



Youth Mission Trip to Sunset Shores – July 10-15

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



What is “Sunset Shores?” Several members and friends have asked this in recent weeks because it is the destination of this year’s youth mission trip from July 10 to 15. They want to know if it is a retirement community or some sort of resort. Neither of these answers is correct.

Sunset Shores is a retreat center owned by the United Church of Christ, Congregational, in Vermilion, Ohio. The property, located west of town, was given as a gift by a member of the congregation, who left it in her will. It was generous gift! The property is about 2 acres of land located on the shores of Lake Erie. There is a little cabin overlooking the lake. South of the lake, at the other end of the property, is a five-bedroom house. Between the two structures, Sunset Shores can comfortably sleep 25 people. There is a shaded yard between two houses. The property and houses need plenty of repairs, upgrades, clean-up and improvements.

We will put in an outdoor worship center, the vision of the Rev. Kristi Foster, a former associate in Vermilion, who has moved on to her own congregation. Earlier this year, Rev. Foster, 38 years old, was diagnosed with cancer. She will be married in June. We want to join the people of Vermilion in making Kristi’s dream come true. In addition, we will be painting, putting up fencing, cleaning, working on steps to the beach and many more projects. We also will have fun.

[See related article on Page 5](#)

In January, Sonreir, our newly forming youth fellowship group, decided that we needed to choose a mission trip that would allow our growing group of young teens a chance to grow together in faith and mission. Sunset Shores is perfect for this!

We have commitments from 10 teens and five adults to participate in the mission trip. Susan Sitler, Jonathan Miller, Cindy Deliman, Wally Giffen and I will be the adults for the week. We are still hoping for a few more young people to join us! Stay tuned for more information. We will commission and send our mission partners on July 10 during the 11 a.m. service. I hope you can send us off with love and blessings.

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Long-Range Planning Right on Schedule

By Wayne Piper

Long-range planning at First Congregational Church is moving along on schedule. To date, almost 200 members have submitted their thoughts, ideas and suggestions for the future of our congregation. On June 6, the long-range planning committee met to review pages of input collected from members and to set in place the next steps in the planning process. Thanks to everyone who has participated and spoken so earnestly and fervently from their hearts about the important work we do here and all the important work yet to be done.

John Deliman, committee chair, and Wayne Piper, consultant to the planning process, will spearhead the initial draft of the plan. In doing so, they’ll consult with committee members, church staff and various church committees to gather input on goals and action steps that will guide the work of our church for the next few years. The goal is to submit a draft plan to the Council for its review and affirmation in mid-August, with the final plan submitted to the congregation for their review and final approval on September 26.

From the Pastors

Conversations with God

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

Over the past three months we have been on an interesting journey as a congregation. We began to pay special attention to our shared life of prayer. First, we started to meet in small groups in homes and at the church to pray. The groups talked joyfully and sometimes a little bit awkwardly, about ways we pray. We shared some of the reasons we pray and swapped stories of significant people in our lives who have taught us to pray. Some even brought objects and pictures that help them pray.



Our scriptural understandings were intertwined with these experiences and best of all, we prayed for and with each other. It was a blessed time. The groups are looking forward to exploring new horizons this summer, picnicking and laughing. If you were not able to be in a small group and have an interest, please call Rev. Tim or myself. We will happily connect you with a group near you.

While the small groups were joyously emerging, Tim and I moved forward following our sense of call to preach a Lenten series on the Lord's Prayer. It was interesting and fruitful to have co-created our sermons with an adult education class. They helped us hear ways in which the Lord's Prayer has been part of faith-filled lives for generations. At the same time, the worship team (Jamie, Marty, Mark, Mary and Elaine and pastors) gathered to prepare weekly worship with our heightened awareness of the power of prayer among us. As a result, you may have noticed that during Lent some of the elements of worship were just a little different. From the prayer of confession located in the first part of worship; to the prayers of the people with our eyes wide open to enable us to pray different versions of the Lord's Prayer; to being blessed as we were led by the children and youth, fresh from their Sunday school classes, teaching us to sign parts of the prayer!

And now we enter a new chapter, opening wide the window to Pentecost – seeking the movement of the Spirit among us. One of the practices we will carry forward is the congregation lifting up their individual prayer-names in the quiet within the Prayers of the People just as we have been doing these past few weeks. We have received many positive comments on this and look forward to continuing the practice in both of our worship settings.

All in all, it seems to me that our conversations with God have reminded us how firm our foundation as the people of God, even as we welcome a few new experiences to nudge our souls into fresh relationships with God and one another. Many thanks to everyone, and most especially, to God.

With joy,
Janine

Senior Minister Office Hours - Open to All

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

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 these posted hours once again. So, for the next six months (June 20- December 20) I am posting office hours.

I still need folks to email in and sign-up for times if you would like to talk. But here are times that I am blocking off for office hours (except when 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 call in, email in, etc.

My email is tahrens@first-church.org; my direct phone line is: **614-228-1741, ext. 13.**

I look forward to hearing from you.

Office Hours - June 20` December 20

Mondays – 9 a.m.-Noon

Third Monday nights - 8:30-9:30 pm.

Fourth Monday nights - 8-9 pm.

Wednesdays - 3-5 pm.

Saturdays by appointment only.

First Church Softball Schedule

June 19 – 3 p.m. - Foul Balls
vs. First Church

June 26 – 3 p.m. – First Church vs. Hudson Street
Daggers

July 10 – 2 p.m. – First Church vs. ORI



2011-12 Stewardship Committee Has Begun Rolling!

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

The 2011-12 Stewardship Committee has been formed and is already hard at work. We are excited about our charge to lead the congregation in faithful, joyful giving for 2012. We have young people who have stepped into significant leadership roles joined by folks who bring experience and commitment to the mission ahead.

We believe stewardship is a day-to-day commitment in faith. How do we share our time, talents and treasures in the church and the world? We also believe that stewardship is about care of the earth as well as care of the one another in Christ.



Led by **Brian Cave**, our chairperson, the committee has 12 folks focused on our growth and faith going. **Kent Shimeall** is our year long/Earth care steward. **Mary Day Fewlass** is our "Master of Tasks." **Jim Griffen** is our "Steward of Hospitality." **Kent Rambo** is our "Techno Steward." **Cori Rowley** is our "Publicity and Brochure Steward." **Dr. Paul Leidheiser, Jr.** is our "Great Giving Steward." **Matt Meyers** leads as our "Fun and Speaker Bureau Steward." **John Matchett** is our "Follow-Up Calls Steward."

In addition, **Neal Brower**, our Administration Commissioner-Elect, brings tons of experience as in development and will focus on this committee in 2011. **Cindy Conn**, our Assistant Treasurer, will help us log in and track the giving in the fall. **Sandy Bennett** is our 2011 Administration Commissioner. She brings lots of experience and focus to our work.

We will lift up and follow the long-range planning vision now being formed. We see it as our inspiration and direction for giving and faithful living as stewards of God.

Stay tuned for reflections and articles, stories and stewardship materials and moments coming to you in the next few months. We launch our campaign on August 14. We have our Celebration Sunday on October 30.

A question to consider in the weeks ahead: What kind of steward is God calling me to be?

Small Groups Are Looking for Summer Fellowship

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

After 10 small groups gathering for Lenten reflections on prayer, we are hoping to re-gather around Columbus a few times this summer as a follow-up.

In the fall, we are hoping to continue to grow our life together in Small Group Ministry. We had small groups meet in the church for youth group parents on Sunday nights, and in Gahanna, Bexley (two), center city, Grove City, Hilliard, Clintonville (two) and Upper Arlington. We also made attempts in Westerville and Dublin. We would love to have groups in the missing sections of town – the Hilltop, German Village, Beechwood and Whitehall to name a few. We also are looking for areas just beyond town – Delaware, Groveport, Lancaster, Galloway and Powell to name a few.

So . . . I am hoping to hear from members in those areas. We will provide phone and address lists; contacts and you provide the times, places, invitations, etc.

Let me know how you can help this ministry take off. I would love to see us in summertime fellowship in central Ohio and then launch into small groups throughout the region this fall.



*Come with First Church to see your
Columbus Clippers!*

*When? Saturday, June 25
Game time is 7:05 p.m.*

*Concert at the park before the game
Fireworks in the park after the game!!*

*Tickets available through Rev. Janine
Adults \$10*

Seniors/Children Under 12 \$7

A Special Friend of the Endowment

A member of First Church has transferred ownership of a \$1 million life insurance policy to the church's unrestricted endowment fund. We celebrate this very generous endowed support for our ministry at First Church! This very generous gift has the potential of increasing the church's total endowment by nearly 30% and its unrestricted endowment by 50%.

Although the Board of Trustees has encouraged members of the church to consider giving a life insurance policy to the church or naming the church as a beneficiary of a policy, this method had not been used until recently. We thank our fellow member, who chooses to be anonymous, for being a good shepherd – a great steward leading the way for others to follow.

Not only has the member chosen to support the church by her significant gift, but also she has provided for payment of future premiums during her life to allow the gift to confer its full potential benefit to the church.

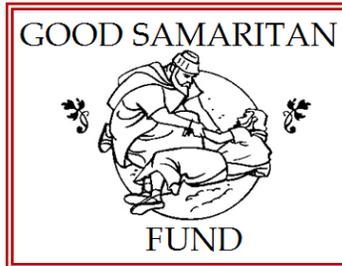
The church's endowment funds are managed by the trustees, and their annual income and principal benefit the church in many ways. The trustees consult with the Council to assure that these benefits best serve the church's needs. In addition, members may support or establish specific endowment funds for named purposes - like the church's music program, building maintenance, stained glass windows, missions, flowers, educational programs, or whatever other goal the donor chooses.

There are a variety of ways that members have contributed to the endowment funds of the church. These include outright gifts, gifts from trusts or foundations, gifts in memory or in honor of others, bequests at death, or distributions from a life insurance policy by naming the church or one of its endowment funds as a beneficiary. A member also may establish a charitable remainder trust that pays income to the member or relatives for life, with the remainder of the trust going to the church after the life beneficiaries die. A variation of that theme is the charitable lead gift, which pays income to the church first then pays the remainder to the member or relatives at a later time. Under all of these options, there can be an immediate tax benefit for the member for the value of the gift to the church.

Apostle Paul speaks to us today in the same words he scripted for the early church: "This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." (2 Corinthians 9:12-13)

If you are interested in learning more about making a gift to the endowment funds as part of your overall financial and estate planning, please contact Bill Johannes, trustee treasurer, or Sheldon Taft, trustee chair.

An Easy Way to Help a Lot!!



The folks who visit our church on the second Monday of the month have need of personal items, as well as help with bus passes, utilities, food and state IDs. We would like to be able to offer "a gift bag" of such

items as people leave on that day. We think church members could help to provide some of those. These would include things such as:

- bars of soap
- toothpaste
- toothbrushes
- shaving cream
- razors (disposable)
- mouth wash
- deodorant
- shampoo
- body wash

These are ongoing items of need, and we would like to "stockpile" such items in order to offer two or three to each person each month.

There is an easy way to do this! When you come to church on Sundays (or mid week for meetings) you can bring a few things and drop them in a bin which will be clearly marked for that purpose. Please bring full-size items, not samples.

Good resources are weekly coupons in the newspaper and the Dollar Store which is a treasure trove for such items. Buy one or several. You have no idea how appreciative our clients are for these small gifts. Thank you in advance, and for all that you do.

Send a Card to a Summer Camper

First Church has 15 young campers attending church camp this summer. If you would like to send a card to them, please contact the church office for information.

Youth Getting Ready for Summer Mission Trip to Vermillion

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



The youth of First Congregational Church UCC of Columbus are planning their summer mission trip for July to Sunset Shores Retreat Center in Vermillion Ohio. There are 10 youth ages 8th – 12th grade and five adult chaperones traveling July 10-15.

The group is currently requesting “Buy-A-Mile” at \$7 a mile as a final fundraiser for the trip. Those interested in purchasing miles and supporting this group should contact Mark S. Williams (mwilliams@first-church.org).

The mission trip will provide much needed assistance to this wonderful UCC retreat center. In addition, the week will provide an opportunity for the youth to learn about the cultural, historical and recreational aspects of the area. The types of projects include building repair, painting, maintenance, yard work, cleaning etc.



Fencing the youth group will be fixing at Sunset Shores.

The congregation will commission the group on July 10 during the 11 a.m. service before their departure. Please keep them in your prayers.

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.

Gladden House Strives to Help The Needy in a Difficult Time

By Dawn George

The Gladden Teen Quest Drummers and Dancers welcomed more than 100 people to the annual Gladden Community House meeting on May 16. Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal and were waited upon by middle school boys wearing shirts and ties.

In this friendly setting, the reports were of mixed news. More families are needing assistance with rent, utilities and food. Government funding to Gladden has been cut. Recognition was given to United Way and Lutheran Social Services, which provided \$90,000 to keep families in their homes by helping with rent and utilities.

Team Sports had been eliminated for the winter due to a lack of funds. But "The Patio Bar" on Sullivant Avenue hosted a benefit this spring that raised \$7,200 to reinstate summer and fall sports. All staff members are taking one furlough day a month from January through June and two staff members are taking a temporary reduction in salary.

Recognition was given to First Community Church for its many years of service, including scholarships for summer camp. Joy Chivers, Gladden president/CEO, acknowledged the invaluable assistance of 250 residential volunteers.

While residents of Franklinton continue to face hard times, Gladden Community House appears committed to serve the families. Taking the initiative to raise funds, two public events are scheduled for September. On September 12, a golf outing will be held at the Golf Club of Dublin, and on September 15 a TBDBITL concert will be held in The Shoe. Contact Megan Neubauer at Gladden at 227-1619 for information.

A Big Thank You!

Our former building manager, Bill Beckett, and his wife, Debbie, recently sent First Church a card from their new home in Florida, thanking the membership for their support and the farewell gift.

The note read:

“Your generosity and support truly reflect God’s character. Wishing you all God’s best.”

Kudos to 2011 Graduates!

Jordan Cole, son of Kathleine and R. Guy Cole and grandson of Nell Cole, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia with a bachelor of science degree in health and societies/ pre-medicine. He plans to spend a year as a medical research assistant prior to beginning medical school.



Amy Trace graduated from Upper Arlington High School and will be attending Miami University. Her parents are Tom and Sarah Trace. Amy is the granddaughter of Carol and Frank Hussey and the niece of Elizabeth and Joe Iannarino.

Elizabeth Braverman, daughter of Nancy and Larry Braverman, has graduated from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law (juris doctor). She will be a clerk for the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Caroline Wallace and **Olivia Kessler**, Jane Carter's two oldest granddaughters, graduated from high school this year. Caroline, Reynoldsburg High School valedictorian, has been admitted to Ohio State University's College of Engineering in the honors program. Olivia is graduating from Pickerington North High School and will attend Ohio University, majoring in classics.

Melva Fisher had three grandchildren graduating this year. They are: **Jason Wood**, who will graduate from Westerville Central High School and attend Bowling Green University this fall to pursue a degree in music. He has been awarded two scholarships to Bowling Green; **Katherine Akey** will graduate from New York University on May 18 with a degree in neurolinguistics. She plans to pursue a graduate degree in art after a year off from school; and **Austin J. Akey** will receive a Ph.D. in physics (nanotechnology and robotics) from Columbia University in June.

Luke Timothy Sitler Ahrens, oldest son of Susan Sitler and Tim Ahrens, graduated with a master's degree in college student personnel from Bowling Green State University in May. He will be married to Kirsten Roche in Hilton Head, S.C., on June 17. He will be working in residence life at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.



Jill Leidheiser Paulus, daughter of Gary Leidheiser and Jane Chavers, graduated from Ohio State University with a bachelor of science degree in accounting.



Jonathan Randolph Hoffman, son of Randy and Janette Hoffman, graduated in May from the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. He received a bachelor of arts in humanities, with a minor in computer science. Jon and his wife, Melanie, reside in Chattanooga.

Brittney Dean, granddaughter of Jackie Dean, graduated from Groveport Madison High School. She will attend the University of Akron and major in early childhood education.



Cassie Reid, daughter of Joyce and Craig Oyler, graduated with honors from Heidelberg University and is working at State Auto.

Mark Losinski, son of David Losinski and Valerie Colin-Losinski, graduated from Gahanna Lincoln High School.

Missions Offering Schedule

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



- July 3 - Youth Mission Trip
- July 10 - UCC Joplin, Mo., Aid
- July 17 - REMEMBER – Pine Ridge Reservation
- July 24 - Spirituality Network
- July 31 - Gladden House

Food Pantries: Sustenance For Life

Thanks to all who faithfully drop groceries into the food pantry baskets on Sunday morning. Unfortunately, people have difficulty providing food for their families and food pantries help. At First Church, we divide our collections of food between the Gladden food pantry and the Broad Street Presbyterian Church pantry. - **Dawn George**

UCC's 'Widening the Welcome' Coming To Columbus This Fall

By Jeff Woodard

United Church News

Four months out from its second annual national event, the 2011 Widening the Welcome Conference is poised – on both personal and pastoral levels – to expand engagement on the topics of mental illness and brain disorders.

"My hopes are that the interaction between people will not only increase our personal engagement on issues around mental illness and brain disorders and disabilities, but also stretch ways that our churches can be understanding of these issues and expand their inclusion," said the Rev. Alan Johnson, retired UCC pastor and chair of the UCC Mental Illness Network.



In partnership with the church's Disabilities Ministries, the Mental Illness Network will present the second national Widening the Welcome II: Inclusion for All conference Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at the Doubletree Inn in Columbus.

The conference – which drew 235 people to its debut event last fall in St. Louis – aims to educate about these disorders and disabilities, as well as help congregations develop Accessible to All (A2A) covenants and mental-health ministries. National statistics indicate that at least one in four families is affected by mental illness, brain disorder or other disability.

"At the St. Louis conference, the whole committee realized that we could not simply stop at one gathering," said the Rev. Kirk Moore, Widening the Welcome web administrator who will help lead music at the Columbus conference. "We sensed that a movement was beginning and wanted to build on our experience to help make a widened welcome a reality across our denomination.

"This year's conference builds on the close relationship of the UCC, its Disabilities Ministries and Mental Illness Network. It seeks to show how Widening the Welcome weaves those ministries, and really, all ministries, of the UCC together."

Moore also notes that programming for the 2011 conference has been slightly reduced from last year. "Folks should have more time for conversation, rest and contemplation at this year's event," he said.

Keynote speakers this year are:

- * Thomas E. Reynolds, associate professor of theology at Emmanuel College and author of "Vulnerable Communion: A Theology of Disability and Hospitality"
- * Carolyn Thompson, a Piscopo Divinity School professor whose concentration is on raising awareness and understanding of disability and access issues in congregations and larger church bodies
- * The Rev. J. Bennett Guess, UCC director of Publishing, Identity and Communication, who has been nominated to become executive minister of UCC Local Church Ministries
- * Christine Guth, program director for Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADNet), a disability advocacy organization affiliated with Mennonites and related denominations.

To register for this year's event or obtain further details about its speakers, workshops and core groups, please visit www.wideningthewelcome.com.

Book Study Takes Summer Break

The Wednesday book study, which meets every first and third Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon, will take the months of July and August off. There will be a break following the last session on June 22 (an odd 4th Wednesday meeting).

The book study will begin again September 7. We are looking at Reinhold Niebuhr's classic *Moral Man and Immoral Society* as a first book back in the fall. If you have book ideas, please email me - tahrens@first-church.org. Thanks to the 20+ folks who faithfully join us! There is always room for more! Keep reading! – Rev. Tim

Parents of Preschoolers to Meet

Parents of Preschoolers will have two opportunities to meet this month: **Thursday, June 16, at 4:30 p.m. at the Cunningham's house**, and **Saturday, June 25, at 10:30 a.m. at church**. Contact Rev. Janine (jwilson@first-church.org) or Catherine Cunningham (hope-cunningham.1@osu.edu) for details and directions.

How Well Do We Follow Biblical Stewardship?

By Jim Fewlass, Treasurer

In my first communication as treasurer in the April newsletter, I stated that God doesn't do budgets and our personal and corporate stewardship is based on the biblical concept of the tithe or ten percent. I also reflected that in today's world the tithe includes all of our giving. Let us keep this in mind as we continue to give personally.

We are almost halfway through the calendar year 2011. So how do we meet the biblical requirements? I'll let you figure out your own stewardship. As treasurer, I would like to reflect on how we are doing as First Congregational Church to meet the biblical standard for stewardship.



In the first five months of 2011, we have had a total income of approximately \$525,000. This figure includes all income in the operating budget, capital campaign and weekly Sunday mission offerings. Mission commitments from this total income are approximately \$75,000. This mission giving includes our commitments to the UCC through Our Church's Wider Mission, Sunday missions, projects approved through mission endowment and major projects and the capital campaign.

Our mission for these five months is 14.29% of our total church income. I leave you with a question. Are we better stewards as a church or as individuals?



Current Pledge Income

Pledges Budgeted - \$529,872
May Actual - \$37,719.54
YTD Actual - \$229,442.92
YTD Budgeted - \$220,780
Needed Each Month - \$41,268.90

May Mission Offerings

B.R.E.A.D. - \$916.53
Deep Griha - \$492.20
O.C.W.M. - \$395.12
Youth Mission Trip - \$2,075
Faith Mission - \$939.62
Good Samaritan - \$1,218
Catalyst - \$60
Downtowners - \$3
Total Mission - \$6,099.47

Common Baptism Resolution Among Votes for UCC's General Synod

United Church of Christ delegates will gather in Tampa, Fla., next month for the denomination's 28th General Synod.

During the July 1-5 synod, a number of issues will be considered and voted on, including a resolution that will



affirm a common recognition of baptism between the UCC and several denominations. This would be as significant as the UCC's Formula of Agreement recognizing full communion between the UCC, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church USA and Reformed Church in America.

Last fall, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) approved the "Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism" by a vote of 204-11.

The agreement has been ratified by the Presbyterian Church. The Reformed Church in America and the Christian Reformed Church are expected to consider the agreement at their national meetings this summer.

Other resolutions of note to be voted on by the synod include:

- * Calling upon the UCC and its congregations to petition U.S. Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.
- * Asking the UCC to support the right of LGBT parents to adopt children, and to encourage all settings of the church to defend the LGBT community when their families are threatened by campaigns to limit or eliminate their parental rights.

Sarah Ahrens of First Church is a synod delegate representing the Central Southeast Association of the UCC.

Safe Summertime Games for Kids

Looking for safe online games for children on rainy summer days? The UCC offers a great Web site for children.

Here is the link: <http://www.ucc.org/children/fun-page/>



Spirituality Network to Celebrate 25th Year on June 23

You are invited to be a guest as the Spirituality Network kicks off its 25th year!

“Celebrating our Contemplative Roots,” June 23, 6 - 9 p.m. at the Martin de Porres Center.

There will be:

Hors d'oeuvres, Desserts, and Beverages

Music from Eric Utsler, pastoral associate and music minister at St. Thomas More Newman Center.

Raffle to benefit the network's Technology Fund, featuring gifts and services to support your contemplative life.

Meet and greet board members, staff and volunteers.

Officers and new board members will be installed.

Program of Prayer and Celebration

RSVP via email to spiritnetwk@hotmail.com or phone 614-228-8867.

Lawmaker's Representatives to Offer Help at First Church

Representatives from Congressman Steve Stivers' office will be at First Church on Tuesday, June 28, from 10 a.m. to noon to discuss Medicare, Social Security or any other federal casework issue you may be facing.

Please call the church office to make an appointment. If you are unavailable to meet on that date, or if you need assistance in the future, you can contact the congressman's district office at 614-771-4968.

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles Due: Monday, July 11, at noon. Email articles to:

dmahoney@first-church.org.

The *First Church News* is published the third Wednesday of each month.

Member Happy July Birthdays

1:	Larry Walquist	16:	Elizabeth Drotleff
3:	Judy Wolff	16:	Shelly Geis
3:	Laura Hadley	17:	David Carpenter
4:	Cori Rowley	19:	Bev Cook
5:	Nancy Evans	19:	Betsy Trace
5:	Susie Heer	19:	Tommy Trace
6:	Kevin Leidheiser	20:	Dale Ann Gray
7:	Kathy Brownfield	20:	Karen Swatsler
7:	Carrie Keller	21:	Debra Hadley
8:	Joyce Campbell	22:	Eric Chambers
8:	Sandra Geronimo	23:	Jim Kyle
8:	Mike Rippel	24:	Stan Myers
8:	Lindsey Kirk	24:	Kristi Thompson
9:	Ed Waller	24:	Linda Gieseke
9:	Joan Lebold	24:	Fred Hadley
9:	Scott Sass	25:	Earl Fritz
10:	Shun Endo	25:	Nancy Braverman
10:	Monique Penfield	25:	Frederick Hunker
11:	David Bowers	25:	Sarah Welsh-Huggins
13:	Carol Lowy	26:	Joanne Morse
14:	Jack Davis	27:	Courtenay Gregory
15:	Joe Glick	28:	Steve Sterrett
15:	Francille Firebaugh	28:	Katelyn Hoffman
15:	Elise Faith	29:	Jason Bryant
16:	Twink Starr	30:	Priss Endo
16:	Steve Brandehoff	30:	Fran Panek
16:	David Magers	30:	Ken Shimeall
16:	Mark Brown	31:	Carolyn Watkins
16:	Sharon Leidheiser	31:	Leon Axt

Member Happy July Anniversaries

1:	Sharon and Larry Walquist
1:	Robyn and Mike Petras
4:	Sandra and Gil Kirk
4:	Nancy and Lee Burba
7:	Kerry and Rob O'Leary
7:	Trisha and Tom Bishop
8:	Denise and Nate Vogt
11:	Murley and Alan Miller
11:	Shelly and Tom Gies
12:	Cindy and John Deliman
12:	Devon and Barry Bastian
13:	Julie and Tom Stewart
14:	Carrie and Patrick Keller
14:	Christen Coyle and Jason Holton
15:	Anne and Gerry Hudson
15:	Sarah and Erik Mitchell
17:	Carol and Jim Gallagher
18:	Molly and Eric Van Gorden
18:	Riho and Kevin Leidheiser
23:	Lissa and Drew Wade
26:	Catherine and Todd Cunningham
31:	Catrina and Jim Drotleff
31:	Kelly and Mitchell Dean

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

Calendar

Sunday, June 19

9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
3 pm - Softball – Busch Fields

Monday, June 20

6 p.m. – Youth Mission Trip Planning - LC

Tuesday, June 21

7 pm – Church Council – LC

Wednesday, June 22

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, June 23

7:30 p.m. – Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, June 25

7 pm – Clippers Game

Sunday, June 26

9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
3 pm – Softball – Busch Fields

Monday, June 27

7 pm – Budget and Finance - LC

Tuesday, June 28

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC

7 pm – Personnel – PFR

Thursday, June 30

7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Sunday, July 3

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

Monday, July 4

Holiday – Building and Office Closed

Tuesday, July 5

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – LC
7 pm – Deacons – LC
7 pm – Education Committees – Ed Wing Room D
7 pm – Mission Committee – PFR
7 pm – Personnel – Adult Library

Wednesday, July 6

6 pm – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, July 7

7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal – 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 9

10 am – First Church Quilters – LC

Sunday, July 10

9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
2 pm - Softball – Busch Fields

Monday, July 11

7 pm – Trustees – LC

Tuesday, July 12

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

Thursday, July 14

2 pm – Art Committee – Parlor
7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Saturday, July 16

9 am – House and Grounds – PFR

Sunday, July 17

9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
2 pm – OSU Alumni Men's Glee Club Concert

Tuesday, July 19

7 pm – Council – LC

Thursday, July 21

7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room



New members who joined in May were, left to right: Karen Mozingo (with her daughter, AnnaSofia Severson); Jessica Underwood; and Mars Robinson. Not pictured but also joining were Vic Jennette and Jonathan Frank.

First Church Welcomes New Members

Recently, we welcomed five people to our family as new members. They are:

* **Vic Jennette.** Vic is a self-employed general contractor.

* **Jessica Underwood and Mars Robinson.** Jessica works in customer service. She and Mars will be married at First Church next year.

* **Jonathan Frank.** Jonathan is married to First Church member Sarah Frank.

* **Karen Mozingo.** Karen is a lecturer at Ohio State University and has a daughter, AnnaSofia Severson. Her partner is Andrea Severson.

July Fellowship Hour

July 3: Amos
 July 10: Colossians
 July 17: Corinthians
 July 24: Daniel
 July 31: Deuteronomy

July Acolyte Schedule

July 3: Jack Koscher and Ben Allen
 July 10: Emily Cooke and Adam Wade
 July 17: Annie-Rose Cooke and Courtney Batchelor
 July 24: Sarah Ahrens and Victoria Washington
 July 31: Ben Allred and Dylan Hopcraft
 (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.

Deaths

Julia Hadley – May 24

Baptism

Elin Catharina Chambers – May 29

Weddings

Lindsey Weiker and Adam Giere – May 21

Stephanie Hill and Ryan Montgomery – June 11

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on July 3 and 17 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. 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
 Kelvin Murphy.....Custodian
 Frank Wall, William Lee.....Custodians
 Nikki Boop, Rosemary Pawandiwa.....Nursery
 DeAndree Norris.....Nursery
 Linda Mumford.....Wedding Coordinator
 Jane Chavers.....Wedding Coordinator
 Fran Panek.....Wedding Coordinator

Church Council

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

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

DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT

Please Deliver By: Monday, June 20, 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