

# Enter to Worship ...

# Depart to Serve

## This Week at First Church

### Sunday, March 8

9 a.m. — Worship (Parish Hall)  
10 a.m. — Faith Formation (Classroom D)  
11 a.m. — Worship (Sanctuary)  
12 noon — Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)  
6 p.m. — Youth Groups (Parish Hall)  
6 p.m. — Small Lenten Group (Parlor)

### Monday, March 9

9 a.m. — Good Samaritan (Sanctuary, Fanning Rm and Parlor)  
6:30 p.m. — BREAD Network Mtg. (Parish Hall)  
7 p.m. — Trustees Mtg. (Fanning Rm)

### Tuesday, March 10

7 p.m. — Executive Committee Mtg. (Parish Family Rm)

### Thursday, March 12

11 a.m. — Jerusalem Tours Lunch (Parish Family Rm)  
7 p.m. — Security Team Mtg. (Parish Family Rm)  
7:15 p.m. — First Church Choir Rehearsal (Parish Hall)

## Save the Dates ...

Tuesday, **March 31** — Campership Request Deadline  
Monday, **April 6** — Spring Retreat Registration 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**

## Youth Groups ...

Both Youth Groups will go bowling on Sunday, March 22 at 6 p.m. Parents are welcome to join us. See Mr. Mark for more details.

## Lenten Fish Fry Tour for 2020 ...

Join us at the next fish fry, **March 13**. We'll gather at 5:30 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc, 10700 Liberty Rd., Powell. The final three on the tour are 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. Enjoy tasty fish with engaging conversations!

## 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**

## Justice Ministry Network Meeting

**Monday, March 9, in Parish Hall**

Light supper at 6:30 pm ~ Meeting from 7-8:30



OPEN to anyone interested in learning how our church works for justice through involvement with the B.R.E.A.D. Organization.

## 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 at 10 a.m. 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.

### Keep in Prayer

Our senior minister, Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens as he faces two surgeries in the coming weeks and months; Christine Nichols, friend of Victor John; Richard Brant; Mike Bittle, brother-in-law of Melva Fisher; Paul Flocken; 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; Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz; Amy Smith, sister of Sarah Lange; Arlene Reynolds; and those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including Lisa Fravel Dean on the death of her cousin, Terra Leigh (Fravel) Mehenni; 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; Ashlesha Onawale and the Deep Griha Society community on the death of founder, Dr. Neela Onawale in Pune, India; and Mark Stansbery and family on the death of his father, The Rev. Dr. Leslie E. Stansbery.

### Lenten Season ...

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.

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

Lenten Small Groups are gathering and the theme is "Christianity 101." Please email the host if you would like to join one of the following groups:

East side: Wednesdays at 7 p.m. - Elaine Warren ([melainewarren232@gmail.com](mailto:melainewarren232@gmail.com))

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

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

Virtual Meeting: Wednesdays at 7 p.m. - Rev. Corzine ([ecorzine@first-church.org](mailto: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](mailto:larjan64@att.net))

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

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

### Gladden Food Pantry Collection ...

First Church will be collecting all types of canned food items. Please put your donations in the designated bins for the pantry in the Education Wing and outside of the office. Donations can be made through March 29.

### 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 Temples 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**.

### 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. Today, cash and designated checks go to **Back Bay Mission**, an outreach effort of the First Evangelical Church (later UCC) of Biloxi, Mississippi, whose members respond with compassion and service to the needs of the poor living in deplorable conditions along the Back Bay of Biloxi. Since 1922, Back Bay Mission has grown its services and ministries, keeping the impoverished and marginalized at the center of its concern. Please give generously.



The mission offering to **United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries - Puerto Rico Earthquake Recovery** on March 1 was **\$1092.40**. Thank you for your generosity.

### 2020 Spring Retreat — Back to Basics

April 17-19, 2020

Temples Hills Camp and Retreat Center, Bellville, Ohio

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

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](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org).

### Spring Flower Sale

The youth groups of First Church are 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 May 9-10.

### Health and Safety during Cold and Flu Season

We at First Church are committed to health and safety during cold and flu season. Your safety and the safety of others is important during this time of year. Here are a few suggestions to note:

- If you are feeling ill, stay home.
- Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds. Wash your hands.
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Find containers of hand sanitizer near the Sanctuary and Parish Hall.
- Passing the Peace: Instead of shaking hands during the Passing of the Peace, we suggest and invite you to hold your hands together and say "Namaste" to each other, acknowledging 'The Divine in me respectfully recognizes the Diving in you.'

Some online resources on Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) include:

- Columbus Public Health at <https://www.columbus.gov/publichealth>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>
- United Church of Christ at <https://www.ucc.org/>