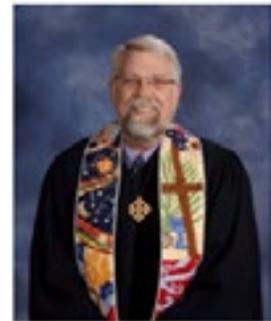




“CONNECT!”

**We “reconnect” in September as We Launch our New Fall Season:
Bring family, friends, and neighbors to church as we begin again!**

By Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens



“Connect” is our theme for 2016-2017.

The staff and lay leadership of First Congregational Church, UCC, Columbus have been hard at work getting ready for a glorious fall season. From Worship and preaching, to Christian Education, to Music Ministry, to Stewardship, to building preparation, to justice and mercy missions, to Celebration/Legacy Sunday, to the start of our largest Confirmation Class and joy of being back together again, we have been preparing for a great fall season!

Inside this issue you can read about all the excitement that has been building. Here are some highlights as we move joyfully into the Fall.

On September 4 – Labor Day Sunday/End of Sermon Series - I will bring to a close the five-part sermon series, *Mental Illness: The Journey In, The Journey Out*. My final sermon is entitled, *Blessed are the Stigma Busters*. The entire series will be printed in booklet form. In addition, we will have them posted on-line and our podcasts will be available for you to hear and share. On September 4, we will also celebrate Holy Communion at both services.

On September 11 – The 15th Anniversary of 9/11 – Faith Formation Time Kick-off, Adult Choir Returns, Requiem at 4 p.m. - Christian Education kicks off at 10 a.m., the Adult Choir returns and we launch into a whole new season! The fun begins on the Second Sunday of September! Bring friends, children, grandchildren, co-workers and NEIGHBORS to church! My sermon is entitled, “When Everything Changed.” Everyone is invited back to church in the afternoon. At 4 p.m., the Choir and accompanying Orchestra will present Mozart’s Requiem as we solemnly and powerfully remember September 11, 2001.

On September 18 – Gladden, Bibles, New Members - we celebrate our 2016 Gladden Scholars and all 4th graders received their bibles. We also welcome our newest members into our faith community (the class is Tuesday September 6 if you would like to join). It will be a glorious day for music, education and worship.

On September 25 – We are 164 years young! It’s time to Celebrate our Legacy! We will celebrate all 231 men and women who have been members of our church family for 15 years or more. We will also celebrate those of us who have been members for one week to 14 years. My sermon is *Friendship*. We will celebrate in worship, picnic on the West Lot (under the tent) and lots of games for children of all ages. Thanks to the Christian Education/Congregational Life/Trustees in their work together on this Celebration and Legacy Sunday!

This issue is packed with information about all these glorious and celebrative events in the life of our church. Please read everything in this issue.

Through the years, our children are the best at bringing their friends to church. They can teach us a few things. They love our church and our church family. They don’t hesitate to share it with others. We should be more like them.

I have told this story before. But, as we launch into our wonderful Fall Season, it is worth repeating.... Several years back a young child came through the greeting line having just visited with his neighbor (one of our church’s children). He declared to me that he was an atheist. I don’t know too many 8 year old “atheists.” He told me more. “My dad is an atheist and tells me that Christians are mean.” (I thought to myself, “There are mean atheists and mean Christians. But there are also nice ones”). I knelt down and asked a few follow-up questions. “What did you think of your time with us today?” He answered, “People were very nice to me. They shook my hand. They smiled at me. They were very pleasant. I liked the music. I liked the look of this place.” I was happy to hear that. I asked, “Did you meet any ‘mean’ Christians here today?” He

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answered, "Not one." I continued, "Did that change your opinion on Christians at all?" He sighed and said, "Yes it did. I saw people who liked God and talked nicely about God. That was nice to see." I smiled and continued, "How did it change you?" He replied, "I think I am not an atheist any more. I think I am a God-ist." I answered, "Me too!" We gave each other high fives. I invited him back. My God-ist friend has continued to come to church. Please be nice to him!

You have neighbors and friends who are probably "God-ists" like my new friend. They are seeking some answers to their questions of faith and life and might actually like being with us. In our new members' classes, we meet people who have come here for a wedding and came back, some were married here, some came because they lived in the neighborhood, some came because friends brought them. Some come and sing in the choir and then join later. They love the music and bring their amazing gifts of singing and then they to know the rest of us, and they fall in love and join. Most of us found our way to First Church through friends and neighbors. Although we might have done a web search, come to a concert or a wedding, or trusted the Holy Spirit in or walk through the doors, it is love of God and people and friendship that keeps us here and keeps us coming back.

I love you and I love working with the staff and lay leadership of First Church! This fall marks my 17th fall season with everyone. I believe it will be our best ever.

I will see you in church. Remember to "Connect" with First Church and connect with your friends and neighbors by bringing them with you to church. See you in September!

Dr. Ahrens' and Rev. Corzine's September Sermon Titles and Texts:

September 4 – Kick-Off to New Year and Holy Communion

Communion Meditation: *Blessed Are the Stigma Busters*

Texts: Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18; Jeremiah 18:1-11; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

September 11 – 15th Anniversary of 9/11

Sermon Title: *When Everything Changed*

Texts: Psalm 14; Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; I Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 18 – Gladden Scholars in Worship/ Bibles presented to 4th Graders, New Members Join

Sermon Title: *Shrewd*

Texts: Psalm 79; Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; I Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

September 25 – Celebration/Legacy Sunday -Come Celebrate our 164th Anniversary

Sermon title: *Friendship*

Texts: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; I Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

Exciting Highlights about October/November 2016 Worship...

October 2	World Communion Sunday - Neighbors in Need Offering
October 9	Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness/CROP Walk
October 16	Children's Sabbath
October 30	Reformation Sunday
November 6	All Saints Celebrated/Stewardship (Daylight Savings Time Ends)
November 13	Veteran's Day Recognized/Rededication of our Wall of Honor
November 20	Thanksgiving Sunday/Reign of Christ & 2016 Lay Leadership Award
November 27	First Sunday of Advent

Confirmation Class 2016 Begins With Retreat - September 17th – 6 -10 p.m.

By Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Confirmation 2016 begins September 17 with a retreat at 6 p.m. in the Education Wing Room D. I am excited to tell you at least 17 eighth and ninth grade teens are ready to explore their faith, learn the church's history, meet people of other faiths, and spend time growing in relationship to God and one another. They will each have an adult mentor who will walk through the process with them. They will learn about 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 or 614-228-1741, ext. 13.

Wednesday Book Study Begins NEW Book: *The End of White Christian America*

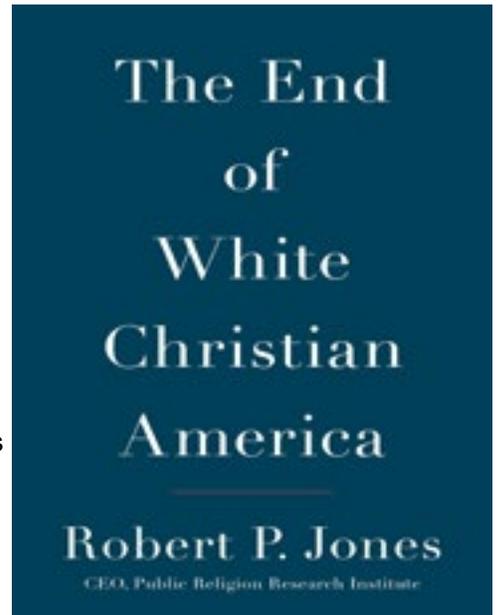
by The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Join us September 7 as we read a new book for September/October. We meet the first and Third Wednesdays from 11a.m. to 12 noon in the church parlor. We always welcome new folks.

In this book, Dr. Robert P. Jones, CEO of the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI), challenges us to grasp the profound political and cultural consequences of a new reality—that America is no longer a majority white Christian nation. For most of our nation's history, White Christian America (WCA)—the cultural and political edifice built primarily by white Protestant Christians—set the tone for our national policy and shaped American ideals. But especially since the 1990s, WCA has steadily lost influence, following declines within both its mainline and evangelical branches.

Today, America is no longer demographically or culturally a majority white Christian nation. Drawing on more than four decades of polling data, *The End of White Christian America* explains and analyzes the waning vitality of WCA. Jones argues that the visceral nature of today's most heated issues—the vociferous arguments around same-sex marriage and religious liberty, the rise of the Tea Party following the election of our first black president, and stark disagreements between black and white Americans over the fairness of the criminal justice system—can only be understood against the backdrop of white Christians' anxieties as America's racial and religious topography shifts around them.

In 2016 and beyond, the descendants of WCA will lack the political power they once had to set the terms of the nation's debate over values and morals and to determine election outcomes. Looking ahead, Jones forecasts the ways that they might adjust to find their place in the new America—and the consequences for us all if they don't.



Education

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



Faith Formation Time Kicks Off September 11

The Faith Formation Time (Education Hour) on Sunday mornings begins on September 11. As an adult, maybe you've wondered what Sunday school means for you. We have the answer for you, and it includes two classes on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. These two tracks offer you two different ways of growing and shaping your life and faith in ways that draw you closer to God and into community with others. We also offer a place of meditation in the Family Parish Room and Gladden Chapel.

The first track offers you both information and a chance to share your concerns and perhaps work out some answers to perplexing issues of faith, life and culture. The Faith and Life Class meets each week to discuss the tough issues confronting us as we grow in grace that relate to this year's theme, "Connect." Such topics will include, Debating in Good Faith, Faith vs Fear – Bible Study on Gun Violence, UCC Series on White Privilege, Immigration, Debating in Good Faith, UCC and the Israeli/ Palestine Conflict, and Porch Sessions. It is designed with two or four weeks on a single topic, but you can come anytime. The classes are led by members, guest speakers and friends of the congregation who have some expertise in the area. They will invite you to explore the issue and relate it to your personal faith. In addition they'll give you some tools and guidelines to help you grow in your faith and life.

Our second track, the Opening the Word Class, does exactly that. Several ministers of the congregation will help you discover or rediscover what the Bible says, and invite you on a journey to grow and shape your faith and life in ways that take that book seriously as God's rich and changing word to you.

Our theme this year comes from the Book of Galatians. Topics in this track include; Angels: Messengers, Guardians, Signposts of Hope; Understanding of Worship at First Church; and Listen Up Bible Series on the Book of Mark. Faith and life are formed in response to God's still speaking message, and these classes invite you to listen and answer. We hope you'll join us Sundays as we form our faith and life together.

Church School for Children and Youth

The Faith Formation Time (Education Hour) for young people also begins on September 11 at 10 a.m. The children and youth will use the curriculum "Seasons of the Spirit," which is a wonderful resource for our teachers and leaders.

Classes are available for all ages. The Nursery is staffed for children ages 0-3 for Godly Play activities and safe nurturing environment. The Pre-School Class, ages 3-5PreK will meet on the first floor of the Education Wing. This is a new room for this class. The Kindergarten-1st Grade class will meet on the second floor along with the 2nd-3rd Grade Class and the 4th-5th Grade Class. Signs will be posted for locations of all the classes.

Every child/youth attending will receive a First Church backpack with fun activities and surprises for each Sunday. We hope they will bring them back each time they return to collect more activities to deepen their faith.

Through the focus passages for the Season of Creation and Pentecost 2, we are invited to see Chaos as the given from which the Creator brings forth life to materialize possibility.

Job 38, the focus passage that begins the Season of Creation, makes the claim that the wisdom of God is found within the creative chaos out of which the world is born. God's voice is heard in the whirlwind; that is, God's voice is heard in the chaos. "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?" God asks Job. "I was there," answers Wisdom in the final week of the season. During the four weeks of the Season of Creation, we study and worship with the sacred text of creation as we explore divine wisdom in oceans, flora and fauna, storms, and the cosmos.

Aqua – the blue-green color of planet Earth when viewed from out in space – moves to the green growing colour of the Season after Pentecost, which began on May 22. We return to the Season after Pentecost reading, a letter to a young Timothy that celebrates faith handed on from generation to generation. During this season we encounter people living with hardship, and experience healing as coming when we are freed from the grasp of Empire. In stories from the gospel of Luke, we encounter one who is freed from a skin disease, freed from all restriction, free to be fully grateful, free to offer full praise. A widow refuses to give up seeking justice, and we are encouraged to challenge injustice, too. When a religious leader contrasts self with another, we join a dance of pride and humility. Zacchaeus climbs a tree and we all see more clearly; no one is left out of God's plan for right relationship, shared blessing, and participation in community. In the final weeks of the Season after Pentecost and the church year, we hear a psalmist

spell out the greatness and goodness of God who is near to all, and we imagine, with the prophet Isaiah, a world filled with love and peace.

On Reign of Christ/Christ the King Sunday, we find ourselves in the middle of the heart-felt prayer of a loving leader of the Christian band at Colossae, and we are carried into a lofty, Christological reflection on what God has done and what God has offered to the world in Christ.

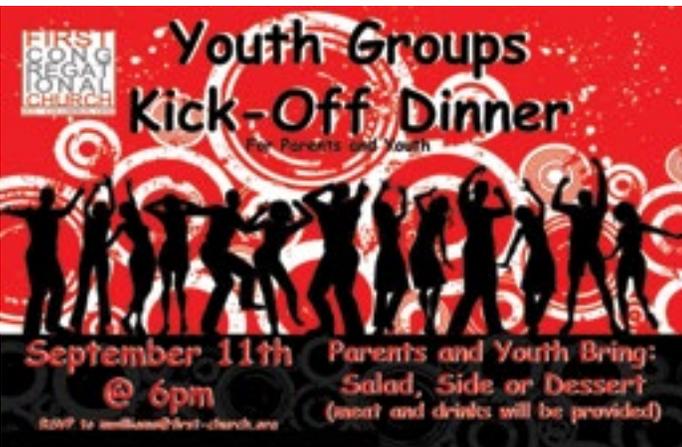
“Connect” is Theme

By Mark S. Williams, Christian Education Director

As our congregation moves forward into our 164th anniversary, and as we watch the development of the west lot, the construction boom of new homes around our church, the injustice that is occurring in our country and around the world and the continual development in each of our faith journey, the Education Committee developed the theme “Connect” for this Faith Formation Time this year.

As we look at the logo for this theme, we are reminded of several things. First, we are a people connected through the Almighty (the circle). We are called by God to reach out and share the love of God to everyone we meet. The colorful and different shaped puzzle pieces that form the circle is a reminder that we are all on our own faith journey and we must acknowledge and embrace each other’s individual relationship to God.

Second, it reminds us that we must take time to connect to one another, embrace our differences and grow in our faith. Third, the different colors and shapes express our diversity and commitment to being an Open and Affirming church.



Youth Meetings Begin September 11

Both the high school and middle school youth groups will kick-off this fall with a potluck dinner for the youth and their families on September 11 at 6 p.m. The dinner and fun time will be at the West Lawn of the church. If there is bad weather the event will be held in the Parish Hall. Everyone is asked to bring a meat, salad, or side dish to share.

The youth will discuss plans for the year (including how our youth will be involved), and they will have fun times playing games, including sand volleyball.

Fourth Grade/New Youth Bible Presentation

Each year our church presents a New Revised Standard Version gift Bible to children in the fourth grade, or those older who have joined in the past year. It is our way of encouraging our children in their faith journey. This year the presentation will be Sunday, September 18, during the 9 and 11 a.m. services.



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 WashLand 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. We always welcome any to come and volunteer. This mission is solely dependent on your generous giving. Please continue to save your quarters, which is our biggest need at this time.

So continue saving your quarters and donate to this worthy cause. The next Laundry Love day will be September 27. Come join us in serving those in need.

Increase Your Gift!

The Justice and Mercy Commission has agreed to match the Laundry Love Offering on September 18 up to \$1,000.00. Justice and Mercy are looking for ways to help sustain this life-changing ministry for those in need.

The Second Year of the Two Year Interfaith Bible Study Announced

By The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

To honor and respect the High Holy Days of Judaism in September and October, we will begin our second year of Interfaith Bible Study of November 7 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. You are ALL invited to come and study the New Testament in Year #2. Having gone through most of the 39 books of the Hebrew Scriptures, Rabbi Zinkow and I are looking forward to studying the 27 books of the Christian Scriptures. Please email me at tahrens@first-church.org or call 614-228-1741, ext. 13 if you are interested in this study. WE HAVE A NEW SOUND SYSTEM BEING PUT INTO PARISH HALL THIS OCTOBER. EVERYONE WILL HEAR WHAT WE SAY THIS YEAR!

Here is the entire line-up of classes and books of the Bible we are covering in Year #2. Also, there are openings for our Holy Lands Trip, June 18-28, 2017. Sign-up soon. Here is the link: https://makor.formstack.com/forms/columbus_interfaith_trip.

Two Year Interfaith Bible Study: Year #2 – The Christian Scriptures

Teachers: Rabbi Dr. Misha Zinkow and Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

The Outline for the Christian Scripture Study for Year #2 of two-year study

The class will meet from 7-8:30 p.m. on Monday Nights in the following three blocks of classes:

First Session (five classes)

Introduction the story of Jesus, his words, teachings, healing stories, parables and the narrative of the crucifixion and resurrection found in the Gospel of Mark, Matthew, Luke (And Acts) and John (and the Letters of John)

November 7 - Introduction to the "New" Testament or Christian Scriptures - Getting to know the land, the people, the geography and the periods of history and how we read the Christian Scriptures (Chapter 1 in a Guide Through the New Testament).

November 14 – The Gospel of Mark -Intro., On the "Synoptic Problem," "Messiah," Intros to Parables and Miracles (Chapter 2 and read Mark).

November 21 –The Gospel of Matthew - Intro to MT., "Kingdom of Heaven," Torah and Pharisees, The Beatitudes (Chapter 3 and read Matthew).

November 28 – The Gospel of Luke and The Acts of the Apostles – Into to Luke/Acts, Birth and Infancy Narratives, Healing Stories of Luke, The Early Church (Chapter 4 and read Luke and Acts of the Apostles).

December 5 – The Gospel of John and the Letters of John – Intro to John, "Signs and Wonders" in John, "I am" Discourses, The Work of the Holy Spirit, and the three letters (Chapter 5 and Read John, the three letters of John).

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy New Year!

Second Session (six classes)

January 23 – Paul and the First letters of Thessalonians and Corinthians – Who is Paul? How did this first Evangelist shape and spread the Christian Faith? He writes his first letters in the second half of the First Century of the Common Era (Chapters 6 and 7, and read I and II Thessalonians, I and II Corinthians).

January 30 – Letters to Galatians and Romans – Questions of Freedom, Sin and Grace pervade these texts. We will explore their meaning together (chapter 8 and Galatians and Romans).

February 6 – The Prison Letters and the Pastoral Letters – Paul is imprisoned for his beliefs and from prison writes a series of letters. Beyond the Prison walls he writes pastoral letters to the churches as well. We will explore the themes of the letters (Chapters 9 and 10 and read Colossians, Philemon, Philippians, I and II Timothy, Titus, Ephesians).

February 13 – Hebrews and the General Letters – The Letter to the Hebrews is a fascinating story of faith drawing on the connections between the “Hebrew people” and an emerging Christian community and “the General letters” are just that. They draw on general understandings and values held dear in the Christian faith (Chapter 11 and part of Chapter 12 through p. 122 and read Hebrews, James, I and II Peter and Jude).

February 20 – The Book of Revelation – The final book of the Christian scriptures is a fascinating mix of apocalyptic literature (Chapter 12, pp. 122-130 and the Book of Revelation).

February 27 – Short Stories of Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi

Parable #1 - The Good Samaritan

We begin an in depth reading of the Parables of Jesus through the eyes of a Jewish New Testament Scholar, Amy Jill Levine and her book, Short Stories by Jesus (Chapter 2).

Third Session (four classes)

April 24 - “Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son” – (Chapter 1).

May 1 – “The Widow and The Judge” – (Chapter 8).

May 8 – The BREAD Nehemiah Action – We have no class this night.

May 15 – “The Rich Man and Lazarus” (chapter 9).

May 22 – The Power of Disturbing Stories and a final dinner to celebrate completion of the two-year Bible Study

June 18-28, 2017 – Interfaith trip to the Holy Lands of Israel. Sign-up soon!

CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY – SEPTEMBER 25

12:30 – 3 p.m. on the West Lawn

First Church will provide pulled pork sandwiches / chicken, a vegetarian option, water and lemonade

Last name beginning with A-H: **bring a side dish**

Last name beginning with I-P: **bring sweets**

Last name beginning with Q-Z : **bring a salad**

Remember to bring large portions to feed our neighbors!

Celebration Games * Open House of Our Church *** SuperGames**



From the Minister of Music

By Kevin Jones, Minister of Music

(kjones@first-church.org)



New Choir Vestments To Be Dedicated

New choir vestments for the Treble Choir and First Church Choir will be worn for the first time on September 11. They will also be dedicated at the 11 a.m. service that morning. Thank you to all you gave and supported this venture. Below is a list of the individuals who so generously gave funds to secure these vestments. Our untold thanks belong to the following:

Deborah Anderson, in memory of Jon Mac Anderson

Janet Axt

Ian & Rebecca Baird

David Banas

Marti Baumer, in gratitude for the music ministry of this church, its choir & Kevin Jones

Joseph Bellissimo

Jonathan Bethke

Kristen Blanks

Cari Brackett

Louda Burkett, in honor of Brianna Burkett

Christy Carlson

Barbara Clapham, in memory of Jeff Clapham, William & Mae Johannes

Bert & Bev Cook

Jeffrey & Emily Corzine

Kevin Cubick

Candy Cummings, in honor of parents, Arthur & Tanya Cummings

Todd & Catherine Cunningham, in honor of Aran Patrick Cunningham

John, Cindy & Steven Deliman, in honor of Ministers of Music, past & present

Allison Ellenberger

Chris & Tom Farquhar

Peter Murray & Celeste Feather, in honor of Erin & Ethan Murray

Sharon Ferguson

Brad Findell, in honor of Kevin Jones

Louis Flocken

Carol Gallagher, in honor of Bev Cook & Gleva Stephens

Jim & Carol Gallagher, in honor of the First Church Choir

Sarah Garbe, in honor of all my friends at First Church

Deb Fox & Jim Gieseke

Sarah & Wally Giffen, in honor of Kevin Jones for all his work!

Al & Barbara Glover

Pavan Peter & Malini Gtheeban

Jim Griffin

Cheryl Hoskinson

Gail Johannes, in honor of Bill Johannes

Ryan Jones

Sebastian Knowles

Barbara Knox

Bill & Sarah Lange

Nancy Livingston

Andrew MacGregor, in memory of Richard Wesp & Bob Roberts

Joel & Sandra Mathias

SallyJane Mathias

Laurie Maynell

Lisa Morris & Kent Shimeall, in honor of S. Wyatt M. Shimeall

Nicole Moss

Barbara Poppe, in honor of Dene Barnard

Susan Pusecker

Cathryne Redenbarger

Marti Rideout

Emily Riggan

Wendell Smith

Judy Smith, in memory of Carol Hussey

Betsy Hubbard & Sam Spofforth

David Stang, in memory of Frederick K. Stang

Gleva Stephens, in honor of Dene Barnard

Allen Baker & Al Waddell

Jan Wade, in honor of Lissa Wade

Lissa & Drew Wade, in honor of Cameron, Adam & Henry Wade

Amy & Bill Wagner

Lynn Wallich

Mary Weaver, in memory of Shirley Vittum, long time choir member

Ben Wiant

Nancy Loy & Tom Worley

Gerry & Marty Worth

Choirs Begin 2016-2017 Program Year

All four choirs will commence rehearsals early in September: First Church Ringers begin on Thursday, September 15, at 6:00 p.m.; First Church Choir begins on Thursday, September 1, at 7:15 p.m. Teen Choir and Treble Choir both begin on Sunday, September 11, at 9 a.m. All choirs have room for additional singers and ringers. If you are interested in becoming a member of any of the choirs, please contact Kevin Jones, Minister of Music, at kjones@first-church.org, or 614-228-1741, x12.

Children in grades two through six are encouraged to join the Treble Choir. Please contact Sandra Mathias, Treble Choir Director, for more information. The Treble Choir rehearses Sundays at 9 in the Music Activities Room. Dr. Mathias may be reached at sjmath5659@gmail.com. Additionally, the Treble Choir Fall Retreat Day will be held on Saturday, September 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This retreat will focus on learning music for the Fall as well as continuing to work on writing their own musical, that our choristers began last winter.

Youth in grades seven through twelve are invited to join the Teen Choir. They rehearse Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Choir Room. Kevin Jones is the director of this choir.

First Church Ringers is actively recruiting experienced ringers that would be willing to be on a substitute list. A substitute would be called upon, as needed and as available, to fill in for a missing regular ringer either for a Thursday evening rehearsal or a Sunday appearance. Experience in ringing and sightreading is necessary. Please contact Kevin Jones if you are interested. This year, the Ringers will be rehearsing in the Education Wing, Room J, on the second floor.

All choir schedules (rehearsals and liturgical appearances) for the year are posted on the individual choir pages on the First Church website. Simply navigate to <http://www.first-church.org/Choirs.aspx> and follow the links on the left to find your choir. There are embedded Google calendars for each choir on each of their pages, as well as links to subscribe to the calendars if you so wish. I invite you to make use of these pages of information often. Anthem lists are also posted on these pages.

Save the Date

First Tuesdays commences on Tuesday, October 4, at 12:15 p.m. with organist/choirmaster emeritus G. Dene Barnard. Watch for more information in next month's newsletter, or go to the concerts website, www.concertsatfirstchurch.org, for complete information on both events.

Concerts at First Church

Please save the date for the first Congregational Concert on Sunday, September 11, at 4 p.m. as the First Church Choir, soloists and chamber orchestra present "The 15th Anniversary of September 11: Mozart *Requiem*." Also on the program is Bach's Concerto in d minor for harpsichord and strings. Please join us for a presentation of this monumental work as a remembrance of all those lost in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The Concerts at First Church website, <http://www.concertsatfirstchurch.org> contains complete information on all 2016-2017 concerts, and has been completely redesigned for the new year. Please visit the website to see the entire season. The yearly brochure is available and the annual appeal for donations is in full swing. If you are not on the mailing list, but would like to be, please contact Marty Worth, Program Manager, at mworth@first-church.org, or 614-228-1741, x14.

**CONCERTS
AT FIRST CHURCH**

2016 - 2017

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

Mozart Requiem:
The 15th Anniversary of September 11th

Sep 11 4pm

The First Church Choir, soloists, and orchestra present Mozart's powerful *Requiem* in remembrance of the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The concert also features J.S. Bach's Concerto in d minor for harpsichord and orchestra.

QR code and accessibility icon (wheelchair) are also present.

Church Council News

by Nancy Braverman, Council Secretary

During church, just as the offering is about to be taken, do you ever find yourself with no cash and no checkbook? The members of First Church Council addressed this issue at the August meeting, voting to let the Budget and Finance Committee proceed with plans to accommodate a new system for mobile giving. Soon, members and visitors to our church will be able to either use a credit card or text a donation or offering, using a new giving system. The hope is to streamline the process and provide options for individuals who feel called to contribute to the ongoing mission of the church. Stay tuned.

Council members also heard about progress with Project 2020 on the physical repairs and improvements to the church, including tuck-pointing of the exterior masonry and repair of the sanctuary's west door and the Broad Street steps, plaza and railing.

The staff is reviewing applications for the building and grounds superintendent and hope to complete interviews and have the position filled by October. Committee members are Rev. Emily Corzine, Mark Brown, Eric Klintworth and Gerry Worth.

Plans continue for Legacy Sunday, this year combined with Celebration Sunday, taking place September 25. At both the 9 and 11 a.m. services, longtime members of the church will be recognized and a brief update on the building endowment will be presented. Also, signs will be posted around the building to call attention to improvements and let the congregation know where the funds came from to pay for them.

Justice and Mercy

Church World Services

Thursday, June 23 brought torrential downpours to our neighbor state West Virginia with as much as 10 inches of rain. The rain wiped out entire areas of the countryside, swept away homes, flooded structures, washed away roads and cut off power to homes across broad areas of the state. Thousands have been left homeless and 23 people have died in the disaster, the nation's highest death toll from flash floods since 2010.

The National Weather Service called the deluge a '1-in-1,000 year event,' and President Obama has declared the state a disaster area.

United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries is involved with providing assistance to help the people in West Virginia recover from these historic floods as residents are facing a prolonged cleanup effort following the devastating storms. As a member of First Congregational Church, you are already involved in the recovery effort through Sunday offering collections designated to UCC Disaster Ministries. Collections for this ministry are done at least once per year. First Church's loose offering and designated checks went to Church World Service.



The UCC Ohio Conference is already delivering 600 cleanup kits and 300 hygiene kits to the area, and has requested additional kits from Church World Service. You may recall First Church youth put together clean up kits annually (most years) as a part of their mission work. Your financial support for these \$53 kits makes it possible for the UCC to be prepared for disasters such as the floods experienced in West Virginia.

In August, torrential rainfall has resulted in massive flooding in southern Louisiana. About 40,000 homes have been destroyed by the floods and roughly 30,000 people have been rescued. Thirteen people have been killed and 86,500 people have filed for federal aid. CWS is currently processing three requests. Adventist Disaster Services will receive 500 Emergency Cleanup Buckets, 600 Hygiene Kits and 600 School Kits. United Church of Christ partners in Louisiana will receive 1,000 Emergency Cleanup Buckets for distribution. Local disaster response organizations

will receive 500 Emergency Cleanup Buckets.

The Justice and Mercy Ministry will be monitoring communications from UCC Disaster Ministries and the Ohio Conference and will pass on any calls for volunteers and additional financial assistance.

Good Samaritan Fund Update

Thank you to the congregation for your continued financial support and the donation of personal care items. Those who receive help are very grateful to you. Being able to “shop” for personal care items means the world to those who have to make hard choices with the resources they have. We received an abundance of items but the need continues so donations to the box outside the church office are always welcomed.

Church World Service, through Matt Stevens, a church member and Director of Congregational Giving for CWS, arranged for the donation of 100 hygiene kits to give to the homeless folks we serve. Matt sent the following email:

“The church bulletin announced a need for hygiene items. Church World Service would like to donate CWS Hygiene Kits to Good Sam. Although the kits don’t have deodorant or toothpaste, they have good basic items that can be supplemented with the donations for the members of First Church. First Church is a HUGE supporter of CWS and I want to give back to the local ministries of First Church.”

Because of your donations we were able to put a tube of toothpaste in each kit. The kits are shared with the Laundry Love Ministry each month and were received so gratefully last week.

September Good Samaritan Day is Monday, September 12 and we have 70 requests for help. The need is ongoing and you do make a difference in the lives of many through your passion for the “Good Sam” ministry.

ADAMH Mental Health First Aid Training

ADAMH is pleased to offer Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) trainings! So far, we have held four trainings, and we congratulate our participants for becoming certified in Mental Health First Aid USA.

The last training of the year open to the entire community is September 19, 2016.

The goal of the MHFA program is to help non-clinical individuals gain skills that will help them assist someone who may be experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. The 8-hour training aims to increase mental health literacy as well as reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and substance abuse issues.

If you or your organizations are interested in participating in this training, please visit our website to register at <http://www.adamhfranklin.org/mental-health-first-aid-trainings/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please email dballard@adamhfranklin.org.

Higher Ground Moral Declaration Day of Action

Monday, September 12, 2016 at 11 a.m. - 12 noon at Ohio State House in Columbus

Following the inspirational speech by Rev. Dr. William Barber at the 2016 General Assembly, Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio (UUJO) invites you to join people of all faiths and moral courage in delivering the “Higher Ground Moral Declaration” to leaders of the Ohio government. Similar public events will take place the same day and time in 24 states and the District of Columbia.

The Declaration states in part:

“... We declare that the deepest public concerns of our nation and faith traditions are how our society treats the poor, those on the margins, the least of these, women, children, workers, immigrants, and the sick; equality and representation under the law; and the desire for peace, love and harmony within and among nations...”

“... We believe in a moral agenda that stands against systemic racism, classism, poverty, xenophobia, and any attempt to promote hate towards any members of the human family.”

“... We claim a higher ground in partisan debate by returning public discourse to our deepest moral and constitutional values.”

If you believe these words and want action, please join us on Monday, September 12 at 11 a.m. at the Ohio State House.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Other Items of Interest

Fall Lantern Fellowship Women's Retreat - Behind Our Masks

Planned bi-annually by Ohio Associations of the United Church of Christ, Lantern Fellowship is a time when women of all generations come together to enjoy faith, fun, and fellowship in the peaceful beauty of wooded hills and trails where the spirit can find renewal. The planning team from the Eastern Ohio Association hopes you will invite a few friends to share in the wonderful experience of Lantern Fellowship. This fall's retreat will be September 16-18, 2016 at Pilgrim Hills Camp, 33833 Township Road 20, Brinkhaven, Ohio 43006. Registration begins at 3:00 pm on Friday with dinner at 5:30 pm. The event ends on Sunday after lunch.



Keynote Speakers: Since 1981 Rev. Barry Bordenkircher has served in numerous Ohio Conference churches. A son of Emmanuel UCC in Akron, he also served 6 years on the staff in Northwest Ohio Association. His current parish is St. Paul UCC in North College Hill (Cincinnati), where he began last November. He is passionate about astronomy, golf, fishing, and spirituality—especially trying to help others connect with Jesus and the love of God through spiritual disciplines. Rev. Glen Shedlock, a UCC pastor since 1987 and currently pastor of Trinity UCC in Canal Fulton. He spent 11 years serving as spiritual counselor for Hospice of Tuscarawas, Stark, and Carrol Counties. “My experiences with end of life care challenged me to re-think and redefine all of my spiritual perceptions.” This resulted in a powerful awaking that led to the creation of a spiritual transformation program entitled “Return to Eden”, a course designed to bring others to a place of higher spiritual awareness.

The Program: The program will be *Behind Our Masks: God and your True Self*. Both the Bible and the Church affirm that we are created in God's image: that we are created GOOD. But since at least the Dark Ages the dominant theology “about human nature has been that we are “fallen creatures,” corrupt, depraved, and innately sinful. But, this is not the only strain of thought about human nature in the Church—and is NOT really the view taught by Scripture! The prophets of old, Jesus, and the great mystics of Christian history both ancient and modern ALL teach a different view: that you are, at the core of your being, HOLY, and DIVINE. This is your TRUE SELF, the way God created you! Come and explore what this “alternative orthodoxy” means for the church today...and for your own life. It just might change everything.

In addition to the program, this Lantern weekend includes a campfire, treasure hunt, crafts, outdoor camp activities, camp store, skit night, The Market Path (fair trade store), fun, fellowship, and great food!

The registration deadline is Wednesday, September 7, 2016. Please leave a voicemail at 740-481-1956 or email LanternFellowship@gmail.com.



Marching for more

A Gladden Tradition

Host Committee

Josh Harrison, Co-Chair
Improving Enterprises

Tyler Schleich, Co-Chair
Ernst & Young

Jason Block
Flanagan

Chris Connelly
Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP

Amanda Craig
Express

Theresa Dean
Ohio Supreme Court

Elizabeth Farrar
Vorys, Sater, Seymour, and Pease LLP

David Rhodeback
Huntington

Tradition Matters

From the passionate rumble of the beat of a drum to an organization whose strength marches on as a supporting cadence within our community, nothing compares to the richness of a sacred tradition.

We invite you to join **The Best Damn Band in the Land**, the world's largest all-brass and percussion band, and **Gladden Community House**, a local non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and strengthening the well being of the Franklinton community, as they come together for an unforgettable evening – striking a chord together through tradition, music, and meaning.

Enjoy a premier performance from TBDBITL as they triumphantly support Gladden Community House and **March for More at the 'Shoe on September 22nd**. This unique fundraiser is the only occasion when TBDBITL all marches together for more than Ohio State.

For additional event details, please visit www.MarchingForMore.com



First Church Joys and Concerns

PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION for the sainthood of Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

MEMBERS Sharon Walquist; Grace Glaros; Arlene Reynolds; Rick Henderson; Janice White; Abby Salak and Melissa Prendergast and their daughter, Ruth Eloise; Bernie Martin; Ray Pendell; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including: Jean Wetmore, on the death of her grandmother; Allison Lowery Palmer and her husband Gary, on the death of Gary's son, Matt; Laurie Maynell, on the death of her father; Dayna McCrary, on the death of her father, Moses Murray; and Martha Fulleman, on the death of her mother.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY Ruth Klinger, aunt of Tim Ahrens; Paul Zimmerman, father of Doug Zimmerman; Beverly, mother of Kent Rambo; Michael Cromartie, friend of Tim Ahrens; Shandi and Charles; Father Jim Ragnoni and his family and the St. Anthony Parish in Akron; Connor and Grant Orendorf and their parents, Karen and Harrison; Gidget, family member of Bill Johannes and Barb Clapham; Mark Plescia; Joe and Marjorie Kufel, parents of Sharon Leidheiser; Frankie Williams, mother of Mark Williams; Jill Ford, friend of Mark Williams; and families and friends who continue to mourn the loss of loved ones, including Ed and Ruth Shoener and family, on the death of Katie Shoener; and the family of Tim Jones.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD We pray for all those struggling with brain diseases. We pray for victims of earthquakes in Italy and Myanmar. For the victims of flooding in Louisiana and wildfires in the Western United States. We pray for peace in Syria and Turkey.

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 September 4:* Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia
- *Week of September 11:* Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia
- *Week of September 18:* Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania
- *Week of September 25:* Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukrain

If you have any prayer requests or joys to share, please contact the church office (awagner@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 10) or one of the ministers (ecorzine@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 21 or minister@first-church.org or 614-228-1741, ext. 13).

Recent Celebration Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the **Barnard Music Fund** by an anonymous donor

Given to the **Social Concerns Endowment Fund** by Tom Worley and Nancy Loy

Given to the **Stained Glass Endowment Fund** by Debbie Anderson in celebration of the life of Ann McIsaac

The IRA Charitable Rollover has been made permanent. Members and friends of First Church, age 70 1/2 or older, may now transfer up to \$100,000 tax-free directly from an IRA to the charity of their choice. Please consider making a direct transfer to the Trustees, First Congregational Church, to support your favorite ministry's Endowment.

The benefits are: no income taxes are paid on the distribution from your IRA; the gift counts toward the minimum required distribution from your IRA, and the gift will make a lasting impact at First Church for many years. A description of each endowment fund can be found on the church website at www.first-church.org/EndowmentFunds.aspx

September Calendar

Thursday, September 1

7:15 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal– Parish Hall

Sunday, September 4

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall

10 a.m. – Book Study – Ralph Fanning Room

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

Noon – Discussion about Sermon Series – Choir Room

Monday, September 5: Memorial Day

– Building Closed

Tuesday, September 6

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

7 p.m. – New Members Class – Parlor

7 p.m. – Justice and Mercy – Ralph Fanning Room

Wednesday, September 7

11 a.m. – Book Study: *The End of White Christianity* – Parlor

12:15 – BREAD Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room

Thursday, September 8

1:30 p.m. – Park Planning Committee – Ralph Fanning Room

7:15 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal– Parish Hall

Saturday, September 10

9 a.m. – Treble Choir Retreat – Music Activities Rooms

10 a.m. – First Church Quilters – Ralph Fanning Room

10 a.m. – First Church Choir Mozart Dress Rehearsal – Sanctuary

Sunday, September 11

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall

9 a.m. – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir and Music Activities Rooms

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

10 a.m. – Faith Formation Time – Education Wing, Rooms C and D

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

4 p.m. – Congregational Concert: Mozart's Requiem – Sanctuary

6 p.m. – Youth Kick-Off Dinner – West Lot

Monday, September 12

9 a.m. – Good Samaritan Day – Ralph Fanning Room

12 noon – Care Ministry Luncheon – Large Conference Room

7 p.m. – Trustees – Parlor

Tuesday, September 13

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

5:30 p.m. – Sacred Earth – Ralph Fanning Room

7 p.m. – Executive Committee – Ralph Fanning Room

Wednesday, September 14

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room

7 p.m. – Lincoln / Norwich Planning Committee – Parlor

Thursday, September 8

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

7:15 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal– Parish Hall

Saturday, September 17

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

6 p.m. – Confirmation Retreat – Education Wing

Sunday, September 18

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall

9 a.m. – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir and Music Activities Rooms

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

10 a.m. – Faith Formation Time – Education Wing, Rooms C and D

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Fellowship Hour – Parish Hall

6 p.m. – High School Youth Group – Parish Hall

Monday, September 19

7 p.m. – Personnel – Parish Family Room

Tuesday, September 20

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

7 p.m. – Council – Ralph Fanning Room

1 p.m. – Deadline for Newsletter Articles

Wednesday, September 21

11 a.m. – Book Study: *The End of White Christianity* – Parlor

Thursday, September 22

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

7:15 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal– Parish Hall

Friday, September 23

1 p.m. – Faith Mission Meal Preparation – Kitchen

Sunday, September 25: Celebration of Legacy Sunday

9 a.m. – Worship – Parish Hall

9 a.m. – Teen/Treble Choirs – Choir and Music Activities Rooms

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

10 a.m. – Faith Formation Time – Education Wing, Rooms C and D

11 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary

Noon – Legacy Sunday Party – West Lot

Monday, September 26

6 p.m. – Budget and Finance – Ralph Fanning Room

7 p.m. – Deacons Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room

September Calendar (continued)

Tuesday, September 27

2 p.m. – Worship Planning – Parish Family Room
6 p.m. – Laundry Love – WashLand Laundromat, 1469 West Broad Street

Wednesday, September 28

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting – Ralph Fanning Room

Thursday, September 29

7:15 p.m. – First Church Choir Rehearsal– Parish Hall



Member Birthdays in September

9/2 Diane Cole
Miguel Gonzalez
9/3 Emily Corzine
9/4 Kinsley Schmitt
9/5 Elisa Batchelor
Grant McCrary
9/6 Alice Panek
9/8 Sallie Danneberger
Torrie Lute
9/9 Kosby Carrico
Steven Ferris
9/10 Amy Nicholson
9/12 Marti Baumer
Bob Fowler
Linda Reiger
Aarn Cunningham
9/13 Lucille Kropp
9/14 Meredith Sugar
Doug Zimmerman
9/15 Kai Rozmiarek
9/16 Carly Kutschbach
9/18 Christopher Washington
9/19 John Bachman
Ava Leidheiser
9/20 Jim Gallagher
Randy Hoffman
Keith Kulwicki
9/21 Shannon Washington
9/22 Janette Hoffman
9/23 Victor John
Stan Lange
9/25 Jordan Gies
9/26 Gerry Hudson
Daniel Ahrens
9/27 Ron Reiger
Pavan Peter
9/28 Tom Kuhn
9/29 Pauline Fritz
Betsy Zahn
9/30 Cami Curren
Scott Hamman
Melissa Prendergast

Member Anniversaries in September

9/5 Carrie Wise and Jonathan Craft
9/6 Elisa and Andrew Batchelor
9/9 Diane and Kent Rambo
9/10 Elizabeth Drotleff and Eric Chambers
9/16 Bev and Bert Cook
Lisa and Andy Thomas
9/20 Aubrie and Brian Hasselbusch
9/21 Susan and Bill Rhoads
9/25 James Gaugh and Roland Weller

September Schedules

September Fellowship Hour Schedule

September 4 Galatians
September 11 Haggai
September 18 Hosea
September 25 Celebration/Legacy Sunday Meal:
Jeremiah, Kings, Micah, Numbers

September Mission Offering Schedule

September 4 Mid Ohio Workers
September 11 Good Samaritan
September 18 Laundry Love
September 25 Trustees: Building Legacy Fund

September Acolyte Schedule

September 4	Mae Hubbard	Alania Thompson
September 11	Nick Boriin	Peter Spofforth
September 18	Alyssa Batchelor	Alania Thompson
September 25	Erin Murray	Nina Zimmerman

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)

CHURCH STAFF

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.
Business Manager	Sharon Leidheiser
Program Manager	Martha Worth
Office Manager	Amy Wagner
Interim Building & Grounds Superintendent	Milt Allen
Custodians	William Lee, Jimmy Sibrian
Wedding Coordinators	Janet Axt, Margaret Cipriani, Amy Wagner, Katie Wagner
Nursery Staff	Evin Wimberly, Simone Ellerson, Natalie Barker, Taylre Arnold

DIACONATE

Senior Deacon	Lynn Wallich
Deacons	Sandy Bennett, Kris Brant, Valerie Conlin-Losinski, Sue Cook, Alec Deitz, Dean Hafey, Anne Hudson, Paul Leidheiser, Mary Lightbody, Dayna McCrary, Janet Newcity, Jorge Polo, Alex Rodriguez, Hugh Schultz

CHURCH COUNCIL

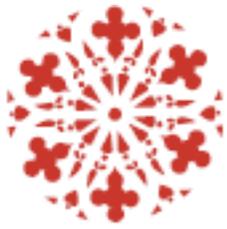
Moderator	Brian Cave
Moderator-Elect	Kent Shimeall
Treasurer	Cindy Conn
Assistant Treasurer	Joe Baszynski
Secretary	Nancy Braverman
Assistant Secretary	Pat Patterson

COMMISSIONERS

Administration	Allison Palmer, Elect - Sue Cook
Church Growth	Matt Myers, Elect - Kent Rambo
Education	Jennifer Okezie-Watts, Elect - Helen Ninos
House & Grounds	Charlie Weaver, Elect - Eric Klintworth
Justice & Mercy	Tracy Ross, Elect - Al Glover
Music, Arts, & Heritage	Al Waddell, Elect - Sharon Ferguson
Church Vitality	<i>Chair and Elect Currently Vacant</i>
Nominating Chair	Elaine Warren
Member-at-large	Mary Kay Beall Carter
Youth-at-large	Eddie Anderson IV
Deacon Council Representative	Alec Deitz

TRUSTEES

Chairperson	Francille Firebaugh
Treasurer	Bill Johannes
Trustees	Patricia Groseck, Bill Heer, Lisa Morris, Sheldon Taft, Charlie Weaver, Keith White, Gerry Worth



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

Web site: 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