Huggins

FIRST CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Senior Minister	Timothy C. Ahrens, M. Div.
Interim Associate Minister	Daniel J. Clark, M. A.
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
Nursery Staff	Rosemary Pawandiwa-Priore, Evin Wimberly, Sara Kapp, Simone Ellerson
Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus	G. Dene Barnard

DIACONATE

Senior Deacon	Christine Farquhar
Deacons	Kathryn Bamberger, G. Dene Barnard, Craig Clay, Sue Cook, Jacquelyn Dean, Anne Hudson, Tom Kiesel, Paul Leidheiser, Mary Lightbody, John Matchett, Jonathan Miller, Matt Myers, Sue Salak, Lynn Wallich

CHURCH STAFF

Business Manager	Sharon Leidheiser
Program Manager	Martha Worth
Building Manager	Thomas R. Luff
Office Manager	Amy Wagner
Custodians	William Lee, Mark Freeman, Lena Brown
Wedding Coordinators	Janet Axt, Fran Panek, Lisa Fravel-Dean, Tori Stucke

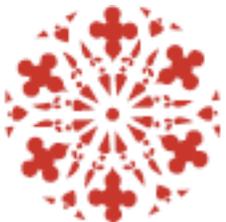
CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator	Frank Cook
Moderator-Elect	Elaine Warren
Treasurer	David Holt
Assistant Treasurer	Joe Baszynski
Secretary	Melissa Prendergast
Assistant Secretary	Deana Armstrong

COMMISSIONERS

Administration	Jim Griffin
Administration-Elect	Kent Shimeall
Church Growth	Catherine Cunningham
Church Growth-Elect	Scott Jones
Education	Julia Myers
Education-Elect	Todd Jacobson
House & Grounds	Gary Leidheiser
Justice & Mercy	Matt Allen
Music, Arts, Heritage	Kevin Kubick
Music, Arts, Heritage-Elect	Marti Baumer
Church Vitality	Alec Deitz
Church Vitality-Elect	Melissa Kulwicki
Nominating Chair	Sarah Reed
Trustees	Christopher Washington, Chair
Member-at-large	Hugh Schultz
Youth-at-large	Cameron Wade
Senior Deacon	Christine Farquhar
Deacon Council Rep.	John Matchett

TO:



**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

Web site: 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