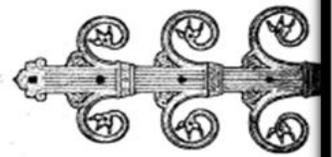




First Church News



First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ • Columbus, Ohio

July 21, 2010
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Today and Tomorrow?

By the Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson, Associate Minister

I had an interesting and lively discussion recently with one of our members. It was focused on one word – commitment. I'm wondering what it means to you? Does the word commitment shed light on things for you and set you free; or does it restrain and limit you? Does it make you smile or chafe at your collar? Does commitment challenge you to curb your thoughts and actions, or does it launch your autonomy and sense of freedom?

I think it's fascinating how this single word – commitment – creates these sometimes opposite experiences in people. After playing with it for a while this week, I'm convinced it's a great word to toss out for a delightful Sunday school class or conversation at a party.

Merriam-Webster's dictionary casts it in a light that sounds more future than present – agreements, pledges, engagements, obligations and emotions that are impelled down the boulevard – but I have to ask why anyone would allow the sense of limitation that comes with narrowing commitment to a power only in the future? Can one not be set free and opened up to the present simultaneous with the future? If not, why all the weddings, graduations, confirmations and awards?

There are times when our secular dictionaries are limiting. This seems to be one of them. Commitment calls for us to celebrate that we are all theologians. Commitment calls us to embrace free will as liberty and choice as a response to joy and hope – like the reign of God now and coming. Commitment beckons us to hear words from places like the Book of Hebrews where we are reminded we are never trapped in the past or future: *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us."* (Hebrews 12:1)

Commitment now and coming also implores us to hear the voice of preachers of the past like Dwight Moody proclaiming, "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And that which I can do, by the grace of God, I will do." Maybe most of all, commitment invites us to consider how we choose to participate fully in God's hope today and even lead the way for some unknown person's faith and future along the ever broadening way of tomorrow.

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We Need Your Blood and not because of all the vampire movies that are currently so popular. We need it to save lives. Every two seconds, someone in America needs blood, and the Red Cross needs the help of 650 donors every day in Central Ohio. At any given time, you could be helping a fellow member of our church.



Our blood drive is set for **Sunday, August 1, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church.** Anyone who has donated on or before June 6 may be eligible to donate. Those as young as 16 are able to donate (with parent/guardian permission). All donors will be entered to win a \$1,000 Marathon gas card or weekly \$100 Marathon cards (offered by the American Red Cross). **To schedule an appointment, call the office (228-1741) weekdays or sign up on Sundays.** We hope to see you on the 1st! – **Beth Buchholtz (bbuchholtz0063@wowway.com)**

From the Senior Minister

Inspiring Faith: Sr. Narcissia and Padre Jesus

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

(These are two in a series of articles Rev. Ahrens is writing while on sabbatical. They can be found under Faith and Values on www.dispatch.com.)



Faith in Jesus Christ is very personal. Each faithful follower of Christ brings his or her rich faith to life through the actions of local settings of their faith community.

The reality of this truth came to light for me at the Convent of Santa Domingo, in Calerugea (Burgos) Spain. This covenant has been in operation for 740 years, since 1270 A.D.

I met two people – a nun and a friar – who were shining lights of Christ in the local setting of the convent and monastery. Sr. Narcissia and Padre Jesus were clear reflections of God's love and light to me and my family.

Sr. Narcissia is a young Dominican nun from Ecuador. At just a little over 4½ feet tall, Sister Narcissia's smile, grace and kindness breathe truth from her entire being. She does everything from cooking, cleaning, running the convent gift shop, to welcoming guests. But her strength is found in her knees and her heart of love for Christ. As she kneels in prayer, I see God's beam of pure joy and light shining through her.

Padre Jesus is also a lover of Christ. His name says it all – "Father Jesus." He is in his early 80s. He speaks at least five languages. His eyes say it all, too. When he smiles, you see God's love and grace alive in him. He gave my family a tour of the Dominican convent. As he guided us through the 740-year-old convent, sharing the stories of St. Dominic's family and the stories of nuns and priests and their faithfulness through the ages, he came alive with their stories of faith and his own.

The day we left Calerugea, Padre Jesus lifted my family in prayer during the convent's morning prayer time. There was Sr. Narcissia on her knees in prayer. Later, she was on her feet, hugging us and wishing us well as we headed on our way.

I pray that I would live my faith like these humble servants of Christ. Their passion for Christ is an inspiration to me. I wonder, who inspires you? May God bless you on your journey of faith.

Are you a Tourist or a Pilgrim?

I never knew there were different entrance fees for "tourists" vs. "pilgrims." I discovered this in Burgos. The entrance fee for tourists in the Cathedral is 5 Euros. If you are a pilgrim it costs only 2.5 Euros. It is clearly cheaper to be a pilgrim than a tourist in Burgos! Or is it?

I smiled and told the woman at the ticket booth that I was a pastor traveling with my family. We were definitely pilgrims on this journey. She glared at me and asked, "Do you have a certified Pilgrim Card?" "No," I answered. She said, "Then you are not really a pilgrim." I was about to give a theological reflection on the spiritual nature of pilgrimage as a Christian and a seeker after truth in this world, but my wife stopped me. She saw that my windpipes were warming up to respond. She said, "just pay the tourist rate." So I dug in my pocket and produced \$25 Euros - twice as much to see a church than the going rate for pilgrims. By the way, the people behind me had a card and they didn't look any more like pilgrims than I did

This encounter has me thinking about the question - "Are you a tourist or a pilgrim?" When I lead worship each Sunday, what would happen if I asked, at the time of the offering, if people were tourists or pilgrims? If people were only there to tour the church, shop around, use an hour of their week for resting in our sanctuary, we could "charge them" twice the "price of admission." If however, they could prove they were pilgrims, they could receive a discount. In this scheme, true seekers of the presence of the living God, would only pay half the fee for worship.

Ironically, I have found it the opposite in my 25 years of pastoral leadership. I have found true pilgrims invest 2-10 times more in the life of the church than the tourists who come to participate as if worship were a spectator sport.

A tourist gawks, takes pictures, asks few questions, moves past the glory and splendor, and often misses the presence of God. A tourist is a traveler in search of the next site.

A pilgrim seeks God, discovers wonder, prays constantly and kneels before God with questions and inquiries. A pilgrim is a traveler in God's immense Universe - one who is in search of the real presence of God.

Are you a tourist or a pilgrim? In God's universe, you don't need a card, just a curious and seeking heart.

Good Samaritan Means Both 'Hearing and Doing'

By Marty Worth, Good Samaritan Program Administrator

On July 11, the Gospel lesson told the story of the Good Samaritan. I thought to myself, why couldn't this be the Sunday when the Good Samaritan fund was the mission of the day? What a missed opportunity!

But God works in mysterious ways and I recently had what you might call an "aha" moment. On July 18, the gospel lesson was the story of Mary and Martha. This story is most troubling to me and always upsets me. I am truly aptly named. I am a doer, I say, and without the doers how does ministry happen?



Jesus' rebuke of Martha stings. Perhaps some of my feelings come from the fact that I have a sister Mary. As I was getting more and more agitated about another Sunday of Mary and Martha, I read the reflection by Kate Huey on the UCC Web site where I go to get the lectionary readings of the day. I never read these due to a lack of time but I decided to take the time.

Now the "aha" moment. The story just before this one in Luke is the Good Samaritan story. The reflection shows the connection between the two and for me, puts "hearing the word and doing the word" into perspective. One leads to the other. It is not "hearing or doing" as I have always interpreted Mary and Martha, but "hearing and doing."

We hear Jesus say love your neighbor as yourself in the Good Samaritan story. Does just hearing the story end our involvement? That is how I internalized it. Jesus' rebuke told me that Mary's listening was more important than Martha's efforts and hospitality. Hearing the word leads us to be doers and Martha, in her complaining, doesn't realize that her "doing" reflects the hearing of the meaning of hospitality and caring for others.

The Good Samaritan Fund of First Church is about the doing of the word after hearing "love your neighbor as yourself." The fund could not accomplish what it does without the "doers of the congregation" who support this mission, and your generosity is a blessing to me, the volunteers and those helped. From now on, when I come face to face with Mary and Martha, I will remember how it is connected to the story of the Good Samaritan. I believe I am a doer because I first heard.

If you wish to contribute to our Good Samaritan work, you may send a check to First Church marked for the Good Samaritan Fund. Recently, we have had to

change our procedures in order to protect our funds. As a result, we have found it necessary to mail checks to utilities, etc. directly from the church instead of giving the checks to clients to mail.

As a result, we will incur postage cost and envelope cost. To save us using Good Sam funds for these purchases, donations of forever stamps (in case the postage rate changes) and plain business size envelopes would be appreciated. If you wish to contribute these items, you may bring them on Sunday and place them in my mail drawer in the office. Your help is greatly appreciated!

What is a Stephen Minister?

A Stephen Minister is a Christian lay person who has had 50 hours of training to be a caregiver to a member of the congregation going through a difficult time or a life changing event and would like to talk in confidence with a caring person. This could be an illness, the loss of a family member, new job, job loss, depression, new baby in the family, divorce – whatever might be troubling you.

The Stephen Minister caregiver will meet with you, listen to you, pray with you if you wish and continue to meet with you weekly as long as you feel the need. Everything shared is confidential.

A Stephen Minister is *not* judgmental and does not give advice!! In short, a Stephen Minister is a caring friend you could meet for a cup of coffee, a walk in a park or your place of residence.

If you would like to be paired with a First Church Stephen Minister, please call Rev. Janine at 614.228.1741, ext 21, or e-mail her at jwilson@first-church.org.

Summer Sermon Schedule



July 25 – Rabbi Michael Ungar

August 1 – Gemma Doll, O.P.

August 8 – Rev. John Aeschbury

August 15 – Janice Bachman, O.P.

August 22 – Imam Hany Saqr

August 29 – Noreen Malone, O.P.

September 5 – Rev. Earl Fritz

September 12 – Rev. Mary Ann Goetz

September 19 – Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson

September 26 – Rev. Tim returns!!



A Letting Kids Succeed class in session at First Church.

Letting Kids Succeed Again Keeps First Church Busy During Summer

By John Matchett, First Church LKS Liaison

As soon as school was out in June, First Church welcomed back the Letting Kids Succeed program for their fifth summer camp. Under the continued leadership of director Linda Slocum, the camp provides an opportunity for students to experience vacation Bible school, praise and worship time, field trips and a structured academic program each day of the week. Nutritious meals are also provided as an important part of the program.

On July 15, our Fellowship Hall was filled to capacity for the annual family night event. Along with an informal dinner, parents were able to meet with the teachers and learn about the many activities their children are doing. Many parents are quick to share comments about how fortunate they are to have their children at First Church.

The camp will present a grand finale program on the evening of Thursday, August 5, when parents will get to experience many of the activities their children have worked on during the eight weeks of camp. This event has grown so large over the years that we now hold it in the Sanctuary to accommodate the crowd.

Providing a safe, comfortable and cool place for the Letting Kids Succeed camp each year is truly a great use of our building during the quiet weeks of summer. There is no better way for us to nurture the lives of young children and to help them grow in the love of Jesus.

New Members Class

Saturday, August 7

9 a.m. to Noon

Sign up in the office

Or email

home@first-church.org

Garden to Sprout on New Land

The Sacred Earth Committee has planted a garden of vegetables and herbs in an area set up in the recently-purchase property on our west side.



The produce will be used for First Church dinners, and also will be donated to others in need, such as Faith Mission. The Letting Kids Succeed program also will be planting crops there.

Stop by the garden and see how our new property is being put to good use!

Summer Choir Looking for Voices

The summer choir welcomes anyone to join in on July 25, August 8 and August 22. The choir meets in the organ gallery at 10 a.m. to prepare engaging, but not-too-difficult music, then sings at the 11 a.m. worship service. If you like to sing, we'd love to have you.

Suggestions for Parents and Children During Worship

By Mark S. Williams, Christian Education Director



Webster's Unabridged Dictionary defines "worship" as "attending a religious service to show honor and devotion to a deity (God)." A children's ministry definition of worship is "to show God's worth through our praise, honor and adoration." We go to worship service to express our love for God. A

concept our children can understand because they are loved.

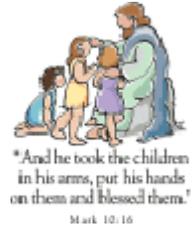
The church has four main functions: worship, instruction, fellowship and expression of faith through service. Children need to participate fully in all four areas. The learning is easily accomplished through church school and other formal and informal teaching opportunities. Fellowship with other Christians happens whenever we are together as a church family, whether there are two of us gathered, or a whole crowd gathered. Children feel comfortable with this because it closely emulates their nuclear family. They understand that they are surrounded by others who love and care for them.

We are getting better at sharing the concept of service with children. It is physically harder for them to do service, so it takes some careful planning. Most important for their faith development is how the adults around them model a life of service. This is what they will grow into as they mature and can participate in service opportunities.

Just as they look to our model for service, they look to us to model worship. But children are capable of more than just "watching until you're old enough to do it yourself." They can and should participate now in their own age appropriate way. The following suggestions offer specific ways parents and others can help their child participate in worship:

- * Give the child one reason you like to attend worship service.
- * Visit the restroom and drinking fountain before the service.
- * Enter the Sanctuary several minutes prior to the service starting.
- * Greet friends, neighbors and ushers. Be sure to include and introduce the child.
- * Look around for someone the child knows. Encourage the child to smile at them and for them to acknowledge the child. This helps them feel a sense of community.

- * Sit near the front! I know the common philosophy is to sit near an exit, but usually you can't see as well from there. To hold a child's interest, they need to see and hear everything that is going on.
- * Find at least one thing in the Order of Worship that the child can prepare for. Mark a hymn or open the Bible to the first reading.
- * Encourage the child to look and listen for something in the service to ask you about afterward.
- * Share a hymnal with the child.
- * Encourage them to participate as much as possible. Where appropriate, they should stand when the congregation does, perhaps on the pew so they can still see.
- * Use the activity sheets provided at the doors. Tell the child when it is appropriate to use them, for instance during an anthem, a long prayer or during the sermon.
- * Have a small treat such as LifeSavers. Tell the child that at two times during the service you will give the treat to show the child is doing well. Catch them being good!



God doesn't mind noise or restless movement, nor do the ministers. God wants us to teach our children how to worship, praise and adore God. Jesus rebuked the disciples when they wouldn't let children through saying, "Let the children come to me." You are doing God's work! Alleluia!

Church School Could Use Your Help

If you are interested in teaching or substituting for our church school, email either Mark Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org or Jackie Dean at jdean@first-church.org. Teaching could be for one quarter or two quarters, your choice. Call for more information about the wonderful curriculum we have for our children and youth.

We also need volunteers for a short time period for some of our special programs during the year. There are helpers needed for the Christmas play, mission projects, music and other learning activities. Maybe this short-term project may work best for you. Let us know if you would like to help!

Success of 'Stillspeaking Voices' Campaign is Loud and Clear

By Jeff Woodard
United Church News

No sooner had Darlene Collins helped set the wheels in motion for the Stillspeaking Voices campaign than she heard God speaking to her – about five times faster than usual.

"I was prepared to ship about 200 packets that first weekend," said Collins, marketing and online associate for the UCC's Stillspeaking Ministry. "I opened the spreadsheet of registrations the next Monday and found 1,000 people had registered."



Launched in April, the campaign now includes more than 1,800 members and is amping up its sequential-messaging efforts.

"We'll be linked into more activities and more tuned into what people are involved in," said the Rev. Felix Carrion, Stillspeaking Ministry coordinator. "A Stillspeaking Voice openly shares the church of Jesus Christ with all, especially those who have yet to find in the church a spiritual home."

Those who sign up receive a welcome packet to the campaign that includes a newly-designed pin proclaiming, "I am a Stillspeaking Voice," along with three traditional comma pins to share and other inspirational materials.

Carrion said the campaign is "firmly rooted in the belief that God is loving, welcoming and inclusive. Stillspeaking Voices promise to deepen that faith and extend an extravagant welcome to others to support the Stillspeaking ministry." Participants sign up at the Stillspeaking Web site, responding to "10 commitments" in an interactive form. The welcome packet includes a 24-page booklet outlining the commitments.

Among those taking notice of Voices is Jesse McLaughlin, a 16-year-old from Mitchell (S.D.) Congregational UCC, who recently joined a half-dozen others from his church for a visit to the UCC's national office in Cleveland.

Included on the agenda was morning worship in Amistad Chapel. "I don't think I've ever worshiped like that before," said McLaughlin. "I felt really welcome in the church. Our whole group was really into it. We were really listening."

McLaughlin's mother, the Rev. Kristi McLaughlin, pastor of his small rural church, said Stillspeaking Voices comes at just the right time for her son.

"Before this trip, I went to church every Sunday, and I went to youth group, but I wasn't really into everything that was going on. When we got back, I made an announcement that that this was one of the best trips I've ever had," McLaughlin said. He added that his mother has "noticed a difference in me. She says I'm more alert, I'm paying attention, I'm understanding more now."

The Rev. Shirley Malzer – former pastor at several Midwest UCC churches and currently a contributor among the laity of the Federated Church UCC in Chagrin Falls, Ohio – says acknowledging the swift pace of world change is crucial to hearing Stillspeaking voices.

"Change has been so extreme around the world, and I'm sure it's going to keep changing. The church has changed, too, but we haven't really kept up," said Malzer, a member of Federated's pastoral care team.

"God is still trying to communicate with us," she said. "Some people are hearing, but not everybody. People need a sense of community, not just in the way that the church provides community, but in an openness to God and what [God] would have us do in today's world, witnessing to the acts and values of being Christian."

For information and to become a Stillspeaking Voice, visit www.ucc.org/god-is-still-speaking.

Pledge Statements Now Available



Second quarter pledge statements reflecting 2010 donations through June 30 are now available in your church mailbox. Please help save the church postage costs by picking up your statement.

If you have questions about your statement, please contact Sharon Leidheiser at 614-228-1741, ext. 11, or email her at sleidheiser@first-church.org.

Spiritual Development Program to be Offered Beginning This Fall

"Living in God," a program to help develop deeper personal spirituality, will be offered beginning this fall and concluding in April.



The program is offered through the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, based in Washington, D.C. It supports not only personal spiritual

deepening and greater compassion for others, but also encourages individuals to connect what is happening in them with where they sense they are called to act in the world.

The program begins with a retreat at the Episcopal Church's Proctor Camp and Conference Center, near London, on October 1 and 2. That is followed by sessions at First Community Church's South Campus from 8:30 a.m. to noon October 30, November 20, January 15, February 12 and March 12. It concludes with a retreat April 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Shepherd's Corner in Blacklick.

The cost is \$650, with a \$200 deposit required with the application. Registration deadline is August 31. For questions and to get an application, contact Nancy Nikiforow at 614.505.7101 or nnikiforow@gmail.com, or Nan Weir at 614.538.1153 or nnaaann@yahoo.com.

UCC Task Force Begins Work on Economic Justice Program

United Church News

A 12-member task force comprising a diverse group of people, staffed by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries, recently began meeting in North Carolina to develop an Economic Justice Church Covenant Program.

The group is working to implement a resolution passed last summer at General Synod 27 in Grand Rapids, Mich., that encourages churches to engage in a discernment process of study, witness and action to decide whether to become an economic justice church. The resolution also called for the formation of a task force to develop a program that would facilitate this process.

The 12-member task force is diverse geographically, racially and in terms of lay persons and clergy," said Edith Rasell, task force convener and minister for economic justice in the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. The task force met over a four-day period in late May, and also heard from members of United Church of Chapel Hill, the congregation that wrote the original resolution. The task force also met with members of Community UCC in Raleigh, a congregation that is interested in becoming an economic justice church.

"We made remarkable progress in planning a program that will primarily be web-based," Rasell said. "We heard from the Coalition (of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns) about the open and affirming process because that seems to be one of the more successful covenant church programs."

As approved at General Synod last year, the resolution for "An Economic Justice Covenant" reads:

"The Christian faith makes economic justice a priority for the Christian community. The United Church of Christ has long been an advocate for the poor and a witness for justice in all areas of life. This resolution asks that the Twenty-seventh General Synod, the national bodies of the United Church of Christ and its Conferences, Associations and



Local Churches commit to a covenant of study, witness and action in pursuit of economic justice in our world."

During the four-day meeting in Raleigh, the task force put together an outline of a program that includes Bible study, education, prayer and engaging the community around economic justice issues, Rasell said. "It also will provide resources for personal devotions and reflection around lifestyle issues and consumerism. These will all be part of a congregation's discernment process," she said.

"Over the next six to eight months, the task force will be putting it all together. We want to have something ready to go, in English and in Spanish, in time for General Synod next year."

General Synod 28 will be held next July 1-5 in Tampa, Fla..

First Church News

Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum



Given to the G. Dene Barnard Music Endowment Fund by:

Kevin Ayres

Given to the Remembrance Fund in celebration of the life of Robert Williams by:

Joan Stanton

Nancy S. Williams

SEC Branch Members

Paul and Judy Huckleberry

Paul and Cathryn Montoya

Ernest Coachman

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

Pat Patterson

Given to the Dorinda White Youth Endowment Fund in celebration of the life of Dorinda White by:

Martha Huey

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.

Mothers for Others Makes its Return

By Catherine Kennedy

Parents for Others is up and running again under the new name Mothers for Others!

Because of more complicated schedules, we are now meeting only once a quarter. At each meeting, the moms coordinate a service drive, which will be opened to the First Church congregation for a period of two to three months. The children complete their own service during the meeting (or play around, depending on the age of the child).

If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Catherine Kennedy at cskennedy1981@yahoo.com. Our

next meeting will take place Friday, August 20 at 4 p.m. The meeting place is to be determined.

Also, through August 31 we are collecting cell phones, prescription glasses and sunglasses. So, clean out your drawers!

The cell phones will benefit the organization Cell Phones for Soldiers (www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com). The glasses and sunglasses will benefit the organization One Sight, which is committed to providing clear vision to those in need around the world. The collection box will be located outside the main office.

Mission Offerings Schedule



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

August 1 - Back Bay Mission in Mississippi

August 8 - Deep Griha mission in India

August 15 - Crossroads for Youth – Helps young people with behavioral problems

August 22 - Mid-Ohio Food Bank

August 29 - Good Samaritan assistance program

Welcome New Missions Member: It is with great pleasure that we welcome Sarah Giffen as the newest member of Missions Commission. She will enliven our discussions and expand our view. In addition, Valerie Stichter and Pavan Peter have agreed to represent First Church in serving on the Deep Griha board. We eagerly await news of events upcoming in the fall.

– Anne Hudson

Has your email address or phone number changed?

Call the office (228-1741) or email us (home@first-church.org) to let us know so we can keep you informed!



UCC's Lantern Fellowship Set For Sept. 17-19

The next Lantern Fellowship retreat of the Ohio Conference UCC will be held September 17 to 19 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.

Monthly Budget Update



Current Pledge Income
 Annual Budget - \$625,414
 June Actual - \$48,350
 YTD Actual - \$291,812
 YTD Budget - \$312,708

June Mission Offerings

Good Samaritan - \$1,036.64
 Catalyst - \$322
 Catalyst - \$478.17
 CODSN Darfur - \$457.01
 Habitat Haiti (Arts Festival) - \$1,462.34
 Total - \$3,756.16

Gladden Pantry Needs Your Help

You can lend a helping hand to Gladden Community House by donating food to its pantry. Supplies are running low and your generosity can make a difference. Drop off your food in the collection baskets located at the entrances to the church. Your help is appreciated!

Member Happy August Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1: Janet Stoneking | 18: Dennis Secor |
| 2: Helen Spears | 18: David Coe |
| 2: Wib Smith | 19: Kim Storey |
| 3: Lourdes Henderson | 19: Karen Sterrett |
| 3: Melody Leidheiser | 19: Nicholas Hoffman |
| 3: Janet Mathey-Lovi | 19: Emma Henderson |
| 4: Bill Rhoads | 20: Mark Jensen |
| 4: Dayna McCrary | 20: Amy Trace |
| 5: Deb Anderson | 21: Keene Lebold |
| 5: Ellen Boriin | 21: Janice White |
| 5: Heather Grunkemeyer | 21: Chris Glaros |
| 6: Jenny Sieck | 22: Roland Weller |
| 6: Denise Vogt | 22: Duan Cannon |
| 8: Dave Loy | 23: Polly DeVennish |
| 9: Dan Harkins | 23: Lissa Wade |
| 10: Betty Cameron | 23: Matt Goetz |
| 10: Alan Daulton | 24: Charles Drummond |
| 10: Bill Faith | 24: Tom Stewart |
| 10: Kevin Ayres | 25: Dan Axt |
| 10: Alex Aeschbury | 25: Steve Kennedy |
| 12: Lesley Schaab | 26: Sandy Valinis |
| 12: Ardis Holt | 27: Sue Cook |
| 12: Mary Weaver | 27: Dennis Penfield |
| 12: Rob Loevy | 28: Russ Kelm |
| 13: Bobby Carrington | 28: Jim Velo |
| 13: Valerie Conlin-Losinski | 28: Holly Heer |
| 14: Hugh Allen | 28: Anna Rhoads |
| 15: Chuck Atkinson | 29: Rebecca Baird |
| 15: Sandy Crooms | 29: Phil Schneider |
| 16: Nancy Hadley | 30: Grace Johnson |
| | 30: Andrew Batchelor |

Member Happy August Anniversaries

- 6: Betty and James Powell
- 6: Jenny and Andrew Middendorf
- 7: Duan and Reggie Cannon
- 7: Catherine Steve Kennedy
- 8: Holly and Bill Heer
- 9: Jenelle and Dan Snyder
- 10: Roberta and Robert Lucas
- 11: Amy and Dave Nosse
- 15: Molly and Scott Sass
- 16: Lisa Morris and Kent Shimeall
- 17: Diane and Larry Dixon
- 17: Lee Ann and Tom Hadley
- 19: Anne and Bruce Aldrich
- 20: Steve and Karen Sterrett
- 20: Joanne and Bob Avers
- 21: Dana and Hugh Schultz
- 24: Alice and Bill Boden
- 24: Joyce and Dan Ward
- 25: Chris and Tom Farquhar
- 27: Melanie and Mark Brown
- 28: Shirley and Donald Calhoun
- 31: Tammy and Dave Wharton

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

Church Calendar

Sunday, July 25

9 am - Early Worship Service - PH
11 am - Worship Service – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

Monday, July 26

7 pm – Capital Campaign Committee – PFR or PH

Tuesday, July 27

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

Wednesday, July 28

7 pm – Adult Education – LC

Sunday, August 1

8 am – Blood Drive – Ed. Wing Rm C
9 am – Early Worship – PH
11 am – Worship Service – San
12 pm - Fellowship Hour – PH
2 pm – OSU Men’s Alumni Glee Club Concert – San

Monday, August 2

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – LC
7 pm – Capital Campaign – PFR or PH

Tuesday, August 3

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC
6:30 pm – Children’s Education – Ed. Wing Rm. D
7 pm – Deacons – LC
7 pm – Mission Committee – PFR

Sunday, August 8

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

Monday, August 9

6:30 pm – Trustees – PFR
6:30 pm – Technology Committee – Adult Library
7 pm – Capital Campaign – PFR or PH

Tuesday, August 10

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

Thursday, August 12

2 pm – Art Committee – Parlor

Saturday, August 14

10 am – First Church Quilters – LC

Sunday, August 15

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

Monday, August 16

7 pm – Budget and Finance – LC
7 pm – Capital Campaign – PFR or PH

Tuesday, August 17

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

Wednesday, August 18

6:30 pm – Book Study – PFR

Saturday, August 21

9 am – House and Grounds Committee – PFR

Sunday, August 22

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

Monday, August 23

6:30 pm - Stephen’s Ministers – Adult Library
7 pm – Capital Campaign – PFR or PH

Tuesday, August 24

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



Prayers

Prayer Request: Please let us know of a prayer concern for yourself, a family member or other church member by calling the Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson at 614.228.1741, ext. 21, by using prayer request cards found in each pew or by emailing jwilson@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

Bradyn McCabe Grunkemeyer – June 20
Dylan Benjamin Collier – July 11

Deaths

Karen Carpenter – July 14

Marriages

Andi Peterson and Nick Hatfield – June 26
Anansa Sims and David Patterson – July 10
Natalie Hayes and Tristan Setty – July 17

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on August 1 and 15 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

August Fellowship Hour

August 1: Psalms
August 8: Romans
August 15: Ruth
August 22: Samuel
August 29: Zachariah

August Acolyte Schedule

August 1: Will Zimmerman and Ben Allred
August 8: Joe Spofforth and Katie Wagner
August 15: Luke Zimmerman
August 22: Merry Roach and Jansen Allred
August 29: Victoria Washington and Will Zimmerman
(Schedules online at www.first-church.org)

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, August 9, by noon

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

Church Staff

Timothy C. Ahrens.....Senior Minister
Janine Wilson.....Associate Minister
James E. Bobb.....Minister of Music
Mark S. Williams.....Director of Christian Education
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 Leidheiser.....Wedding Coordinator
Fran Panek.....Wedding Coordinator

Church Council

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

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

DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT
Please Deliver: Monday, July 26, 2010

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