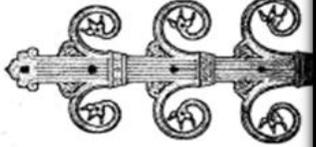




# First Church News



## First Congregational Church

*United Church of Christ • Columbus, Ohio*

**Oct. 24, 2009**  
**Vol. 157, No. 10**

## Together! A Call to Stewardship

*By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister*



*If I can stop one heart from breaking,  
I shall not live in vain;  
If I can ease one life the aching,  
Or cool one pain,  
Or help one fainting robin,  
Unto his nest again,  
I shall not live in vain.  
– Emily Dickinson –*



It was a late November day in 1999 when this congregation called me to be Senior Minister. I was filled with emotion as I stood before you to receive the news. I accepted your call and together we began the journey of faith that has brought to this day and time.

My life has been blessed in so many ways through our 10 years of life together. I have held your babies at birth and baptism. I have watched them grow and been honored to teach them in Confirmation. I have worked on rooftops and in run down homes with you and witnessed teens grow-up before my eyes. I have knelt beside your beloved ones as they have breathed their last breath and entered eternal life. I have held you as the deep sighs and heaviness of grief overwhelmed you. I have listened in pained silence as you have shared the hurts of your life in counseling, in home visits, in nursing homes, in hospital rooms.

I have stood close enough to see the love in your eyes and the delight in your spirits as so many of you have exchanged vows before the cross of Christ and the congregation gathered for your commitments in marriage or life partnership. I have been there when you have held one another and recommitted yourselves before the same cross of Christ.

*(Continued on Page 3)*



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## First Church Family to Remember Loved Ones On All Saints Day

All Saints Day is November 1. We will celebrate in worship at 9 and 11 a.m. the loved ones we have lost in this past year.



We invite you to come to worship and share their names with us. We also will lift up the eight men and women who have died from our congregation since our last All Saint's celebration.

The music will be glorious and special in every imaginable way. We will celebrate with Holy Communion at both services.

Also, remember to turn back your clocks one hour. We all have one extra hour of sleep – so let's ALL make it to worship.

# From the Pastors

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## A Matter of Giving

By the Rev. Barbara R. Cunningham  
Associate Minister



On a recent day, a woman came in to our church asking for a pastor. We had just had "Good Sam Day" and usually give out all the money we have to those in need on that day. As I listened to and talked with this woman, my heart cried.

She was a college graduate, coming from an abusive situation at home, and needing to leave. She had a young son with her, and another in school, and was nine months pregnant. She never believed she would be in this situation. They had walked a long way to get to this church, and humbly asked for help.

I tell you this story because sometimes we think giving is about money. And it is, to a certain extent. Yet today I was reminded about how the use of money is important, but the love and care with which we give what we have is why we are here. Marty Worth came to help her with the money, and the important thing that Marty gave was a non-judgmental attitude filled with love and concern. This woman felt that caring.

I took her back to her home to get her things so she could go to her home in Kentucky. On the ride there, she shared how she had been treated by Stan (our building manager) one day when she asked to park in our lot. He listened to her, and treated her with the dignity she deserved.

Together we give. We work with each other to make the world a better place. Giving our money is only the first step to being a community of faith. When we work together and we pay our staff, the staff reaches out to the community. When we give to different mission projects, the community expands to the world around us.

When we give of our time to plan ahead, to work on the commissions, to serve in many capacities, our church becomes a place from which people want to serve.

This stewardship campaign. "Together," is about supporting our passion of making the world a place of justice and love. I felt good that today we were able to give of ourselves as staff, and help with the dollars contributed by our community of faith.

**Read the First Church News Online**  
[www.first-church.org](http://www.first-church.org)

## A Look at Our Staffing

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

Now in the last part of 2009 and headed toward a new year, the staff is ready and willing to serve the members of First Church. We are here to support the mission and ministry of the church as partners. Here is an update on staffing matters:

**Associate Minister Search:** Since early August, the search committee for the Associate Minister has been meeting regularly. We received 28 candidate profiles and/or resumes. Our range of candidates is expansive is so many ways. We are delighted by the excellence choices before us.

The deadline was October 15 for all profiles to be in our hands. We will give thorough and prayerful consideration to all our candidates. We will narrow the field and conduct telephone interviews, and eventually, we will bring a limited number of candidates to First Church. We hope to present a candidate to Church Council as soon as possible.

Knowing that Rev. Cunningham's interim service will come to end on December 31, we hope to have the new Associate Minister in place by early 2010. However, we will not rush to judgment on this important decision. Karen Carpenter and Mike Weddle are offering excellent leadership to our committee of 11, plus myself and Melody Leidheiser, moderator.

**Job descriptions and change of assignments:** The Senior Minister and Associate Minister assignments and job descriptions have shifted in 2009. The Senior Minister has taken over more of the pastoral care and oversight for care of the congregation. The Associate Minister has taken on more administrative work, as well as young adult ministries and several commission and committee assignments previously handled by other staff members.

The Associate Minister has direct supervisory responsibility for the Business Administrator, Office Manager, Building Manager and Program Manager. The Senior Minister supervises the Associate Minister, Music Minister and Christian Education Director. We are making the shift of responsibilities in the interim period. The new Associate will step into this structure as it is currently functioning.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Harvest Party a Success

By Amy Fulton, Parish Life Committee



members of all ages.

Thank you to all who came out to this year's annual Harvest Party at Tom and Kathy Brownfield's house! Food, fun and games were enjoyed by

An extra special thank you to the Brownfields for opening up their home and sharing their beautiful, serene homestead with all of us!

**Upcoming events: December 6** – Hanging of the Greens. Please join us following the 11 a.m. service to decorate the church for Advent. Lunch will be provided by Parish Life for all those who volunteer.

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

You have dunked me, brought your pets to receive a blessing, joined in campfires at Temple Hills, stood with me in protest against injustice, and even laughed at me (or kindly refrained from laughing) when I was a fool. You have shared your good news and bad news. You have shared your stories of love and laughter and your stories of dissolution and separation. I have been richly blessed by God to be able to serve as your pastor since your call to me ten years ago.

*We have done this TOGETHER.*

Together we will continue to step forward in faith. But, I must be totally honest. Every one of us needs to step forward as Stewards for the Lord. Together, we need to find a way to give with humble and open hearts to the 2010 stewardship campaign. We cannot "nickel and dime" the church and her ministry and mission. We need to invest in her if she is to make a difference for years to come. Each of us needs to become a "great" giver. We need this for ourselves and we need this for First Church as a whole.

On November 8, I will look for everyone in church. On this Celebration Sunday, we will come together to praise God and share our commitments for 2010. One word comes to my mind – **TOGETHER!**

## Newsletter Going to Email Delivery in 2010

In an effort to save time and money, the *First Church News* is going electronic in early 2010.

Beginning with the January issue, we will be emailing the newsletter to members who have email, rather than sending it through the Postal Service. Those who do not have email can contact the church office (228-1741) and we will continue to mail it to you as we now do.

We have estimated that by eliminating most of the newsletter mailing, we will save nearly \$3,000 a year in ink, paper, postage and time.

In the meantime, don't forget that you also can read the *First Church News* online at [www.first-church.org](http://www.first-church.org). We also will continue to post the newsletter on the Web site when we make the switch to email delivery.

## Upcoming Sermon Titles



- October 25: *"Together in Suffering and Healing"* - Psalm 34:1-8; Mark 10:46-52 (Rev. Cunningham)
- November 1: All Saints Day - *"Together in Life and Death"* - Ruth 1:1-8, Mark 12:28-34
- November 8: Celebration Sunday - *"Together As Stewards in All Things for All Times"* - Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17, Mark 12:38-44
- November 15: *"Dedicated to God"* - I Samuel 1:4-20, Mark 13:1-8
- November 22: Reign of Christ and Thanksgiving Sunday *"To Reign Over the Earth"* - John 18:33-37, Revelation 1: 4b-8

## Advent/Christmas Sermon Series: "For Such a Time as This"

- November 29: First Sunday of Advent – *"Come Soon"* - Luke 21:25-36
- December 6: Second Sunday of Advent *"Make Ready"* - Luke 3:1-6
- December 13: Third Sunday of Advent *"Move Forward"* - Luke 3:7-18
- December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent *"Sing for Joy"* - Luke 1:39-55 (Rev. Cunningham)
- December 24: Christmas Eve - *"Stand in Awe"* - Luke 2:1-20

## Monday Night Lights Includes Series of Parenting Classes

By Mark S. Williams, Director of Christian Education



Parenting classes will be offered again this year during the Monday Night Lights program. This program is funded in part by the Dorinda White Endowment and the Alma Keeler Endowment Fund. There is a limit of 20 participants for each class.

Last year, the program was conducted in a series. This year each class is a stand-alone topic. The classes will begin at 7 p.m. and end at 8:30. The classes will be present by Action for Children. This is the same organization that produced "The Art of Positive Parenting" last year.

Child care will be provided in the nursery. To register for the classes, please contact Mark S. Williams at [mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org) or call 228-1741, ext. 15.

The schedule includes:

**November 2 - Stress/Mental Health: Taking Care of YOU**

**January 4 - You Don't Have To Do It All Yourself**

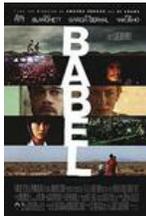
**February 1 - Teaching Children Self-Control**

**March 1 - From Idols to Loser: The Real Story about TV**

**April 5 - Bullying Prevention: New Strategies for Parents and Caregivers**

## Babel is Next in MNL Movie Line-Up

Join us for the first Monday of each month, except December, for a great night of programming. The program begins at 7 p.m. with the movie series in the Parish Hall and the Parenting classes in Room D. Childcare is provided.



**November 2 - Babel**

**January 4 - Doubt**

**February - Slumdog Millionaire**

**March 1 - Earth**

**April 5 - Saved**

Pam Kallner will serve as the facilitator for *Babel*. The movie presents a look at the striking consequences of international communication and a growing fear and isolationism in the United States in the years after the September 11, 2001, attacks. It is this complex,

interconnected and fearful world that the film *Babel* explores.

In the film, three stories set in three different locations intersect in unforeseen ways. A husband and wife are on vacation in Morocco, and their children are being watched by a nanny in southern California. The relationship of a father and daughter in Japan is also explored. As the plot unfolds and the interconnections of these characters are revealed, the audience is left with a renewed appreciation of how the decisions of one person can potentially affect the lives of people halfway around the world.

We will explore in depth the themes of global interconnectedness, suspicious fear and the complexity of relationships in this new world.

## The Tree is Growing!

Be sure to visit the second floor education wing to see how our tree is growing. The children and youth write their name on a leaf that represents the liturgical color of the day. The leaves are added each week based on attendance during the education hour. During this time when the trees outside our losing their leaves, our tree is growing more leaves every week!

## Rotating Art Exhibit

The Christian Education and Art Committees have joined forces to bring a rotating art exhibit to the first floor hallway of the Education Wing. The art displayed is from the "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum used in church school. Each piece relates to the stories and lessons being presented. The exhibit will change every quarter. Be sure to check it out!

## Fall Youth Event Planned Nov. 13-15

Each November, the Ohio Conference UCC offers a retreat for senior high youth, their advisors and pastors. It is an outdoor experience of personal self-discovery and enjoyment. This year's schedule is:

Dates: 7 p.m., Friday, November 13, to 11 a.m., Sunday, November 15

Location: Pilgrim Hills Camp, Brinkhaven, Ohio

Cost: \$110 per person – Includes lodging for 2 nights, 4 meals, snacks, t-shirts and program costs

To register, go online to [www.ocucc.org](http://www.ocucc.org).

## From the Music Office

By Jamie Bobb, Minister of Music



This year, All Saints' Day, November 1, falls on a Sunday. This triggers many thoughts for me.

First, one of my good friends and spiritual mentors, now dead, exclaimed to me once in an effort to emphasize the importance of Christian community: There is no such thing as an individual Christian! Although prone to exaggeration, he made a good point, that only together in Christ do we have the potential to transform our lives and the world around us.

Certainly many of us have had encounters with the sacred when in solitude. Many of the mystics sought that in solitude, but it is in corporate worship that we are especially able to translate that experience into outward expressions.

Second, the timing of November 1 right in the middle of our time of stewardship can remind us that giving of our time, talent and treasure is far more potent when we collect those efforts together. That starts with praying, singing, hearing and proclaiming the word together.

Another of my mentors, now dead, asserted that there was no greater witness than Christians at worship. And that experience cannot be duplicated via TV, internet or any other electronic medium; we need to be physically present in worship. I like to think that when we speak, pray, and especially sing together, our voices being an extension of ourselves, we can occupy the same space at the same time, giving unique witness to our unity of purpose in Christ.

Third, this year November 1 will be the 10th anniversary of my dad's death. At every All Saints' Sunday service I know of, congregations include a necrology, the list of those in their community of faith who have died in the last year. The unspoken counterpart to that, of course, is that all present also are remembering the many beloved who have died all the years they can remember before that. Note the final stanza of *For All the Saints*.

*From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!  
Alleluia!*

One of the difficult decisions in moving to Columbus was leaving the weekly celebration of Holy Communion. But I am consoled that each year All Saints' Sunday will

include Holy Communion. The climactic moment of praise in that liturgy comes when we all join to sing the Sanctus: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: heaven and earth are full of your glory.* But the sentence leading up to that moment puts it in the widest possible context, enlarging its significance. Every Eucharistic Prayer leads us to the high point of the Sanctus with these or similar words: "And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn."

The vastness of that moment when we join with the great cloud of witnesses – those living, those dead – is that here we realize and join the fullness of the gift of Christian community, visible and invisible; we join as one with the saints of all times and all places. How can that fail to change our lives and the world?

## CONGREGATIONAL CONCERTS

**October 25, 4 p.m.**

**First Church Choral Society**

This concert honors the anniversary year of several composers in a Choral Society performance of the Coronation Anthem *Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened* by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), the chorale cantata *Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten (If you but trust in God to guide you)* by Mendelssohn (1809-1847), and a motet by Purcell (1659-1695).

**November 8, 4 p.m.**

**Chatham Baroque – Alchemy for Three**

This baroque violin, viola da gamba, and theorbo/lute/baroque guitar trio has thrilled audiences in Montreal, Mexico City, the British Virgin Islands, and all over the US with their dazzling technique and innovative interpretations of music of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. In its hometown, Chatham Baroque is repeatedly listed among the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette's* "Top 50 Cultural Forces."

In this program, *Alchemy for Three*, the trio celebrates the capacity of music to transform, to make manifest out of wood, gut and horsehair that which stirs and awes, to transfigure three instruments and notes on a page into an exponent of soul. The program includes music of Biber, Schmeltzer, Bach and others.

## Compline

Plan to join us for the evening service of Compline at 9 p.m. on November 15.

## Outgoing UCC leader talks about His Decade of Leadership



The Rev. John Thomas stepped aside as general minister and president of the United Church of Christ on October 1 after 10 years of service. In this interview with *United Church News*, reprinted in part, he talks about his time as UCC leader and the challenges facing his successor, the Rev. Geoffrey Black.

### How has the UCC changed in the 10 years you've been GMP?

The easy answer, and the hard answer, is that we're smaller than we were 10 years ago. We're not alone among denominations in this, but that doesn't make it feel any better. The reasons for this are complex and long standing, and that cautions against simplistic finger pointing.

At the same time, during these 10 years I've encountered an increasing number of local churches across the UCC that are growing. Those that are growing have been welcoming to all, courageous in their commitments to justice and peace, committed to excellence in worship, and passionate about transmitting the Gospel to a new generation of Christians.

### What do you feel was your biggest accomplishment?

I've long felt that we don't effectively articulate the deep connection between personal piety and public responsibility. This has often left our justice work looking very much like secular political activity or, on the other hand, turned piety into private introspection, what one theologian described as "the manicure of our own souls."

In my preaching, teaching, writing and public witness I have tried hard to make the connections, showing how sacraments, scripture, prayer, and theology shape a spirituality of resistance to the dominating and demeaning powers. I think people have noticed this about me, and have appreciated it. As products of the Enlightenment, we've tended to believe that if we think and do the right things, we'll succeed. Perhaps the pre-Enlightenment reformers have something to teach our post-Enlightenment church, namely that our only comfort is that we belong to Jesus Christ. To the extent that I

have prompted a rebalancing of head and hand with heart, I think I've made a contribution.

### What was your biggest disappointment?

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the struggle for justice in Palestine have dominated the 10 years of my leadership.

Arrogance and idolatry have swept across our political landscape and horrible things have been done in our name. Voices of protest and resistance have been raised, ours among them. But for the most part, and in the main, we have sounded a cautious, at times a timid note of resistance. . . . Have we learned anything? I continue to be haunted by a quote from Bonhoeffer: "Are we still of any use?"

### What is the greatest challenge the UCC faces?

Leadership, leadership, leadership! Whether for large, vital congregations, or small, vital congregations, or for congregations ready for renewal, or for emerging and developing congregations, the role of the pastoral leader is crucial. Courageous congregations need leaders who can equip them biblically and theologically for the prophetic task. Generous congregations need leaders who can inspire sacrifice. Evangelical congregations need leaders who can teach the faith and nurture deep practice. And good leaders need a church prepared to discern their gifts, train them, support them and continually challenge them.

### *(STAFF, Concluded from Page 2)*

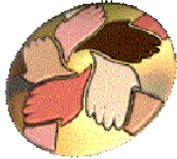
As "chief of staff," the Senior Minister is ultimately responsible for overall oversight of staff. I feel the men and women serving you at this time are gifted, focused and created for service to Christ and his church. We have been blessed with great interim ministers in Marti Rideout and in Rev. Cunningham. We have seen our music ministry grow with the arrival of Jamie Bobb in July 2009. Likewise, I am eager to grow and develop with our new Associate in the coming years.

We anticipate someone coming who has great faith, great ideas, great leadership and gifts for ministry. If you have joys or concerns about the staff, please contact me. I will answer or forward it to the best person for the answer. My phone number is: 614-228-1741, ext. 13. My email is tahrens@first-church.org. Thanks, and God bless you all!

## BREAD House Meetings Prepare for Annual Assembly

By Priss Endo

During October, congregations in Franklin County have been holding house meetings to identify community problems that will be prioritized at the BREAD Annual Assembly on November 16.



At the First Church meetings held so far, participants cited problems in education – early childhood education, educational funding and the need for family support – as a major area of concern. Economic inequality, drugs and unemployment also were identified

as critical problems.

From the problems identified at house meetings, BREAD will present three categories for consideration at the Annual Assembly. Examples of categories might be education, crime and drugs, healthcare and economic inequality. Voting by congregation, one problem area is chosen by the whole assembly. Then the research process begins, as BREAD leadership looks for solutions that can be cut into an issue for presentation next year at the Nehemiah Action.

The November 16 assembly will be held at Rhema Christian Center, 2100 Agler Rd.

The BREAD Team also is working to expand the Justice Ministry Network at First Church. Network members need to agree to bring three people to the Nehemiah Action Meeting on Monday, May 3, 2010, and attend two other BREAD meetings to get ready for that meeting: the November 16 assembly and the BREAD rally April 12. If you would like to be a network member, contact Priss Endo at 614-231-2483.

## Check Your Mailbox for Statements!

Third quarter pledge statements for donations given through September 30 are now available in your church mailbox.



Please help us save postage by picking up your statement. If you have any questions or corrections please contact Sharon Leidheiser at 228-1741, ext. 11, or [sleidheiser@first-church.org](mailto:sleidheiser@first-church.org).

## Good Samaritan Fund Needs Your Help to Serve Those in Need

Marty Worth, Program Manager

“Together” is the stewardship theme this year. The Good Samaritan Fund could not survive the demand for help placed on it by those in need if it were not for the “togetherness in mission” at First Church.

The donation of the quarterly deposits from the Good Samaritan Endowment Fund is the foundation for Good Samaritan Day, but it is the contributions received from individuals and the mission Sunday offerings that allow us to serve many more.

As of this month, we have served 590 clients, putting the fund on a pace to surpass last year’s total of 650. As winter arrives, the need for help with utilities will increase. Our requests for help with food has doubled. Many clients tell us we are the only place that helps with small need such as COTA bus passes, state IDs and food (Kroger gift cards for \$20). The offering donated on Good Sam mission Sunday is given out immediately on the next Good Sam day.



Thank you for your support of our efforts. If anyone wishes to make a donation to the fund, you can make a check out to First Church and mark it “Good Samaritan Fund.” Together we can make a difference.

## Totes on Sale for \$10



Sturdy canvas totes remain for sale at \$10 each. The \$8 profit from the sale of each tote will be used by House and Grounds to make the building more energy efficient.

Totes may be purchased on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at the Fair Trade Coffee sales table during Fellowship Hour and in the church office. Thank you for the support of this mission.

# First Church News

## Thanksgiving Food Collection Set for November 22



November 22 has been designated as our food collection day for Gladden Community House Food Pantry and Broad Street Presbyterian Church Food Pantry.

The Mission Commission is asking for donations of canned and non-perishable food items to be collected during the 9 and 11 a.m. worship services that day. Please remember this date and bring what you are able. The Missions Commission thanks you!

## Your Cookie Tins Are Needed!

The Cookie Mission is just around the corner and we need your help. If you have cookie tins that you are not using, please bring them into the church office to use for the Cookie Mission on Sunday, December 13.

Call Sharon Leidheiser at 228-1741, ext. 11, or email her (sleidheiser@first-church.org) for more information.



## Mission Offerings Schedule

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

**November 1 - Catalyst**

**November 8 - Catalyst**

**November 15 - Darfur – C.O.S.N.**

**November 22 - BOBS**

**November 29 - BOBS**



**Don't Forget!**  
**Daylight Saving Time**  
**Begins 2 a.m., Nov. 1**  
**Set clocks back 1 hour**

## Artist's Exhibit at First Church Continues Through October



An exhibit by local artist Evangelia Philippidis will continue in the Large Conference Room through the end of October.

Evangelia was born and raised in Athens, Greece, until the age of 9, and she immigrated to the United States in 1966. Her childhood memories of climbing the Acropolis with her father, of running through the Parthenon and around its massive columns, touching the polished marble works of sculptured art created by the great ancient Greek masters remain intact.

The true object of Evangelia's art is the Greek icon that tells the story of God and man, unwavering faith and its sacrifice.

As a full-time designer/illustrator for the *Columbus Dispatch* for 22 years, Evangelia's award-winning work was often featured in the Faith and Values section. She is owner of an illustration and design studio, Silver Moon Graphics, and adjunct instructor of illustration at Columbus College of Art & Design.

## Recent Gifts to First Church

*By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum*

Given to the Remembrance Fund in honor of Bert Cook:

**Sarah and Gunter Garbe**

Given to B.R.E.A.D. in celebration of the life of Jerome Dailey by:

**Jim and Mary Day Fewless**

*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.*



*Save a tree!*

*Read the First Church Sermons Online at [www.first-church.org](http://www.first-church.org)*



## Author Crossan to Lecture in Cleveland on Nov. 13-14

First Church's Wednesday morning book study is examining *The First Paul* by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. Next month, those interested can listen to Crossan in person during a lecture series at Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ in Cleveland.



Crossan's lecture series, "Jesus and Paul: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," will begin Friday, November 13, at 6:30 p.m. with registration and a book signing by Crossan. His lecture begins at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, November 14, registration begins at 8 a.m., with the series of three lectures starting at 8:30 a.m.

To register in advance, go to [www.pilgrimalive.org](http://www.pilgrimalive.org). Registration at the door costs an additional \$5, and there is an additional charge for Saturday lunch.

## Monthly Budget Update

### Current Pledge Income

Annual Budget - \$616,447  
September Actual - \$48,927  
YTD Actual - \$441,820  
YTD Budget - \$462,335  
Behind Budget - \$20,515



### September Mission Offerings

United Church Homes - \$355.25  
Downtowners - \$599.70  
Deep Griha - \$541.50  
Gladden House - \$473.35  
Good Samaritan Fund - \$785  
BREAD - \$200  
Total - \$2,954.80

**Has your email or phone number changed? If so, let us know by calling the office (228-1741) or emailing us ([home@first-church.org](mailto:home@first-church.org)) so we can keep you in the know.**

## Member Happy November Birthdays

3:	Sarah Garbe	18:	Eric Mathey-Appossan
3:	Tom Bishop	18:	Billy Cannon
4:	Cynthia Burnell	19:	Bob Roberts
5:	Caitlin Stewart	19:	Paul Flocke
6:	Michael McCrary	20:	John Matchett
6:	Nate Vogt	20:	Schlelia Daines
7:	Matt DeCastro	21:	Charlie Knerr
8:	James O'Neill	22:	Jane Weddle
9:	Brianna Burkett	22:	Chuck Kelley
9:	David Leidheiser	23:	Bill Wagner
10:	Jean Sankey	24:	Sandra Kirk
10:	Ann Aeschbury	24:	Scott Warrick
12:	Julia Hadley	25:	Henry Bell
12:	Don Streibig	27:	Bill Boden
13:	Melanie Brown	27:	Beth Iannarino
13:	John Aeschbury	27:	Dan Williamson
14:	Amanda DeCastro	27:	Rhonda Daniels
15:	Barbara Reed	28:	Nell Cole
15:	Sadie Oldham	28:	Megan Kelley
16:	Barbara Knox	29:	David Ghose
17:	Judy Smith	30:	Michael Deemer
17:	Joyce Oyler		

## Member Happy November Anniversaries

4:	Stephanie and Michael Koscher
6:	Jennifer and Mark Leidheiser
7:	Amy Nicholson and Mohamed Obeid-Salim
8:	Vanessa Coterel and Michael Deemer
8:	Joanna and James McWilliams
9:	Susan Sitler and Tim Ahrens
10:	Janette and Randy Hoffman
10:	Lesley and Karl Schaab
15:	Mary-Margaret and Doug Zimmerman
18:	Michelle and Grant Paullo
23:	Sarah Reed and Sandra Geronimo
26:	Kathleine and Guy Cole
26:	Sarah and Wally Giffen
26:	Sandra and Michael Valinis
28:	Rhonda and Joe Daniels
29:	Janet and Rick Pfeiffer

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).

**Eastside Fellowship:** The Eastside Fellowship will meet November 12 at 10 a.m. in the Parlor. Everyone is welcome!

# Church Calendar

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## **Sunday, October 25**

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room  
9 am – Early Worship - PH  
10 am – Education Hour  
10 am – First Church Choir – Choir Room  
11 am - Worship Service - San  
12 pm – Fellowship Hour - PH  
12:15 pm – Stewardship Forum – LC  
4 pm – Congregational Concert – San  
5:30 pm – Reception – PH

## **Monday, October 26**

6:30 pm – Technology Committee – PFR  
7 pm – Search Committee - LC

## **Tuesday, October 27**

11 am – Tuesdays at First Book Study – LC  
12:00 pm – Card Care Ministry – PFR  
12:15 pm – Tuesdays at First Concert – San  
12:45 pm – Tuesdays at First Luncheon – PH  
1:30 pm – Card Care Ministry – LC  
7 pm – Personnel – PFR

## **Wednesday, October 28**

7 pm – Adult Ed – LC  
7 pm – Genesis Program

## **Thursday, October 29**

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

## **Sunday, November 1 (All Saints Day)**

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room  
9 am - Early Worship Service - PH  
10 am – Education Hour  
10 am – First Church Choir – Choir Room  
11 am - Worship Service - San  
12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH  
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D  
12:30 pm – Parish Life - PFR

## **Monday, November 2**

5:30 pm- Sacred Earth – PFR  
7 pm – Monday Night Lights – PH  
7 pm – Search Committee - LC

## **Tuesday, November 3**

12 pm – Card Care Ministry – PFR  
6:30 pm – Children’s Ed – Ed Wing Rm C

## **Wednesday, November 4**

11 am – Book Study Group – LC  
6:30 pm- Evangelism and Church Growth – PFR  
7 pm- Genesis Program  
7 pm – Safety Committee – LC

## **Thursday, November 5**

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

## **Sunday, November 8 (Stewardship Sunday)**

9 am - Early Worship Service - PH  
9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room  
10 am - Education Hour  
10 am – First Church Choir – Choir Room  
11 am - Worship Service - San

12 pm - Fellowship Hour - PH  
4 pm – Congregational Concert – San  
5:30 pm – Reception - PR

## **Monday, November 9**

7 pm – Search Committee – LC  
7 pm – Trustees – PFR

## **Tuesday, November 10**

12 pm – Card Care Ministry - PFR  
6 pm – Music Committee - LC  
7 pm – Mission Committee - PFR  
7 pm – Executive Committee – Adult Library

## **Wednesday, November 11**

7 pm – Genesis Program - PH

## **Thursday, November 12**

10 am – Eastside Fellowship – PR  
2 pm – Arts Committee – PR  
6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Bell Room  
7:30 p.m. – First Church Choir – Choir Room

## **Friday, November 13**

3:45 pm – Parents for Others  
Women’s Retreat – Templed Hills

## **Saturday, November 14**

10 am – Quilters of First Church – PFR  
Women’s Retreat

## **Sunday, November 15**

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room  
9 am - Early Worship Service - PH  
10 am - Education Hour  
10 am - First Church Choir - Choir Room  
11 am - Worship Service – San  
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH  
12:30 pm – Confirmation Class – Room D  
9 pm – Compline – San  
Women’s Retreat

## **Monday, November 16**

7 pm – Search Committee – LC  
7 pm – Budget and Finance – PFR

## **Tuesday, November 17**

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

## **Wednesday, November 18**

11 am – Book Study Group – LC  
7 pm – Genesis Program

## **Thursday, November 19**

6:15 pm – First Church Ringers – Bell Room  
7 pm – Deacons – LC  
7:30 pm – First Church Choir – Choir Room

## **Saturday, November 21**

9 am – House and Grounds

## **Sunday, November 22**

9 am – Treble Choir – Choir Room  
9 am - Early Worship Service - PH  
10 am - Education Hour  
10 am - First Church Choir - Choir Rm  
11 am - Worship Service - San  
12 pm – Fellowship Hour - PH

# Prayers

**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.*

## Weddings

Jayne Glamm and Adam Thompson – Sept. 19  
 Jennifer Casaletta and Michael Weaver – Sept. 19  
 Michelle Gloege and Scott Winberry – Oct. 3  
 Brittney Hamilton and Dennis Horvath – Oct. 10

## Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on November 1 and 15 during Fellowship Hour. This is a UCC coffee project initiative and your participation is greatly appreciated.

**~ Remember Your Loved Ones ~  
 With a Dedication of Flowers**

Contact Marty Worth at 614.228.1741, ext. 12,  
[mworth@first-church.org](mailto:mworth@first-church.org)

## November Fellowship Hour

November 1: Samuel  
 November 8: Zechariah  
 November 15: Acts  
 November 22: Amos  
 November 29: Colossians

## November Acolyte Schedule

November 1: Jaden Martin-Wynia and Ella Kosher  
 November 8: Sarah Ahrens and Katie Geis  
 November 15: Jansen Allred and Victoria Washington  
 November 22: Cameron Wade and Ben Allred  
 November 29: Merry Roach and Adam Wade  
 (Schedules online at [www.first-church.org](http://www.first-church.org))

## Next Newsletter Deadline

**Articles Due:** Monday, November 9, by noon

**Folding Team:** Wednesday, November 18, 9 a.m.

**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*  
 Barbara R. Cunningham.....*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*  
 Stan Parron.....*Building Manager*  
 Denny Mahoney.....*Office Manager*  
 Kelvin Murphy.....*Custodian*  
 Frank Wall, William Lee.....*Custodians*  
 Nikki Boop, Rosemary Pawandiwa.....*Nursery*  
 Angel Skillman.....*Nursery*  
 Linda Mumford.....*Wedding Coordinator*  
 Jane Leidheiser.....*Wedding Coordinator*  
 Fran Panek.....*Wedding Coordinator*

### Church Council

Melody Leidheiser.....*Moderator*  
 Sarah Reed.....*Vice-Moderator*  
 Carol Gallagher.....*Secretary*  
 David Holt.....*Treasurer*  
 Phil Stichter.....*Trustee Chair*  
 Frank Cook.....*Administration Commissioner*  
 Pavan Peter.....*Church Growth Commissioner*  
 Diana Kutschbach.....*Education Commissioner*  
 Bill Rhoads.....*House & Grounds Commissioner*  
 Anne Hudson, Fran Panek.....*Mission Commissioners*  
 Julia Myers, Amy Fulton.....*Parish Life Commissioners*  
 Charlie Weaver.....*Deacon*  
 Kevin Butler.....*Deacon*  
 Shannon Washington.....*Music, Arts, Heritage*  
 Nancy Fields.....*Budget and Finance*  
 Kim Kutschbach.....*Member-at-large*  
 Doug Buck.....*Member-at-large*

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

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DATED MATERIAL - VERY IMPORTANT

*Please Deliver: Monday, October 26, 2009*

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](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