
Church Wide Reading During Epiphany ...

Each year, the Good Book Club invites Christians to read one book of the Bible from start to finish. For those of us accustomed to hearing short passages of scripture from different sections of the Bible each Sunday in the lectionary, it can be a powerful experience to consider a book of the Bible in its entirety. In Epiphany 2020, the Good Book Club invites us to dive into the Gospel of John. Click the link for the schedule of readings at <https://www.goodbookclub.org/readings/>.

Give ...

At First Church, our financial resources enable us to “Enter to worship, depart to serve.” Give now by scanning the QR Code or by placing a check or cash into the offering basket. Sunday’s loose offerings and designated checks go to the mission of the day. Today, cash and designated checks go to **Church World Service Water Systems (CWS)**. CWS joins communities to help build and maintain a variety of water systems that draw upon rainwater or underground sources. Food security and nutrition improve when clean, stable water sources help diversify crops. Health improves because clean water means less disease. Displacement decreases as people no longer have to abandon their communities because of the lack of drinking water. Standards of living rise because people spend less time searching for water and more time on other activities, such as getting an education or earning a living. Thank you for your generosity.



The mission offering to **Faith Mission** on January 5 was **\$2125.55**.

“Just Mercy” ...

First Congregational Church’s Sunday evening book study on the best seller *Just Mercy* is later today at 6 p.m. A light dinner will be provided. Books are available in the church office for \$10.

Join us on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend for a special screening of the new film, *Just Mercy* with like-minded justice-seeking folks. We urge everyone to see this film in the theaters (opened January 10), and if the time works for you, see it with us at a special discounted rate of \$6.95 per person starting at 12:30 p.m. on January 18 at Cinemark Polaris (1071 Gemini Place).

There will be welcome and introductory remarks by Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., Executive Director, Ohio Council of Churches; Board member, Journey of Hope... From Violence to Healing; Advisory Board, Death Penalty Action; and immediate past board chairman, Ohioans to Stop Executions.

As a bonus in brief opening remarks you’ll hear about the opportunities to create a more just justice system in Ohio. Following the film there will be an opportunity to sign up with co-convening central Ohio justice organizations, sign petitions, and learn about opportunities to support the work. We hope you can join us.

Songs of Struggle: 1960-65 – Music and Images of the Civil Rights Movement

When civil rights activists faced the threat of snarling police dogs, jail cells, and sometimes even death, they often energized and emboldened themselves by singing simple freedom songs.

Saturday January 18, we’ll recall that era, 1960-65, when blacks and whites marched together, were beaten together, and sometimes killed together as they campaigned for simple human rights. “Songs of Struggle,” with local musicians Paisha Thomas and Bill Cohen, will rekindle the tunes and spirit of that era. Among the songs: Oh Freedom, Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around and We Shall Overcome. “Songs of Struggle” will be held at Maple Grove Methodist Church (7 W. Henderson Rd. with free parking in back via Aldrich Rd). It begins at 7 p.m. Admission is free but there will be a free-will offering.

Enter to Worship ...

January 12, 2019

Depart to Serve

Coming Events ...

Sunday, January 12

Worship, 9 a.m. (Parish Hall), 11 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Faith Formation, 10 a.m. (Classroom D)
Coffee Hour, 12 noon (Parish Hall)
Pray for Peace Service, 5 p.m. (Sanctuary)
Just Mercy Book Study, 6 p.m. (Parlor)
Youth Groups, 6 p.m. (Parish Hall)

Monday, January 13

Good Samaritan, 9 a.m. (Fanning Rm & Parlor)
Budget & Finance Mtg., 6 p.m. (Fanning Rm)
Christian Education Mtg., 6:30 p.m. (Mark Williams’ office)
Trustees Mtg., 7 p.m. (Fanning Rm)

Tuesday, January 14

Personnel Committee Mtg., 5:45 p.m. (Fanning Rm)
Music Committee Mtg., 6 p.m. (Parlor)
Executive Committee Mtg., 6 p.m. (Parish Family Rm)
Church Council Mtg., 7 p.m. (Fanning Rm)

Wednesday, January 15

Book Study, 10:30 a.m. (Parlor)
First Church Quilters, 1 p.m. (Parish Family Rm)

Friday, January 17

Youth Snow Tubing, 4 p.m. (Snow Trails)

Saturday, January 18

Just Mercy Movie Excursion, 12:30 p.m. (Cinemark Polaris 18 and XD)

Sunday, January 19

Worship, 9 a.m. (Parish Hall), 11 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Faith Formation, 10 a.m. (Classroom D)
Coffee Hour, 12 noon (Parish Hall)
Confirmation, 12:30 p.m. (Classroom D)
Choral Evensong, 4 p.m. (Sanctuary)
Just Mercy Book Study, 6 p.m. (Parlor)
Youth Groups, 6 p.m. (Parish Hall)

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Church Office closed)

Tuesday, January 21

Holy Lands Trip Mtg., 7 p.m. (Fanning Rm)

Wednesday, January 22

Gladden Park Mtg., 2 p.m. (Parish Family Rm)

Please note: The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on January 26 at 11 a.m. following a 10 a.m. worship service in the Church Sanctuary. There will be activities available for children during the Annual Meeting – we are pleased to share that Candace “The Theatre Lady” will lead a fun-filled activity for children of age 3 to the 5th grade during the Annual Meeting on January 26.

Make a Flag for Peace ...

Following each service today you are invited to Parish Hall to make a Peace Flag. You can write or draw messages of peace, prayer and scripture, a military person’s name or a prayer for Australia and Puerto Rico. No anti-political statements will be accepted. Flags and permanent markers will be available in the Parish Hall. The flags will be assembled in the shape of a peace sign on the front lawn of the church following the Pray for Peace Service.

First Church will hold a Pray for Peace Service in the Sanctuary at 5 p.m. today. This will be a time of unstructured prayer and meditation. We ask everyone attending to enter in silence. As a group, we will leave the Sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. and take the Peace Flags to the front lawn of the church. There, we will place the flags in the shape of a peace sign. We will then bless these messages of peace. This is a time when the church needs to come together and surround our children, youth and each other with an act of comfort and love. We highly encourage you bring your children and youth.

Formative Discussions for Sunday ...

Faith Formation 2020 began with the new series "What's Next?" with Mark Williams as Facilitator. Today, Formative Discussions for Adults welcome Dr. Chris Gelpi who will lead a discussion on the issues of this past week in Iran and Iraq and the actions of the United States government. The discussion will also focus on historical issues of the area. This is a time for participants to ask questions, vent their frustrations and listen to each other's concerns. All of this will be centered around how we as a people of faith are to respond and engage. The session will be in Room C of the Education Wing at 10 a.m.

"Holy Envy" ...

Rev. Tim's Wednesday Morning Book Study selection is *Holy Envy, Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. The book study meets the first and third Wednesday of the month and starts January 15 at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor. The book is available in the office for \$18 and all are welcome to join!

Gladden Food Pantry Collection ...

First Church will be collecting spaghetti sauce, preferably in plastic jars or cans. Soup is also a requested item in January. Collections continue through Sunday, January 26. Please put your donation in the designated bins for the pantry. Kris Brant will deliver the collected food to the Gladden Food Pantry on Monday, January 27.

Keep in Prayer

Pavan Peter; Wendy Reber; Chase Wagner; Marti Rideout; Greg Kellison; Zac Neff, friend of Melissa Kulwicki; Sara Smith Harris; Cynthia Coe, friend of Victor John; Charlie Buechler, friend of the Vogt family; Lauren Ward, friend and co-worker of Denise Vogt; Strick Strickland, nephew of Pat Patterson; Dirk Orr; Anne Morganstern; Brooke Chute, cousin of Amy Wagner; Chris Wright; Ron Cook; Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz; Amy Smith, sister of Sarah Lange; Arlene Reynolds; Andrew MacGregor; Jeanette MacGregor, mother of Andrew MacGregor; and those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including the family of Rev. Dr. Bill Casto on his death; Janet Kevan on the death of her husband, Richard Kevan; Jim Gallagher on the death of his sister, Nancy Macakanja; and the Vogt family on the death of their friend, June "Libby" Bova.

Keep in prayer Sarareh Bayegan and Rezvaneh Haghiri Ghazvini and all American Iranians, our troops abroad and at home, and the leaders of our world.

Laundry Love ...

The next Laundry Love is Tuesday, January 28 and your participation would be greatly appreciated. Your time and donations to Laundry Love helps to bring dignity to others.

Get Involved ...

First Church has two Nursery positions open and we are ready to hire. If you are interested or have a referral please contact Mark Williams for more info at mwilliams@first-church.org

Register for this and or other oportunties.

Program _____
Name _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Notes _____

2020 Nominations Slate

Officers

Moderator: Lynn Wallich
Moderator Elect: Alec Deitz
Treasurer: Dennis Secor
Treasurer Elect: Pending
Secretary: Nicole Moss
Secretary Elect: Peter Murray

Commissioners

Administration Commissioner: Andy Bensing
Administration Commissioner Elect: Pending
Church Growth Commissioner: Cheryl Hoskinson
Church Growth Commissioner Elect: Elisha Hardekopf
Church Vitality Commissioner: Fran Panek
Church Vitality Commissioner Elect: Lee Kiesel
Education Commissioner: Stacie Sholl
Education Commissioner Elect: Margaret Graham
House and Grounds Commissioner: Victor John
House and Grounds Commissioner Elect: Eric Klintworth
Justice and Mercy Commissioner: Kaye Martin
Justice and Mercy Commissioner Elect: Lauren Muscott
Music, Arts and Heritage Commissioner: David Mailer
Music, Arts and Heritage Commissioner Elect: Pending

At-Large Members

Youth at Large: Mia Provenzano
Member at Large: Melissa Prendergast

Nominating Chair: Joe Baszynski

Deacons: Greg Halbe, Marty Worth, James Lowe, Scott Graham, Antoinette Beynen

Trustees: Sue Cook, Jim Kyle, Elaine Warren

Church Council Presents Motion ...

At the upcoming Annual Congregational Meeting at 11 a.m. on January 26 in the Church Sanctuary, the Church Council is presenting a motion which overwhelmingly passed at our December 15 meeting. The purpose of the following motion is to begin essential preparatory work to find out the viability of doing a Capital Campaign. Please review this motion as well as attend an upcoming forum at either 10 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 19 where this motion will be discussed. These forums will be held in the Ralph Fanning Room. We will also review the 2020 church budget.

The motion reads as follows:

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio will commence the planning phase of a capital campaign to fund our most critical capital projects and enhance and strengthen our mission and ministry to children and youth. This planning phase will include assembling a leadership team, developing a timeline, and identifying leadership gifts to fund the campaign.

We will meet May 31, 2020 in a special congregational meeting to assess our success in identifying leadership gifts and vote on the campaign plan.
