

First Church News

First Congregational Church, UCC
Columbus, Ohio

"Enter to Worship - Depart to Serve"

May
2012
Vol. 160,
No. 5



Here Comes May!

It will be a Holy Spirit-Inspired, Prophetic Witness, Gladden Your Heart, Education Celebration, Broadening the Future's Way, Pentecostal Confirmation, Rummage Sale, Action-Oriented Time.

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

Don't miss May at First Church!



May will be a Holy Spirit Inspired, Prophetic Witness, Gladden your Heart, Education Celebration, Broadening the Future's Way, Pentecostal Confirmation, Rummage Sale Action-oriented month.

So much happens in May at First Church. This year, in addition to the BREAD Nehemiah Assembly and Pentecost, we will have our second Sacred Earth rummage sale, a special congregational meeting to make decisions about the next steps on West Lot development, the 2012 Gladden lecture and Confirmation. This newsletter speaks to the heart and soul of First Church - love for God and neighbor.

We will be rummaging around and selling our stuff to make money for the care of the earth May 5. On May 6, we will celebrate our teachers with a breakfast at 9 a.m., one service at 10 a.m. and a congregational meeting to follow at 11, as we joyfully embrace the development of our West Lot! We will be fighting for job creation for small business people, fighting crime and elevating youth and the need for restorative justice in the juvenile justice system at the BREAD action May 7.

We will be learning from one of the great Hebrew Scripture teachers and authors - Dr. Walter Brueggemann - during the Gladden lecture weekend May 12 and 13. We will be confirming into the Christian faith the largest class of confirmands we have had in the past 20 years on May 20. Pentecost comes on May 27 as we will celebrate the great gifts of the Holy Spirit to our church and the Church Universal. Be sure to take Memorial Day off on Monday, May 28. You will need a

day off to catch your breath, remember those who have died serving our country in the military and loved ones we have lost who have served Christ.

Read this newsletter and be inspired by the men, women and children of First Church who are doing exciting and energizing work to serve Christ in the heart of Columbus. You MAY find yourself jumping in with joy to love God and love your neighbor even more!

Then, "Gladden your heart," and get ready for June!

Don't Forget!

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 6
After Worship

There will be an update on the Capital Campaign and plans for the West Side lot.

One Worship Service Only
at 10 a.m.

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From the Pastors

Say Hello to Our Newest Members

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

One of the most enjoyable parts of my job description is working with our Senior Minister, Church Growth Commission and Deacons as we bring new members into the body of Christ, aka – God’s church made present and visible here on the corner of Cleveland and Broad. Each group and each person bring their faith, questions, hopes, concerns, gifts, skills, talents and amazing journey of faith and enrich our already stellar membership.



Over the past few weeks, Melissa Prendergast, Abby Salak, Pat Patterson, Cindy Deliman, Bill Wagner, Elaine Warren, Rev. Tim Ahrens and the rest of the worship team – Marty Worth, Mark Williams and Jamie Bobb – have worked together to help make it possible for two sets of new groups to “officially” become new members. I give thanks and celebrate them all. I also celebrate the role each of you and the new members themselves have shared in the process.

A journey of faith does not just happen in a vacuum. It’s not like any of these new members woke up one morning and said, “Hey, I think I’ll take my faith over to that beautiful building next to the Columbus Museum of Art and deposit it there.” As precious as our faith is, we are not able to bring it and place it someplace the way we can with money and financial institutions. Instead, our faith is closer to the proverbial seed to be planted in a garden. It has to be nurtured, carefully presented and nourished into new life. All of you and the new members and their preceding curiosity, courage and seeds of faith have all worked together in God’s goodness to bring us together in this time and place. I find this amazing – what are the odds!

Some of our new members have been here before – Mylinda Weber grew up here, laughing through Sunday school and youth groups and now she is here with her husband Scott, as well as Natalie Setty, her daughter and her husband, Tristan, and their beautiful little daughter, Odessa. (Little 1-year-old Odessa is the fifth generation of her family to be baptized at First Congregational Church. Do you know the Behm families?)

At the other end of the spectrum are Tori Hunt and Wade Stucke. They have only recently discovered First Church. In between the deeply rooted and the just

starting to get acquainted are the rest of our new members: Farrah, Hailey and Elijah McKenzie, Brian Workman, Marge Parsons, Susan Harvey and Crystal McCain, Ned Cullom, Patty Frasier, Sue and Ken Salak – in all, 15 adults and three children. After singing with you, studying, worshipping God alongside of you and being greeted warmly in the pews by you, they all knew that this is where they want their faith to continue to blossom. God has richly blessed us!

I hope you will make time to greet them, to invite them to sit near you in worship and fellowship dinners. Break out of your circle of known friends and welcome them; invite them to jump in and work alongside you as projects and opportunities unfold . . . **and, if you want to really help them out – surprise everyone and wear your nametag in church this Sunday! Just think of it as dressing up for this week’s one worship at 10 a.m. in Parish Hall.**

With joy, Janine

Upcoming Sermons

May 6 - Fifth Sunday of Easter -
Rev. Ahrens

Communion Meditation: “Fear Blossoming into Hope”

Acts 8: 26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; I John 4:7-21;
John 15:1-8

May 13 - Sixth Sunday of Easter -
Dr. Walter Brueggemann

Sermon from our 2012 Gladden Lecturer

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; I John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

May 20 - Seventh Sunday of Easter -
Confirmation Sunday

Sermon: TBA

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; I John 5:9-13;
John 17:6-19

May 27 – Pentecost Sunday
Sermon: TBA



Read Sermons
Online at
www.first-church.org



Justice Ministry members from First Church were among 700 people who met April 16 at Congregation Tifereth Israel to prepare for the Nehemiah Assembly.

First Church to Join in Annual BREAD Nehemiah Assembly May 7

By The Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

On Monday, May 7, more than 3,500 people from 54 congregations of the BREAD Organization will gather at the Celeste Center at the state fairgrounds to lift our voices for social justice. I hope you are there with us. The First Congregational UCC Justice Ministry Network has commitments from 150 people to join in this exciting assembly. We need you to come if we are to reach our goal.

BREAD will unveil its action plan for our new issue – “Jobs.” We are concerned about the high numbers of people who are unemployed and those who have given up hope and stopped looking for work. Our research has indicated that small businesses are needed and the start-up money for them is under-funded in the city.

BREAD has a plan to present to Mayor Coleman for four citywide “incubators.” These “job creation centers,” will enable small business people to get training, resources and start-up capital to get their businesses going.

BREAD will continue to tackle jobs, health care and juvenile crime at this critical meeting. Registration begins at 6:15 p.m. We will gather at church at 5:45 P.M. to carpool to the fairgrounds. Please call the church office, 228-1741, and sign-up or email me at tahrens@first-church.org.

First Church Schumacher Awards to be Presented May 13

On Mother's Day, May 13, during 11 a.m. worship, the annual Frederick W. Schumacher awards will be presented by the committee. The Schumacher fund was created in memory of Mr. Schumacher's mother, Mary. This award recognizes “young women between the ages of 15-20 who are eminently worthy of commendation for Christian devotion to either mother, father, sister or brother.”

The Schumacher Committee received the following thank you letter from a past recipient and wanted to share it with the congregation.

First and foremost, I would like to extend to the entire First Congregational Church a tremendous “thank you” for taking the time to award three women each and every year with such an honorary service. It truly felt as though I was part of something of great importance and it was so heart warming to be recognized for simply being a caring human being. At times I think we all lose sight of what compassion is. However, it should fall under the “natural” category in our view points. This, in my opinion, was one of the main characteristics that myself and the other two recipients have shown for many, many years, and I hope that the three of us can continue to do so for the remainder of our lives, and even after we are gone, by leaving behind an admirable life for others to seek after.

The check I received is going to help me pay for my college classes, laptop, books, food, etc. Without it I would not have been able to help pay for these necessities, leaving my parents in charge of footing the bill with money we do not readily have on hand. With the money I received I have been able to help my parents get a head start on financing my next four years at Otterbein University. It is my hope and aspiration to become an educator. I can only hope to connect with my students based on the difficult “grown-up” situations I have dealt with so far.

Thank you all so very much. You have helped greatly.

*Sincerely,
Danielle Hanlin*

**Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann
to Deliver Gladden Lecture**

The Rev. Dr. Walter Brueggemann, William Marcellus McPheeters professor emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary, will deliver the 2012 Gladden Lecture at First Church on Sunday, May 13, at 4 p.m. The lecture, "Creation and Justice," is open to the public.

Rev. Brueggemann is a past president of the Society of Biblical Literature and an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He is the author of numerous books in Hebrew Bible interpretation, biblical theology and the task of preaching in the contemporary world.



The Gladden Lecture honors Dr. Washington Gladden. Dr. Gladden was the distinguished pastor of First Congregational Church from 1882 to 1914 during a complex time in the post-Civil War history and was known for his social Gospel views. He was engaged in a lifelong pursuit of religious truth that could be directly applied to human needs. The Gladden Lecture extends his influence to the present day.

On Saturday, May 12, at 9 a.m., Rev. Brueggemann will conduct a workshop titled "Prophetic Imagination: Social Justice Preaching, Teaching and Living." Registration details can be found on the First Church Web site www.first-church.org. First Church members may attend the workshop free but need to register in advance. Saturday at 6 p.m., the congregation will host a potluck dinner for the entire membership. You can RSVP at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4CA8A72DA02-walter1>. Rev. Brueggemann will speak that night on the subject "My Teacher and Students That Taught Me."

Rev. Dr. Brueggemann also will preach at both the 9 and 11 a.m. services on Sunday. At 10 a.m. in the Parlor, he will discuss his books with members who wish to attend. Questions may be addressed to Mark S. Williams, director of Christian education, at mwilliams@first-church.org.

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast is May 6

The Christian Education Department will host a teacher and Worship Connections appreciation breakfast on Sunday, May 6, in the Children's Library from 9 to 10 a.m. All teachers and Worship Connection leaders will be recognized in both services that day.

**Sacred Earth Rummage Sale
to be Held May 5 in Parish Hall**

The May 5 First Church rummage sale, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., is an opportunity to donate your boxed-up, high-on-a-shelf, hidden-in-a-cupboard treasures! We're happy to accept collectibles, antiques, artwork, knick-knacks, small working appliances, small furniture, lamps and children's toys. (No clothing or books, please!)

Donations can be brought to the church through Friday, May 4. Please place the items behind the stage in Parish Hall.

There also will be a bake sale. If you are interested in donating baked goods, you can drop them off on Friday, May 4, or bring them the morning of the sale. If you would like to volunteer to help set up on Friday or to work the day of the sale, please sign up in the church office.

The profits from the sale will help to make First Church more energy efficient!

Calling All Graduates!

If you or a family member is graduating from high school or college this year, send us some information including name, school the person is graduating from, degree and possible future plans.



We will be recognizing our graduates in June. Send the information to dmahoney@first-church.org. You also may include a photo (electronic image only).



A Special
THANK YOU



Youth Ministry Grateful!

Thank you to everyone who performed, served, cooked, cleaned, donated, laughed, applauded and made Cabaret 2012 a great success!

Gladden your Hearts!

By the Rev. Timothy Ahrens, Senior Minister

The Social Gospel IS rising!

On April 19, Ohio recognized the Rev. Dr. Solomon Washington Gladden as a GREAT OHIOAN! Dr. Gladden is the first clergyman recognized as a great Ohioan. He is the second member of First Congregational Church, UCC Columbus, to join the "club." In 2010, our beloved football and civic champion, Bill Willis, Sr., was named a Great Ohioan.



Two key facts were left out of the announcement (www.dispatch.com). First, Dr. Gladden was one of the key leaders of the Social Gospel movement! Second, he was the senior minister of the First Congregational Church all the days of his Ohio life. First Church was his first and ONLY church in Ohio.

The Social Gospel Movement was, to quote Dr. Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite of Chicago Theological Seminary, "The effort of Christians in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century to shine the light of the Christian gospel on to (the) appalling working conditions that had become commonplace in the rapid industrialization of that time. The Social Gospel . . . took a new look at the scripture from the perspective of these and other rampant social abuses."

Gladden was a champion for the poor and oppressed in Columbus and across the nation. He also was a great pastor, visiting the sick and hospitalized, marrying, baptizing and burying all the members of the largest church in Columbus during his lifetime.

Washington Gladden preached his first sermon on Christmas Eve 1882. From that point on, he never left the pulpit of First Congregational Church until his death July 1, 1918. Dr. Gladden was iconic! He wrote 66 books, plus hymns, pamphlets, and delivered two sermons each Sunday – one in the morning on living the Christian life and one in the evening on social issues of the day. He was absolutely amazing! Check out www.first-church.org for more on Dr. Gladden.

At 76 he wrote this poem. It is one of my favorites.

ULTIMA VERITAS

*In the bitter waves of wo,
Beaten and tossed about,
By the sullen winds that blow,*

*From the desolate shores of doubt,
When the anchors that faith had cast,
Are dragging in the gale,
I am steadily holding fast
To the things that cannot fail;*

*I know that right is right;
That it is not good to lie;
That love is better than spite
And a neighbor than a spy;*

*I know that passion needs
The leash of a sober mind;
I know that generous deeds
Some sure reward will find;*

*That rulers must obey;
That the givers shall increase;
That Duty lights the way
For the beautiful feet of Peace;*

*In the darkest night of the year,
When the stars have all gone out,
That courage is better than fear,
That faith is truer than doubt;*

*And fierce though the fiends may fight,
And long though the angels hide,
I know that truth and Right
Have the Universe on their side;*

*And that somewhere, beyond the stars,
Is a Love that is better than fate;
When the night unlocks her bars
I shall see Him and I will wait.*

**Thanks be to God for the legacy of
Washington Gladden!**

Go Fish

**First Church is in need of
fishing poles and equipment for
use at the the spring retreat
each year. If you have any
extra gear, you can drop it off
at church. Have questions?
Contact Susan Sitler
at 880-1033.**

Good Samaritan Makes a Difference

By Marty Worth, Program Manager
(mworth@first-church)

I want to thank the congregation for their generosity on Palm Sunday when the Good Samaritan Fund received more \$1,500 in the mission offering. I want to share with you two stories I told that day because it is important for everyone to know the impact the Good Samaritan Fund and the volunteers have on those who come to our door each month.

It is always a struggle and a worry in the last month of each quarter to fund all the requests for help on Good Sam Day. As we prepared for March Good Sam Day, it was no different. Then just a few days before, a letter arrived with a check for \$1,000 in it.



Three years ago, I had made an appeal to the congregation to help someone in need. The woman had fallen on hard times due to losing her job and was about to be evicted. We were able to help with her rent and she said she would only accept it as a loan and would pay it back.

In cases like this, we say it would be wonderful to be paid back because we could then help others, but it is not a requirement. No more thought was given to it. When the check came earlier this year, the name seemed familiar, so I checked the records and found it was in March 2009 that we had helped the woman. I called her to thank her and she said she had not forgotten, but it had taken a while to get back on her feet. She felt strongly to pay forward and said as she is able she will continue to send contributions, even though she has more than repaid the loan.

Here is an email received from a recipient on March Good Samaritan Day:

Dear Ms. Worth,
I was at your church yesterday for help from your Good Sam program to get my driver's license replaced. Thank you for the help; maybe now I can find a job.

An even bigger thank you for how I was treated. I'm not used to asking for help. I've always worked and taken care of myself. When I had to apply for food stamps I was treated like trash, someone leeching off the government.

kindness. I didn't leave crying like I did from the food stamp place. I left your church feeling encouraged. I wasn't just a bum but someone in a difficult place. God bless all of you.

It is this congregation's commitment to this ministry that allows the Good Samaritan Fund of First Church to be a beacon of hope to many. Your generosity is a blessing. Thank you.

Thursday Fellowships Meet May 3, 10

The First Thursday Fellowship will meet May 3 at 10 a.m. at Anne Morganstern's house, 70 Webster Park Ave., in Clintonville. Each person is asked to present a five-minute talk about a book he or she has enjoyed reading.

The Second Thursday Fellowship will meet May 10 at 10 a.m. in the Parlor. Following refreshments, the development and outreach coordinator from Gladden House will speak on the mission and work of Gladden. Both events are open to everyone.

Budget Update

Pledges Budgeted
\$592,220.00
March Actual Pledges
58,728.51
Pledges Needed Monthly
49,351.67



March and April Mission Offerings

Good Samaritan Fund	\$1,800.50
One Great Hour of Sharing	1,660.94
Faith Mission	688.62
Church World Services	663.73
Outdoor Ministries	520.00



Upcoming Events

May 6 – Teacher Appreciation Sunday
May 12-13 – Walter Brueggemann Weekend
May 20 – Confirmation Sunday
May 27 – Pentecost Sunday
June 10 – Graduation Sunday/ Youth Mission Sunday

April 17 Council Summary

Francille and John Firebaugh, co-chairs of the Constitutional Review Committee, presented their process and focus for the proposed revisions to the constitution at the April 17 council meeting. Plans are for the committee to be formed by May 15, with input from the congregation and staff by the same date. Final proposed changes are scheduled to be submitted to council by the November meeting.

Council discussed the revisions to the Personnel Policies and Practices, presented by Neal Brower and Janette Hoffman, on behalf of the Personnel Committee. One section requires further clarification as it relates to the constitution.



Gerry Worth announced the successful meeting of the Implementation Committee and the newly-formed Capital Campaign Financial Review Sub-committee. The committee recommended two items from the Capital Campaign budget: The approval of a contract for purchase and installation of a new boiler, subject to review by the church attorney and officers of council, and the prepayment of \$100,000 toward the principle of the loan of the purchase of the West Lot. Council approved both requests.

A presentation by Tom Worley detailed the three phases of the Capital Campaign as outlined by the Property Planning Group (PPG). Council approved that the "Conceptual Site Plan" be recommended to the congregation for their approval. Advance information will be available at the church, on the Web site and other means of distribution before the May 6 congregational meeting.

Gerry Worth announced the formation of the search committee for the Minister of Music position. John Deliman will chair the committee, and Jim Gallagher announced that the members of this committee will be himself, Neal Brower, Michael Hopcraft, Judy Smith, Helen Spears, Shannon Washington and Mary Weaver. Gerry Worth and Tim Ahrens will serve as ex-officio members of the committee. Council approved the formation of this committee.

Other action by council included approval of the following:

* Selling apparel with the new church logo, designed by Cori Rowley, as a fund raising project for Church Growth and Parish Life;

- * A "Wine and Theology" event, sponsored by Parish Life, to be held at the church;
- * Gladden Lecture Grant Request for support of the May 12-13 weekend with Dr. Walter Brueggemann;
- * Alma Keeler Grant Request for four youths and 2 chaperones to attend the UCC National Youth Event to be held July 10-14, at Purdue University;
- * Moderator empowered to appoint delegates to association meetings.

Sarah Reed reported that the Central South East Ohio Association Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 5, at First Congregational UCC, Huntington, W. Va. David Holt and Sarah will be attending and other members are invited to also attend. Please contact Sarah if you are interested.

Cindy Conn, treasurer, distributed the quarterly financial statement and reported that House and Grounds is experiencing a current surplus in their budget due to lower than usual expense for gas and no snow removal for the past winter. Pay increases for the staff will be in effect with the next payroll and be retroactive to January 1, 2012.

The congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 6, following one service at 10 a.m. The meeting is scheduled to be held in Parish Hall with presentations to include updates on the Long Range Plan implementation, Capital Campaign, Challenge Budget compensation, and the Conceptual Site Plan proposal. – **Prepared by Bev Cook, Secretary**



Missions Offering Schedule

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

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| May 6 - | BREAD |
| May 13 - | Italian Children's Ministry |
| May 20 - | Crossroads for Youth |
| May 27 - | Witness for Justice |

Microsoft XP and Office 2003 to be Officially Discontinued in 2014

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

It was announced in April that Microsoft Windows XP, as well as Microsoft Office Suite 2003 will both no longer be supported after April 8, 2014. Microsoft XP software has been maintained by the Microsoft Corporation since 2002.

Windows 7.0 is the current operating system Microsoft is selling with the 8.0 version on the back burner since beta testing (testing for bugs or problems within the software) is still in process.



You still have almost two years to decide, but start exploring now. Also, beware that much older software and hardware (printers, wireless routers) that work with Windows XP or Office Suite 2003 may not work if you get a new computer or upgrade. Do research and talk to others, but don't wait until it's too late.

Walter Kropp to be Honored

Capt. Walter H. Kropp, a longtime member of First Church, will be inducted into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame on May 4 at an 11:30 a.m. ceremony on the 3rd Street side of the Statehouse lawn.

"Mr. Kropp did not speak much about his activities in Italy and Germany. He did stay after the war to assist the army due to his ability to speak German," said his widow, Lucille, also a First Church member. Lucille said she "seldom heard him speak it."

The posthumous award of the Ohio Medal of Valor will be given to the Kropp family, and the story of how the infantry captain served with such distinction in Italy and Germany to be awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and two Silver Stars for Valor will be read at the ceremony. Seventeen Ohio heroes will be inducted into the hall of fame along with Walter.

The May 4 ceremony is open to the public.

May 20 Confirmation Sunday Has Largest Class in Many Years

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

Since March, the 2012 Confirmation class has been introduced to you in worship. You have offering them beautiful blessings. Together with Jackie Dean, 13 mentors and supportive parents, it has been my joy and honor to teach and learn from this amazing group of young people.

We have an absolutely remarkably gifted group of thirteen young people in this class. Our church is blessed with them as current and future leaders of our congregation. Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 20.



Currently, they are in the process of finishing their class work and field trips and discerning whether or not to confirm their baptismal vows. The service of Confirmation of these great young people into Christian faith will be at the 11 a.m. They also will lead worship at 9 a.m. that day. Come celebrate!

The confirmands are: Jack Allen, Emily Bennett, Sean Breedlove, Isaac Clark, Alfred Fields, Rachel Henderson, Mikayla Knerr, Ella Koscher, Carly Kutschbach, Meg Rhodes, Alex Vore, Cameron Wade and Katie Wagner.

Eco Tip

The U.S. has 5% of the world's population but uses 25% of its natural resources.

How many earths would be needed if everyone on the planet used the same amount of resources as you? Find out by taking an ecological footprint quiz at www.myfootprint.org. Remember, we are all stewards of God's creation.

Recognizing that our individual acts every day have an impact on this earth is the first step toward global sustainability.

– Kent Shimeall



Did You Know?

By Lynn Wallich

Many of you are aware that First Church believes in and encourages the congregation to purchase Fair Trade coffee, a product that supports small farmer co-operatives. What many of you may not be aware of is that besides being the third largest coffee producing country in the world, Colombia has the largest number of bird species found anywhere on earth.

During the last 10 years, the Nature Conservancy and the Colombian Coffee Grower Federation have partnered to educate coffee farmers that growing coffee in shade not only maintains a healthy environment for plants and animals, it promotes an interest in birds native to the region and encourages people to view themselves as part of a much larger ecosystem.

The federation and its research arm, Cencafe, is very respected by farmers and has provided educational opportunities to coffee farmers on bird species identification, bird handling and overall environmental conservation. A major contribution of the federation has been initiating the protection of birds by local residents. Expansion to other areas of Columbia, as well as additional countries, is part of the conservancy's long range goals.

The bottom line is that on behalf of all the birds living abroad, thank you for purchasing Fair Trade products.

World Fair Trade Day is May 12

World Fair Trade Day on May 12 is aimed at raising awareness about trade justice. First Church participates through the UCC Coffee Project and through the actions of members who look for and buy Fair Trade products.

At the coffee sales table, look for a new treat, GEOBARS, a tasty cereal bar made from Fair Trade ingredients from around the world. Choose chocolate, raisin, mixed berries or apricot for 0\$1 each.

Thanks for supporting the small farmers who help sustain the environment. - **Sacred Earth**

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on May 6 and 20 during Fellowship Hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated.

Member Happy May Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1: Allen Baker | 21: Carol Gallagher |
| 2: Aimee Cerny | 22: Val Stichter |
| 3: Dan McCarthy | 22: Nick Bruckelmeyer |
| 3: Matt Stevens | 23: R. Guy Cole |
| 5: Rick Sayre | 23: Melissa Murdock-Weygandt |
| 5: Marc Danneberger | 23: Alex Heer |
| 6: Robyn Petras | 24: Dorothy Vish |
| 7: Morgan Shaw | 24: Gil Kirk |
| 8: Steven Deliman | 24: Justin DeWolfe |
| 9: Cheryl Hoskinson | 25: Tim Brownlee |
| 10: Anne Hudson | 25: Brian Cave |
| 11: Marie Pfeiffer | 26: Bill Heer |
| 11: Marilyn Minter | 26: Grant Paullo |
| 11: Paul Fishel | 26: Luke Ahrens |
| 13: Bill Wirsching | 27: Sandy Bennett |
| 14: Carol Woodard | 27: Charles Roach |
| 15: Donald Calhoun | 28: Bill Johannes |
| 15: Andrew McGregor | 28: Jessica Rannow |
| 16: Ardis Postle | 28: Rachel Lithgo |
| 16: Greer Aeschbury | 29: John Zahn |
| 18: Nancy Burba | 29: Arlene Reynolds |
| 18: Brooke Wilson | 29: Nancy Williams |
| 18: Kyle Danneberger | 29: Kay Metz |
| 19: Bob Lortz | 29: Eric Van Gorden |
| 19: Betty Powell | 30: Karla Lortz |
| 19: Dave Wharton | 30: Mike Petras |
| 19: Traci Shaw | 30: Peter Worley |
| 19: Angie McLaughlin | 31: Beverly Holt |
| 20: Mike Weddle | |
| 20: Todd Cunningham | |
| 20: Matt Myers | |
| 21: Martha Loy | |

Member Happy May Anniversaries

- | |
|---|
| 3: Fran and Bruce Panek |
| 8: Nancy and Larry Braverman |
| 8: Laura and Lance Collins |
| 10: Elizabeth and Mike Bockbrader |
| 11: Darla Luebbe and Elaine Stewart |
| 11: Lori and Ben Horne |
| 12: Sarah and Bill Lange |
| 12: Christiana and Morgan Stuntz Bonito |
| 13: Beth and Joe Iannarino |
| 16: Andy and Beth Cooke |
| 18: Debbie and Colin Thompson |
| 19: Nancy Loy and Tom Worley |
| 19: Linda and Ralph Mumford |
| 22: Jessica and Mario Catenacci |
| 23: Betsy Hubbard and Sam Spofforth |
| 28: Lola and Bill Edwards |
| 29: Karen and Charles Clay |

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 June *First Church News* is May 20 at noon. It will be published Friday, June 1.

Calendar

Tuesday, May 1

12 pm – Care Ministry – LC
5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – LC
7 pm – Education Committees – Ed Wing, Rm D
7 pm – Stewardship Committee – LC

Wednesday, May 2

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, May 3

10 am – First Thursday Fellowship – Morganstern Home
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, May 5

9 am – Rummage Sale - PH

Sunday, May 6

9 am – Teacher Appreciation Breakfast – Ed Wing
10 am – Worship – Sanctuary
11 am – Congregational Meeting – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
12 pm – Music Committee – Parlor
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D
6 pm – Sonreir – Youth Room

Monday, May 7

7 pm – BREAD Nehemiah Action – Celeste Center

Tuesday, May 8

12 pm – Care Ministry – LC
7 pm – Executive Committee – PFR

Thursday, May 10

10 am – Second Thursday Fellowship – Parlor
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, May 12

9 am – Brueggemann Workshop – PH
6 pm – Brueggemann Dinner – PH

Sunday, May 13

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
4 pm – Brueggemann Lecture and Evensong - San

Monday, May 14

7 pm – First Connections – PH
7 pm – Trustees – LC

Tuesday, May 15

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

Wednesday, May 16

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, May 17

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

Friday, May 18

8 pm – Youth Lock-In – PH and Youth Room

Saturday, May 19

9 am – Lock-in Ends
9 am – House and Grounds – PFR
10 am – Confirmation Rehearsal – San
Sunday, May 20 (Confirmation Sunday)
9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room
9 am – Worship – PH
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D

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

Tuesday, May 22

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

Thursday, May 24

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

Sunday, May 27 (Pentecost Sunday)

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

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day; Building Closed

Tuesday, May 29

12 pm – Care Ministry – LC

Thursday, May 31

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



Hot Recipe

Due to popular demand, we are printing the recipe for the Maundy Thursday chicken dish, courtesy of Cindy Conn.

6 chicken breasts, 1- 16 oz. tub of sour cream, 2 cans of cream of chicken soup, 1-1/2 cup of rice, 3 cups of milk, 2 sticks of butter, 2 sleeves of Ritz crackers. Salt and pepper.

Set oven for 350 degrees. Cook chicken breast let cool then shred. In a sauce pan add the milk, rice, cream of chicken soup and sour cream and cook until hot. Remove from heat and add shredded chicken. Mix and pour in casserole dish or baking pan. Melt butter. Mix melted butter and crushed Ritz crackers in a bowl, then sprinkle on top of casserole. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes. Serves 10-12 when using a 9 x13 baking dish.

Prayers

May Fellowship Hour

May 6: Corinthians
 May 13: Daniel
 May 20: Deuteronomy
 May 27: Ephesians

May Acolyte Schedule

May 6: Victoria Washington and Cameron Wade
 May 13: Emily Cooke and Nina Zimmerman
 May 20: Emma Rau and Will Zimmerman
 May 27: Joe Spofforth and Adam Wade
 (Schedules online at www.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.

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.

Baptism

Odessa Celeste and Tristan Setty – April 22

Weddings

Rachel Ricart and Peter Unkovic – April 14

Karyn Wheeler and Noah Marciniak – April 21

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, Chinyere Nuesom.....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

~ Remember Your Loved Ones ~
 With a Dedication of Flowers

Contact Marty Worth at 614.228.1741, ext. 14,
mworth@first-church.org

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

DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT

Please Deliver By: Friday, May 4, 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