



October 2012
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First Church News

First Congregational Church, UCC
Columbus, Ohio

"Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve"

A Generous Woman

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



As I was growing up, mom and dad had two telephones in our house. One was in the dining room and one in the upstairs hallways. Both were attached with short cords to the walls. If you wanted privacy, you had to drag the short phone line into a closet on the second floor. If you weren't upstairs, you were sitting right in the middle of the house when talking to friends. No wireless phones. No cell phones. No real privacy.

As a teenager, it made telephone conversations with girlfriends extremely difficult and awkward. Mom already had the hearing of Superwoman (she could hear through steel walls)! So, we learned to talk in "yes" and "no" sentences. Again, very awkward.

As I reflect on it now, even more awkward than my sporadic romantic "yes/no" conversations were the ones my mother had with parents of students she taught, people she cared for, and especially long distance talks with the true love of her life - my dad - when he was traveling. She was always on the phone in the dining room – right in the middle of the house. We could all hear her conversations. I remember her sitting on a little red children's chair at all hours of the day and night mostly listening to others on the phone.

My mom is one of the most compassionate human

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A crane is used to lower a liner into the First Church chimney on September 11. The liner was installed to make way for putting in a new boiler in the church lower level. The project is part of a busy autumn of work at First Church, made possible by the "Future's Broadening Way" capital campaign. See related article on Page 2.

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'Meeting' the Challenge

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

Building up the body of Christ, one meeting at a time??? It's possible you think I am kidding, but believe it or not . . . I'm pretty serious on this one.

Every time we get together, one on one or by the tens or hundreds, we have the opportunity to grow in our relationships – with each other and with God. This is part of why we ask all of the commission leaders to begin and end their gatherings with prayer – and in-between we have lots of fun, idea-swapping, imagining and creating.



I think it's sad that the word "meeting" distances some people from jumping in and getting involved in the co-creation of First Congregational Church. So, I am hereby challenging, cajoling, encouraging, seeking to persuade, egging you on, offering you confidence and in general, supporting you to step up and contact Tim, myself any staff person or Moderator Gerry Worth and let them know you have a gift, skill or even just an hour free that you would like to offer to First Congregational Church! I guarantee they will be delighted. Here are some possibilities:

Did you know:

- Mission commission is seeking people to take a walk around Columbus as part of Crop Walk;
- Church Growth would welcome you to send out postcards or welcome notes to visitors;
- Parish Life will be delighted to have you lend a helping hand setting up or cleaning up before or after events AND we are looking for 4 people to be part of our new "media team";
- Christian Education has many things to do, including, but not limited to, working directly with children and teens;
- Building and Grounds has opportunities inside and outside for an hour or a day...

All of these are just waiting for you to give us a call or drop us a note in the offering plate.

Each of these opportunities awaiting your involvement also will bring you into conversation with thoughtful, energetic and caring people who love this church – just like you. If you are open to more ideas, just give me a call.

With joy, Janine

West Lot and 444 Developments Continue at a Busy Pace

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens
Senior Minister

Every day there are new and exciting developments happening on our West Lot and the property at 444 East Broad St. Thanks to your Capital Campaign gifts, great things are happening!

Following repointing on the chimney on the Parish House, a 100-foot liner was dropped into the chimney by a 200-foot crane and set in place. The boiler is being installed and hopefully will be fired up soon. On the West Lot the telephone lines have been buried. An entrance to the lot from the back alley has been cut and is now open. The surface of the lot has been blacktopped and lined. It is beautiful! In addition, the grading and the preparation for the grounds around the church are almost complete and await the sod.



Inside, a great crew of volunteers helped prepare the Bell Room on the second floor. Thanks to the drive and leadership of Marti Rideout, the room is ready for the final candidates arriving for auditions for our Music Minister position. Also, check out the Gladden Chapel. It has been restored to its original look. Walls will soon be painted in stairwell areas and other places where touch-up is needed.

Thanks to all who are working so hard to bring our dream ever closer to completion, especially Wally Giffen, Charlie Weaver, Tom Worley, Gary Leidheiser, Nancy Burba and Jim Kyle. Now we need signs to tell Columbus that we are alive, excited and open for business at the corner of Cleveland and Broad!

Rev. Ahrens Teaching Classes on Transitions

Rev. Tim Ahrens will teach a weekly class on the transitions of life in October and November by exploring the Exodus story at 10 a.m. each Sunday. Using the Exodus story as the foundation for dealing with changes, Rev. Ahrens will teach strategies in facing life's transitions.

(REV. AHRENS, Concluded from Page 1)

human beings I have ever known. She calls people regularly to find out how they are doing, to figure out how and when to cook them a meal, and simply to be a good friend to everyone in need. She is a great listener. She is a companion on the journey of life for my dad and so many others in her town and church. She is always there for Susan and me and everyone else in our family.

As I remember back to my mom listening for hours to others in their times of need, I realize now I was actually witnessing a generous woman giving her time and her heart to others. What I know about generosity, I learned from my mom and dad. They have always been a loving presence. They have exemplified the love of God in Christ to me, my brother and sister.

Now mom is 84 and dad is 88. They still go to church each week. Dad teaches church school to this day. They give generously to the offerings of the church. They support their pastors. They love the mission of the church. They believe not only in God but in people. They love God by loving people. They are kind in their hearts and their words. And mom still sits by the phone and reaches out to care for others. She will be embarrassed when she reads this because my mother, Lorene Kellermeyer Ahrens, is a humble woman as well as a generous woman.

When I consider how I will be a generous giver to the church, I think of my mom. I also think of my dad.

“Generosity” is defined in the Random House Dictionary of the English Language as “1) *readiness or liberality in giving*; 2) *freedom from meanness or smallness of mind or character.*” This month we will hear a lot about generosity. We will hear a lot about giving to the church.

I want everyone to consider someone you know who has taught you to be ready each day to be a giver. I want you to think about being liberal in giving of yourself and your resources. I also want you to daily seek to free yourself from any meanness or smallness of mind or character. Consider your words before speaking them. Consider your actions before making them. Then, with a compassionate heart and an open mind, step up and step out to be a generous giver.

As you receive the materials of this church sent in love and thoughtfulness, consider your 2013 gift to the church.

By November 4, all of us will be called upon to give and pledge for 2013. As for myself and my household of

faith, I will reflect on my mother and the love she showed me and still shows me.

I will reflect on my father and his daily walk with God. I trust God will guide you to become ever more generous.

All my love to you in Christ, Tim

Rev. Ahrens' October Sermons

October 7 - World Communion Sunday Neighbors in Need Offering

Communion Meditation: “To Give Your Life”
Texts: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:35-45



October 14 – CROP Walk

Sermon Title: “How Hard is it to be Generous?”
Texts: Amos 5:-6-7, 10-15; Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31

October 21 - Children's Sabbath

Sermon: “Bring the Children to Jesus”
Texts: Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:1-16

October 28 - Reformation Sunday

Sermon: “Give Until It Feels Good”
Texts: II Corinthians 9:7; Mark 10:46-52



Budget Update

Pledges Budgeted \$592,220
August Actual Pledges \$34,081.51
Pledges Needed Monthly \$49,351.67

August and September Mission Offerings

Catalyst	\$329.00
BREAD	\$423.10
Mid-Ohio	
Workers	\$359.71
UCC LGBT	
Coalition	\$657.15
CWS	
Disaster Relief	\$549.66

Attention College Students!

We are updating our college student records, and we need your information! Please email your mailing address, email address, etc., to Janine Wilson, jwilson@first-church.org.

Change a Life With a First Step

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

Many of us may know what it's like to move. Now imagine you're like Meng in Cambodia and you have to move every season just so you can feed your family.



Even when he had work, Meng says it wasn't enough to support his wife and two children. So he kept moving to feed his family. Now, we have a chance to move so Meng doesn't have to.

The CROP Hunger Walk is a lifeline and a voice for Meng and thousands of families like his around the world. When our congregation walks on October 14, we're showing the world that people like Meng matter.



Church World Services helped Meng access training and resources so his family doesn't have to move anymore. He now raises chickens on a small plot of land he calls his own.

"We are so happy and grateful for your support," Meng says. He even pays it forward, helping others in need learn how to save, earn and feed their families.

The CROP Hunger Walk changed Meng's life and many others. How many lives will you change by taking the first step?

Join the many friends and members of First Church on October 14 to walk or donate! Sign up on the "**Get Involved**" Bulletin Board outside the church office.

'Hunger Games' Event Scheduled

The youth of First Church invite anyone who has read the Hunger Games books or seen the movie to attend a discussion October 7 at 6 p.m.



While there are numerous theological themes that could be approached in a more lengthy study of *The Hunger Games* series, this session will focus solely on the ideas of human nature: what it means to be a "good" or "bad" person through the lens of

Christian faith, as well as how our perceptions of others affect our interactions with them in community.

Using characters from Scripture as well as from *The Hunger Games*, youth and adults will explore the idea that no one is truly "all good" or "all bad." They also will reflect on their own community circles and discuss the difficulties of living together as God intended when it feels as though we are in constant competition with our peers and friends.

We hope everyone who has enjoyed the book or the movie will join us for this two-part presentation.



The young people of First Church with the disaster kits they will donate to Church World Services.

Disaster Kits Help Many

The youth of First Church would like to thank the congregation for all the donated items and offering for the Church World Service Disaster Kit Mission Project.

Through your donated items, 10 complete disaster kits were compiled with many other additional items donated to the project. The congregation also gave over \$600 to Church World Services to purchase more kits.

The youth had a great time putting the kits together and knowing that as a church, we are helping those in great need during a time of crisis.

Minister of Music Search Reaches Final Interviews

By John Deliman, Search Committee Chair

The Minister of Music Search Committee has worked throughout the summer screening 31 potential candidates from all over the United States. In August, those 31 were narrowed to a list of 10 semi-finalists. Phone interviews were conducted and we are now entering the final stages of the search.



Three extremely gifted finalists will visit First Church for live, two-day audition/interviews. We hope to select our new Minister of Music by the first of November and have him in place after the first of the year.

My sincere thanks to our search committee for their time and dedication to our process. Committee members are: Neal Brower; John Deliman, chair; Jim Gallagher; Michael Hopcraft; Charlie Knerr; Judy Smith; Helen Spears; Shannon Washington; Mary Weaver; Rev. Tim Ahrens; Gerry Worth; and Marti Rideout.

Tutors Needed in Columbus Schools

Women and men are needed to tutor inner-city children to improve their reading. A police background check is required and costs about \$35. Urban Connections provides the program at the following schools:

- Fairwood Alternative Elementary, 726 Fairwood Ave. Wednesday, time to be determined, 3rd graders
- Ohio Ave. Elementary, 505 S. Ohio Ave. , Thursday, 11 a.m.-Noon, 1st graders
- Columbus Collegiate Academy, a charter school at 1469 E. Main St., Thursday, 2:30-3:45 p.m.

For more information, contact Burt Manchester at pastorburt@discovermyjourney.org, or call Dawn George at 338-0507.- **Dawn George**

A note from the Building Manager

The church is its people. Thank you so much to the First Church community of volunteers for making my job possible. Your kindness, your tireless commitment, your patient and persistent support bring glory to God and this house we share. – **Tom Luff**

FALL YOUTH EVENT 2012



High School Youth Event is Nov. 16-18

Each November, the UCC Ohio Conference offers a retreat for senior high youth, their advisors and pastors. The annual Fall Youth Event is an outdoor experience of personal self-discovery and enjoyment focused on foundations of faith, friends, leadership and fun, in experiences which expand life and faith horizons.

This year's event is November 16-18 at Pilgrim Hills camp near Bellevue. The cost is \$105, which includes a shirt. First Church will be providing each of our youth attending a \$50 scholarship toward the cost. Please see Mark Williams for registration information.

Fall Work Days at UCC Camps in October

Participating in fall work days at Templed Hills and Pilgrims Hills is a great opportunity to get out in the fall fresh air and spend time at camp volunteering to help with various projects. The work day at Templed Hills is October 6 and at Pilgrim Hills on October 27. Lunch is provided. For more information, go to www.ocucc.org.

Mission Project Collecting Pet Food

The 4th and 5th grade church school class is leading their own Mission Project! They are collecting pet food for the local animal shelter through October 7.

They are doing this in conjunction with the pet blessing, which will be held at 10 a.m. on October 6 here at First Church. Please look for donation boxes at each entrance. For more information, contact teachers Amy Wagner or Celeste Feather.

October Music Notes

By Marti Rideout, Interim Minister of Music
(mrideout@first-church.org)

CHOIRS

The Gallery Ringers and First Church Choir are off to a fine start this year, preparing for Sunday services and special programs. Their anthems add much to our communal praise.



The Treble and Teen Choirs also have started rehearsing and will soon be singing regularly in church. They will present the musical sermon "Five Loaves and Two Fishes" at the 11 a.m. service on November 11. It is not too late to join the Treble and Teen Choirs and enjoy the fun of singing together. Contact Marti Rideout if you are interested in joining.

FIRST TUESDAY CONCERT Paul A. Thornock II, organist October 2, 12:15 p.m.

The first organ concert of the fall season will feature Paul A. Thornock II, Cathedral Director of Music and Diocesan Music Consultant for Saint Joseph Cathedral in Columbus since 1999.

Paul conducts the semi-professional Cathedral Choir and the fully-professional Cathedral Schola, works as artistic director for the Cathedral Concerts Series, and has released two CD recordings with these groups.

He has performed for regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the 2008 National Convention of the Organ Historical Society, and has been heard as both an organist and conductor on the nationally syndicated radio programs *Pipedreams* and *With Heart and Voice*.

The half-hour concert will be followed by a soup and salad lunch (\$5) at 12:45 in the Parish Hall. The soup chef is none other than our Moderator Gerry Worth.

Spend your lunch hour feeding soul and body!

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERTS EVENSONG and CONCERT October 21, 4 p.m.

The First Church Choir will sing music of Herbert Howells, Herbert Sumsion, Charles Villiers Stanford, H. Balfour Gardiner, Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, and Ralph Vaughan Williams in the service of Evensong and a concert to honor **G. Dene Barnard**, Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus of First Congregational Church, on his 80th birthday. James Gallagher will conduct the choir, Dene will provide prelude and postlude music on the Beckerath Organ and Marti Rideout will accompany the choirs and congregation on the Kimball Organ. A reception will follow in the Parlor.



Dene travels to England each year with other organists, hears and plays organs in cathedrals, collegiate chapels and town halls. His love of the organ and of English music is known, thus the reason for the selection of English music for this Evensong.

The Evensong service is a combination of the ancient monastic offices of Vespers and Compline and is heard in late afternoon or early evening. Evensong includes the singing of a Psalm, the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, versicles and responses, an anthem, two readings of Scripture and sung and spoken prayers. It is one of the is a daily tradition throughout England.

The First Church Choir last sang a stunning Evensong at Washington National Cathedral in August 2011, just before the earthquake damaged the building. This Evensong will include a mini-concert of additional anthems and hymns and conclude with Dene's postlude.

Do You Know?

By Marti Rideout, Interim Minister of Music

In one week this summer, I received a request from an organist in Italy, one in Germany, and one in Canada to perform on our organs at First Church. Although three international requests might be exceptional for one week, there is not a week that goes by without someone in the area or visiting from elsewhere in the United States contacting us to play the organs. When I go into the Sanctuary to practice I am thrilled just to have the chance to play either one of the organs.

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Council Summary September 2012

Council met on September 18. Cindy Conn reported that the budget numbers are good and 2013 budgets are requested from the commissioners by October 15. The plan is to have the 2013 budget to council by the December meeting.

The Minister of Music Search Committee has narrowed its search to three candidates. The final interviews for these candidates have begun. John Deliman, chair of the committee, presented council with the timeline they have been following and schedule of events for the final interview. The Constitution Review Committee, co-chaired by John and Francille Firebaugh, will present a draft of the proposed revised constitution to council in October.



Several items were approved by Council:

- The church will purchase a new server for the computer system;
- The rent for the Suzuki program has been adjusted due to decreased enrollment in the program;
- The Capital Campaign will transfer funds to the trustees to establish an Organ Preservation Fund.
- The Capital Campaign will accept a transfer of personal property, which will be sold with the proceeds going to the campaign.

Sarah Reed discussed progress being made by the Transition Group for the restructuring of the Central Southeast Ohio Association. The association will have a meeting at First Community Church on October 27. Sarah then led a discussion with the commissions of the church highlighting the celebrations and challenges as they work toward the goals of the Long Range Plan. The next council meeting will be Tuesday, October 16, at 7 p.m. – **Submitted by Bev Cook, Secretary**

(MARTI RIDEOUT, Concluded from Page 6)

We are exceptionally blessed to have two independent, world-class instruments under one roof at First Church. We are exceptionally grateful for the vision of those planning our church building, that they would include such a magnificent instrument as the W.W. Kimball Organ (Chicago, Illinois) in the original design and construction in 1931. When the Kimball went into a state

of disrepair this church chose to install the Rudolf von Beckerath Organ (Hamburg, Germany) in the Gallery.

Thanks again to the wisdom of former leaders, the Kimball was not dismantled, destroyed, or sold, but remained until the generosity of Jean MacNevin permitted the restoration of the Kimball. Then there were two. With the Kimball and Beckerath organs there are more than 8000 pipes that are used to lead congregational song, accompany choirs, perform centuries of organ literature, and inspire the faithful beyond the telling.

We have the opportunity to hear the instruments regularly at our worship services. But it is in the concerts that we hear an even greater variety of organ color in the selection of certain stops and combinations. We also hear organ literature that may be too lengthy for a prelude or postlude or not in character with the theme of a particular worship service, but which infuses us with joy and the presence of the Divine like nothing else. Our lives are enriched beyond the norm by music that allows our emotions and spirits to soar.

During my time here as Interim Minister of Music for 14 months in 2008-2009 and for these six months ending in early January, I am aware that the majority of people who attend concerts at First Church are from beyond the congregation. I know not why. While I am delighted that people from the extended community attend concerts and perhaps even make First Church their home, I so wish our own congregation would attend more frequently and enjoy these offerings.

Also, in these concerts our children and young people can hear music of great quality, free and in a familiar setting. They deserve to be exposed to music they might not hear at home or at school, music that might awaken some deep and creative part of their being. Ah, yes, there will always be gardening to do, leaves to rake, soccer games to attend, family gatherings to enjoy, laundry and house-cleaning to get done.

Hopefully, we can accomplish our many tasks and still have the blessing of music in our lives at these special events. I hope to see you and your family members at concerts this year. Invite your friends and neighbors, so they, too, will know.

Contact Marti

614-487-9970 (home); 614-228-1741, ext. 12, (church)
martirideout@gmail.org; mrideout@first-church.org



The First Church Care Ministry and staff members honored longtime member Helen Spears with a luncheon and cake on September 11. Helen has moved to the Atlanta area. We wish her the best and hope she can return to visit from time to time!

UCC's 'Widening the Welcome' In Columbus November 1-3

The United Church of Christ is bringing "Widening the Welcome 2012" to Columbus next month. The conference is aimed at developing the life of congregations to include persons with disabilities and persons with mental illness/brain disorders and their families.

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Worthington, 7007 N. High St. Those interested in attending can register at <http://www.moredomainsforless.com/wideningthewelcome/registration>.

Churches usually have a welcome sign outside their building. What we want to demonstrate and encourage is the welcome that is experienced inside the church and as a result, that transformative power will be released into the world.

This conference seeks to build up churches to be welcoming and inclusive communities. This includes people who have been touched by or have experienced a mental illness/brain disorder and/or a disability, apparent or unapparent. National statistics indicate that at least one out of four families are in some way affected by these experiences.



You Can Make a Difference!

In a previous article you read about composting your kitchen waste. But now, where will you do that? One simple place is behind a shed or garage in your yard, or next to your garden. You can purchase a composting bin at hardware stores, online, or look for a free one on the "Freecycle" website. If you are handy, try standing wooden pallets on end, anchored by metal rods. Or you can keep your compost pile in an uncontained area (it just won't disintegrate as quickly as in a sun-absorbing black bin).

Mix your kitchen waste with grass clippings ('green') and mulched dead leaves, newspapers and wood chips ('brown'). The proper mix of green and brown will determine the chemical heat created and distributed, and the moisture content, of the compost. You'll want to keep it moist, but too wet and the microbes won't work and the compost will stink; too dry and the breakdown of the compost will be significantly slowed.

Regularly turning the compost with a pitch fork or shovel will help keep it aerated so those microbes can speedily continue their decomposition process. Once completed, your compost will be a rich, dark soil that you can spread over your garden or flower beds to improve those plants. Recycling at its best!

After creating the earth, God declared it "very good." We are all stewards of our earth, so remember that your everyday actions do make a difference. – **Kent Shimeall**



Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the Good Samaritan Endowment Fund by:
The Washington Family
Marty and Gerald Worth in celebration of their grandchildren

Given to the Starr-Wingfield Furnishings Fund by:
Lucille Kropp in honor of Twink Starr's 90th birthday

Your gifts, payable to the First Congregational Church, are very much appreciated. Celebration Gifts may be designated to the Remembrance Fund or an Endowment Fund and given in honor of a particular moment in the life of friend or family member. The gold-colored Celebration Gift folders can be found in the church pews and the Church office. If you would like to support First Church as part of your estate planning, please contact Rev. Ahrens or a Trustee.



Missions Offering Schedule

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

- October 7 - Neighbors in Need
- October 14 - CROP Walk
- October 21 - Re-Member
- October 28 - Good Samaritan



First Church Faith Mission Serving Schedule

Serving is at the men's shelter, 151 N. 6th St. **Dinners are served the 4th Friday of the month, and lunches on the 4th Saturday of the month.**

Friday Dinners: Serve 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.; Servers need to arrive by 6:15 p.m. **November 23 (Day after Thanksgiving)**

Saturday Lunches: Serve 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.; Servers need to arrive by noon. **October 27**

We serve by the grace of God in loving memory of Dorothy Cromartie, Jerome Daily and Karen Carpenter. If you have questions, contact Linda Gieseke at lgieseke@insight.rr.com.

Member Happy October Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1: Melinda Anderson | 20: Nancy Bouman |
| 2: Craig Oyler | 20: Hadley Bachman |
| 2: Peter Murray | 21: Reggie Cannon |
| 2: Lauren Glaros | 21: Gary Leidheiser |
| 2: Jon Leidheiser-Stoddard | 21: Jennifer Dean |
| 4: Charlie Weaver | 22: Alan Miller |
| 5: Keith White | 22: Carter Rodriguez |
| 5: Jessica Catenacci | 23: Betsy Hubbard |
| 6: Andrew Welsh-Huggins | 24: Sharon Walquist |
| 6: Tammy Wharton | 24: Celeste Feather |
| 7: Lisa Fravel-Dean | 24: Sean Breedlove |
| 8: Bert Cook | 25: Murley Miller |
| 8: Deana Armstrong | 25: Kevin Carrico |
| 9: Dawn George | 25: Michael Warrick |
| 9: Pam Welsh-Huggins | 26: Gail Johannes |
| 9: Jennifer Bryant | 26: Kathie Cole |
| 10: Nate Weygandt | 26: Heather Biggers |
| 12: Mary Day Fewlass | 26: Barbara Mason |
| 12: Hugh Schultz | 27: Mary Ann Goetz |
| 12: Barb Poppe | 27: Shawn Finley |
| 14: Drew Wade | 27: Carl Miller |
| 15: Kathleen Ferguson | 27: Summer Petras |
| 17: Dene Barnard | 28: Greg Halbe |
| 17: Jackie Dean | 28: Stephanie Koscher |
| 17: Nicole Baas | 28: Eddie Anderson |
| 18: Carol Rodriguez | 30: Geoff Dean |
| 18: Gayle Henderson | 30: Mark Knueve |
| 19: Mike Knerr | 31: Martha Huey |
| 20: Frank Hussey | 31: Mike Bockbrader |

Member Happy October Anniversaries

- 2: Julie Light-Gregory and Courtenay Gregory
- 3: Michelle and Scott Winberry
- 5: Barb Poppe and Bill Faith
- 7: Kathryn Bamberger and Steve Brandehoff
- 7: Lauren and Chris Glaros
- 7: Valerie Conlin-Losinski and David Losinski
- 9: Carrie and Dave Ghose
- 10: Lisa Fravel-Dean and McAshan Dean
- 10: Elizabeth Drotleff and Eric Chambers
- 11: Jan and Richard Kevan
- 11: Cori and Ben Rowley
- 13: Amber and Joe Lane
- 14: Jenny and Joe Provenvano
- 16: Gretchen and Eddie Fleurant
- 18: Amy and Scott Fulton
- 21: Kathy and Tom Brownfield
- 23: Elaine and James Borling
- 27: Christa and Eric Ewing

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

*New Contact Information?
 Let us know so we can let you know.*

*Call the office at 228-1741
 or email us at home@first-church.org.*

Calendar

Monday, October 1

6 pm – Church Growth/Parish Life – Ed Wing Rm D

6:30 pm – Music Search Committee - LC

Tuesday, October 2

12:15 pm – First Tuesday Concert – San

12:45 pm – First Tuesday Luncheon – PH

1:30 pm – Care Ministry – PFR

1:30 pm – Remembrance Committee – LC

5:30 pm – Sacred Earth – LC

7 pm – Education Committee – Ed Wing, Room D

7 pm – Mission Committee - LC

7 pm – Deacons – Adult Library

Wednesday, October 3

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, October 4

6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery

7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room/Sanctuary

Saturday, October 6

10 am – Pet Blessing – East Lawn

Sunday, October 7

9 am – Worship – PH

9 am – Teen/Treble Choir – Choir Room

10 am – Christian Education Hour – Rooms C and D

10 am – First Church Choir

11 am – Worship – San

12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D

6 pm – Sonreir – PH and Youth Room

Monday, October 8

7 pm – Trustees – LC

Tuesday, October 9

12 pm – Care Ministry – LC

6 pm – Music Committee – Parlor

7 pm – Executive Committee – PFR

Wednesday, October 11

All Day – Music Search Committee – San and LC

Thursday, October 12

All Day – Music Search Committee – San and LC

10 am – Thursday Fellowship – Parlor

6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery

7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room/Sanctuary

Saturday, October 13

10 am – First Church Quilters - LC

Sunday, October 14

9 am – Worship – PH

9 am – Teen/Treble Choir – Choir Room

10 am – Christian Education Hour – Rooms C and D

10 am – First Church Choir

11 am – Worship – San

12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

12 pm – CROP Walk – Genoa Park

Monday, October 15

6:30 pm – Music Search Committee – LC

Tuesday, October 16

12 pm – Care Ministry- LC

7 pm – Church Council – LC

Wednesday, October 17

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, October 18

6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery

7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room/Sanctuary

Saturday, October 20

9 am – House and Grounds – PFR

Sunday, October 21

9 am – Worship – PH

9 am – Teen/Treble Choir – Choir Room

10 am – Christian Education Hour – Rooms C and D

10 am – First Church Choir

11 am – Worship – San

12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D

4 pm – Congregational Concert – San

6 pm – Sonreir – PH and Youth Room

Monday, October 22

7 pm – First Connections – LC

Tuesday, October 23

12 pm – Care Ministry – LC

7 pm – Personnel – PFR

Wednesday, October 24

All Day – Music Search Committee – San and LC

Thursday, October 25

All Day – Music Search Committee – San and LC

6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Gallery

7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room/Sanctuary

Sunday, October 28

9 am – Worship – PH

9 am – Teen/Treble Choir – Choir Room

10 am – Christian Education Hour – Rooms C and D

10 am – First Church Choir

11 am – Worship – San

12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH

12:30 pm – Music Search Committee – LC

6 pm – Middle School Youth – Middle School Room

6 pm – Sonreir – PH and Youth Room

Monday, October 29

6:30 pm – Music Search Committee – LC

7 pm – Budget and Finance – PFR

Tuesday, October 30

12 pm – Care Ministry – LC

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on October 7 and 21 during Fellowship Hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated.

Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submitting articles for the November *First Church News* is October 19 at noon. It will be published November 1.

Prayers

Prayers

October Fellowship Hour

October 7: Daniel
 October 14: Deuteronomy
 October 21: Ephesians
 October 28: Galatians

October Acolyte Schedule

October 7: Adam Wade and Will Zimmerman
 October 14: Cameron Wade and Ben Allen
 October 21: Emma Rau and Erin Murray
 October 28: Luke Zimmerman and Jack Koscher
 (Schedules online at www.first-church.org)

Prayer Request: Please let us know of a prayer concern for yourself, a family member or other church member by calling the Rev. Timothy Ahrens at 614.228.1741, ext. 13, by using prayer request cards found in each pew or by emailing tahrens@first-church.org.

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

Weddings

Ashley Motley and Anthony Weber – September 8
 Ashley Bachmann and Scott Schussler – September 15
 Allison Booth and Jason Nicholas – September 29
 Jayla Resler and Chris Stroeer – September 29

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

Thursday Fellowship Meets October 11

The Thursday Fellowship will meet at 10 a.m., October 11, in the Parlor. Tom Worley will present a program entitled "The Holy Land: Bright Sun and Dark Shadows." Based on a two-week pilgrimage that Tom took this past summer with his son Peter, Tom will offer a sojourner's reflection on encountering the people, sites and smells of Israel and the Palestinian territories. There will be refreshments, and everyone is welcome.

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
 Marti Rideout.....Interim 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
 Rosemary Pawandiwa-Priore.....Nursery
 Summer Petras, Sarah Welsh-Huggins.....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/Ken Salak.....Treasurer/Assistant
 Neal Brower/Jim Fewlass.....Administration/Assistant
 Melissa Prendergast/Deb Thompson.....Church Growth/Asst.
 Tanya Miller/Deana Armstrong.....Education/Asst
 Charlie Weaver/Rick Sayre.....House & Grounds/Assistant
 Bruce Panek/Matt Allen.....Mission/Assistant
 Cori Rowley/Catherine Kennedy.....Parish Life/Assistant
 Elaine Warren.....Senior Deacon
 Betty Johnson.....Deacon
 Jim Gallagher/Greg Halbe.....Music, Arts, Heritage/Asst.
 David Holt.....Nominating Chair
 Randy Hoffman.....Trustees
 James Knerr.....Member-at-large
 Lisa Morris.....Member-at-large

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

DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT
Please Deliver By: *Thursday, October 4, 2012*

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