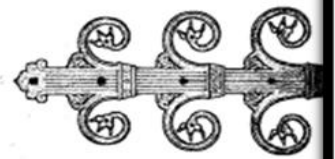




First Church News



First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ • Columbus, Ohio

Jan. 19, 2011
Vol. 159, No. 1



Let Your Light Shine!

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

The candle you light will give light to a hundred.
- Talmud

This is the season of Epiphany. It is the season of “light shining in the darkness!” As our nights seem (eternally) long and our days seem (abysmally) short, this is the time when God calls us to reflect light in the darkness. Beyond the change in light and dark, I find this time of year challenging in my life of prayer. I, too, often stumble through these days feeling lost in the darkness. Do you find this true for you?

God discovers us when we are groping in the dark. God gives light when ours in dimly lit.

I am heartened in these stumbling times by the words of the late Rabbi Chaim Stern. Rabbi Stern writes: *“Not every day do we encounter God, not every time is opportune for prayer, not every hour one of grace. We fail and fail again until journey’s end. We turn back only to lose our way once more, and grope in search for long forgotten paths. But God holding a candle, looks for all who wander, all who search.”* God discovers us when we are groping in the dark. God gives light when ours in dimly lit.

It is God who proclaims “Let there be Light!”
God grants the light and brightens our darkness.
God’s enlightens so many people, places, and moments.

I see God’s light shining in the face of newborns, the delight and talk of infants and young children, the laughter and joy of teens, the smiles of parents, the growing wisdom of middle age, the tears and memories of seniors, and the final dance of light and life as beloved ones transition from earth to heaven.

Remember: You are God’s beam of light! You are a candle in the darkness! In the words of Jesus, “Do not let your light hide under a basket. Let your light shine!”

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First Church Annual Meeting

January 30, 11 a.m., in the Sanctuary

One Worship Service at 10 a.m.

That Day



Issues to be discussed and voted on will include the 2011 budget. A congregational dinner will be held in the Parish Hall immediately after the meeting. Sign up in office.

Child care will be provided.

From the Pastors

Small Groups Offer Opportunity to Get to Know Your Neighbor

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

One of the heavily discussed passages in scripture is Matthew 18:20: "Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Across the centuries it echoes in definitions of "church." It has taken center stage in conversations on how the Christ is made visible in and through us. It has both divided and united churches on issues surrounding sacraments, to name but a part of its history. The themes on the passage are pretty amazing. I'll spare the list here but if you want to hear more, give me a call and we'll have a good time discussing it over a cup of tea.



Anyway, my point is this: I was surprised so much would be written on these few words – "Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

I thought it was just what it says and one could receive it on surface value – God is with us even now.

Now, having demonstrated my previous naiveté (from years long since past) I invite you into the conversation too. What do you hear in it and how does it participate in what you believe? Furthermore, how do you see it in terms of social networking? Is it possible to be gathering when we are actually apart from each other? What defines "gathered" for you? How does being in the same room make a difference (or not) for you personally? Are you someone who feels connected when there is a telephone conversation underway? Do you feel 'gathered' when you email, text, blog, tweet and find long lost faces on your Facebook account? Can we be gathered via Skype and oohvoo? It's the kind of conversation and debate I really enjoy – I hope you will share your thoughts in person or at jwilson@first-church.org.

I also hope you will gather this year in the small groups that we have and that will be forming in 2011. In addition to broadening our networks and base of friendship, small groups can be an integral part of spiritual formation. They exist in many forms – prayer groups, book studies, considering current events in light of our faith, following devotional guides and reflecting together on them, to name but a few options.

Time together in a smaller setting can be especially meaningful when you are part of a large congregation. You can see the same person sitting three rows in front

of you, but how will you get to know them? This year, look around and see where you might find yourself in a new place, with a different group to study, work, pray, play, learn, laugh, discern, cry, explore, serve, look expectantly; trust it's true - *Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them.* And keep alert, there are new opportunities on the way. Let us change the world together in 2011.

Rev. Ahrens' Upcoming Sermons

Epiphany Sermon Series

January 23 - Ecumenical Sunday - Matthew 4:12-23
"At Home in Kafer Nahum" (Jeffrey Window - Calling the disciples)

January 30 - Congregational Meeting Sunday (10 a.m. service only) - Micah 6:1-8; I Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

"A Vision of Beauty: Unseen, Unforgotten" (The Rose Window)

February 6 - Youth Sunday - Matthew 5:13-20
(The Ella Miller Window - Motherhood)

February 13 - Racial Justice Sunday - I Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37

"Anger, Lust, Divorce and Swearing" (Jeffrey Window - Jesus and the Pharisees)

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)



Read Sermons
Online at
www.first-church.org

2011 Nominations Slate

This is the proposed list of officers to be voted on by the congregation during the annual meeting January 30:

Moderator - David Holt
Moderator-elect - Gerry Worth
Treasurer - Jim Fewlass
Treasurer-elect - Cindy Conn
Secretary - Judy Smith
Secretary-elect - Bev Cook
Administration - Sandy Bennett
Admin.-Elect - Neal Brower
Church Growth - Pamela Greene
Church Growth.-elect - Melissa Prendergast
Education - Priss Endo
Education-elect - Tanya Miller
House & Grounds - Wally Giffen
House and Grounds-elect - Charlie Weaver
Missions - Fran Panek
Missions-elect - Bruce Panek
Music/Arts/Heritage - Jon Deliman
Music/Arts/Heritage-elect - Jim Gallagher
Parish Life - Jackie Dean
Parish Life-elect - Abby Cave
Youth at-Large - Emma Welsh-Huggins
At Large - Tom Brownfield
Nominating Chair - Melody Leidheiser
Trustee 4-yr. - Meredith Knueve, Sheldon Taft
Deacon 1 yr. - Missy Zimmerman
Deacon 2 yr. - Pat Patterson
Deacon 3 yr. - Betty Johnson, Bert Cook, Marilyn Minter, Mark Brown, Bill Wagner



Happy Birthday!

First Church Staff members recently helped member/volunteer/treasurer-to-be Jim Fewlass celebrate his 70th birthday. Congratulations!

Christian Unity Week Events Planned

Interfaith and ecumenical ties to the community will be the theme during this year's week of Christian Unity, January 23-29. Members and friends of First Church are invited to two services and a tour of Central Ohio's largest mosque during the week. They include:

The Service for Christian Unity at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 East Broad St., Tuesday, January 25 at 7 p.m. Rev. Ahrens will be liturgist for the evening.

The Erev Shabbath Service, Friday, January 28, 8 p.m. at Temple Beth Shalom, 5089 Johnstown Rd., New Albany. Rev. Ahrens is preaching.

Visit to Noor Islamic Cultural Center, 5001 Wilcox Rd., Dublin, Saturday, January 29, 12:30-2 p.m.. led by Rev. Ahrens. People will leave from Westminster Thurber at 11:50 a.m. or meet at the center. People should sign up if they plan to come.

2011 Stewardship Nears Goal; Your Help Still Needed

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

We have received a great number of stewardship pledges for this year and next – but we still need every member to respond in love and thanksgiving for our church's ministries and missions.

If you have not pledged for 2011, here is the link to on-line pledging:
<http://www.first-church.org/PledgeOnline.aspx>. You can also pledge by calling Sharon Leidheiser – 614-228-1741, ext. 11, or emailing her at sleidheiser@first-church.org.

Together we can reach our goals in stewardship this year and grow forward in 2011.

Music

Music Notes

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

January 2011

Music opportunities abound this winter and spring. Here is an outline of upcoming events:



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.

Tuesdays at First

The "Tuesdays at First" recital series resumes. The programs are half-hour recitals March 1, 8, 15, 22 at 12:15 p.m., followed by homemade lunch. A \$5 donation for lunch is suggested.

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.

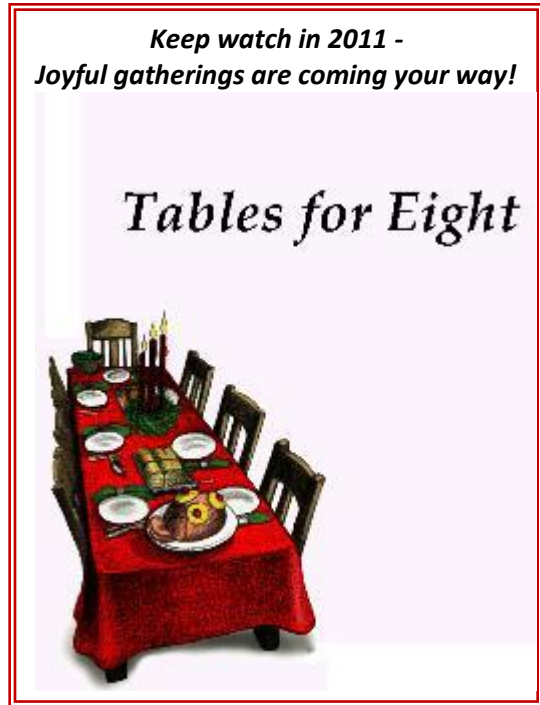
May 1, 4 p.m. **Robert Bates, organ**

Robert Bates (www.organists.net/bates.html), associate professor of organ at the Moores School of Music, University of Houston, concludes the season on both the Kimball and von Beckerath organs.

Compline

The beautiful candlelight service of Compline is offered the third Sunday of each month at 9 p.m. This 20-minute service of sung prayer, psalms, and scripture is a

peaceful, introspective way to conclude the Sabbath and prepare for the week ahead. February 20, March 20, April 17 and May 15.



Lantern Fellowship Set For April 8-10

The next
Lantern
Fellowship
retreat of
the Ohio



Conference UCC will be held April 8 to 10 at the Pilgrim Hills Camp and Conference Center near Brinkhaven, Ohio. The cost is \$135.

Lantern Fellowship is an adult retreat offered to the women of the UCC Ohio Conference. It is a time when women, ranging in age from 25 to 80 plus years, come together to enjoy good food, warm and friendly hospitality and the peaceful, quiet beauty of wooded hills and trails can renew the spirit.

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.

You Can Help First Church When Shopping at Kroger

By David Holt, Treasurer

Did you know that you can make contributions to First Church simply by doing your grocery shopping at Kroger and using your Kroger Plus Card? So far, 66 people have signed up for the program.

First Church is enrolled in Kroger's Community Rewards Program which will link purchases made with your Kroger's Plus Card so that a portion of the sale is donated back to First Church.



A portion of your qualifying purchases will be donated to your choice of the following:

* **First Congregational Church #84966** – Church Council has allocated – 50% towards the annual Youth Mission Trip and 50% towards operating costs.

* **First Church Choir #81813** - proceeds used to support choir activities.

* Your enrollment expires March 31 each year so be sure to re-enroll each year.

* Enrollment instructions are below:
Enrollment step by step instructions (re-enrollment starts at step 3):

1. Enter **customer.kroger.com** into your web browser.
2. If you do not already have an online account, then click "**Get started Sign up today**" (at the bottom right). **Enter your email address** and **create a password**, follow the on-line instructions and options. Kroger will send you an email message, to activate your account **click on the link in the message** or cut and paste the address into your browser.
3. Once you have an activated online account, go back to **customer.kroger.com** (or **krogercommunityrewards.com**) to sign in.
4. Select **My Account/Account Settings**, select **Community Rewards**, and select **Edit Community Rewards Information**.
5. Find your organization by entering your organization's

name or NPO number (**#84966-First Congregational Church** or **#81813-First Church Choir**), then click "**Search**".

6. Be sure to click on the circle to the left of your organization so that it becomes highlighted. Click "**Select Your Organization**".

7. Click "**Save Changes**".

Thank you for making these efforts to support First Church!

UCC Sets Work Days at Pilgrim, Templed Hills for 2011

The Ohio Conference of the UCC is planning the following work days at its two camps in 2011: Pilgrim Hills, March 26 and September 24, and Templed Hills, April 20 and October 1.



The work day starts at 9 a.m. and ends between 3 and 4 p.m.

Lunch will be provided on Saturday. If you would like to stay overnight on Friday, the charge will be \$28 per person, which includes breakfast.

Please contact the Outdoor Ministries office in Columbus — 800-282-0740, Ext. 207, or campregistrar@ocucc.org — to let us know the number of volunteer workers in your group on Saturday and if you plan to stay overnight on Friday.

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

Complete the release form and bring it with you. For information and forms, contact the Outdoor Ministries office.

Dinner for Deep Griha Scheduled for February 20; India Trip Also Set

By Valerie Stichter

In 1972, the Rev. Bhaskar and Dr. Neela Onawale (pronounced o-NA-wa-lee) from Pune, India, spent a year in Columbus as sort of “reverse missionaries”. Bhaskar worked on the staff of our church for six months and then spent six months on the staff of First Community Church. While they were here, many members of both churches formed close and lasting friendships with this delightful couple and their two young daughters. They have since made several trips back here to visit.

Not long after their return to India, Neela opened a medical clinic in one room of their home to treat the extremely poor people in Pune, a city of over a million people. This clinic was only the first of a large number of services provided by this couple and a rapidly expanding staff.

The name of these combined projects is Deep Griha, meaning “Lighthouse,” and it has been a 35-year mission of these two churches.

Our church designates one Sunday morning offering annually to sponsor four students in the Aadhar Kendra Child Sponsorship Program of Deep Griha.

Some individual members of our church also sponsor students. A donation of \$220 per year covers one student’s school supplies, uniform and shoes for public school, medical care with monthly checkups, one nutritious meal per day, counseling, activities with schoolmates and emergency help for their families when needed, among other things.

This year, as part of First Church’s Capital Campaign, we are setting aside a certain percentage to go toward our ongoing support of Deep Griha’s extensive projects! The Deep Griha programs currently serve thousands of residents within three large slum areas of Pune, offering hope and the means to lift their families out of the grinding poverty most of them have always known.

Deep Griha gives them to become self-sufficient, step by step. There are wide-ranging health services, pre-natal care, nutrition classes, homes for orphans and for women and children needing temporary refuge from abusive homes. There are child care and pre-schools. There are also adult literacy classes in English, many job-training classes and much more.



Medical care is among the services provided at Deep Griha in Pune, India.

The most recent program added is the Deep Griha Academy, which was inaugurated in 2007. The school is open to all children from the rural community and classes are taught in English. The agri-based curriculum aims to sensitize students to their environment and help them meet the challenges of modern rural India. The academy adds one class level per year and will eventually be a full K-12 school.

This past year, Bhaskar Onawale died suddenly and is greatly missed by all of us who knew him. He was an extraordinary man. But Neela’s determination to meet even more needs within her reach continues to be simply amazing.

Our church and First Community Church have now been joined by Dublin Community Church and have formed a joint effort called Deep Griha USA. We each have members serving on the board of trustees of DGUSA and are committed to boosting awareness and support for the work of Deep Griha as it continues to grow.

Each year, First Community Church has held a pot luck dinner where we all come together for fellowship, dinner, a program about what is currently happening with Neela and her endless projects and how we can best support her work. This year’s potluck dinner and program will take place February 20 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at First Community’s north campus, 3777 Dublin Rd. We hope we will have a great turnout of First Congregational members at this event.

Although reservations are not needed for this evening, if you plan to attend it would be helpful if you could contact Valerie Stichter by email at stichter@columbus.rr.com, or call her at 885-0730, with your name and number of attendees so we can determine how many tables we will need.

DGUSA is also planning a trip to India in January 2012 to visit Neela and tour the projects in Pune for three to four days. Then we will journey to other areas of India for about 10 days.

Anyone interested in joining the tour group (about 15 people) can stay after the February 20 dinner/program, when there will be an informational meeting to find out more about the itinerary, approximate cost, dates, etc. Several people have already signed up for the tour and we are limiting it to members or people closely associated with one of our three churches. So, don’t wait too long. If you cannot make the meeting but would like more information, or if you decide to go on the trip, please contact Valerie Stichter.

Sacred Earth to Host Dinner and Movie on February 7

By Jim Griffin, Sacred Earth Committee

The Sacred Earth Committee will be serve dinner and show the 2006 documentary, *Black Gold: Wake Up and Smell the Coffee* on February 7 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The movie will be shown during dinner. Salad, soup, dessert and coffee will be served, and popcorn will be available.



This sobering documentary exposes the inequities of the coffee business -- a \$50 billion industry that continues to shortchange Ethiopia's indigent farmers, inspiring fair-trade crusader Tadesse Meskela to take action. The eye-opening film, which follows the tireless Meskela as he journeys around the globe to initiate change, offers an unrepentant indictment of the World Trade Organization's unjust and outdated policies.

A donation of \$5 is suggested with all monies supporting ongoing "green" church building projects. If you plan to attend, a sign-up sheet will be in the church office. We hope to see you February 7!

Home Visits With Rev. Ahrens

Throughout the years, Rev. Ahrens and the associate ministers of First Church have made home visits with members of the church.

As the church has grown and as staff positions supporting Rev. Ahrens' calling and caring ministry have been cut back, it is become much more challenging to set up the visits.

He would like to know if you or your loved ones would like visits to your home, nursing home or care facilities. Please call 228-1741, ext. 13, for Rev. Ahrens or email: tahrens@first-church.org to set-up visits in the near future. If you would like to have coffee, meal time or other times with him, call or email as well. Thank you.

A 'Thank You' from First Church Member

My sincere thanks to everyone for your prayers, calls, cards and expressions of care during my recent surgery and convalescence. I wish you all health and many blessings in the new year.

- Jackie Lowery

Annual Gathering Set for June 10-11

Make plans to attend this year's Annual Gathering of the Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, on June 10 and 11.

The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Tony Robinson, an ordained UCC minister, who has served four congregations. His present ministry is a multi-faceted one. He travels throughout North America as a speaker, teacher, preacher, consultant and coach serving congregations and their leaders. He has taught at several schools, including Emmanuel College/ Toronto School of Theology, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University and Vancouver School of Theology.



Tony Robinson

Tony is the author of nine books, the most recent *Changing the Conversation: A Third Way for Congregations*, published in 2008. He is at work on two new books, one on preaching and leadership, the other on scripture and ethics.

He is a graduate of Willamette University in Salem, Ore. He holds a master's degree in European cultural and intellectual history from the University of Oregon. His Master of Divinity degree is from New York's Union Theology Seminary.

The schedule for this year's Annual Gathering can be found at www.ocucc.org.

First Church Stepped Up to Help Gladden

Proverbs 3:27 says, "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act."

A number of people acted generously to our appeal for \$20 gift cards for persons served by Gladden Community House. Thirty-two cards were collected and distributed. Thank you.

One of the families receiving cards consisted of five children, who had been left in the care of their grandparents by their mother. The children did not qualify for firefighter toys as the grandparents had only birth certificates but no custody papers for the children. Gladden staff members were able to give gifts for the children with our cards. The Gladden staff has sent its appreciation to First Church for the gift cards and for continued support of the food pantry.

- Dawn George

Spirituality Network Offers Prayer Retreat Series

The Spirituality Network is offering a prayer retreat series. Balanced with a mixture of experience and instruction, each retreat will offer the opportunity to explore spirituality and prayer in a contemplative environment. You may attend all three or choose individual retreats.

Preregistration is required, and the package of all 3 retreats is \$140, prepaid by February 11. Individual retreat pricing is below.

For registration and retreat details, go to <http://www.spiritualitynetwork.org/events.html> or call 614-228-8867

February 19: Ignatian Spirituality; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Led by Charlotte Glasgo, at the Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr., Columbus, OH
\$50 prepaid by February 11; \$65 after.

March 19: Celtic Christian Spirituality ; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Led by Linda J. Bixby, at the St. John's Episcopal Church, 700 High Street, Worthington, OH
\$50 prepaid by March 11; \$65 after.

April 9: Benedictine Spirituality; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Led by Judy Smoot, at the Zoe's Refuge in Hocking Hills, approximately 1 hour southeast of Columbus (directions provided upon registration).
\$65 prepaid by April 1; \$80 after, includes lunch.

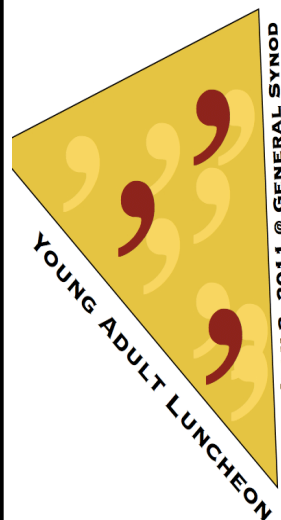
Missions Offering Schedule

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

February 6 - Lower Lights Ministry
February 13 - Back Bay Mission
February 20 - Deep Griha
February 27 - Camp Scholarships



Attention All Young Adults!



Come One, Come All!
Are you a young adult? Work with young adults? Support young adults? All are welcome!

The UCC Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CYAM)

invites you to their
Young Adult General Synod Sponsored Meal
Sunday, July 3, 2011

12:00-2:15pm

at Splitsville Lanes in Tampa, FL.

\$15 includes lunch and the opportunity to meet some commatastic people!
Pre-registration required through General Synod registration.

More information available at ucc.org/cyam or on Facebook at on.fb.me/cyam

Antoinette Brown Nominees Sought

United Church News

The Women's Ministry of the national setting of the United Church of Christ is inviting nominations for the 2011 Antoinette Brown award to be presented at General Synod 28 in Tampa, Fla., June 30 - July 5. The deadline for nominations is February 1.

First presented at the 10th General Synod, the award is named for the Rev. Antoinette Brown (1825-1921), the first woman formally ordained to the Christian ministry in a major Protestant denomination in the United States. Formerly given by the UCC's Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society, the award is now facilitated through Local Church Ministries.

Women nominated need to hold ordained ministerial standing in the UCC, exemplify the contributions women can make through ordained ministry, have provided outstanding ministry in a parish or other church related institutions, including women in specialized ministry, and have a sensitivity concerning the challenges and possibilities of women in ministry and advocacy on behalf of all women in the church.

More information, including the nomination form and a list of past award recipients, is available as a PDF download and at the Women's Ministry page at www.ucc.org.



Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum



Given to the Dorinda K. White
Endowment Fund by:
**Jim Kyle in celebration of the life
of Dorinda White**

Given to the Barnard Music Fund by:
Kevin Ayres in honor of G. Dene Barnard

Given to the Buel Family Fund by:
**Patricia Patterson in celebration of the life of
Marguerite Buel**

Given to the Remembrance Fund by:
**Thomas Clark in celebration of the life of Karen
Carpenter**
**Michael Swinger in celebration of the life of Paul
Swinger**

*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 March 19 Retreat Offered

"A Day with God and Self," a day-
long retreat for educators, clergy and
laity offering an opportunity for individual
and group spiritual guidance, will be
held March 19, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
at the UCC Ohio Conference's Pilgrim
Hills Pettyman Center.



The leaders will be Janet Burkhart, a licensed minister
and retired director of Christian Education at Trinity
UCC, Wooster, Ohio, and Shirley Weyrauch, Christian
education coordinator at Christ Church UCC in Orrville,
Ohio.

The costs is \$30. If you plan to arrive the night before,
there will be an additional \$40 charge for lodging.

Registration must be received two weeks before the
retreat date. Call the Ohio Conference office at 800-
282-0740 to request a brochure or you can print a
registration form at www.ouccc.org to complete and
return with your check.

Member Happy February Birthdays

4:	Randy Hoffman	24:	Lola Edwards
5:	Ann McIsaac	24:	Alice Boden
5:	Anne Morgenstern	24:	Kevin Cubick
5:	Debbie Yontz	25:	Samuel Gordon
6:	Marjorie Smith	25:	Mike Koscher
7:	Jane Carter	25:	Joanna McWilliams
9:	Helen Cook	25:	Julia Myers
9:	Ken Storey	26:	Georgia Swinger
9:	Rev. Tim Ahrens	27:	Marc Lowy
9:	Jim Griffin	28:	Connie Johnson
9:	Dan Snyder	28:	Melva Fisher
10:	John Matney	29:	Tammy Alexander
12:	Mark Leidheiser		
14:	Bob Kutschbach		
14:	Becky Ackford		
14:	Grace Glaros		
15:	Rev. Herb Goetz		
16:	William Owen		
16:	Peggy Alexander		
16:	Dick Ward		
16:	Tom Farquhar		
17:	Jean Moran		
17:	Craig Clay		
17:	Tyler Reid		
20:	Erick Gale		
21:	Nancy Nikiforow		
21:	Joe Lane		
23:	Gleva Stephens		

Member Happy February Anniversaries

15:	Judy and Gerhard Wolff
16:	Amy and Bill Wagner
17:	Anna and Mark Jensen
18:	Sallie and Karl Danneberger
19:	Cami Curren and Thom Smith
20:	Jan and Bill Kutschbach
26:	Jan and Greg Halbe

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

Thursday Fellowships to Meet in February

The First Thursday Fellowship will meet February 3 at 10
a.m. at the home of Betsy and John Zahn, 2459
Sherwood Villa. Dawn George will speak about her trip
to Israel. Refreshments will be served and all are
welcome.

The Second Thursday Fellowship will meet February 10
at 10 a.m. in the church parlor. Following refreshments,
those present will share information on a book they have
read in the past year. Everyone is welcome.

**Change of address or contact
information?**

**Let us know - call 228-1741 or
email home@first-church.org**

Church Calendar

Sunday, January 23

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 – Youth Groups – PH

Monday, January 24

6:30 pm – Stephen Ministers – Adult Library

Tuesday, January 25

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

Wednesday, January 26

7 pm – Adult Education – LC

Thursday, January 27

6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 p.m. – Choir – Choir Room

Sunday, January 30

9 am – Choir – Sanctuary
10 am – Worship – San
11 am – Annual Meeting – San
12 pm – Congregational Luncheon – PH

Tuesday, February 1

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
6:30 pm – Children's Education Committee – Room D
7 pm – Deacons – LC
7 pm – Mission Committee – PFR
7:30 pm – Youth Ministry Team – Room C

Wednesday, February 2

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, February 3

10 am – First Thursday Fellowship (Zahn Home)
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 p.m. – Choir – Choir Room

Sunday, February 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

Monday, February 7

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth - Parlor

Tuesday, February 8

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
6 pm – Music Committee – Parlor
7 pm – Executive Committee – PFR

Thursday, February 10

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

Saturday, February 12

10 am – First Church Quilters – LC

Sunday, February 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 – Youth Groups – PH

Monday, February 14

7 pm – Trustees – LC

Tuesday, February 15

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

Wednesday, February 16

11 am – Book Study – Parlor
7 pm – Budget and Finance – LC

Thursday, February 17

6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 p.m. – Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, February 19

9 am – House and Grounds Committee - PFR

Sunday, February 20

8 am – Blood Drive – Ed Wing Room D
9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D
11 am – Worship – Sanctuary
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
9 pm – Compline – Sanctuary

Prayers

February Fellowship Hour

February 6: Amos
February 13: Colossians
February 20: Corinthians
February 27: Daniel

February Acolyte Schedule

February 6: Nicholas Warrick and Ben Allred
February 13: Luke Zimmerman and Emma Rau
February 20: Annie-Rose Cooke and Emily Cooke
February 27: Merry Roach and Courtney Batchelor
(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.

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.

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on February 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

Church Staff

Timothy C. Ahrens.....Senior Minister
Janine Wilson.....Associate Minister
James E. Bobb.....Minister of Music
Mark S. Williams.....Director of Christian Education
Jackie Dean.....Interim Director of Chr. Ed.
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

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 Chavers, John Deliman.....Music, Arts, Heritage/Ast.
Nancy Loy.....Nominating Chair
Jordan Knerr.....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, January 24, 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