
This Week at First Church

Sunday, March 15

All in-person meetings and events are canceled.

Monday, March 16

6 p.m. — Budget & Finance Mtg. (Virtual)

7 p.m. — Holy Lands Trip Mtg. (Virtual)

Tuesday, March 17

6 p.m. — Personnel Committee Mtg. (Virtual)

7 p.m. — Church Council Mtg. (Virtual)

Wednesday, March 18

2 p.m. — Gladden Park Stone Committee Mtg. (TBD)

Thursday, March 19

7 p.m. — Security Team Mtg. (TBD)

Save the Dates ...

Tuesday, **March 31** — Campership Request Deadline

Thursday, **April 9** — Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, **April 10** — Good Friday Service

Sunday, **April 12** — Easter

Sunday, **April 26** — Pathway of Justice Dedication

Tuesday, **May 12** — **BREAD Nehemiah Action**

Special Congregational Meeting ...

Sunday, **April 26** — Plan to attend a Special Congregational Meeting at 11 a.m., following one worship service at 10 a.m. A lunch in Parish Hall will be provided after the meeting. Lunch will be finished in time for the Pathway of Justice Dedication in the Gladden Social Justice Park at 1 p.m.

Thank you ...

Charlie Weaver and the staff of Architectural Gardens for laying down 32 yards of mulch around the church grounds!

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

Board of Trustees

Chairperson **Chris Farquhar**

Trustees **Allen Baker, Brian Cave, Sue Cook, Cindy**

Conn, Kevin Cubick, Tom Hadley, Jim Kyle, Elaine

Warren

Church Council Leadership

Moderator **Lynn Wallich**

Treasurer **Dennis Secor**

Secretary **Jim Griffin**

Simple Care ...

Pauline and Earl Fritz are looking for an individual who can provide simple care as they now face a time when they need assistance. They would like help 2 or 3 days a week for up to 3 hours a day, and are flexible as to hours and days. This is a paid position. If you are interested in providing simple care to an individual with needs please email Pat Patterson (ppatterson@first-church.org) or call the church office at 614-228-1741.

Enter to Worship ...

March 15, 2020

Depart to Serve

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 – 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,
Sermon Title: “Jesus Christ’s Resurrection and Eternal Life”

Formative Discussions for Adults ...

All gatherings canceled through the end of March.

Keep in Prayer

Our senior minister, Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens as he faces two surgeries in the coming weeks and months; Emma, great niece of Shelly Gies; Christine Nichols, friend of Victor John; Richard Brant; Mike Bittle, brother-in-law of Melva Fisher; Paul Flocken; 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 Melanie Brown, on the death of her sister of Kathy Erskine; Mark Stansbery and family on the death of his father, The Rev. Dr. Leslie E. Stansbery; and all those affected by illness, especially the Coronavirus, locally, nationally and globally.

To Our First Church Members and Friends ...

Staff and church leadership continue to monitor local, state, and federal guidelines regarding the Covid 19 virus. As of now, we will continue to hold regular Sunday worship, as well as Faith Formation classes. We will be taking every recommended action to sanitize commonly touched surfaces, as well as provide hand sanitizer at doors. We ask everyone to practice proper hand washing techniques, social distancing, and self quarantine should you or members of your household feel ill.

In-person worship services and non-essential meetings are canceled through the end of March. Please watch the church website and Facebook page for developing information. Virtual meetings via Zoom will be utilized.

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. You can find containers of hand sanitizer in various locations throughout the church

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/>

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 Temple 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 **Kaleidoscope Youth Center**, that works with young people in Central Ohio to create safe and empowering environments for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth through advocacy, education and support. Please give generously.



The mission offering to **Back Bay Mission** on March 8 was **\$580.18**. Thank you for your generosity.

If you are not in worship to contribute to the mission and ministry of First Church because of illness or travel, you can still give. It's as easy as one of our apps (EasyTithe or PayPal), or use the QR code above to give. You could also make recurring payments through your bank's Bill Pay. For more information, contact Pam Mantor at pmantor@first-church.org or Rev. Emily Corzine at ecorzine@first-church.org.

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.

Lenten Small Groups are now gathering at the discretion of the conveners. Please check with the convener regarding your group:

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

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

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

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)

Spring Flower Sale

Youth groups of First Church are taking orders for their spring flower sale now through **April 6**. The order form can be viewed online from the church website, and you may place your order with any youth member. There are many varieties of flowers and hanging baskets to choose from, and several varieties of tomatoes, peppers and other vegetables. Payment is due at the time of ordering and the plants will be available for pick up May 9-10.

Youth Groups ...

All events canceled through the end of March. Watch Facebook and other posts for more information.

Sanctuary Flowers

There is an opportunity to dedicate the Sanctuary flowers for worship **next Sunday, March 22**. Please contact Amy Wagner at awagner@first-church.org or 614-228-1741 if you are interested.

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.
