



## **Step Forward in Hope – Stewardship 2016**

In one of his sermons, Former Pastor of Riverside Church in New York City Ernest Campbell said, “To be young is to sit under trees you did not plant. To be mature is to plant trees under which you will not sit. To be young is to dance to music you did not write and to be mature is to write music to which you will not dance. To be young is to benefit from a church you did not make, to be mature is to make a church from which you might not benefit.”



These powerful words speak to the importance of a life lived in faithful response to what God has given us. The Christian life is an offering of one’s self to God. Giving has always been a mark of Christian commitment and discipleship. The ways in which we, as believers, use God’s gifts of material goods, personal abilities, and time should reflect a faithful response to God’s self-giving in Jesus Christ and Christ’s call to minister to and share with others in the world.

Stewardship is how we live out our calling as followers of Christ. In our lives as stewards, the gifts we offer – time, talent and our financial resources – are holy gifts. They are symbols of love and signs of grace that are offered out of joy and devotion. These gifts are not dues to be paid or entrance fees to be offered. They are gifts of love. These gifts that we offer to God are symbols of our covenant of love with Jesus Christ, made in the response to our understanding of Christ’s great love, which was offered first for us.

For over 163 years, First Church has stood as a beacon of social justice in this community and in our nation. First Church continues the tradition of standing with those who are less fortunate and supporting those for whom the social system has failed.

The building, the cathedral where we worship each week, stands as a testimony to the vision that our church mothers and fathers had for a place of worship and justice. We cannot care for the building and pursue the mission and ministry in this place and in our neighborhood without your help. Your act of faithful giving throughout the year helps the church in very specific ways meet and advance the mission goals of this congregation.

We are positioned well to celebrate the vibrancy of a downtown, urban church in a growing and diverse neighborhood. We are positioned to live into what God imagines for us. We are encouraged by what will be a vision from the Long- Range Planning Committee that calls us in exciting new directions. We will begin more thoughtful conversations in the years ahead about what it means to live lives as God’s stewards year-round and respond out of gratitude to God.

In the coming weeks, you will receive a letter from the Stewardship Team encouraging you in your walk of faith and asking you to faithfully discern what you and/or you family can offer to the church this year to fund the ministry and mission of the First Church. We ask that you consider how God is moving in your life and encourage you to live into the future of this congregation and God’s mission in this place and time. We invite you come and celebrate All Saints’ Day and Commitment Sunday on November 1, 2016.



Twentieth century theologian Karl Barth wrote, “Hope takes place in the act of taking the next step.” We are called to Step Forward in Hope for the exciting mission and ministry of First Congregational Church in the years to come.

With Gratitude,  
2016 Stewardship Team

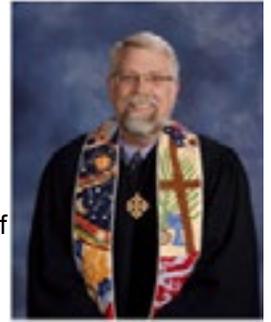
### **In this issue...**

<b>Education News</b>	<b>page 4</b>
<b>Music News</b>	<b>page 7</b>
<b>Church News</b>	<b>page 11</b>
<b>Joys and Concerns</b>	<b>page 12</b>

## Giving Thanks

By Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

As I return to church from my sabbatical, my heart is filled with gratitude. I am thankful to God and to all of you for a wonderful three months. I especially thank our moderator Elaine Warren, the Church Council, and our staff under the leadership of Reverend Emily Corzine, for your excellent leadership throughout the summer. Thanks to the Reverend Dr. Nancy Livingston and the Reverend Dr. Marti Baumer for your interim leadership this summer. Thanks to all who preached in the pulpit of First Church this summer. And of course, thanks to all our lay leaders and volunteers who stepped forward in faith to guide the church this summer.



I return rested and ready for the years ahead! I spent the summer reading, writing, resting, praying, thinking and enjoying my family – especially our newest member Benton Myles Ahrens, born June 25, 2015. He is such a beautiful baby boy. He is blessed with two great parents. I truly enjoyed all the time I had with my wife Susan Sitler. We especially loved having time alone in early July on the beaches of North Carolina and evenings at Huntington Park watching our Columbus Clippers win the International League title this summer! I also loved long walks with my dogs Dug and Charlie. Except for the squirrels pestering the dogs and setting them in motion, those long walks were daily highlights in the summer of 2015.

Progress on my books on Washington Gladden and Bill Willis has been slow. But I'm hopeful that the children's book on Bill Willis and the longer book on Gladden and social justice will come together and be published somewhere down the road. One of my summer highlights was visiting Gladden's birthplace, his early childhood home, and the village in New York where he grew up.

I am excited to jump into the work at hand. I am eager to see all of you again. I am honored to serve as your pastor and anticipate great years ahead as we step into our 20/20 vision plan. As the church in the heart of the city with the city in our heart, let us serve Jesus Christ with love and devotion. God needs us to be strong as we grow in faith, become stronger disciples of Christ, and serve the city of Columbus.

## Upcoming Preaching Schedule



### October 4 – Legacy Sunday and World Communion Sunday

Rev. Ahrens – Communion Meditation: “The Precious Cornerstone”

Texts: Genesis 28:1-18, I Peter 2:1-10; John 10:22-29

### October 11 – Rev. Ahrens Sermon: “What is Required of You?”

Texts: Mark 10:17-31

### October 18 – Rev. Corzine Sermon: “Who Do You Think You Are?”

Texts: Job 38:1-7, (34-41) and Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c, Isaiah 53:4-12 and Psalm 91:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45

### October 25 – Rev. Ahrens Sermon: “Count it ALL Joy!” (*Jeremiah 31*)

Texts: Jeremiah 31:7-9; Mark 10:46-52

### November 1 – All Saints Day and Stewardship Sunday – (Clocks “fall back” one hour)

Rev. Ahrens Communion Meditation: “Generous Resurrection”

Texts: Revelation 21:1-6a, John 11:32-44

# The Outline for the Hebrew Scripture Study for Year One of Two Year Study

It has been 12 years since Rev. Dr. Ahrens offered his two year study of the Bible. This will be a new, interfaith experience of the class as well. Rabbi Dr. Misha Zinkow, Sr. Rabbi at Temple Israel at 5419 East Broad, will join our pastor as a co-teacher of the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures. Members of TI and the Jewish Community will join us as well. Rabbi Zinkow has preached in our pulpit and has served his congregation for eleven years. He is a magnificent teacher and a long time friend of Tim.

This is a survey course. We cannot dig into every passage of scripture in only two years. In a fast-paced and interactive class room setting, we will look at the history, the land, the context and the sweep of scripture. The prophets and teachers of the Hebrew faith will come alive for 90 minutes every Monday night. You will have time each week to build relationships with one another and our new friends from the Jewish community. The class will be taught in three blocks of five sessions, with the first session running October 19 through November 16. The second session will begin on January 4, taking the King Holiday off and ending February 8, and the third session will begin March 28 and run through April 25th. The location will be First Church – most likely in Parish Hall. However, we are open to moving one five week session to Temple Israel of the Jewish Community Center.

You may have heard as well that your co-teachers will lead a trip to Israel/Palestine in early June 2017. Save for this trip and join in 18 months. Details will be forthcoming.

## **First Session** Introduction, Primeval History, Patriarchal History and the Exodus

October 19: Introduction – Getting to know the land, the people, the geography and the periods of history and how we read the Bible.

October 26: Primeval History – Genesis 1-12 – The Creation Epics, The Fall, Genesis 3, Cain and Abel, The Flood and the Tower of Babel

November 2: Introduction to Patriarchal History – Genesis 12-50 – this includes Customs and Practices, Abraham and Joseph

*November 9: The Exodus – Part I - Exodus 1-14 – Bondage in Egypt, the Exodus, Practices of Passover, (Exodus 15-19, 32-34) Covenant Treaties*

November 16: The Exodus – Part II- Exodus 15-40 and introduction to Leviticus and Deuteronomy – The Laws and Sacrifice; Exodus Law Codes

## **Second Session** From Wilderness to Conquest, The Early Monarchy, The Divided Kingdom and the Rise of Prophecy and Prophets of the Eighth Century

January 4: From the Wilderness to the Conquest – Numbers, Joshua, Judges – This includes Joshua's farewell address and a look at Pagan Religion in Canaan.

January 11: The Early Monarchy - I and II Samuel – We will look at Samuel, Saul and David

*January 18: no class to honor The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Holiday*

January 25: The Divided Kingdom and the Rise of Prophecy - I and II Kings – We will look at the rise and split in the kingdoms and the arrival of Elijah and Elisha

February 1: Eighth Century Prophets – Part I – Amos, Hosea – What is a prophet? How do they speak and what messages do they bring? We will look at some of the early prophets.

February 8: Eighth Century Prophets – Part II - I Isaiah, Micah – Continuing the theme, the prophets continue to hold sway in our conversation

## **Third Session**

March 28: Prophets of the Fall of Judah and the Exile – Jeremiah, Second Isaiah, the Psalms of the Suffering Servant and Ezekiel. How do people hold together in Exile? What do the prophets and the psalmist sing and say in such times as these?

April 4: Post-exilic Literature – Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jonah, Ruth – We meet the Persians and those who led the way out of exile and into hope.

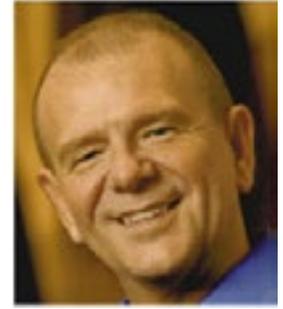
April 11: Wisdom Literature and the Psalms - Proverbs, Job and MORE Psalms – We cannot go deep on these deep and provocative wisdom writers. We will touch on their powerful witness and presence.

April 18: Daniel, Apocalyptic Literature, and the Intertestamental times – Daniel and all the other Books of Hebrew Scripture. We come to a close with a 120 minute class!

April 25: Celebrate a Seder to End the first year together

# Education

By Mark S. Williams, Christian Education Director (mwilliams@first-church.org)



## Adult Education in October

In the midst of these radical shifts in our society and within Christianity itself, it is clearly time to revisit the question “What is the role of the Church?”

What is the Church’s role in the lives of individuals and families who no longer turn to it as the center of their social and family structure? What is the Church’s role in a world that increasingly sees it as irrelevant or even antithetical to human progress? What is the Church’s role in the lives of the people who continue to return to it as a source of strength, inspiration, solace and connection with God? What is the Church’s role in the lives of the people who have never walked through one of our doors and those who have sworn they never will again?

Our generation’s answer to these questions will have a reverberating impact on the course of human history. Will the Church “die”? What about resurrection? Is there a clear line between the two or are they both happening simultaneously before our eyes?

This curriculum bundle features several of our generation’s wisest souls reflecting on these issues and the larger question of “What is the role of the Church?” Our prayer is that it sparks rich, rewarding and fruitful discussion and reflection for your small group and enables you to move through this time of rapid transition with love and with grace

This is a fascinating time to be alive. Let us give God thanks for the Church that was, the Church that is, and the Church that is becoming.

### Possible Session Titles and Films

- WHAT IS THE CHURCH? // Walter Brueggemann “Collision Course” video
- A CALL TO JUSTICE // Hannah Terry “Missional Imagination” video
- A CALL TO LOVE // Richard Rohr “Two or Three Gathered” video
- A CALL TO A KINGDOM WORLDVIEW // NT Wright “Long-Term Restoration Project” video
- A CALL TO BE THE BODY OF CHRIST// Malcolm Guite “Flesh & Blood” video
- WHAT IS THE CHURCH BECOMING? // Rachel Held Evans “Creating Something New” and Brian Zahnd “Come and Die” videos

Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston and Mark S. Williams will be leading this 4-week session.

**Understanding First Church Liturgical Banners** will be led by banner artist and First Church member Deb Anderson. Deb will discuss the background and liturgical meanings of the beautiful banners she has created that adds to our worship every Sunday.

## Doing Justice – A Campaign to Fight Human Trafficking

By Pamela Kallner

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that is one of the fastest-growing criminal activities in the world. According to the U.S. State Department, it is estimated that more than 20 million adults and children around the world, including in the United States, are victims of modern slavery. The US State Department’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons uses the terms “modern slavery,” “human trafficking,” and “trafficking in persons” as umbrella terms for this crime, which involves the exploitation of someone for the purposes of compelled labor or a commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking. The Ohio Human Trafficking Commission cited 13-year-olds as the most common age in Ohio for youth to become victims of child sex trafficking.

# Education

## Doing Justice – A Campaign to Fight Human Trafficking (Continued)

Following the church-wide theme of “Do Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly with God,” the Christian Education Commission in partnership with the Justice and Mercy Commission will begin a campaign in November to help fight human trafficking. This campaign will be a three-tiered approach that includes Education, A Plan of Action, and Implementation.

Christian Education will launch the campaign in early November with a series of three Adult Education classes that will provide background information regarding human trafficking. Directors of local programs will share information about their centers, share how they help victims, and identify opportunities available for involvement in the fight to end human trafficking.

Through the partnership of the two First Church Commissions, a Plan of Action and Implementation will be developed culminating in our participation in a city-wide event in the spring, the S.O.A.P. Initiative (Saving Our Adolescents from Prostitution, [www.traffickfree.com](http://www.traffickfree.com)) This initiative was started by Theresa L. Flores the author of *The Slave Across the Street: The True Story of How an American Teen Survived the World of Human Trafficking*. Copies will be available in the Adult Library and you may purchase a copy in the church office.

This education and advocacy campaign is an opportunity for First Church to continue our eagerness to educate ourselves on timely issues, to get involved, and to Do Justice! Watch for more information regarding The Campaign to Fight Human Trafficking.

## Change Lives with a First Step



It's easy enough to hand out food so that no one will go hungry – but that won't solve anyone's hunger for good. That's why our congregation supports Church World Service through the **CROP Hunger Walk**.

By walking, we're not only helping people throughout the world have enough to eat in the short term, we're also helping this community solve chronic hunger through education and community development programs.

Our congregation will join others on October 11 for our community's CROP Hunger Walk. Join us by sponsoring a walker at [crophungerwalk.org](http://crophungerwalk.org) and by walking with us. Some of the proceeds will fight hunger here in our

community, while we also support Church World Service work around the globe. Walk with us because we're helping needy communities eat today and for a lifetime.

CROP Hunger Walks also play a role in the U.S. helping communities ravaged by floods and tornadoes to recover. Join the many friends and members of First Church on October 11 as they walk or donate! Sign up on the “Get Involved” bulletin board outside the church office.

## “And the Children will lead them....”

The children and youth of First Congregational Church invite you to join them in a year-long mission project called “Laundry Love.” “Laundry Love” is an initiative in partnership with individuals, groups and local Laundromats throughout the US. The initiative helps to wash the clothes and bedding of individuals and/or families living in poverty. From the infant to the aged, and across a broad spectrum of ethnicity, culture and personal story, Laundry Love seeks to nurture the well being of each person through intentional networking and friendship.

The Children and Youth will be collecting quarters and donations of laundry detergent and dryer sheets from the congregation. We would love for members and friends to join us the last Tuesday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Wash Land Laundromat, 1469 West Broad Street in West Franklinton to serve those in need. Justice and Mercy Commission, Good Samaritan Fund and The Gladden House are also partnering with this important mission. This is the first step in connecting with the West Franklinton community as the youth prepare to serve the area on the 2016 Mission Trip. So, start saving your quarters and donate to this worthy cause.



[laundrylove.org](http://laundrylove.org)  
f laundrylove @laundrylove

# Education

## Children's Sabbath Observed October 18

Our congregation will observe Children's Sabbath at both the 9 and 11 a.m. services on October 18. During the 11 a.m. service, the Treble Choir and the church school children will present a musical sermon, "Francis: The Poor Little Man of God."

It is in worship that we praise God, who has blessed us with children and charged us with their care. It is in worship that we hear again the prophets and their warnings against injustice and their call to justice. It is in worship that we renew our commitment to follow Jesus, who said to welcome the children because in doing so, we welcome him and the one who sent him.

As we go forth from worship in the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to praise God with our work to nurture and protect all children.

## Plan to Donate a Basket

The church-wide Cabaret is November 15 at 6 p.m. The youth will be auctioning themed baskets during the evening event. Please consider donating a themed basket from your committee or family. Here are some ideas; an Italian Dinner Basket, OSU Basket, Gardening Basket, Blue Jacket Basket, Chocolate Lover's Basket, Kitchen Tools Basket, Children's Summer Fun Basket, Music Lovers Basket, Family Emergency Weather Basket, Crew Basket, Children's Books Basket, Snack-Attack Basket and Cookout Basket. We know there are many more great ideas out there for a gift basket. Be creative and join the fun! We hope that all baskets will have a value around \$50. We would like to display all the baskets during Fellowship Hour on November 15. Please contact Mark Williams ([mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org)) if you choose a theme and are willing to donate.



## Youth Groups Kicks-off Activities

The Middle and High School Youth groups kicked-off the year with a picnic on the West Lot on Sunday, September 20. Over 50 participated in the event. Here are some pictures from the picnic.

## Boo-at-the-Zoo

The Middle and High School Youth Groups will be attending the Boo-at-the Zoo event at the Columbus Zoo on October 18th. Details of the time of departure and tickets will be posted throughout the church and on the youth FaceBook pages. For more details, see Mark S. ([mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org))



## Confirmation Class 2016 Begins October 18 from 12:30-2 p.m.

By Rev. Tim Ahrens

Confirmation 2016 begins Sunday, October 18 at 12:30 p.m. in the Education Wing Room D. It is not too late to sign up for this class as we explore our faith, learn the church's history, meet people of other faiths, and spend time growing in relationship to God and one another. Each confirmand will have an adult mentor who walks through the process with them. They will learn the Bible, church history, how our denomination works, and how God, and Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit interact with each of them and as our Triune God. If you have an eighth or ninth grade teen – child or grandchild – who is not yet signed up, please be in touch with me. Neighbors can come too! My contact is: [tahrens@first-church.org](mailto:tahrens@first-church.org) or 614-228-1741, ext. 13.

**A Huge Thank You** to all the volunteers who helped prepare the Education Wing and who continue to volunteer throughout the year for this important ministry. From cleaning tables and chairs, painting doors, installing carpet, preparing bulletin boards, preparing the curriculum books, hole-punching, cutting crafts, sorting books, labeling crayons and hanging decorations – thank you! Please walk through the Education Wing on the 2nd floor and see the many labors of love for our children as they learn about their faith. It is truly a warm and inviting space. We look forward to painting the doors on the first floor soon and we are always looking for volunteers to help us. Contact Mark Williams if you can help: [mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org).

# From the Minister of Music

By Kevin Jones, Minister of Music

(kjones@first-church.org)



By October, the church is nearing the end of the liturgical year. One of the most important dates for the Reformed church is, of course, the Reformation, traditionally attributed to October 31 (All Hallow's Eve) when Martin Luther nailed his famous 95 Theses to the door at the Castle Church, Wittenberg (1517). Most reform churches will celebrate this historic and defining event in the life of Christianity the last Sunday in October – this year, October 25. Our celebration will include Luther's epic hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God", Vaughan Williams' setting of "The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune" and J.S. Bach's Prelude and Fugue in d minor, BWV 565.

## Choir News

### Rehearsal/Liturgical Appearance Schedules

**Treble Choir** – Rehearsals October 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 9 a.m.

Children's Musical Rehearsal Sat., October 17 at 10 a.m.

Sing in Worship October 18 at 11 a.m.

Sing in 9 am worship, October 25

**Teen Choir** – Rehearsals October 4, 11, and 25 at 9 a.m.

Sing in Worship October 4 at 11 a.m.

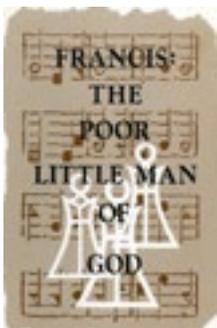
**First Church Ringers** – Rehearsals October 1, 8, 15, and 29 at 6:15 p.m.

Ring in Worship, October 4 at 11 a.m.

**First Church Choir** – Rehearsals October 1, 8, 15, and 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Choral Evensong on October 4 at 4 p.m.

Sing in 11 a.m. Worship October 4, 11, 18, and 25



## Children's Musical to be Presented on Sabbath Sunday

On Sunday, October 18, at the 11 a.m. service, the Treble Choir and young Sunday School children will present the musical, "Francis: The Poor Little Man of God" by Douglas and Sandra Wagner. The short musical will be presented as the sermon that morning. Set as a celebration of the life of St. Francis, it features music of creation with birds, monks, nuns and ending with the great hymn, "All creatures of our God and King." There will be a dress rehearsal on Saturday, October 17, from 10 a.m. to noon.

## First Church Ringers Have a New Home

The First Church Ringers began rehearsals in September in their new rehearsal location in the Education Wing, Room J. Thanks to the generosity of Mark S. Williams and the Christian Education Committee, the Ringers were able to move into a designated space with good lighting and temperature control. This new location also allows a more secure environment for the storage of the hand bells and the choir chimes.

Four of the five octaves of White Chapel bells were renovated this past summer for the first time in many years. They have returned to us with new felts, clappers and moving parts, as well as being factory polished inside and out. Our hope is to send the fifth octave for renovation next summer. The renovation work was paid for by a \$1,000 private gift and the Barnard Music Fund.

# Music News

## Concerts on the Horizon

Choral Evensongs begin on Sunday, October 4, at 4 p.m. The First Church Choir will sing Preces/Responses by Herbert Sumsion, the Collegium Regale Canticles by Herbert Howells and the favorite "I was glad" by C. Hubert H. Parry. The Rev. Nancy Livingston will be the officiant, and the choir will be accompanied by organist Nicholas Quardokus. The 45-minute service of prayer and meditation is the perfect close to the day. We look forward to seeing you there. This evensong is sung as part of the 163rd Anniversary of First Congregational Church.



The First Tuesdays series opens on Tuesday, October 6 at 12:15 with young virtuoso organist Nicholas Quardokus playing a program of J.S. Bach, Robert Schumann and Max Reger. Mr. Quardokus is currently an undergraduate student at The Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, studying organ with Janette Fishell. He also serves as Assistant Organist at Trinity Episcopal Church, Indianapolis. He is a recipient of the most prestigious undergraduate music scholarship at Indiana University, the Barbara and David Jacobs Scholarship. Before attending the Jacobs School, he studied organ in his native Michigan with Mark Steffens and Philip Peter, and piano with Lydie Regazzi. Nicholas has garnered top prizes in competitions around the country, most recently winning first-prize and hymn prize at the Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition in Wethersfield, Connecticut. In 2013, he took first-prize in the AGO Regional Competition for Young Organists in Region V. Solo performances have included recitals throughout the Midwest, as well as at Central Synagogue, New York City, the AGO Region V Convention in 2013, and a "Rising Star" recital at the AGO National Convention in Boston in June 2014. In addition, he was one of the featured organists in this year's Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina. Lunch is available in the Parish Hall at approximately 12:45 for a donation of \$5.



On Sunday, October 25 at 4 p.m., the Congregational Concerts series presents "Bach and Before" with the nationally acclaimed ensemble, Chatham Baroque. This program is performed with four musicians: violin, viola da gamba, portative organ and theorbo, and features Stylus Phantasticus music with the sonatas of Bach, Buxtehude, Biber, Schmelzer and Bertali. Fiery, virtuosic and improvisatory, this music is designed to impress and astonish. "One of Pittsburgh's greatest treasures" says the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Chatham Baroque continues to excite local, national, and international audiences with dazzling technique and lively interpretations of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century music played on instruments of the period. Founded in 1990, Chatham Baroque continues to thrive with a full calendar of concerts, tours, musical collaborations, and the CD releases. The trio of baroque violin, viola da gamba, theorbo and baroque guitar tours nationally and internationally, and has recorded ten critically acclaimed CDs.

The ensemble offers audiences the opportunity to hear baroque music that is accessible and thrillingly vivid, with a freshness akin to improvisational jazz. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette proclaims, "Pound for pound, you aren't going to find a better ensemble... than Chatham Baroque." Chatham Baroque is repeatedly listed among the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's "Top 50 Cultural Forces in Pittsburgh" and "Ten Best Classical Concerts."

The trio's Pittsburgh concert series in recent seasons has been substantially broadened by exciting collaborations with the Pittsburgh Symphony, Pittsburgh Opera, and Renaissance & Baroque, and Attack Theatre. The ensemble prides itself on its commitment to the Pittsburgh region and its ability to serve nationally and abroad as ambassadors for the city. In addition to local and touring concerts and recording, Chatham Baroque presents Peanut Butter & Jam Sessions for pre-schoolers and Music All Over the Place performances in various community venues. Chatham Baroque is Ensemble-in-Residence at WQED-FM and Calvary Episcopal Church.

Chatham Baroque has toured across the United States as well as in South America and Mexico, the Virgin Islands, and Canada. On the road, the ensemble consistently receives high praise. The Washington Post calls them "musically impeccable"; the Chicago Tribune, "a splendid period-instruments ensemble"; and the New York Times praises their "colorful virtuosity."



**CONCERTS  
AT FIRST CHURCH**

2015 2016  
First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
444 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
www.concertsatfirstchurch.org

**Choral Evensong**

Oct  
4 4pm

The First Church Choir sings Choral Evensong on October 4 at 4 pm  
Preces by Thomas Tomkins  
Canticles by Herbert Howells (*Collegium Regale*)  
"I was glad" by C. Hubert H. Parry



## Heir of the Highest Heaven CD

The First Church Choir's professionally produced CD of Christmas music, Heir of the Highest Heaven is once again available for sale in the Church Office at \$12 each. These make terrific Christmas gifts and are wonderful mementos of First Church. The signature piece of the recording is the commissioned carol from the 2013 Festival of Lessons and Carols, "Heir of the Highest Heaven" by composer Peter Niedmann. Using parts of Washington Gladden's poem "Immanuel," Niedmann wove a jaunty, exciting carol for us to hear. Other highlights of the album include "Once in royal David's city," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Adam lay ybounden," the evocative Lux Aurumque and many other favorites from last year's season of Advent and Christmas music. Rounding out the CD is Baroque organ music by J.S. Bach, Buxtehude and Johann Pachelbel played on the Beckerath organ. The recording engineer was Andrew MacGregor, who also edited, mixed and mastered the CD.



## Reflection on the Gloucester Pilgrimage

By Bill Lange



TRANSCENDENCE.....

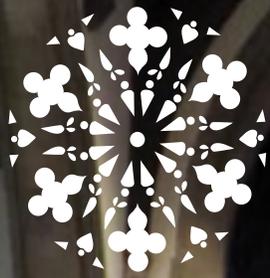
I started singing in church choirs 50 years ago. 32 years of this enriching journey has been spent in the First Church Choir! Never did I dream that I would one day be part of a choral tradition such as First Church. Much of this time has consisted of preparation, rehearsals and concerts. However, nothing prepared me for the privilege and exhilaration of singing in Gloucester Cathedral.

Gloucester Cathedral has been a place of worship for nearly 1,000 years. It is a place where humanity and the divine intersect. The choral liturgy is every bit as important as the spoken word and both are so interconnected that it's difficult to think of them as being separate entities.

Once I took my place in the Quire and sang my first note, I realized the divine was at work – it was purely transcendental. In that instant, the purpose of why I was on this pilgrimage and why I had chosen this path in my life became very clear! There's a saying, "He who sings prays twice." I truly felt the Divine was listening and answering prayers.

God is good, God is great, and I thank him for filling my life with blessings and guiding me to Gloucester.

**Save the Date** for November 1 at 4 p.m. as the First Church Choir and instrumental ensemble sings John Rutter's Requiem in honor of All Saints' Day. Thanks to all who have supported the 2015-2016 Concert Appeal this year. We are very grateful for your generous support. Thank you!



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Invites our Discovery District Neighbors  
and Loving Pets to a

# Pet Blessing



**All Pets are Welcome**

Saturday, October 3 at 11am

444 East Broad St on the West Lawn



# Church News

## Legacy Sunday: Invitation from the Trustees of First Congregational Church

The Trustees invite the congregation of our church to attend a free luncheon immediately after the 11:00 A.M service on Legacy Sunday, October 4. We invite members to celebrate this congregation and the foresight of our members over the decades. The generosity of our members who have endowed and support this church benefits us all and enables us to continue to do God's work in this world. The theme this year is "Caring for my Church". We celebrate not just the financial endowment of this church but the generosity of our members who have supported this church in a variety of ways. The bulletin will include a list of members who have made a commitment to First Church for decades, many of whom have been members for over 50 years.



## Home Communion Team Update

By Rev. Nancy Livingston



People who were in worship on September 6 witnessed the inauguration of our Home Communion Ministry here at First Church. We now have a team of Home Servers authorized, trained and willing to take Communion to people who are unable to come to worship. We are pleased to make real our conviction that the Lord's Table extends far and wide.

If your life situation means that you are unable to come to worship in the sanctuary, know that the Home Servers will come to you. All you need to do is call Amy Wagner in the church office (614-228-1741). A Home Server will be in touch with you to make arrangements.

This ministry is offered also to any person in the congregation who is temporarily home bound (recovering from a hospitalization, in rehabilitation, dealing with an illness), as well as people for whom staying close to home is an on-going reality.

If you know someone whom you believe would appreciate Home Communion, please call Amy Wagner at 614-228-1741 ext. 10 or speak to one of the Pastors.

## Fulfilling our Church Mission – Church Budgets for 2016 Due Saturday, October 17

By Sharon Leidheiser, Business Administrator

Calling all staff, commissioners, chairs and anyone else who helps compile our church budget. It's that time again, time to start figuring out what the church will need to budget for 2016. Many of the church committees need to meet and talk about their budgeting needs for the year 2016, so this is why we are informing everyone now of the deadline.

Many of you will want to know what you've spent in 2015 and where your budget is at this time. If you need reports for your current budget, please contact Sharon Leidheiser at 614-228-1741 ext. 11 or [Shleidheiser@first-church.org](mailto:Shleidheiser@first-church.org). If you have questions or concerns, please call and I can help. It's very important that we get your budget so we can determine what is needed to balance the budget for 2016. When submitting your budget, explanations as to why you have made increases are very helpful to the Budget & Finance Committee.

Budgets should be submitted to Sharon Leidheiser by email no later than Saturday, October 17.

All commissioners and staff are welcome to attend Budget and Finance Committee meetings generally held on the fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 26 at 7 p.m.

# Church News

## Draft of Long-Range Plan Goes to Council in October

By Steve Sterrett, Co-Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee

The Long-Range Planning Committee has met regularly since February and expects to present a draft of a long-range plan for the congregation to Church Council on October 20. After council's review and any further revisions, the plan is likely to be presented for adoption at the congregation's annual meeting in January 2016.

The draft plan is organized around six action words: worship, welcome, connect, engage, build, and communicate. The document affirms First Church's vitality and encourages the congregation "to build on our strengths and our church's identity in the community."

The draft plan identifies First Church's strengths as the experience of God through worship in an historic building with inspiring music, art, liturgy, and preaching; the commitment to justice and mercy; and a ministry of inclusion. To build on those strengths, however, the congregation must set clear goals, align programs and resources, and identify measures of success.

Church Council established the Long-Range Planning Committee last February and charged it with preparing a long-range plan to 2020. Dan Clark and Steve Sterrett are the committee's co-chairs.



**Women's Retreat** Saturday, November 7, 2015, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Anne Hudson's home - details to follow!

**To Our First Church Family:** Thank you for your calls, cards, comforting messages and other expressions of kindness during our difficult time of bereavement.

*Janice White and Family*

*Thank You*

## First Church Joys and Concerns

**Members:** Harry Guynn, on the death of his daughter, Susan; Lucille Kropp; Ann McIsaac; Grace Glaros; Keene Lebold; Bernie Martin; Van Barndt; Ray Pendell; Wib Smith; and for families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones.

**Friends and Family:** the family and friends of Cheri Mitchell; Jessie Davis, granddaughter of Lola Davis; Naspar Stevens, mother of Matt Stevens; Lisa Craig; Jonathan Robinson, friend of Thomas Santiago; Rebekah Hamber, granddaughter of Arlene Reynolds; Shirley Graf, sister of Lynn Wallich; and Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams.

**Throughout the World:** We pray for those who have and are fleeing their homes into an uncertain future; for those in authority to make wise, cooperative and compassionate decisions; and for change and a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Syria.

**In God's Hands: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle:** This month in the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray with and for the following people and churches:

- *Week of October 4:* Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- *Week of October 11:* Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal
- *Week of October 18:* India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
- *Week of October 25:* The Indian Ocean Islands: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Maldives

*If you have any prayer requests or joys to share, please contact the church office ([awagner@first-church.org](mailto:awagner@first-church.org) or 228-1741, ext. 10) or one of the ministers ([ecorzine@first-church.org](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org) or 228-1741, ext. 21 or [minister@first-church.org](mailto:minister@first-church.org) or 228-1741, ext. 13).*

## Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

*Given to the Remembrance Fund by Daniel Harkins in celebration of his father, Daniel D. Harkins*

*Given to the Remembrance Fund by David Holt in celebration of the life of Gunter Garbe*

*Given to the Concert Fund in celebration of the life of Amos White by Wendie and Catherine Willis, Mary Alice Kuhn, David Holt, Patricia Pohlman, and Dorothy Vish*

*Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Evelyn Danneberger by the Zimmerman Family, the Clere Family, Mary Kennedy, and Anonymous*

Have you included First Congregational Church in your estate plans?

Please let Rev. Ahrens or a Trustee know so we may thank you. If you need more information about the Church's endowments, please visit the Church website at [www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx](http://www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx).

**Discovery District Notes:** There is so much happening in the Discovery District. This is just a sample.

- Our brothers and sisters at Broad Street United Methodist Church are launching a new worship service, Circle 501, on Sunday October 4, at 5:01 p.m. Come explore your faith questions in a community that is open, accepting, and eager to serve the community. Learn more at [www.broadstreetumc.net/circle-501](http://www.broadstreetumc.net/circle-501) or at [www.facebook.com/circle501](http://www.facebook.com/circle501). We pray for them as they embark on this new avenue in ministry.
- Did you know there is a theater in the Topiary Garden? There is theatre in the Topiary Park. This Sunday, October 4 at 5:30 p.m., grab your picnic blanket, dinner, and check out a short preview of the Short North Stage's *A Little Night Music*.
- BalletMet begins its 2015-2016 season with Breaking Ballet. The season is dedicated in the memory of Cheri Mitchell, former executive director. With pieces ranging from the classical ballet set to Tchaikovsky, to new pieces from Artistic Director Edward Liang with music from Cyndi Lauper and even David Bowie! Check out more, here: <http://www.balletmet.org/breaking-ballet/>

### Important dates:

- **Sunday October 18th – The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon.** Start time is early. Come and cheer on runners and welcome thousands who will walk past our doors. Meet Emily at 7a.m. on the front steps. We are just blocks from the start. YOU CAN STILL GET TO CHURCH for 9 a.m. and 11a.m. services – use Long and Spring Streets.
- **Saturday and Sunday October 24-25th – Columbus Museum of Art's Grand Re-Opening.** Opening Ceremony is at 10 a.m. Come celebrate with our neighbor on their expansion and renovation. Thousands of people will walk past our doors and into the art museum. First Church will be open for Art Tours Saturday and Sunday. We offer free parking for museum visitors in the North and West Lots. We'll worship on Sunday October 25 at 9 and 11 a.m. We invite you to return for the concert at 4 p.m. There will be many things to do and see in and around the church. Hosts are needed for the Art Museum Opening weekend. If you are interested in helping welcome visitors to the neighborhood and to First Church, please contact the church office.

**Traffic Alert: Gay Street Will Be Closed on Saturday, October 3 for CCAD Family Weekend Events**



# Justice and Mercy

## Three Opportunities for Individual Service

By Dawn George

### 1. Tutor

Men and women are needed to assist third graders in reading. Tutor at Ohio Avenue Elementary School, located at 505 S. Ohio Avenue, every Wednesday from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Contact Burt Manchester by email at [burt@urban-connections.org](mailto:burt@urban-connections.org) to volunteer. First Church Members Nancy Evans has tutored for four years and is happy to discuss the program; Nancy's number is 235-6997.

### 2. Coach

Gladden Community House is registering boy and girls ages 6-18 for this 2015-16 Basketball Program. The season runs through February. Contact Dan Moehrman at 227-1608 to discuss coaching opportunities.

### 3. Deliver

One of the many services the Gladden Food Pantry provides is home deliveries to seniors and disabled residents. Every Friday, the staff and volunteers make approximately 50 home deliveries: 25 morning deliveries from 9 a.m. to noon, and 25 afternoon deliveries from noon until 3 p.m. Volunteers are asked to deliver one Friday a month. Contact Whitney Vosler at 227-1600 to volunteer.

## Another Reason for Buying Our Fair Trade Products

By the Sacred Earth Committee

Started in 2004, the UCC Coffee Project is a collaboration between Equal Exchange and the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries to invoke more Congregational churches in supporting small farmers around the world. For each pound of food purchased through the UCC Coffee Project, 15 cents per pound goes to the Justice and Witness Ministries Small Farmer Fund. That Fund amounted to \$7,309.32 in 2014 alone!

The Fund supports the Small Farm Project at the UCC Franklinton Center in Bricks, NC, an area where many people are in poor health, experience food insecurity, and have limited access to healthy foods.

## You helped fund it now come sit on it!

Sacred Earth invites members of First Congregational Church to the dedication of Dorothy Cromartie's bench at Weinland Park on Saturday, October 24 at 10:30 a.m. Join us as we honor Dorothy in a setting she loved and spend time together as a community in the great outdoors.

Parking will be available at the Weinland Park Elementary School at 211 E. 7th Avenue. Guests should enter the park through the Summit Street entrance. We look forward to honoring Dorothy in this very special way, and we thank the members of First Congregational Church in making this possible. If anyone would like a ride to the dedication, please call Pat Patterson at 614-313-9506 and we will try to arrange it.



# October Calendar of Church Events

## Thursday, October 1

6:15 p.m. – First Church Ringers Rehearsal – Education Wing Room J

7:30 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Parish Hall

## Saturday, October 3

11 a.m. – Pet Blessing – West Lawn

## Sunday, October 4 – Legacy Sunday

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion – Parish Hall

9 a.m. – Teen and Treble Choirs Rehearsal – Choir Room

10 a.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

10 a.m. – Christian Education – Ed Wing, Rooms C / D

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. – Legacy Sunday Luncheon – Parish Hall

4 p.m. – Choral Evensong – Sanctuary

## Tuesday, October 6

12:15 p.m. – First Tuesdays Concert – Sanctuary

12:45 p.m. – Lunch – Parish Hall

2:30 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

5:30 p.m. – Sacred Earth – Large Conference Room

6:30 pm – Christian Education Committee – Education Wing Room D

7p.m. – Justice and Mercy – Large Conference Room

## Wednesday, October 7

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Large Conference Room

11 a.m. – Book Study: “A God That Could Be Real” – Parlor

## Thursday, October 8

6:15 p.m. – First Church Ringers Rehearsal – Education Wing Room J

7:30 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Parish Hall

## Friday, October 9

7 p.m. – Confirmation Retreat

## Saturday, October 10

10 a.m. – First Church Quilters

## Sunday, October 11

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion – Parish Hall

9 a.m. – Teen and Treble Choirs Rehearsal – Choir Room

10 a.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

10 a.m. – Christian Education – Ed Wing, Rooms C / D

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

12:15 p.m. – Crop Walk

## Monday, October 12

9 a.m. – Good Samaritan – Parlor and Large Conference Room

7 p.m. – Trustees – Parlor

## Tuesday, October 13

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

7 p.m. – Executive Committee – Parish Family Room

## Thursday, October 15

6:15 p.m. – First Church Ringers Rehearsal – Education Wing Room J

7:30 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Parish Hall

## Saturday, October 16

8:30 a.m. – House and Grounds – Parish Family Room

10 a.m. – Rehearsal for Children’s Sabbath Musical – Sanctuary

## Sunday, October 18

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion – Parish Hall

9 a.m. – Teen and Treble Choirs Rehearsal – Choir Room

10 a.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

10 a.m. – Christian Education – Ed Wing, Rooms C / D

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

6 p.m. – Youth Group – Boo at the Zoo

## Monday, October 19

7 p.m. – Personnel – Parish Family Room

## Tuesday, October 20

1 p.m. – Deadline for Newsletter submissions

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

## Wednesday, October 21

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Large Conference Room

11 a.m. – Book Study: “A God That Could Be Real” – Parlor

## Thursday, October 22

6:15 p.m. – First Church Ringers Rehearsal – Education Wing Room J

7:30 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Parish Hall

## Saturday, October 24

9 a.m. – Faith Mission Meal Preparation – Kitchen

## Sunday, October 25

9 a.m. – Worship: Morning Prayer and Holy Communion – Parish Hall

9 a.m. – Teen and Treble Choirs Rehearsal – Choir Room

10 a.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

10 a.m. – Christian Education – Ed Wing, Rooms C / D

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

4 p.m. – Congregational Concert – Sanctuary

## Monday, October 26

7 p.m. – Deacons – Education Wing Room D

7 p.m. – Budget and Finance – Large Conference Room

## Tuesday, October 27

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room

6 p.m. – Laundry Love – Parish Family Room

## Thursday, October 29

6:15 p.m. – First Church Ringers Rehearsal – Education Wing Room J

7:30 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal – Parish Hall

## Member Birthdays in October

10/2 Lauren Glaros  
Peter Murray  
Craig Oyler  
10/3 Rachael Gardner  
10/4 Cathy Maupin  
Brittanie Stafford  
Charlie Weaver  
10/5 Jessica Catenacci  
Ed Koetz  
Aarav Peter  
Keith White  
10/6 Andrew Welsh-Huggins  
Tammy Wharton  
10/7 Carmen Axt  
Lisa Fravel-Dean  
10/8 Deana Armstrong  
John Carter  
Bert Cook  
10/9 Dawn George  
Pam Welsh-Huggins  
10/11 Mae Hubbard  
Ethan Murray  
Faith Washington  
10/12 Mary Day Fewlass  
Al Glover  
Barb Poppe  
Hugh Schultz  
10/14 Drew Wade  
Lael Weyenberg  
10/15 Kathleen Ferguson  
10/16 Jim Gieseke  
10/17 Dene Barnard  
Jackie Dean  
10/18 Gayle Henderson  
Carol Rodriguez  
10/19 Morgan McCrary  
10/20 Frank Hussey  
Lee Wetmore  
10/21 Reggie Cannon  
Gary Leidheiser  
10/22 Alan Miller  
Carter Rodriguez  
10/23 Betsy Hubbard  
10/24 Celeste Feather  
Sharon Walquist  
10/25 Murley Miller  
Alexander Palmer  
Michael Warrick  
10/26 Kathie Cole  
Heather Biggers  
Kelly Dodd  
Gail Johannes  
Barbara Mason  
10/27 Mary Ann Goetz  
Carl Miller  
Summer Petras

10/28 Eddie Anderson  
Greg Halbe  
Stephanie Koscher  
10/30 Geoff Dean  
Miriam Myers  
10/31 Martha Huey  
Nicholas Mitchell  
Carrie Wise

## Member Anniversaries in October

10/2 Barbara and Al Glover  
10/5 Barb Poppe and Bill Faith  
10/7 Kathryn Bamberger and Steve Brandehoff  
Lauren and Chris Glaros  
Valerie Conlin-Losinski and Dave Losinski  
10/9 Carie and Dave Ghose  
10/10 Lisa Fravel-Dean and McAshan Dean  
10/11 Schlelia and Rebalta Gray  
Jan and Richard Kevan  
Cori and Ben Rowley  
10/12 Melissa and Keith Kulwicki  
10/14 Pricilla and Dave Mondiek  
Jenny and Joe Provenzano  
10/18 Helen Ninos and Mike Underwood  
10/21 Kathy and Tom Brownfield  
10/23 Elaine and James Borling  
10/27 Christa and Eric Ewing

## Please let us know...

if you have a new address, telephone number or email address, or if we've missed your birthday or anniversary. We strive to keep our database as accurate as possible, but we need your input to keep us up-to-date.

Thank you!

*Amy Wagner, Office Manager (awagner@first-church.org)*

## October Fellowship Hour Schedule

October 4 Samuel  
October 11 Zechariah  
October 18 Acts  
October 25 Amos

## October Acolyte Schedule

October 4 Mia Provenzano and Matty Provenzano  
October 11 Chutney Anderson and Eddie Anderson  
October 18 Alyssa Batchelor and Courtney Batchelor  
October 25 Nick Boriin and Madeline Helmer

## October Offering Schedule

October 4 Building Endowment Fund  
October 11 Laundry of Love  
October 18 Coalition for the Homeless  
October 25 Good Samaritan

## **FIRST CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

Senior Minister	Timothy C. Ahrens, D. Min.
Associate Minister	Emily Krause Corzine, M. Div.
Minister of Music	Kevin Jones, M. M.
Director of Christian Education	Mark S. Williams, M. Ed.
Commissioned Minister for Social Justice	Tom Brownfield
Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction	Jacquelyn Dean
Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus	G. Dene Barnard
Treble Choir Director	Sandra Mathias, Ph.D.

## **DIACONATE**

Senior Deacon	Tom Kiesel
Deacons	Kathryn Bamberger, Sandy Bennett, Kris Brant, Valerie Conlin-Losinski, Sue Cook, Jacquelyn Dean, Alec Dietz, Dean Hafey, Anne Hudson, Paul Leidheiser, Mary Lightbody, Jonathan Miller, Hugh Schultz, Lynn Wallich

## **CHURCH STAFF**

Business Manager	Sharon Leidheiser
Program Manager	Martha Worth
Office Manager	Amy Wagner
Building Manager	Thomas Santiago
Custodian	William Lee, Jimy Sibrian, Onofre Franco-Chavez
Wedding Coordinators	Janet Axt, Tori Stucke, Margaret Cipriani
Nursery Staff	Evin Wimberly, Simone Ellerson, Natalie Barker, Taylre Arnold

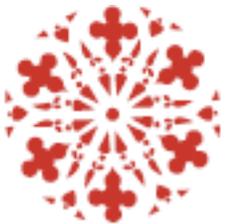
## **CHURCH OFFICERS**

Moderator	Elaine Warren
Moderator-Elect	Brian Cave
Treasurer	Joe Baszynski
Assistant Treasurer	Cindy Conn
Secretary	Deana Armstrong
Assistant Secretary	Nancy Braverman

## **COMMISSIONERS**

Administration	Kent Shimeall
Administration-Elect	Allison Palmer
Church Growth	Scott Jones
Church Growth-Elect	Kim Hopcraft
Education	Todd Jacobson
Education-Elect	Jennifer Okezie-Watts
House & Grounds	Gary Leidheiser
House & Ground-Elect	Charlie Weaver
Justice & Mercy	Alex Rodriguez
Justice & Mercy-Elect	Tracy Ross
Music, Arts, Heritage	Marti Baumer
Music, Arts, Heritage-Elect	Al Waddell
Church Vitality	Melissa Kulwicki
Church Vitality-Elect	Denise Vogt
Nominating Chair	Frank Cook
Trustees	Francille Firebaugh
Member-at-large	Matt Myers
Youth-at-large	Merry Roach
Deacon Council Rep.	Lynn Wallich

**TO:**



FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH

**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, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Closed Major Holidays

**“An Open & Affirming Faith Community”**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS**

Worship at 9 a.m. ~ Parish Hall

Worship at 11 a.m. ~ Sanctuary