

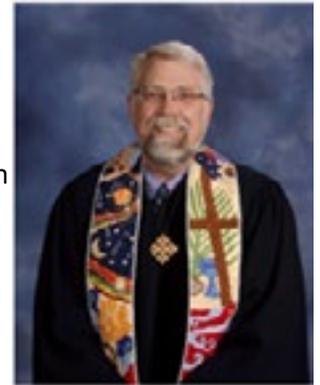


“Unexpected Places”

The UCC General Synod comes to Cleveland, Ohio June 26-30, 2015

By The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

With a theme of “Unexpected Places,” the 2015 General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be in Cleveland, June 26-30. We have a great opportunity as members of this denomination and active supporters of its ministry and mission to support the work of the UCC in our home state this month! People from around the globe and around the nation who make up the many congregations of the UCC will descend upon Cleveland – like the Holy Spirit descending upon the church at Pentecost – and become the church gathered for action in five days on the lakefront of Ohio’s north coast.



There is much planned for the five days of General Synod. In order to experience the length and breathe of the UCC in action, I highly recommend you go the www.ucc.org and cruise through the General Synod links. You will read about keynote speakers, special worship services, workshops, 16 resolutions (which I have attached at the end of this article) and special dinners and events. You have opportunities to bake cookies, volunteer your time and service to the larger church.

Having served as a delegate to three General Synods and having attended six others, it is a dynamic gathering of the church in faith and action. I highly recommend you take time to visit the Synod and become an active participant as you see the church in worship, fellowship and action.

Following worship on June 28, a growing number of First Church members and friends will hit the road to Cleveland. Worship begins in Cleveland at 3:00 p.m. So, I recommend we pack lunches and eat on the way. We can caravan by car. We can ride together and spend the afternoon and early evening praising God as the larger church comes together in praise of “The Unexpected Places” God is calling us to serve. Contact Amy Wagner in the church office to get your name on the carpool list: awagner@first-church.org or call 614-228-1741, ext. 10.

A couple of interesting asides about the Cleveland Synod. In 1957 when the Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed Churches united to become the United Church of Christ, my parents were marching in the convening Synod Parade through downtown Cleveland. I was there, too! My mother was one month pregnant with your pastor. I have such fond memories of my first march!

In 1987, when General Synod returned to Cleveland for the 30th Anniversary of the church, my firstborn son, Luke was baptized early on the Sunday morning of Synod and then I carried him on the church’s anniversary march through downtown Cleveland while walking beside my mother, father and Susan. It was the front page picture on Monday morning in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. Finally, we are electing a new General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ of the UCC. His name is the Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer of the Southwest Conference. While in seminary, John was a Seminary Intern with our own Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston. These are small world events for such a global church!

Make the effort to come to Synod or follow it live-streaming on line at www.ucc.org. Here are the **2015 Resolutions Submitted for Consideration by the Thirtieth General Synod:**

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------|
| 1. Commemorating 100 Years Since the Armenian Genocide | | |
| 2. Dismantling Discriminatory Systems of Mass Incarceration in the United States | | |
| 3. Resolution to Change the Racially Demeaning Name, Mascot and Imagery of the Washington National Football League Team | <i>In this issue...</i> | |
| 4. A Call for the United Church of Christ to Take Actions Toward a Just Peace in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict | Sabbatical 2015 | page 2 |
| 5. Transition from Fossil Fuels to Renewable Energy | Sermon Titles | page 3 |
| 6. A Call for Peace, Justice and Reunification in the Korean Peninsula | New Building Manager | page 4 |
| 7. Dismantling the New Jim Crow | Summer Sabbatical Support | page 4 |
| 8. Resolution on Full Communion Relationship Between the United Church of | Education News | page 5 |
| | Music News | page 8 |
| | Church News | page 10 |
| | Joys and Concerns | page 15 |
| | Justice and Mercy | page 11 |

Christ and the United Church of Canada

9. Developing Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged Congregations for Mental Health
10. Resolution to Support Legislation Requiring Labeling of Genetically Engineered Foods on Food Packaging
11. Resolution Marking the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Just Peace Pronouncement by Recommitting Ourselves to be a Just Peace Church
12. Calling on the United Church of Christ to Recognize the Actions of Israel Against the Palestinians as Apartheid
13. Responsible Stewardship of the Outer Space Environment
14. Calling the United Church of Christ to Advocate for the Ethical and Compassionate Treatment of Undocumented Immigrant Children Seeking Refuge in the United States
15. A Call for the United Church of Christ to Take Actions Toward a Just Peace in the Israel-Palestinian Conflict
16. Resolution Urging Socially Responsible Investment Practices



Classless

By The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

I am now classless. After 3½ years of constant study 12 months a year, I am classless. This week it hit me. No more webinars. No more blogs. No more reading assignments of books and articles. No more conversations with colleagues about the topic of the week. No more postings on line. No more late nights and early mornings reading, writing, and reflecting. I answer to no professor or seminary registrar. I am classless.

While the full and beautiful impact of being receiving my degree as a Doctor of Ministry and now being called “The Rev. Dr. Timothy Carl Ahrens” has not yet set into my soul, my classlessness has touched me deeply. The first thing I have noticed is I am sleeping a little bit more and a lot better. This

week I am dusting off the books you have been handing me. I am opening the list I have kept in my notebook online. I am sifting through articles, websites and readings which I WANT TO FOLLOW! Begin classless means that I have a life again! A sentence (as well as tons of paragraphs) is removed from my head. I am no longer a student. I am free! I am done!

So, thank you for loving me and tolerating me through the past 3 ½ years. There have been stretches where I was so absorbed by my work, my brow must have been crumpled and my head must have appeared to be smoking. Thank you for your questions, your prayers and your personal support. I thank the Trustees especially for their investment in my studies. You have been sensational in your love and support. I am forever indebted to you. Thank you as well for the kind and generous gift from the church leaders which Moderator Elaine Warren presented on May 24.

Now, this classless pastor has to get back to work... but my entry into First Church classes will be as a teacher and fellow learner – not as a student! This is the first time I have ever thought of being classless as being “good.”

Blessings and love to you!

Sabbatical 2015

By the Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

On July 1, I will go on sabbatical. This summer will not be filled with global travels (as were the 2004 and 2010 sabbaticals) but with family matters and research for two books. As for family matters, I am looking forward to being with Susan at home this summer. We have not had this kind of concentrated time alone in our 30 years of marriage. I am gone from her life at least three evenings every week. That takes a toll. To be together and “be still” will be such a blessing. What a blast! Luke and Kirs Ahrens are having a baby in July. Susan and I will become first time grandparents. That is truly exciting. Maybe I will simply move to Cleveland and take up residence in Luke’s place. That would be perfect! I will also spend time with my parents in Pennsylvania. As mom and dad celebrate their 65th Anniversary of marriage this month, they



have needs which are arising later in life with which I hope I can be helpful.

I am beginning my book on Washington Gladden and the NEW Social Gospel this summer. I will be going through his sermons and personal correspondence to find the essence of the pastor who made the prophet so real. I am also working on a children's book on Bill Willis. That will be a joyful project in which my love for Bill and his sons and family will all come together. In addition, I will be traveling to Washington DC this summer to meet with Reps. John Lewis and Bobbie Rush. That will be pure joy. Other than that, I am reading, writing, playing golf and being with my beloved wife and the two dogs – Dug and Charlie.

I return to work on October 1 and I am so excited to be in the pulpit on October 4 for our 2015 Legacy Sunday service. It will be pure joy to return to the church that I love so dearly.

I can't tell Rev. Emily Corzine and the church what to do while I am away, but I would recommend to all the members and friends of First Church to find and treasure Sabbath time. Be still, too. Enjoy the peace of the summer. Read Emily's reflections this month on what the sabbatical time will look like at church. You will be blessed by our Associate Minister's leadership all summer long.

Rev. Ahrens/Rev. Corzine Sermon Titles – May 31 and June 2015

May 31 – “Inherit the Wind”

Texts: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

June 7 – Communion Meditation – “A House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand”

Texts: I Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20, Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130, II Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

June 14 – “The Mustard Seed and Long Range Planning”

Texts: I Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20, II Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

June 21 – “Why Are You Afraid?”

Texts: I Samuel 17:32-49; II Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41

June 28 – Baptismal Meditation – “The Star Thriller”

Texts: II Samuel 1:1, 17-27, Lamentations 3:23-33; II Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

Thirty Years in Ordained Ministry

By The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

June 23, 1985 was a hot day in Lansdale, PA. While we pray that the Holy Spirit may bring light, wind and fire, we should always pray for wind first! On the afternoon of my ordination in my church of St. John's United Church of Christ, there was no breeze. But the Spirit was moving. On the day in which the apostolic blessing came from the clergy gathered and the prayers of the people surrounded the moment, I was touched by God's love and grace in amazing ways. I will always be thankful for my ordination into the Christian ministry which happened on that hot day in June 1985. That was the day that I also announced my engagement to Susan Elizabeth Sitler. We were married November 9, 1985.

30 years have come and gone since I was ordained. I have served three congregations – all in Ohio. I started in Bethany UCC in Cleveland (July 1985-March 1989). Susan, Luke and I moved to Columbus in March, 1989. I served North Congregational UCC, Columbus (March, 1989-January 2000) where Daniel, Thalia and Sarah came into our lives. We arrived at First Congregational UCC, Columbus January 23, 2000.

Since I started as a solo pastor and moved to Senior Minister and shared staff leadership 13 years into ministry, I have been the primary preacher in the three pastorates I have served. I have probably preached over 1500 Sunday sermons (for half of those Sundays I have preached twice each week... so 2,250 sermons altogether), presided at more than 400 weddings, eulogized over 500 people, celebrated communion at least 400 times, baptized over 450 babies, infants, teens and adults; confirmed 28 classes of students and about 300 young men and women; and spent at least 2700 evenings and over 6,000 hours on those nights at church. The sum total of ministry is not counted by sermons, services or church meetings. But, they do add up!

Here is part of a prayer I wrote on my 25 anniversary of ordination:

“I find I am happiest when I am living in your word, O God. I am happiest when I am talking with you. I am happiest when I think and smile upon the life, ways, actions, presence and being of Jesus. He inspires me. He gives me hope. Your son is everything to me. Whenever I see pictures of him or sculptures or recreations, I am overwhelmed by his love and presence, his suffering unto death and his rising with eternal life.”

I have been blessed to serve as your pastor for 15 ½ years of these 30 years. Thank you so much for your love of me and my family. I pray that I continue to be a servant of Jesus Christ and your pastor as long as our ministry and mission in his name is truly a blessing and given to his glory.

Coming on Board – New Building Manager, Thomas Santiago

By Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

We welcome our New Building Manager, Thomas Santiago. On May 11, Tom Santiago joined the staff of First Congregational Church and has stepped into a flurry of activity as the program year ended and the summer program begins, Letting Kids Succeed. He has been busy in the last three weeks. He is a great addition to our staff. He will lead the search for two new custodians and develop their training and scheduling system.

He comes to us with great recommendations for his compassion and honesty. His loyalty and trustworthiness were held up as strengths. He has served in other building management positions, most recently in a building management corporation as a facilities supervisor in Miamisburg, Ohio.

He and his wife, Elsa, have an eleven-year-old daughter, Samira, and they are expecting their second daughter in late June. We welcome Tom and his family to First Congregational Church. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to him and to offer support in the many volunteer opportunities there are with the building and grounds. Tom will greatly appreciate your strong support as he begins his work with us.

Summer Sabbatical Support – First Church Welcomes Acting Assistant Ministers Marti Baumer and Nancy Livingston

By Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

We are pleased to announce that during Tim's Sabbatical, First Church will have pastoral and administrative support from The Rev. Dr. Marti Baumer and The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston. Council approved funding for pastoral support for the sabbatical time from July 1 through October 1. We are delighted that both have felt called to serve with us in this way. Both clergywomen have vast experiences in congregational ministry, teaching at Eden Theological Seminary, and in leadership positions on the Conference level.

They will assist at First Congregational Church with worship leadership, administrative support for commissions/committees and ongoing and emergency pastoral care concerns. In addition, Rev. Baumer will assist with Trustees and Nominating and Rev. Livingston will assist with Congregational Care Ministries, Church Growth.

We will introduce both Marti and Nancy in Worship in July and also have more biographical information for you so you can better know them as they begin their ministry with us.

During the Sabbatical, Rev. Emily will assume primary staff leadership for the Deacons, Executive Committee, Council and Long Range Planning. She will also collaborate with the current ministerial, program, and administrative staff on other aspects of church life.

Congregational Care Ministries – Invitation

By Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

Did you know that First Congregational Church has wonderful caring ministries? Maybe you have been a recipient of one of the many caring ministries. Maybe you have been one to provide care or come alongside another person who faces a life challenge.

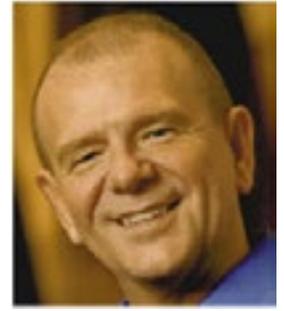
We want to celebrate the many caring ministries of this church. Whether it is the Deacons or the Card Ministry, or hospital and nursing home visitors or transportation providers, so many of you are already "informally" part of the caring ministry of this church. We are hoping to enhance the caring ministries in the months ahead and share more with you about how you can get involved or be on the list to receive care.

We extend two invitations: One, if you are willing to be part of a caring group or provide assistance in meaningful ways (many of which have a small time commitment), please email Amy Wagner in the church office. Two, if you know of someone in our congregation who is in need of care or someone is in the hospital, please call or email so that we can put them on our list of care. Hospitals and nursing care facilities are no longer able to call churches to let them know if a parishioner is admitted. The church relies on family or friends to share that information with us so that we can follow up and provide pastoral care. Consider being in one of the many caring ministries of the church. Please contact Rev. Emily Corzine (ecorzine@first-church.org) or Amy Wagner (awagner@first-church.org) if you have other questions or wish to put your name on the list to be a care giver or a care receiver.



Education

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



Youth And Adults Prepares for June Mission Trip to Back Bay Mission

The First Church Cross-Generational Mission Group will be going to Biloxi to serve at Back Bay Mission June 20 – 27. Back Bay Mission is known throughout the United Church of Christ for its highly successful and reputable mission trips program. Congregations and other expressions of the church visit the Mission on mission trips that strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice and transform lives.

The goal of any mission experience is to provide Christian service, deepen your faith in Christ and learn about a new culture or context with an eye toward taking new attitudes and understandings back to your own congregation and community. Back Bay Mission provides all of these critical components with a particular focus on:

- Demonstrating how this community ministry of the United Church of Christ acts out our faith by meeting the needs of the poor and marginalized in the spirit of Jesus' commission to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim a year of the Lord's favor (Luke 4:18-19).
- Providing an immersive learning experience in a group setting by encouraging volunteers and their leaders to be sensitive to group processes and dynamics.
- Providing opportunities for increased self-understanding and personal growth for all participants.
- Exposing volunteers to cultural patterns and value systems that may differ from their own and providing an opportunity for dialogue about that experience.
- Educating volunteers about the conditions of poverty that exist in parts of Mississippi and in their own communities and the causes of those conditions.
- Developing work and leadership skills among volunteers.
- Providing an opportunity for meaningful service.
- Equipping volunteers for life-long Christian service in their own communities and beyond.
- Our nationally recognized and highly successful program has allowed Back Bay Mission to become a major center for mission trips by congregations and individuals from the United Church of Christ. By participating in this unique experience, we hope you will gain a new perspective on poverty and related issues and return to your home refreshed and inspired.

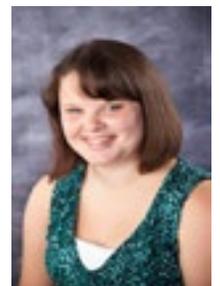
Congratulations Graduates!

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens graduated from the Chicago Theological Seminary with his Doctorate of Ministry. Tim is married to Susan Sitler, and their children are Luke (Kirs), Daniel, Sarah and Thalia.

Rachel Henderson graduated from Westerville North High School. She was involved in theatre during high school and was inducted into the Thespian Society. Rachel plans to attend Columbus State and study Early Childhood Education. She is the daughter of Gayle and Mike Henderson.

Bronwen Kessler, granddaughter of Jane Carter, graduated from Pickerington North High School. She will be attending the College of Wooster in the fall on academic scholarship.

Kim Kutschbach graduated with a degree in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology and a double minor in chemistry and psychology from Otterbein University. Kim is applying for medical school this month with the intent of going into pediatric neurology. She works as a mental health technician on the pediatric behavior health psychiatric unit at Nationwide Children's Hospital.



Rachel Henderson

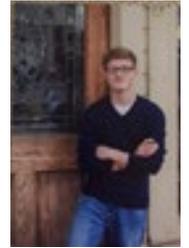
Congratulations Graduates! *(continued)*



Stan Lange

Stanford Lange, son of Bill and Sarah Lange, graduated in December from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science. Stan is an American College of Sports Medicine Certified Personal Trainer. He is a personal trainer and class instructor at the Anderson HealthPlex, part of Mercy Health in Cincinnati.

Peter Evan Monast graduated from Tree of Life High School in Columbus this year and plans to attend The Ohio State University in the fall. He has been active in his school's drama and vocal music programs. He particularly enjoyed playing the lead in this spring's production of *Godspell*. Pete is the grandson of Hugh and Dana Schultz.



Pete Monast

Anna Reed Rhoads graduated from Bexley High School, Summa Cum Laude with Honors. Anna plans on attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall. Her parents are Susan and Bill Rhoads.

Abby Salak graduated from Methodist Theological School in Ohio with a Master of Divinity degree and a Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries degree. Abby is the partner of Melissa Prendergast daughter of Sue and Ken Salak.

Amy Trace graduated with a B.S. from Miami University. She will be attending the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago next year. Amy's parents are Tom and Sarah Trace and her grandparents are Carol and Frank Hussey.



Amy Trace

Caroline Wallace, granddaughter of Jane Carter, graduated cum laude from the College of Engineering at The Ohio State University. She will be working as a systems engineer for Chase Bank in Columbus.

Dylan Woodring graduated summa cum laude from the Conservatory of Music, Capital University with a Bachelor of Music.

Peter Worley graduated from OSU on May 10 with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, Summa Cum Laude. He is currently traveling in Europe, and will be starting his job at Go Sustainable Energy (in Clintonville) in July. Peter is the son of Nancy Loy and Tom Worley.

Send a Part of You on Our Mission Trip!

The two lists provided on the following page offer are a way to extend the congregation's helping hands for those in need at Back Bay Mission. Items from both lists will be collected at the church until June 18 and will be packed and delivered to Biloxi with our Mission Trip Participants.

Food Pantry

"The Pop Top Bag Wish List" provides emergency food for the homeless and homeless veterans. For over 90 years Back Bay Mission's Food Pantry has been a dependable source in combating food insecurity along Mississippi's Gulf Coast. Individuals and families are welcome to come in during pantry operation hours and receive a variety of food items that often include meat and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Micah Day Center

"The Wish List for the Micah Center" helps those who are homeless and need the basic necessities of life. The Micah Day Center provides direct services to people experiencing homelessness, and is an outlet for them to enjoy basic services such as showers, laundry, haircuts, mail, phone, and computer availability. The center services up to 45 homeless guests daily.

Though the Micah Day Center is NOT an overnight shelter, its daytime availability offers a place where people may find respite from the outdoors and interface with various organizations that come in to assist day center guests. The Day Center's goal is to promote personal recovery and self-sufficiency among our homeless guests in a dignified service-delivery environment.

Wish list for the Micah Center

- Men and Women razors 10 in each pack
- Reading glasses – low, medium, strong
- Bug spray
- Women underwear – small, medium, large
- Men underwear – small, medium, large
- Disposable body wipes
- Lip balm
- Small hand sanitizers
- Shoes laces for shoes and boots
- Backpacks
- Men and women deodorant
- Men jeans sizes: (30x32 ,32x32, 34x32, 36x32, 36x34, 38x34, 40x32, 42x32)



Pop Top Bag Wish List

- Canned Beans & Wienies
- Vienna Sausages
- Jif-To-Go Peanut Butter
- 3 oz. Packet of Spam
- 2 oz. – 3 oz. Individual Fruit Cups
- 3 oz. packages of cookies



From the Minister of Music

By Kevin Jones, Minister of Music

(kjones@first-church.org)



Liturgical Musings – Ordinary Time

On Sunday, May 31st, we entered the very long liturgical season of “Ordinary Time.” As I have written before in this column, the word “ordinary” has nothing to do with the quality of the time or season, it refers to the word “ordinal” meaning “things that are counted.” (from the Latin word “ordo”) In this season, often called “The Season after Pentecost,” we count Sundays, i.e. “The Second Sunday after Pentecost,” “The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost,” etc... Ordinary Time runs from the First Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday), to the First Sunday of Advent.

This is by far the longest liturgical season in the life of the church. Why? If we look at the totality of the liturgical year, it runs something like this: Advent-Christmas-Epiphany-Lent-Easter-Pentecost-Ordinary Time. All of these seasons, except for Ordinary Time, attempt to celebrate and show forth the remarkable events of the coming of Jesus: his birth, his manifestation in creation, his suffering, his passion and his resurrection. As in our lives, if we kept up this pace of new information and celebration, we’d quickly become distracted by the overt busyness of it all. We need time to unravel what all of these events mean to us in our day-to-day, Sunday by Sunday lives. This is the space that Ordinary Time gives us. This is the time when our lectionary readings turn to the “what it all means” on the ground, or, as a clergy friend of mine used to put it, “where the rubber meets the road.” Chuck Sackett wrote about this in a column on Preaching.com, and put his emphasis on Ordinary Time thus:

“These Sundays remind us of a simple truth—most time is ordinary time, neither crisis nor climax, tragedy nor comedy, just ordinary.”

In other words, we are called to experience God in the midst of our mundane, day-to-day, daily grind of our lives. We are called to live the faith that has been proclaimed by the miracles of Advent through Pentecost. Ordinary time gives us space to examine and ponder and wonder at that call to a life of faith.

Happy Summer!

Choir News

Our thanks to all of our choirs for their ministry of music and worship throughout the last season. Treble and Teen Choirs, and the First Church Ringers completed their seasons in early May. The First Church Choir sang through Trinity Sunday, May 31, but will then be on summer break until September 13. All of these people give a tremendous amount of their time and talent to glorify God and help make music a central part of our worship life together. Thank you, all.

2015 Arts Festival Beverage Booth

If you are going to the 2015 Columbus Arts Festival on Saturday, June 13th, or Sunday, June 14th, and you’re thirsty, please come to the First Church Choir’s Beverage Booth on that day between 11 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday. The Choir will be selling at this booth all day and will receive 10% of all sales from that booth toward the 2015 Gloucester Pilgrimage. Look for our red shirts at our booth located at West Rich and Washington Streets. The Festival runs June 12, 13 and 14, the Choir will be staffing their booth on Saturday and Sunday. You know you’ll be thirsty, and it’s for a good cause. Come say hello and grab a tasty beverage while you’re there!



Music News

Handbells to be Renovated

This past year, through the generosity of several donors, monies were given to renovate our aging set of English White Chapel hand bells. We are so fortunate to have a full five octave set of bells, some of which were put into service at First Church in 1955! These bells have certainly been renovated and serviced before, but over the past few seasons, the normal wear and tear has become evident to those that ring the bells each week. It is time.

To renovate a set of bells, one has to transport or ship them to a qualified workshop. There are only a few places in the US that service White Chapel bells. One of these factory-authorized workshops is in South Carolina. To get them safely there and back, however, they have to be carefully packed in hand bell cases. Other hand bell manufacturers in the USA sell these specifically-designed cases as part of the purchase of the bells themselves. White Chapel, however, does not. First Church had no cases!

After some research, we found a manufacturer that designed high quality protective shipping/storage cases specifically for White Chapel bells. Through the generosity of the Remembrance Committee and the Music Special Projects Fund, we were able to purchase four cases to properly store, protect and ship the first four octaves of our hand bells. The fifth octave requires three cases that will be purchased in future seasons as funds allow. (This fifth octave comprises the very large bass bells and the very small high treble bells. Hence, three cases for this octave alone.)

Now that our bells are able to be safely and securely transported, the first four octaves will be sent away to South Carolina for the summer to undergo a thorough cleaning, re-springing and re-felting. John and Cindy Deliman will be transporting them there later this month. Thank you, John and Cindy for doing so. Thanks also to the Remembrance Fund, the Music Special Projects Fund, and for our anonymous donors who have given much of the monies required to undertake the servicing of the bells.

Save the Date!

Please mark your calendars for the Bon Voyage Choral Evensong to be held on Thursday, July 23, at 7:30 p.m. This will be time when we wish our touring choir farewell as they depart for England the following week. More on this in next month's newsletter.



Scott A. Jones Wins 2015 OSU Distinguished Teacher Award



Scott A. Jones, Assistant Professor, Associate Director of Bands School of Music and First Church Commissioner for Church Growth has received the 2015 OSU Distinguished Teacher Award! Congratulations Scott! Here is more about our friend and member.

A talented conductor, inspiring educator and an invaluable mentor, Scott Jones is a revered member of the School of Music. His students describe him as a charismatic and nurturing instructor, and one who goes above and beyond to connect with each student personally from day one.

"Dr. Jones is my director for Symphonic Band and he has already made a large impact on me," shared one nominator.

Jones firmly believes in creating opportunities for his students to interact with leading composers, educators and musicians, so he has led collaborations with successful artists and takes his band to prestigious conferences. He also hosts social events to congratulate his students on their successes and to create a sense of community within the band.

"During his tenure at Ohio State University, he has made the music-making experience a fabulous one for many, many students," a nominator wrote.

His students say he not only has excellent musicianship but is able to share his expertise and critique his students in a way that makes them feel inspired to improve. He finds innovative ways to instruct his students, like creating YouTube videos with solutions to issues he noticed in rehearsal.

Jones is quick to pass along encouragement and congratulations to his students when they reach his goals, and some credit him for instilling a passion for music in them.

"He is the reason I want to major in music," a nominator said.

Church News

Church Women United Celebrate 100 Years



Arlene Reynolds (seated) and Marty Worth

On Saturday, May 2, Church Women United gathered at Epworth United Methodist Church to celebrate their 100th anniversary. Marty Worth was asked to represent First Church, where Church Women United was founded, and joined with Arlene Reynolds in the reading of the history of the organization. Arlene is a long time member of CWU and served as President. The reading of the timeline was done by decade. First Church read 2015 into the future:

“We have come together today to celebrate this 100th Anniversary milestone of the founding of this movement at the church where I grew up and now am privileged to serve on staff, First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ on Broad Street. We started reviewing our history by singing together *‘We have come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord. Trusting in His Holy Word, He never failed me yet. Oh, can’t turn around, we’ve come this far by faith’*. Our movement to advance the

status of women and children in Columbus, our country, and around the world is still before us. We must proceed to continue on agreeing to differ; resolving to love and uniting to serve. It was a wonderful celebration and a reminder of First Church’s role as a beacon of light for social justice in Columbus Ohio.

June 7 Worship Services: Recognizing, Honoring, and Celebrating Our Staff

by Elaine Warren, Moderator

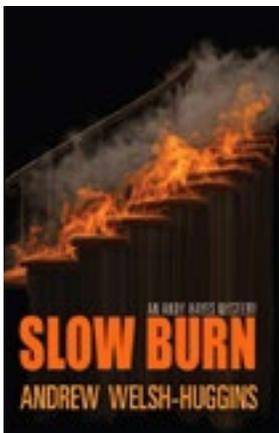
Church Council and the Personnel Committee invite everyone to a special fellowship hour after both services on on June 7. We will recognize our dedicated, outstanding, and hardworking staff. We ask that all staff members attend. The congregation will have the opportunity to thank each staff member for their hard work on behalf of our church.



Thank You

My family and I want to thank all our friends in the church for the wonderful support you gave us all in the forms of calls, cards, letters, food and other kindnesses during Gunter’s illness and after his death. It was, and is, deeply appreciated.

Sarah Garbe



Andrew Welsh-Huggins Publishes Second Novel

Congratulations to member Andrew Welsh-Huggins on the release of his second novel, “Slow Burn”, which follows Fourth Down and Out as the second Andy Hayes mystery.

Memorial Bench to Honor Dorothy Cromartie

by Pat Patterson, Sacred Earth Committee

Dorothy Cromartie was a beacon of light for our church. She died at the age of 95 on May 7, 2007. Sacred Earth plans to purchase a bench with a plaque in memory of her to be placed in Weinland Park. A park bench will bring people together in a natural space, a place that Dorothy loved. This offering would be for a local cause while remembering a member of our church who gave her best to this community. She was very involved in Weinland Park and the Godman Guild.

My own memory of Dorothy was at church. I joined the church during the last few years of her life. After the 11:00 service I would always find her standing at the end of her pew near the Education wing door reaching out to everyone who walked passed her leaving the sanctuary. She didn't know me but that never mattered because somehow she did know me and I was and am thankful to have had my connection to Dorothy.

Fran and Bruce Panek had a strong tie to Dorothy and shared that it was unclear exactly when Dorothy came to Columbus, but she was born around 1912 in the Philadelphia, PA area. Dorothy leapt into service in Columbus at once. At various times in addition to First Church (where she served on every committee at one time or another), she served at the Godman Guild, led a Girl Scout troop in the Weinland Park area north of downtown, and was a poll worker for the Franklin County Board of Elections, positions she continued to hold when she was 90 years young. She and Joe started a community garden in their neighborhood on a vacant lot in the 1980s.

At First Church, Dorothy taught Sunday school to the 4th graders for years. It was a matter of pride to her that each child in her care knew the names of all the books of the Bible and could recite them. She stood with pride when the 4th graders each received a Bible in the Spring each year, and made sure that each child received one of her famous hugs. She always cared for our children as if they were her own, and her familiar "That's my girl" or "That's my boy" was loved by children and parents alike.

In the 1990s, Dorothy began preparing meals for the men at Faith Mission...by herself. Every month she would buy, prepare and serve a meal to the men on a Friday night. When she got into her 80s in the early years of the 21st century and began to have a little difficulty lifting the pans, Bruce Panek started to help her with shopping and cooking.

Dorothy continued to cook with Bruce until early in 2007. At that time, her health began to decline and in the Spring she entered hospice care at Kobacher House.

Amy Wagner shared that in November 1997, Dorothy Cromartie, Amy and Rev. Bob Tschannen-Moran travelled to Kingston, Jamaica on trip in support of Catalyst, our mission effort to support First Church's ongoing relationship between the people of Southside, a downtown neighborhood. Dorothy, Amy and Bob spent nearly a week visiting with the participants of the Youth Education Support System (YESS), a leadership program for neighborhood teens. Dorothy was very energetic and enthusiastic – the children and teens really connected with her – just like the children at First Church were always drawn to Dorothy. Even at her advanced age, Dorothy adeptly navigated the streets of Kingston as the group toured some of the students' homes in an area of severely substandard housing and infrastructure, and she spread love and caring to everyone she met.



The cost of this project is \$1440 and Sacred Earth is exploring all options in raising this money. If you remember Dorothy and would like to contribute please send a check marked Dorothy Cromartie to Sharon Leidheiser in the church office. Also, a special offering will be held on Sunday, June 28.

We plan to dedicate this bench in October in celebration of Dorothy's birthday.

2015 Confirmation Class Mentor Introductions

On Sunday, May 10, First Church received nine confirmands into membership. The mentors for these confirmands prepared the following introductions.

This is the very laid back **Eddie Anderson IV**. He attends Columbus Metro Middle School, where he is interested in computer programming. He also does volunteer work with his family. In his spare time, he enjoys computer games and is an avid basketball player. Of the many qualities the church teaches, Eddie possesses most and quietly puts them into practice.

Bruce Panek, *Eddie's Mentor*



I am pleased to introduce **Courtney Batchelor**. Courtney's thoughtfulness and kindness shine through in the way she greets her sister in the halls at school with a hug, or works to make a friend's birthday extra special, or joyfully spends time with her grandparents. She is a blessing to those around her!

Janet Newcity, *Courtney's Mentor*

I mentored **Emma Gonzalez**. Emma is quiet, but when she opens up she is insightful and has a contagious laugh. She is a very caring person, especially to her younger siblings - Hector, Miguel and Vanessa. Emma said that Confirmation really helped her understand what it is to be a Christian. I am excited to see where her faith journey will take her, and hope to continue being a part of it.

Shelly Gies, *Emma's Mentor*

Dear First Church Friends and Members! Over the past 7 months, I have been blessed in getting to know **Dylan Hopcroft**. Being very well rounded, Dylan enjoys choir, theater, school, basketball, football, and spending time with his friends and family. He is very active in our Church with youth group, serving as an acolyte and singing in our teen choir. He has even delivered two delightful sermons to our congregation. Empathetic to the needs of others, Dylan carries a quiet confidence and is a deep thinker. Throughout the confirmation process, Dylan asked many good questions and offered good insight and perspective. Taking his confirmation seriously, Dylan will serve this church well and he will make a great leader. I have really appreciated this time with Dylan and I look forward to watching him grow in his faith / life journey.

Matt Myers, *Dylan's Mentor*

It is my pleasure to present to you Miss **Charisma Jones**. Charisma attends Westland High School, where she enjoys studying Algebra and spending time with her friends. During her confirmation journey, Charisma has most enjoyed learning about other faith traditions. She realized that studying other faiths deepened her own belief in God and in Jesus. Charisma's creativity, ability to listen more than talk and her kindness will serve her well among her church family and in the world. Charisma has tremendous affection for her family, including her Mother, Lovette, her Grandmother, Susie, her "little" brother, fellow Confirmand Artie and aunts, uncles and cousins who have supported her. Please do join me in congratulating Charisma as she affirms her baptism into the family of Christ.

Allison Lowery Palmer, *Charisma's Mentor*

It is my privilege to introduce **Jack Michael Koscher**, an eighth grade student at Hastings Middle School in Upper Arlington. Jack enjoys traveling – he has visited nearly all 50 states in the USA! He recently spent time with his family in Ireland and this Spring on a trip to New York City. Jack has taught me about observing all of God's beauty around us and I've learned that Jack enjoys the journey as much as the destination.

Pete Boriin, *Jack's Mentor*

2015 Confirmation Class Mentor Introductions (*continued*)

It is a true joy to introduce a very talented dancer, singer, artist and my friend **Anna Rambo**. Anna carries herself with grace and determination. It has been a privilege to walk alongside her as she takes the next step in her faith journey. I have watched her grow into the beautiful child of God you see before you today and for that gift I am truly grateful. We have shared many stories, experiences, laughter and questions about faith. I look forward to see what the future holds in store for this remarkable young lady.

Julia Myers, *Anna's Mentor*

We are proud and honored as **Emma Rau** takes this big step in her Faith Journey. The classes, discussions, questions and field trips to other Faith tradition services have served to help establish her spiritual foundation. Emma is an accomplished and determined 8th grader at Columbus School for Girls where she enjoys science and the arts, and has a joy of learning. In music, she is a two time participant in the Ohio State Middle School Honor Band. In sports, she is a long-distance runner on her track team, as well as being on a curling team. Emma speaks fondly of her family and friends and her adventures with them. Her parents, John Rau and Diane Cole, and I emotionally and warmly welcome Emma and her fellow Confirmands to membership in First Church. This has been a joyful experience.

Cheryl Hoskinson, *Emma's Mentor*

Members and guests, it is my pleasure to introduce **Arstell Washington**, known to family and friends as Artie. He is in 8th grade at Norton Middle School, where he is a three-season athlete: football in the fall, basketball in the winter, and track in the spring. Artie has a deep and respectful quiet nature at the surface, and below is a thoughtful and kind heart. Artie was baptized here at First Congregational Church on March 14, 2004, and today I am proud to be with him at his confirmation.

Peter Murray, *Artie's Mentor*



2015 Schumacher Award Winners Honored on May 10

The 2015 recipients of the First Church Schumacher Awards were Natalie Houser, Kelly Kimble, and Emily Shepard. They were presented the awards during worship May 10. These awards are given annually at First Church on Mother's Day to recognize young women in the central Ohio area between the ages of 15 and 20 who are worthy of commendation for Christian devotion to their mother, father, sister or brother. Below are profiles of the winners.

Natalie Houser is a sophomore at Granville High School. Natalie shows Christian devotion to her sister, Katie. Katie was stricken with Lyme Disease two years ago. The disease is very debilitating, characterized by extreme joint pain. Natalie shows devotion to her sister by driving her to appointments and lessons. She helps her sister with her many medications, morning and evening and makes sure she eats enough food. Natalie has taken over her sister's chores and household responsibilities, while keeping up with her own. Natalie is a huge support to her sister academically, encouraging her to keep up with her studies even if she is not feeling well. Natalie encourages Katie to attend church weekly and prays to God for Katie's healing frequently at the dinner table. According to the school counselor who nominated her, "Natalie does not martyr herself or display in any way that her sister's illness is a huge part of her life." Natalie humbly lives her life.



*Emily Shepard, Kelly Kimble and
Natalie Houser*

2015 Schumacher Award Winners (continued)

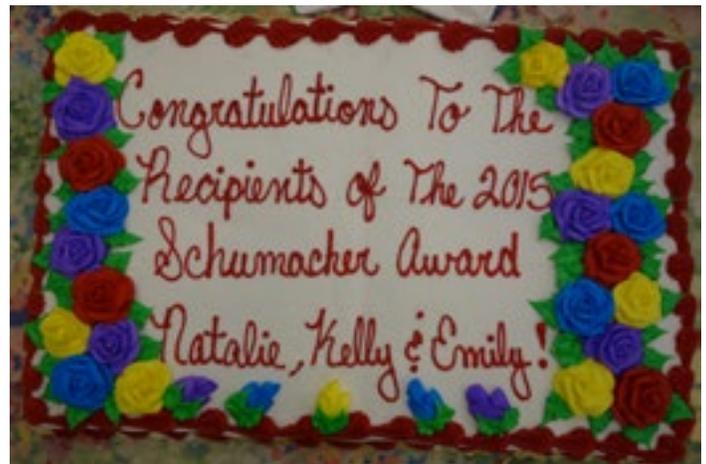
Natalie spent countless hours organizing a “Box Out Lyme Disease” fundraiser at her school. She collaborated with the Athletic Office and her coaches to dedicate the proceeds from the game to the charity. She designed and sold t-shirts for the event, organized a bake sale, and collected donations among other things. Natalie’s efforts raised over \$2,400 for the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society. Natalie is very much interested in educating people about Lyme Disease.

Natalie challenges herself academically and has earned admission to summer college programs at Johns Hopkins and Georgetown. Natalie is planning on attending college to major in a field of science, possible one where she can study Lyme Disease and other chronic illnesses.

Kelly Kimble has been chosen to receive the Schumacher Award by showing Christian devotion to her mother. Kelly’s mother is a care-giver for home bound senior citizens. She also delivers leftover food from Panera once a week to a homeless shelter. Kelly started to go along with her mother on these trips. When her mother had to have surgery and was unable to drive, Kelly took over delivering food to the homeless shelter. When her mother’s recovery took longer than expected, Kelly found herself also helping her mother with her care-giving business. Kelly helped the senior citizens out in their daily activities. This allowed her mother to concentrate on healing without worrying about these responsibilities. A tragic event happened to her family – Kelly’s grandparent’s house burned down. Although her grandparents were not home at the time, the house was a total loss. Kelly then spent countless hours with her parents and grandparents searching through the ruins of the house for salvageable family objects. They were able to find some photographs and jewelry among other items. Instead of being out with her friends, Kelly was supporting her family. Kelly continues to help her mother with her business and she visits weekly with her grandparents to help them out.

Kelly is a senior at Bishop Watterson High School. Kelly will be attending Ohio University in the fall.

Emily Shepherd is receiving the Schumacher Award for her Christian devotion she has shown her grandparents. At age 8 Emily realized her grandparents need for daily assistance. Emily began going to church with them and then began assisting them around the house with various chores such as taking care of their dogs, cleaning their house, helping with grocery shopping among other things. She continued this for years, not because she felt obligated, but because she enjoyed doing it and enjoyed spending time with them. When her grandfather was hospitalized at Cleveland Clinic Emily would go to Cleveland to spend time with him and to support her grandmother. After her grandfather passed away, Emily has remained faithful to her grandmother. Emily continues to assist her grandmother with daily cleaning, grocery shopping, cooking and taking her grandmother places. Emily goes the extra mile by doing special things for her grandmother like taking her out to dinner and buying her cards and flowers. The teacher who nominated Emily says, “Emily’s intention isn’t merely out of obligation, but more directly from her heart.” Emily is a junior at Westfall High School in Orient, Ohio. In her future she plans on attending college to pursue a career in early childhood education.



First Church Joys and Concerns

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

MEMBERS: Andrew Sterling, partner, and family and friends of Chuck Kelley, on his recent death; David and Meredith Sugar, on the death of David's father; Sandy Valinis; Sue Cook; Larry Walquist; Jane Carter; Grace Glaros; Keene Lebold; Bernie Martin; Van Barndt; Ray Pendell; Wib Smith; Amos White; and for families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Ruth Sittler, mother of Susan Sittler; Jim Wynn, uncle of Betty Johnson; Ed Hoffman, father of Robyn Petras; Joe Pizarro, father-in-law of Tom Santiago; Shirley Graf, sister of Lynn Wallich; Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams; and Rev. Floyd Starr.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD: We pray for all those affected by the flooding in Texas, including those whose lives were lost.

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



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

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Gunter Garbe by:

Tony and Victoria Banfield, Jim and Catrina Drotleff, and Robin Baker

Given to the Barnard Music Endowment Fund in celebration of the life of Gunter Garbe by:

Randy and Janette Hoffman, and Stuart E. Rapp

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

Support your favorite ministry by making a gift in honor or remembrance of a loved one by completing the gold Celebration Gift form found in the church pews. And like many who have gone before us, please consider giving a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder of your estate to a First Church endowment. For more information, contact Rev. Ahrens, your financial advisor, and the Church website at www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx

The Endowment Funds of First Church – STARR–WINGFIELD FUND

by Bill Johannes, Trustee Treasurer

Gifts to the endowment funds of First Church over the last 100 years have made an important contribution to the vitality and growth of First Church and its programs and missions. One of those endowment funds is the STARR-WINGFIELD FURNISHINGS FUND, created by Rupert D. "Twink" Starr and funded by gifts in honor of Twink Starr and Allan Wingfield. Earnings from the Fund are used for the purchase of furnishings for rooms within the church building(s) and include wall coverings/paint, carpet, drapes, new furniture, fabrics for reupholstering, lighting, accessories and art. Recent Trustees-approved grants from the fund have provided new furnishings for the parlor.

If you, like Twink Starr, would like to support the improvement of the church's furnishings in the coming years, please designate a gift to this fund by using the gold celebration gift form available in the church pews or the church office. A gift to an endowment fund of your choice can be a meaningful and lasting way to honor family or friends and support a particular area of interest at First Church. Additional information about First Church's endowments can be found at <http://www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx>

If you are interested in learning more about establishing a new fund, Rev. Ahrens or a First Church Trustee are most willing to meet with you, your attorney, or your financial advisor as you decide how your gift should be used in the years ahead. Won't you seize the opportunity to create your lasting legacy of support for First Church and its ministries?



UCC PRIDE GROUP JUNE 19TH & 20TH

Pride Festival and Parade

This year will mark our 3rd Pride festival as a covenant of Central Ohio UCC Churches. Last year we had approximately 150 people from 10 UCC churches. This year we hope to have more than 200 marchers from 12 UCC churches. Let's not forget the wonderful evangelic work we accomplished at the festival UCC Pride Booth. We will be wearing the same pink T shirts. If you need to order a shirt that will be available or you can wear your own plain bright neon pink shirt.



UCC Pride Marchers

Come join us at
St. John's UCC
at 9:00am for
breakfast and
fellowship

Step off for the
Parade is
11:00am this
year

There will be a
float for those
who cannot
walk

Volunteer to
work the **UCC
Pride Booth**

**ST. JOHN'S
EVANGELICAL
PROTESTANT UCC**

59 E. Mound St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Meet us here
June 20th, 2015

June Calendar of Church Events

Tuesday, June 2

5:30 p.m. – Sacred Earth Meeting – Large Conference Room
6:30 p.m. – Christian Education Committee – Education Wing Room D
7 p.m. – Justice and Mercy Committee – Large Conference Room

Wednesday, June 3

11 a.m. – Book Study – Parlor – Chapter 8: The Widow and the Judge

Sunday, June 7

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

Monday, June 8

9 a.m. – Good Samaritan – Parlor and Large Conference Room
7 p.m. – Trustees Meeting – Large Conference Room
7 p.m. – New Members Class – Parlor

Tuesday, June 9

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

Wednesday, June 10

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

Saturday, June 13

10 a.m. – First Church Quilters – Large Conference Room

Sunday, June 14

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall
10 a.m. – Long Range Planning Committee – Ed Wing, Room D
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

Monday, June 15

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

Tuesday, June 16

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

Wednesday, June 17

11 a.m. – Book Study – Parlor – Chapter 9: The Rich Man and Lazarus and Conclusion: The Power of Disturbing Stories

Saturday, June 20

8:30 a.m. – House and Grounds – Parish Family Room
10 a.m. – Cookie Baking for General Synod – Kitchen
1 p.m. – Deadline for Newsletter submissions

Sunday, June 21

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

Monday, June 22

7 p.m. – Deacons Meeting – Parish Hall
7 p.m. – Budget and Finance Committee – Large Conference Room

Tuesday, June 23

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

Wednesday, June 24

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

Saturday, June 27

9 a.m. – Cooking for Faith Mission Meal – Kitchen

Sunday, June 28

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

Tuesday, June 30

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

June Fellowship Hour Schedule

June 7 Corinthians
June 14 Daniel
June 21 Deuteronomy
June 28 Ephesians

June Acolyte Schedule

June 7 Cassidy Hopcraft	Alaina Thompson
June 14 Chutney Anderson	Eddie Anderson
June 21 Miriam Myers	Samantha Myers
June 28 Finnegan Miller	Alaina Thompson

June Offering Schedule

June 7 UCC Reading Changes Lives
June 14 UCC LGBT Coalition
June 21 Montaña de Luz
June 28 Community Bench for Dorothy Cromartie

Member Birthdays in June

6/1 Mariner Taft
Grant Washington
6/2 Mikayla Knerr
Jack Trace
Julie Vore
6/4 Donald Erickson
Katie Wagner
6/5 Wyeth Rowley
Henry Wade
6/6 Brittney Dean
Patty Pohlman
6/8 Elin Chambers
Beth Hunker
6/9 Ian Jacobson
Scott Jones
6/10 Rick Bennett
Hudson Fleurant
Pat Patterson
6/11 Colin Thompson
6/12 Camryn Corzine
6/13 Madeline Aeschbury
Alexandria Cole
JJ Cole
6/15 Sam Klintworth
6/17 Julie Delong
Missy Zimmerman
6/18 Sadie Clark
Lukas Irons
6/19 Shawn Dingus
Carl Jacobson
Jack Knueve
6/20 Dan Clark
Richard Mason
6/21 Rick Henderson
Ken Salak
6/22 Cindy Deliman
6/23 Evan Whaling
6/24 Trenton Helmer
Eric Klintworth
Sarah Trace
6/25 Kelly Allen
Heather Whaling
6/26 Eric Boyd
Lauren Holt
Dan Logel
Jonathan Miller
Rhonda Poirier
6/27 Alice Cook
6/29 Andrew McWilliams
Kathy White
6/30 Sarah Allen
Kathryn Reed

Member Anniversaries in June

6/1 Mary Day and Jim Fewlass
Kathleen and Jason Ferguson
6/2 Rebecca and Jason Allen
6/7 Janet and Dan Axt
Kaye and John Martin
6/9 Janice and Ron Cook
Mary and Charlie Weaver
6/10 Kelly Dodd and Dean Hafey
6/11 Jennifer Mrozek and Gregory Buzzell
6/12 Melody and Paul Leidheiser
6/14 Gayle and Mike Henderson
Shannon and Christopher Washington
6/15 Dale Ann and Gary Gray
Carol and Frank Hussey
Julia and Matt Myers
6/16 Debra and Fred Hadley
Joan and Keene Lebold
6/17 Celeste Feather and Peter Murray
Tanya and Jonathan Miller
6/18 Kirsten and Luke Ahrens
Val and Phil Stichter
6/19 Ann and John Aecshbury
Deb and Tom Thompson
6/20 Julie and Eric Vore
6/21 Sue and Frank Cook
6/22 Gail and Bill Johannes
6/23 Kosby and Kevin Carrico
6/26 Virginia and James O'Neil
6/27 Carol and Alex Rodriguez
6/29 Jane and Stanford Ackley
Pam Kallner and Russ Kelm



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
Nursery Staff	Rosemary Pawandiwa-Priore, Evin Wimberly, Sara Kapp, Simone Ellerson
Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus	G. Dene Barnard

DIACONATE

Senior Deacon	Tom Kiesel
Deacons	Kathryn Bamberger, Sandy Bennett, Kris Brant, Valerie Conlin-Losinski, Sue Cook, Jacquelyn Dean, Alec Dietz, Dean Hafey, Anne Hudson, Paul Leidheiser, Mary Lightbody, Jonathan Miller, Hugh Schultz, Lynn Wallich

CHURCH STAFF

Business Manager	Sharon Leidheiser
Program Manager	Martha Worth
Office Manager	Amy Wagner
Building Manager	Thomas Santiago
Custodian	William Lee
Wedding Coordinators	Janet Axt, Tori Stucke

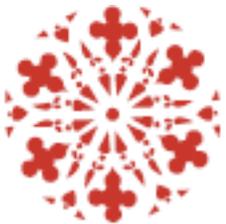
CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator	Elaine Warren
Moderator-Elect	Brian Cave
Treasurer	Joe Baszynski
Assistant Treasurer	Cindy Conn
Secretary	Deana Armstrong
Assistant Secretary	Nancy Braverman

COMMISSIONERS

Administration	Kent Shimeall
Administration-Elect	Allison Palmer
Church Growth	Scott Jones
Church Growth-Elect	Kim Hopcraft
Education	Todd Jacobson
Education-Elect	Jennifer Okezie-Watts
House & Grounds	Gary Leidheiser
House & Ground-Elect	Charlie Weaver
Justice & Mercy	Alex Rodriguez
Justice & Mercy-Elect	Tracy Ross
Music, Arts, Heritage	Marti Baumer
Music, Arts, Heritage-Elect	Al Waddell
Church Vitality	Melissa Kulwicki
Church Vitality-Elect	Denise Vogt
Nominating Chair	Frank Cook
Trustees	Francille Firebaugh
Member-at-large	Matt Myers
Youth-at-large	Merry Roach
Senior Deacon	Tom Kiesel
Deacon Council Rep.	Lynn Wallich

TO:



**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**

The First Congregational Church, UCC

444 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741

Email: home@first-church.org

Web site: www.first-church.org

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

Closed Major Holidays

“An Open & Affirming Faith Community”

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS

Worship at 9 a.m. ~ Parish Hall

Worship at 11 a.m. ~ Sanctuary