



## Fathers, Sons and Daughters: Spirited, Biblical, Complicated

By Rev. Tim Ahrens, *Senior Minister*  
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I have been thinking a lot about my father, Dr. Herman C. Ahrens, Jr. recently. He turns 90 years old on June 12. Friends and family from all over the country will gather in my hometown to pay tribute to Dad. On Father's Day, I will preach in my home congregation, St. John's UCC in Lansdale, PA. My sermon title is “*Fathers, Sons and Daughters:*

*Spirited, Biblical, Complicated.*” I will let you know how it goes.

My Dad was a Veteran of WWII. He was drafted at 18 years old and fought in Europe in the Army. He was in the Battle of the Bulge as an infantryman. When I was a child, he would tell war stories to which I never really paid close attention. Now, I am interested in hearing them. He went from war to college and graduated from Heidelberg in Tiffin, Ohio in 1949. He married my mom, Lorene Kellermeyer Ahrens in June 1950. After receiving a Master's Degree in Journalism, Dad became an editor of a Christian Magazine for the next 32 years. As editor of Youth Magazine, he brought the world of new ideas and the challenges of the 60's and 70's into our home. He was cool- though I didn't know it at the time. He was just my Dad. He wrote one book and compiled and edited two others. He was one of best writers and editors of religious journalism in his time. He was amazing.

When he stepped down in 1982 from Youth Magazine, Dad went on to write and edit independently and then worked for the Penn Southeast Conference of the UCC for an additional ten years before retiring in the mid-90's with over 40 years of dedicated service to the church. He received an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg in 1975. It was well deserved. My Dad is thoughtful and prayerful. He is a great teacher, listener and questioner. He is discerning and insightful. He is loving and kind.

When I step into the pulpit of my home congregation on June 15, I will lift up and celebrate my Dad – even though I am there to preach the gospel. He has been my inspiration and my hero throughout my life. We are very different in many ways. But, in many ways we are alike. I often miss the similarities when highlighting our differences. How curious is that? Dad's favorite passage of scripture is Romans 12. Paul proclaims, “Let love be genuine....” My father is the most genuine, loving, gentle man I have ever known. I know this to be true. Fathers and sons.

The Bible has a lot to say about the nature of the relationships between fathers, daughters and sons. Our relationships are always spirited and complicated. As a son, I can attest to my devotion to my Dad and to the unknowns in our relationship. As a father, I can attest to the same with my son and daughters. I am devoted to them. But, like all fathers and their children, ours are always complicated, beautiful and blessed relationships.

To Fathers, Daughters and Sons! To spirited, biblical and complicated relationships... I tip my hat to my Dad – Dr. Herman C. Ahrens, Jr. I love you Dad.



## **Special Congregational Meeting – June 22 – 10am**

By Rev. Tim Ahrens

As promised at the January Annual Congregational Meeting, we are holding a special congregational meeting at the mid-point of this year to give updates on important happenings at First Church. We will meet for one hour – beginning at 10am in the Sanctuary. The meeting will be led by our Church Moderator, Frank Cook.

We have a Designated Associate Minister, a new search committee for the Associate Minister, and a special update on our finances and plans for revitalizing our resources in the church. We have reports on the Long Range Plan (which runs its course by September 2014).

Plan on coming to worship at 9am and staying on or coming early and following with attendance at 11am worship.

## **Designated Associate Minister Starts Full-time June 1<sup>st</sup>**

By Rev. Tim Ahrens

Rev. Dan Clark will begin full-time as our Designated Associate Minister on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to grants from the Trustees and our Major Projects Fund, plus dollars saved and found for use in the 2014 budget, we now have secured enough funding to have Rev. Clark work full-time from June 1-December 31<sup>st</sup>. We also have hopeful projections to be able to fully fund the position through congregational support in 2015. Welcome Rev. Clark to the staff full-time! Thanks to all who worked hard to make this happen.

## **Associate Minister Search Committee coming together**

By Rev. Tim Ahrens

Charged by the Church Council to find and form a search committee for the Associate Minister, Moderator Frank Cook called upon Gerry Worth to serve as chair of the committee. Along with Mr. Cook, Mr. Worth is gathering 8-10 other members for the committee. We hope to get started as a committee by mid-June. The full committee will be introduced to the congregation on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Congregational Meeting at 10am. The committee will work on a congregational survey and the church profile immediately. We hope to advertise the position with the UCC and beyond by early July. We hope to receive profiles and interview candidates by September and have a candidate for the congregational meeting in January 2015. If all goes well, the person will begin as our full-time associate minister by early 2015. We ask for the congregation's prayers of support and input throughout this process.

## **Wednesday Book Study Ends One Book in June and Begins Another in August**

By Rev. Tim Ahrens

The Wednesday Book Study, which meets every first and third Wednesday from 11-12pm, will meet in June and August but take July off. We will finish *The Go-Between God* on June 18<sup>th</sup>.



In August we will begin Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor’s new book *Learning to Walk in the Dark*.

The New York Times best-selling author of *An Altar in the World*, Barbara Brown Taylor’s *Learning to Walk in the Dark* provides a way to find spirituality in those times when we don’t have all the answers.

In the promotional piece published by Amazon Books, we read:

“Taylor has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. Doesn’t God work in the nighttime as well? In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us “in the dark.” She argues that we need to move away from our “solar spirituality” and ease our way into appreciating “lunar spirituality” (since, like the moon, our experience of the light waxes and wanes). Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God’s presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most. With her characteristic charm and literary wisdom, Taylor is our guide through a spirituality of the nighttime, teaching us how to find our footing in times of uncertainty and giving us strength and hope to face all of life’s challenging moments.”

Come read with us. Thanks to the 15+ people who faithfully join us! There is always room for more! Keep reading! Let me know what you read this summer.

## **Stewardship Committee Coming Together for 2015!**

By Rev. Tim Ahrens

The 2014-2015 Stewardship Committee is coming together to prepare for another great year of living and giving as “Stewards for the Lord.” We want to help the congregation grow as stewards in daily living. We believe Stewardship is a day-to-day commitment in faith. How do we share our time, talents, treasures in the church and the world? We also believe that Stewardship is about care of the earth as well as care of one another in Christ.

As we enter the summer of 2014, please ask yourself:

What kind of Steward is God calling me to be right now? How might I take time to care for the earth?

Stay tuned for our Stewardship “leap of faith” coming this August and September!



## GROWING TOGETHER: Thoughts on Gardens and Churches

By Rev. Dan Clark

*Designated Associate Minister*

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I planted my garden last month. Roma, cherry and big beef tomatoes. Hot peppers and bell peppers. Zucchini and yellow squash and cucumbers. I love this time of year. Spring is full of promises: promises that the polar vortex is a thing of the past, promises that warm breezes will blow and longer days are ahead. Gardens are also full of promises. Promises that homemade salsa and grilled veggies and fresh salads are coming. My children love it too. They love helping and harvesting, and knowing that their little hands were part of bringing food to our table.



First Church is full of promises too. We have a meaningful history with an amazing legacy of social justice and sacred music. First Church has been a light in this city and beyond. Our history is meaningful, and our present moment is promising. There are roots being strengthened, and blooms opening up. An open and generous church in a growing part of a growing city should be ready to, as Scripture puts it, “bear much fruit.” Our history is meaningful, our present is promising, and our future together is exciting. Good things are ahead.

So, how do we grow? If we grow like a garden, there will be slow and unseen progress. There will be the miracle of dead seeds becoming living plants. And there will be color and flavor. In Eugene Peterson’s translation of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says to his disciples, “Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

“Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God.”

There’s a lot of color and flavor in First Church that comes from and points to a loving God. Let’s grow together, and see the color and flavor of God grow among us.



## Youth Prepares for June Mission Trip to Pittsburgh

By Mark S. Williams

*Christian Education Director*

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The First Church Youth Group will be going to Pittsburgh to serve at The Pittsburgh Project Camp June 8 – 14. Crazy cobblestone streets and soaring steel bridges connect neighborhoods dotted with elderly, isolated residents who need help now. Our Youth group will spend a week to rebuild their homes. We'll bear witness to God's great love and we'll see God in action throughout our visit. Each year, the Service Camps engage over 2,500 participants. We will be challenged to take on a worldview that is underpinned by Christ-like servant leadership. The trip this year costs more than \$7,000. Experiences like this would not be possible for our young people without financial support from our entire church family and friends. “Buy-a-Mile” has started the mission trip on its way. Thank you for a great start to our mission trip. The youth are asking for donations of \$5 a mile to make the trip to Pittsburgh. There is a giant map in the Parish Hall that will track our donations on our route to Pittsburgh. We have made it there but need funds to get us home. Each week we will give you a report on how far we are. Thank you to all who purchased flowers and vegetables to support our trip.

### June Sermon Titles

*(Tim Ahrens preaching unless otherwise specified)*

June 1 – Ascension Sunday - “Ascending Spirit”

Texts: Acts 1:1-11; I Peter 4: 12-14; 5:6-11; Luke 24: 44-53

June 8 – Pentecost Sunday - “Come Holy Spirit: Here and Now!”

Texts: Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39

June 15 – Trinity Sunday - June 15: The Great Commission. (Rev. Dan Clark)

Texts: Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Matthew 28:16-20

June 22 - “Faith that is Built to Last”

Texts: Genesis 6: 9-22; 7:24, 8:14-19; Psalm 46: Matthew 7:21-29

June 29 - “When Following is Leading”

Texts: Genesis 12:1-9; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26



## Liturgical Musings

By Kevin Jones, Minister of Music

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Pentecost is the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Easter and is sometimes known as the Birthday of the Church. This year we celebrate the Day of Pentecost on Sunday, June 8. In the Acts of the Apostles, Pentecost celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. Pentecost has its roots in the Jewish feast of Shavuot, which was the day that God gave the Torah to Israel at Mount Sinai. On Pentecost, the liturgical color is red, signifying the tongues of fire that were imparted to the Apostles, allowing them to seemingly speak in languages they did not know, and inspiring them to go out into the world to build the church. The ancient plainsong hymn, *Veni creator spiritus* (Come, holy spirit) speaks of “kindling within us celestial fire.” One notable English translation of the Latin hymn reads:



Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,  
and lighten with celestial fire.  
Thou the anointing Spirit art,  
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

This hymn, dating from the 9<sup>th</sup> century, is an invocation to the Holy Spirit. It is still sung in Christian churches throughout the world on Pentecost, at ordinations of all kinds, and also at monarchical coronations.

As poet W. H. Auden wrote in his poem, “The Twelve,”

Without arms or charm of culture,  
Persons of no importance  
From an unimportant Province,  
They did as the Spirit bid,  
Went forth into a joyless world  
Of swords and rhetoric  
To bring it joy.

There is a long tradition of encouraging people to wear red to church on the Day of Pentecost, and so I would encourage you to do so. You will find a special dove kite being processed at 11 am that morning, and a few other surprises as well. I look forward to seeing you in church each week, but especially on the Day of Pentecost.

## 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 have now completed the season. The First Church Choir will sing through Trinity Sunday, June 15, but then be on summer break until September. All of these people give of their time and talent to glorify God and help make music a central part of our worship life together. Thank you, all.



## Liturgical Appearance Schedule

First Church Choir - Sing in Worship June 1, 8, 15

### Summer Choir

We will be running a Summer Choir on each of the Sundays of July this year. If you would like to sing, please come to the Choir Room at 10 am on Sundays July 6, 13, 20, and 27 for a light rehearsal. We will then sing at the 11 am service. This is a great chance to sing in a choir without the yearly commitment. You need not sing every week – just come when you can.

### A Note of Thanks

We thank the Remembrance Committee for giving a grant that allowed the purchase of white cottas for the Teen Choir. The Teens wore their new cottas for the first time on Sunday, May 4. This now completes the Choir dress for our Teens. Thank you, Remembrance Committee.



### 2014 Arts Festival Beverage Booth

If you are going to the 2014 Columbus Arts Festival on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, and you're thirsty, please come to the First Church Choir's Beverage Booth on that day between 11 am and 10:30 pm. 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. Although the Festival runs June 6, 7 and 8, the Choir is only selling on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. 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!



## 2014 Columbus Pride Celebration

By Catherine Hope-Cunningham

This year Columbus pride will take place on June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. UCC Pride will be staffing a booth from 4 – 8pm on June 20<sup>th</sup> and from 11AM – 7pm on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The Pride festival will take place at Goodale park in Columbus’ Short North neighborhood.

We are asking volunteers to sign up for 2 hour shifts.

Friday: 4-6pm (with setup) 6-8pm (with closing)  
Saturday 11-1 (with opening) 1-3pm 3-5pm 5-7pm (with teardown)

We will also be marching in the Pride parade. St. John’s UCC (59 E. Mound St., Columbus, OH 43215) has generously offered to host our group for breakfast. Those who wish to march in the parade or ride on the float are asked to meet at St. John’s between 8 AM and 9 AM on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. Free parking will be provided. The group will walk together to the lineup location, which is just a few short blocks from St. John’s. After the parade everyone is encouraged to enjoy the Pride festival and entertainment. When you are ready to return to your vehicle, you can catch the new FREE Cota CBus to return to St. John’s. You can pick up the CBus on N. High Street at W. Hubbard Ave., Buttles Ave., or W. Russell St. You can exit the CBus on Mound Street and walk the short block back to your vehicle. If you are interested in participating in the parade please circle below.

I plan on participating in the parade

I have the following dietary restrictions: Vegetarian Vegan Gluten Free Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
None

Please provide the following information if you are volunteering for the booth and/or parade. T-Shirts are \$10 and must be prepaid in cash only.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (mobile for texts): \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL

Detailed instructions for the entire festival will be provided via email and emergency changes/reminders will be sent via text. Thank you for volunteering to share the love of Christ and the UCC to the over 250,000 Columbus Pride participants!





## **Please Pay It Forward...**

By Lynn Rae Wallich

Many of us feel that life has become too busy and commitments too overwhelming. Hearts are in the right place with a desire to help or volunteer but follow through is tough. Summer is arriving, finally, and there will be so much to get done.

What happens to the person who experiences an illness or accident? What happens to the person who experiences an unexpected loss? What happens when depression becomes unbearable and loneliness is an everyday occurrence?

There are a number of people who experience random acts of kindness and a number of people who provide them. At First Church caring for each other is important but some people are not comfortable with aspects of this.

An educational opportunity is available for anyone who wishes to participate in training related to congregational care. It is the hope of this church that the care and love exhibited by the members becomes more than random. This training is open to all who are interested and have the desire to “pay it forward.”

Please consider... your participation would be an exceptional contribution to First Church. More details in the following article (*Congregational Care and Hospital Visitation Training*)...

## **Congregational Care and Hospital Visitation Training**

### **Monday evenings: August 18 through October 13 from 6-8pm**

First Congregational Church UCC in Downtown Columbus invites you to a training for your congregational care teams. This 8-week course will address the following topics: Self-awareness as We Visit Others, Basic Listening Skills, the Psychological Effects of Crisis and Illness, Care for Those with Mental Illnesses, Grief and End of Life, Ministry to the Elderly/Advanced Care Planning, Care for Those with Disabilities, and Ministry in the Midst of Addictions. The class is coordinated by Rev. Kristin Langstraat, System Director for Faith Community Relations at OhioHealth. She is also a supervisor in the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education, and has served in both parish and hospital chaplaincy settings. Rev. Langstraat will invite knowledgeable speakers from the community to provide information on caring for congregants generally, and caring for those who are experiencing specific challenges.

The evening of our first meeting, participants will receive a resource binder. This binder will include handouts of the presentations for the training, along with some additional articles on specific topics of ministry. Each class will consist of three elements: talking about our experience with the subject for the evening, a presentation by an “expert” speaker, and some practice time, so that participants can apply what they have learned.

We are specifically offering this course for downtown congregations. For more information, contact Rev. Langstraat at 614-544-4071 or [Kristin.langstraat@ohiohealth.com](mailto:Kristin.langstraat@ohiohealth.com). Please register with Rev. Langstraat when your congregation determines the number of participants you will be bringing.



## The Confirmation Class of 2014

On Sunday, May 18, a remarkable group of young men and young lady reaffirmed their baptism and became the newest members of First Congregational Church through Confirmation. They took very seriously this journey to confirmation by asking questions of their teachers, Rev. Ahrens and Jackie Dean, reading and studying, examining just what they believe and what is important in their growth as Christians in the United Church of Christ and especially here at First Church. Their teachers and mentors are extremely proud of them. You have not heard the last of them here at First Church.

### Below are the comments made by their mentors:

#### **Wally Giffen, Mentor**

#### **Ivan Vore, Confirmand**

The UCC is a great niche for Ivan Vore. From the beginning of our conversations he was very up front and honest as to his agnostic leanings. "Welcome to the club," was his mentor's response. Unless I miss my guess, almost everyone in our church has had times--even years of such feelings. We looked at the testimony of people who have had near death experiences and reported back a strong experience of meeting a very loving and forgiving god. As time goes on, with "God still speaking" all of us including Confirmands will continue to grow in our faith.

#### **Rick Welch, Mentor**

#### **Adam Wade, Confirmand**

Members of the church, it is my pleasure to introduce to you Adam Wade. However, he doesn't really need much of an intro, as he is already such an engrained part of this church. If you don't know him, you need to come to church more often. He's a legend! If only I were as put together as this young man when I was his age. What a bright and caring person. I've been a friend of the Wade family for a number of years now, but this experience allowed me to get to know Adam even better than I did before. The spring Retreat to Pilgrim Hills was also a great experience for both of us, even though I conveniently forgot how wonderful camp accommodations could be. But we both grew to really enjoy the experience. In the words of Manny from Adam's favorite sitcom, *Modern Family*, "I love it here, manicured lawns, planned activities, early dinners. What more could a kid need?" But seriously, it was at Pilgrim Hills that I got a closer look into Adam's natural leadership qualities. He is well respected in this church and by his fellow confirmands. He is athletic, a great singer, and a natural in front of audiences. I couldn't be more excited about the future that is in store for Adam, and frankly, all of these confirmands. Congratulations on this special day. I'm very proud of the young man that you have become, and I'm happy to call you friend.

#### **Marty Worth, Mentor**

#### **Victoria Washington, Confirmand**

Although I have seen Victoria most Sundays over the years at Choir practice, I have appreciated the time we have spent on her journey to confirmation. Victoria is a very enthusiastic, perceptive and deep thinking young woman. One way she follows the teachings of Jesus – She tries very hard to be nice to everyone. When it came time to talk about the Holy Spirit (a difficult concept to express in words, at least to me) – she immediately said – "I see the Holy Spirit working when a person helps someone in need". That's about as concise a statement of faith as there could be. It has been my honor to serve as her mentor. Congratulations.

#### **Gerry Worth, Mentor**

#### **Ben Allen Confirmand**

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as Mentor to Ben Allen. Ben has many talents and interests including sports (football, track, skiing), arts (Jazz band, set construction), travel, academics and religious growth. Ben seeks to understand issues and thoughtfully questions to seek answers and understanding in his life and faith journey. His sound reasoning abilities bodes well for his future as well as ours.



**John Matchett, Mentor                      Luke Zimmerman, Confirmand**

It has been a real joy for me to serve as Luke's mentor this year. From the time when he was a little boy giving me communion at the 9 o'clock service, I could always see that kindness was a special quality that he had. After serving as his mentor, and seeing how much this kindness and caring has grown, it is the one thing that I will cherish most about our time together.  
John Matchett, Mentor

**Cammy Curren & Thom Smith, Mentors                      Jordan Gies, Confirmand**

Jordan is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Heritage Middle School in Westerville where he lives with his parents, Tom and Shelly and sister Katie. He enjoys being outdoors and playing video games and especially working with children. The Church and being involved in the Church community, especially in working with children, is very important to Jordan. He is interested in becoming a physical education teacher.

**Andrew Welsh-Huggins, Mentor                      Joe Spofforth, Confirmand**

It's my pleasure to introduce my confirmand, Joe Spofforth, the son of Sam Spoffoth and Betsy Hubbard and older brother of Pete. Joe is an eighth grader at Hastings Middle School where he doesn't do much of anything other than play football, basketball and run track. Oh, and he plays a little baseball, too. And plays the piano. And sings in the teen choir here at First Church. You may also recall his standout performance as “Vice President of East Coast Sales” in the 2010 Christmas Play. If all that isn't enough, he also happily discusses religion with adults, teaching me a few things along the way. I'm so honored to have gotten to know Joe and to have been his mentor.

**Matt Myers, mentor                      Will Zimmerman, Confirmand**

I have known Will Zimmerman since his family joined First Church, almost eight years ago. During the confirmation process, it has been my pleasure to really get to know Will, often over Saturday breakfasts at Nancy's and walks in Park of Roses. Will is a thinker, asks great questions, and has taken his confirmation seriously. Will is very active with sports (soccer, track team captain), music (trumpet 1st chair), and school (grand wizard in History and Social Studies). He is a leader! Will is a confident young man and can be hilarious with his dry humor. He is a welcomed new member of our splendid church who has a lot to offer. If you haven't met Will already, I highly recommend introducing yourself to this awesome young man. I know you will walk away impressed as I have.

**Christopher Washington, Mentor                      Ben Allred, Confirmand**

Ben Allred is the son of John and Gwen Allred. Ben has been attending this church with his sister Jensen and grandmother Ruth since he was three years old. He is graduating from eighth grade at Patriot Preparatory Academy before he moves on to the high school at Patriot Prep. Ben plays basketball for his school team and ran track this year. He is an independent thinker, who holds ideals similar to Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Payne. Ben enjoys reading comics and other books, playing video games, and listening to a variety of genres of music. Ben loves the open and affirming position of FCC and how its members accept and values diversity.



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**First Church News**  
First Congregational Church  
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Columbus, Ohio  
“Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve”  
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Confirmands Ivan Vore, Ben Allen, Adam Wade, Victoria Washington, Jordan Geis, Ben Allred, Will and Luke Zimmerman, and Joe Spofforth.



Celebration at Fellowship Hour



## Graduates



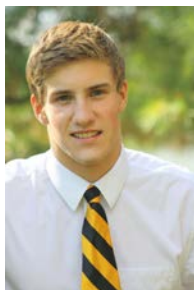
### **Steven Deliman**

Steven Deliman, son of John and Cindy Deliman, will be graduating from Dublin Scioto High School May 31, 2014. Steven will be attending Cleveland State University in the Honors and Scholars program this coming August, majoring in Film and Digital Media.



### **Betsy Trace**

Graduating from Upper Arlington High School, attending Eastern Michigan University where she will be swimming. Betsy plans to major in nursing. Parents are Tom and Sarah Trace. Grandparents are Carol and Frank Hussey.



### **Thomas Trace**

Graduating from Upper Arlington High School. Will attend The Ohio State University where he will be swimming. Thomas plans to major in science. Parents are Tom and Sarah Trace. Grandparents are Carol and Frank Hussey.



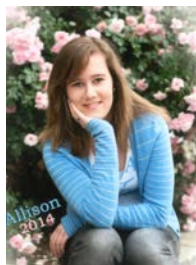
### **Katie Gies**

Katie Gies graduated from Westerville South High School on May 24, 2014. She plans to attend Cleveland State University in the fall where she will major in Health Sciences and then continue on to obtain her Masters in Occupational Therapy.



### **Sarah Ahrens**

Graduated in May and will attend Hocking College to study Natural Resources Law Enforcement, then continuing on to University of Idaho to get her Bachelors Degree.



### Allison Lange

Allison Lange graduated with honors from Worthington Kilbourne High School. She is a member of National Honor Society, Socratic Society, a Gold Key and President’s Academic Excellence recipient and was a People to People Student Ambassador. Throughout high school, Allison participated in Kilbourne Singers, ENCORE!, Women’s Chorale, OCDA Honors Choir and OCC Honors Choir.

Allison’s accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of her First Church family. She will be attending Otterbein University and majoring in Equine Technology with a minor in Equine Business.



### Grace Erickson

Grace Erickson, Daughter of Don and Kate Erickson, Graduated from Ithaca College.



### Kyle Danneberger

Kyle Danneberger graduated from The Ohio State University in May. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the Fisher College of Business. He specialized in Finance and minored in Turf Science. He is currently working for the Department of Defense. His father was able to present him with his degree.

### Morgan Dale Shaw

Morgan Dale Shaw, graduated with honors from the Columbus Alternative High School (CAHS) [on May 31st](#), where she successfully completed the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Morgan was honored as a class valedictorian having successfully maintained a 4.0 grade point average or better during all four years at CAHS.

Morgan will attend The Ohio State University in August, where she will major in Biomedical Engineering, and plans to continue playing the flute and will perhaps join the OSU Crew Team.



## The Schumacher Awards 2014

The Schumacher Awards Committee is pleased to announce the 2014 award recipients:

Thanks to the generosity of Frederick Schumacher, these awards are given annually, in honor of his mother, 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.

### **Kayla Byrd**

Kayla is a senior at Columbus Alternative High School. Her many interests include softball, yearbook, fashion club, baking club, and theatre. Some of her accomplishments include National Honor Society, three-time winner of the citywide Martin Luther King art contest, and winning numerous mock trial competitions around the state. Kayla is the Founder / President of Human Trafficking Awareness Club and Co-Chair of Stories Behind Their Eyes. Kayla serves as a youth teacher at Hope Christian High School and has volunteered with March of Dimes and the Salvation Army food pantry. She plans on attending the University of Pennsylvania to study actuarial science and continue her work against human trafficking.

### **Jodi Norton**

Jodi is a senior at Millersport High School where she is a Top Scholar, president of the Spanish club, secretary of the Art Club, and member the National Honor Society. She volunteers with the American Red Cross blood drive, White Christmas food and toy drive. In her free time, Jodi enjoys playing softball, singing in the school choir, and participating in church youth group activities. She is a member of the Fairfield Baptist Church. Jodi plans to attend Ohio University and major in something that involves helping others.

### **Jacqueline Woskobnick**

Jackie is a senior at Bishop Watterson High School where she enjoys math, Spanish Club, swimming, and mentoring freshmen. In addition to starting the “Jeans for Teens” drive which collects jeans for the homeless, Jackie volunteers for the Down Syndrome Association, American Red Cross, and Willow Brook Christian Home. Jackie is a member of the Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church. She is a member of the national Honor Society and has been honored with the Scholarship Athlete Award and Spirit of Service Award. Jackie plans to study medicine at The Ohio State University.



## Schumacher Award Winners and their Families



Rev. Ahrens addressing the award winners and families, explaining the award history



Left to Right, Rev. Ahrens, Kathryn Bamberger (Schumacher Award Committee Chair), Jodi Norton, Jodi's mother and brother.



Kathryn Bamberger addressing award winners and families





# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**First Church News**  
First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Columbus, Ohio  
"Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve"  
June 2014, Volume 162, No. 6



Photo 6 & 8, left to right are award winners:  
Kayla Byrd, Jackie Woskobnick, Jodi Norton



Awards presented in front of congregation,  
from left: Rev. Ahrens, Amy Wagner, Kayla  
Byrd, Katie Wagner, Jodi Norton, Jackie  
Woskobnick, Will Fernald



The Cake!



Jodi Norton, Kayla Byrd, and Jackie  
Woskobnick



## Fellowship is Hospitality

Marty Worth

Program Manager

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

Most visitors and eventually new members of First Church mention as their first impression how friendly everyone was to them. Not only do we want to extend an extravagant welcome to worship, but also to Fellowship Hour after church. Fellowship Hour is part of the hospitality ministry of First Church.

Our Fellowship Teams have fallen on hard times. It is time to start anew.

First of all, there will be Fellowship Hour every Sunday after 11 am worship. The only exceptions are Annual Meeting Sunday and Easter when we have a luncheon and brunch respectively.

Second, I have been assigned the task to reorganize the Fellowship Teams. There are more than enough families to serve on 26 Teams which serve approximately 2 Sundays during the year.

It is my hope that, if you are asked to serve as a leader or as a member of a Team, that you will remember how it felt to be welcomed at First Church and say yes.

The volunteer coordinator and I are here to support this important ministry, will keep you posted on Fellowship Team information and remind you of your Sunday to serve. As people join First Church, they will be added to Fellowship Teams. Please welcome them.

The new schedule will be posted on the church website.

Look for information about your new team assignment in the next few weeks.

Thanks in advance for saying "yes".

## The Good Samaritan Fund acknowledges and is grateful for the following donations during the month of May 2014:

- In Honor of Cameron Wade upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout
- In Celebration of Ben Allen, Victoria Washington, Luke and Will Zimmerman upon the occasion of their confirmation as members of First Congregational Church, UCC.
- In Memory of Jerry Bellissimo, grandfather of Joe Bellissimo.
- In Celebration of the confirmation of Adam Wade as a member of First Congregational Church, UCC.
- In Celebration of the high school graduation of Allison Lange and Sarah Ahrens.





## House and Grounds Work Day, Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-?

By Gary Leidheiser

*House and Grounds Commissioner*

Have an urge to get out and spruce things up around our glorious place of worship? Then come on out on Saturday, June 14 starting at 9am to help us. We are planning on weeding and cleaning flower beds, rejuvenational pruning of our Quince hedge, cleaning out window wells, edging along the sidewalks, trimming plants that need it, and tackling those other jobs that are calling for attention. Bring your gloves and tools and join us for a spirited time of work and fellowship. Sign up in the church office or send an email to me at [gleidheiser@yahoo.com](mailto:gleidheiser@yahoo.com).

## Rev. Tim on the PBS Evening News

By Jaclyn Hamilton

*Office Manager*

Rev. Tim Ahrens discussed Senate Bill 310 in an interview with Karen Kasler, Reporter for the Statehouse News Bureau, which aired on Friday, May 23rd on the PBS evening news.

**A Podcast of the interview is available at:**

[http://statenews.org/feature\\_page.cfm?featureID=1](http://statenews.org/feature_page.cfm?featureID=1)

Following the interview, Tim's comments on Senate Bill 310 were featured in the May 22, 2014 edition of the Columbus Dispatch and the May 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Examiner:

**Dispatch:**

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/business/2014/05/21/energy-bill-vote-delayed.html>

*"This bill is bad for my family and your family, my congregation and your congregation," said Tim Ahrens, pastor of First Congregational Church in Columbus.*

*-Rev. Timothy Ahrens*

**Examiner:**

<http://www.examiner.com/article/ohio-faith-leaders-weigh-on-green-energy-standards-freeze>

*"Senate Bill 310 is bad for business and bad for families, but it is good for greed," said Rev. Timothy Ahrens of the First Congregational Church, UCC in Columbus. "Residential rates will skyrocket, increasing on average from \$80 to \$150 per year. Businesses will see an increase of thousands of dollars.*

*-Rev. Timothy Ahrens*



## Join us for a Wine and Canvas Party at Camelot Cellars on Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm

By Jaclyn Hamilton  
*Office Manager*

First Church is invited to join an open Wine and Painting Event at Camelot Cellars on High Street in the Short North. Local artists will teach students of all skill levels to create canvas masterpieces. Acrylic paint & supplies are provided. The mission of the classes is to offer a relaxed, welcoming, stress-free, social art experience for anyone and everyone of all skill levels in an environment that is comfortable, social, no-pressure, encouraging and entertaining.

### Painting Party at Camelot Cellars! (7/22/14)

Date: 7/22/14

Time: 6:30pm to 9:30pm

Location: Camelot Cellars

Address: 958 North High Street

Columbus, Ohio 43201

<http://camelotcellars.com/>

**Price: \$35.00 per person** (drinks sold separately by Camelot Cellars)

### To sign up:

- 1) Click on the following link and enroll

<http://colorsandbottles.com/products/painting-party-at-camelot-cellars-7-22-14#.U4dY4fldUqd>

- 2) Email Alec Dietz at [alecdeitz@gmail.com](mailto:alecdeitz@gmail.com) to let him know you signed up so we know who will be attending.



(Participants will be working on creating their own version of this Painting)



## June Fellowship Hour

Fellowship teams are being reorganized.  
More information will be available in time to serve.

## June Acolyte Schedule

- June 1** Adam Wade/Ben Allen
- June 8** Cassidy Hopcraft/Dylan Hopcraft
- June 15** Churney Anderson/Eddie Anderson
- June 22** Victoria Washington/Erin Murray
- June 29** Trenton Hellmer/Peter Spofforth

## Missions Offering Schedule

In June, the undesignated loose offerings will benefit the following missions that First Church supports:



- June 1 Camp Scholarships
- June 8 UCC – Strengthen the Church
- June 15 Children’s Defense Fund
- June 22 UCC – LGBT
- June 29 Deep Griha Scholarships

### Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the Barnard Music Fund in memory of David Loy by Gleva Stephens and Dr. Margaret Williams

Given to the Jackie Owen Memorial Music Fund in celebration of Jackie’s life by her husband, Col. William Owen

Support your favorite ministry by making a gift in honor or remembrance of a loved today by completing the gold Celebration Gift form found in the church pews. And don’t forget to include an endowment fund in your will or estate plan. For more information, please go to [www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx](http://www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx)



### Member Birthdays in June

2: Mikayla Knerr  
4: Donald Erikson  
5: Amber Lane  
6: Brittany Dean  
6: Patty Pohlman  
7: Lindy Miller  
8: Beth Hunker  
9: Jeff Hunt  
9: Scott Jones  
10: Rick Bennett  
10: Patricia (Pat) Patterson  
11: Ralph Hughes  
12: Leonard Nienaber  
13: Madeline Aeschbury  
13: Alexandra (Alex) Cole  
13: Justin (JJ) Cole  
13: Carol McLaughlin  
17: Julie DeLong  
18: Lukas Irons  
19: Shawn Dingus  
20: Daniel (Dan) Clark  
20: Richard Mason  
22: Cindy Deliman  
25: Kelly Allen  
26: Eric Boyd  
26: Lauren Holt  
26: Dan Logel  
26: Jonathan Miller  
26: Rhonda Poirier

### Member Anniversaries in June

1: Jim and Mary Day Fewlass  
5: Jack and Kay Davis  
7: Dan and Janet Axt  
7: John and Kaye Martin  
9: Ron and Janice Cook  
9: Charlie and Mary Weaver  
12: Paul and Melody Leidheiser  
14: Brett and Hadley Bachman  
14: Bernie and Nancy Bouman  
14: Mike and Gayle Henderson  
14: Christopher and Shannon Washington  
15: Frank and Carol Hussey  
15: Bob and Karla Lortz  
15: Gary and Dale Ann Gray  
15: Matt and Julia Meyers  
16: Fred and Debra Hadley  
16: Keene and Joan Lebold  
16: Jonathan Jon and Denise Thompson  
17: Jonathan and Tanya Miller  
17: Peter Murray and Celeste Feathers  
18: Luke and Kirsten Ahrens  
18: Phil and Val Stichter  
18: Raul and Linda Zendejas  
19: John and Ann Aeschbury  
19: Tom and Deb Thompson  
21: Frank and Janice Cook  
22: Bill and Gail Johannes  
23: Kevin and Krosby Carrico  
26: James and Virginia O'Neill  
26: Heather Grunkemeyer and Meg McCabe  
27: Jason and Jennifer Bryant  
27: Alex and Carol Rodriguez  
29: Stanford and Jane Ackley  
29: Russ Kelm and Pam Kallner  
30: Gunter and Sarah Garbe  
30: Brian and Carol Stewart

Special thanks to **Sarah Ahrens** for formatting the Birthdays and Anniversaries this month.  
The office can use help with this each month. Please email [JHamilton@First-Church.org](mailto:JHamilton@First-Church.org) to volunteer.



## June Calendar

### Sunday June 1

9am Worship - Parish Hall  
10am Warm-up Rehearsal - Choir Room  
11am Worship - Sanctuary  
12pm Fellowship Hour - Parish Hall

### Monday June 2

6:30pm Church Vitality Meeting - Dan's Office  
7pm New Members Class - Parlor

### Tuesday June 3

12pm Care Ministry - Large Conference Room  
2pm Worship Planning - Small Conference Room  
6:30pm Christian Education Committee Meeting - Room D  
7pm Justice and Mercy - Large Conference Room

### Wednesday June 4

11am Book Study - Parlor

### Thursday June 5

5pm First Church Golf League – Gahanna  
Municipal Golf  
Course at the nine-hole

### Saturday June 7

9am Companions on a Journey - Parlor

### Sunday June 8 - Pentecost

All day Youth Mission Trip  
9am Worship - Parish Hall  
10am Warm-up Rehearsal - Choir Room  
11am Worship - Sanctuary  
12pm Fellowship Hour - Parish Hall

### Monday June 9

All day Youth Mission Trip  
9am Good Samaritan Day - Large Conference Room  
Room

### Tuesday June 10

All day Youth Mission Trip  
12pm Care Ministry - Large Conference Room  
2pm Worship Planning - Small Conference Room  
7pm Executive Committee - Small Conference Room  
Room

### Wednesday June 11

All day Youth Mission Trip  
9:30am Staff Meeting - Large Conference Room

### Thursday June 12

All day Youth Mission Trip  
5pm First Church Golf League - Gahanna  
Municipal Golf  
Course at the nine-hole  
7pm Gloucester Committee Meeting - Parlor

### Friday June 13

All day Youth Mission Trip

### Saturday June 14

All day Youth Mission Trip  
10am First Church Quilters - Lg Conference Room

### Sunday June 15

9am Worship - Parish Hall  
10am Warm-up Rehearsal - Choir Room  
11am Worship - Sanctuary  
12pm Fellowship Hour - Parish Hall

### Monday June 16

11am Spiritual Direction - Small Conference Room

### Tuesday June 17

12pm Care Ministry - Large Conference Room  
2pm Worship Planning - Small Conference Room  
6:30pm Budget & Finance Meeting - Large Conference Room  
7pm Church Council - Large Conference Room

### Wednesday June 18

11am Book Study - Parlor

### Thursday June 19

10am We Believe Ohio - Large Conference Room  
5pm First Church Golf League - Gahanna  
Municipal Golf

Course at the nine-hole

### Saturday June 21

8:30am House & Grounds - Small Conference Room  
Room

### Sunday June 22

All day Congregational Meeting  
9am Worship - Parish Hall  
10am Congregational Meeting - Sanctuary  
11am Worship - Sanctuary  
12pm Fellowship Hour - Parish Hall

### Monday June 23

7pm Budget & Finance Committee - Large Conference Room

### Tuesday June 24

12pm Care Ministry - Large Conference Room  
2pm Worship Planning - Small Conference Room

### Wednesday June 25

9:30am Staff Meeting - Large Conference Room  
1pm Spiritual Direction - Jackie Dean - Small Conference Room

### Thursday June 26

5pm First Church Golf League - Gahanna  
Municipal Golf  
Course at the nine-hole

### Saturday June 28

12:30pm & 1:30pm Faith Mission Meals - Served at Men's Shelter on Naughten

### Sunday June 29

9am Worship - Parish Hall  
11am Worship - Sanctuary  
12pm Fellowship Hour - Parish Hall

### Monday June 30

All day Bread Celebration  
7pm Deacon Meeting - Large Conference Room

### Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the First Church Newsletter are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the issue in which you would like them to appear. Newsletters are published on the First of each month.



## FIRST CHURCH JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Members:** The family of Wanda Ray upon her death; Janet Newcity upon the death of her mother; Samantha Myers; Ray Pendell; Ann McIsaac; Val Stichter; Wib Smith; Gleva Stephens; Amos White; Jane Weddle; and also families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

**Friends & Family:** Amy Longar; Bill Knapp; Brian Cornell; Jon Shecket; Denny Griffith; Paul Bradley; Richard Davis; Floyd Starr; Kufel family; Alex Palmer’s best friend Daniel; Ellen Lebson, friend of Duan Cannon; Christopher Smith, nephew of Sue Salak; Roger Coffman, friend of John Matchett; and all those suffering from the effects of mental illness.

## FIRST CHURCH LEADERSHIP

<i>Senior Minister</i>	Timothy C. Ahrens, M. Div.
<i>Designated Associate Minister</i>	Daniel J. Clark, M.A.
<i>Minister of Music</i>	Kevin Jones, M.M.
<i>Director of Christian Education</i>	Mark S. Williams, M. Ed.
<i>Commissioned Minister for Social Justice</i>	Tom Brownfield
<i>Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction</i>	Jacquelyn Dean
<i>Nursery Staff</i>	Rosemary Pawandiwa-Priore, Evin Wimberly, Sara Kapp, Simone Ellerson
<i>Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus</i>	G. Dene Barnard

## DIACONATE

<i>Senior Deacon</i>	Christine Farquhar
<i>Deacons</i>	Kathryn Bamberger, G. Dene Barnard, Craig Clay, Sue Cook, Jacquelyn Dean, Anne Hudson, Tom Kiesel, Paul Leidheiser, Mary Lightbody John Matchett, Jonathan Miller, Matt Myers, Sue Salak, Lynn Wallich





FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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**CHURCH STAFF**

<i>Business Manager</i>	Sharon Leidheiser
<i>Program Manager</i>	Martha Worth
<i>Building Manager</i>	Thomas R. Luff
<i>Office Manager</i>	Jaclyn Hamilton
<i>Custodians</i>	William Lee, Mark Freeman
<i>Wedding Coordinators</i>	Janet Axt, Fran Panek, Lisa Fravel-Dean, Tori Stucke

**CHURCH OFFICERS**

<i>Moderator</i>	Frank Cook
<i>Moderator-elect</i>	Elaine Warren
<i>Treasurer</i>	David Holt
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Joe Baszynski
<i>Secretary</i>	Melissa Prendergast
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	Deana Armstrong

**COMMISSIONERS**

<i>Administration</i>	Jim Griffin
<i>Administration-Elect</i>	Kent Shimeall
<i>Church Growth</i>	Catherine Cunningham
<i>Church Growth Elect</i>	Scott Jones
<i>Education</i>	Julia Myers
<i>Education-elect</i>	Todd Jacobson
<i>House &amp; Grounds</i>	Gary Leidheiser
<i>Justice &amp; Mercy</i>	Matt Allen
<i>Justice &amp; Mercy-elect</i>	John Deliman
<i>Music, Arts, Heritage</i>	Kevin Cubick
<i>Music, Arts, Heritage-elect</i>	Marti Baumer
<i>Church Vitality</i>	Alec Deitz
<i>Church Vitality-elect</i>	Melissa Kulwicki
<i>Sarah Reed</i>	Nominating Chair
<i>Christopher Washington</i>	Trustees
<i>Hugh Schultz</i>	Member-at-large
<i>Cameron Wade</i>	Youth-at-large
<i>Chris Farquar</i>	Senior Deacon
<i>John Matchett</i>	Deacon Council Rep

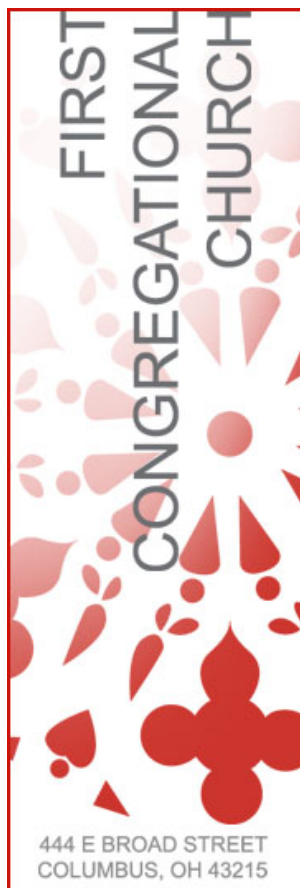


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
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**The First Congregational Church**  
United Church of Christ  
444 E. Broad St.  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3821

Please Deliver By: Friday, June 6th 2014  
TO:



**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, 9am - 3pm  
Closed Major Holidays

**"An Open & Affirming Faith Community"**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS**

Worship at 9am - Parish Hall  
Worship at 11am - Sanctuary

