



‘Great Assembly for Justice’ at Vet’s Memorial on May 3

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister



On Monday, May 3, more than 3,000 people from 50 congregations of the BREAD organization will gather at Veteran’s Memorial Hall to lift our voices for social justice. I hope you are there with us. The First Congregational UCC Justice Ministry Network has commitments from 150 people to join in this exciting assembly. I believe we can top 200 people from our delegation!

BREAD will unveil our action plan for our new issue, “Youth At Risk.” Youth crime, violence and gangs are on the rise here. There has been at least one shooting in Columbus every day in 2010. In 2009, out of the 83 killings in Columbus, about one-quarter of the victims were under the age of 25 and eight of the victims were under 15. Almost half of the suspects arrested in these killings were under the age of 25.

Truant students and school drop outs are prime targets for gang recruitment. Chronically truant students are 16 times more likely commit serious property crimes and 12 times more likely to commit a felony. Median income for high school dropouts is \$10,981 a year; for high school graduates it is \$25,420 (in 2007 dollars). Youth staying in school and graduating from school is an economic issue about which ALL of us should be concerned!

Columbus now has the 9th worst graduation rate (44.7%) among the top 50 largest school systems in America (Cities in Crisis, 2009: Education Research Center). In 2008-2009, the Columbus City Schools issued 4,262 out-of-school suspensions for truancy. This is a practice that goes directly against district policy. In other words, teens having trouble in school are kept out of school against the policies of the district.

We know there are effective ways to improve student behavior and attendance. We have worked effectively already with the district and the Franklin County prosecutor’s office to reduce chronic truancy by 55% in six schools. Student attendance has increased for more than 200 of the students in those six schools over three years.

I know you care about the problems facing our youth in Columbus and Central Ohio. Come and be a part of the solution. Come to the BREAD Nehemiah Assembly on May 3. Come and make a difference on that day. **(Related story, Page 3)**

Index



From the Pastors.....	2
News.....	3-9
Christian Ed.....	4
Anniversaries.....	9
Birthdays.....	9
Calendar.....	10
Prayers.....	11
Staff /Council.....	11

The Columbus Arts Festival arrives in June!

By Anne Hudson, Arts Festival Chair

First Congregational Church will welcome Columbus Arts Festival-goers into our beautiful space to see our wonderful art.

Congregants and their family members will exhibit and sell their artworks displayed in the Large Conference Room and in Parish Hall. The daily Tea Room will support Habitat For Humanity International-Haiti and there will be sales of the Sacred Earth Committee’s teas and coffees. First Church ornaments, stationary and totes also will be on sale. **(Continued on Page 3)**

From the Pastors

Some Thoughts on Grace

By the Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson, Associate Minister



What an amazing Easter beginning we just shared! From the palms thrown on the path for Jesus and his donkey, to sitting at table with the Christ and each of you on Thursday; to Good Friday with our downtown neighbors; and then the wait;....until SUNDAY – three times over!

The chilly morning air in front of the museum was a blessed beginning. (Now I want to learn who the characters are who joined us from their etched-in-stone position, looking down from the edge of the Art Museum.) Both sanctuary celebrations of our Risen Lord were beautiful and the music (Thank you Jamie, Dene, choir and congregation) melted away the sorrow from the preceding days.

On Monday, my husband Matthew (who is also a pastor) and I shared our Sabbath soaking in the sunshine and walking through the woods at Delaware State Park. Overwhelmed by grace, I turned to ask God to help me bridge some of the gap between God's grace and my wonderings of grace. Perhaps you've walked down this path yourself. I decided to share part of my prayer with you from my journey. I welcome your own thoughts and prayers in return.

God of Grace, I hear people call you by this name.
What is grace to you?
Is it a verb or a noun, a way of doing as much as being?
I know it's something we say at dinner...and the name of a favorite Aunt.
When I was young someone told me it was an 'undeserved gift of God';
I disagreed...and come to think of it I disagree even now.
Do you really think of it that way God?
(I pray they meant 'unmerited', even though the words are close friends.)
I experience grace like a riddle:
What is so small you cannot see it - then suddenly it's all around you?
What is so large you cannot fathom it - then it tugs at you from a tiny place in your heart?
Redeemer God, is your grace mercy, reprieve or charm;
Is it a note of embellishment you place in us while blessing us with hope?

I need no answer today, unless that be your desire. I celebrate your mystery.
I come only to wonder and praise and give you thanks; Amen.

Confirmation Sunday is May 23

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

Since March 7, I have been introducing our Confirmation class for 2010. You have been offering them beautiful blessings. Together with Thom Smith and 10 mentors, it has been my joy and honor to teach and learn from this amazing group of young people.

We have an absolutely remarkably gifted group of young people in this class. Our church is blessed with them as current and future leaders of our congregation. Mark your calendar for May 23, when we will confirm these great young people into Christian faith at the 11 a.m. service.

They will lead worship and offer their gifts at both services. Come and celebrate Alex Heer, Anna Rhodes, Allison Lange, Reel Chaudhri, Sarah Ahrens, Betsey Trace, Tom Trace, Steven Deliman, Morgan Shaw and Katie Gies.

Rev. Ahrens' sermon titles

May 2 - Fifth Sunday of Easter - *Risking Compassion* - Acts 11:1-18, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

May 9 - Sixth Sunday of Easter - *Returning to God* Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5, John 14:23-29

May 16 - Ascension of the Lord - *Love Lifts Us Higher* Acts 1:1-11, Luke 24:44-53

May 23 - Pentecost Sunday - Confirmation Sunday
The First One Steps Forward - Acts 2:1-21, John 14:8-17

May 30 - Trinity Sunday - Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

June 6 - Pentecost 1 – 10 a.m. only - Arts Festival weekend - *The Artzy One* - I Kings 17:8-16, Galatians 1:11-24, Luke 7:11-17

June 13 - Pentecost 2 - *To Life!* - I Kings 2:1-10, 15-21a, Luke 7:36-8:3

Rev. Ahrens will be on sabbatical from June 13 to September 19

BREAD's 2010 Nehemiah Action to be Held at Vet's May 3

By Priss Endo



Crime, violence, gangs, truancy and school dropout rates plague the youth of Columbus. But there *are* effective ways to improve youth behavior.

At this year's Nehemiah Action on May 3, BREAD will address these problems by asking public officials to enforce current policies, expand programs that work and identify other "evidenced-based practices" that will help Columbus schools to address the problems of at-risk youth.

Updates on payday lending, neighborhood blight, drug court and healthcare, past issues that BREAD continues to work on, also will be presented.

To make an effective appeal to public officials, BREAD has set a goal of 3,000 people to attend the meeting. Fifty-two congregations have been organizing for the event since last fall. First Church has committed to bringing 50% of its average worship attendance, about 150 members.

Check the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. If your name isn't there, add it and invite family and friends to join you. BREAD's power base is its ability to hold the largest faith-based justice action in Franklin County every year. We are counting on you!

Two options for attending: carpool from the church parking lot at 6 p.m. or meet at Veteran's Memorial (free parking) at 6:15. Participants sit by congregation, so look for the First Church sign. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. Food booths will be open and there is babysitting for 3 – 7 year olds.

Got Art? You Can Share It

By Deb Anderson, Art Committee

Individuals, families, relatives and friends of First Church are invited to submit artworks for this year's exhibit, sponsored by the Art Committee and the Arts Festival Committee.

Exhibition dates: May 10-June 10

Delivery of art: May 1 (10 a.m.-1p.m.); May 2 (12-1 p.m.); May 8 (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Pick up art: June 11 (10 a.m.-1 p.m.); June 12 (12-1 p.m.)

Please observe these times and dates; Don't burden the church staff with deliveries or pickups! Special arrangements must be made with Deb Anderson, the organizer, (614-235-9526)

Entry forms are in the church office and on the art bulletin board. There is no entry fee.

What can be submitted: Paintings (oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.), drawings, clay metal, fibers (quilts, embroidery, etc.) Please no kits or coloring books and the like. Sizes: No larger than 4' X 4' All pieces must be ready to hang. Framed pieces are preferred. Young children's work can be attached to larger sheets of paper (colored or white) ready to be tacked up on boards. At least one piece of each artist will be shown (1-3 pieces may be entered).

Exhibition venue: Large conference room and the Parish Hall (2-D pieces on the wall and free-standing boards; 3-D pieces must be smallish to fit into 2 lockable glass cases).

Installation: May 9 and 10. All art work will be stored in a locked room when delivered; it will be handled with care, but the church cannot insure the works. The artist is responsible for insurance.

Pieces entered can be for sale, but it is not required. If the artist wishes to donate a portion of the sale price to Habitat for Humanity, a suggested percentage would be 20%. To make a purchase, contact Deb Anderson at 614-235-9526.

(ARTS FESTIVAL, Concluded from Page 1)

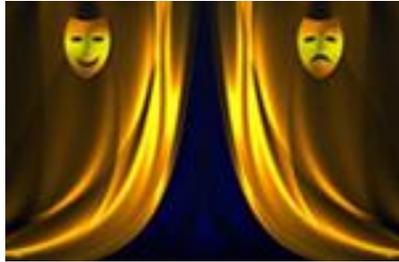
Music concerts will be: Early Interval at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 4; Magpie Consort, Kata Bomba Drummers, the OSU African-American Women's Chorus, and, from the Columbus Museum of Art, the Columbus Complaints Chorus, all beginning Saturday (June 5) at 7 p.m. Organ recitals on Sunday (June 6) at 1 p.m. will complete the weekend, with performances by our own Jamie Bobb and G. Dene Barnard.

Please volunteer to help welcome visitors. Sign up in the church office or online at fcaf444@yahoo.com. Our church is an outstanding part of the Discovery District and we want people to learn about us!

Christian Education

First Church Youth to Present Annual Cabaret on April 30

It's Cabaret time again at First Church!



The church youth will take the stage on Friday, April 30, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. There will be amazing acts to entertain every age, and lots of food and fun. A silent auction will be held, and proceeds from the night will benefit the Youth Ministries' 2010 summer mission trip.

Tickets at \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children. They can be purchased in the office, during Fellowship Hour, with your offering or at the door.

Come celebrate the young people of First Church – and have a great time, too!

Help Mission Trip, Buy a Mile

By Mark Williams, Christian Education Director

Thanks to everyone who made the Youth Mission Fair such a success!

Buy-a-Mile is now starting the youth on their way. They are asking for donations of \$7 a mile to make the mission trip to Heifer International Overlook Farm in Rutland, Mass., June 13-19.



So far, they have enough donations to get to Cleveland. There is a giant map in the Parish Hall that will track the donations on the route to Rutland. Each week, members will get an update on how far they are on the trip. The youth also are selling Jose Madrid Salsa for \$6 a jar. There are 19 different flavors available. Samples will be available during the Fellowship hour.

Heifer's primary mission is to send animals to families in need. But Heifer involves so much more: cottage industry, education, teamwork, land management and nutrition, to name a few.

We will spend a week this summer engaged in hands-on stewardship of the earth and its people and bring back a

great gift to share: the principles and practices of a just and balanced global community.

Thanks for helping to get the mission trip off to such a great start!

Appreciation Breakfast is May 2

The Christian Education Department will host a teacher and library time appreciation breakfast on May 2 in the Children's Library. All teachers and library time leaders will be recognized in both services that day.



Summer Camp Catalog Available

Think Spring!

If the Outdoor Ministries Summer Camp Catalog has arrived, can spring be far behind? Everyone is ready to plan some fun in the sun and that's just what camp is. There are camps for kindergarten and first graders with a grandparent. Weeklong camps are for children who have completed the second grade and older. There are camps for teens and camps with themes. There are camps for adults, and even one for families.

Here is something new this year about registration. The registration can be done online by going to the following link: www.ocucc.org/outdoormin/Summer%20Camp/SummerCampSchedule.htm In fact, the entire camp schedule is online.



First Church is offering financial assistance for those families who need extra help. Any child who wants to go to camp should not be stopped due to financial concerns of the family. For more information about camp, please contact Mark S. Williams.

Adult Education Class: Sunday, 10 a.m., April 25 and May 2 – James E. Bobb, Minister of Music, will present two sessions on music and worship. The presentation will be held in room D. Everyone is welcome!!

First Church News

"The Future's Broadening Way"

Our Capital Campaign is Moving Out of the Planning Stage

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

Since mid-March, Tom Stewart has led the Capital Campaign Committee in its internal operations of preparing the "The Future's Broadening Way."



The Byers property is being purchased as part of the capital campaign.

Our bold challenge and joyful opportunity will be to raise \$6 million over the next four years. We have a great team of people leading the way! Within days, you will all see their great "Good Work." Publicity, written materials, and superb presentations will follow one after the other in the weeks ahead.

On Easter Sunday, we recognized 39 men and women who have committed to work on our behalf to make this campaign a great success. Let's join their parade of joy and step up in our commitment to assist and to give to this church's greatest effort for expansion, mission and repair of the building EVER attempted. In my sermon April 11, I talked about "frugality fatigue." I said we are all worn out from holding our cards and cash so close to our chests.

In the springtime of hope, I believe this is the time to step up and step into the future's broadening way. Some of us may have abstained from the vote on the campaign or voted against it. I also feel – whether we voted for, against or not at all – we need to stand together and commit our resources to make this campaign succeed.

We can do this. The money we need to reach our goals is held in our hands. We only need to open our hands to share it. So let's ALL join in the efforts, in the words of Washington Gladden, to step far down the "future's broadening way."

Why I Love the Acolytes

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

The acolytes of First Church have an important role to play each Sunday at 11 a.m. In every season of the church year, they bear the Christ Light into the church as worship begins and into the world as we depart to serve.

As Christ's light bearers, they are the first worship leaders into and out of the service.

Carrying the Light of Christ with small feet is no small feat. They have to show up early, get dressed in white robes and the colors of the season, be prepared to enter with a spirit of worship and they then return at the close of worship with the same goals in mind. They can't run, skip or trip down the aisle. They have to work as a team of two, arrive at the chancel steps in sync and lift their light to candles which loom high above them. They have to place themselves at the close of worship at the base of the chancel steps and wait for worship leaders to end the song and benediction and then follow them to the Broad Street doors.

They have to do all this with fire in their hands while we are singing, following them and creating lots of exciting activity all around them. They have to remain focused on the care of their fire light at all points.

In addition, they cannot duel with their acolyte sticks, cannot fight fire with fire, or do anything that draws attention to their task of worship leadership. They have a lot of bosses who tell them what to do and yet, they often, like Frank Sinatra, "do their way." When they are flawless, we might not notice they were present that day. However, when they make any mistakes, everyone is aware, mostly with graceful smiles.

However it goes, the acolytes return week in and week out, 52 Sundays a year to serve our church. For 10 years, my wife, Susan Sitler, has assisted the deacons to support the acolytes of First Church, with no real attention drawn to her gentle and loving guidance of the angels in white robes (She, like her acolytes, prefers not to have attention drawn to her).

I love the acolytes and give thanks to God that they bring the Christ light burning in their hearts to our church and serve each week to brighten our path and carry God's light. You need a "light" heart to serve as an acolyte. I love to follow our light-hearted leaders into worship and out into the world each week. Thanks be to God for the acolytes!

*Read Sermons Online
at
www.first-church.org*

First Church News

Jane Weddle's Quest for Life

A Story of a Beloved Member and Her Needs
By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

Recently, I sat down in my office with Jane and Mike Weddle and Rev. Janine Wilson to learn more from Jane about her continuing battle with kidney failure. Jane has been battling kidney problems since 2007. When a CT/MRI and a urologist all confirmed kidney cancer, removal of one kidney was necessary, then the remaining one failed and Jane set forth in her battle for life.

Since 2008, she has been on kidney dialysis. It is a daily process of cleansing the body in her fight for life. She is now on a transplant waiting list, having been clear of cancer for two years (a pre-requisite for going on the list). It normally takes three to five years of waiting to receive a healthy, transplantable kidney from a deceased donor. There has been better success with kidneys from living donors. So, any one of us could share one of our two kidneys if we have either A or O blood type, we are healthy and we are 60 years old or younger. We need only call the Transplant Center at OSU – 614-293-6724. We should ask for either Leah or Robin when we call.

I am the one who encouraged Jane to tell her story and ask you for one of your kidneys. Jane is a remarkable woman. She was a school teacher for 20 years – eight years in kindergarten and 12 years as an art teacher. She was a Sunday school teacher for several years, was our Christian Education director for a brief period as well. She has been coming to our concerts since the early 1970s and has sung in the choir on and off since 1972. She and Mike have been married going on 38 years and have three adult children – Megan, Ryan and Heather – all raised in the church. She absolutely loves First Church and all our members!

About three months ago, I encouraged Jane to tell her story after I saw a national news story about a church in Chicago where the pastor preached about one woman's need for a kidney transplant and a young woman, who never had met the other woman, came forward and gave her kidney as an act of love and faith. I was inspired.

Perhaps, hearing and reading Jane's story will inspire one of us to do the same. Although many of us have marked the card on our driver's license to be an organ donor, with kidney donations, we need not die to save a life. Consider this prayerfully. Maybe God is calling one of us to help Jane or someone else through a living organ donation.

Author Mitch Albom to Speak in Columbus on April 25

Author Mitch Albom will speak about spirituality on Sunday, April 25, at 7 p.m. at Congregation Tifereth Israel, 1354 E. Broad St. His talk will be based on his book *Have a Little Faith*, which was the subject of First Church's Tuesdays at First book study in March.



Have A Little Faith is an insightful story about the author's friendship with two very different men of faith. One is the 82-year-old rabbi from Albom's New Jersey home town, who requests that Mitch deliver a eulogy at his funeral. The other is a reformed drug dealer and addict who currently serves as pastor of a rundown Detroit church offering refuge to the homeless.

Albom also is the author of *Tuesdays With Morrie* and *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.

General admission tickets are \$45 and \$15 for students. The evening includes book signings, and books will be available for purchase. For information, call Tifereth Israel at 614-253-8523. Tickets can be ordered online at www.tiferethisrael.org.

Work Day to be Held May 1 at Templed Hills

There will be a work day at Templed Hills near Belleville on May 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers of all ages and skills are welcome. We do require that workers under 18 years old be accompanied by an adult (parent/guardian, church youth leader or pastor) who is responsible for them during the work camp day.

Each work camp participant must sign a work camp release/waiver of liability form. Forms for participants under age 18 must be signed by a parent or guardian.

There is usually a variety of projects that can be done. The site managers will work with your group to make the best possible match of workers' skills and tasks to be done. We appreciate your flexibility and willingness to serve in whatever way you are most needed.

We suggest that you bring work gloves and basic tools (please mark your personal tools for easy identification). For complete details, go to www.ocucc.org.

UCC Great Lakes Regional Youth Event



Where: Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio

When: June 17-20, 2010

Who: Youth who have completed 6th grade through those who have just completed their senior year of high school

Cost: \$225 per person

Featuring musicians Jason and Demarco and Andra Moran - worship facilitator

Workshops, worship, music, fellowship and service projects

Go online to www.ocucc.org for registration forms

Questions? Contact Sharon Nelson
slnelson@zoominternet.net



Friend of First Church Needs Some Help

Our friend and weekly Sunday worshipping member, Sherman Hill, now has an apartment. We celebrate his finding a place to call home after four years of living under a bridge in Cincinnati and one year on our Columbus streets.

Since last April, he has been writing his book, *Divine Intervention from God*. He is planning for his book to soon be published and he is counting all his blessings!

He now lives at Sunshine Terrace in apartment #517. He needs lots of items to set up his first home in five years. Here is a list:

- Curtains for two big windows
- A lamp
- An old bike to ride to church
- A comfortable chair
- A small kitchen table and chair
- Sheets, pillows, blankets
- Towels, shower curtain and soap
- Pots, pans, cooking utensils, plates, silverware
- DVD and CD player
- A small microwave

Call the office (228-1741) if you have items to donate and we'll arrange to have them picked up and delivered. Congratulations Sherman!

Golf League Looking for Some Duffers

The First Church golf league will tee up this season starting on Thursday, April 29, at 5 p.m. at the Gahanna Municipal Golf Course (nine holes), 220 Olde Ridenour Rd., Gahanna. Everyone is welcome, from beginners to those who want to polish their swing. Keeping score is optional.



The league plays every Thursday for 10 weeks at the Gahanna course. Cost for the 10 weeks is \$100, payable at the course on the first Thursday. Seniors get a break, paying \$80. Players need to bring clubs. Golf balls, tees and pull carts (\$2) are available at the course.

To sign up or if you have questions, contact Frank Cook at 614-933-0012 or fnc2@aol.com. There also is a sign-up sheet in the office.

First Church News

Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum



Given to the Jackie Owen Memorial Music Fund in celebration of the life of Jackie Owen by:

William Owen

Given to the Mission Endowment in honor of Bill and Alice Boden by:

Phil and Valerie Stichter

Given to the Mission Endowment in celebration of the life of Wallace Cannon by:

Phil and Valerie Stichter

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Ruth Rieppel by:

Worthington Music Club

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Barbara Heer by:

Connie Johnson

Joanne Morse

Ray and Rachel Dailey

Your gifts, payable to the First Congregational Church, are very much appreciated. Celebration Gifts may be designated to the Remembrance Fund or an Endowment Fund and given in honor of a particular moment in the life of friend or family member. The gold-colored Celebration Gift folders can be found in the pews and in the office.

UCC Annual Gathering Set for June 11-12

Begin making plans for this year's Annual Gathering of the United Church of Christ Ohio Conference, to be held June 11 and 12 at Heidelberg University in Tiffin.

The theme of this year's event is "Connecting Vital Ministry Networks." Among the speakers will be the Rev. Geoffrey Black, UCC general minister and president, the Rev. Martha Grace Reese, a consultant and researcher specializing in faith, faith sharing and congregational transformation in mainline congregations, and the Rev. Marian Plant, associate professor of Christian education at Defiance College and author of *Faith Formation in Vital Congregations*.

For details and the complete schedule for the Annual Gathering, go to www.ocucc.org.

Young Adults Are in Demand!



Are you between the ages of 18 & 35? Would you like to meet other young adults – some single, some married, some with children and others without children? Are you a searcher, seeker, or doer? Do you like to read, explore, play, pray, or

engage in mission? Does time to explore your faith, study the Bible, discover and discuss books, theology, daily life or science appeal to you? Are you getting ready for college or looking forward to enjoying your break away from college?

If any of these ideas are of interest (or if you have an interest you'd like to share with others not on the list), then please call or email me, Pastor Janine, at: 614 228-1741, ext. 21, or jwilson@first-church.org. Young adult ministry opportunities are on the horizon. We hope you will be part of this new beginning!

Need to Borrow From the Kitchen?

We're happy to have you use our kitchenware when needed, but we've come up with a way to keep better track of what's been borrowed. There's now a clipboard in the downstairs kitchen by the microwave to sign out kitchen cookware you need. Just list the item borrowed, date taken, your name and your phone number so we can contact you if we need it back earlier than you planned. Questions? Email Nancy Burba at church (vvolunteer@first-church.org), or call her at the office (228-1741) on Tuesdays or at home 476-4148. Thanks for your help!



Mission Offerings Schedule

In May, the undesignated loose offerings will benefit the following missions that First Church supports:

May 2 - BREAD

May 9 - Lower Lights

May 16 - MLK Memorial

May 23 - Back Bay

May 30 - Our Church's Wider Ministry



Kitchen Items are Needed for Refugee Families

The Missions Committee is beginning a collaborative project with the Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) to collect kitchen items for welcome baskets for new refugee families being resettled in Columbus. Items will be collected quarterly. Collection boxes will be located in the Parish Hall near the coffee and tote bag sales tables.

Suggested kitchen items are: drinking glasses, can opener, cutting board, dish towels, paper towels, dish soap, sponges, waste baskets, mixing bowls, baking dishes and silverware.

New or gently-used items are appreciated and are tax deductible. Members of the Missions Committee will deliver the items to CRIS, where staff members will assemble the baskets and make them available to the new families.



Project Welcome Basket is an opportunity for First Church to welcome refugees who are forced to flee their countries to escape persecution. The families need our help so they can begin to find freedom and peace in their new homeland.

First Thursday Fellowship Set For May 6

The First Thursday Fellowship will meet on May 6 at 10 a.m. at the home of Arlene Reynolds, 273 Erie Rd., in Clintonville.

Following refreshments, there will be a discussion of books that have been read by the group. All are welcome.

Second Thursday Fellowship Meets May 13

The Second Thursday Fellowship will meet on Thursday, May 13, in the church parlor at 10 a.m.

Member Tom Brownfield will talk about his experience as an Ohio Conference UCC representative to a conference on child poverty in Germany. Refreshments will be served.

Member Happy May Birthdays

1: Allen Baker	20: Matt Myers
2: Aimee Cerny	21: Martha Loy
3: Dan McCarty	21: Carol Gallagher
3: Matt Stevens	22: Val Stichter
5: Rick Sayre	23: Guy Cole
5: Marc Danneberger	23: Melissa Murdock-Weygandt
6: Robyn Petras	24: Dorothy Vish
9: Cheryl Hoskinson	24: Justin Dewolfe
10: Anne Hudson	25: Brian Cave
11: Marie Pfeiffer	26: Bill Heer
11: Marilyn Minter	26: Luke Ahrens
13: Bill Wirsching	27: Sandy Bennett
15: Donald Calhoun	27: Charles Roach
15: Andrew MacGregor	28: Bill Johannes
16: Greer Aeschbury	29: John Zahn
18: Nancy Burba	29: Arlene Reynolds
18: Brooke Wilson	29: Nancy Williams
18: Kyle Danneberger	29: Kay Metz
19: Betty Powell	29: Eric Van Gorden
19: Dave Wharton	30: Mike Petras
19: Traci Shaw	30: Peter Worley
20: Mike Weddle	
20: Todd Cunningham	

Member Happy May Anniversaries

3: Fran and Bruce Panek
8: Nancy and Larry Braverman
10: Elizabeth and Mike Bockbrader
11: Elaine Stewart and Darla Luebbe
11: Lori Ann and Ben Horne
12: Sarah and Bill Lange
13: Beth and Joe Iannarino
18: Debbie and Colin Thompson
19: Linda and Ralph Mumford
19: Nancy Loy and Tom Worley
23: Betsy Hubbard and Sam Spofforth
27: Candy and Phil Schneider
28: Ardis and David Holt
28: Lola and Bill Edwards

If we miss your birthday or anniversary, contact Denny Mahoney at 228-1741, ext. 17, or dmahoney@first-church.org.

Oops!

The Sacred Earth Committee has given \$750 from its sale of totes to the House and Grounds Committee for lighting efficiency improvements in the building. An incorrect amount was given in last month's newsletter.

Church Calendar

Sunday, April 25

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Early Worship - PH
10 am – Education Hour
10 am – First Church Choir – Choir Room
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour - PH
4 pm – Congregational Concert – San

Monday, April 26

6:30 pm – Stephen Ministers – Adult Library
6:30 pm – Technology Committee - PFR
7 pm – Capital Campaign Committee – LC

Tuesday, April 27

12 pm - Card Care Ministry – PFR
7 pm – Personnel Committee – LC

Wednesday, April 28

12:00p – Arts Festival Committee – PFR
7 pm – Adult Education Committee – LC

Thursday, April 29

3 pm – Cabaret Set Up – PH
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Music Activity Room
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Friday, April 30

7 pm – Youth Cabaret – PH

Sunday, May 2

9 am – Early Worship – PH
9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room
10 am - Education Hour
11 am – Worship Service – San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour – PH
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D

Monday, May 3

7 pm – BREAD Meeting – Vet’s Memorial
7 pm – Capital Campaign – PFR

Tuesday, May 4

12:00 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
6:30 pm – Children’s Ed – Ed Wing Rm D
7 pm – Mission Committee – LC
7:30 pm – Youth Ministry Team – Ed Wg Rm C

Wednesday, May 5

11 am – Book Study – LC
12:00 pm – Arts Festival Committee – PFR
7 pm – Church Growth Committee - PFR

Thursday, May 6

10 am – First Thursday Fellowship
6:15 pm – Ringers – Bell Room
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, May 8

9 am - New Members Class – Choir Room
10 am – First Church Quilters – LC

Sunday, May 9 (Schumacher Awards)

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room
9 am - Early Worship Service - San
10 am - First Church Choir - Choir Room
10 am – Education Hour
11 am - Worship Service – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
6 pm – Youth Groups - PH

Monday, May 10

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – PFR
6:30 pm – Trustees – LC
7 pm – Capital Campaign Committee – PFR

Tuesday, May 11

12:00 pm – Card Care Ministry – PFR
6 pm – Music Committee – PR
7 pm – Executive Committee – PFR

Wednesday, May 12

12:00 pm – Arts Festival Committee – PFR
7 pm – Budget and Finance – LC

Thursday, May 13

10 am – Second Thursday Fellowship – PR
2 pm – Art Committee – PR
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Bell Room
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, May 15

9 am – House and Grounds – PFR

Sunday, May 16 (New Members Join)

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room
9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
10 am - Education Hour
10 am - First Church Choir - Choir Rm
11 am - Worship Service - San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D
9 pm – Compline - San

Monday, May 17

7 pm – Capital Campaign Committee – PFR

Tuesday, May 18

12:00 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
7 pm – Church Council – LC

Wednesday, May 19

11 am – Book Study – LC
12 pm – Arts Festival Committee – PFR

Thursday, May 20

6:15 pm – Ringers – Bell Room
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Sunday, May 23 (Pentecost, Confirmation)

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room
9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
10 am - Education Hour
10 am - First Church Choir - Choir Room
11 am - Worship Service – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
6 pm – Youth Groups – PH

Prayers

Prayer Request: Please let us know of a prayer concern for yourself, a family member or other church member by calling the Rev. Timothy Ahrens at 614.228.1741, ext. 13, by using prayer request cards found in each pew or by emailing tahrens@first-church.org.

Please pray for those who continue to walk through grief and loss, for those battling illness and addictions in their families, for all serving in Iraq and elsewhere and for others in need. Please offer prayers for those who are lonely, lost and hurting. Pray for our nation as we face all too much anxiety, fear and uncertainty with faith, hope and love. May God bless you in your giving and in your living in Christ's love and grace. Amen.

Baptisms

Dominic Gabriel Bonito – April 11
Ava Lillian Straley – April 11
Adyson Mae Standard – April 11
Zuri Rose Standard – April 11

Deaths

Bob Williams – March 27

Marriages

Megan Kelley and Todd Perry – March 20
Lindsey Johnston and Brian Badernsnyder – March 20
Erin Miller and Matt Souder – April 10

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on May 2 and 16 during Fellowship Hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated.

~ Remember Your Loved Ones ~
With a Dedication of Flowers

Contact Marty Worth at 614.228.1741, ext. 12,
mworth@first-church.org

May Fellowship Hour

May 2: Corinthians
May 9: Daniel
May 16: Deuteronomy
May 23: Ephesians
May 30: Galatians

May Acolyte Schedule

May 2: Carly Kutschbach and Ben Allred
May 9: Jaden Martin-Wynia and Luke Zimmerman
May 16: Nick Warrick and Michael Warrick
May 23: Merry Roach and Katie Geis
May 30: Joe Spofforth and Adam Wade
(Schedules online at www.first-church.org)

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, May 10, by noon

Worship CDs Available: We provide copies of worship services on CDs. The CDs are available in the literature rack outside the church office after worship. A \$1 donation for the CD can be left in a container on the church office counter.

Church Staff

Timothy C. Ahrens.....Senior Minister
Janine Wilson.....Associate Minister
James E. Bobb.....Minister of Music
Mark S. Williams.....Director of Christian Education
G. Dene Barnard.....Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus
Sharon Leidheiser.....Business Administrator
Martha Worth.....Program Manager
Bill Beckett.....Building Manager
Denny Mahoney.....Office Manager
Kelvin Murphy, Eric Trepkoski.....Custodians
Frank Wall, William Lee.....Custodians
Nikki Boop, Rosemary Pawandiwa.....Nursery
DeAndree Norris.....Nursery
Linda Mumford.....Wedding Coordinator
Jane Leidheiser.....Wedding Coordinator
Fran Panek.....Wedding Coordinator

Church Council

Melody Leidheiser.....Moderator
Sarah Reed.....Vice-Moderator
Trish Bishop, Judy Smith.....Secretary/Assistant
David Holt, Jim Fewlass.....Treasurer/Assistant
Frank Cook, Sandy Bennett.....Administration/Assistant
Wayne Piper.....Church Growth
Diane Cole, Priss Endo.....Education/Assistant
Wally Giffen, Vince Papsidero.....House & Grounds/Assistant
Anne Hudson, Patrick Keller.....Mission/Assistant
Julia Myers.....Parish Life
Gerry Worth.....Senior Deacon
Kevin Butler.....Deacon
Jane Leidheiser, John Deliman.....Music, Arts, Heritage/Ast.
Nancy Loy.....Nominating Chair
Jordan Knerr.....Member-at-large
Doug Buck.....Member-at-large

The First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
444 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3885

DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT

*Please Deliver: **Monday, April 26, 2010***

TO:

[Empty dashed rectangular box for recipient information]



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