



## **“Silver Icicles on an Ardennes Forest Christmas Tree”**

**By Rev. Tim Ahrens**

Seventy years ago this week, December 1944, my 20 year-old father, Herman Ahrens, Jr. wrote home to his parents, “I will be with a Dutch family for Christmas. The food is from the Army, but it will be good to be with a family in a warm house for Christmas.” The 84th Infantry Division (known as “The Railsplitters”), Fox Company, the 333rd Regiment had been on the front lines fighting for months. They were to move back for a brief Rest and Relaxation (R&R). It never happened.

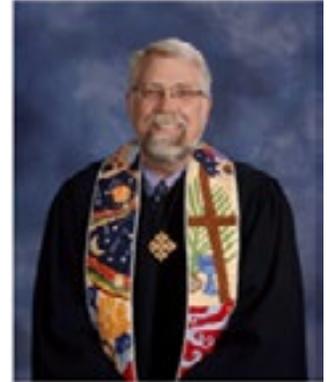
Instead of Christmas dinner with a Dutch family, my father was dodging German bullets and cannon fire as one of over 610,000 American troops caught up in the Battle of the Bulge. On December 16th, 1944 the German Army launched a surprise attack – the largest offensive of the late-part of the war – through the densely forested Ardennes region of Wallonia in Belgium, France and Luxembourg on the Western Front. The Germans effectively cut the American Army in two - creating a northern and southern theatre of war. It was the bloodiest battle of WWII in which 19,000 Americans were killed between December 16th and January 25th. My dad was fortunate to escape with his life. Many were taken prisoner, including our beloved Twink Starr.

Some recall the singing of Christmas carols across battle lines in World War I. That never happened seventy years ago in the dense Ardennes Forest on December 25, 1944. In the deep snow of Belgium the soldiers dug in for the fight of their young lives. They were told not to sing and not to celebrate so as not to give away their position.

However, they found a way to make Christmas come alive. American bombers were dropping tinfoil to scramble the radio airwaves of the Germans. As tinfoil dropped like streamers from heaven mixed with winter snow, the soldiers collected it. My dad and four of his buddies hung the silver icicles from the tree branches which soon became their Christmas tree in the Ardennes forest. They circled the tree and quietly lifted their prayers in thanksgiving for the Prince of Peace. Against all odds – Christmas came to these men of war.

Against all odds – our God will come again. Immanuel – “God with us” – comes in war and peace; in silence and in song. Our God will not be stopped. I pray that as you circle your Christmas tree this year, you pray for our sisters and brothers far from home in the battle zones of this world who are finding ways to make Christmas come alive again.

Merry Christmas to you.



### **First Church Highlights...Dec. 15 - Dec. 31**

**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.**  
**Broadcast on WOSU 101.1 FM**

**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**

**Thursday, December 25**

**Bethlehem on Broad Street (BOBS) – doors open at 8:30**

**Sunday, December 28, 9 & 11 a.m.**



## Reflects on Our Special Congregational Meeting to Call Rev. Corzine

By Rev. Tim Ahrens

Yesterday, at a special Congregational Meeting, our Church voted for the first time in our history to call Rev. Emily Krause Corzine as our Associate Minister. We have had many associates, but none have been called by a Congregational vote. With the changes in our constitution in 2013, we have had this new process in place for almost two years. It mirrors the call process of the Senior Minister and the UCC national process.

Process aside, we have been blessed!

Rev. Corzine is a gifted young clergywoman! We had a chance to see her in action on December 14th, but we will receive the fullness of her gifts beginning February 1st when she begins to serve among us. She rose through the process of the search in which we read 45 profiles and resumes to become our top candidate. We are grateful that she has accepted our call to serve.

In the coming weeks, let's rejoice and celebrate the gifts still being shared by Rev. Dan Clark. He will remain with us until the time Rev. Corzine arrives. Following her arrival, Dan will continue to be a member of First Church and will share his gifts and talents with us. From pulpit to pew is a big transition, but I am confident our friend and my colleague will make such a transition with love and grace. Let's enjoy Dan's presence with us as we prepare for Emily's coming among us.

God has richly blessed our congregation this year. As we come to the end of 2014, let's give thanks to God for all the good our God has done!



*Rev. Emily with her daughter Camryn and Seach Committee Member Cameron Wade*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH

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.  
Broadcast on WOSU 101.1 FM

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

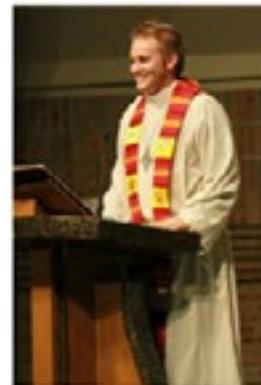
## Imagine More Love: A Stewardship Update

By Rev. Dan Clark, Interim Associate Minister

This fall, our Stewardship Committee has asked us all to “Imagine More” for the future of First Congregational Church as we prayerfully and faithfully consider our pledge commitments for 2015.

One feature of our process has been to invite one and all to write what they imagine for First Church. On the “Imagine More” bulletin board, three major themes emerge as they jump off the page and into our lives together: justice and diversity, fun and community, and young people and young families.

- First, the members of First Church *imagine more justice and diversity*. We are a living rainbow. As we reach out to our neighbors, close by and around the globe, we imagine more justice related to the environment and the LGBTQ community.
- The members of First Church also *imagine more fun and community*. We want to get together more, we want to laugh and play and share together.
- And finally, the members of First Church *imagine more young people and young families*. We want to see this church grow, as indeed it is. And as this church grows, there will be more young families and young children, and more for children and youth to do and be among us.



I hope that you will use your imagination as you consider how you will contribute financially and otherwise to the life and mission of First Congregational Church in 2015 and beyond. And, as one person put it, may we together imagine more... LOVE!

## Care Ministry at First Church

By Elaine Warren

During the month of November, The Rev. Tim Ahrens matched some congregational care ministry visitors with those in the congregation who might, for one reason or another, enjoy a friendly visit. There are now about 36 members who are willing to visit others in the congregation. This is a work in progress, and more matches will be made as we move forward.

Also, we know that this is a very friendly caring congregation and that there are many “ad hoc” relationships of care and concern for one another that exist at First Church, in addition to our organized care ministry. We would hope that everyone who knows of anyone who is ill, suffers the loss of a loved one, or for any reason needs a pastoral call, would report these needs to Carol Gallagher, our office care coordinator.

Indeed, communication is the key to good congregational care. Please email Carol Gallagher, our Office Care Coordinator at [Welcome@first-church.org](mailto:Welcome@first-church.org) for any of the following reasons:

- You or someone you know is ill, in the hospital, suffered the loss of a loved one, or otherwise needs a visit from someone in the congregation. Carol will report these to Rev. Tim Ahrens.
- You have visited someone in the congregation and want to share general impressions of the visit. We would like to look at our records each month to see how many and who has been visited and how those visited are doing.
- To alert the ministerial staff if someone needs a pastoral call.
- Someone needs transportation to a medical procedure.
- You have any questions about Congregational Care Ministry.

The Care Ministry Team: Chris Farquhar, Senior Deacon, Lynn Wallich, Deacon, The Rev. Mary Ann Goetz, UCC Minister, Carol Gallagher, Office Care Coordinator, and Elaine Warren, Moderator Elect, Marty Worth, Support Staff for Deacons.

## BOBS Still Needs You!

***How are you giving to Bethlehem on Broad Street this year?***

Are you donating cookies or donuts or a pie?

Are you donating a gift for a child, man or woman?

Are you coming down to help prepare either Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday? The hours those days are December 22, 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and December 24, between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

***Most importantly, we still need volunteers to welcome our guests on Christmas Day.*** Please email **Arlene at arlenereyrey@aol.com** to let her know of your availability to help.



## 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](mailto: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.

## Help the Network when you shop Amazon

Did you know that you can help The Spirituality Network when you shop at Amazon.com? A portion of every purchase you make will be donated to the Network when you designate us as your non-profit to support on their NEW SMILE. AMAZON.COM site. Go now: <http://www.smile.amazon.com> and name The Spirituality Network as the non-profit to support. Remember to use smile.amazon.com each time you shop.

*Gentle Blessings for the Advent season from The Spirituality Network, Inc.*

## All Points Bulletin – Missing Glass Mugs

We are missing nearly half of the glass coffee mugs that we use for Fellowship Hour. If you know the whereabouts of an individual glass, or a group of glasses, please let Amy Wagner ([awagner@first-church.org](mailto:awagner@first-church.org)) know. Or, simply return the glasses – no questions asked!!



**GLADDEN**  
COMMUNITY HOUSE



**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.

## Thank you!

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Cookie Mission a huge success! Thanks to all who baked cookies or made fudge, donated tins, packaged cookies, and delivered cookies to First Church members that are shut-in and to Bethlehem on Broad Street.

## New Members... In Their Own Words

Meet the new members from December 2014 in their own words.

**Eric Klintworth:** A lifelong resident of Ohio, I grew up in the country outside Marietta, and lived in Marietta until moving to Westerville in 1993. I live just north of Inniswood Metro Park, in Westerville, with my wife Bonnie and college-age children, Daniel and Samantha. I have a BS in Electrical Engineering from Ohio Northern University in Ada. I also met Bonnie at Ohio Northern, so we're a Polar Bear couple. I'm an Electrical Engineer at Sandvik, formerly Diamond Innovations, in Worthington, specializing in industrial control systems.



I'm a life-long Christian, beginning before I remember at Pine Ridge United Methodist Church, the quintessential country church, which had 50 members. Bonnie and I were married in an American Baptist church, and I was a deacon at First Baptist Church (ABC-USA) in Marietta. We were members at Central College Church in Westerville until Dr. Ellsworth retired. My daughter, Samantha, was in the Mosaic High School program, which meets in First Church's Parish Hall. She thought I would like would like First Church, and she was right. I dearly love the formal worship service, the music, and the beautiful building – it all makes it easy to put aside everyday thoughts and commune with God. But I also appreciate that all who wish are truly welcome to worship beside me.

**Kopano Marumo:** I'm from South Africa. I live in Worthington Ohio. I have lived in America for over 3 years. I'm a Mental health student at Columbus State Community College. I grew up in a Methodist church which I found to be superficial and stifling. My father is working on his doctorate in Theology. My mother is Roman Catholic.

God brought me here. I met Rev. Tim Ahrens on a random day a few months ago as I studied for my African American class at the Worthington Library. He was seated in front of me. We started chatting about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights movements, and the parallels between America and South Africa. He then invited me to Maundy Thursday dinner at First Church. It would be a few more weeks before I went to my first service but once I got into it, I really liked what First Church had to offer.



Now what keeps me at First Church is the commitment to human rights and social justice and an inclusive attitude that isn't common at every church. Tim and Dan are so down to earth, compassionate, kind, well-meaning, genuine and always down for a good laugh. I feel at ease at First Church. I feel at home. This can be hard to feel in America as a black person. It's even harder when you are 8000 miles away from your family.

**Jenn Mrozak and Greg Buzzell:** I (Jenn) am from Pittsburgh and grew up Methodist. I am a Pediatric Resident at Nationwide Children's Hospital. I (Greg) am from Central Pennsylvania and grew up Catholic. I work SoCore Energy (based in Chicago) as a solar project developer. We most recently lived in Chicago (by way of New York and Ann Arbor) where we started going to a United Church of Christ church, and we currently live in Bexley with our son, Atticus. We actively sought out a United Church of Christ in Columbus when we moved this past June, and immediately felt welcomed and at home by the warm community. The social justice foundation at First Church resonates with our belief in God and how to live by Christ's model.



**Peter and Rachel Unkovic:** I (Peter) am originally from Pittsburgh and grew up Lutheran. I work at Doctors Hospital. I am a 2nd year resident in Internal Medicine. I (Rachel) grew up in Columbus and was a member of the Methodist church. I was a 2nd year Family Practice Resident at Fairfield Medical Center in Lancaster Ohio, and am now on maternity leave with our new son Henry. He was born in August of this year. We recently moved back to Ohio from Florida when we finished medical school and now have a home in Upper Arlington. We initially found First Church when we were planning our wedding and we were married here in April of 2012. We immediately felt a connection with Reverend Ahrens and the values of the church.



We had been regular visitors for the past several years, all of the people have been so welcoming. Now that we live permanently in Columbus, we are excited to become full members. The natural beauty of the church is also a great added bonus.

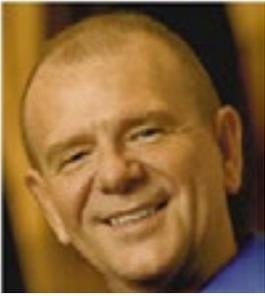
*\*Note: Marla Flewellen will be included with the pictures and biographies of the next New Member class.*

If you are interested in becoming a member of First Church as the next step in your spiritual journey, please email Rev. Dan Clark at [dclark@first-church.org](mailto:dclark@first-church.org) to sign up for the next class, Monday February 9th, from 7-9 PM in the Parlor. 5

## Education Advent Events

By Mark S. Williams, Christian Education Director

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



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 3:00 p.m.** 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](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org). And of course we will have the traditional candlelight service at 11 p.m. with our First Church Choir.

## 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](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org)) for more information.



## 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.

## 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. Sugar-free vanilla and chocolate varieties are also available. See Mark Williams [mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org) for more details regarding special orders. Brighten Christmas for Others



### 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*

## Are You Covered?

Get answers to your questions and explore your options for health coverage with a trained, objective Navigator. Open enrollment is until February 15, 2015. First Church member Kathryn Bamberger is a licensed Navigator who can help you find coverage that fits your budget and meets your needs. This is a free service. Kathryn can be reached at 749-7262 or [bambergerk@southeastinc.com](mailto:bambergerk@southeastinc.com).

*The project described is part of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks Navigator Program and was supported by Funding Opportunity Number CA-NAV-14-002 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The contents provided are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS or any of its agencies.*

# From the Minister of Music

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



## 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.



Concerts at First Church  
2014-2015

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
444 East Broad Street † Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614.228.1741  
[concertsatfirstchurch.org](http://concertsatfirstchurch.org)

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.

## 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.

You are invited to join us for a

# Festive Finale Twelfth Nyght Party

Usher OUT the Holidays with Twelfth Nyght Food & Drink  
while relishing in the spectacular splendor of

Al Waddell and Allen Baker's festively-bedecked home  
108 North 20<sup>th</sup> Street ❄ Columbus, 43203  
Valet Parking Available

Sunday, January 4th, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.  
(ok, it's actually eleventh night)

❄ a benefit for the First Church Choir's Gloucester Cathedral (UK) Choral Residency Fund ❄

For the total Twelfth  
Night experience, get  
tickets for "A British  
Twelfth-Night with  
The Early Interval"  
Sunday, January 4  
at 3:30 p.m. at First  
Church. Visit [www.earlymusicincolumbus.org](http://www.earlymusicincolumbus.org) for tickets.

## Menu

★

wassailtoast

salamicornucopias

salmonmoussecanapés

chickensaladminwiches devilled

eggs gloucestercrèmewithfreshberries

adornedapricots king'scakelets

harlequinbites hamandcheeseminatures

asparaguscanapés

confettitartlets

\$50 per person

Limit of 75 guests

your check, payable to First Congregational Church (memo: Gloucester Fund), is your reservation.

Please make your reservation by December 28<sup>th</sup> by sending your check to:

Mrs. Marty Worth, First Congregational Church  
444 East Broad Street ❄ Columbus, Ohio 43215

# Music

## Twelfth Nygth Celebration – January 4, 2015, 5:30 p.m.

Conclude the Twelve Days of Christmas in style and elegance. Following Early Interval's Twelfth Night Celebration Concert at First Church, the First Church Choir will be hosting Festive Finale Twelfth Nygth Party at the home of Al Waddell and Allen Baker. Similar to the Choir's fundraiser High Tea last May, this event will feature a Wassail Toast, sumptuous hors d'œuvres both hot and cold, and special traditional King Cakelets. All proceeds go to the Choir's Gloucester Pilgrimage. Tickets are \$50 and there is a limit of 75 guests on the event. To reserve, please send your check payable to First Congregational Church (memo: Gloucester Fund), to: Mrs. Marty Worth, First Congregational Church, 444 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215.

## Special Twelfth Night Concerts

The Early Interval is returning to Britain for its annual celebration of Twelfth Night. The program will be presented in the neo-gothic splendor of First Congregational Church in downtown Columbus.

A British Twelfth Night Celebration will feature music from the 12th through 17th centuries from Great Britain. Among the selections will be medieval carols; the music of William Byrd; music for a consort of viols by John Dowland and other composers; music from courtly masques; music for two recorders and continuo; and lively English country dances. The Early Interval will perform vocally and on recorders, bass dulcian, crumhorns, medieval and Renaissance harps, violas da gamba, medieval lute, theorbo, Renaissance and Baroque guitars, rebec, vielle, violin and pipe and tabor.



The members of The Early Interval are Ron Cook, director, Jim Bates, Janice Cook, Sean Ferguson, Lyz Liddell and Tamara Seckel. The Early Interval will be joined for this concert by bass viol player Matthew Utt.

Single tickets are \$27 (regular price), \$22 (seniors ages 62+) and \$12 (students). Order online through [www.earlymusicincolumbus.org](http://www.earlymusicincolumbus.org) or call 614-861-4569. Tickets ordered by Dec. 26 will be mailed to you. Tickets purchased after Dec. 26 will be held at the door and may be picked up 75 minutes prior to concert time. Tickets may also be purchased at the door the evening/afternoon of the concert or in advance by calling the CAPA ticket office (614-861-4569) or Ticketmaster (800-745-3000).

## Support First Church Choir's Mission to Gloucester, UK

July 31 – August 10, 2015, the First Church Choir will embark on a Pilgrimage to Gloucester Cathedral in Gloucester, England. This is a significant milestone for First Church Choir. Having been selected to be the Choir-In-Residence at the cathedral is a tremendous honor and responsibility. This distinction comes at a price! The trip is being funded solely by the choir members, through fundraising efforts and by generous patrons such as you. The choir has numerous fundraising activities planned for the upcoming year in order to help offset the tremendous cost of undertaking such an endeavor. Here's how you can help us make our way to Gloucester:

***Selling or buying a home or know someone who is?*** Refer a friend, family member, or neighbor to one of our member realtors, Joyce Canfield, Wayne Henry, Bob Kutschbach or Al Waddell, and they will donate a portion of their commission to the choir!! See a choir member or pick up detailed information in the church office.

***Heir of the Highest Heaven CD*** The First Church Choir's professionally produced CD of Christmas music continues to be available for sale in the Church Office at \$12 each. These make terrific Christmas gifts and are wonderful mementos of First Church. There are only about 100 CDs left.

***12th Night Concert & Celebration – January 4, 2015*** Conclude the Twelve Days of Christmas in style and elegance. Following Early Interval's 12th Night Celebration Concert at First Church, a festive reception will be held at the home of Al Waddell and Alan Baker. This is not to be missed! Advanced ticket purchase is required for the Waddell/Baker reception.

# Music . . . .

**Pasta Dinner and Entertainment!! – February 22, 2015 (Silent Auction)** A home cooked pasta dinner AND entertainment AND a Silent Auction! What more could you ask for!! Advanced ticket purchase is required.

**Columbus Arts Festival – June 13-14, 2015** Plan to patronize our beverage booth at the festival. Proceeds from the sales will directly benefit the choir!

## Choir News

### Liturgical Appearance Schedules

**Treble Choir** – Rehearsal Dec. 21 at 9 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** – Rehearsal Dec. 21 at 9 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** –Rehearsal Dec. 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** – Rehearsal Dec. 18

Sing in Worship Dec. 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*



## Justice and Mercy

### Good Samaritan

By Marty Worth, Administrator of the Good Samaritan Fund

On Monday, December 8, Good Samaritan Day, **we helped 70 clients**. We have averaged 44 over the past 11 months. The decision was made to fill as many requests as we could until the money was gone. I want to thank the volunteers who helped process everyone and the office staff and volunteers who handled all the phone calls that day. I feel like Mother Hubbard today – the cupboard is bare – in a good way because we helped so many. There were tears of thanks and many “God bless you”. We accepted these in the name of the congregation whose support of this ministry makes it happen. In the words of my 5 year old grandson **“You are AWESOME!** On December 28, the Sunday mission offering is for the Good Samaritan Fund. Your donations will help give us a start on 2015. May you all have a blessed Christmas.



# 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 and 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](http://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 at ext 11.

## Flower Dedications

For those who wish to dedicate flowers on Sunday morning, it is time to get your request submitted. Please send an email or call Marty Worth at [mworth@first-church.org](mailto:mworth@first-church.org) or 228-1741 ext. 14.

Thank you to all who had dedications last year. Those dedications insure that we have fresh flowers in the Sanctuary each Sunday.



# Church News. . . .

## FIRST CHURCH JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMBERS: the family of Jack Davis; the family of Marilee Schneider; Bruce and Fran Panek, upon the death of Bruce's mother; Ellen Boriin and family upon the death of Ellen's uncle; Pam Kallner, upon the death of her niece; Lisa Morris, Kent Shimeall and family upon the death of Lisa's father Sam; Nancy Burba; Peggy Alexander; Greg Halbe; Mary Lightbody; Grace Glaros; Bernie Martin; Van Barndt; Gerhard Wolff; Ray Pendell; Ann Mclsaac; Wib Smith; Amos White; Paul Fishel; Essie Cannon; and for families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

FRIENDS & FAMILY: for all those affected, on the second anniversary of the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary; Dorothy Everett, mother of Gayle Henderson; Heidi Marra, friend of Leslie Fulford; Kenny Family, friends of Cindy Deliman; Joe Bellissimo and Kevin Jones, on the death of Joe's grandmother Annie; Emma Darling, niece of Mary Anne Jacobson; Howard Kreider, father of Mary Anne Jacobson; the family of Lance Shreffler, friend of Marty Worth; Rev. Floyd Starr; Jack, student of Sallie Danneberger; Karl Danneberger's mother, Evelyn; Chessie Dellenbach's husband, Louie; Jenny Lukens; Adam, friend of Betsy Zahn's granddaughter; Dottie Johnson, aunt of Tori Stucke; the family of Daniel Vokhgelt, friend of Alex and Alyssia Palmer; Heather Smith, friend of Amy Wagner; Cheryl Everts, friend of Betty Johnson; Steve Price, friend of Leslie Huntington; all those suffering from the effects of mental illness; and prayers for #blacklives-matter protesters around the nation.

*"Prayers for Randy Adkins, grandson of Paul Flocken, have been answered! He is doing well and can be removed from the Joys & Concerns"* Lou Flocken

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

## Grief and the Holidays

The Reverend Dr. Deborah Lindsay, Minister of Spiritual Care, First Community Church

The holidays, especially the first ones after losing a loved one, are especially difficult. Often friends and family members of those affected by a loss are unsure how to act or what to say to support their grieving loved one during the holidays.

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization offers these suggestions for how to cope:

1. Be supportive of the way the person chooses to handle the holidays. Some may wish to follow traditions; others may choose to change their rituals. Remember, there is no right way or wrong way to handle the holidays.
2. Offer to help the person with baking and/or cleaning. Both tasks can be overwhelming for one trying to deal with raw emotions.
3. Offer to help him or her decorate for the holidays, do the holiday shopping, or help to prepare and mail holiday cards; these tasks can also be overwhelming. And not doing any or all of them is another option for a grieving person.
4. Invite the person to attend a religious service with you and your family.
5. Invite your loved one to your home for the holidays.
6. Ask the person if he or she is interested in volunteering with you during the holiday season. Doing something for someone else, such as helping at soup kitchens or working with children, may help your loved one feel better about the holidays.
7. Donate a gift or money in memory of the person's loved one. Remind the person that his or her special person is not forgotten.
8. Never tell someone that he or she should be "over it". Instead, give the person hope that, eventually, he or she will enjoy the holidays again.

9. If he or she wants to talk about the deceased love one or feelings associated with the loss, LISTEN. Active listening from friends is an important step to helping him or her heal. Don't worry about being conversational; just listen.
10. Remind the person you are thinking of him or her and the loved one who died. Cards, phone calls and visits are great ways to stay in touch.

In general, the best way to help those who are grieving during the holidays is to let them know you care. Hospice grief counselors emphasize that friends and family members should never be afraid of saying or doing the wrong thing, because making an effort and showing concern will be appreciated.

## Fellowship Hour Schedule

December 21 Colossians  
 December 28 Corinthians

## December Acolyte Schedule

December 21	Miriam Myers	Samatha Myers
December 24	Chutney Anderson	Eddie Anderson (11:00 p.m. service)
December 28	Chutney Anderson	Eddie Anderson

## Offering Schedule

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



## FELLOWSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

Below is listed the 2015 schedule for Fellowship Hour Teams. Please mark your calendars. The dates in bold type are Sundays with meals following special worship services and/or congregational meetings. The schedule will be on the Church website [www.first-church.org](http://www.first-church.org). and monthly listings will be in the newsletter and Parish News.

<b>2015 FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>FELLOWSHIP TEAM</b>
Jan. 4, June 14, Nov. 15	Daniel
Jan. 11, June 21, Nov. 22	Deuteronomy
Jan. 18, June 28, Nov. 29	Ephesians
<b>Jan. 25</b>	<b>Lunch after ANNUAL MEETING</b>
Feb. 1, July 5, Dec 6	Galatians
Feb. 8, July 12, Dec. 13	Haggai
Feb. 15, July 19, Dec. 20	Hosea
Feb. 22, July 26, Dec. 27	Jeremiah
March 1, Aug. 2	Kings
March 8, Aug. 9	Leviticus
March 15, Aug. 16	Micah
March 22, Aug. 23	Numbers
March 29, Aug. 30	Proverbs
<b>April 5</b>	<b>EASTER BRUNCH 10 A.M.</b>
April 12, Sept. 6	Psalms
April 19, Sept. 13	Romans
April 26, Sept. 20	Ruth
<b>September 27</b>	<b>LEGACY SUNDAY LUNCH</b>
May 3, Oct. 4	Samuel
May 10, Oct. 11	Zechariah
May 17, Oct. 18	Acts
May 24, Oct. 25	Amos
May 31, Nov. 1	Colossians
June 7, Nov. 8	Corinthians

## December Calendar of Church Events

### 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

2 pm – Worship Planning  
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 and Treble Choirs – Choir Room  
10 am – First Church 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

### Monday, December 22

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

### Tuesday, December 23

9 am – 5 pm – BOBS – Parish Hall

### Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

9 am – 5 pm – 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 on 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

12/15 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

12/19 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 Favel-Dean, Tori Stucke

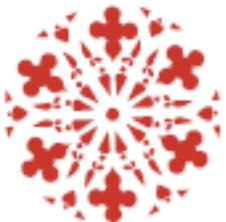
## CHURCH OFFICERS

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 Cubick
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](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