

Enter to Worship ...

Depart to Serve

This Week at First Church

Sunday, March 1

9 a.m. — Worship (Parish Hall)
 10 a.m. — Faith Formation (Classroom D)
 11 a.m. — Worship (Sanctuary)
 12 noon — Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
 12:30 p.m. — Confirmation (Classroom D)
 4 p.m. — Concert (Sanctuary)
 5:30 p.m. — First Church Choir Pasta Supper and Silent Auction (Parish Hall)

Monday, March 2

12 noon — Care Ministry (Fanning Rm)
 6:30 p.m. — New Members Class (Fanning Rm)
 7 p.m. — Book Club (Parlor)

Tuesday, March 3

12:15 p.m. — First Tuesdays (Sanctuary and Parish Hall)
 7 p.m. — Justice & Mercy Mtg. (Fanning Rm)

Wednesday, March 4

10:30 a.m. — Book Study (Parlor)
 6 p.m. — Christian Education Mtg (Virtual)

Thursday, March 5

6 p.m. — Ringers Rehearsal (Classroom J)
 7:15 p.m. — First Church Choir Rehearsal (Parish Hall)

Saturday, March 7

8:30 a.m. — House and Grounds Mtg.(Fanning Rm)
 10:30 a.m. — Sacred Earth Mtg. (Parish Family Rm)

Save the Dates ...

Monday, **March 9** — BREAD Network Mtg.
 Tuesday, **March 31** — Campership Request Deadline
 Monday, **April 6** — Spring Retreat Registraion Deadline
 Thursday, **April 9** — Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service
 Friday, **April 10** — Good Friday Service
 Sunday, **April 12** — Easter
 Sunday, **April 26** — Pathway of Justice Dedication
 Tuesday, **May 12** — **BREAD Nehemiah Action**

The 2020 Book Club ...

The First Church Book Club will meet on **Monday, March 2** at 7 p.m. Members meet in the Parlor and provide refreshments. The selection for March is *The Pioneers* by David McCullough. April's book Selection is *The Dutch House* by Anne Patchett. All are welcome to join in the discussion!

Church Leadership

Church Staff

Senior Minister **Rev. Dr. Timothy Ahrens, D. Min.**
 Associate Minister **Rev. Emily Corzine, M. Div.**
 Minister of Music **Kevin Jones, M. M., M.S.E.**
 Christian Education Director **Mark S. Williams, M. Ed.**
 Office Administrator **Amy Wagner**
 Office Assistant **Pat Patterson**
 Building and Grounds Superintendent **Mark Dahnke**
 Building and Grounds Assistant **Darrell Cross**
 Wedding Coordinators **Amy Wagner, Janet Newcity, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani, Katie Wagner**
 Nursery Staff **Miranda Brooks, Norma Secor**

Diaconate

Senior Deacon **James Velo**
 Deacons **Carol Ernst-King, Shelly Gies, Sarah Giffen, Scott Graham, Greg Halbe, Lanier Holt, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, James Lowe, Dayna McCrary, Allison Lowery Palmer, Mark Sholl, Andrew Smith-Verhage, Al Waddell, Marty Worth**

Trustees and Council Leadership

Chairperson **Chris Farquhar**
 Trustees **Allen Baker, Brian Cave, Kevin Cubick, Sue Cook, Tom Hadley, Jim Kyle, John Martin, Elaine Warren**
 Moderator **Lynn Wallich**
 Treasurer **Dennis Secor**
 Secretary **Jim Griffin**

A Note from Victor John ...

I would like to thank all the volunteers who gave their time on Saturday. It was a success and we got a lot of work done. A few of the projects we worked on included:

- Boiler room trash and old equipment were carried out, sorted, and metal and plastic recycled.
- Water softener salt was carried to sub basement.
- Parish Hall windows were serviced so they can open.
- The Library had lots of organizing and sorting done.
- Outside window wells and windows were cleaned.
- We also got a great start on lighting replacement with new energy efficient LED lights in parish hall.

It was great working with all the volunteers.

Victor John and House and Grounds Commission

Christianity 101: A Lenten / Easter Journey Sermon Titles

Ash Wednesday, February 26 – services – noon and 7:30 p.m.
 Sermon title: “In the Beginning: Becoming Christian”

Lent I – March 1 – services – 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Communion Meditation title: “What is the Bible and How Do We Read It?”

Lent II – March 8 – services – 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
 Sermon Title: “What do Christians Believe about the Trinity?”

Lent III – March 15 – services – 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
 Sermon Title: “Go Ahead and Boast”

Lent IV – March 22 – services – 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
 Sermon Title: “Is Christianity a Religion of Love?”

Lent V – March 29 – services – 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
 Sermon Title: “Why Do We Need ‘the Church’ and How Do We Seek God’s Kingdom?”

Palm Sunday – April 5 – services – 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
 Sermon Title: “As Closely As You Can”

Maundy Thursday, April 9 – dinner and informal holy communion – Parish Hall, 6 p.m., silent processional to sanctuary and Tenebrae service – 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday – April 10 – service – 7:30 p.m.
 Sermon title: “On the Death of Jesus”

Easter Sunday – April 12 – 7 a.m. sunrise in Gladden Park, 8:45/11 a.m. service in sanctuary, Easter brunch in Parish Hall at 10 a.m.
 Sermon Title: “Jesus Christ’s Resurrection and Eternal Life”

Formative Discussions for Adults ...

Please join us for “Christianity 101” as we explore the many essential questions of our Christian Faith. The series will focus on Worship, Baptism, Communion, and how to read the Bible. This Lenten Series will be held in Room D and will be facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston and the Rev. Emily Corzine.

Keep in Prayer

Mark Williams; John Bigelow, brother-in-law of Virginia O'Neill; Nolan and Sissy Anderson, friends of Melva Fisher; Ann Richards, mother of Jonathan Miller; Paul Zimmerman, father of Doug Zimmerman; Taco, service dog for Mariner Taft; Brenda Childs, friend of Susan Sittler and Tim Ahrens; Pavan Peter; Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz; Amy Smith, sister of Sarah Lange; Arlene Reynolds; and Andrew MacGregor; and those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including Bill and Linda Hoffman, on the death of their son Keith Hoffman, friend of Steven Ferris; Melanie Brown, on the death of her sister of Kathy Erskine; Ron Jenkins, on the death of his sister-in-law Joan Jenkins; and Ashlesha Onawale and the Deep Griha Society community on the death of founder, Dr. Neela Onawale in Pune, India.

Lenten Season Begins ...

Lenten Calendars and sticker books for children are available at each entrance of worship and in our Faith Formation classes. There are several Lenten devotional books you may purchase at your local bookstore. Book titles are posted around the building.

Lenten Small Group for Parents with Young Children will be held during the 10 a.m. Faith Formation Time in Room C. Donice Wooster leads the group on how "Christianity 101" relates to your children. Child care will be provided.

You are also invited to join a Lenten Small Group. The theme is "Christianity 101" and groups will begin meeting the week of March 8. Please email the host if you would like to join one of the following groups:

Gahanna/Reynoldsburg/Westerville: Wednesdays at 7 p.m. - Elaine Warren (melainewarren232@gmail.com)

Church: Sundays at 6 p.m. - Melissa Kulwicki (mbkulwicki@gmail.com)

Upper Arlington/Grandview: Wednesdays at 7 p.m. - Marty Worth (marthaworth@att.net)

Virtual Meeting: Wednesdays at 7 p.m. - Rev. Corzine (ecorzine@first-church.org)

Westminster Thurber/Goodale Landing: Wednesdays beginning on March 4 at 10 a.m. in the Goodale 8th

Floor Community Room - Larry and Jan Miller (larjan64@att.net)

Worthington/Northwest Columbus: Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. - Nancy Loy (nancyjane83@gmail.com)

If you are interested in hosting or leading a group in your neighborhood, please email Amy Wagner (awagner@first-church.org)

Lenten Fish Fry Tour for 2020 ...

Join us when we meet at a designated church at 5:30 p.m. to gather for our fish fry meal. The first fish fry is **March 6** at the Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Rd. in New Albany. The remainder of fish fries on the tour include March 13 at St. Joan of Arc, 10700 Liberty Rd., Powell; March 20 at St. Stephen the Martyr, 4131 Clime Rd., Columbus; March 27 at St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corner Rd., Gahanna; and April 3 at Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Rd., Columbus. Look forward to some tasty fish and some engaging conversations!

Coffee Fellowship Groups Need Help!

Many of us enjoy fellowship every week with our fellow First Church members. We have approximately 10 groups that prepare treats and beverages throughout the year. Some of these groups have several open spots to welcome new folks into the fellowship preparation. It's easy work, and takes 1 to 1.5 hours up to 4 times a year. There are opportunities to set up, serve, or clean up. Training will be provided. This how you can share YOUR favorite cookie or cheese ball recipe!

If you have an interest in joining a fellowship group, email Fran Panek, Church Vitality Committee, at franpan2002@yahoo.com. We will be delighted to match you up with some wonderful folks so YOU can start hearing other members of the congregation say "Wow! This is delicious! Who made it?"

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 United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries - Puerto Rico Earthquake Recovery. The UCC Disaster Ministries has partnered with the Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR) to assist with continued recovery response following the December 2019 earthquake and aftershocks. This offering will go directly to support food, shelter and hygiene kits. The Disaster Ministries had issued an emergency appeal to congregations to continue to assist the people of the island with the goal of \$250,000. This is our church's ongoing effort to support the mission of the larger church. Please give generously.



The mission offering to **Deep Griha** on February 27 was **\$658.40**. Thank you for your generosity.

First Tuesdays ...

First Tuesdays concludes its 2019–20 season on Tuesday, March 3, at 12:15 p.m. with Baroque flutist Amy Guitry and harpsichordist Kevin Jones playing Bach's Sonata in B Minor, BWV 1030. Please join us!

2020 Spring Retreat

Back to Basics

April 17-19, 2019

Templed Hills Camp and Retreat Center, Bellville, Ohio

Cost: Adults: \$95 – Children & Youth: Free

Get Back to Basics at the 2020 Spring Retreat. Spring is a time of renewal, not just for nature, but for people too! Join church members and friends for rest, relaxation, play, and worship in the beauty of nature. Everyone, First Church members and friends, are welcome! For more information please contact Mark Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org.

Spring Flower Sale

The youth groups of First Church will be taking orders for their spring flower sale now through **April 6**. You may place your order with any youth member. The order form can be viewed online from the church website. There are many varieties of flowers and hanging baskets to choose from. The groups are also selling several varieties of tomatoes, vegetables and peppers. They come in small plants for your garden or in planters for your patio or deck. The flowers and vegetables are supplied by Strader's Greenhouse of Columbus. Payment is due at the time of ordering. The flowers will be available for pick up on May 9-10.

It's Time for Camp Registration!

There are camps for kindergarten children and first graders with a grandparent. There are week-long camps for children who have completed second grade and older, camps for teens and camps with themes. There are camps for adults and even one for families. All summer camp programs are at Templed Hills.

First Congregational Church offers scholarships for campers. Thanks to the generosity of longtime member Alma Keeler, we are able to offer a 50% camp scholarship on the registration fee (after the \$75 deposit) to any First Church child or youth who wants to go to camp. Forms are available in the church office. The deadline for scholarship is **March 31**.