

First Church News

First Congregational Church, UCC
Columbus, Ohio

"Enter to Worship - Depart to Serve"

August
2012
Vol. 160,
No. 8



Exciting Capital Projects Happening this Summer

By The Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister
(tahrens@first-church.org)

Your Capital Campaign dollars are being put to work! In the words of the Prophet Jeremiah, "We are tearing down, plucking up, and rebuilding" our church, our city and our dream!



This summer we have been replacing the church furnace, repairing stained-glass windows in the chapel, repairing and tuck-pointing the church chimney (atop the Parish House), and we will drop a 100 foot liner down the chimney so the furnace can be up and running by late fall. Meanwhile, we are also digging up asphalt, tearing down walls and fences, regrading the west lot, planting grass, setting up air-conditioning in the parlor and conference rooms and painting hallways and rooms.

That's right! We are beautifying the west lot and so much more!

The "to do" list also includes removing walls on the Broad St. entrance to the west lot, disconnecting electric lines, removing light poles, removing chain link fences, securing the children's play area, removing our old storage shed and relocating items to the Carriage House, adding soil, planting trees, sealing and restriping the parking lot, installing bike racks, installing handrails into the west side entrances to the church, stripping and painting the interior entrances in to the church on the west side (leading from the southwest entrance into the sanctuary and down to Parish Hall).

In addition, the walls leading up to the choir room, in Rev. Wilson's office and in Sharon's office, which were damaged by a leak on the AC unit on the roof in late May, are being repaired and painted. Later this year, we will remove, repair, and strengthen the Jeffery Window in the chancel.

We are getting ready for our 160th celebration in September. So, if you can help out in any way with our

projects, please do so. August will fly by and we can use your help because we need volunteers to help make our dreams come true!

I would like to thank the entire Church Council under the leadership of Gerry Worth for their efforts to move us forward. Huge thanks goes to our building manager, Tom Luff, as he works alongside our amazing four "workhorses" - Tom Worley, Charlie Weaver, Gary Leidheiser and Wally Giffen.

[Related story on Page 3](#)

To everyone who has given and plans to give to our Capital Campaign – Thanks be to God for your gifts that make this possible. So much more is coming! As we still "Broaden the Future's Way" let us keep our gifts coming in and share our time and talents as well.

God bless you all!

Minister of Music Search Continues

The search committee for the Minister of Music position has met three times during the past six weeks.

There currently are 24 applicants for the position and we expect more applications to arrive in the next few weeks. It is interesting to note that excellent candidates from across the U.S. have applied, coming from as far away as Minnesota, Missouri, New York, South Carolina, Florida, Connecticut, Washington State, California, Michigan, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

Committee members are reviewing resumés and submitted audio and video materials. The committee will meet again in August and September with the goal of selecting finalists to invite for final audition interviews. –

John Deliman, Search Committee Chair

Inside

From the Pastors – 2

News – 3, 5-9

Christian Ed – 4, 5

Music – 6

Birthdays – 9

Anniversaries – 9

Calendar - 10

Prayers - 11

God Helps to Ease the Fear of All Life's Monsters

By the Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson, Associate Minister
(jjwilson@first-church.org)

One of the great things about summer is the fun songs children learn from one another in church school and summer camps they visit.



Recently, we had the joy of hearing a new song, one that reminded me a debate our son raised when he was 4 years old. He and I were driving home from pre-K and his small serious voice in the back seat asked, "Mom, if Godzilla and Jesus got in a fight, which one would win?" I had to admit this was not a question I'd ever thought about before.

This week, our grandson delivered the definitive answer as his 5-year-old voice serenaded us with song, "God is bigger than Godzilla, God is bigger than monster trucks. God is bigger than the monsters on TV. God is bigger than you and me!". The fun rhythm and lyrics continue to celebrate that God stays with us no matter what scary things come our way. This is clearly reassuring to the kiddos.

I realized after the third or fourth rendition of this scary/funny song that it crosses all age barriers. God is bigger than our adult "monsters" too -- the illnesses that slow us down, the breaks and bruises that come and go. God is bigger than the diseases with names that send chills down our spine. God is even big enough to catch our flash floods of tears. God is bigger than you and me.

It's an old, old song. The Psalmist knew it. And it was one of our lectionary readings for the Pentecost season. Chances are pretty good you know this one. It begins this way: "The Lord is my shepherd . . ." (Psalm 23 if you want to learn it.).

Thank you God for summer songs from children and shepherds long ago

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

'Virtue is the Beauty of the Soul'

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

"Virtue is doing good to humankind in obedience to the will of God, and for the sake of everlasting happiness." – William Paley, *The Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy*

Thomas Fuller once wrote, "*Virtue is the Beauty of the Soul.*" I believe virtue is to the soul what health is to the body. To be virtuous is to daily live and "exercise" one's spirit and soul through prayerful meditation, reflective and kind speech, and acts of mercy, justice, and love. To be virtuous one must look into the eyes of family and neighbors and love them for who they are while calling them (and each of ourselves as well!) to live lives of faith, hope and love. To be virtuous one must seek out the news of this world, take it in, reframe one's attitude and understanding of what is seen, heard and witnessed and then reach out in the newness of life to serve and bless those around you.



One must breathe in and breathe out deeply the love of God in Christ. It is hard to do. So often, we are gasping for breath – at least in a spiritual sense. While on vacation, Sarah and I were driving along in Daytona Beach, Florida, and she saw the U.S. flag at half mast. She said, "*Dad, something terrible has happened. The flag doesn't fly at half mast unless something tragic has happened in our nation.*"

She was right. Away from television and newspapers, we were completely unaware less than 24 hours earlier, a young man had opened fire on a theatre full of midnight viewers of *The Dark Knight Rises* in Aurora, Colo., (a film we had seen only 14 hours after this tragedy). Twelve people were dead in the aftermath of yet another horrific act of gun violence. How does one reframe such a terrible act of violence in virtuous ways? Begin by breathing. Breathe in and out, step out and act in love as if the world was waiting for you to do so.

Your steps of love may be small. They may be simple. Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa writes in the *Mishnah*, "*When you ease your neighbor's heart, you make heaven smile.*" Start with easing your neighbor's heart. Food and friendship always help.

(Continued on Page 3)

Capital Campaign Halfway Home

By Cindy Conn, Treasurer

The Capital Campaign has reached the half way mark and we are encouraged by the timely contributions of

members toward their pledge to the campaign. As work progresses – both on the West Lot and the existing building – we want to thank everyone for their continuing support.

You can see the expansion of “green space” beginning to take shape on the west side of the church, and the ongoing improvements in the building. This would not be possible without the consistent financial support of the members who have pledged to the capital campaign.

To continue with our payments on the purchase of the lot and to maintain our schedule for renovation and development we need the financial resources. Thank you again for all that you have given and continue to give to our Capital Campaign.

(REV. AHRENS, Concluded from Page 2)

Not long ago, I ascended the steps into the Gallery of our sanctuary. I stood below the magnificent Rose Window. She spoke to me. Her scales of Justice, her anchor of Hope, her lamp of Wisdom, her chalice of Faith, and her sword of Courage – all crafted in and around the lilies of Purity and the Love of God in Christ – she spoke to me. Her voice was soft and clear. She beckoned me to behold the virtues of the Christian life. She called me to more deeply live into these virtues. I was blown away by her beauty. I wanted to be more holy. I wanted to be more beautiful. I wanted to live into the virtues I saw before me!

Last month I wrote to you: *“Thousands of passersby look upon our church each day as it faces Broad Street. Chiseled in stone are the words “Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve.” Rising above these words is our Rose Window. It is the most prominent and beautiful statement of faith in stained glass we have speaking to a world passing by. Designed by Wilbert C. Rowan (1887-1973), Professor of Architecture at The Ohio State University and built by Oliver Smith, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania in 1931, the Rose Window addresses the Christian Virtues.*



THE FUTURE'S BROADENING WAY

For the last 40 years, the Rose Window has been hidden from view inside our sanctuary because of the von Beckerath organ, constructed in 1972 by Rudolph von Beckerath of Germany. Although hidden to those within our sanctuary, our beautiful Rose rises gloriously for all Columbus to behold. Just recently, thanks to Cori Rowley and our webmasters, the Rose has risen again! You will find her on our website, our stationary, our newsletter, our tee-shirts, and all our artistic designs as the glorious symbol and sign of who we are and who we seek to be as we follow Christ.”

Rev. Earl Fritz started us with Love this past Sunday. I encourage you to come to worship each Sunday of August and September 2. Soak in the Christian Virtues displayed in our Rose Window. Let them speak to you as well. They are Love, Hope, Faith, Wisdom, Justice and Courage. After you have reflected upon these virtues, depart to serve Christ.

Here is the order of the remaining five sermons and the order in which they will be presented:

“Shining God’s Light on Hidden Christian Virtues”

August 5 – Part II of VI: “The Anchor of Hope” – I Corinthians 13:13
Rev. Ahrens preaching



August 12 – Part III of VI: “The Chalice of Faith” – Hebrews 11:1-3
Rev. Ahrens preaching

August 19 – Part IV of VI: “The Lamp of Wisdom” – Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-25
Rev. Ahrens preaching

August 26 – Part V of VI: “The Scales of Justice” – Micah 6:6-8
Mr. Tom Brownfield, Commissioned Minister of Social Justice and Emily Bennett preaching

September 2 – Part VI of VI: “The Sword of Courage” – I Chronicles 22:13b
Rev. Ahrens preaching

*New Contact Information?
Let us know so we can let you know.*

*Call the office at 228-1741
or email us at home@first-church.org.*

Seasons of the Spirit Logo Christian Education Season to Begin in September

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



The logo for this year's education season is an outside circle surrounding swirls representing the Holy One, God, our loving Creator in whom we have our being.



The three intertwining circles represent the intent of the curriculum – the integration of worship, learning, and serving:

* The blue swirl, ending in a shape symbolizing wind, represents worship, the movement of the Holy Spirit that

flows inward, outward, and around our coming together.

* The green swirl, ending in a leaf shape, represents Learning and growing in faith, as we explore meaning and mystery in the Bible and are transformed in Christ.

* The orange swirl, ending in a hand shape, represents serving, as we reach outward into the world, engaging in ministries of love, justice, and witness.

Celebration Sunday is September 9

The Christian Education year begins on Celebration Sunday, September 9, with the education hour starting for all ages at 10 a.m. This year's theme is "Moving Forth in Faith." More information will be in the September newsletter, on the Web site and on our Facebook page.

Confirmation Meeting Planned

An informational meeting will be held August 19 for those invited youth and their parents interested in Confirmation. We will meet in the church parlor at 10 a.m. prior to the 11 a.m. service.

Young People Get on Board With UCC's 'Faith in' Campaign

By Anthony Moujaes

Live your faith. Love your community.

For thousands of young people spread across the side of Slayter Hill at conclusion of the United Church of Christ's National Youth Event at Purdue University in July, it's the beginning of a new initiative, given into their care.

They will be part of the nationwide kickoff of the "Faith,In" project. Their mission is to make their faith visible in the communities they call home.



"It's time to show your faith, in your community or wherever your faith calls you," W. Mark Clark said. "Live your faith. Love your community. That's the Faith,In Project, and you're invited to be a part of it."

Clark told that in living their faith, they have already made a large impact in the Purdue University community in a short time.

"You've also shown your faith here in West Lafayette, Indiana. Through your service and mission this week, you have shown this local community the power of mission and the strength of service," he said.

For days, the UCC youth went around the Purdue campus and into West Lafayette for service projects - doing landscaping work, helping area seniors, cleaning cages at the humane society and sorting and bagging donated food. Those are just a few examples of the types of mission work they can do where they live.

Among the ideas suggested as ways for involvement in local communities are:

- Promote random kindness. Spruce up your town.
- Create art. Read with children.
- Celebrate diversity. Advocate justice.
- Live your faith. Love your community.

First Church Youth Welcomed at National Youth Event

By Emma Welsh-Huggins

"Extravagant Welcome" was a phrase well chosen by the leaders and organizers of the 2012 National Youth Event in West Lafayette, Ind., in July.

From the first minute of walking onto the Purdue University campus, groups were astounded by the huge crowd of UCC members – more than 2,500 in all. The sheer size of the event was not the only extraordinary part of it, however. The dedication to the church and each individual's church community shone through throughout the four days.



Each morning and evening, we filled up Purdue's Elliott Music Hall for worship, inspirational and motivational speakers, and more than a little dancing in the aisles. And although it was hard not to smile looking around at an even bigger family none of us knew we had, we also began to understand the sincerity of the messages we heard that first night. As the night's keynote speaker M.K. Asante urged us to believe, you must "transform an observation into an obligation."

Inspired by powerful words, NYE attendees excitedly rushed through the next few days. The workshops, interspersed with meals and community free time, were fascinating. One covered the topic of the struggle to end global hunger, while yet another confronted the stigmatized issue of HIV/AIDS. All the classes I attended were set up to spark a conversation about these difficult issues, one that would hopefully continue with our return home.

But most did not wait to begin that conversation. In fact, many classes ran over their allotted time because so many eager hands were waiting to be called upon, to voice opinions, worries and hopes for the future. One thing that can surely be said about UCC kids is that we like to talk, whether it is old friends, new acquaintances or even the Purdue students and faculty. Whether it was a friendly hello or an in-depth conversation, our friendliness and curiosity outpoured itself.

The experience was an incredible one, and although it was unexpected, it helped me to realize even further what an interesting, inspiring and globally-active church I am a part of. The "Faith, In" project that was introduced on the last evening exemplified these traits. This campaign is based on the core values of living your faith and therefore loving your community. We all received t-shirts that read "I Have Faith, In" followed by an area for personalization. My t-shirt, for example, read "I Have Faith, In Columbus (and myself)."

Each t-shirt was as unique as the person who made it their own. It showed the coming together of individuals for a greater purpose, a belief of the UCC. As the "Faith, In" brochure reasons as to why involvement is important, "Putting down roots is good for the soul...You need an address, and it's up to you to make the most of the one you have."

And as we have now returned, the youth of First Church intend to do just that.

Special Association Meeting Set for Aug. 25

The Central Southeast Association of the UCC has called a special meeting for August 25 at St. John's United Church of Christ in Newark to discuss the future of the association.

The Transition Vision Team met with association clergy and members at various churches in listening sessions. The team has compiled the results of those meetings for presentation and discussion at the August 25 session.

Congregations are encouraged to bring a delegation to the special meeting, which begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at noon. Please RSVP to Jill Glass at 614-885-0722, ext. 218, with your name, church and city by 4 p.m. on August 17.



**The August 25 Produce Giveaway Has Been Canceled
A Date for the September Giveaway Will Be Announced Soon**

August Music Notes

By Marti Rideout, Interim Minister of Music
(martirideout@gmail.com)

CHOIR REHEARSALS

In just a few weeks school will start, the heat of summer will be mostly behind us, vacations will be fond memories, and fall activities will be upon us. Please mark your calendars for the first choir rehearsals. Contact Marti Rideout, Interim Minister of Music, at 614-228-1741, ext.12, or martirideout@gmail.com if you have questions or are interested in singing or ringing.



First Church Choir (Adults)

Thursday, September 6, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

The First Church Choir sings at the 11 a.m. service each Sunday from September to June, alternating between the Gallery and the Chancel. Professional section leaders assist the musicianship and sound as the choir explores five centuries of great choral music. The First Church Choir participates in the Congregational Concerts series, including Christmas Lessons and Carols, Evensong, and special music for liturgical events throughout the year.

Treble and Teen Choirs

Sunday, September 9, 9-9:55 a.m.

The Treble Choir is for boys and girls in grades 1-8 who like to sing and take part in the worship life of First Church. The Teen Choir is a natural step for the trebles as they enter high school. Rehearsals are held in the choir room Sundays at 9 a.m. Choristers in the choir develop their singing voices and music reading skills, learn about the church and the liturgical seasons and explore hymnody from the 6th century to the present and the music of other cultures. The choirs sing regularly in Sunday worship and the Lessons and Carols concert.

Gallery Ringers

Thursday, September 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The Gallery Ringers is a handbell choir for adults. Rehearsals are on Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., in the Gallery. The ringers play five octaves of Whitechapel bells. The choir performs during Sunday worship and at special services. Membership is open to those with some music reading ability.

Whiffle Ball!

West Lot Fun on August 12 and 19

Did you know that professional baseball was once played on the land that we now own at the corner of Cleveland and Broad streets?

Now is the time for us to reconnect with our baseball roots in Columbus!

On August 12 and 19 at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., the whole church is invited to play whiffle ball. These two weeks of games are for all ages. We will set up teams and play two inning games (maybe three). Everyone will have a chance to hit the ball and run the bases. We will play near the corner of Cleveland and Broad streets.

You don't need gloves, but you do need to be in comfortable clothes. We will provide pinch runners for those who need them. ☺ I will see you on the west lot after worship on the 12th and 19th. Prepare to have fun!
– Rev. Tim

Budget Update

Pledges Budgeted
\$592,220.00
June Actual Pledges
\$48,487.04
Pledges Needed Monthly
\$49,351.67



June and July Mission Offerings

Downtowners	\$249.50
Gladden Community House	\$566.56
CRIS	\$426.00
Catalyst	\$241.45



First Church Blood Drive

**Sunday, August 26,
8 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Sign up in the church office

July Executive Committee Summary

The Executive Committee met Tuesday, July 10, and was authorized to act in behalf of the full Council. (Church council meetings are not scheduled for July or August.)

Progress is being made on the West Lot as designated areas of the parking lot are being removed to make way for "green space" --- new grass and landscaping. David Holt submitted a list of existing building improvements with recommendations for some projects to be eliminated for now and others that will see reduced funding. These projects will be revisited as time and money permit.

Actions taken by Executive Committee included plans to remove and sell the chapel organ as part of a restoration of the Gladden Chapel to its original form, rewording of a section of the Personnel Policies and Procedures Handbook; permission for the Sacred Earth Committee to move forward with plans for a craft sale at the church on November 17; and a recommendation for the Nominating Committee to pursue the selection of an Assistant Treasurer.

The treasurer's report included the positive news that pledge income is currently ahead of budget and plans are to have the 2013 budget proposals in for first review by the end of October.

The window in the Gladden Chapel is currently being restored by the Willett-Hauser Company and restoration should begin on the Jeffrey Window by early December.
– Submitted by **Bev Cook, Secretary**

Good Samaritan Fund Can Always Use Your Help

By *Marty Worth, Program Manager*
(mworth@first-church.org)

Even though we will not have a specific Good Samaritan Day in August, the work of this ministry will continue throughout the month.

Utility needs are great as people try to catch up with utility payments so they are eligible for assistance going forward. You don't have to wait until the next Good Samaritan mission offering Sunday to make a donation. You can send a check to the office marked Good Sam or put it in the collection plate. Our funds for September are looking quite low.

A big thank you to the congregation for the contribution of personal hygiene items. They are really appreciated. Our supply is running low.

We find the most desired items are:

- Men and women shampoo and body wash.
- Men's deodorant . We have a large supply of women's deodorant.
- We have had members ask their dentists for donations of toothpaste and toothbrushes. The response has been positive, so if you are going to your dentist in the near future you might ask for such a donation. We are happy to write a letter acknowledging the donation.
- Disposable razors and shaving cream.



A good source for these items in full sizes are the various Dollar Stores. Please leave your donations in the brown bin outside the church office. Thanks for all you do for the needy!

Fall Lantern Fellowship is Sept. 21-23

The fall Lantern Fellowship of the UCC's Ohio Conference will be September 21-23 at Pilgrim Hills.



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 affirming and uplifting company of other women is quite inspiring. Lantern women have gathered away from home and church responsibilities for a time of community, worship, spiritual renewal and learning since 1928.

For more information, go to www.ocucc.org.

CATALYST

A Journey to Kingston, Jamaica

By Heather Biggers (Heather@s4cs.org)

CATALYST is a mission relationship between First Church and the people of the garrison communities of Kingston, Jamaica, and the



Grace and Staff Community

Office of Grace and Staff Community Foundation, partner of CATALYST

Development Foundation. CATALYST serves the many exceptional secondary and college students found in these violent and impoverished areas. It is housed at the Learning Centre of Central Kingston (LICK) homework center.

Palm trees, blue seas, powdery sands, Bob Marley, reggae and rasta - these are the common perception of Jamaica that comes from the tourist industry congregated on Jamaica's north coast. But Kingston is on the south coast, off the tourist path. To understand CATALYST requires a different view of Jamaica.

CATALYST works with the Grace and Staff Community Development Foundation, (usually referred to just as Grace and Staff). The Grace and Staff Foundation is associated with Grace Kennedy Limited, a major Jamaica corporation that makes food products. The Grace Kennedy Ltd. headquarters is located within walking distance of Southside and other Garrison communities in Kingston's downtown area. Can you imagine a major U.S. corporation with its headquarters in the "hood?"

The Grace and Staff Foundation is across the street in the original corporation headquarters. Most of the foundation's activity takes place on the first floor. Grace and Staff has few employees and depends on volunteers and our CATALYST students to help out.

Fun note: A favorite Jamaican snack is "bun and cheese." The bun is a spiced bread, originally prepared only around Easter, but now enjoyed all year. The cheese is the famous Tastee cheese. It is cheddar cheese in a can and is made by Grace Kennedy Ltd!

Sunday Flowers a Special Way to Remember Loved Ones

A way of remembering or celebrating loved ones and special events is to provide the Sanctuary flowers on a Sunday morning. There are those who regularly dedicate flowers on an annual basis. But there are many opportunities to do so throughout the year.

We have had flowers to celebrate baptisms, special anniversaries, and special events here at First Church for example. Did you know .the Sanctuary flowers on Sunday are part of the ministry of First Church? Each Sunday the Deacons



make bouquets from the arrangement to deliver to those on the prayer list. If there has been a dedication, a bouquet is given to the family. The cost of the flowers is \$65, which covers what the church is charged by the florist. It is possible for a group of people to share the cost and dedicate the flowers on a specific Sunday.

If you would like to dedicate flowers for a Sunday 11 a.m. worship, please sign up on the flower chart outside the church office. There are Sundays available in August, September, November and December or you can contact Marty Worth (mworth@first-church.org) and specify a date or dates for your dedication. Thanks for your support of this important ministry. – **Marty Worth**

UCC Day with God and Self is September 8



Get away from the noise and stress of the everyday - a day devoted to reconnecting with God through silence, worship and nature during the next Day with God and Self at Pilgrim Hills.

The next Day with God and Self will be held on Saturday, September 8. There will be another on November 6. The cost is \$30.

Call Janet Burkhart for information at 330-682-3791.



Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the Starr-Wingfield
Furnishings Endowment Fund by:

**The Wade Family in celebration
of Rupert "Twink" Starr's special
birthday**



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 church pews and the Church office. If you would like to support First Church as part of your estate planning, please contact Rev. Ahrens or a Trustee.



Missions Offering Schedule

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

- August 5 - Good Samaritan**
- August 12 - Faith Mission**
- August 19 - CATALYST**
- August 26 - BREAD**

Help Design Our Playground!

We are asking our children/youth and parents to give us ideas in designing our new playground at First Church. We would love for the children to draw pictures or make lists of what they would like to have installed in the playground.

Parents, don't forget to put your ideas down as well, like benches and shade. Please send your picture drawings, lists and ideas to Mark Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org.

Member Happy August Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1: Janet Stoneking | 18: Dennis Secor |
| 2: Helen Spears | 19: Karen Sterrett |
| 2: Wib Smith | 19: Nicholas Hoffman |
| 3: Lourdes Henderson | 19: Emma Henderson |
| 3: Melody Leidheiser | 20: Mark Jensen |
| 4: Bill Rhoads | 20: Amy Trace |
| 4: Dayna McCrary | 21: Keene Lebold |
| 5: Deb Anderson | 21: Janice White |
| 5: Ellen Boriin | 21: Chris Glaros |
| 5: Heather Grunkemeyer | 22: Roland Weller |
| 6: Keith Gochnour | 22: Duan Cannon |
| 6: Jenny Sieck | 23: Lissa Wade |
| 6: Denise Vogt | 23: Matt Goetz |
| 6: Josh Hollar | 24: Charles Drummond |
| 6: Meg Rhoads | 24: Tom Stewart |
| 8: Dave Loy | 25: Barb Cunningham |
| 9: Dan Harkins | 25: Dan Axt |
| 10: Alan Daulton | 25: Steve Kennedy |
| 10: Bill Faith | 25: Tristan Setty |
| 10: Kevin Ayres | 26: Sandy Valinis |
| 10: Alex Aeschbury | 27: Sue Cook |
| 12: Lesley Schaab | 27: Dennis Penfield |
| 12: Mary Weaver | 28: Russ Kelm |
| 12: Rob Loevy | 28: Jim Velo |
| 13: Bobby Carrington | 28: Holly Heer |
| 13: Valerie Conlin-Losinski | 28: Anna Rhoads |
| 15: Chuck Atkinson | 29: Becky Baird |
| 15: Sandy Crooms | 30: Grace Johnson |
| 16: Will Fernald | 30: Andrew Batchelor |

Member Happy August Anniversaries

- 1: Jessica and Scott Coy
- 6: Jenny and Andrew Middendorf
- 6: Betty and James Powell
- 7: Duan and Reggie Cannon
- 7: Catherine and Steve Kennedy
- 8: Holly and Bill Heer
- 9: Jenelle and Dan Snyder
- 10: Roberta and Robert Lucas
- 11: Kathleen and Chris Brooks
- 11: Jane and Dane Chavers
- 14: Barbara Mason and Rhonda Poirier
- 15: Molly and Scott Sass
- 16: Lisa Morris and Ken Shimeall
- 17: Diane and Larry Dixon
- 17: Lee and Tom Hadley
- 18: Erin and Seth Gray
- 19: Georgia and Robert Rayburn
- 19: Anne and Bruce Aldrich
- 20: Karen and Steve Sterrett
- 21: Dana and Hugh Schultz
- 23: Cindy Conn and Betty Johnson
- 24: Joyce and Dan Ward
- 24: Alice and Bill Boden
- 25: Chris and Tom Farquhar
- 27: Mark and Melanie Brown
- 27: Patty and Brit Kirwan
- 27: Elise and Stephen Cribb
- 28: Shirley and Donald Calhoun
- 31: Tammy and Dave Wharton

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

Calendar

Wednesday, August 1

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

Sunday, August 5

9 am – Worship – Sanctuary

11 am – Worship – San

12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

Monday, August 6

6 pm – Church Growth – Ed Wing, Room D

Tuesday, August 7

12 pm – Care Ministry – LC

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – LC

7 pm – Education Committee – Ed Wing, Room D

7 pm – Mission Committee - LC

Thursday, August 9

6:30 pm – Music Search Committee – LC

Saturday, August 11

10 am – First Church Quilters – LC

Sunday, August 12

9 am – Worship – PH

11 am – Worship – San

12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

Monday, August 13

5 pm – Constitution Committee – LC

7 pm – Trustees – LC

Tuesday, August 14

12 pm – Care Ministry – LC

6 pm – Music Committee – Parlor

7 pm – Executive Committee – PFR

Wednesday, August 15

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

Saturday, August 18

9 am – House and Grounds - PFR

Sunday, August 19

9 am – Worship – PH

11 am – Worship – Sanctuary

12 pm – Fellowship Hour – Sanctuary

Tuesday, August 21

12 pm – Care Ministry- LC

Sunday, August 26

8 am – Blood Drive – Ed Wing

9 am – Worship – PH

11 am – Worship – San

12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

Monday, August 27

7 pm – Budget and Finance – LC

7:30 pm – Constitution Committee – PFR

Tuesday, August 28

7 pm – Personnel – PFR

7 pm = Deacons – LC

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on August 5 and 19 during Fellowship Hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated



Jamie Bobb plays the Beckerath organ recently for one of the final times. Jamie left as First Church minister of music this week for Minnesota, where he will join the faculty of St. Olaf College. Marti Rideout will be interim music minister. We wish Jamie all the best, and we hope to see him again soon!

Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles for the September *First Church News* is August 20 at noon. It will be published Friday, August 31.

Prayers

August Fellowship Hour

August 5: Psalms
August 12: Romans
August 19: Ruth
August 26: Samuel

August Acolyte Schedule

August 5: Cameron Wade and Victoria Washington
August 12: Luke Zimmerman and Jack Koscher
August 19: Adam Wade and Ben Allen
August 26: Will Zimmerman and Cameron Wade
(Schedules online at www.first-church.org)

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

Lorelai Kathryn Phillips – July 8

Weddings

Lauren Orellana Scott Hamman – July 7
Leah Wingo and John DeLaigle – July 7
Suzanne Ressler and Jamie Oberschlake – July 14
Lacey Birchfield and Ryan Hendrix – July 21
Justina Chowdhury and Todd Penrod – July 28

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
Marti Rideout.....Interim Minister of Music
Mark S. Williams.....Director of Christian Education
G. Dene Barnard.....Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus
Sharon Leidheiser.....Business Administrator
Martha Worth.....Program Manager
Denny Mahoney.....Office Manager
Thomas Luff.....Building Manager
Kelvin Murphy.....Custodian
William Lee.....Custodian
Nikki Boop, Rosemary Pawandiwa-Priore.....Nursery
Summer Petras, Sarah Welsh-Huggins.....Nursery
Linda Mumford.....Wedding Coordinator
Jane Chavers.....Wedding Coordinator
Fran Panek.....Wedding Coordinator
Lisa Dean.....Wedding Coordinator

Church Council

Gerry Worth.....Moderator
Sarah Reed.....Vice-Moderator
Bev Cook/Jim Griffin.....Secretary/Assistant
Cindy Conn.....Treasurer
Neal Brower/Jim Fewlass.....Administration/Assistant
Melissa Prendergast/Deb Thompson.....Church Growth/Asst.
Tanya Miller/Deana Armstrong.....Education/Asst
Charlie Weaver/Rick Sayre.....House & Grounds/Assistant
Bruce Panek/Matt Allen.....Mission/Assistant
Cori Rowley/Catherine Kennedy.....Parish Life/Assistant
Elaine Warren.....Senior Deacon
Betty Johnson.....Deacon
Jim Gallagher/Greg Halbe.....Music, Arts, Heritage/Asst.
David Holt.....Nominating Chair
Randy Hoffman.....Trustees
James Knerr.....Member-at-large
Lisa Morris.....Member-at-large

~ Remember Your Loved Ones ~

With a Dedication of Flowers

Contact Marty Worth at 614.228.1741, ext. 14,
mworth@first-church.org

The First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
444 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3821

DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT

Please Deliver By: *Saturday, August 4, 2012*

TO:

[Empty dashed box for recipient address]



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