



Living Into Our Faith

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

On an icy winter day in January, I showered you with water. Using an evergreen branch, symbolic of Christmas and eternal life, along with water from the River Jordan (and the Scioto and Olentangy), you were moistened by water and the Holy Spirit. After you were wet, 3-year-old Mariah Watts, daughter of Jennifer Okezie-Watts, soaked me! Mariah was wearing her tiara that day. So, while you were drenched by a pastor, I was washed clean by a princess! After getting me wet, Mariah laughed and smiled, turned and ran as fast as the wind back to her mom. I loved it!

On the baptism of Our Lord, we recommitted to our baptismal vows of faith. We said we would love, support, nurture and care for one another. We said we would worship, work and serve together. Ours were promises of stewardship and fellowship; of laughter and love for one another. Essentially, we said we would live into our faith as Christians.

In the coming weeks, we will turn our attention to the Way of the Cross and the walk of faith to Calvary. On Ash Wednesday, March 9, Lent arrives. For 40 days, we pray that God will deliver us from sin and sadness, from resentments and bitterness, from pain and suffering to joy, love, and delight in Christ.

During Lent, Rev. Wilson and I will deliver a sermon series on "The Lord's Prayer." (**See Page 2**) We also will lead a class each week BEFORE we preach on a certain phrase in the prayer, listening to your thoughts and reflections on the prayer. Your thoughts, feelings and insights will guide our sermon preparation each week. In addition, we will be holding eight to 12 (or more) small groups on prayer in people's homes. For five weeks, we will gather as "the church" away from "the building" to read, pray and grow together in faith. (**More on Page 3**)

I have been listening to so many of you say that we need to take care of each other. I agree! We need to support one another in the grind of life so we might know the love of God lived out fully in one another. We need to live out our baptismal vows. So, all we need is a few hundred good people to grow together in faith this Lent.

I invite you to begin this Lenten journey March 8 at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. It will be followed by a season of fellowship, prayer and praise and we will arrive at Easter on April 24 full of the Holy Spirit and closer to one another. I pray that you will remember your baptism and keep it holy. May God bless and keep you growing together in Christ's love.

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The First Church Youth Ministry Presents

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

March 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Parish Hall

\$4 Adults, \$3 Children 12 and Under

Proceeds Benefit Summer Mission Work! Join Us!



From the Pastors

New First Church Group Will Be All About Moms

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

What does it take to be a terrific mom? Don't worry; we didn't just skip from Valentine's Day straight into the merry month of May and Mother's Day. I've just been thinking about it a lot lately.

I love being a mom. It's added more than laundry, scout meetings, band concerts and hearing beginners of drum, flute and saxophone move through rim shots, squeaks and lost air, into harmony, melody, rock and jazz. It is more than worry and celebration about what they need to grow healthy bodies, spirits and minds. Being a mom isn't limited to the crazy, busy things we have to do or get to do. It's not limited to our gender, size of family or multiple kinds of families.



I've been giving it the extra thoughts lately for two reasons – my recent vacation with the destination of home and knowing First Congregational Church is about to launch a mom's group.

As I looked over recent postings in other mom's groups across the nation and started reading some of the current leanings of mom's groups that are part of the life and ministry of congregations like ours (and including ours in prior years), it is fun and interesting to see how much they have in common, and at the same time how each group and time is unique.

As we prepare to begin our new group in the next few weeks, under the joyful initiation of Catherine Cunningham, you will be hearing and reading about this great opportunity in several ways.

Our new mom's group will not be an opportunity to recharge your super powers if you seek to be or become a "supermom." We trust that if you are in the mom role, you already are a blessed gift of God, and therefore super! It will, however, provide an opportunity to come together with others who are raising children, to give an opportunity to explore and engage in conversation, ask questions, enjoy activities and discover the pros and cons of the issues of your day.

So keep watching – and nudge a mom in your life to get ready.

Pastors' Upcoming Sermons

Epiphany Sermon Series

February 20 - Matthew 5:38-48

"Retaliation and Loving Our Enemies" (Jeffrey Window)



February 27 - Matthew 6:24-34

"Worry Lines" (Orlando Miller as dedicated to Francis Sessions - Friendship Window)

March 6 - Transfiguration Sunday - Matthew 17:1-9

"In Light, Inaccessible, Hid From Our Eyes" (Jeffrey Windows)

Lenten Sermon Series **"The Lord's Prayer"**

March 9 – Ash Wednesday – Matthew 6:9

"Our Father in Heaven, Holy is Your Name"

March 13 – Matthew 6:10a

"Your Kingdom Come"

March 20 – Matthew 6:10b

"Your Will be Done, On Earth as it is in Heaven"

March 27 – Matthew 6:11

"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"

April 3 – Matthew 6:12

"Forgive Us Our Debts as We Forgive Our Debtors"

April 10 – Matthew: 6:13a

"Lead Us Not Into Temptation"

April 17 – Palm/Passion Sunday – Matthew 6:13b

"Deliver Us From Evil"

April 24 – Easter Sunday – Matthew 28:1-10

"For the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory are Yours . . . Forever. Amen."

Don't Forget!

Daylight Saving Time
Begins March 13

Set Clocks Forward 1 Hour

You are Invited to First Church's 'Royal Family Retreat'

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

Where: Templed Hills
When: April 29 (7 p.m.)
to May 1 (10 a.m.)

Calling all kings, queens, princes, princesses and the common people, too! Mark your calendars! Polish your tiaras and

crowns! Clean your capes. We are planning a "Royal Family Retreat!"

Who is invited? **Absolutely everyone!**

While England prepares for the royal wedding on April 29, we in First Church are preparing for a "Royal Family Retreat."

We will have fun together at the "Royal Campground" known as Templed Hills. We are going to have a blast – while celebrating our family of faith. We are called by the Apostle Paul to be a "royal priesthood." Our Lord is the "Prince of Peace." And we will



Prince William and Kate Middleton regret they won't be at First Church's "Royal Retreat."

celebrate our life together by fishing in the "Royal Pond," Saturday night dinner and dance in the "Royal Skipper Lodge" and games and hiking in the royal hills and on the royal fields.

In a recent BBC interview, Prince William was asked, "How do you feel about missing the Royal Family Retreat at Templed Hills?" With tears in his eyes, he said, "I would give up my crown to be there."

Don't end up like the prince – sad about missing this once-in-a-lifetime event. Don't miss your date with royalty. Come to Templed Hills from April 29 to May 1. Watch for details soon about signing up!

Don't Forget!
Ash Wednesday, March 9
Services at Noon and 7:30 p.m.

Justice Ministry Network Meeting to be Held March 1

By Priss Endo

The BREAD team invites you to become a member of the Justice Ministry Network at First Church. On March 1, at 7 p.m. at the church, Rev. Ahrens and the BREAD team will lead us in an agenda addressing:

- The biblical call to justice;
- An explanation of how the network operates;
- Goals of the network for 2011.



All members are welcome at this meeting. We will be learning how to become a part of the First Church social justice tradition and be introduced to methods of direct organizing that empower members of the Justice Ministry Network to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our Lord."

Marcus Borg Weekend Set March 4-6

A weekend with theologian Marcus Borg will be held at First Community Church on March 4-6.

The theme is "Living a Transformed Life: Being a Christian Today." A limited number of brochures are in the church office that gives registration and cost details. Information also is posted on the Adult Education bulletin board. The pre-registration deadline is February 28. For more information, contact Mark S. Williams (mwilliams@first-church.org).



Marcus Borg

Lenten Small Groups Forming

We are in the process of forming Lenten small groups. Members and friends are invited to join these groups in folks' homes. We will meet five times during the 40 days of Lent for 60-90 minutes.

Each week, there will be a topic of conversation related to prayer. So, save some times in March and April for food, fellowship, prayer, bonding and being together! Details will follow in the Sunday bulletins, on the Web site, by phone and by letter. Save time to grow together in Christ this Lent! – **Rev. Tim**

Music Notes

By James E. Bobb, Minister of Music
(jbobb@first-church.org)

February 2011

This winter and spring we have an exciting array of music opportunities. Events at First Church are listed chronologically. At the end of the list, I have included a wonderful concert our neighbors at Broad Street Presbyterian are hosting February 26. I have added it to our list both for your information and in hope that some of you may be able to help provide overnight housing for this large ensemble.



Sunday, February 20, 9 p.m. Compline

Join us on the third Sunday of each month for a 30-minute candlelight service of Compline. This sung service of night prayer is followed by luminous music on the Kimball organ.

Sunday, February 27, 4 p.m. Handbells Columbus

You won't want to miss this popular Columbus-based ensemble when they return to fill First Church with the jubilant sound of hand bells, organ and piano in fascinating arrangements for six octaves of hand bells and five octaves of hand chimes. This exciting group is a delight to see and hear for all ages.

Tuesday, March 1 Tuesdays at First

Half-hour recitals at 12:15 p.m., followed by homemade lunch - \$5 donation
James Bobb will present a harpsichord recital demonstration of early music in various historical tuning systems.

Tuesday, March 8 Tuesdays at First

Half-hour recitals at 12:15 p.m., followed by homemade lunch - \$5 donation
Capital University students of James Bobb's Organ Literature class present a musical tour of Baroque composers of France, Spain and England.

Saturday, March 12, 11 a.m. Wabash College Glee Club

Note the unusual time of this concert. We were lucky enough to catch this ensemble from western Indiana on their way home from concerts in Washington, D.C. Come and hear their short concert and welcome the men and alumni who will be there to support them.

Tuesday, March 15 Tuesdays at First

Half-hour recitals at 12:15 p.m., followed by homemade lunch - \$5 donation
Sopranos Pamela Welsh-Huggins and Lissa Wade sing solo and duet repertoire by Fauré, Rossini, Rorem, and others.

Sunday, March 20, 9 p.m. Compline

Tuesday, March 22 Tuesdays at First

Half-hour recitals at 12:15 p.m., followed by homemade lunch - \$5 donation
Pianist Ben Wiant plays music of Beethoven and Bach.

March 27, 4 p.m. First Church Choral Society – English choral, organ and art song treasures

Majestic standards and lesser-known gems of the English repertoire by Byrd, Gibbons, Parry, Stanford, Britten and Finzi. The audience also will join in a few soaring hymns from the cathedral tradition.

Sunday, April 17, 9 p.m. (Palm Sunday) Compline

Sunday, May 1, 4 p.m.

Robert Bates, organ

Sunday, May 15, 9 p.m. Compline

Make Plans for Observing This Lenten Season

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

Shrove Tuesday is March 8, the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

The term "Shrove" comes from "shriving" – to confess or repent and seek absolution. This was once a common practice on the day. We encourage all to plan activities that will help your family be ready for the solemn season ahead. First, have a family "game plan." Call a family meeting. Talk about what Lent means and why it is important. Discuss where, when and how to observe Lent together. For example, will you devote a certain time each week or each day for activities or Bible study?



Next, consider adopting one or more spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are traditions that can be practiced throughout Lent. They can help us grow closer to God by cutting out distractions and refocusing our time and talents. They include giving things up, taking things on and participation.

To encourage participation, it may help to guide children in picking something that's realistic for their age and maturity. It can be as simple as devoting time to learning a prayer or memorizing a short Bible passage. Adopt a spiritual discipline as a family, such as giving up some or all TV and devoting the extra time to mission work or Bible study. Mark a chart to check weekly progress.

Another way to start the season is to attend the pancake dinner at First Church. Making pancakes was a good way to use up all the fat, cream and eggs in the house before Lent fasting began. This old tradition inspired the term "Fat Tuesday" or in French, "Mardi Gras." It also inspired the pancake dinner that many congregations hold today.

If you can't attend the church dinner, then throw your own family pancake dinner. Have children place fruit over their pancakes in a cross shape. If family members are going to give up favorite food or drinks, you may want to include these in your family dinner, too.

Christian Ed Has Lenten Resources

Lenten resources for children, families and adults will be available beginning Sunday, February 27, at the entrance to the worship space and in classrooms.

A Lenten children's activities calendar will be available and is perfect to display on a refrigerator or a family bulletin board. "Shaped by Love" is a new booklet of prayers, scriptures and reflections for each day of Lent for families. "Renewed for Life," by Henri Nouwen, also is an individual devotion booklet for the days of Lent.

Please pick up a copy at either service or in the office.

It's Summer Camp Registration Time!

If the Outdoor Ministries Summer Camp info has arrived, can spring be far behind? **Registration has now begun!! Camp weeks fill up fast!!! Don't wait too long!!!**

Online

Camp schedule and descriptions are available online at: <http://www.ocucc.org/OutdoorMin/Summer%20Camp/SummerCamp.htm>.

Once you've decided on a camp, just click one of the "Register Online" buttons to complete your registration and make your payment.

Remember to register by **March 31** to pay the lowest fees.

First Congregational Church has always been a strong supporter of the Outdoor Ministries summer camps and offers scholarships for campers. Thanks to the generosity of longtime member Alma Keeler, we are able to offer a 50% camp scholarship on the early registration fee (after the \$75 deposit) to any First Church child or youth who wants to go to camp. *A request for these funds must be made by the parent /guardian. This is not automatic as in the past.*

To take advantage of this scholarship you must do several things:

- 1.) Decide which camp you want to attend;
- 2.) Send in your \$75 deposit **as soon as possible** with the 2011 registration form;
- 3.) Complete the First Church Campership Request form found in the a holder in the office (**DEADLINE is March 31**) and return to Mark Williams;
- 4.) Send the remaining amount owed to the Ohio Conference at least two weeks prior to your camp.

Due to the increase in camp registration this year, First Church also will offer additional scholarships for those families who need extra help. For more information about camp, please contact Mark Williams.

First Church's Joyce Oyler Named to Outdoor Ministries Post

By Pam Brown, Ohio Conference UCC

Joyce Oyler, a member of First Church, is the new assistant director of Outdoor Ministries for the Ohio Conference of the UCC.

She brings 25 years of business experience to her role, which entails overseeing all camp-related registrations and administrative support. Joyce also will play a



Joyce Oyler

prominent role in development and public relations as Outdoor Ministries continues to provide camp opportunities to children, youth and adults.

Joyce's background includes business experience as a development strategist, speaker, facilitator, recruiter and trainer. She also brings a rich history in information technology. Perhaps more importantly, Joyce brings a faith foundation in God along with a sincere appreciation for the role Outdoor Ministries plays in helping others develop faith and leadership skills.

"I am thrilled that I am able to take 25+ years of experience in the business world and apply it towards a ministry that I know can have a tremendous effect on the lives of many people," Joyce said.

Tom Robertson, Outdoor Ministries executive director, said, "We had several outstanding candidates for the position. The selection of someone with such a broad base of skills as well as a strong working knowledge of Outdoor Ministries as a volunteer director will be a valuable asset to the ministry."

Joyce's father, the Rev. Bill Wealand, was the minister for Outdoor Ministries for over 20 years, and Joyce brings insights as someone who witnessed this ministry "up close and personal."

A celebration to honor the work of Helen Schultz, former Outdoor Ministries transitional director and registrar, will be announced in the near future.

*Phone number or email change?
Let us know at 228-1741 or
home@first-church.org*

Rev. Phil Hart Chosen to Lead California/Nevada Conference

United Church News

The Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ has named the Rev. Phil Hart as interim Conference Minister. His will begin his new job in March.

Phil, a member of First Church and former director of Sanctorum here, succeeds the Rev. Mary Susan Gast, who retired.

Phil said that the church is at a unique and complicated time in which Christians are living with the ramifications of very "human activities" in the church that have often damaged its reputation.

"Many people are suspicious and have lost faith in institutional religion," he said. "I frankly find much in common with many of these people. I am saddened by the use of the church and the Christian faith to promote ignorance, intolerance and to wield power and control over people."

He added, "We must rather continue to follow the difficult path of Jesus, speaking truth to power, comforting and protecting the weak and marginalized, and speaking without fear the radically inclusive and powerful love of God."

Phil was born and raised in Columbus, and began his pastoral ministry in 1990 as pastor of the Somerville and Gratis United Methodist Churches. He has been a UCC minister since 2000, He has served as a professor of theology and communication, and as interim Conference Minister for the Ohio and Illinois conferences.

Softball – Players Needed!

It is that time of year! We need players for a softball team! So, are you ready to run, hit and field some balls this summer? We took the summer off last year, but would love to get back at it!



If interested, contact Rev. Tim Ahrens – tahrens@first-church.org. We have five men signed up! We need 15 to make a run at fielding a team! Hurry! The sign-ups with the Columbus Recreation leagues close in early March! – Rev. Tim

Deep Griha Dinner and Program to be Held Feb. 20 at First Community

By Val Stichter

Don't forget the annual potluck dinner and program this Sunday celebrating Deep Griha (Lighthouse), one of the oldest mission projects our church has supported, at First Community Church's North Campus, 3777 Dublin Rd., from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

There is no charge for the dinner, but those who can attend are being asked to bring a dish to serve 10-12 people using the first letter of your last name determining what to bring. Those whose last name begins with A-H please bring a dessert; I-R a salad; and S-Z a main dish.



Eye care is part of the work at Deep Griha.

This is always a well attended affair (think lots of great food!) and this year should be even more exciting since the Deep Griha USA organization is now comprised of three churches (First Congregational, First Community and Dublin Community) working to support the many projects co-founder Neela Onawale has operating.

The program's speaker will be the Rev. Deborah Countiss Lindsay, former TV anchor in Columbus and now on the staff at First Community. Deborah and her son went to Pune in January 2009 and came back so excited and inspired by the work being done at the various Deep Griha project locations. Deborah will be the spiritual leader going with people from the three churches to India in January 2012 and will be telling about plans for that trip at the dinner.

Anyone considering going on the 2012 trip or wanting to get information (cost, itinerary, accommodations, etc.) may stay after the dinner for a brief meeting. The trip involves three to four days in Pune and about another 10 days visiting some of the amazing and colorful places in northern India. We will be escorted by an Indian travel agency which many from Columbus have used.

Deep Griha serves the very poor who live in three large slum areas of Pune, India, as well as surrounding rural communities. We feel it is important for First Church members to go to Pune and have the amazing opportunity to see for themselves the work we have supported since 1975. It can truly be life-changing to see so many bright and happy children and their families receiving medical care, the education they desperately

need to lift themselves out of poverty, job training for adults, classes on nutrition, family planning and more.

So, please, First Churchers, let's really turn out for the dinner in much large numbers this year! We need you and you'll have a great time as well.

If you plan to go to the dinner, it would be helpful if you could email me at stichter@columbus.rr.com, or call 885-0730 giving your name and how many will attend. If you cannot attend the dinner but want information about the 2012 India trip, call or email me and I will see that you get the information you need to make a decision. The more who go, the lower the group rates for all of us! The size of the tour group will be kept to no more than 15, so it is time to give it serious thought.

Thanks and I hope to have you sitting beside Phil and me on that plane in January. We can't wait!

Blood Drive Set For This Sunday

Blood donors are urgently needed for the February 20 blood drive at First Church! Severe winter weather throughout much of the United States has caused the cancellation of more than 18,000 blood and platelet donations since January 1. In Ohio alone, 54 blood drives have been impacted by weather, with a total shortfall of more than 2,200 donations here in our own community. The blood supply is low, and type O-negative is at critical levels. No matter what your blood type, you are needed.



Blood is used every two seconds across the country to help accident victims, premature babies, those being treated for cancer or blood disorders or even to make routine medical procedures possible. You can help by giving blood at First Church on Sunday between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Make your date to help save a life. Please contact Sarah Frank at FrankSa@usa.redcross.org or 614-657-7570 to schedule an appointment to donate.



First Church Has Ministry Opportunities for Angel Volunteers

By Sharon Leidheiser, Business Administrator
(sleidheiser@first-church.org)



Volunteer Nell Cole helps prepare bulletins each week.

Did you know . . . we have a volunteer ministry at First Church with many talented members who help on a regular basis? However, more are greatly needed. With the economy in a tailspin and budgets for our church being cut significantly in 2011, we need you to help us with our ministries and “nurturing ways” and to continue to keep us a beacon of excellence in our community. “God is Still Speaking” and we, the staff members, are speaking to you, the congregation.

We have several areas of volunteer ministry needing special care so we may continue the excellence our church has established.

If you are interested in the volunteer ministry at First Church, please attend our first quarterly meeting at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, in the large conference room, or call the church office at 228-1741.

We could use volunteer angels in the following ministries: church ambassadors (ushers-greeters), bulletin board updaters, pew crawlers (help stock and clean the sanctuary), music library helpers, finance and/or office assistants, phone and desk greeters, security monitors for Sunday services/large events, outside gardeners, relationship communicators for our community, flowers delivery souls and more.

All areas of our programming have been cut financially and we want to keep programming at the high standards, you as members expect, without increasing costs.

The staff members to contact if you are interested in helping as a volunteer with our ministries at First Church are:

Office and Member Relations Ministry: Denny Mahoney or Sharon Leidheiser

Finance Ministry: Sharon Leidheiser

Music Ministry and Good Samaritan Mission: Marty Worth

Education Ministry: Mark Williams

Stephen Ministers and Stewardship Ministry:

Janine Wilson

Taking care of the Building Ministry: Bill Beckett

Pastoral Ministry and Meals to Shut-ins Ministry: Tim Ahrens

Thursday Fellowships to Meet in March

The First Thursday Fellowship will meet on March 3 at 10 a.m. and hear from Dawn George about her trip to Israel. The meeting site is to be announced.

The Second Thursday Fellowship will meet in the Parlor at 10 a.m. on March 10. The speaker will be Linda Hartranst, who will discuss her teaching experience in prisons. It is a program that is no longer funded, but one that is important in helping those incarcerated move into productive lives in the community once released.

Refreshments will be served at both sessions and all are invited.

Daughter of ex-First Church Minister Dies

The Rev. Maynard and Wanda Beemer's daughter, Tammy, died suddenly February 2 in Appleton, Wis. She was 51.

Rev. Beemer served as First Church associate minister for a number of years during the tenure of senior minister the Rev. Dale Rosenberger. For those who would like to express their sympathies, the Beemers' address is 4445 Star Point Lane, Appleton, Wis., 54913.

A Big Thanks for Donations

The First Church staff would like to thank Wayne Piper for his generous contribution to fund our January retreat. We had a wonderful time, and it was greatly appreciated. We'd also like to extend our thanks for a \$250 anonymous donation that was made as a “thank you” to staff members.



Mary Day Fewlass waters plants on her volunteer day.



UCC Congregations Lace Up For 'Three Million Walking Challenge'

By Jeff Woodard

United Church News

Positioning its momentum squarely onto the trail blazed by First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" initiative to battle obesity in America, the United Church of Christ is asking all of its churches to get up and get going.

As part of the "Three Million Walking Challenge," the UCC goal is for at least 250 churches and/or 2,500 UCC members to commit to walking 5 miles or 10,000 steps a week in two phases – Now-June 17 and July 11- Nov. 18. The combined goal is 600,000 miles. Final totals will be sent to Obama, whose hope is that faith and community organizations walk a collective 3 million miles by the end of November.

Setting the early pace for the longer haul was the high-energy worship service Jan. 19 in the Amistad Chapel at the UCC's national headquarters in Cleveland. Worshipers sampled "Instant Recess! Bringing Mind-Body-Spirit Wellness Into Our Faith Journeys," a session developed by a member of the "Let's Move" campaign that invites participants to move for 10 minutes of health.

A 20-week milestone celebration will be held at General Synod the first week in July in Tampa, Fla., to recognize individuals and/or churches for their commitment to walking during the first five months of the challenge. Those participating in the second half will be honored in November.



Current Pledge Income

Annual Pledges Budgeted - \$529,872

2011 Pledges Prepaid

in 2010 - \$34,644.15

January Pledge Offerings - \$50, 488.83

Needed each month to meet budget - \$41,268.99

January Mission Offerings

Bethlehem on Broad Street - \$465.00

Church World Service, Safe Water - \$410.00

Faith Mission – 522.60

MLK Memorial – 454.45

Good Samaritan - \$1,377.50

Gladden House - \$686.11

Total - \$3,915.66

Member Happy March Birthdays

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| 1: | Jennifer Riley-Williamson | 21: | Dorothy Horn |
| 1: | Emily Kutschbach | 21: | James Gaugh |
| 2: | Sheldon Taft | 21: | Eric Ewing |
| 3: | Gerhard Wolff | 22: | James Powell |
| 3: | Bruce Panek | 22: | Malik Dean |
| 4: | Julie Roth-Alexander | 22: | Kerry O'Leary |
| 4: | Devon Bastian | 23: | Lee Burba |
| 5: | Phil Stichter | 24: | Amy Wagner |
| 5: | Anna Jensen | 24: | Paige Rochus |
| | | 25: | Ted Endo |
| 6: | Robert Kirk Jr. | 26: | Morgan Bonito |
| 6: | Tom Endo | 26: | Catherine Kennedy |
| 7: | Bob Monahan | 27: | John Firebaugh |
| 7: | Christina Kirker | 27: | Jim Drotleff |
| 7: | Andrew Smith | 28: | Judith Hunter |
| 8: | Gretchen Atkinson | 28: | Margene Whittenburg |
| 9: | Wally Kesler | 28: | Bryce Millikin |
| 9: | Doug Buck | 30: | Ruth Allred |
| 9: | Michael Weaver | 30: | Bill Brownfield Jr. |
| 9: | Michelle Winberry | 31: | Jennifer Newhouse |
| 9: | Heather Giffen | 31: | Donna Coe |
| 11: | Candy Cummings | 31: | Malini Gnanatheeban |
| 11: | Allison Lange | 31: | Katie Gies |
| 12: | Barbara Ritter | | |
| 12: | Jenny Provenzano | | |
| 12: | Doug Taft | | |
| 13: | Tami Fields | | |
| 14: | Robert Hadley | | |
| 16: | Beth Ann Kochman-Wilson | | |
| 16: | Rob O'Leary | | |
| 17: | Ashley Gover | | |
| 18: | Megan Daniels | | |
| 19: | Darla Leubbe | | |
| 20: | Tom Worley | | |
| 20: | David Mailer | | |
| 20: | Erin Johnson | | |
| 20: | Karl Schneider | | |
| 20: | Brett Bachman | | |

Member Happy March Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1: | Ellen and Pete Boriin |
| 2: | Janice and Mariner Taft |
| 9: | Cindy Burnell and Quentin Potter |
| 14: | Janet Stoneking and Eric Boyd |
| 14: | Sarah and Jon Frank |
| 16: | Charlie and Mike Knerr |
| 16: | Aimee and Tom Cerny |
| 18: | Melissa Murdock-Weygandt and Nate Weygandt |
| 18: | Julie Roth-Alexander and Tammy Alexander |
| 20: | Megan Kelley and Todd Perry |
| 21: | Sadie and Brian Oldham |
| 26: | Anne and Rick Bennett |
| 28: | Diane Cole and John Rau |

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

Church Calendar

Sunday, February 20

8 am – Blood Drive – Ed. Wing, Room C
9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room
9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
10 am – Choir – Choir Room
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D
11 am - Worship Service – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
6 pm – Sonreir – Off site
9 pm – Compline – San

Monday, February 21

5:30 p.m. – Long Range Planning – LC
6:30 p.m. – Technology Committee – Adult Library

Tuesday, February 22

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
7 pm – Personnel – PFR
7 pm – Youth Ministry – Ed Wing

Thursday, February 24

6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:15 pm – Choral Society – PH
8:15 p.m. – Choir – Choir Room

Sunday, February 27

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Rm
9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
4 pm – Congregational Concert – San
6 pm – Sonreir – Off site
6 pm – Middle School Group – Middle School Room

Monday, February 28

6:30 pm – Stephen Ministers – Adult Library
8 pm – Rev. Ahrens' MMRAG

Tuesday, March 1

11 am – Tuesdays at First Book Study – Parlor
12:15 pm - Tuesdays at First Concert – San
12:45 pm – Tuesdays at First Luncheon – PH
1:30 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
7 pm – BREAD Meeting – Parlor
7 pm – Deacons – LC
7 pm – Mission Committee – PFR
7:30 pm – Youth Ministry Team – Room C

Wednesday, March 2

11 am – Book Study – Parlor
6 pm – Book Study - Parlor

Thursday, March 3

10 am – First Thursday Fellowship
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:15 pm – Choral Society – PH
8:15 p.m. – Choir – Choir Room

Sunday, March 6

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Early Worship – PH
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D
11 am – Worship Service – San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour – Parlor
6 pm – Sonreir – PH

Monday, March 7

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth - Parlor

Tuesday, March 8

11 am – Tuesdays at First Book Study – Parlor
12:15 pm - Tuesdays at First Concert – San
12:45 pm – Tuesdays at First Luncheon – PH
1:30 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
1:30 pm – Remembrance Committee – PFR
5:30 pm – Pancake Dinner – PH
6 pm – Music Committee – Parlor
7 pm – Executive Committee – PFR

Wednesday, March 9 (Ash Wednesday)

12 pm – Worship – San
7:30 pm – Worship – San

Thursday, March 10

10 am – Second Thursday Fellowship – Parlor
2 pm – Art Committee – Parlor
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:15 pm – Choral Society – PH
8:15 p.m. – Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, March 12

10 am – First Church Quilters – LC
11 am – Wabash College Concert

Sunday, March 13

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
6 pm – Sonreir – PH
6 pm – Middle School Youth – Middle School Room

Monday, March 14

7 pm – Trustees – LC

Tuesday, March 15

11 am – Tuesdays at First Book Study – Parlor
12:15 pm - Tuesdays at First Concert – San
12:45 pm – Tuesdays at First Luncheon – PH
1:30 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
7 pm – Church Council – LC

Wednesday, March 16

11 am – Book Study – Parlor
6 pm – Book Study - Parlor

Thursday, March 17

6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:15 pm – Choral Society – PH
8:15 p.m. – Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, March 19

9 am – House and Grounds Committee - PFR
9 am – Italian Children's Mission Meeting – Parlor

Missions Offering Schedule



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

<u>March 6</u> -	Witness for Justice
<u>March 13</u> -	BREAD
<u>March 20</u> -	Italian Children's Mission
<u>March 27</u> -	Sharing America's Resources Abroad

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

Kennedy Bassett Thompson – February 13

Deaths

Arthur Vorys – February 5

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on March 6 and 20 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

March Fellowship Hour

March 6: Deuteronomy
March 13: Ephesians
March 20: Galatians
March 27: Haggai

March Acolyte Schedule

March 6: Joe Spofforth and Ben Allen
March 13: Jack Koscher and Ella Koscher
March 20: Anna Rambo and Ben Allred
March 27: Nicholas Warrick and Sarah Ahrens
(Schedules online at www.first-church.org)

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, March 7, a noon. Email articles to: dmahoney@first-church.org. The *First Church News* is published the third Wednesday of each month.

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.....Custodian
Frank Wall, William Lee.....Custodians
Nikki Boop, Rosemary Pawandiwa.....Nursery
DeAndree Norris.....Nursery
Linda Mumford.....Wedding Coordinator
Jane Chavers.....Wedding Coordinator
Fran Panek.....Wedding Coordinator

Church Council

David Holt..... Moderator
Gerry Worth.....Vice-Moderator
Judy Smith, Bev Cook.....Secretary/Assistant
Jim Fewlass, Cindy Conn.....Treasurer/Assistant
Sandy Bennett, Neal Brower.....Administration/Assistant
Pamm Greene, Melissa Prendergast.. Church Growth/Asst.
Priss Endo, Tanya Miller.....Education/Assistant
Wally Giffen, Charlie Weaver...House & Grounds/Assistant
Fran Panek, Bruce Panek.....Mission/Assistant
Jackie Dean, Abby Cave.....Parish Life/Assistant
Mary Weaver.....Senior Deacon
Elaine Warren.....Deacon
John Deliman, Jim Gallagher...Music, Arts, Heritage/Asst.
Melody Leidheiser.....Nominating Chair
Tom Worley.....Trustees
Emma Welsh-Huggins.....Member-at-large
Tom Brownfield.....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 By: Monday, February 21, 2011

TO:

[Empty dashed 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