



## **Our Neighbors and Neighborhood: A Great time to Grow in Columbus!**

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

“...love your neighbor as yourself.” – Mark 12:31

Knowing who my neighbors are has always been important to me. My first set of neighbors (birth to 9-years-old) were a great group of bike-riding, tree-climbing, game-playing guys. There were children everywhere! We put the boom in baby-boom. In the summer and mild weather, we were all out playing until dark. We would ride, climb, run, play football, baseball and basketball as long as we could. We had baseball cards in the spokes of bikes attached with clothesline clips. People could hear us coming a mile away. No one organized us. We were the first bikers of our town!



In the summer of 1967, my family moved to a quieter neighborhood – bigger houses, bigger yards and kids spread out all over the place. It was hard to arrive in the summer time and not know where my new playmates lived. I had to ride around and find people my age. I had to create opportunities for play. I had to figure out where my new friends were. Thanks to Bill Brodhag, I established one friend in the summer of 1967 and life began again at 612 West Mt. Vernon Street. It only took one friend to start over. Thanks Bill!

I was thinking about our neighbors at First Church. I know a bunch of neighbors. But, there are a ton of neighbors I do not know. I have been serving First Church in the heart of the Discovery District for 16 ½ years. Much has changed in those years. Our closest neighbors – the Columbus Museum of Art and CCAD - have grown exponentially! CMOA has doubled its size and improved its space and program thanks to the dynamic leadership of Nannette Macijunes. Under the leadership of the late (and great) President Denny Griffith, CCAD tripled its footprint in our neighborhood. CCAD’s new president, Dr. Melanie Corn, brings a fresh new look and a great breathe of experience and wisdom to CCAD for the future. She is a wonderful new neighbor and leader. With the purchase of the Used Car Lot in 2010, First Church doubled its territory as well! So each of the institutions between Washington Avenue and Cleveland Ave and Broad and Long has doubled in size in this time.

Our growth has only been a reflection of the huge growth all around us. In the Discovery District, we have seen exponential growth and development! Although 5 of 11 churches have closed in downtown since 2000, institutions of higher education have grown magnificently all around us. I give a lot of credit to our own Dr. Christopher Washington for the fantastic Franklin University growth and development. As Provost, he has taken their program to the entire global community. Franklin is an international success! Here in Columbus, they have also increased program and graduation rates. Amazing! Meanwhile, Columbus State under the leadership of President Dr. David Harrison and his staff, has taken off as well. They doubled their numbers during the height of the 2008-2012 depression as students saved money by going to Columbus State and living at home. Their growth has slowed, but their strength educationally has continued to soar!

Our neighborhood is now the fastest growing residential area in the city of Columbus. The growth along Gay Street, Spring and Long is unmatched in our downtown’s history. We also have the Commons at Grant and Faith Mission opening new facilities and welcoming low income residents into our neighborhood. Our neighborhood’s demographic growth is mixed economically, racially, and in every other way. We have thousands of new people flocking into our neighborhood. Here in the midst of the growth – all within 8 blocks of the church – is our beautiful gothic cathedral. We are an anchor institution with a dynamic membership in the changing landscape of downtown.

Our church is located at the center of the downtown growth in the downtown area. With our Open and Affirming covenant, with our welcoming spirit, with our mission and music and program, we should be the Spiritual Epi-center of Columbus’ downtown growth. Although the numbers of people choosing church have shifted downward in recent years, we offer many things for which people are looking. That is the good news.

The bad news is we have no strategic plan for reaching the neighbors who are right at our doorstep. We don’t have five years of SMART goals for doubling our membership. We are also not staffed for growth. We

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need to free up certain staff to reach our neighbors and draw in the skill sets needed to attract the folks around us as well. We also need all the members to minister!

Have you given any thought to how you will be a part of growing First Church for the next 164 years? Have you brought one neighbor or friend to church? Do you know anyone in the downtown area who you could invite to worship or a program at our church? Do you have skills, abilities, and interests to go out into our neighborhood and serve our new neighbors – rich and poor – who need friends and relationships in their new community? For example, I have floated out the idea of an evening or two or three or more at the Roosevelt Coffee House downtown. I would love to see us have programs and discussion groups there. How about First Mondays at the Roosevelt? Or how about a music program there – or something else? How about flyer and information drops in downtown? How can we use the internet, Facebook and our website to draw people to First Church? Should we bake bread and offer a loaf of fresh baked bread to new residents? Rev. Corzine, Matt Myers and Kent Rambo are working on some plans as Church Growth looks at this. But, it will take every single member thinking about this, reaching out and making contact for us to extend our extravagant welcome.

With our new 20/20 vision, as we plan to develop our land and our program, as we look to reaching out to our neighbors close by we need to figure out “how to get on our bikes, ride around and meet new friends.” We need to find our “Bill Brodhag.” One by one we need to establish new neighbor friendships with which we can grow.

Are you ready to get on your bike, ride around downtown, meet the new neighbors? We can do this literally or metaphorically! We can do this face-to-face or virtually. But, we need to do it. There were years, First Church hung on by its fingertips. We should not be “hanging on” today. We should be growing, flourishing, bursting at the seams with children, young people and older adults. We should have a program which reflects the growing energy of our downtown life. We should be leading a progressive Christian movement which draws thinking Christians to church and engages those who have either never known faith or given up on faith. We should be at the forefront of the change in downtown Columbus. Our forbearers did this in 1852. They stepped out on faith. It’s our turn to do this! It is our time to lead. If you read this and have any interest in any way, shape or form to grow this church, be in touch with me: [tahrens@first-church.org](mailto:tahrens@first-church.org) or 614-228-1741, ext. 13. Now is the time.

All my love in Christ,

Tim Ahrens

## Sermon Titles for June

### **June 5 Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Holy Communion at both services – Commissioning Mission Partners –  
Special Congregational Meeting after 11 a.m. Service*

Communion Meditation: “Raised from the Dead” by Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Texts: I Kings 17:17-24, Psalm 146, Galatians 1:11-24, Luke 7:11-14

### **June 12 Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sermon: “Blessers and Blessed” by Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Texts: I Kings 2:1-10, 15-21a; Psalm 51:1-8; Galatians 2:15-21, Luke 7:36-8:3

### **June 19 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Father’s Day – Festival of the Christian Home II – Baptism of Hudson Cave*

Baptism Meditation: “Demons, Swine and Healthy Living” by Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Texts: Isaiah 65:1-9, Psalm 22:19-28, Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39

### **June 26 Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sermon: “Hide and Seek” by Rev. Emily Corzine

Texts: I Kings 19:15-16, 19-21, Psalm 16, Galatians 5:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62



## In the Neighborhood this Summer!!

By The Rev. Emily Corzine

Check out so many things happening in the Discovery District this summer. Here are a few:

### Topiary Park Summer Movies

Discovery Special Improvement District and partners bring the *From Book to Film* series to life under the stars in Topiary Park. Featuring four favorite films based on popular books, adults and kids alike will love these familiar classics. <http://downtowncolumbus.com/home/what-s-happening/topiary-theater/>

Whether it's Saturday date night or family fun with the kiddos, spread out your blankets in Topiary Park for a summer movie classic, free popcorn and activities. Pack a picnic or pick up some nosh from a featured local food truck. Follow the District on Twitter at @DTColumbus to find out what food truck will be at the park during the movie. No matter what, come early to grab your spot. The movies begin at dusk.

Topiary Park provides a perfect backdrop to hang with other downtown neighbors for an evening of summer fun. Here's the lineup:

- Saturday, June 25 – *The Lorax*
- Saturday, July 30 – *Paddington*
- Saturday, August 27 – *Cloudy With A Chance For Meatballs*
- Saturday, September 24 – *The Hunger Games*

Join other First Church Folk on Saturday June 25. Watch Facebook and Twitter for more information as the date gets closer.



### The Re-Opening of the Columbus Metropolitan Library

Mark your calendars for the re-opening on the Columbus Metropolitan Library on Saturday, June 25, 2016. Join in the fun!

### Take Me Out To the Ball Game:

#### Columbus Clippers vs. Pawtucket Sunday July 24, 2016 4:05 p.m.

Join us to enjoy the game for an afternoon at the ball park. Tickets will be purchased as a group ahead of time. Tickets are \$7-10 each. We'll sit in a block together to cheer on the Home Team. If you are interested, please see the sign up in the church office beginning June 12. We'll have more information in the Depart to Serve.



# Education

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



## Calling All Graduates!

If you or a family member is graduating from high school or college this year, send us some information including the person's name, the school the person is graduating from, the degree received, and possible future plans. We will be recognizing our graduates on Sunday, June 5. Send the information to [awagner@first-church.org](mailto:awagner@first-church.org). You also may include a photo (electronic image only).

## You Can Help in Franklinton!

The congregation is being asked to help in several ways with our Youth Mission Trip to Franklinton in June. Here are the ways you can help:

- Provide paint brushes, paint trays, yard waste bags and Home Depot gift cards.
- Join us for a morning or afternoon to help those in need of home and yard work. Contact Mark Williams if you wish to join us.

## Needs for the Homeless in Franklinton

The Youth will be visiting a homeless camp in Franklinton during the week of June 5-10. Below is a list of items that the youth will compile to give. We need gallon size zip lock bags for the kits. Donations will be collected outside the large conference room.

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



## Laundry Love Mission

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 June 28.** Come join us in serving those in need.



# From the Minister of Music

By Kevin Jones, Minister of Music

(kjones@first-church.org)



## Some Thoughts on Music in the Church

Of all the fine arts used in the church, music has always occupied a special place in the life of the church and in the lives of her parishioners. But, why is this? There is nothing objectively 'better' about music than fine painting, stained glass, dance or other visual art. Each uses beauty and the struggle for the unattainable to inspire us and consider the universe in macrocosm and microcosm. Why, then, has the church historically chosen music as its artistic gathering cry?

Painting, stained glass, sculpture and other visual arts require seeing something that was or is fabricated. It can have great energy and great vision that varies based upon the beholder, but it is essentially static – a moment in time.

Dance requires engagement with and appreciation of physical strength and form – fluid or otherwise. It presents something that is concretely visual, while inspiring the soul and being a thing of beauty.

But we are a religion based upon the Word. "In the beginning, was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." This Word we know as God is intangible, yet present. Through the Holy Spirit, it moves through us and in us, yet we cannot see it or touch it. We can sometimes feel its breath and we can definitely sometimes feel its presence, yet we know not the stuff of which God is made. In some ways, we call this Faith.

Music can have a special connection with this concept of Faith. Music can be heard and sometimes physically felt. Music can equally engage our minds and our hearts. Music can meet us where we are on any particular day. Yet it cannot be touched. It exists through vibration of the very life force around us – air. Through the use of sound vibrations, heart and mind have the possibility of connecting within us.

Equally so, singing corporately (*as a body*) can engage our bodies, minds, and souls in becoming bonded to one another, and to bringing our corporate spirit to God in prayer. It has the ability to bring our bodies – our lungs, our breath, our minds, our hearts – together to do the work of Christ in the world.

As Teresa of Avila has written:

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

The next time we raise our corporate voices in song, let us remember this joy, this mystery, and this responsibility.

## New Hymnody

Two new hymns written by First Church member John Carter will appear in worship in June. On Sunday, June 5, we will premiere his setting of "Come Down, O Love Divine" (tune name, *Kevin*), and later this summer, we will sing his tender setting of the George Herbert text, "Come my way, my truth, my life". (tune name, *Dene*). We are so fortunate to have so many fine musicians in the congregation – composers, performers and teachers. Their presence enriches our corporate worship life and brings glory to God in worship. Thank you, John, for sharing your new tunes with us.

## Summer Music

This month's summer music soloists include Grace Gelpi, *saxophone*, on June 12; Todd Cunningham, *trombone*, on June 19; and Jeff Corzine, *baritone*, on June 26. Summer Choir will be run on Sundays, July 10 and July 17.

# Music News

## Choir News

Our thanks to all of our choirs for their ministry of music and worship throughout the last season. Treble and Teen Choirs completed their seasons on May 15, and the First Church Ringers completed its season in late April. The First Church Choir will sing through June 5, but will then be on summer break until September 11. 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.

Choristers and parents: please check in with each choir's Google calendar (on their respective webpages) to see the schedules and events for the 2016-2017 program year.

## 2016 Arts Festival Beverage Booth



If you are going to the 2016 Columbus Arts Festival on Saturday, June 11, or Sunday, June 12, 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 2018 Norwich/Lincoln Pilgrimage. Look for our red shirts on Saturday at our booths located at Town Street, west of Rich Street Bridge, Rich and Washington, and Washington Blvd near COSI; and on Sunday at the intersection of Washington and Rich, west of the Main Street Bridge. The Festival runs June 10, 11 and 12. 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!

## Save the Date!

Please mark your calendars for the kick-off concert of the 2016-2017 Concerts at First Church season. On Sunday, September 11, at 4 p.m. the First Church Choir and chamber orchestra will present Mozart's Requiem to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of September 11, 2001. Also on the program will be Bach's Harpsichord Concerto in d minor, BWV 1052. More on this in August's *First Church News*, and online at the Concerts website, [www.concertsatfirstchurch.org](http://www.concertsatfirstchurch.org)

## Choir Vestment Appeal Reaches Goal

Our grateful thanks to all who supported and gave to the recent Choir Vestment Appeal to purchase new cassocks and cottas for the Treble and First Church Choirs. Through your generosity, we have achieved our fundraising goal! Measurements have been taken and an order has been placed. We look forward to welcoming our new vestments into worship in September. A list of all who contributed, as well as those who gave their gifts to honor or memorialize a particular person or persons, is presented on the following page. We thank all of these donors for their generosity.

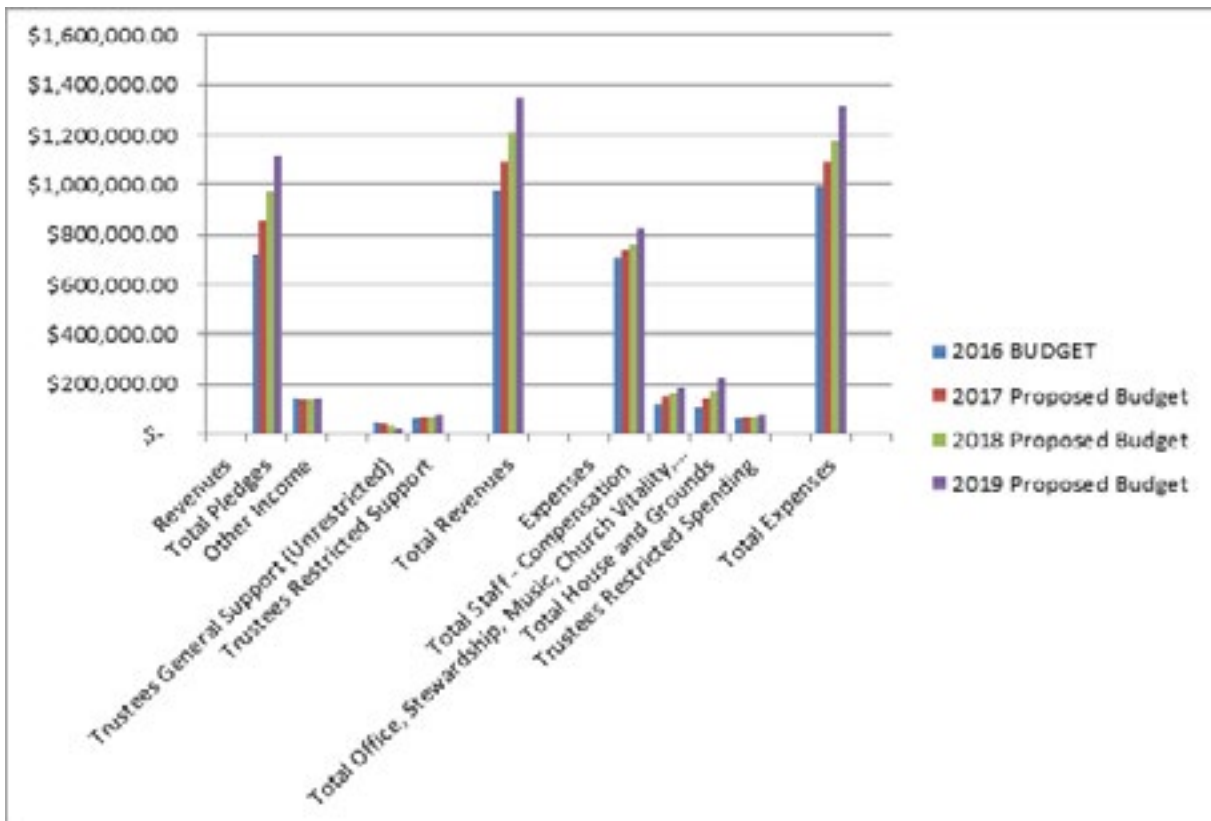
Thank  
You

## Choir Vestment Contributors

Deborah Anderson *In Memory of Jon Mac Anderson*  
Janet Axt  
Ian and Rebecca Baird  
David Banas  
Marti Baumer *In Gratitude for The Music Ministry of this Church, its Choir and Kevin Jones*  
Joseph Bellissimo  
Jonathan Bethke  
Kristen Blanks  
Cari Brackett  
Louda Burkett *In Honor of Brianna Burkett*  
Christy Carlson  
Barbara Clapham *In Memory of Jeff Clapham and Mae and William Johannes*  
Bert and Bev Cook  
Jeffrey and Emily Corzine  
Kevin Cubick  
Candy Cummings *In Honor of Parents, Arthur and Tanya Cummings*  
Todd and Catherine Cunningham *In Honor of Aran Patrick Cunningham*  
John, Cindy and Steven Deliman *In Honor of Ministers of Music, Past and Present*  
Allison Ellenberger  
Chris and Tom Farquhar  
Peter Murray and Celeste Feather *In Honor of Erin and Ethan Murray*  
Sharon Ferguson  
Brad Findell *In Honor of Kevin Jones*  
Carol Gallagher *In Honor of Bev Cook and Gleva Stephens*  
Sarah Garbe *In Honor of All My Friends At First Church*  
Deb Fox and Jim Gieseke  
Sarah and Wally Giffen *In Honor of Kevin Jones For All his Work!*  
Al and Barbara Glover  
Jim Griffin  
Cheryl Hoskinson  
Betsy Hubbard and Sam Spofforth  
Gail Johannes *In Honor of Bill Johannes*  
Ryan Jones  
Sebastian Knowles  
Barbara Knox  
Nancy Livingston  
Andrew MacGregor *In Memory of Richard Wesp and Bob Roberts*  
Joel and Sandra Mathias  
SallyJane Mathias  
Laurie Maynell  
Nicole Moss  
Lisa Morris and Kent Shimeall *In Honor of S. Wyatt M. Shimeall*  
Pavan Peter and Malini Gnanatheeban  
Barbara Poppe *In Honor of G. Dene Barnard*  
Susan Pusecker  
Cathryne Redenbarger  
Marti Rideout  
Emily Riggin  
Wendell Smith  
Judy Smith *In Memory of Carol Hussey*  
David Stang *In Memory of Frederick K. Stang*  
Gleva Stephens *In Honor of G. Dene Barnard*  
Allen Baker and Al Waddell  
Jan Wade *In Honor of Lissa Wade*  
Lissa and Drew Wade *In Honor of Cameron, Adam, and Henry Wade*  
Amy and Bill Wagner  
Lynn Wallich  
Mary Weaver *In Memory of Shirley Vittum, Longtime Choir Member*  
Ben Wiant  
Nancy Loy and Tom Worley  
Gerry and Marty Worth

# Church Council News

	2016 Budget	2017 Proposed Budget	2018 Proposed Budget	2019 Proposed Budget
<b>Revenues</b>				
Total Pledges	\$ 721,573.80	\$ 853,348.56	\$ 970,515.84	\$ 1,113,479.72
Other Income	\$ 142,631.04	\$ 136,651.00	\$ 138,261.00	\$ 140,575.00
Trustees General Support (Unrestricted)	\$ 47,100.00	\$ 38,440.00	\$ 30,440.00	\$ 22,440.00
Trustees Restricted Support	\$ 65,606.00	\$ 68,463.80	\$ 71,607.38	\$ 75,065.32
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 976,910.84</b>	<b>\$ 1,096,903.36</b>	<b>\$ 1,210,824.22</b>	<b>\$ 1,351,560.04</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Total Staff - Compensation	\$ 703,282.52	\$ 737,569.00	\$ 759,788.67	\$ 822,694.58
Total Office, Stewardship, Music, Church Vitality, Church Growth & Deacons	\$ 121,619.30	\$ 148,772.21	\$ 168,134.15	\$ 189,508.91
Total House and Grounds	\$ 104,299.50	\$ 142,811.88	\$ 176,623.59	\$ 223,345.87
Trustees Restricted Spending	\$ 65,606.00	\$ 68,463.80	\$ 71,607.38	\$ 75,065.32
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 994,807.32</b>	<b>\$ 1,097,616.88</b>	<b>\$ 1,176,153.79</b>	<b>\$ 1,310,614.67</b>





**Notes:**

**Revenues**

Total Pledges

In 2017 a 20% Increase and in 2018 & 2019 a 15% increase was assumed

**Revenue Other Income**

Wedding were increased at 15% per year

No Fundraising Income was assumed in 2017 - 2019

**Expenses**

Total Staff - Compensation

Staff compensation was assume at a 3% Increase per year

An Intern was also put in the budget

**Total Office, Stewardship, Music, Church Vitality, Church Growth & Deacons**

An Increase of 3% to 5% was given to all these categories

**Total House and Grounds**

Maintenance & Repairs was a 50% increase per year - to help keep up with maintenance items

Operating and Contracted Services was a 25% increase per year

## Justice and Mercy News

### Your Purchases Count Twice

By choosing Fair Trade, you help small-scale farmers support themselves, their families and the environment. In addition, Equal Exchange contributes to its Faith partners for their efforts to improve the lives of small farmers. In 2015 Justice and Witness Ministries of UCC received \$6,644.89 which went to support the Small Farm Project in rural North Carolina. Sacred Earth thanks you for the continuing support of this mission.

# Church News

## Flower Dedications

If any of the following available dates has special meaning to you, please contact Marty Worth [mworth@first-church.org](mailto:mworth@first-church.org) to sign up for dedicating the flowers or sign up on the flower chart on the bulletin board outside the office: July 3, 10, 17, 24; August 28, September 25 and October 23. Thank you!

## Volunteers for Outside Gardening

We are looking for volunteers who like to work outside in garden beds. We need help with weeding and trimming. Please call or email Sharon Leidheiser at 614-228-1741, ext. 11 or [sleidheiser@first-church.org](mailto:sleidheiser@first-church.org).

## First Church Softball Update

Here's an update on the First Church Softball Team. Their last game was a shut out – the score was 12-0. The team ended the month of May with a 1-3 record. They could use more players, both men and women. The schedule for the remaining games is included below.

Week	Date	Time	Location	Home Team	Away Team
Week 7	Sun 6-12-16	6:00 PM	AB 8	P&B	First Congregational Church
Week 8	Sun 6-19-16	5:00 PM	AB 8	"QUESTIONABLE?"	First Congregational Church
Week 9	Sun 6-26-16	4:00 PM	AB 8	First Congregational Church	Health Care Logistics Cluckers
Week 10	Sun 7-3-16	No Games - 4th of July Weekend			
Week 11	Sun 7-10-16	4:00 PM	AB 8	First Congregational Church	Hit N Run
Week 12	Sun 7-17-16	5:00 PM	AB 8	First Congregational Church	Buster Mcthundersticks

## The Ralph Fanning Room

On Sunday, May 29, First Church dedicated the Ralph Fanning Room (formerly the Large Conference Room). The Art Committee proposed changing the name from "Conference Room" to the "Ralph Fanning Room" to honor Mr. Fanning's contribution in fostering artistic judgment and integrity that continues today in the care and maintenance of this historic church building.

In 1949, a new committee was appointed by Church Council to be called the Art Committee with the charge "to give guidance and protection of trained judgment and a consensus of good taste in matters having to do with the appearance of the Church building and its equipment and adornment". Professor Ralph Fanning was appointed Chairman. Fanning was professor of Art History at the Ohio State University, and an exceedingly popular artist in his own right.

We also celebrated Sarah Garbe who has generously given the church a painting by Ralph Fanning which will be on display. The subject: Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel (Our Lady of Good Help) built in 1771, in the district of Old Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada. The painting was originally purchased from Fanning in 1953 by Jean MacNevin (Kimball Restoration) and passed on to Jean Byerly, then to Sarah Garbe. The painting has been in our church family for more than 60 years but will now join the others in the church's collection, giving enjoyment and inspiration to all who come here.



## First Church Joys and Concerns

**Members** Abby Salak and Melissa Prendergast and their daughter, Ruth Eloise; Margene Whittenberg; Ken Storey; Sarah Garbe; Bernie Martin; Ray Pendell; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including the families and friends of Lucille Kropp and Victor Campbell.

**Friends and Family** Bev Goldie; Lois Beery; Bill Gutlieb; Theresa Norris; Monica Depinet, sister of Tom Gies; Joe, Marjorie, and David Kufel, father, mother and brother of Sharon Leidheiser; Kira, friend of Nancy Loy; 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 Hilliard Police Officer Sean R. Johnson; the family and friends of Max Vokhgelt, friend of Alex Palmer; and the Colson and Leidheiser families, on the death of Virginia Colson-Leidheiser.

**Throughout The World** We continue to pray for those who battle mental illness daily; we pray for those who suffer from the effects of violent weather, including those in Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma.

**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 June 5:* Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland
- *Week of June 12:* Angola and Mozambique
- *Week of June 19:* Brazil
- *Week of June 26:* Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay

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

## Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Wib Smith by Donald Dunn and James Dunn

Given to the Good Samaritan Fund in celebration of the life of Keene Lebold by Janet Mori

Given to the Legacy Endowment Fund in celebration of the life of Lucille Kropp by Bill and Gail Johannes

The IRA Charitable Rollover has been made permanent. Members and friends of First Church, age 70 1/2 or older, may now transfer up to \$100,000 tax-free directly from an IRA to the charity of their choice.

Please consider making a direct transfer to the Trustees, First Congregational Church, to support your favorite ministry's Endowment.

The benefits are: no income taxes are paid on the distribution from your IRA; the gift counts toward the minimum required distribution from your IRA, and the gift will make a lasting impact at First Church for many years. A description of each endowment fund can be found on the church website at [www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx](http://www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx)

# June Calendar

## Wednesday, June 1

11 a.m. – Book Study – Parlor  
1 p.m. – Congregational Care Meeting – Parish Family Room

## Sunday, June 5

9 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary  
10 a.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room  
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary  
Noon – Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary  
12:30 p.m. – Fellowship Hour – Parlor  
4 p.m. – First Church Softball Game – Field AB8  
7 p.m. – Youth Mission Trip in Franklinton Begins

## Monday, June 6

All Day – Youth Mission Trip in Franklinton  
6 p.m. – Youth Mission Dinner – Ralph Fanning Room

## Tuesday, June 7

All Day – Youth Mission Trip in Franklinton  
5:30 p.m. – Sacred Earth Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room  
6 p.m. – Youth Mission Dinner – Ralph Fanning Room  
7 p.m. – Justice and Mercy – Ralph Fanning Room

## Wednesday, June 8

All Day – Youth Mission Trip in Franklinton  
9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room  
6 p.m. – Youth Mission Dinner – Ralph Fanning Room

## Thursday, June 9

All Day – Youth Mission Trip in Franklinton  
6 p.m. – Youth Mission Dinner – Ralph Fanning Room

## Friday, June 10

All Day – Youth Mission Trip in Franklinton

## Saturday, June 11

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

## Sunday, June 12

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall  
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary  
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall  
6 p.m. – First Church Softball Game – Field AB8

## Monday, June 13

9 a.m. – Good Samaritan Day – Ralph Fanning Room

## Tuesday, June 14

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room  
6:30 p.m. – Christian Education – Mark Williams' home  
7 p.m. – Executive Committee – Ralph Fanning Room

## Wednesday, June 15

11 a.m. – Book Study – Parlor

## Saturday, June 18

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

## Sunday, June 19

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall  
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary  
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall  
5 p.m. – First Church Softball Game – Field AB8

## Monday, June 20

1 p.m. – Deadline for Newsletter Articles  
6 p.m. – BREAD Celebration – All Saints Academy,  
2855 Livingston Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43209  
7 p.m. – Personnel – Parish Family Room

## Tuesday, June 21

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

## Wednesday, June 22

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

## Saturday, June 25

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

## Sunday, June 26

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall  
11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary  
Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall  
4 p.m. – First Church Softball Game – Field AB8

## Monday, June 27

6 p.m. – Budget and Finance – Ralph Fanning Room  
7 p.m. – Deacons Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room

## Tuesday, June 28

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

## June Fellowship Hour Schedule

June 5	Proverbs
June 12	Psalms
June 19	Romans
June 26	Ruth

## June Acolyte Schedule

June 5	Chutney Anderson	Alyssa Batchelor
June 12	Miriam Myers	Samantha Myers
June 19	Finnegan Miller	Ethan Murray
June 26	Mae Hubbard	Alaina Thompson

## June Mission Offering Schedule

June 5	Gladden Community House
June 12	Good Samaritan
June 19	UCC - LGBT
June 26	Community Shelter Board

## 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  
Natalie Setty  
6/7 Lindy Miller  
6/8 Elin Chambers  
Beth Hunker  
6/9 Ian Jacobson  
Scott Jones  
6/10 Rick Bennett  
Hudson Fleurant  
Pat Patterson  
6/11 Lauren Hamman  
Colin Thompson  
Jan Wade  
6/12 Camryn Corzine  
Bill Nirote  
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  
David Nassau  
6/20 Dan Clark  
Richard Mason  
6/21 Rick Henderson  
Ken Salak  
6/22 Cindy Deliman  
Linda Slocum  
6/23 Evan Whaling  
6/24 Trenton Helmer  
Eric Klintworth  
Sarah Trace  
6/25 Benton Ahrens  
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 Julia and Matt Myers  
6/16 Debra and Fred Hadley  
6/17 Luke and Kirsten Ahrens  
Penny and Terry Casey  
Celeste Feather and Peter Murray  
Tanya and Jonathan Miller  
6/18 Val and Phil Stichter  
6/19 Ann and John Aecshbury  
Deb and Tom Thompson  
6/20 Sarah Amy and David Kruk  
Julie and Eric Vore  
6/21 Sue and Frank Cook  
6/22 Gail and Bill Johannes  
Wendy and Robert Reber  
6/23 Kosby and Kevin Carrico  
6/26 Virginia and James O'Neil  
6/27 Carol and Alex Rodriguez  
6/29 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
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
Custodian	William Lee, Jimy Sibrian
Wedding Coordinators	Janet Axt, Margaret Cipriani
Nursery Staff	Evin Wimberly, Simone Ellerson, Natalie Barker, Taylre Arnold

### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

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

### **COMMISSIONERS**

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

Web site: [www.first-church.org](http://www.first-church.org)

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

Closed Major Holidays

**“An Open & Affirming Faith Community”**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS**

Worship at 9 a.m. ~ Parish Hall

Worship at 11 a.m. ~ Sanctuary