

First Church News

First Congregational Church, UCC
Columbus, Ohio

"Enter to Worship - Depart to Serve"

July
2012
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Stained-Glass Message

Sermon Series to Look at Rose Window

By The Rev. Earl Fritz

First Congregational Church is known for its stained-glass windows, not only the traditional styles of the middle ages, but also modern stained-glass like the side windows in the nave. They all play a part in communicating to the worshippers the Word of God.

Unfortunately, the view of one of our greatest windows, the large rose window, cannot be seen because of the gallery organ. Church windows must be seen from the inside because light is an essential part of what they reveal.

That brings up one of the basic principals of stained glass. Without a light they are dead. When I was a child in my home church in Nebraska, a lovely brick country church with stained-glass windows, we always went to church in the daytime except Christmas Eve. I remember being shocked that the windows at night were plain black - the church had poor lighting.

There is a contemporary Irish philosopher and writer John O'Donahue, who in his book *Beauty* has written "Light is the mother of life. Where there is no light there is no life. It is the secret presence of the Divine."

Accepting his wisdom, we as creatures of God, use our talent to produce a material medium of communication - the windows - which God's light fulfills.

Glass as a substance was discovered and first produced by the Egyptians long ago. They learned to mold objects of art out of sand. It was the Romans who began using glass as a window around the first century. The Romanesque style of churches - round arches - that were developed later in the century had small windows to protect against the weather. Archeological discoveries revealed a window painted with the face of Christ but only in black.

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The next technique involved the use of the metal lead as a seam - it is called came - between pieces of glass.

Because it is soft and pliable, it is still used to hold glass together to this day. Around the same period artists found that various metal oxides gave glass different colors, that opened up many more possibilities.

Still to be invented was a way to keep what the artist's painted on the glass from deteriorating. This was achieved by placing glass in the kiln and firing it so that the paint permanently "stained" the glass. They then made windows that pictured stories of the Bible. It was a giant step in the education of the illiterate masses of people who were flocking to the churches.

With the development of Gothic architecture, the pointed arches and the flying buttress, which did not require massive stone walls to hold up the roof, large window areas became possible. The 12th through 15th centuries became the age of the great cathedrals. Throughout Europe, guilds of glaziers - the glass artists - and sculptors moved from place to place to build cathedrals.

Believers coming to this country with memories of their churches back home built new churches with stained-glass windows and the tradition continued. The rose window in our church is a traditional masterpiece. It has symbols, instead of figures, which highlight six Christian virtues. The first one is the Chi Rho, a symbol of Christ's love. Love will be the theme of my sermon July 29, which begins a series of six sermons on the Christian virtues depicted on the Rose Window. We will learn much more about the window we cannot see.



The Rose Window at First Church

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Musings at the 2012 Midpoint

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

We are at the midpoint of 2012, and is the midpoint of our stewardship and annual giving. It is also the midpoint of our three-year capital campaign. It is the midpoint of our program year (which kicks into high gear again in September). It also is the midpoint of our journey through the Christian year (which actually started in late November, so we are past this midpoint by five weeks).

I have been reflecting lately on life at the midpoint. Let me share a few thoughts with you. We have a staff transition at this year's midpoint. Our beloved **Jamie Bobb** is leaving as Music Minister and headed to begin his work on the music faculty of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. Blessings and farewell to Jamie. We look forward to seeing him when he returns for visits in the years to come.



On July 2, we welcome **Marti Rideout as our Interim Music Minister**. Marti served us faithfully and wonderfully well for 15 months in 2008-2009. She not only stabilized our music ministry at a vulnerable point, but during her interim, our choirs ALL grew in numbers, spirit, and faith! Wow! She hopes (as do we) that this interim will be shorter, smoother and joyful from her first to last note. Welcome Marti.

I want to take one moment to celebrate the wonderful staff that is continuing to do great work at First Church. Sharon, Marty, Denny, Janine, Mark and Tom, our nursery workers, custodians and security support staff work together so well. We are blessed to have all of them on staff. Thanks be to God for our staff!

We had a great time in Chicago on the 2012 Youth Mission trip, June 10-15. What an amazing group of teens and adults. Look for more on Page 3. We are also sending 18 children to the UCC Ohio Conference camps this summer. In addition, we have a delegation going to the National Youth Event at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., from July 10-13. Let's keep our active children, youth and teens in our prayers. Meanwhile, we celebrate all our babies being born and baptized.

I want to celebrate our Wednesday book study group. We meet the first and third Wednesday of each month (but not in July). We have taken on some tough texts from amazing scholars. I admire this group of 12-25 that meets regularly. All are welcome! We will finish

Reinhold Niebuhr's classic *Moral Man and Immoral Society* in August. In September, we are looking at Elaine Pagel's new book on Revelation. We might tackle Gary Dorian's writing on social justice which is titled *Soul in Society*. Stay tuned.

Speaking of books, I read *Rule Number Two* as recommended to me by **David Kirker**. It is a chronicle of a Navy psychiatrist who served with the Marines in Iraq in 2004. I highly recommend it to everyone. I am also finishing Michelle Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. It is a powerful analysis of our criminal justice system. Dr. Alexander holds a joint appointment at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and the Moritz School of Law at The Ohio State University. She is brilliant and writes extremely well.

We are in the beginning stages of our **First Connections**. Hopefully you have been hearing from our "First Connectors." They have been calling and reporting back to me. So, I can only imagine you have been talking with them or have heard their voices in your voicemail. Please call them back. We are trying to assess our care needs in the church at this time. These fine men and women are helping us in this effort.

Thanks to all who helped with the project of pulling the old furnace out of the lower basement of the church. While most of this was done professionally, we had a lot of helpers around the edges of this important project. We are about to do a lot of work on the west lot. All the pieces are in place and the work will begin as soon as possible. Thanks to **Earl Fritz** who has been hard at work on repairing stained glass in our Education Wing. All the breaks and cracks look 100% better now that they are repaired. Stay tuned this summer. We may need your help with other capital improvement projects..

We could use some help in the gardens around our church this summer. If you have thought about yard work at church but not shown up, we would love to have you. Contact **Tom Luff**, our Building and Grounds Manager. Thanks to all the volunteers who are so amazing in and around our church office! They come in and support our work as a staff every single day!

On a personal note, I reached my 27th anniversary of ordained ministry. At 54, I now have been in the joyful work of serving Christ in ministry for half my life, and almost half that time serving here among you.

Two more midpoints , , , . Blessings to you in these days of summer. I pray that you will take time to pray, read, rest, reflect, rejuvenate and have a blast in the longer, warmer days we are blessed to receive from God.



First Church youth enjoy the streets of Chicago.

Youth Mission Trip to Chicago Was Eye-Opening Experience

By Morgan Shaw

The mission trip to Chicago was an experience that I will never forget.

When I used to think about Chicago, I thought about a big magical city with sparkly lights and amazing stores. When we arrived to Chicago though, it changed that opinion dramatically. I think I actually said, "Wait, this is where we are staying?!?" when we arrived at the church.

The church we stayed in was located in a bad neighborhood with trash along the sidewalks and the sound of police cars every night. The rooms were crammed to where you had to tiptoe around the sleeping bags in the morning to not step on anyone and there were only three showers and tons of people.

The next few days we worked in more impoverished areas but it was very satisfying to know that we were making a difference for these people in need. We also visited places such as Little Village and Chinatown, which I was shocked to see were very segregated. When we went to the Navy Pier I was so happy to see a piece of the Chicago that I had always thought about. It was a part of the big city scene that I had always envisioned when I thought of Chicago.

On our last day, we were asked to write down a word that described our trip. The word that I chose was "reality." This experience opened my eyes to how much this nation is in need, and the need of myself and so many other people are in their own little bubbles. I have grown up in a great neighborhood, I go to a well-

respected school, and I know that I have a great community of people around me. By experiencing Chicago, I have come to realize that not everyone has all that. The trip has let me see the reality of not just Chicago, but also plenty of other places in America, some not too far from where I live today.

I want to thank all the people that allowed us to experience this reality and opened our eyes to something else out there.

Parish Life Social is July 14

Bonjour! Please join us for the Parish Life Social on Saturday, July 14, and help us celebrate Bastille Day in true French fashion with French wines and cheeses.



Young adults (20s to 40s and the young at heart) are invited to enjoy each others' company in the Parish Hall from 7 to 9:30 that evening. Former church soloist and wine connoisseur Kevin Ayres will help us host the evening, and members of the church choir will provide music and entertainment. Expect a Signup Genius invite soon. If you have questions, please contact Catherine Kennedy at cskennedy1981@yahoo.com.

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.

Families with Children – Take Notice

By Mark Williams, Christian Education Director

The UCC Web site has a wonderful resource for families with children called “Children Learn What They Read.” The link is <http://www.ucc.org/children/learn-what-they-read/>



Telling stories is a primary human activity: we do it every day – “What did you do? How was school? How was your weekend?” Responding to these questions, we begin to see our lives as narratives.

Well-articulated stories transform us and show us new ways of looking at our world, and open us up to new possibilities. This resource is designed to suggest multicultural stories that can be read to children. For this new series of “Children Learn What They Read,” selected multicultural stories with specific themes will be available online.



Every story has the following format:

- Name of the story book
- Synopsis
- Author and illustrate appreciation
- Review
- Cultural

significance

- Faith focus
- Bible passage
- Family activity
- Prayer

Every four months, there will be a new set of stories with a particular theme. The Alma Keeler Children’s Library at First Church will have the books selected from the Web site for you to check out.

Nursery Worker Needed

First Church is hiring a nursery worker. Applications are available in the church office. Questions? Contact Mark S. Williams at 228-1741, ext. 15, or mwilliams@first-church.org.

Rummage Sale a Success Despite Some Challenges

By Jim Griffin, Sacred Earth Chair

The Sacred Earth Committee had worked hard publicizing our second rummage sale, merchandising and pricing our donated items, and we anticipated a great sale on May 5. There were several other church-sponsored rummage/yard sales that day which we hoped would drive traffic to First Church. In fact, just down the street, Broad Street Presbyterian was having their annual yard sale!

We were sure the quality of our sale items surely would bring in significant sums to help Sacred Earth’s objective of funding “green” initiatives within our beautiful building. What we didn’t plan for was the Columbus half-marathon and how it would impact our sale that day.



The half-marathon brought two hours of gridlock on Broad Street that really hurt our sale. Traffic was simply not moving and despite our banner out front, few people ventured into Parish Hall. Despite this challenge, the Sacred Earth Committee still raised over \$800.

The customers who did show up purchased many useful as well as decorative items for their homes. One woman had waited more than an hour in traffic to get to the sale. What dedication and perseverance! Antique dealers, as expected, were standing outside the 9th Street door long before we officially opened at 9 a.m. Artwork, antiques, vintage items, collectibles, household items, games and toys were big sellers. We sold all our golf clubs, too!

The rummage sale, our second, was indeed a success!

I want to thank everyone who helped make this huge undertaking such a success: Dawn George, Sandra Geronimo, Sarah Giffen, Pat Patterson, Sarah Reed, Abby Salak, Melissa Prendergast, Catherine Hope-Cunningham, Sharon Walquist, Marilyn Minter, Nancy Evans and Kent Shimeall. Sacred Earth is an amazing group of dedicated individuals who truly are a great team.

Next year, it is my hope, that when we plan for the rummage sale that we will look closely at any citywide events that may impact traffic and our customers ability to get to First Church.

Rose Window Series to Shine Light on Hidden Christian Virtues

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

Thousands of passers-by look upon our church each day as it faces E. 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 of Bryn Athyn, Pa., in 1931, the Rose Window addresses the Christian virtues.

Throughout the design you will see the Lily motif (the Fleur-de-lis) which speaks of purity. Starting at the top, the Chi Rho, the monogram of Christ, symbolizes his love for the world. Moving clockwise through the design, you see the scales of justice, the anchor of hope, the lamp of wisdom, the chalice of faith and the sword of courage.



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 in our sanctuary, our beautiful Rose rises gloriously for all Columbus to behold. Just recently, thanks to Cori Rowley and our Web masters, the Rose has risen again! You will find her on our Web site, 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.

Along with Earl Fritz, Tom Brownfield and Emily Bennett, I will present six sermons this summer on the Christian virtues displayed in our Rose Window. Each week, we will have the Gallery open for you to visit the Rose Window and see her up close. Come to worship. Embrace the Christian virtues of love, justice, hope, wisdom, faith and courage. Then, depart to serve Christ.

"Shining God's Light on Hidden Christian Virtues"

July 29 – Part I of VI: "The Chi Rho of Love" – John 3:16

The Rev. Earl Fritz, member and guest preacher

August 5 – Part II of VI: "The Anchor of Hope" – I Corinthians 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

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

Upcoming Sermons

July 1 – Communion Meditation – "Life after Loss" – Rev. Ahrens
Texts: I Samuel 1:1,17-27; Mark 5:21-43



July 8 – Sermon: "Kings, Prophets and Followers" – Rev. Ahrens
Texts: II Samuel 1-5, 9-10, Mark 6:1-13

July 15 – Sermon title – TBA – Dr. Wilson preaching
Texts: II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Mark 6:14-29

July 22 – Sermon Title – TBA – Dr. Wilson preaching
Texts: II Samuel 7:1-14a; Mark 6:3-34, 53-56

Local Church Needs Game Systems

First English Lutheran Church. 1015 E. Main St. in Columbus, .hosts a growing and lively youth camp every Saturday morning that is made up of both teens and preteens. Over the past few months they had acquired several used game consoles and games to be used during these youth programs. Sadly, the game systems were stolen leaving them with no gaming systems or games at all.

If you have any game consoles, controllers or games (Playstation, Xbox or Wii) that are not being used and would like to donate them to First English, please contact Megan Flanagan or Pastor Bob at 252-3191 or felcoffice@wowway.biz



First Church honored departing Music Minister Jamie Bobb after services on June 17 with a cake and monetary gift. Jamie's final day is July 1. On that Sunday, he will play at the 9 and 11 a.m. services. After both services, he will play patriotic songs in honor of the July 4th holiday. Jamie is leaving to teach at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn.

Children's Defense Fund National Meeting Set for Cincinnati in July

The Children's Defense Fund national conference will gather 3,000 leading researchers, educators, policymakers, practitioners, faith leaders and advocates, including 1,500 young adult leaders, from July 22-25 in Cincinnati. First Church member Chris Glaros, national field organizing coordinator and general counsel, is organizing the conference.



When 16.4 million children are poor, 8.3 million children don't have health care, and a majority of children cannot read or compute at grade level in the fourth, eighth, and 12th grades, there is a growing national crisis that demands an

urgent response in these politically volatile and polarized times.

The conference will include plenary sessions and dozens of workshops focusing on the latest research and best practices, community building models, and community and youth empowerment strategies to close the gap between what works and what is actually done for the most vulnerable – children and the poor.

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

New Logo for Outdoor Ministries

The UCC's Ohio Conference Division for Outdoor Ministries has introduced a new logo portraying the vision of Outdoor Ministries: What it is, those it serves, its goals, and how it expresses its mission. Outdoor Ministries set out to maintain a bit of the previous logo, but with an entirely new look and feel.

The path in the center of the logo is maintained from the previous logo and conveys the feeling of journey. It draws your eye into the serene setting. The setting is surrounded by the oval, conveying security or sacred space, while the tree and "swoosh" breaking out of the oval provide the "thinking outside the border" mentality of forward thinking and openness to new growth. Some see the path as a foot path, others as a stream of water. Some see the "swoosh" as depicting hills, valleys, energy, or possibly the symbol of God's renewing promise in our lives.



One person said, "When I look at the logo, I visualize a safe and sacred space in nature for spiritual journeys, with the exciting movement of the Holy Spirit flowing through and moving us forward into our future as people of God." What do you see?

Budget Update

Pledges Budgeted - \$592,220.00
May Actual Pledges - \$49,514.45
Pledges Needed Monthly - \$49,351.67



May and June Mission offerings

Crossroads for Youth - \$528.00
Witness for Justice - \$254.46
Good Samaritan - \$887.45
Children Defense Fund - \$363.00
Columbus Aids Task Force - \$595.13

June 19 Council Summary

Funding for several major projects related to the West Lot and repairs to the existing building were approved by council at the June meeting.

Extensive repair will be done to the chimney as part of the boiler replacement and a liner will be placed inside the chimney. Plans are moving forward to have the Jeffrey window removed and restored by the Willet Hauser Co. of Winona, Minn. The Gladden windows in the chapel will be repaired at the same time. This project was recommended several years ago and a donation to cover a large part of the cost was received from the Jeffrey family. The remainder of the cost will be covered by the Capital Campaign.



It will take approximately two weeks to disassemble the window and package it for shipping and six to 12 months before the window will be reinstalled. West Lot improvements also are scheduled for the near future, including preparing the ground and installing a chain link fence for a proposed playground adjacent to the Education Wing.

Council approved the formation of a Capital Campaign Project Committee, consisting of David Holt, Gerry Worth, Sarah Reed, Tom Luff, Charlie Weaver, Wally Giffen, Rick Sayre and Mark Brown. This committee will coordinate projects with other Capital Campaign committees, staff, Council, and the congregation, and monitor and report on projects costs and schedules.

Council voted to dispense with meetings in July and August and empower the Executive Committee to act on its behalf. A new choral music fund was approved to accept contributions toward the purchase of choral works for the choir. Contributions have already been received for this fund in celebration of the music ministry of Jamie Bobb.

A proclamation recognizing the leadership of Forrest Hoppe as Central Southeast Ohio Association Minister was read by Sarah Reed and unanimously approved by Council.

In other news, Rev. Ahrens reported that September will be a significant month for First Church. The 10th anniversary of becoming an Open and Affirming congregation will be celebrated on September 9, with Rev. Phil Hart preaching. September 23 will be "Legacy Sunday," and the Rev. Carolyn McKinstry, who had to cancel a previous appearance here, will preach

September 30.

Both the Minister of Music Search Committee and the Constitutional Review Committee have had their initial meetings and are moving forward.

Deacons: Elaine Warren, Senior Deacon, reported that the deacons are trying to expand the usher program and have added several new people to assist in that position. Randy Hoffman stated that the Trustees are completing their work on the structure of the funds of the church and will be providing information to the congregation on September 23.

Administration Commissioner Neal Brower said that the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is the day chosen by the staff for their "Day of Thanks" as approved by Council. Neal also announced that the Stewardship Committee will begin meeting in July.

Other committee reports included:

Education: "Moving Forth in Faith" will be the theme for the next education year. Deana Armstrong, commissioner-elect, stated that Rev. Ahrens will be doing a series on Exodus in the fall for the adult education hour.

House and Grounds: Charlie Weaver announced that pavers will be installed at the 9th St. entrance. Also, the entrance doors on 9th Street are scheduled to be refurbished. The asbestos abatement and old boiler removal have been completed in preparation for the new boiler installation. The planning for the improved nave sound system has started.

Missions: Bruce Panek reported that a group of 15 attended the work day at Templd Hills on June 3. The group removed and replaced screens in five cabins. Another small group from First Church went to United Church Homes' Pickfair and did landscape work on June 10. There will be Mid-Ohio Food Bank Produce giveaways at First Church in July and August.

Parish Life: Cori Rowley said several events are scheduled for summer. There will be a social July 14, Shakespeare in the Park on August 3, and the church picnic will be held in September .

Music, Arts and Heritage: Greg Halbe reported that the Music Search Committee has had its first meeting, and that the Art Committee is working with Rev. Wilson to add new members to their committee.- **Submitted by Bev Cook, Secretary**

Hello from Jamaica and CATALYST

By Heather Biggers

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



The LICK Centre in Kingston

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. Visit www.s4cs.org/catalyst for more information.

The CATALYST Mission Relationship – Don't call us a "project"

In Kingston, Jamaica, the people of south side and the other garrisons are accustomed to foreigners studying them. Frances Madden, director at the Grace and Staff Foundation, says a steady stream of North American professionals come to their door wanting to learn about the community in order to write a book. Residents have expressed their fatigue about the constant foreigners who come and go and do nothing to help the community. But CATALYST is different.

CATALYST is a mission relationship. Don't call us a "project." When we first came into the community in 1997, we asked residents, "How can we work with you?" They responded, "Help us educate our children." We sought out a local respected partner, Grace and Staff, and made a commitment to develop long-term relationships.

Today, community people know CATALYST as the foreigners "who help the children!" One CATALYST student said, "Ms. Biggers is tough on us, but we know it's because she cares." That caring relationship, is what enables us to work with our young people. We plant a few seeds, Grace and Staff waters and God gives abundant growth. The harvest is not just students getting scholarships to the United States, it goes beyond that.

Our CATALYST students have learned to be strategic in crafting their futures. They are finding mentors, setting goals and teaching the younger students! Wow! Please continue to support the CATALYST mission relationship. You can give at anytime by writing a check payable to the church and put CATALYST in the memo line.

Please lift up the people of Grace and Staff, the CATALYST students and their families in prayer. Thank you!



You can make a difference!

When preparing meals, have you ever wondered if you could do something better with your vegetable scraps than flush them down the garbage disposal?

It's easy: Keep a vegetable pail in a second sink, on the counter or under the sink, and dump all your vegetable waste (no fats or meat!) in it. What then? Every two to three days, take it outside to your compost pile. Mix it in with leaves, grass clippings and dirt, and before you know it, you'll have compost! Once completed, your compost can be distributed to flower beds or a vegetable garden, whether it's yours, a neighbor's or a friend's. Composting is a simple and easy earth-friendly way to reduce the "load" on our water system and landfills, and to regenerate our soil.

Take a few minutes each day to change your lifestyle and give back to the Sacred Earth! – **Kent Shimeall**



Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to Pastors Fund by:

Drew and Lissa Wade in honor of Rev. Tim's work with the 2012 Confirmation class



Given to Dorinda K. White Youth Endowment Fund by:

Drew and Lissa Wade in celebration of Cameron Wade's confirmation

Given to the Education Endowment Fund by:

Drew and Lissa Wade in thanksgiving for Andrew Welsh-Huggins' mentoring of confirmand Cameron Wade

Marti and Rob Rideout in celebration of Cameron Wade's confirmation

Given to the Barnard Music Fund by:

Marti and Rob Rideout in celebration of Cameron Wade's confirmation

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

July 1 -	Gladden Community House
July 8 -	CHRIS
July 15 -	CATALYST
July 22 -	CATALYST
July 29 -	Strengthen the Church

Member Happy July Birthdays

1: Larry Walquist	16: Sharon Leidheiser
3: Laura Hadley	16: Elizabeth Drotleff
4: Cari Rowley	16: Shelly Geis
5: Nancy Evans	18: Michael Hopcraft
5: Susi Heer	19: Bev Cook
7: Kathy Brownfield	19: Betsy Trace
7: Danielle Howard	19: Tommy Trace
8: Joyce Campbell	20: Karen Clay
8: Sandra Geronimo	21: Debra Hadley
8: Mike Rippel	22: Janice Cook
9: Ed Waller	22: Eric Chambers
9: Joan Lebold	23: Jim Kyle
9: Scott Saas	24: Stan Myers
10: Shun Endo	24: Kristi Thompson
11: Linda Meredith	24: Linda Gieseke
11: David Bowers	24: Fred Hadley
13: Carol Lowy	25: Earl Fritz
14: Jack Davis	25: Nancy Braverman
15: Joe Glick	25: Frederick Hunker
15: Francille Firebaugh	25: Sarah Welsh-Huggins
15: Elise Cribb	26: Joanne Morse
16: Twink Starr	27: Courtenay Gregory
16: Steve Brandehoff	28: Steve Sterrett
16: David Magers	28: Katelyn Hoffman
16: Mark Brown	29: Jason Bryant
	30: Fran Panek
	30: Kent Shimeall
	30: David Temple
	31: Carolyn Watkins

Member Happy July Anniversaries

1: Sharon and Larry Walquist
1: Robyn and Mike Petras
4: Nancy and Lee Burba
7: Trisha and Tom Bishop
7: Kerry and Rob O'Leary
8: Denise and Nate Vogt
9: Mary Ann and Herb Goetz
11: Murley and Alan Miller
11: Shelly and Tom Gies
12: Cindy and John Deliman
13: Julie and Tom Stewart
15: Anne and Gerry Hudson
17: Carol and Jim Gallagher
17: Natalie and Tristan Setty
18: Molly and Eric Van Gorden
23: Lissa and Drew Wade
26: Catherine and Todd Cunningham
31: Kelley and Mitchell Dean

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

Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles for the August *First Church News* is July 20 at noon. It will be published Wednesday, August 1.

Sunday, July 1

9 am – Worship – PH
 11 am – Worship – Sanctuary
 12 pm – Fellowship Hour – Sanctuary

Monday, July 2

6 pm – Church Growth – Ed Wing Room D
 7:30 pm – Constitution Committee – LC

Wednesday, July 4

Building Closed – Independence Day

Friday, July 6

8 pm – Popcorn Pops – Downtown Commons

Saturday, July 7

9 am – New Member Class - Parlor

Sunday, July 8

9 am – Worship – Sanctuary
 11 am – Worship – San
 12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

Monday, July 9

7 pm – Continuity Committee – PFR
 7 pm – Trustees – LC

Tuesday, July 10

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – LC
 6 pm – Music Committee – Parlor
 7 pm – Executive Committee

Saturday, July 14

10 am – First Church Quilters – LC
 7 pm – Parish Life Social – PH

Sunday, July 15

9 am – Worship – PH
 11 am – Worship – San
 12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

Monday, July 16

6 pm – Music Search Committee – LC

Tuesday, July 17

12 pm – Care Ministry – LC

Saturday, July 21

9 am – House and Grounds - PFR

Sunday, July 22

9 am – Worship – PH
 11 am – Worship – Sanctuary
 12 pm – Fellowship Hour – Sanctuary

Monday, July 23

7 pm – Budget and Finance – LC

Tuesday, July 24

12 pm – Care Ministry- LC
 7 pm – Personnel – PFR
 7 pm – Deacons – LC

Sunday, July 29

9 am – Worship – PH
 11 am – Worship – San
 12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on July 1 and 15 during Fellowship Hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated

Rev. Ahrens' Summer Office Hours

During my time as Senior Minister, I have posted office hours. In recent years, I have gotten away from that because people set up appointments with me when they wish to talk. However, some have requested that I set posted hours once again. So, for the summer (through September 1) I have office hours.

I still need folks to call or email to sign up for times to talk. Since I do not have one staff person dedicated to work directly with me, I set up the appointments. Here are times that I am blocking off for office hours (except when meetings have to be scheduled in those time slots, or I am on vacation or out of state on church-related mission and ministry). I will fill up these times with staff and others, if folks don't make a request.

My email is: tahrens@first-church.org, and my direct phone line is: 614-228-1741, ext. 13. I look forward to hearing from you. – **Rev. Ahrens**

Summer Office Hours

Mondays – 9 a.m.-Noon
Third Monday nights - 8:30-9:30 p.m..
Fourth Monday nights - 8-9 p.m..
Tuesdays – 3:30-5 p.m.
Saturdays - By appointment only.

Popcorn Pops is July 6

Young families of First Church, this is for you! We are buying group tickets to the Popcorn Pops on Friday, July 6.



Held at the Columbus Commons, the Popcorn Pops is a child-friendly orchestra concert (i.e. Picnic with the Pops for a younger audience). Arrive early – gates open at 6:30 in the evening – to picnic with your First Church friends. The concert begins at 8 and lasts about an hour. Questions? Contact Rev. Wilson at jwilson@first-church.org

Prayers

July Fellowship Hour

July 1: Kings
 July 8: Leviticus
 July 15: Michah
 July 22: Numbers
 July 29: Proverbs

July Acolyte Schedule

July 1: Will Zimmerman and Adam Wade
 July 8: Ben Allen and Dylan Hopcraft
 July 15: Victoria Washington and Courtney Batchelor
 July 22: Anna Rambo and Erin Murray
 July 29: Courtney Batchelor and Jack Koscher
 (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

Xavier Mitchell Dean and Tyler Scott Cave – June 17

Weddings

Elisabeth Hire and Chris Hayler – June 2
 Jessica Indian and Chad Orwig – June 9
 Sara Jones and Mark Titus – June 9
 Amanda Berger and Nathan Weber – June 16
 Katlin Roush and Parker Daniel - June 16
 Moriah Makarius and Kevin Weber – June 23
 Ilona Lazdane-Sika and Brian Thomas – June 30
 Samantha Cunningham and Brice McMaster – June 30

Deaths

Judy Wolff – June 21

~ Remember Your Loved Ones ~
 With a Dedication of Flowers
 Contact Marty Worth at 614.228.1741, ext. 14,
mworth@first-church.org

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
 Denny Mahoney.....Office Manager
 Thomas Luff.....Building Manager
 Kelvin Murphy.....Custodian
 William Lee.....Custodian
 Nikki Boop, Rosemary Pawandiwa-Priore.....Nursery
 Summer Petras.....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

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

DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT

Please Deliver By: Tuesday, July 3, 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