



## “Prayer is Everywhere”

By The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

“Prayer is nothing but love.” – St. Augustine

In his book *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, Richard Foster opens with these words, “God has graciously allowed me to catch a glimpse into his heart and I want to share with you what I have seen.” Throughout his book, Foster takes the reader into various prayer pathways, forms and places of the heart. He leads to encounters with simple prayers. He unveils the prayers of tears. He teaches about sacramental prayer and contemplative prayer. He explores the dimensions of intercessory prayer and healing prayer. It becomes apparent in the end that prayer is everywhere your heart leads you in love. The “love center” is the heart of God.

This Lent, through the powerful passages of scripture in this season and through exploration in small groups and many other avenues, we will enter more deeply into the heart of prayer. Through worship, daily meditations, small groups, walking the labyrinth, and time alone in our own places of prayer, you and I will walk through this season more fully engaged in a conversation with God.

That is what prayer really is... a conversation with God.

Years ago, my friend, Tony Campolo told a story about prayer. He said, during a particularly difficult time in his life, he would go to his “prayer chair” and rant and rave to God. He said, “God never spoke to me. I would talk and talk and I never heard God respond. Then one day I was exhausted from carrying on and I simply asked, ‘Why don’t you ever talk to me, Lord?’ I clearly heard God respond, ‘Why don’t you ever listen to me, Tony?’ I realized, I was so busy talking I couldn’t hear God or anyone in my life. It was that day I discovered the edges of contemplative prayer. Now God speaks to me all the time and sometimes I don’t like what I hear.” Maybe that is why we either stay away from prayer or only talk – so God’s voice can’t be heard. Maybe our Still Speaking God is actually speaking to us – and we are not listening.

I believe prayer is everywhere.

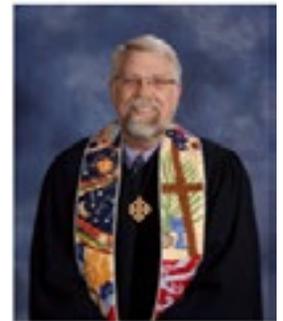
Prayer begins in our breathing. God is always close to our hearing, our seeing, our touching, our tasting, and our sense of smell. We will enter into the presence of God whenever we pay attention to the world immediately around us. We will discover the true essence of God when we slow down, stop, and open ourselves to mystery and miracles. This is the season for mystery and miracles. It is the season for slowing down and opening up. It is the season to be still and know that God is here.

We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 10. We will worship at noon and 7:30 p.m. Please join us.

Preaching, our worship, our small groups, our daily emails, our books and apps for prayer will assist us as we step more deeply into the heart of God. But, it won’t happen unless we actually take the steps. I look forward to seeing you in the one of the largest prayer rooms in Columbus – the sanctuary of First Church.

All my love,

Tim



**Sign Up for Lenten Small Groups**  
**See pages 7 and 8 for details**

prayer

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## **Sermon Titles for Lent**

### ***February 14 – Lent I***

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ahrens

Meditation: “Wild Prayers”

Texts: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

### ***February 21 – Lent II***

Preacher: Rev. Corzine

Sermon: “Pray Ceaselessly”

Texts: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Phillipians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

### ***February 28 – Lent III***

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ahrens

Sermon: “Thirsty Prayers”

Texts: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; I Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

### ***March 6 – Lent IV***

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ahrens

Communion Sermon: “Compassionate Prayers”

Texts: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; II Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### ***March 13 – Lent V***

Preacher: Rev. Corzine

Sermon: “Communing Prayer”

Texts: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Phillipians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

### ***March 20 – Palm / Passion Sunday***

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ahrens

Sermon: “Crying and Courageous Prayers”

Texts: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Phillipians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

### ***March 27 – Easter Sunday***

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ahrens

Sermon: “Joy-Filled Prayers”

Texts: Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; I Corintihans 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12



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

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

Have you ever explored Buddhism? Have you ever wondered about the confluence of Christianity and Buddhism? If the answer is “yes” come join us for the new Wednesday book study on Paul Knitter’s book, “Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian.” I will be teaching this class. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 11-12 p.m. in the Parlor. Come join 15-20 people who love reading, fellowship and exploration. Our next class is February 3. This current book will be ours to study throughout the month of February and March. Then, we will open another book and explore a something new. I hope to see you in class.

## **“Prayer” is the Theme as Small Groups for Lent Start in February**

**By Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens**

May I recommend you join a Lenten Small Group?

Marty Worth will be sending out neighborhood oriented emails (for example, Upper Arlington, Bexley, etc.) to the entire membership in the coming days. She has identified several potential areas for small group meetings in Lent, which begins February 10. This is very exciting!

The small groups are simple. We gather four times in late February – mid-March (go to as many meetings as you are able). Each group picks the nights, the locations and the times for their own meetings. We have hosts/hostesses and facilitators. Over the years, we have covered conversations on prayer, Sabbath, justice and issues we face as Christians in this life. I think you will have lots of fun and fellowship together. Give it a shot for Lent.

The most important thing is that you open Marty’s email. Respond to her. Sign-up for a small group near you. Get to know your fellow members of First Church who live nearby. If you know them, get to know them better.

Let’s take on small groups for Lent.

Love and blessings,

Tim Ahrens

prayer

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

***Saturday, March 12 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon in Parish Hall***

**By Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens**

For nearly 25 years I have worked with couples and individuals on Personality through the Myers Briggs Type Inventory (MBTI). We have had tons of fun as we have discovered each other’s personality types. On March 12, I will offer an MBTI workshop at First Church. If you would like to discover why you do what you do, or how you are wired in your brain, this workshop is for you. For example, are you an Introvert or Extravert? A Sensor or an Intuitive? A Thinker or a Feeler? A Perceiver or a Judger? If you find yourself sitting alone in a corner at a party or family gathering, there is a reason for that. If you find that you are the “life of the party” everywhere you go, there is also a reason for that. Sign-up in the office or email me at [tahrens@first-church.org](mailto:tahrens@first-church.org). When we have done this workshop in the past, couples and individuals have loved coming away with new insights into the dynamics of who they are and what they do. Did I mention we will have a lot of fun?

## **Softball News.... if you wish for a team, you need to respond soon....**

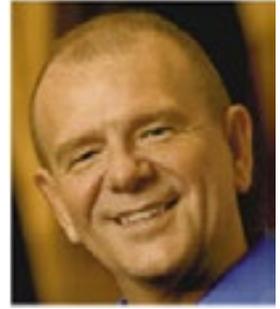
**By Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens**

If you are interested in a softball team for the summer of 2016, please contact Rev. Ahrens ASAP. Last year we did not field a Sunday afternoon co-ed team because no one stepped up to the plate to help or to lead us. So, if the interest is there from the membership, could someone please step-up soon. Love to play ball, please call... Deadlines for getting in the league are fast approaching. Contact me at [tahrens@first-church.org](mailto:tahrens@first-church.org) or call, 228-1741, ext.13.



# Education

Mark S. Williams, Christian Education Director ([mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org))



## Valentine's Day Youth Fudge Sale

The youth of First Church are selling homemade fudge after each worship service in the Parish Hall and through the week during office hours February 4-14. We will have a variety of flavors in our regular half-pound and pound boxes. You also can place orders for additional amounts. Sales benefit the youth summer mission trip.

## Spring Retreat Set for April 15-17

This year's spring retreat, "Pray and Play" will be Friday evening, April 15, through Sunday morning, April 17, at Pilgrim Hills camp and retreat center. It is an hour northeast of Columbus off Route 62 at Brinkhaven. Please mark your calendars and plan to bring your whole family or just yourself.

Brochure and registration forms will be in the church office and on the Web site after March 10. Deadline for registration is April 10. We have space for 90 people – let's fill it! See Mark S. Williams for more information.

## Youth Mission Trips Agreements

Agreement to Participate forms for the West Franklinton Youth Mission Trip and the UCC National Youth Event at Disney are now available outside the Director of Christian Education office and after each service in the Parish Hall. Brochures are also available with details about the trip. Make plans now and get your name on the list. There is a separate form for youth and one for adults for each event. The first deadline for deposit is February 17, 2016. We are asking a \$50 deposit for each participant. This West Franklinton trip will be June 5-10, 2016 and the UCC National Youth Event will be July 26-30. Please see Mark S. Williams for more details.

## "And the Children will lead them...."

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



The Children and Youth will be collecting quarters and donations of laundry detergent and dryer sheets from the congregation. We would love for members and friends to join us the last Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7pm at WashLand Laundromat, 1469 West Broad Street in West Franklinton to serve those in need. Justice and Mercy Commission, Good Samaritan Fund and The Gladden House are also partnering with this important mission. Huge Success for Laundry Love – Over 21 triple/double loads of wash and 32 double dryer loads were provided on January 26 at Laundry Love mission project in Franklinton. The total cost to provide clean clothes for those attending was \$177.25. That means our volunteers placed 709 quarters in the machines and provided detergent/dryer sheets as well. We always welcome everyone to come and volunteer. This mission is solely dependent on your generous giving. Please continue to save your quarters, which is our biggest need at this time.

This is the first step in connecting with the West Franklinton community as the youth prepare to serve the area on the 2016 Mission Trip. So continue saving your quarters and donate to this worthy cause. The next Laundry Love day will be February 23. Come join us in serving those in need.

## It's Time for Camp Registration!

The Outdoor Ministries summer camp tentative schedule has been posted, so can spring be far behind? Everyone is ready to plan some fun in the sun and that's just what camp is about. There are camps for kindergarten children and first graders with a grandparent. Weeklong camps are for children who have completed second grade and older. There are camps for teens and camps with themes. There are camps for adults and even one for families. All summer camp programs are happening at Pilgrim Hills. Many of the "staple" Temple Hills events have moved over, including Grandparents/Grandchild camps, MMADD, Outpost camps and the Pool camps (Love the Pool and Still Loving the Pool). Forms will be available in the church office March 1.



## It's Time for Camp Registration! (continued)

Registration will begin soon!! Camp weeks fill up fast!!! Don't wait too long!!!

Camp schedule and descriptions are available online at: <http://www.journeythehills.org>. Once you've decided on a camp, just click one of the "Register Online" buttons to complete your registration and make your payment.

First Congregational Church has always been a strong supporter of the Outdoor Ministries Summer Camp Program by encouraging participation and by offering scholarships for campers. Thanks to the generosity of longtime member Alma Keeler, we are able to offer a 50% camp scholarship on the registration fee (after the \$75 deposit) to any First Church child or youth who wants to go to camp. A request for these funds must be made by the parent /guardian. This is not automatic as in the past.

To take advantage of this scholarship you must do several things:

1. Decide which camp you want to attend.
2. Send in your \$75 deposit as soon as possible with the 2016 camp registration form.
3. Send the remaining amount owed to the Ohio Conference at least two weeks prior to your camp;
4. Have a wonderful time!

First Church also will offer additional scholarships for those families who need extra help. Any child who wants to go to camp should not be stopped due to financial concerns of the family. For more information about camp, please contact Mark S. Williams. Deadline for early registration and First Church campership request is March 31.

### ***Tentative 2016 Summer Camp Schedule!***

Here's the basic schedule for our 2016 summer camp program at Pilgrim Hills so that you can start planning. There may be some small changes to come, but most events are in final form. More details will be added as they are available, and we will let you know when everything is final.

#### ***Week 1: June 5-11***

- Faith Adventures (grades 3-12)
- Floating with the Spirit (adult women) (June 9-12)

#### ***Week 2: June 12-18***

- Circle of Friends (grades 2 -12)
- Grandparent/Grandchild 1 (Adults & children ages 4-12) (Sun.-Wed., June 12-15)
- Grandparent/Grandchild 2 (Adults & children ages 4-12) (Wed.-Sat., June 15-18)
- Camp OFLA (Foreign Language Camp at Temple Hills) (Visit <http://www.campofla.org/> for information)
- Senior Outpost (grades 9-12)

#### ***Week 3: June 19-25***

- Bright Beginnings (grades 1-3) (Sun.-Wed., June 19-22)
- MMADD (grades 2-12)

#### ***Week 4: June 26 – July 2***

- Sports (grades 1-12)
- Junior Outpost (male and female, grades 6-8)

#### ***Week 5: July 3 – 9***

- Hand in Hand (grade 7 – Adult) (Sun.-Thurs., July 3-7)
- Love the Pool (grades 3-8)
- Confirmation (grades 7-9; all youth of Confirmation age)

#### ***Week 6: July 10-16***

- Grandparent/Grandchild 3 (Adults & children ages 4-12) (Sun. – Wed., July 10-13)
- Grandparent/Grandchild 4 (Adults & children ages 4-12) (Wed.-Sat., July 13-16)
- Choir (grades 1-12)

#### ***Labor Day Weekend: September 3-5***

- Labor Day Family Camp



## Make Plans for the Lenten Season

Shrove Tuesday is February 9, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The term “shrove” comes from “shriving” – to confess or repent and seek absolution. This was once a common practice on the day. We encourage all to plan activities that will help your family be ready for the solemn season ahead. First, have a family “game plan.” Call a family meeting. Talk about what Lent means and why it is important. Discuss where, when and how to observe Lent together. For example, will you devote a certain time each week or each day for activities or Bible study?

Next, consider adopting one or more spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are traditions that can be practiced throughout Lent. They can help us grow closer to God by cutting out distractions and refocusing our time and talents. They include giving things up, taking things on and participation.

To encourage participation, it may help to guide children in picking something that’s realistic for their age and maturity. It can be as simple as devoting time to learning a prayer or memorizing a short Bible passage. Adopt a spiritual discipline as a family, such as giving up some or all TV and devoting the extra time to mission work or Bible study. Mark a chart to check weekly progress.

Another way to start the season is to attend the Seventh Annual Pancake Dinner at First Church. Making pancakes was a good way to use up all the fat, cream and eggs in the house before Lent fasting began.

This old tradition inspired the term “Fat Tuesday” or in French, “Mardi Gras.” It also inspired the pancake dinner that many congregations hold today.

The First Church youth will host a pancake dinner on Tuesday, February 9, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. You may purchase tickets in advance after each service or at the door. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. This is always a great event.

If you can’t attend the pancake dinner, then throw your own family pancake dinner. Have children place fruit over their pancakes in a cross shape. If family members are going to give up favorite food or drinks, you may want to include these in your family dinner, too.

## Theme for Lent – Prayer

We know that we all learn differently. We know that we are moved in different ways on our faith journey. So prayer for each of us is no different. There are many ways of praying, many ideas of what prayer is, and many traditions of prayer.

During Lent, our faith community will provide many different approaches to prayer. These approaches are meant to give each of us a way of deepening our faith and spiritual growth through prayer.

So listed below are many ways that you might find helpful in this time of Lent. From traditional Sunday morning classes, home groups, Saturday groups, interactive family activities, meditative coloring, to daily prayers through our website, email, Face Book and even Instapray app for your smart phone and tablets our faith community will find ways to deepen our understanding and importance of prayer.

## Let’s Make A Difference!

You are not alone!

**Instapray** is a safe place that connects people around the world through prayers. Request prayers, share your prayers, pray for someone, and get connected! Become a part of the Instapray community and share your love, support, happiness, or struggles with the world around you. **Instapray** serves hundreds of thousands of users around the world bringing them prayer, love and support whenever they need it most.

Where is humanity in today’s online world? Where are those interactions that make us so perfectly imperfect human? Where is the kindness, support and vulnerability? Where is faith, hope, love, sadness and fear? Where are the things that matter that make us who we are?

These are questions we asked when creating **Instapray**. We wanted to create a shared space where people could join together in prayer, encouragement, and support for one another and the world around them. We dreamt of a community where everyone is welcome and accepted, free to explore their faith and spirituality without fear of retribution -- a safe place where people could give and receive help. That dream has now become reality as **Instapray** embraces users from over 200 countries, and receives millions of prayers. When we watch this unfold on the **Instapray** feed, it gives me hope for a better tomorrow.

If this sounds like a vision you can get behind, then join the **Instapray** family as we strive to create the most loving, faithful and supportive community on the web. Together we can make the world a better place!



## Lenten Coloring Posters

Coloring has always been a big hit with the young but now it has regained popularity with adults as a form of meditation and prayer. During the season of Lent a series of Lenten Coloring Posters will be located in the Parish Hall for “Children of ALL Ages” to come together and color. The Lenten themed posters are large enough for many to gather and color.

- Poster 1: February 10 (Ash Wednesday - Mark 9:30-37): Welcome.
- Poster 2: February 14 (Mark 10:17-31): Give.
- Poster 3: February 21 (Mark 10:32-52): Serve.
- Poster 4: February 28 (Mark 12:13-17): Listen.
- Poster 5: March 6 (Mark 12:28-44): Love.
- Poster 6: March 13 (Mark 13:1-8, 24-37): Watch!
- Poster 7: March 20 (Palm Sunday - Mark 14:3-9): Risk.
- Poster 8: March 24 (Maundy Thursday - Mark 14:22-42): Take. Eat. and March 25 (Good Friday - Mark 15:16-39): Forsaken.
- Poster 9: March 25 (Easter - Mark 16:1-8 ): Go! Tell!



## Lenten Small Groups

### *The Art & Practice of Prayer*

#### *Embracing Divine Presence*

The word *poieō* in Greek means “to make” and “to do.” This is where we get the word “poem.” Poetry comes through the creative process that we put into our lives, our relationships, our most intimate connections. This series is a collection to stir our deep longing to set our lives into the rhythm and meter of an eternal song.



Prayer is perhaps our most primal act of communication. As babies we looked up to our parents, who were at that time our “gods,” and prayed through our cries and primitive utterances. Often, as adults our expectations about what prayer is comes from these early childhood experiences and expectations. In other words, we often project onto God how we think God should respond to our prayers. “Did God hear me?” is really “Did mommy hear me?”

For some of us, when we think our cries are not heard when we do not get what we want. God simply becomes the One who exists to fulfill all of our desires. Others have outgrown this view of our parents. As adults, we do not expect our parents to bail us out of trouble, but instead we wish to spend time with them, to love them for who they are and not what we can get from them. Our theology of prayer is formed by our early experiences, but the hope is that it will mature. However, this is not always the case. We are sometimes stuck on the certain idea of what prayer is and how we should pray. The result is frustration, disappointment, anger, and despair when prayer does not work the way we had expected.

But what is prayer? Does it simply consist of getting something out of God or does it tap into something deeper in us, a longing for intimate connection, as a parent picks up a child to hold them? This curriculum is to start the discussion as to what prayer means and how we regain a practice that is at the core of who we are. We will hear from theologians and thinkers who share their own journeys of prayer. Part of the curriculum will provide suggestions for practices that can either be done alone or communally.

Let us talk. Let us create. Join us in our Lenten Small Groups or during Adult Education Class during the Sunday morning Education Hour.

## Lenten Small Groups

This Lenten season the Small Groups will be focusing on “Prayer” (See article on page 7). We hope to have small groups meeting in the following areas:

- Downtown/Bexley/German Village
- Dublin/Hilliard
- Upper Arlington/Grandview
- Worthington
- Lewis Center/Powell
- Westerville
- Clintonville
- Reynoldsburg/Groveport/Canal Winchester
- Gahanna



Jackie Dean, Commissioned Minister of Spiritual Direction, will be leading a group that will meet at the church on Saturday mornings 10 a.m. to Noon. Childcare is available on request by Thursday of each week.

The groups will meet 4 times: Wednesdays, February 24, March 2, 9, & 16 or on the best day for the group.

Hosts and Leaders are needed in each area. Each week has a video to view and a lesson plan is provided to direct the discussion. In the past groups have met in coffee shops or pubs. The important thing is to meet for fellowship, learning and deepening our understanding of prayer and how it can enrich our spiritual lives.

Please indicate your interest below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I want to participate in a small group in the \_\_\_\_\_ area.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to host a group in my home.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Or contact Marty Worth at [mworth@first-church.org](mailto:mworth@first-church.org) to indicate your interest.

## Interactive Prayer Activities for Families: A Lenten Practice

Families come and join us for “Second Saturday” during Lent. We’ll host interactive prayer activities for families with children from newborn to teen. Families will engage and embrace new prayer practices in a fun, loving and safe environment.

Prayer stations and self-guided activities will make this hands-on morning activity one to talk about at home. Instructions will be given for each activity.

Go at your own pace.

Pray.

Create.

Engage.

Come when you can for as long as you can between 10 a.m.-12 noon on the second Saturday of both February (13th) and March (12th); we will meet in the Toddler Room in the Education Building.

Questions? Ask Rev. Emily Corzine at [ecorzine@first-church.org](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org).

## **MTSO faculty lecture asks: Where are the progressive voices in the anti-human trafficking movement?**

In their effort to participate in the movement to end human trafficking, are progressive Christians losing their distinctive voice? Yvonne Zimmerman, associate professor of Christian ethics at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, believes they are. In her faculty lecture, “Missing in Action: The Disappearance of Progressive Christianity in the Movement to End Human Trafficking,” Zimmerman will discuss the process by which progressive Christian perspectives are co-opted and effectively silenced in the anti-trafficking movement.

The lecture begins at 7 p.m. February 16 in the Alford Centrum on the MTSO campus, 3081 Columbus Pike in Delaware. It is free and open to the public.

Zimmerman is the author of *Other Dreams of Freedom: Religion, Sex and Human Trafficking*, published by Oxford University Press in 2012. The book explores the particular religious roots in Protestant Christianity of the notion of freedom that shapes the United States’ official federal response to human trafficking and initiatives undertaken to end it.

The lecture is presented by the Theological Commons at MTSO, which promotes the sharing of knowledge and experience between students, faculty, clergy and the public for the benefit of all participants and those they serve.

Methodist Theological School in Ohio prepares leaders of many faith traditions for lives of lasting significance in service to the church and the world. In addition to the Master of Divinity degree, the school offers master’s degrees in counseling ministries, theological studies and practical theology, along with a Doctor of Ministry degree.



## **Spirituality Network’s Arti Gras! Celebration of Art and Spirit**

Art is the highest form of hope. ~ Gerhard Richter

Engaging in any creative activity enriches life, and yet most people are intimidated by the very words “art” and “creativity.” Arti Gras! provides a safe, judgment-free space to explore creativity and spirituality. We focus on the creative process rather than on the finished product.

This event offers a wide range of possibilities for exploring the creative elements of the life journey, featuring a menu of mini-workshops that include art journaling, gentle dance/movement, written word and poetry, simple sculpting, paint, mixed media, and collage. This is a grassroots, hands-on experience open to all. Children under the age of 16 are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Arti Gras! is held the Saturday before Ash Wednesday.

Imagine...Creating hope in our troubled world

What will be created in you?

Join the Spirituality Group on February 6, 2016, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 2199 East Main Street, Columbus.

Engaging in creative practices can open up your capacity for greater hope by providing avenues to new perspectives, deeper understanding and greater compassion. Creativity is God’s expression in and through us. What better way to deepen your life than through art making as a spiritual practice? Come and explore your inherent gift of creativity with us at the 16th Annual Arti Gras! Celebration of Art and Spirit.

Preregistration is required. \$40 prepaid, \$55 at the door, includes all materials, lunch, and two raffle tickets. Groups of 6 or more receive reduced rate. Please call 614-228-8867 for details or check the website: <http://www.spiritualitynetwork.org/artigras.html>.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, contact Amanda Cushing at The Spirituality Network, 614-228-8867.

# From the Minister of Music

By Kevin Jones, Minister of Music

(kjones@first-church.org)



## Lent Comes Early

It hardly seems possible to be considering the liturgical season of Lent as I write this article in mid-January having just closed the book on 2015. Easter does, however, come early in the year in 2016, and that, in turn, pushes us back to Wednesday, February 10, as the first day of Lent. Ash Wednesday marks a season of contemplation (some might say penitence) in which we literally mark ourselves as Christian. Tradition says that this year's ashes are last year's palms from Palm Sunday. It follows, then, that we take on the mark of the cross, asking for forgiveness from our sin, with the burnt symbol of Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem. It's a powerful metaphor. Services on Ash Wednesday will be at Noon and 7:30 p.m.

What else changes in our worship during Lent? Music becomes more contemplative, we add a confession and absolution, our song of praise becomes a prayer of mercy (Kyrie eleison or "Lord, have mercy"), our color is purple (the color of passion), and we follow the wilderness path of Jesus through the Gospel story of Luke. Like Advent, Lent can be seen as a "sad" season. I would counter this description with coloring it as a period of sacrifice and self-restraint so that we can more fully experience the central mystery of the Christian faith – the Resurrection of Jesus. The joy that bursts forth on Easter Sunday is in stark contrast to all that has gone before it for 40 days.

In the words of The Book of Common Prayer, "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent."

## Choir News

### Rehearsal/Liturgical Appearance Schedules

**Treble Choir** – Rehearsals Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 at 9 a.m.

Sing in Worship Feb. 28 at 11 a.m.

**Teen Choir** – Rehearsals Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 at 9 a.m.

**First Church Ringers** – Feb. 4 at 6:15 p.m.

Ring in Worship Feb. 7 at 11 a.m.

**First Church Choir** – Rehearsals Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25

Sing in Worship Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28

Sing Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. (call at 6:45)

## Save the Date

Minister of Music Kevin Jones plays, for the third year in a row, a harpsichord recital featuring the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, on Tuesday, March 1, at 12:15 p.m. as part of the ongoing First Tuesdays series. This year, Mr. Jones has chosen one of the six English Suites – the English Suite in g minor, BWV 808. It is fitting that we hear music of the great master during the month of March, as it was his birth month in 1685. The exact date is March 21, 1685, although according to the Gregorian calendar, that date is really March 31, 1685. Whatever calendar you follow, however, his birth month is definitely March.

# Music News

## First Tuesdays

First Tuesdays  
Tuesday, February 2, 2016  
12:15 p.m.  
Organist  
**David Crean**



First Congregational Church  
444 East Broad Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614.228.1741 † www.first-church.org

Parking lots behind and on the west side of the Church.

More information can be found at:  
[www.concertsatfirstchurch.org](http://www.concertsatfirstchurch.org)



Organist David Crean presents an organ recital on Tuesday, February 2nd, at 12:15 p.m. featuring a varied program. Dr. David Crean is University Organist at Wittenberg University where he also serves as director of music for historic Weaver Chapel. A native of New York, David received his D.M.A. from The Juilliard School, where he was the 2014 recipient of the Richard F. French Doctoral Prize. David served as adjunct faculty at Juilliard and also holds degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and The University of Iowa. He has concertized throughout the United States and Australia, where his programs have drawn praise for their balance, accessibility, and diversity. In March 2014 David made his second concert tour of Australia featuring performances in Albury, Goulburn, Canberra, Sydney, and Bowral. The tour was supported by a generous cultural exchange grant from the US state department, through its embassy in Canberra, Australia. Other recent highlights include: the world premieres of two preludes and fugues by Henry Martin; the opening recital of WQXR's "Bachstock" organ works marathon; a performance on American Public Media's Pipe Dreams; and the American premiere of *Ecce Lignum Crucis* by Polish composer Marian Sawa for Juilliard's acclaimed Focus! festival. His former teachers include Paul Jacobs, Lionel Party, Greg Hand, Delbert Disselhorst, and David Boe. An avid writer, David is in demand as a program annotator and has supplied liner notes for a Grammy-winning CD. His dissertation focused on the life and works of Samuel P. Warren, organist at New York's Grace Church in the 19th century. He serves as an occasional reviewer for

Notes: the Journal of the Music Library Association and The Diapason. Additional articles have appeared in The American Organist. Lunch is available immediately following the concert in the Parish Hall for a donation of \$5.

## Concert by The Rose Ensemble

Early Music in Columbus brings The Rose Ensemble to First Church on Friday, February 5, at 8:00 p.m. (7:30 p.m. Pre-Concert Lecture). Their program is titled *Il Poverello – Exploring the Life and Deeds of St. Francis of Assisi*. The Rose Ensemble takes us on a journey across the rustic countryside of Umbria and Tuscany to the spectacular churches of Florence and Rome. This joyful program features centuries of hymns, dances, and motets, as well as early Italian-language spiritual songs and lighthearted readings about and written by Francis himself.

Founded in 1996 by Artistic Director Jordan Šrámek, The Rose Ensemble has achieved an international reputation as a premier American early music ensemble. Each performance illuminates centuries of rarely heard repertoire, bringing to modern audiences research from the world's manuscript libraries and fresh perspectives on history, culture, politics and spirituality from around the globe. With 10 critically acclaimed recordings and a diverse selection of concert programs, the group has thrilled audiences across the United States and Europe with repertoire spanning 1,000 years and more than 25 languages.



Single tickets are \$30 (regular price), \$25 (seniors ages 62+) and \$12 (students with current school ID). Order online through [www.earlymusicincolumbus.org](http://www.earlymusicincolumbus.org) or call 614-861-4569. Tickets may also be purchased at the door the evening/afternoon of the concert or in advance by calling the CAPA ticket office (614-469-0939) or Ticketmaster (800-745-3000).

## First Church Joys and Concerns

**MEMBERS:** Nell Cole, on the death of her brother; Carol Rodriguez and family, on the death of Carol's mother, Joan Shade; Gerhard Wolff; Alyah Dean; Mike Rippel, on the death of his aunt; Sarah Giffen, on the death of her father; Sandy Bennett and family, on the death of her mother, Vesta Williams; Lucille Kropp; Grace Glaros; Bernie Martin; Van Barndt; Ray Pendell; Wib Smith; and for families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY:** Marjorie Kufel, mother of Sharon Leidheiser; Anna Shine, niece of Diana Kutschbach; CCAD faculty, staff and students and the family and friends of Denny Griffith, who died January 18; Manuela Abad, aunt of Thomas Santiago; Carolyn Spellman, mother of Loretta Hoffman; and Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams.

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

- *Week of February 7:* Ireland and United Kingdom
- *Week of February 14:* Belgium, Luxembourg, and Netherlands
- *Week of February 21:* Portugal, Spain, Italy, and Malta
- *Week of February 28:* Germany and France

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

## Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the **G. Dene Barnard Music Fund in memory of Carol Hussey** by Gail Helm and Family, Upper Arlington Swim Club, Brian and Lynna Lee, Friends at Ohio EPA, Vera Panchak, Michael and Jennifer Knapp, James and Susan Gaul, Melva Fisher, Tom and Marcia Horvath, Bobby and Sue Vanstavern, Lois Wachtman, Joanne Mangia, James and Jan Hussey, Richard and Nancy Wetzell, Nancy Rennecker, Neal and Melissa McNally, Mark and Kathryn Trace, and Mary Weaver

Given to the **Alma Keeler Fund in honor of the First Church Christian education teachers** by Mark Williams

Given to the **Jackie Owen Memorial Music Fund** by Mr. and Mrs. Todd Cunningham

Given to the **Legacy Fund in honor of First Church** by Manning & Napier, Investment Advisors

Given to the **Johannes Landscape Maintenance Fund with thanks to the House and Grounds Committee** by Bill and Gail Johannes

Support your favorite ministry by making a gift in honor or remembrance of a loved one by completing the Celebration Gift form found in the church pews or the Endowment Fund Giving Form on the church website at [www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx](http://www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx)

# Church News

## It Takes a Village (Congregation) to Raise (Ordain) a Minister

The Giffen family is grateful for all the work, support and love of the many people who made possible Heather's recent ordination to Christian ministry on January 17. From her baptism, Sunday school, youth programs, confirmation, mission trips, higher education and pastoral internships many have been there for her—or at least enquired "How's Heather doing?" This past month church staff, office holders, visitors and volunteers have been especially busy with the mosaic of large and small tasks that constitute the ordination event. With God's help you made it happen.

*THANK YOU, ALL! Wally, Sarah, Malcolm & Heather*

## Personal Thank You

A most heart-filled thank you to the staff and members of First Church for the flowers, prayers, cards, love and support during the illness and death of my brother Jim Williams. We continue to be blessed in our time of grief.

*Blessings, Mark Williams and Tim Carsey*

# Justice and Mercy News

## Thanks from Gladden

Gladden Community House sent thanks for the donations which provided gift cards for seniors and teens and 250 food boxes for Franklinton families at Christmas. The staff also appreciates the year round support of the food pantry.

*Justice and Mercy Commission*

## Toiletries for Good Samaritan Day

The next Good Samaritan Day is Monday, February 9. Thank you for the contribution of personal hygiene items. They are really appreciated. The cupboard is bare. We are in need of the following items:

- Men's shampoo and/or body wash
- Women's shampoo and/or body wash
- Women's deodorant.
- Men's Deodorant
- Disposable razors and shaving cream
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes

A good source for these items in full sizes are Dollar Stores where everything in the store is \$1. Please leave your donations in the bin outside the church office.

Thank you for your continued support of this vital outreach to the community.

## The Nehemiah Action Assembly

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

by Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

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

# Church Vitality News

## Fellowship Teams

The Fellowship Teams are part of the Church Vitality Ministry of First Church. Each Sunday a team hosts Fellowship Hour after 11 a.m. worship. Church Vitality also hosts the large congregational events: Easter Brunch, Celebration Sunday in the Fall and the Christmas Dinner before the Christmas Play. In order to ensure that Church Vitality has enough support for these events – multiple Fellowship Teams are assigned to ensure success. Teams assigned to those events will be assigned to a specific time period for efficiency and so everyone has a manageable work load. We used this process with the Christmas Dinner in December and it worked exceptionally well.



Below is the schedule of Fellowship Teams for February and March. You will notice on March 27 there are 4 teams assigned for the Easter Brunch. That group will work with Denise Vogt and Kelly Dodd, with support from Marty Worth on the Brunch.

The Fellowship Hour schedule for the second quarter will be established in the next few weeks.

### **February Fellowship Hour Teams**

February 7 – Palms

February 14 – Romans

February 21 – Ruth

February 28 – Samuel

### **March Fellowship Hour Team**

March 6 – Zechariah

March 13 – Acts

March 20 – Amos

March 27 – EASTER – Colossians, Corinthians, Daniel & Deuteronomy

## Wedding Ministry

### **Wedding Coordinator Position Available**

First Church is seeking a wedding coordinator to support our wedding ministry. The wedding coordinator is responsible for working with a wedding couple to review the details of the wedding ceremony and provide information on the church wedding policies (photography, videography, floral / decorations, etc.). The wedding coordinator oversees the wedding rehearsal and coordinates all parties to ensure that both the rehearsal and wedding ceremony go smoothly.

We are looking for someone who: is people-oriented and friendly with a cheerful and warm demeanor; practices good organizational and communication skills; is detail-oriented; is willing to shoulder great responsibility; and takes pride in having things run smoothly and with excellence. Training will be provided.

If you want more information or you are interested in applying for this position, please contact the church office for an application.

### **Your Wedding Stories**

Were you married here at First Church? If so, we'd love to hear about your wedding experience here. As we continue to grow our wedding ministry, we would love the opportunity to share our members' wedding stories with prospective couples, and with our members in future newsletter articles. Please email Amy Wagner at [awagner@first-church.org](mailto:awagner@first-church.org) if you have a First Church wedding story you'd like to share.

### **First Church Exhibited at the Columbus Wedding Show**



For the second year, First Church had a booth at the Columbus Wedding Show, held on January 23 – 24. This was a great opportunity for us to meet with prospective couples and talk with attendees about many aspects of First Church, including missions, worship, music, and our open and affirming congregation.

# February Calendar

## Monday, February 1

7 p.m. – Hebrew / Christian Scripture Study – Parish Hall

## Tuesday, February 2

12:15 p.m. – First Tuesdays Concert – Sanctuary  
12:45 p.m. – Lunch following Concert – Parish Hall  
2:30 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room  
5:30 p.m. – Sacred Earth – Large Conference Room  
6:30 p.m. – Christian Education Committee –  
Education Wing Room D  
7p.m. – Justice and Mercy – Large Conference Room

## Wednesday, February 3

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

## Thursday, February 4

6 p.m. – First Church Ringers Rehearsal –  
Education Wing Room J  
7:15 p.m. – First Church Choir – Parish Hall

## Sunday, February 7

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

## Monday, February 8

9 a.m. – Good Samaritan Day  
7 p.m. – Hebrew / Christian Scripture Study – Parish Hall

## Tuesday, February 9

10:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Large Conference Room  
2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room  
5:30 p.m. – Pancake Dinner – Parish Hall  
7 p.m. – Executive Committee – Large Conference Room

## Wednesday, February 10

Noon – Ash Wednesday Service – Sanctuary  
7:30 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Service – Sanctuary

## Thursday, February 11

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

## Saturday, February 13

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

## Sunday, February 14

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall  
9 a.m. – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir Room  
10 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room  
10 a.m. – Christian Education – Education Wing,  
Rooms C and D  
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary  
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall  
12:30 p.m. – BREAD Team Meeting – Parish Hall  
6 p.m. – High School Youth Group Meeting – Parish Hall

## Monday, February 15

10 a.m. – Staff Retreat – Mark Williams' home  
Office Open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Tuesday, February 16

Noon – Care Ministry Luncheon – Large Conference  
Room  
2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room  
7 p.m. – Council Meeting – Large Conference

## Wednesday, February 17

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

## Thursday, February 18

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

## Friday, February 19

Noon – Newsletter Deadline

## Sunday, February 21

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall  
9 a.m. – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir Room  
10 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room  
10 a.m. – Christian Education – Education Wing,  
Rooms C and D  
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary  
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall  
6 p.m. – Youth Group Meeting – Parish Hall

## Monday, February 22

7 p.m. – Deacons Meeting – Education Wing Room D

## Tuesday, February 23

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

## Wednesday, February 24

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

## Thursday, February 25

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

## February Calendar (continued)

### Saturday, February 26

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

### Sunday, February 27

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall

9 a.m. – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir Room

10 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

10 a.m. – Christian Education – Education Wing,  
Rooms C and D

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

6 p.m. – High School Youth Group Meeting – Parish Hall

## February Fellowship Hour Schedule

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| February 7  | Psalms |
| February 14 | Romans |
| February 21 | Ruth   |
| February 28 | Samuel |

## February Acolyte Schedule

|             |                  |                  |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| February 7  | Ethan Murray     | Finnegan Miller  |
| February 14 | Alex Palmer      | Trenton Helmer   |
| February 21 | Nick Boriin      | Peter Spofforth  |
| February 28 | Chutney Anderson | Cassidy Hopcraft |

## February Offering Schedule

|             |                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| February 7  | Mid Ohio Workers               |
| February 10 | Good Samaritan (Ash Wednesday) |
| February 14 | Kaleidoscope                   |
| February 21 | Back Bay Mission               |
| February 28 | Deep Griha                     |

## February Crucifer Schedule

|             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| February 7  | Dylan Hopcraft |
| February 14 | Eddie Anderson |
| February 21 | Adam Wade      |
| February 28 | Joe Spofforth  |

“to love and be loved  
is like feeling the sun  
from both sides” 

## Member Birthdays in February

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2/2  | Nathan Bennett<br>Sophia Polo   |
| 2/3  | Braden Baird<br>Devon Baird   |
| 2/4  | Randy Hoffman<br>Grace Gelpi<br>Vanessa Gonzalez                                |
| 2/5  | Ann McIsaac<br>Anne Morganstern<br>Lynn Wallich<br>Debbie Yontz<br>Rachel Catus |
| 2/6  | Sheila Faryman<br>Abby Salak  |
| 2/7  | Jane Carter   |
| 2/8  | Jonah Ewing   |
| 2/9  | Helen Cook<br>Tim Ahrens<br>Jim Griffin<br>Vic Jennette<br>Alyssia Palmer       |
| 2/10 | Kennedy Thompson  |
| 2/11 | Jazmyn Daines   |
| 2/12 | Mark Leidheiser   |
| 2/13 | Jason Brandt  |
| 2/14 | Bob Kutschbach<br>Becky Magaw<br>Rachel Unkovic<br>Grace Glaros                 |
| 2/15 | Herb Goetz<br>Ellen Braverman   |
| 2/16 | Peggy Alexander<br>Dick Ward<br>Tom Farquhar                                    |
| 2/17 | Craig Clay<br>Tyler Reid<br>Rachel Henderson                                    |
| 2/18 | Cindy Conn  |
| 2/19 | Ron Cook  |
| 2/20 | Michael Frost, Jr.<br>Dylan Hopcraft  |
| 2/21 | Cathy Redenbarger<br>Joe Lane   |
| 2/22 | Charisma Jones  |
| 2/23 | Gleva Stephens<br>Annie-Rose Cooke  |
| 2/24 | Lola Edwards  |
| 2/25 | Mike Koscher<br>Joanna Stewart<br>Julia Myers<br>Betsy Braverman                |
| 2/26 | Kopano Marumo   |
| 2/27 | Kim Hopcraft<br>Dylan Collier   |
| 2/28 | Connie Johnson<br>Melva Fisher  |
| 2/29 | Tammy Alexander   |

## Member Anniversaries in February

|      |                               |
|------|-------------------------------|
| 2/5  | Kris and Richard Brant        |
| 2/14 | Debbie Kelly and Larry Thorne |
| 2/16 | Amy and Bill Wagner           |
| 2/18 | Sallie and Karl Danneberger   |
| 2/19 | Cami Curren and Thom Smith    |

## **FIRST CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

Senior Minister Timothy C. Ahrens, D. Min.  
Associate Minister Emily Krause Corzine, M. Div.  
Minister of Music Kevin Jones, M. M.  
Director of Christian Education Mark S. Williams, M. Ed.  
Commissioned Minister for Social Justice Tom Brownfield  
Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction Jacquelyn Dean  
Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus G. Dene Barnard  
Treble Choir Director Sandra Mathias, Ph.D.

### **DIACONATE**

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

### **CHURCH STAFF**

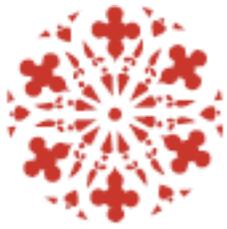
Business Manager Sharon Leidheiser  
Program Manager Martha Worth  
Office Manager Amy Wagner  
Building Manager Thomas Santiago  
Custodian William Lee, Jimy Sibrian, Onofre Franco-Chavez  
Wedding Coordinators Janet Axt, Margaret Cipriani  
Nursery Staff Evin Wimberly, Simone Ellerson, Natalie Barker,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

### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

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

### **COMMISSIONERS**

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



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

TOI