

# First Church News

First Congregational Church, UCC  
Columbus, Ohio

*"Enter to Worship - Depart to Serve"*

November  
2011  
Vol. 159,  
No. 11



## First Church Responds to UCC's Mission: 1

By The Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister  
([tahrens@first-church.org](mailto:tahrens@first-church.org))

*"Lord, when did I see you hungry and feed you? . . .  
(Jesus responded) When you did it to the least of these  
my brothers and sisters, you did it unto me." Matthew  
25:31-46*

We at First Congregational Church are involved in the United Church of Christ's special mission drive called Mission: 1. Mission:1 is the mission project for United Church of Christ congregations to address hunger related issues the first 11 days in November, from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>. The campaign has goals of raising \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need, sending 11,111 letters to Congress and donating 1 million healthy food items to local food pantries during the 11 days.



Just recently, the United Church of Christ added an additional goal for Mission:1: raising \$111,111 for famine relief in East Africa. Under the new arrangement, donations given to Mission:1 (unless designated otherwise) will be divided equally between East Africa famine relief and Neighbors in Need hunger-related ministries, with the goal of raising more than \$111,111 for each fund. Go to [www.ucc.org/news/uccs-mission1-goals.html](http://www.ucc.org/news/uccs-mission1-goals.html) for more information.

The East Africa famine relief goal is an important new element to the MISSION: 1 campaign. This additional component came about in response to concerns raised by many local churches. As news reports about the drought/famine have spread, so has the attention of the global community. The leaders of our denomination, known as "the Collegium," felt it important that a churchwide effort on behalf of East Africa famine relief become central to what we accomplish together during Mission 1.

We will receive our Neighbor's in Need Offering on November 6. Be generous in sharing your gifts, which go to help our neighbors throughout the U.S. in need and to help with famine relief in East Africa.

Locally, we are in trouble. We can see our neighbors coming to our doors hungry. If we do not serve them, we are not serving our Lord! It is that simple. Recent news reports tell us that locally and regionally we are getting hungrier and hungrier. Ohio now ranks as the 6th hungriest state in the country. Our immediate neighbors are in great need - and it is growing!

The children and youth of First Church will lead us. They have called to us to join them as they lead an effort for mission to feed the hungry in our midst through the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. **(Continued on Page 3)**

### *A Prayer for Thanksgiving*

*Giving and forgiving God,  
You created the good earth and blessed it.  
Give us glad and generous hearts,  
That we may rejoice and give thanks for  
The abundance of your creation,  
The depths of your mercy,  
And your care for all. Amen.*

*(From Revised Common Lectionary Prayers  
© 2002)*

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### Proverbs a Road Map for Us

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

Throughout the past six weeks the stewardship team has sponsored a Monday night study of the Bible online. Each week people clicked their keyboards into cyberspace to focus on the weekly snippet of scripture, to discuss and learn from one another as well as through a few words from the pastor. Pastor Tim facilitated the first five sessions and I led the last conversation on October 24.



Both Tim and I have enjoyed the adventure. Unlike the stories from the gospel which were the focus of other sessions, we had Proverbs – that pithy book of comparisons. Proverbs is fun for discussion, as it is aimed at raising all of us, children of God that we are, into noticing the boundaries that direct us into goodness instead of into trouble.

One of my favorite parts of Proverbs is how every now and then (but not often) it seems to contradict its own best advice. I remember I was sort of relieved the day I learned that the book was a gift of generations, not the product of one or two story tellers. So, just as some of the sage advice of our ancestors had their version of best practice, it may not always be exactly the same as our family or colleagues today. (No longer post-Victorian, I've never, for instance told my children they were to be seen and not heard.)

The part that used to be more difficult for me was the anti-feminist vantage point, but again, it would be really peculiar for it to have been anything other than that given it's time in history. I've also learned it is important not to discard different perspectives right off the bat, every time and place have valuable precepts for living. In the case of Proverbs, the basics of good and bad pathways are still the same – taking one path will leave us wishing we had made a better choice than the other. Overall, the repeated symbolic metaphors provide a moral framework of the universe – a universe created by God.

The October 24 discussion centered on some of the ways we honor God; what substance and first fruits of our own produce might be and what plenty we desire to fill our own barns. Here is our starting point: "Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce, [and] then your barns will be

filled with plenty." (Proverbs 3:9-10a) After briefly discussing its meanings in its own time and place they co-created a proverb for today. Here is a taste of the fruit of their labor:

Honor the Lord with your allowance; your heart, soul, mind and care for your body, and then with the fruits of all your produce your life will be filled with plenty: with humility, forgiveness, acceptance, kind words, empathy and love, as well as with relief and release of anger, a spiritual cleansing and rebirth and with gratification for having a chance to be a better person.

And this pastor, can only say, amen,  
Janine

### Upcoming Sermon Titles

#### November 6 - All Saint's Day Celebrated

Sermon title: "You Never Know..."

Texts: Amos 5: 18-24; I thess. 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

#### November 13 - Pentecost 22

Sermon title: "Abundant Possibilities"

Texts: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, I Thess. 5:1-11, Matthew 25: 14-30



#### November 20 - Reign of Christ/ Thanksgiving Sunday

Sermon title: "A Song of Thanksgiving!"

Texts: Psalm 100, Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Matthew 25: 31-46

#### November 27 – Advent I

Sermon Title: "Longing for the Day"

Readings: Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37

### Jackie Dean to be Commissioned Nov. 13

Jacqueline S. Dean will be commissioned as Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction on Sunday, November 13, during the 11 a.m. service.

Jackie has been a member of First Church for 30 years. She has raised two generations in our church. She is a jewel in our midst! Jackie will be commissioned as one of the only spiritual directors in our denomination. We are blessed to have her in our midst.

I encourage you to come and participate in this special and very sacred service of commissioning. We welcome her friends and family who join us for the great event! Come to worship on the 13<sup>th</sup> and celebrate Jackie's newly-forming ministry! – Rev. Tim

## Lay Leadership Award

### Giffens to be Honored on November 20 by First Church

By David Holt, Moderator

On Sunday, November 20, the 2011 First Church award for a lifetime of outstanding lay leadership will be presented to Wally and Sarah Giffen! The award will be presented during the 11a.m. service with a reception in the Parish Hall during Fellowship Hour.

Beginning in 2008, we have annually presented this award to a member or couple who have demonstrated a lifetime of outstanding lay leadership to our church, our denomination, and/or our mission partners. The inaugural recipients in 2008 were Amos and Janice White; in 2009 the award was presented to Bill and Natalie Wright; and in 2010 the award was presented to Arlene Reynolds. Wally and Sarah are now well-deserving members of this highly esteemed group.

The Giffens have served in many roles here at First Church and have been consistent and constant in their service and leadership over many years. Sarah has been a dedicated deacon, a Stephen leader, taught classes related to grief counseling and served on many committees. She is a nurse in the hospice field.

Wally has been "Mr. House and Grounds" for many years, some years as the committee chair and/or commissioner and always the sage resident expert and ever-present hands-on volunteer. Wally also has served as treasurer, trustee and on the Executive Committee and Council, as well as serving on many other committees.

Currently, Wally serves as House and Grounds Commissioner, and a member of the Implementation Committee, Property Planning Group and Long-Range Planning Committee. He has recently served as a delegate to association and conference meetings, and this past summer he travelled to Vermilion on the youth mission trip to perform construction work at Sunset Shores Retreat Center.

The lay leader recognition committee this year includes Amos White, Janice White, Arlene Reynolds, Sue Cook and David Holt.

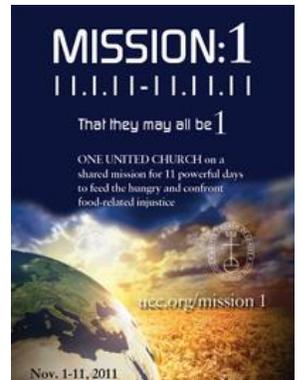
## (REV. AHRENS, Concluded from Page 1)

I feel so strongly about this effort. I can't say enough! We have to address the hunger of our sisters and brothers all around us.

Here are four immediate ways each and every one of us can respond! Some began before November 1 and some go beyond the 11th.

First, we began our commitment to ending hunger on October 29 with our free fresh produce giveaway in conjunction with the Mid-Ohio Food Bank.

Second, we respond to the loving invitation coming from two of our members. The Mission Commission is challenging the congregation to match the love offering given by Pauline and Earl Fritz for Pauline's 80th birthday (and their 60th anniversary too)! Pauline and Earl have given \$500 to the church for the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. I will be giving a gift for Susan's and my 26th anniversary and Sarah's birthday in November. How about you? Is there a family member who is being born, baptized or married that you would like to honor? How about a special anniversary or birthday or memory of one of the saints of our church? Give a gift to double the love of Pauline and Earl.



Third and fourth: Bring canned goods for the church on November 6 and again on November 20. There is a list in our Sunday bulletins, this newsletter on Page 8 and online. Let's bring 1,000 pounds of canned goods for the hungry in Central Ohio this month!

**Two more steps into the near future:** First, I believe we should join the Hunger Action Network, which focuses on legislation to feed the hungry in Ohio. Friend of First, Bob Erickson heads this up. Let's get with the network and make a long-term, lasting impact on Ohio's programs to feed the poor.

Second, when we sit down for Thanksgiving dinner November 24, let's also ask our families to give more to feed the hungry. Take up an offering for the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Collect canned goods. Bring them to church and share them with the poor in our midst. Let's make November 2011 a memorable one in our efforts to end hunger. Let us always remember that feeding the hungry is the call of Christ.

## Thoughts on All Saints Day

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

On November 6, we will celebrate All Saints Day. This is one of those feast days that falls on a fixed date, in this case, November 1. But if there are no services on that date, the liturgical tradition would be to observe it the Sunday following the date. The same is true, for example, of Christmas. When December 25 falls on a Monday, the Sunday morning services on December 24 are still considered the Fourth Sunday of Advent.



In recent years on All Saints Sunday, we have sung the names of the past year's dearly departed in prayer as part of our remembrances. This year, too, those names will be sung. The prayers will take the form of the Great Litany of the Orthodox practice. It is also called the Litany of Peace because the first petitions all concern peace.

"In peace let us pray to the Lord"  
"For the peace of the whole world, the church of God..."

Next in the litany, the petitions concern needs:  
for the welfare of this congregation and all churches and for the union of all  
for the faithful of the particular community  
for the leaders and all the people of this church  
for the nation and its institutions for which all are responsible: the president, civil authorities and armed forces  
for the given city and country and for all cities and countries  
for good weather and abundant crops  
for travelers, for the sick, the suffering and those in captivity.  
and finally remembering the saints, those who have gone before us and are at rest,  
and then commending them and all of our life to Christ.

The congregation affirms each statement, answering each of the cantor's petition by singing "Lord, have mercy." The Litany of Peace has a beautiful rhythm and intimacy, and it encompasses needs of the world as well as those of the local community and each person.

As I'm sure it is for most folks, All Saints Sunday is for me a day of both remembrance and thanksgiving, of acknowledging loss and celebrating resurrection. My father died on November 1, All Saints Day, in 1999,

about a week after suffering a stroke. So I, like each of us, honor those who have died in the last year and keep alive the bonds of all departed loved ones.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Nothing can make up for the absence of someone whom we love, and it would be wrong to try to find a substitute: we must simply hold out and see it through." That sounds very hard at first, but at the same time it is a great consolation, for the gap, as long as it remains unfilled, preserves the bond between us. It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap: He does not fill it, but on the contrary, he keeps it empty, and so helps us to keep alive our former communion with each other, even at the cost of pain.

## Remembering Our Loved Ones on November 6

On November 6, we will remember with great love those who have passed away in the last year. We remember Arthur Vorys, Julia Hadley and Harrison Campbell. Each person left a great legacy of love with their families and with our greater community. Julia Hadley and Harry Campbell also were very active in the life of our church.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., we will welcome each family and celebrate their loved ones in our prayers. We will also lift up and remember in love those of blessed memory in each of our lives. All Saint's Day is a time for all of us to give thanks to God for all of those who lived and loved well in our lives. Come and celebrate at 9 or 11 a.m. those saints and loved ones who have made a difference in your life. Thanks be to God for all the saints! – Rev. Tim

## Blood Drive Scheduled for November 20



The next American Red Cross blood drive at First Church will be on Sunday, November 20, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can sign up in the office to donate. There is a great need for blood donations at this time, so step up and help out someone in need!

**Don't Forget!**  
**Daylight Saving Time**  
**Ends Sunday, Nov. 6**  
**Turn Clocks Back One Hour**

**Advent Resources and Activities Available from Christian Ed**

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

Advent resources for children, families and adults will be available beginning Sunday, November 20, at the entrance to the worship space and in classrooms.



An Advent children’s activities calendar and teen’s calendar will be available and is perfect to display on a refrigerator or a family bulletin board. *What are We Waiting For?* is a booklet of **family** prayers, scriptures and reflections for each day of Advent. *The Lord Is Near* by Henri Nouwen is an **individual** devotion booklet for the days of Advent. Please pick up a copy at either service or in the church office.

Each Sunday of Advent, several activities sheets will be available for the children that relate to our children’s time in worship. The activities sheets will be available for the 9 a.m. service as well. Sunday afternoon, December 18, there will be several activities available at the door for the younger children during the service of lessons and carols since they remain in the Sanctuary for the entire time.

The children’s Christmas play will be presented to the church at the congregational Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 11, from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Please watch for details on how to sign up. The children are very excited and will be rehearsing very hard for the coming weeks!

**National Listening Campaign on Christian Faith Formation and Education**

The National Listening Campaign on Christian Faith Formation and Education in the United Church of Christ is being conducted this fall to gather information from UCC members to assist in shaping the future of faith formation for the church. The denomination wants to know what matters to you and why!

Go online to <http://www.ucc.org/education/> to fill out the survey.

**Women’s Retreat 2011  
“Grace, Generosity & Gratitude”  
November 11 – 13  
Templed Hills Church Camp**

All women of First Church, and their guests, are invited to attend the women’s retreat at Templed Hills, located one hour north of Columbus. The camp provides twin beds (five to a room), a comfortable gathering space and all of our meals.

“Grace, Generosity & Gratitude,” the theme for the retreat, will be led by Jackie Dean and other women leaders of the church. As we look at the spirit within, we are getting a better understanding of God’s creative imagination within ourselves. We will explore the best things about life, laugh and play together, and weave into our lives the precious love that surrounds us.

The retreat begins Friday at 7 p.m., with arrival and unloading and nesting. We will spend some time getting to know each other and hearing an introduction to the theme. Saturday morning, following breakfast, we will begin our program, which will include devotions, discussion, quiet time and, of course, an opportunity to be creative and/or to enjoy the fall splendor God has created in the camp’s grounds. Sunday morning we eat breakfast, worship together and then leave camp by 11 a.m. refreshed and excited about what we felt and learned, and our new friendships.



The cost for the weekend is \$90, which pays for all the food and lodging. Registration form/brochure is available in the church office and on the church Web site ([www.first-church.org](http://www.first-church.org)). The deadline to sign up is November 6.

Contact information change?  
Be sure to call the office (228-1741) so we can keep in touch!

## First Church's 2011 Ornament Now Available for \$18

By Mark S. Williams,  
Christian Education  
Director

First Church is continuing our exciting program in celebrating the history of the church through an ongoing keepsake ornament project. Each year, one of our beautiful stained glass windows is featured as a keepsake ornament. The 2011 collectible features the Jeffrey Chancel Window. The figure of Christ is portrayed in an attitude of invitation and occupies the highest point in the church's largest stained glass window.



This series started four years ago. The first ornament (2007) was the "Shepherd Window" that is located in the Gladden Chapel. The 2008 ornament was "The Light of the World" window, located in the sanctuary in the Parable Windows. The 2009 ornament is "Jesus Blessing the Children" panel from the Jeffrey Window, which is located above the Chancel. The fourth keepsake ornament (2010) was the "Evangelists" from the Jeffrey Window. All the keepsake ornaments are still available in limited quantity at \$10 each or you can purchase all the previous four ornaments for a discounted price of \$35.

This year's ornament is here and will go on sale November 6 at the conclusion of the 9 a.m. service and during the Fellowship Hour in the Parish Hall after the 11 a.m. service. It also will be available for purchase during the week in the church office. The 2011 ornament is \$18. Contact Mark S. Williams, ([mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org)) for more information.

## First Thursday Fellowship Meets Nov. 3

The First Thursday Fellowship will meet November 3 at 10 a.m. at the home of Arlene Reynolds, 273 Erie Rd., in Clintonville.

The Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, senior minister, will be the speaker. All are welcome.

## Help a Child; Be a Tutor

Studies show a child's reading proficiency by third grade has a direct correlation to his success in high school and beyond. Four church members are tutoring this year to assist children with their reading skills. The Rev. Tim Ahrens tutors at Bluffsvie Elementary in Worthington; Nancy Evans and Sarah Garbe tutor at Fairwood Alternative Elementary (a school cited for its poor academic performance); and I tutor at Ohio Avenue Elementary. We will be glad to answer questions.

Columbus City Schools requires persons tutoring in its system to secure a background check. The cost of a check is \$32 or \$35, depending on the location of the exam. Urban Connections will provide a \$25 scholarship if needed for the record check.

Contact Burt Manchester at [burt@urban-connections.org](mailto:burt@urban-connections.org) for details of tutoring at Fairwood and Ohio Avenue schools.



If you cannot come to the inner city schools, contact the school in your district to see how you might volunteer.

Men are needed to tutor, and you can ask Phil Stichter about his tutoring experience. Finally, we would like to know the names of all of First Church tutors and mentors. Let us hear from you. – Dawn George

## Mark Your Calendar! Annual Cookie Mission is Dec. 11



First Church's Annual Cookie Mission is calling for volunteers and cookies on Sunday, December 11.

This annual event is an important mission for First Church feeding those who are hungry and our church shut-ins. Please consider volunteering your time and/or your baking talents for this special gift-giving mission. We need cookies, people to stuff tins and members to deliver to shut-ins. **Please call the church office at 614.228.174 to sign up!**

## Running the Race to the Finish Line

By James Fewlass, Treasurer

At this time of year, there are a number of laps to be run before our goal as stewards of First Church is reached on Friday, **December 30, 2011**.



1. The Stewardship Campaign has closed on Sunday, October 30, 2011, for year 2012.
2. Stewards of First Church have made their pledges for the operating budget for 2012 on or before Sunday, October 30, 2011.
3. Commissioners and staff have submitted 2012 budget requests to the treasurer before the Budget and Finance meeting on Monday, October 24, 2011, and no later than Tuesday, November 15, 2011.
4. Budget and Finance Committee will develop the budget for 2012 at its meeting on Monday, November 28, 2011.
5. All of us who have pledged to the 2011 operating budget will have fulfilled this year's pledges on or before Friday, December 30, 2011.

If you are confused read the numbered laps again carefully. Have you missed the first two laps? If you have missed lap 2, please try to make your pledge to the 2012 operating budget by the end of lap 3 by Tuesday, November 15, 2011. Without all of us making our 2012 commitment by the end of lap 3, the task for Budget and Finance in lap 4 will be greatly restricted.

All of us need to make lap 5 in order to complete our financial operating budget commitments for 2011. **The IRS requires that contributions be postmarked no later than December 31, 2011, to be used as deductions for 2011.** Since this is a Saturday and the current state of the US Postal Service is frequently less than reliable, an earlier postmark is advisable. **The church office will be open on Friday, December 30, 2011, until noon to receive contributions.** Once lap 5 is completed, any contributions received will be credited to prior year contributions in 2012.

Although II Timothy 4:7 refers to our ultimate race in life, it serves as a pattern for our race as stewards of First Church. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Please fulfill your pledge commitments to First Church's 2011 operating budget by December 30. If you have not already done so, please make your pledge to the 2012 operating budget by written card or online at the First Church Web site ([www.first-church.org](http://www.first-church.org)) by November 15, 2011.

## Monthly Budget Update

### Current Pledge Income

Pledges Budgeted -- \$529,872  
September Actual -- \$30,738.91  
YTD Actual -- \$369,040.81  
YTD Budgeted -- \$397,413  
Needed Each Month -- \$41,268.90



### September Mission Offerings

Homelessness/Shelter -- \$522.40  
Italian Children's Home -- \$449.25  
Good Samaritan -- \$2,066.35  
United Church Homes -- \$372.00

**Total Missions – \$3,410**



### Missions Offering Schedule

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

**November 6 - UCC's Mission: 1**  
**November 13 - Bethlehem on Broad Street**  
**November 20 - Bethlehem on Broad Street**  
**November 27 - Faith Mission**

*Do you have a few hours to share the first week of December? Do you enjoy bringing in the holly and decorating?*

If you answered 'yes' to both of these questions, then please be sure to call or email Rev. Wilson.

The Christmas tree will be set up and the decorations for Advent will be sorted -  
Many hands make light – and joyful – work!

614 228-1741, x 21 or  
[jwilson@first-church.org](mailto:jwilson@first-church.org)



## Church Has New Brokerage Account

Effective June 10, 2011, First Congregational Church has a new brokerage account with Charles Schwab.

First Church welcomes transfers from your investment accounts as payment towards a pledge, capital fund campaign donation or other purpose. If you have stocks, bonds or CDs and you want to avoid possible capital gains taxes (please consult your tax advisor), you can transfer the security to the church's brokerage account at Charles Schwab.



When transferring securities to the church account, please make sure your broker includes the following information so you will receive credit on your church statement:

Donor Name  
Address  
Phone Number

Your broker should send the securities to:

Charles Schwab  
PO Box 52114  
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2114

Phone: 877-328-0276  
Account Name: First Congregational Church  
Account # 5824-5835  
DTC# 0164 Code # 40

In order to make sure your donation is processed quickly, please contact either Sharon Leidheiser or Jim Fewlass to indicate you are making a contribution to the church and indicate the security you will be transferring, as well as approximate date of the transfer.

Sharon [leidheiser@first-church.org](mailto:leidheiser@first-church.org) or 614-228-1741 ext.11  
Jim Fewlass [ovolunteer@first-church.org](mailto:ovolunteer@first-church.org) or 614-228-1741

Be aware that transfers may not happen immediately and market value changes may occur between the time you make your transfer request and when the church receives and sells the investment security. If you are selling a security for a loss, it may be to your tax advantage to sell it outright and donate the proceeds, rather than transfer it directly.

## Help Feed the Hungry

**November 6:** We will be gathering canned and non-perishable food items for distribution to the Gladden House and Broad Street Presbyterian Food Pantries. **Please bring your donations to either the 9 or 11 a.m. services and place them in the collection area.** Missions will see that the food is delivered for Thanksgiving distribution.



**November 20:** Begins the new schedule for monthly food collection. Donations will be gathered in worship at both services. **Thereafter, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, food and monetary donations will be collected in bins provided at the entrances of the church.** Watch for reminders in the newsletter and bulletins. Listed below are suggested items to donate:

**Canned vegetables & fruit; Pasta, Rice, Dried Beans, Instant Mashed Potatoes; Boxed meals such as Hamburger Helper; Tuna, Canned Meats; Cereal; Boxed Macaroni & Cheese Mix; Soup; Peanut Butter; and Spaghetti Sauce**

## Archives Sale of Two Centuries

A cookbook titled *Now and Then* was published and sold by the Pretiola Workshop (a missions group) of First Church. When the shop closed, among the records transferred to the Archives were the remaining copies of the cookbook. The excess copies are being sold to purchase archival storage materials and containers to preserve the church's records.

The cookbook is a miscellany of favorite recipes, prayers, Bible verses, a pinch of humor and a dash of First Church and Columbus history. It includes about 300 recipes about half are from the 1877 edition.

This would be a great Christmas gift. It will be available for \$10 until they are gone, in the office and at Fellowship Hour. Other \$10 buys include: 1 cubic foot buffered, acid-free storage box; 5 archival polyester envelopes for fragile documents; 1 flip-top archival document case; 1 roll of 500 polyester label protectors; 1/4 box of digital bar code labels; and 10 archival polyester self-locking photo print sleeves. – **Rick Sayre**



## Interfaith Unity Service Set for Nov. 2

An interfaith unity service will be held November 2 at 7 p.m. at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 93 W. Weisheimer Rd., in Clintonville.

Speaking will be Neil Douglas-Klotz. Neil is the director of the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning and co-founder of the Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace. He also is the author of several books on an Aramaic approach to the words of Jesus, including *Prayers of the Cosmos* and *The Hidden Gospel*.

A \$10 donation is suggested. For more information, call 267-4946, ext. 28.



There was a cake to be enjoyed October 2 as First Church hosted Dr. Neela Onwale of Deep Griha in Pune, India. Dr. Onwale spoke at services that day and met with congregation members during Fellowship Hour. Deep Griha serves the poor in the slums of Pune and has been a mission of First Church for many years.

### Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles for the December *First Church News* is November 21 at noon. It will be published Thursday, December 1.

## Member Happy November Birthdays

- |     |                  |     |                |
|-----|------------------|-----|----------------|
| 1:  | Carrie Ghose     | 22: | Chuck Kelley   |
| 3:  | Sarah Garbe      | 23: | Bill Wagner    |
| 3:  | Tom Bishop       | 24: | Sandra Kirk    |
| 4:  | Cindy Burnell    | 24: | Scott Warrick  |
| 5:  | Caitlin Stewart  | 25: | Jon Thompson   |
| 6:  | Michael McCrary  | 25: | Sarah Ahrens   |
| 6:  | Nate Vogt        | 26: | Anne Clark     |
| 7:  | Matt DeCastro    | 27: | Bill Boden     |
| 8:  | James O'Neill    | 27: | Beth Iannarino |
| 9:  | Brianna Burkett  | 28: | Nell Cole      |
| 9:  | David Leidheiser | 28: | Megan Kelley   |
| 10: | Jean Sankey      | 28: | Reel Chaudhri  |
| 10: | Ann Aeschbury    | 29: | Dave Ghose     |
| 12: | Don Streibig     |     |                |
| 13: | Melanie Brown    |     |                |
| 13: | John Aeschbury   |     |                |
| 14: | Amanda DeCastro  |     |                |
| 15: | Barbara Reed     |     |                |
| 15: | Sadie Oldham     |     |                |
| 16: | Dorothy Ringer   |     |                |
| 16: | Barbara Knox     |     |                |
| 17: | Judy Smith       |     |                |
| 17: | Joyce Oylar      |     |                |
| 18: | Sarah Reed       |     |                |
| 18: | David Hamann     |     |                |
| 18: | Jess Peacock     |     |                |
| 19: | Paul Flocken     |     |                |
| 20: | John Matchett    |     |                |
| 20: | Schlelia Daines  |     |                |
| 21: | Charlie Knerr    |     |                |
| 21: | Allison Palmer   |     |                |
| 22: | Jane Weddle      |     |                |

## Member Happy November Anniversaries

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 2:  | Allison and Jess Peacock                 |
| 4:  | Stephanie and Mike Koscher               |
| 6:  | Jennifer and Mark Leidheiser             |
| 6:  | Becky and Troy Magaw                     |
| 7:  | Amy Jo Nicholson and Mohamed Obeid-Salim |
| 8:  | Joanna and Jamie McWilliams              |
| 9:  | Susan Sitler and Tim Ahrens              |
| 10: | Kim and Ken Storey                       |
| 10: | Lesley and Karl Schaab                   |
| 10: | Janette and Randy Hoffman                |
| 15: | Missy and Doug Zimmerman                 |
| 18: | Michelle and Grant Paulo                 |
| 21: | Katie Kreimer and Dean Mansfield         |
| 23: | Sarah Reed and Sandra Geronimo           |
| 23: | Chris and Rob Rosati-Yoos                |
| 26: | Kathie and Guy Cole                      |
| 26: | Sarah and Wally Giffen                   |
| 26: | Sandy and Michael Valinis                |
| 29: | Janet and Rick Pfeiffer                  |

**OOPS!** If we miss your birthday or anniversary, contact Denny Mahoney at 228-1741, ext. 17, or [dmahoney@first-church.org](mailto:dmahoney@first-church.org).

# Calendar

## **Tuesday, November 1**

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – LC  
7 pm – Deacons – LC  
7 pm – Education Committees – Room D  
7 pm – Mission Committee – PFR

## **Wednesday, November 2**

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

## **Thursday, November 3**

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

## **Sunday, November 6**

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room  
9 am – Worship – PH  
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary  
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D  
10 am – New Members Class – Bridal Room  
11 am – Worship – San  
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH  
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D and Parlor  
6 pm – Sonreir – PH

## **Monday, November 7**

7 pm – Trustees – LC

## **Tuesday, November 8**

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

## **Thursday, November 10**

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

## **Friday, November 11**

*Women's Retreat at Temples Hills*

## **Saturday, November 12**

*Women's Retreat at Temples Hills*

10 am – First Church Quilters – LC  
**Sunday, November 13 (Women's Retreat)**

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room  
9 am – Worship – PH  
10 am – Choir – Sanctuary  
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D  
10 am – New Members Class – Bridal Room  
11 am – Worship – San  
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH  
6 pm – Sonreir – PH  
6 pm – Middle School Group – Middle School Room

## **Tuesday, November 15**

7 pm – Council – LC

## **Wednesday, November 16**

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

## **Thursday, November 17**

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

## **Saturday, November 19**

9 am – House and Grounds - PFR  
10 am – BOBS Meeting – Room D

## **Sunday, November 20**

8 am – Blood Drive – Room C  
9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room  
9 am – Worship – PH  
10 am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D

10 am – Choir – San  
10 am – New Members Class – Bridal Room  
11 am – Worship – Sanctuary  
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – Sanctuary  
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D  
1 pm – Hanging of the Greens – San  
4 pm – Congregational Concert – Sanctuary  
6 pm – Sonreir – PH

## **Monday, November 21**

12 pm – December Newsletter Deadline

## **Tuesday, November 22**

12 pm – Card Care Ministry- PFR

## **Thursday, November 24**

*Thanksgiving Day, Office and Building Closed*

## **Friday, November 25**

*Office and Building Closed*

6 pm – Faith Mission Meal

## **Sunday, November 27**

9 am – Treble/Teen Choir – Choir Room  
9 am – Worship – PH  
10am – Education Hour – Rooms C and D  
10 am – Choir – San  
10 am – Worship – Sanctuary  
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH  
6 pm – Sonreir – PH  
6 pm – Middle School Group – Middle School Room

## **Monday, November 28**

6:30 pm – Stephen Ministers – Adult Library  
7 pm – Budget and Finance - LC

## **Tuesday, November 29**

7 pm – Personnel – PFR

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Fellowship Meets Nov. 10**

Has blindness or other disability prevented you or someone you know from reading books and newspapers?

VOICEcorps provides readings from books, magazines, newspapers, etc, through a special receiver right to your home. Sandy Turner, executive director of VOICEcorps, will be the speaker at the Second Thursday Fellowship on November 10 beginning at 10 a.m. She will provide information on this free reading service and explain how easy it is to become connected.

In addition to readings from print, there are interview programs and special programming such as voting information and daily exercises. This is also a wonderful volunteer opportunity for those who like to read to others.

## **Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales**



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

## November Fellowship Hour

November 6: Samuel  
 November 13: Zechariah  
 November 20: Acts  
 November 27: Amos

## November Acolyte Schedule

November 6: Jansen Allred and Adam Wade  
 November 13: Annie Rose Cooke and Jack Koscher  
 November 20: Emily Cooke and Anna Rambo  
 November 27: Sarah Ahrens and Ben Allen  
 (Schedules online at [www.first-church.org](http://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](mailto:tahrens@first-church.org).

*Please pray for those who continue to walk through grief and loss, for those battling illness and addictions in their families, for all serving in Iraq and elsewhere and for others in need. Please offer prayers for those who are lonely, lost and hurting. Pray for our nation as we face all too much anxiety, fear and uncertainty with faith, hope and love. May God bless you in your giving and in your living in Christ's love and grace. Amen.*

### Baptisms

Isabella Mikayla Kirker – October 9  
 William James Holton – October 29

### Weddings

Lyndsey Wilcox and Jordan Egelhoff – October 8  
 Gwen Brady and Sam Fung - October 8  
 Laura Wilson and Joseph Robey – October 29

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

### Church Staff

Timothy C. Ahrens.....*Senior Minister*  
 Janine Wilson.....*Associate Minister*  
 James E. Bobb.....*Minister of Music*  
 Mark S. Williams.....*Director of Christian Education*  
 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*  
 Frank Wall, William Lee.....*Custodians*  
 Nikki Boop, Rosemary Pawandiwa-Priore.....*Nursery*  
 Chinyere Newsum.....*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*  
 Tanya Miller.....*Education*  
 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: Friday, November 4, 2011*

TO:

[Empty dashed rectangular 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](mailto:home@first-church.org) Web site: [www.first-church.org](http://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