



Mental Illness: The Journey In and Journey Out

By Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Various forms of mental illness effect at least 1 in 5 people in a given year. As a result, our church and family systems are deeply affected by mental illness. If one in five family members have been stricken with mental illness, the entire family is affected in one way or another. Either through full engagement of time, resources, or emotional energy or all three – most of our families are affected and some afflicted by mental illness.

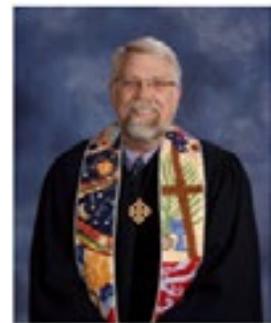
In the face of this, the Church is sadly silent.

Several months ago, I was with a group of Christians in a prayer group. One person shared how her daughter was battling bi-polar disorder. By the time our group finished sharing, 15 out of 17 people in the group shared that family members close to them – themselves, or their parents, children and/or spouses – had struggled with some form of mental illness. I asked, “Have you ever heard a sermon on this?” All 17 said, they had NEVER heard their priest or pastor speak about mental illness from the pulpit. I promised that day I would address mental illness from at least one pulpit – our pulpit. I will offer five sermons on Mental Illness from August 7 through September 4. I invite you to have friends, family, neighbors or co-workers affected by Mental Illness come to church. Statistically, that will be a lot of people.

Mental disorders are common in the United States and internationally. An estimated 22.1% of Americans ages 18 and older – about 1 in 5 adults – suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. When applied to the 1998 U.S. Census residential population estimate, this figure translates to 44.3 million people. In addition, 4 of the 10 leading causes of disability in the U.S. and other developed countries are mental disorders – major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Many people suffer from more than one mental disorder at a given time. In the U.S., mental disorders are diagnosed based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fourth edition (DSM-IV).

Here are some more statistics on Depressive Disorders.

- Depressive disorders encompass major depressive disorder, dysthymic disorder, and bipolar disorder. Bipolar disorder is included because people with this illness have depressive episodes as well as manic episodes.
- Approximately 18.8 million American adults, or about 9.5 percent of the U.S. population age 18 and older in a given year, have a depressive disorder.
- Nearly twice as many women (12.0 percent) as men (6.6 percent) are affected by a depressive disorder each year. These figures translate to 12.4 million women and 6.4 million men in the U.S.
- Depressive disorders may be appearing earlier in life in people born in recent decades compared to the past.
- Depressive disorders often co-occur with anxiety disorders and substance abuse. The challenge is the multiple diagnoses affiliated with depressive disorders.



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Sunday, July 24, 2016 at 4:05 p.m.

Huntington Park

330 Huntington Park Lane,

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Join First Church on Sunday, July 24 at 4:05 p.m. as the Columbus Clippers take on the Pawtucket Red Sox, as part of the Faith Days with the Clippers series.

*First Church will order tickets for reserved seating; **tickets are only \$7 for adults, youths and seniors!** Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate with your payment or sign up in the office.*

***Payment for tickets is due in full by Sunday, July 10.** Please make checks out to First Congregational Church, and indicate “Clippers Baseball Outing” in the memo line. Tickets will be available for pick up Sunday, July 24 after worship (or possibly earlier).*



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Mental Illness: The Journey In and Journey Out (*continued*)

There is hope. Medicine, counseling, and communities of support are available to us. Let's explore this together. As promised, I will offer five sermons on Mental Illness. In addition, I will offer a book study featuring the book "***Blessed are the Crazy.***" Furthermore, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Franklin County is offering classes based in our church, beginning on July 10. You are welcome to sign-up. This newsletter provides details on all of these events.

Here are five sermons....

August 7 – Communion Meditation – “When Mental Illness Hits: Out of the Depths I Cry to You” – Psalm 130

August 14 – “Depression: From the Pit of Despair We Can Rise in New Life” - Psalm 40:1-3

August 21 – “Mental Illness and God’s Sufficient Grace” – II Corinthians 12:8-9

August 28 – “The Resurrected Mind: No Death Today” – John 20:1-18

September 4 – Communion Meditation: “Hope for Today and Tomorrow: Not Easy But Not Impossible” - II Corinthians 4:18

NAMI Ohio Family-to-Family Classes

Offered at First Church, Room C – Sunday Afternoons, 1-5:30 p.m, July 10-August 14

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is offering classes at our church for families to cope with mental illness beginning Sunday afternoons, July 10.

These classes and programs are offered at no cost to participants.

NAMI Ohio and its affiliates play an active role in providing support and education to consumers of mental health services and their families throughout Ohio.

The Family-to-Family Education Program, created by Dr. Joyce Burland, a psychologist and family member, is a 12-class course designed for families experiencing the effects of severe brain disorders, and focuses on three major psychiatric illnesses: schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic depression), and major depression.

Classes are team-taught by intensively trained family members of individuals suffering from mental illnesses. The program curriculum covers treatment strategies and coping skills, such as improved communication and problem solving.

Throughout the program, family members learn to be effective providers and advocates for an ill relative. Many participants also find the emotional support that is essential during times of illness and stress.

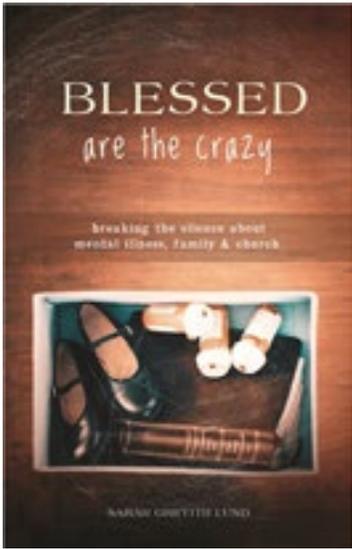
Classes cover the following topics:

- Facts and Feelings—Learning the Difference
- Introduction to Schizophrenia—Diagnosis and Causes
- Introduction to Depression and Bipolar Illness—Diagnosis and Causes
- Brain Basics
- Problem-Solving Skills
- Medication
- Empathy Workshop—What is it like to experience a brain disorder?
- Communication Skills
- Relative Groups and Self-Care
- Rehabilitation Strategies
- Advocacy: Fighting Stigma
- Celebration! Certification is awarded upon class completion

Classes are open to anyone with a family member or close friend experiencing mental illness.

Registration forms may be found in the office or on-line at: <http://www.namifranklincounty.org/index.html>

Please mail the registration form to NAMI Franklin County, 1225 Dublin Road, Suite 110, Columbus, Ohio 43215, or FAX it to 614-501-6267, or email it to karen@namifc.org.



Blessed Are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness, Family and Church

An August Sunday Morning Book Study Led by Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

As we go through the preaching series on Mental Illness, I invite you to join me at 10 a.m. each Sunday morning in August in discussions about the many dimensions of mental illness as it touches our lives. With a study guide on how the church can more effectively deal with mental illness in our life together.

In her book, ***Blessed Are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness, Family and Church***, The Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund explores the many dimensions of mental illness.

The Rev. Dr. Lund writes: “When do you learn that “normal” doesn’t include lots of yelling, lots of sleeping, lots of beating?” She looks back at her father’s battle with bipolar disorder, and the helpless sense of déjà vu as her brother and cousin endure mental illness as well. With a small group study guide and “Ten Steps for Developing a Mental Health Ministry in Your Congregation,” *Blessed Are the Crazy* is more than memoir—it’s a resource for churches and other faith-based groups to provide healing and comfort.

Sermon Titles for July



July 3 *Fourteen Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Holy Communion at both services

Communion Meditation: “The Pulse of the People” by Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Texts: 2 Kings 5:1-14, Galatians 6:7-16, Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10 *Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Sermon: “A View From The Ditch ” by Rev. Emily Corzine

Texts: Amos 7:7-17, Psalm 82 or Deuteronomy 30:9-14, Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:25-37

July 17 *Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Sermon: “Only One Thing ” by Rev. Emily Corzine

Texts: Amos 8:1-12, Psalm 52 or Genesis 18:1-10a, Psalm 15 or Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42

July 24 *Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Baptismal Meditation: “Persevere...in Prayer” by Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Texts: Hosea 1:2-10, Colossians 2:6-15, Luke 11:1-13

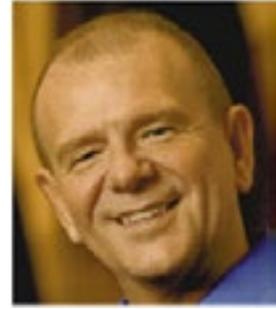
July 31 *Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Baptismal Meditation: “Rich Toward God” by Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Texts: Hosea 11:1-11, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21

Education

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



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 8 p.m. at WashLand Laundromat, 1469 West Broad Street in West Franklinton to serve those in need. Justice and Mercy Commission, Good Samaritan Fund and The Gladden House are also partnering with this important mission. We always welcome any 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.

The next Laundry Love day will be July 26. Come join us in serving those in need.

West Franklinton Mission Trip

It was an amazing week of service and learning for our youth and adults during the June 5-10 Mission Trip to West Franklinton. We encourage you to visit the First-Church Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchCbus>) to see all of the posts and pictures from the week. The youth are extremely grateful to the congregation for their support and those members who provided lunch and dinner throughout the week.

Adult Education Planning

We are currently planning for our 2016-2017 Adult Education Program. What topics are of interest to you to enhance your faith journey? Contact Mark Williams – mwilliams@first-church.org for suggestions.

These classes and programs are offered at no cost to participants.

Blessing Bags

We see many that are in need in our city asking for help. One way is to create “Blessing Bags” to keep in your car. The youth compiled 50 bags for their mission trip to take to the homeless camps in here Columbus. Here are the ways you can help:

- Take the list provided and visit as a family or with neighbors to a local dollar store.
- Purchase gallon zip-lock bags – one to place the items in and another to place in the bag.
- Purchase the rest of the items on the list and place in the bag.
- Put it in your car and be ready to bless someone that is in need.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Gallon Zip Lock bags | 6. Ponchos |
| 2. Socks | 7. Razors/shaving gel/ tampons |
| 3. Protein/Meal Bars | 8. Waterless hair shampoo |
| 4. Ready-to-eat Soups | 9. Baby Wipes |
| 5. Water bottles | 10. Travel size deodorant, toothpaste, soap |

Education

Congratulations Graduates!

Carl Jacobson, son of Mary Anne and Todd Jacobson, graduated from Upper Arlington High School. Carl will be attending The Ohio State University.

James Maxwell Monast (“Max”) will graduate from OSU in August with a degree in English. He is the son of Colleen Baumeister, Delaware, and James Monast, Columbus. Grandparents are Hugh Schultz and Dana Navin Schultz, Dublin. Max is currently finishing requirements for his degree while studying in England on a special cooperative program with OSU. Max plans to work in publishing and hopes to secure a position in England during his current stay.

Cameron Wade, son of Lissa and Drew Wade and grandson of Jan Wade and Marti and Rob Rideout, graduated from Upper Arlintong High School. He will be attending Bucknell University in the fall and plans to study economics.

Katie Wagner, daughter of Amy and Bill Wagner, graduated from Upper Arlington High School. Katie will be attending Columbus College of Art and Design, majoring in illustration.



This list includes the graduates for which we received information by the newsletter deadline. If you have an additional graduate you would like us to recognize, please forward information including the person's name, the school the person is graduating from, the degree received, and possible future plans to awagner@first-church.org by July 20 and we will include it in our August newsletter.

New Members

Bronya Boykin – Bronya is a psychiatrist with the State of Ohio. She enjoys woodworking and traveling. She relocated to Columbus a few years ago. She has two daughters, Gabrielle and Rachael.

Barb Clapham – Barb was baptized here at First Church. Her training is in Early Childhood Education, and she also served as a legal assistant. After many years living in Southeastern Ohio, she has returned to Central Ohio and reengaged here at First Church. She enjoys reading, traveling, sewing, gardening, dollhouse miniatures. She treasures her long-time friends. Barb's brother is Bill Johannes. Barb is our Tuesday office volunteer.

Rezi Ghazvini – Rezi is a native of Iran. She grew up in the Islamic faith. She found First Church through her friends, Lynn Wallich and Mary Jo Hudson. She became a baptized member of this community in April. She works as a chef at The Joseph. Her partner Sherry, works at The Guild House. We are delighted to have Rezi as a part of our community.

William (Bill) and Arevena Nirote – Bill is a retired UCC pastor who served most recently from Northwest Ohio. He has a D. Min degree, and has spent much time within the church in the areas of pastoral care, family systems theory, and ecumenism. He loves to read. Arevena is a property manager for National Church Residences. She grew up in Chillicothe, Ohio. She loves reading, sewing, gardening and crafting. Bill and Arevena are head over heels for their 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Robert and Wendy Reber – Robert and Wendy found First Church through friends, Barb and Al Glover. They have recently moved to the Goodale Landing in the Westminster Thurber Community. Robert has his PhD from Boston University in Theology and served 16 ½ years at Auburn Theological Seminary in New York City. Wendy is a retired 3rd and 4th grade teacher. They have two children, one on the East Coast, and one the West Coast. Wendy loves to read and volunteer at the hospital. Robert has invested his time and energy into Horizon Prison Initiative, Interfaith Association of Central Ohio (IACO), and BREAD. They look forward to getting involved at First Church.



Bronya Boykin



Barb Clapham



Rezi Ghazvini



Arevena and Bill
Nirote



Wendy and Robert
Reber

From the Minister of Music

By Kevin Jones, Minister of Music

(kjones@first-church.org)



Summer Worship

With the advent of summer, I am fortunate to be able to directly re-connect with the 9 a.m. worshipping congregation. I value this time spent with them, because I rarely get to interact with this growing, vibrant section of our Church. What I find is a cheerful, singing congregation that has grown in size, yes, but also in stature and ability/willingness to participate in the congregational parts of the service of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. It is refreshing and wonderful to hear beautiful voices lifted together in praise of God. The most wonderful thing about corporate singing is the connection to God through connection with each other working toward a common goal. It's a "WE" thing, and not a "ME" thing. In truth, in what other venue do we ever sing together as a people? At sports events we are encouraged to sing the National Anthem, yes, but, really, the encouragement to sing together is almost non-existent (except when Leo Welsh leads the Blue Jackets!). There was a long-standing tradition of public, corporate singing that has almost completely died out in our society. I'm so very glad and so very grateful that this tradition, forgotten in so many places, is alive and well at First Church. It's not only alive and well, it's being cultivated by training our members – young and old – in musical education. What a gift and what a joy to be able to participate **together** in the storytelling of our faith.

Summer Choir 2016

The Summer Choir will make its appearance this summer in 11 o'clock worship on Sundays, July 10 and July 17. There is no audition for this choir, and no need to sign up in advance. If you want to sing, just come to the Choir Room at 10 a.m. on those Sundays. We will learn a quick, easier anthem, and be ready to add our voices to worship. We will be singing from the Gallery and we will not vest. This is a great chance to sing if you love to sing but don't have time for the regular commitment during the year. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank You

After last month's issue of the First Church News was printed, we had three additional donors to the recent fund drive for new Treble and Adult choir robes. We humbly thank all of our donors that led to the successful end of the drive, and want to make sure that our list is complete. Thanks belong to Bill and Sarah Lange, and Jim Gallagher.

The new vestments were ordered in mid-May and will be here and in use for the regular season in September. Thank you, all, again!



With Thanks

Thank you to all who visited the Choir's beverage booths on Saturday and Sunday of the Columbus Arts Festival. Our 27 volunteers who worked hard all day Saturday and all day on Sunday to serve water, soda, tea, and other assorted thirst quenchers to many of the several hundred thousand attendees. The weather was amazing and a lot of fun was had. Thank you for helping us raise funds for the 2018 UK Pilgrimage.

Music News

Concerts 2016-2017

The new Concerts at First Church season is headed your way. The concert brochure has begun to appear around the church, and the Annual Appeal for concerts will likewise appear in your mailbox. (If you're not on the concerts mailing list, please telephone the office and/or email Marty Worth at mworth@first-church.org, to get yourself added to this list.) If you want a full, online version of the season, please navigate your web browser to the Concerts website, www.concertsatfirstchurch.org. The website is fully populated with detailed information about each event this year. Suffice it to say, please save the date for the opening concert on Sunday, September 11, at 4 p.m. when the First Church Choir and chamber orchestra present Mozart's powerful Requiem in remembrance of the 15th Anniversary of September 11, 2001.



The brochure cover features a dark background with a pattern of colorful, abstract shapes resembling stained glass or musical notes. The title "CONCERTS AT FIRST CHURCH" is prominently displayed in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below the title, the years "2016 2017" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The church's name and address are listed in white text: "First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, 444 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, www.concertsatfirstchurch.org".

Congregational Concerts – Sundays at 4pm

- 11 Sep - The 15th Anniversary of September 11th
Bach Harpsichord Concerto in d minor & Mozart Requiem
- 16 Oct - Saxophonist George Wolfe (follows Evensong)
- 20 Nov - Kevin Jones, organist
- 18 Dec - Christmas Lessons and Carols
- 26 Feb - *H.M.S. Pinafore* by Gilbert & Sullivan (concert performance)
- *10 Mar - Michel Bouvard, organist (note time: Friday at 7:30pm)
- 23 Apr - Handbells Columbus with Karen Buckwalter

First Tuesdays – Tuesdays at 12:15pm

- 4 Oct - G. Dene Barnard, organist
- 1 Nov - Victoria Missa *O quam gloriosum* for All Saints' Day
- 7 Feb - W. Tyler Robertson, organist
- 7 Mar - Bach's Birthday Concert - Kevin Jones, harpsichordist

Choral Evensong – Sundays at 4pm
(Responses, Canticles)

- 16 Oct - Jones "Gladden", Lee Holby
- 13 Nov - Herbert Howells, Howells "Westminster"
- 12 Feb - Tomkins responses, Dyson in D
- 12 Mar - Gerre Hancock; Gibbons "Short Service"

Music in Liturgy

- 24 Dec - Poulenc Gloria- 10:30pm
- 14 Apr - Schütz *Matthäuspassion* - 7:30pm



Church News

Facing Death....with Music

A unique concert by Bill Cohen

We're all going to die at some point, and the sooner that realization really hits home, the sooner we can live our precious lives to the fullest. With that in mind, please join me as I sing a wide variety of songs about many different aspects of death.

Don't worry. This won't be a depressing morbid look at death and it won't include any theological proselytizing either. In fact, I'll be including several songs about the liberation we can feel when we realize our inevitable deaths give our lives meaning and open the door for us to be the best we can be.

Folk songs will be a big part of this program. But there will also be some 1950's-style oldies but goodies, a children's tune, a dramatic Irish song, and even some country touches. Plus a surprise or two. All with a link to death. Here are some clues: Danny Boy, Pete Seeger, John Prine, Sarah McLachlan, Tell Laura I Love Her, Eddie Fisher, Louis Armstrong, and Phil Ochs.

Our fast-paced lives and electronic gadgets often help us avoid even thinking about death. But at this concert, we'll try to slow down and do something different. With a smile, a laugh, a story, and a tear or two, we'll acknowledge death.

Admission is free. We'll simply "pass the hat" for donations. I'll be splitting the proceeds with the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio, the sponsor of the concert. The group encourages people to plan their funerals and memorials in advance, so they can be exactly what they want, more affordable, and not subject to financial manipulation in a time of sorrow and loss. More than 1,300 Central Ohioans are members of the non-profit group.

The concert will be held on Sunday, July 24 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, located at 93 W. Weisheimer Road in the Clintonville neighborhood of Columbus. For more info, contact Bill Cohen at (614) 263-3851 or billcohen@columbus.rr.com

Musings from the Senior Minister

By Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Summertime is a great time to muse. As you know, "musing: is a period of reflection or thought." So I have been thinking... There are some important things happening in the life of the church. Our church budget is slightly ahead as we reach the mid-point of the year. That is good news. Don't forget to keep up with your summertime pledges and giving so that I am not writing, "We are slightly behind..." in two months.

Our softball team has fielded a team every Sunday this summer. This is our first team in several years. Doug and Missy Zimmerman have brought us together to be competitive in most games. Our 1-6 record doesn't show how we took the undefeated first place team to the last inning on June 26 and ALMOST WON! It also doesn't show the fun we are having. Thanks to all who are participating.

We have two members in the Olympic Swimming Trials in Omaha, Nebraska. Thomas and Katie Trace qualified for the trials. We look for great news coming from the High Plains this week! We will keep you posted.

Our four mission partners are headed to Westphalia Germany this week. Nina, Luke, Will Zimmerman and Carly Kutschbach will spend three weeks with families there. We hope to hear from them when they return. God Speed to you all!

There are great developments happening on the West Lot of First Church. We will be communicating more on this in the coming weeks. Stay tuned! Great news is on the horizon!

The BREAD Investment drive is happening right now. If you would like to invest in the work of Justice – now would be a great time to do it! We are seeking gifts – large and small – to reach a goal of \$5,000. We have commitments of \$2,000 so far. How about you? Would you like to commit \$50, \$200 or more this year? Bring your check to the church office ASAP. Make the memo to BREAD INVESTMENT DRIVE.

If you are a registered voter in Columbus, participate in the August 2 election on the structure of the Columbus City Council. Do you believe our current structure of At-Large Council Members represents the whole city? Or, do you feel we should have wards and representatives selected in their neighborhoods to represent us? By the way, that is how the city used to be divided – through a Ward-system. Our own Washington Gladden was a representative of his Ward for two years on City Council. He ran and never spent a dime! So cool!

Stay cool this summer. Lots happening. Don't forget to come to worship. Also, don't miss Picasso at the Columbus Museum of Art this summer!

Church News

First Church Care Ministry

by Robyn Petras



Opening a mailbox and finding a card nurtures our lives. Yes, this still really occurs in 2016! 12 years ago, First Church members founded the First Church Care Ministry to send cards, to pray, and to strengthen friendships. The ministry has sent over 1,000 cards for all types of needs and celebrations.

This vital ministry is reorganizing and moving forward with a fresh start and renewed energy. The new meeting time is the first Monday of every month at noon in the small conference room; our July meeting will be on the second Monday due to the 4th of July holiday. Members pack an individual lunch to accommodate people who are on their lunch hour from work. Meetings include an inclusion activity which allows participants to grow in fellowship, followed by the preparation of cards, sharing of prayers, and a short devotion. The cards are placed on the office counter in a blue envelope for all church members to sign for during the week and are then mailed the following Monday.

The card ministry added a second component to the mission. Members knit beautiful prayer shawls for people needing special comfort. The shawl is lovingly prayed over at a staff meeting as each person holds onto it. Then, it is delivered during a visitation.

Special thanks to Amy Wagner who helps coordinate this process. We give appreciation to our private donator for the years of postage. We send greetings to members who are unable to meet. You remain a special part of the team.

How can you support this First Church ministry?

- Join the team.
 - Donate stamps and cards. Give to Amy Wagner.
 - Donate money for yarn. (Requires a special type of yarn.)
 - Contact Amy Wagner with card or prayer requests.
 - Sign the cards located in the office. Check weekly.
- Join the team.

Top reasons to join the ministry:

1. You will make new friends and strengthen old friendships. Prayer for others changes the world.
2. Cards uplift all people.
3. Meetings take less than 2 hours a month.
4. We need you! Thank you for joining this mission as you feel led.

To get more information, contact a member. Current members include: Bev Cook, Gleva Stephens, Anne Hudson, Amy Wagner, Robyn Petras, Sarah Giffen, Pat Patterson, Margene Whittenburg, Deb Poe, Sandy Bennett, Elaine Warren, and Dawn George.

House and Grounds Summer Clean Out Part 1

If you have items stored in the Storage Room behind the Stage. Please label those items, if it is necessary that they remain in that space. House and Grounds is cleaning out to make that space more efficient. PLEASE IDENTIFY THESE ITEMS BY JULY 8 at 4 p.m..

AFTER THAT DATE: All non-labeled items or items identified to Gerry Worth or Emily Corzine will be removed. House and Grounds has identified other locations that could be used. If you have questions, please see Gerry Worth or Emily Corzine, ecorzine@first-church.org.

Status Update

The Personnel Committee is working with staff and the House and Grounds Commission on filling the opening in the Building Manager staff position. We currently are putting together a job description and will be posting it with a new title, called Building and Grounds Superintendent. More information will follow in the coming weeks. Our hope is to form a search committee and post the position with the intent to hire someone in the early fall. If you have questions, please direct them to Rev. Emily Corzine at 614-228-1741, ext. 21 or ecorzine@first-church.org.

Church News

Plans for a Social Justice Park Are Moving Forward

Council has authorized the establishment of the Park Planning Group to consider options for developing a social justice park along Broad Street on the West Lot. Church leadership is pleased to announce that a family affiliated with the church is willing to fund the construction of the park subject to approval of the congregation.

The Park Planning Group is charged to meet with church members, church groups, community leaders, and community organizations to assess the feasibility of developing a social justice park on church property at this time. The group will evaluate the need, purpose, size, location, design, cost, funding and maintenance of a potential park. The group will assess the impact of lost parking spaces in relation to parking leases and mortgage payments. The group will recommend the type, size, cost and placement of any church sign located in the park. The group will coordinate the method for consideration of artists and designs related to possible sculpture installations in the park.

The group will include representation of the Art Committee, House and Grounds, Justice and Mercy, Staff, Trustees, and Council and will be in consultation with these groups as part of the planning process. In addition, the group is expected to hold information sessions with the congregation to be scheduled in the near future.

First Church Joys and Concerns

Congratulations to Jeff and Emily Corzine on the arrival of Jeff's second grandson, Thomas Jeffrey Hardin on June 10.

Members Grace Glaros; Rick Henderson; Janice White; Abby Salak and Melissa Prendergast and their daughter, Ruth Eloise; Bernie Martin; Ray Pendell; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including: Janice Taft, on the death of her mother, Doris Davison; Judy Smith, on the death of her sister Carol Smith; and Cindy Deliman, on the death of her aunt, Alta Smith.

Friends and Family Jason Wood, grandson of Melva Fisher; Jackie Miller, grandmother of Melissa Kulwicki; Pam Fisher, niece of Lynn Wallich; Billy Crawford, friend of Amy Wagner; Stephen Lemieux; Bill Taylor; Bev Goldie; Lois Beery; Bill Gutlieb; Joe and Marjorie Kufel, parents of Sharon Leidheiser; Craig Smith, friend of Becky Magaw; Judy Presser; Ruby and Wendell Smith, parents of Sarah Lange; Frankie Williams, mother of Mark Williams; Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including the family and friends of Jadyln Larky and Lauren Seitz.

Throughout the World We pray for the victims and survivors of the bombings at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport. We pray for the victims of the recent flooding in West Virginia. We pray for the people and leaders of the United Kingdom and European Union. We pray for the leaders of this country. We pray for survivors of war and oppression. We pray for the thousands affected by gun violence.

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 July 3:* Bolivia, Chile, and Peru
- *Week of July 10:* Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela
- *Week of July 17:* Costa Rica, El Savador, Nicaragua, and Panama
- *Week of July 24:* Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico
- *Week of July 31:* The Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

If you have any prayer requests or joys to share, please contact the church office (awagner@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 10) or one of the ministers (ecorzine@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 21 or minister@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 13).

Thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers, cards, flowers and visits while I was recovering. I appreciate your love and support. I am so thankful that I was able to make the Finch Reunion in Vermont!

Arlene Reynolds

Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the **G. Dene Barnard Music Fund** by Anonymous

Given to the **Dorinda K. White Endowment Fund** by Keith White in celebration of the life of Dorinda White

Given to the **Organ Preservation Fund** by Mr. and Mrs. John Deliman

Given to the **Starr-Wingfield Furnishings Fund** by Rupert D. "Twink" Starr in celebration of the life of Alan Wingfield

Support your favorite ministry by making a gift in honor or remembrance of a loved one or special event 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

July Schedules

July Fellowship Hour Schedule

July 3	Samuel
July 10	Zechariah
July 17	Acts
July 24	Amos
July 31	Colossians

July Acolyte Schedule

July 3	Alex Palmer	Allysia Palmer
July 10	Matty Provenzano	Mia Provenzano
July 17	Chutney Anderson	Erin Murray
July 24	Cassidy Hopcraft	Finnegan Miller
July 31	Alex Palmer	Allysia Palmer

July Mission Offering Schedule

July 3	Camp Scholarships
July 10	CUE-UCC Seminaries
July 17	Church World Services – Disaster Relief
July 24	CRIS
July 31	Children's Defense Fund



Fellowship Team Schedule

Below is listed the 2016 schedule for Fellowship Hour Teams: July through December. Please mark your calendars. The schedule will be on the Church website www.first-church.org and monthly listings will be in the Newsletter and Depart to Serve.

Fellowship Teams are part of the Hospitality Ministry (Church Vitality) and, therefore, help host several congregational meals during the year. **(See dates in bold)**. Several Teams are assigned to those dates. Details of the event will come as plans are finalized closer to the date. If you have any questions, please contact Marty Worth at mworth@first-church.org.

2016 FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE		
Date	Fellowship Team	Notes
July 3	Samuel	
July 10	Zechariah	
July 17	Acts	
July 24	Amos	
July 31	Colossians	
August 7	Corinthians	
August 14	Daniel	
August 21	Deuteronomy	
August 28	Ephesians	
September 4	Galatians	
September 11	Haggai	
September 18	Hosea	
September 25	Jeremiah, Kings, Micah, Numbers CELEBRATION/LEGACY SUNDAY MEAL	Potluck Meal on West Lawn after worship/ also Legacy Sunday
October 2	Proverbs	
October 9	Psalms	
October 16	Romans	
October 23	Ruth	
October 30	Samuel	
November 6	Zechariah	
November 13	Acts	
November 20	Amos	
November 27	Colossians	
December 4	Corinthians	
December 11	Daniel	
December 11	Deuteronomy, Ephesians, Galatians	5:30 p.m. Dinner before Play
December 18	Haggai	
December 25	NO FELLOWSHIP HOUR	BOBS all day

July Calendar

Sunday, July 5

9 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
10 a.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parlor
5 p.m. – First Church Softball Game – Field AB8

Monday, July 4 – Fourth of July Holiday
Office and Building Closed All Day

Tuesday, July 5

2 p.m. – Worship Planning

Wednesday, July 6

11 a.m. – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, July 7

6 p.m. – Voice For Life Class – Choir Room

Saturday, July 9

10 a.m. – First Church Quilters – Ralph Fanning Room

Sunday, July 10

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
1 p.m. – NAMI Educational Program – Education Wing Room C

Monday, July 11

9 a.m. – Good Samaritan Day – Ralph Fanning Room
7 p.m. – Trustees – Ralph Fanning Room

Tuesday, July 12

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room
7 p.m. – Executive Committee – Ralph Fanning Room

Wednesday, July 13

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room
6 p.m. – Music Committee – Parlor

Thursday, July 14

6 p.m. – Voice For Life Class – Choir Room

Saturday, July 16

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

Sunday, July 17

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
1 p.m. – NAMI Educational Program – Education Wing Room C

Monday, July 18

7 p.m. – Personnel – Parish Family Room

Tuesday, July 19

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

Wednesday, July 20

11 a.m. – Book Study – Parlor
1 p.m. – Deadline for Newsletter Articles

Thursday, July 21

6 p.m. – Voice For Life Class – Choir Room

Friday, July 22

1 p.m. – Faith Mission Meal Preparation – Kitchen

Sunday, July 24

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
1 p.m. – NAMI Educational Program – Education Wing Room C

Monday, July 25

6 p.m. – Budget and Finance – Ralph Fanning Room

Tuesday, July 26

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

Wednesday, July 27

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room

Thursday, July 28

6 p.m. – Voice For Life Class – Choir Room

Sunday, July 31

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall
1 p.m. – NAMI Educational Program – Education Wing Room C

Member Birthdays in July

7/1 Penny Casey
Larry Walquist
Olivia Rodriguez
Ashton Smith
7/3 Liam Collins
7/4 Cori Rowley
7/5 Bronya Boykin
Nancy Evans
7/6 Sandy Mathias
Janet Newcity
7/7 Kathy Brownfield
7/8 Joyce Campbell
Mike Rippel
Arstell Washington
7/9 Joan Lebold
7/13 Ted McIntyre
7/15 Francille Firebaugh
Kirk Marker
7/16 Steve Brandehoff
Elizabeth Drotleff
Mark Brown
Shelly Gies
Sharon Leidheiser
David Magers
Madeline McWilliams
Twink Starr
7/17 Mary Lightbody
Todd Jacobson
7/18 Michael Hopcraft
7/19 Bev Cook
Betsy Trace
Mariah Watts
7/22 Janice Cook
Marilyn Lewis
Eric Chambers
7/23 Jim Kyle
7/24 Linda Gieseke
Hector Gonzalez
7/25 Nancy Braverman
Earl Fritz
Frederick Hunker
Sarah Welsh-Huggins
7/26 Joanne Morse
7/27 Courtenay Gregory
7/28 Steve Sterrett
7/29 Andrea Gonzalez
Jason Bryant
7/30 Fran Panek
Kent Shimeall
David Temple

Member Anniversaries in July

7/1 Larry and Sharon Walquist
Mike and Robyn Petras
7/7 Trisha and Tom Bishop
Lauren and Scott Hamman
Kerry and Rob O'Leary
7/8 Denise and Nate Vogt
7/11 Alan and Murley Miller
Shelly and Tom Gies
7/12 Cindy and John Deliman
7/13 Julie and Tom Stewart
7/15 Anne and Gerry Hudson
Sarah and Erik Mitchell
7/17 Carol and Jim Gallagher
17 Natalie and Tristan Setty
7/23 Drew and Lissa Wade
7/26 Catherine and Todd Cunningham
7/31 Kelley and Mitchell Dean
Jenny and Lou Flocken



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

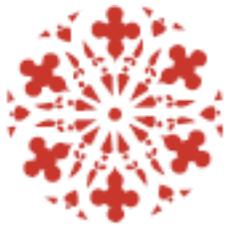
Business Manager Sharon Leidheiser
Program Manager Martha Worth
Office Manager Amy Wagner
Interim Building and Grounds Superintendent Milt Allen
Custodians William Lee, Jimmy Sibrian
Wedding Coordinators Janet Axt, Margaret Cipriani, Amy Wagner, Katie Wagner
Nursery Staff Evin Wimberly, Simone Ellerson, Natalie Barker, Taylre Arnold

CHURCH OFFICERS

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

COMMISSIONERS

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



FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

The First Congregational Church, UCC

444 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741

Email: home@first-church.org

Web site: www.first-church.org

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

Closed Major Holidays

“An Open & Affirming Faith Community”

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS

Worship at 9 a.m. ~ Parish Hall

Worship at 11 a.m. ~ Sanctuary