

First Church News

First Congregational Church, UCC
Columbus, Ohio

"Enter to Worship - Depart to Serve"

September
2012
Vol. 160,
No. 9



Let's Celebrate! 160 Years Young and Growing Strong

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

September is going to be a great month at First Church! It is time to celebrate our heritage, rejoice in the legacy we are leaving and "move forth in faith!"



For over 58,400 days of life in the center of our city, we have faithfully served Jesus Christ through the ministries and missions of First Church. We have stood up for those unjustly enslaved. Through our abolitionist and Underground Railroad founders, our visionary leaders for integration in education, church and society, our founding eight new congregations, our sending missionaries overseas and our soldiers to fight for freedom, our pastors and leaders to fight for civil rights, voters' rights, workers' rights, gay rights and so much more. We have led the charge for faith-filled justice. We have been faithful in the living of our days.

September will be our month to joyfully celebrate our legacy of love and justice and step forth in faith into a beautiful future of serving Christ in the city.

September 2 – Labor Sunday – I return from my doctoral studies in Chicago to preach on "Courage" as the sermon series **"Shining God's Light on Hidden Christian Virtues"** ends.

September 9 - Celebration Sunday! – We have much to celebrate at First Church. **Ten years ago, we became an Open and Affirming Congregation.** We welcome our beloved friend, member and partner in ministry, the Rev. Phil Hart, to the pulpit at 9 and 11 a.m. services. Phil currently is the interim Conference Minister in northern California. Phil was part of our team of leaders who guided us through the Open and Affirming process is 2001-2002, leading to our vote on September 27, 2002, to become ONA. He will bring us a "winning word of love."

In addition, Education Hour for all ages begins on September 9 at 10 a.m. Our theme for the year is "Moving Forth in Faith." Our Adult Choir returns to lead us in worship at 11 a.m. It will be wonderful!

September 16 – Growing in Learning and Faith Sunday! - This is our time to celebrate our Washington Gladden Scholars and present Bibles to our 4th graders in worship! We also will step into our "Faith in Columbus" campaign. Come and join the joyful

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Parish Life Social Saturday, September 29

You are cordially invited to attend the Parish Life Social to help us celebrate the 160th anniversary of First Congregational Church on Saturday September 29.

The event will be held in the Parlor,
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Church soloist and wine connoisseur, Kevin Ayres, will help us host the evening. Non-alcoholic beverages and appetizers will also be served. If you interested in attending, sign up online at <http://www.first-church.org/ParishLifeEvents.aspx>

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Finding Joy All Around Us

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

What brings you joy? Is it time with family and friends or sitting by the sea? Is it listening to the music in church or . . . you fill in the blank. Summer comes and goes the same time every year, but the new relationships that come with it are always a bit of a surprise. Some years my summer joy has come through a new author, a new to a new friend, or a new challenge. Other years it's arrived through added delight in the blessings I have long celebrated.



One of my joys this summer has come through the hatching of three sets of doves. The mom and pop pair chose their space in our trailing geraniums, the ones that hang on the front porch. At first, every time our door opened, the mother/father bird would shoot out of the nest. By their second clutch, they were less skittish. Now, nesting on their third pair of tiny eggs, we come and go, talk to them and sit just under them on our porch chairs. All is well. I love that God places us in relationships that come to us when we least expect it. When we are attentive they can make a difference in us and around us. Sometimes it's with nature, other times with people.

One of my joys here at First Church is the gathering of each new members class. I look forward to meeting those of you who have, or will, sign up. (I encourage those of you still thinking about it to take the leap of faith and come get acquainted – 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 22).

I am looking forward to seeing the young birds take flight next week. I know God will nurture them wherever they are, even as God is sending a new adventure, new joy, into my life and into yours. And I am looking forward to meeting with those of you who are taking your own leap of faith through new members class. How wonderful it is that joy itself does not need to be planned – just received with open hearts and mind!

Mark your calendars!
Our annual Fall Women's Retreat has now become the Winter Women's Retreat (January 11-13). Details will be available in September.

(REV. AHRENS, Concluded from Page 1)

celebration as we lift up our learning covenant with the Methodist Seminary in Delaware (METHESCO) and time of passing on the faith to the coming generation of faithful children. We also will welcome our 2012-2013 student seminarian, Alex Throckmorton. Alex is a second-year student at METHESCO and is the great-nephew of our late emeritus pastor, the Rev. Dr. Chalmers Coe. My sermon will be "Who Are You, Jesus?"

September 23 – Legacy Sunday! – *On September 26, 1852, 42 abolitionist Christians set out to form a new congregation. We are the fruit of their vision and commitment to justice in downtown Columbus.*

Through the generations, First Church has been a beacon of light on Broad Street. We will celebrate our past and lift up the many members who have faithfully been part of our family of faith for generations. Bring your family, friends and neighbors to this important day of joyful celebration of our life together.

We will celebrate our longtime members and welcome home those who return to be with us on our 160th anniversary. In the first of two celebration Sundays for our church's 160th anniversary, we will answer the question posed in my sermon, "What Kind of Legacy Will You Leave?" It will be a great day to celebrate our long history of serving God in the city of Columbus!

September 30 – 160th Anniversary Sunday! We move forward in faith in this glorious celebration. With brass and special music, with the choirs of First Church, we will sing, dance, and step forward into the future. Based on Mark 9:49, my sermon will be "Salted With Fire!" Stay tuned for more details of this special celebration.

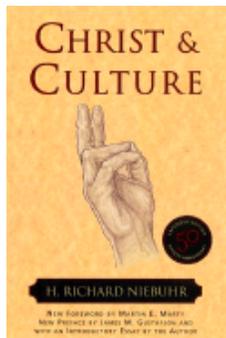
Don't miss September 2012 at First Church! We have five Sundays of joyful celebration and praise of God. We have 30 days of lifting up our heritage and moving boldly into the future together. Let's celebrate!

New Members Class
Saturday, September 22
9 a.m.-Noon
Call the office at 228-1741
or email Rev. Wilson at
jwilson@first-church.org
if you are interested

Rev. Ahrens to Lead New Classes in September

On Wednesday, September 5, at 11 a.m., in the Parlor, Rev. Ahrens begins a study of H. Richard Niebuhr's classic book *Christ and Culture*. Niebuhr speaks in the book about "the enduring problem" of our faith across time. What is the relationship between Christianity and civilization?

Beginning with the understanding that Christ is perfect and culture is human-made (thus imperfect), Niebuhr introduces and interacts with five views and possible relationships between Christianity and the cultures in which we live. The five views are: Christ against culture; Christ of culture; Christ above culture; Christ and culture; and finally his recommended relationship – Christ transforming culture. This is a brilliant book! It is considered one of the top 10 books of theology in the 20th century. Books are available in the office for \$12.



On September 16, at 12:30 p.m., Rev. Ahrens will begin teaching the 2013 Confirmation class. If you have an eighth grader in the church, get in touch with Rev. Ahrens (tahrens@first-church.org or 228-1741, ext. 13) as we begin this journey of faith taking us through the year to Confirmation on Pentecost next May 19. Rev. Ahrens is joined in teaching once again by Jackie Dean.

In addition, Rev. Ahrens will teach a weekly class on the transitions of life in October and November as we explore the Exodus story at 10 a.m. each Sunday.

Transition is the psychological acceptance of the change we all go through. Whether faced with the loss of loved ones, the loss of jobs, loss of health, the inability to conceive, loss of marriage or a whole new world opening up in new marriage, new job, new home, new children or empty nest, we are all facing transitions. Using the Exodus story as the foundation for dealing with life's changes, Rev. Ahrens will teach us strategies and support us in facing our transitions.

Finally, Rev. Ahrens is working with his friends, Imam Hany and Rabbi Michael Ungar on an interfaith class on Joseph and the sons of Jacob. This class will be announced later in the fall.



**Join the CROP
Hunger Walk
Walk or sponsor
someone**

**Columbus CROP Hunger Walk
Sunday, October 14
Genoa Park (just east of COSI)
Registration from Noon
to 2:30 p.m.**

Call 614-481-4416 for information

Rev. Ahrens' September Sermon Titles

Sept. 2 – Labor Sunday

Sermon title: "The Sword of Courage" – Part VI of VI in the sermon series

**Shining God's Light
on Hidden Christian Virtues**

Texts: James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23



Sept. 9 – Celebration Sunday –

10th Anniversary of ONA; Church School Year Begins

Rev. Phil Hart, guest preacher

Texts: James 2:1-10,14-17, Mark 7:24-37

Sept. 16 – Growing in Learning and Faith Sunday!

Sermon Title: "Who Are You, Jesus?"

Texts: James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

September 23 – Legacy Sunday

Sermon title – "What Kind of Legacy Will You Leave?"

Texts: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

September 30 – 160th Anniversary Sunday

Sermon title: "Salted With Fire!"

Texts: James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

Education Hour Kicks Off Sept. 9

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

The Education Hour on Sunday mornings begins on September 9. As an adult, maybe you've wondered what Sunday school means for you. Maybe you've heard people talking about Christian Formation, and are wondering what that means. Maybe you're wondering where Christian Education has gone. We have the answer for you, and it includes two classes on Sunday morning (usually at 10 a.m.). These two tracks offer you two different ways of growing and shaping your life and faith in ways that draw you closer to God and into community with others.



The first track offers you both information and a chance to share your concerns and perhaps work out some answers to perplexing issues of faith, life and culture. The **Faith and Life Class** meets each week to discuss the tough issues confronting us as we grow in grace. Whether you're a parent wondering how to protect your kids from the challenges of an online life, an adult trying to cope with the issues of financial insecurity, someone trying to plan for end of life and health care issues (for yourself or your loved ones), or a concerned citizen puzzling out your response to the front page news, then this class offers something for you. It is designed with two or three weeks on a single topic, but you can come anytime.

The classes are led by members and friends of the congregation who have some expertise in the area. They will invite you to explore the issue and relate it to your personal faith. In addition they'll give you some tools and guidelines to help you grow in your faith and life.

Our second track, the **Opening the Word Class**, does exactly that. One of the pastors will help you discover or rediscover what the Bible says, and invite you on a journey to grow and shape your faith and life in ways that take that book seriously as God's rich and changing word to you.

This fall, the Rev. Dr. Janine Wilson will open the Bible with you, exploring the topic "Freedom." It will take a look at what this term means and the biblical meaning of freedom. The Rev. Tim Ahrens will continue with the

series "Exodus: Moving Through Transitions in Life and Faith."

Faith and life are formed in response to God's still speaking message, and these classes invite you to listen and answer. We hope you'll join us Sundays as we form our faith and life together.

Church School for Children and Youth

The Education Hour for young people also begins on September 9 at 10 a.m. The children and youth will use the curriculum "Seasons of the Spirit," which is a wonderful resource for our teachers and leaders. Aqua, the blue green color of the planet Earth when viewed from outer space, invites us into the season of Creation.. In the season of creation, the first three Sundays, we will immerse ourselves in the reality of humanity, sky, and mountains. We affirm our kinship with everything God has created and is creating, we are made conscious of the crisis of human domination and we are encouraged to live toward a vision of new heavens and earth.



Returning to the green growing season after Pentecost, we, with the community of Mark's Gospel, ponder what it means to live as followers of Jesus. What are the stumbling blocks? What are the interrelationships? On Reign of Christ Sunday, the last Sunday in the church year, we turn to the Gospel of John, where we are called to think about truth, about Jesus, who is identified as the truth, and the response we are invited to make to the one who speaks truth to us.

With each lesson are wonderful opportunities of crafts, drama, music and art that connect to the scripture of the day. Also, each quarter the children and youth will be focusing on a mission project to help those in need. Church school is a great time for all our children and youth to participate together and learn. We hope to see everyone there on September 9!

Fourth Grade/New Youth Bible Presentation: Each year our church presents a New Revised Standard Version gift Bible to children in the fourth grade, or those older who have joined in the past year. It is our way of encouraging our children in their faith journey. This year the presentation will be **Sunday, September 23, Legacy Sunday**, during the 9 and 11 a.m. services.

Christian Education

'Moving Forth in Faith' is This Year's Education Theme

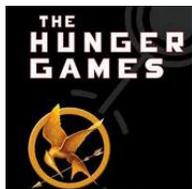
By Mark S. Williams, Christian Education Director

As our congregation moves forward into our 160th anniversary, the development of the west lot and the continual development in each of our faith journey, the Education Committee developed the theme of moving forth in many directions for this education year.



As we look at the logo for this theme we are reminded of several things. First, the arrows are going many directions. This is a reminder that we are all on our own faith journey and we must acknowledge and embrace each other's individual relationship to God. Second, it reminds us of all the liturgical colors of the Christian year. Third, the logo expresses our diversity and commitment to being an Open and Affirming church.

'Hunger Games' Series Scheduled



The youth of First Church are inviting anyone who has read the books from *The Hunger Games* trilogy for two great nights of viewing and discussion. On September 30, we will all meet in the Parish Hall to view the movie *The Hunger Games*. Then on October 7, we will have a discussion on the book and the movie.

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.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
444 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Disaster Kits Needed

There is a great need for disaster kits throughout our nation. These supplies enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado, or other disaster here in the United States. The First Church youth will be collecting supplies for these kits now through September 23. There are drop-off boxes at each church entrance. For more information contact Mark Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org.

Here is the list of supplies needed:

- * **One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid**
- * **Five scouring pads**
- * **Seven sponges, assorted sizes**
- * **One scrub brush**
- * **Eighteen cleaning towels (reusable, such as Easy Wipes®)**
- * **One 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent**
- * **One 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®)**
- * **One 25 oz. bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (such as Dawn®)**
- * **One package of 48-50 clothespins**
- * **Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.**
- * **Five dust masks**
- * **Two pairs latex gloves (such as Playtex®)**
- * **One pair work gloves**
- * **28-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags (30-45 gallon)**
- * **One 6-9 oz. bottle of insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion, not aerosol)**

Please provide all liquids in new, unopened plastic bottles. Please donate what you can for this tremendous need!

Youth Meetings Begin Sept 9

Both the high school and middle school youth groups will kick-off this fall with a potluck dinner for the youth and their families on September 9 at 6 p.m. The dinner will be in the Parish Hall. Everyone is asked to bring a meat, salad, or side dish to share. Plans will be discussed for the year and how our youth will be involved.

September Music Notes

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

Summer Music

Special thanks to the fine soloists and instrumentalists who provided music for worship services this summer: Brianna Burkett (flute), Lissa Wade (soprano), Janet Axt (mezzo-soprano), Ben Wiant (piano), Alex Weaver (horn), Justin DeWolfe (baritone), Bill Lange (tenor), Sarah Lange (flute), Victor John (tenor). Our thanks also go to members of the First Church Choir and Choral Society for their choral offerings as part of the Summer Choir. While the choirs took a much-deserved summer rest, the praise and honor of God through music continued with excellence.



Choir Rehearsals

First choir rehearsal dates and times are listed. If you cannot attend the first rehearsal, you are welcome to join the choir when you are able.

First Church Choir (Adults)

Thursday, September 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Treble Choir (Grades 1-6)

Sunday, September 9 - 9 a.m.

Teen Choir (Grades 7-12)

Sunday, September 9 - 9 a.m.

Gallery Handbells

Thursday, September 6 6:15 p.m. (in the Gallery)

Treble

We are particularly interested in reaching all boys and girls who might want to sing in the Treble and Teen Choirs. In youth and children's choirs choristers learn about the elements of music and singing, hymnody, music of other cultures, history of the church, worship in this church. When they rehearse and sing on a regular basis they understand they are an integral part of the life of the church, they attend regularly, and their confidence, knowledge, and sense of inclusion in the congregation make them ministers of music now, not just for the future. If you have questions, please contact Marti Rideout.

2012-2013 Congregational Concerts

Mark your calendars now for an exciting season of concerts at First Church. All concerts begin at 4 p.m. and take place in the Sanctuary.

October 21 - Choral Evensong

The First Church Choir sings music of Howells, Sumsion, Stanford, Gardiner, Parry and Vaughan Williams in Evensong and concert to honor the 80th birthday of G. Dene Barnard, Organist-Choirmaster Emeritus. James Gallagher, conductor; Stephen Secan, oboe; Dene Barnard and Marti Rideout, organists.

November 18 - Christopher Marks, organ

Professor of organ at University of Nebraska-Lincoln and active concert organist, Christopher Marks is known for creative and friendly programming and his interest in American organ music of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

December 23 - Lessons and Carols

Join the First Church Choir, Treble and Teen Choirs, Gallery Ringers, and organists for this highlight of the Christmas season. Prelude music begins at 3:30 p.m.

February 10 - Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Featuring the new Minister of Music at First Congregational Church, the First Church Choir and Choral Society, Treble and Teen Choirs, Gallery Ringers, brass and organs will offer a music celebration on this Alleluia Sunday, the Last Sunday after Epiphany.

March 17 - Jeremy Filsell, organ

Artist-in-Residence at Washington National Cathedral since 2010, Jeremy Filsell has performed and held positions throughout the UK and USA, and has established a concert career as one of only a few virtuoso performers on both piano and organ.

April 28 - Handbells Columbus

This popular Columbus-based ensemble returns to fill First Church with the jubilant sound of handbells, organ, and piano in fascinating arrangements for six octaves of hand bells and five octaves of hand chimes in a program that will delight all ages.

First Tuesdays at First Church

12:15 p.m. concert and 12:45 p.m. lunch

October 2, November 6, December 4

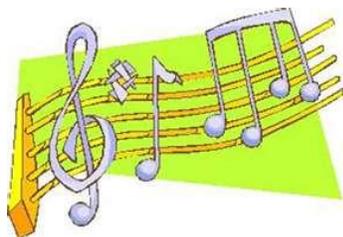
February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7

Hymns and Congregational Singing

By Marti Rideout, Interim Minister of Music

A hymn is the praise of God by singing. A hymn is a song embodying the praise of God. If there be merely praise but not praise of God, it is not a hymn. If there be praise and praise of God, but not sung, it is not a hymn. For it to be a hymn, it is needful, therefore, for it to have three things: praise, praise of God, and these sung.
(Attributed to Saint Augustine)

Think of a moment in worship when congregational singing simply soared to a place of such beauty that words to recall and describe were simply inadequate. Hymns provide our take-home theology, comfort and strength. They express joy and sadness, contemplation and peace, strength and conviction.



We are blessed to have choirs help lead congregational song, but we must always remember that the first choir in any church is the gathered community. The Psalmist did not ask, but commanded all of us, not just a few, to *sing a new song* and to *make a joyful noise unto the Lord*. Do not be concerned that your voice is not as high or as low or as lovely as those around you, or even that your pitch may differ from that of your neighbor. So, lift your voices in praise to the source of our song and the honor of God. Sing joyfully!

Throughout the summer I included information about the hymns, authors and composers and interesting histories about the hymns. I will continue to do so. To sing a hymn that has been sung for centuries by countless Christians in many denominations connects us with our past and shapes our future. To understand the source of inspiration to poets and composers reminds us that the Holy Spirit never misses a beat and continues to work in us and through us, over and around us, to use us as vessels of light in this world of need.

Thanks be to God!

Contact information for Marti Rideout Interim Minister of Music

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

Executive Committee Summary August 14

The Executive Committee meeting was held August 14, acting on behalf of Council, which did not meet during the month.

Gerry Worth reported that the chapel has been restored and the chapel organ was sold and has been removed.

The Executive Committee moved to rename the chapel the Gladden Memorial Chapel. Gerry stated that the search committee for the Minister of Music has narrowed their list of candidates and will begin phone interviews soon.

The Executive Committee approved the schedule for the mission collections for the remainder of 2012, and also approved a Mission Endowment Fund Request for Mid-Ohio Workers Association.

Cindy Conn, Treasurer, announced that Ken Salak has agreed to accept the position of Assistant Treasurer, effective immediately.

Work continues on the West Lot with the painting of the storage building and the completion of the trench to bury the electric and phone lines. The chimney is being restored on the current building and the new boiler is scheduled to be installed in the fall.

Plans are moving forward for events in September. September 9 the church will celebrate 10 years of being an open and affirming congregation and the Rev. Phil Hart will be our guest minister. September 23 has been designated as "Legacy Sunday," and we will celebrate our 160th anniversary on September 30. – Submitted by **Bev Cook, Secretary**

Cum Christo Weekends Coming Up

You are invited to participate in an experiential weekend of Christian learning and renewal with Cum Christo in the fall.

Contact Paul Flocken at 403-4910 or arlene@aol.com to learn more about the Cursillo method of piety, study, action and group reunion. The October 18-21 men's weekend and November 8-11 women's weekend are currently accepting applications.

Scheduled weekends in 2013 include: men, February 28 - March 3; women, April 11-14.

CATALYST

The Intrepid Mr. Sweeny

By Heather Biggers (Heather@s4cs.org)

CATALYST is a mission relationship between First Church and the people of the garrison communities of downtown Kingston, Jamaica, and



Curtis Sweeny, center, with Sanjay and Inisha, winners in the LICK photo club competition.

the Grace and Staff Community Development

Foundation. CATALYST serves the many exceptional secondary and college students found in these violent and impoverished areas. It is housed at the Learning Centre of Central Kingston (LICK) homework center.

Palm trees, blue seas, powdery sands, Bob Marley, reggae and Rasta – this is a common perception of Jamaica that comes from the tourism industry congregated on Jamaica's north coast. But Kingston is on the south coast, off of the tourist path. To understand CATALYST requires a different view of Jamaica.

Curtis Sweeny is the Grace and Staff program manager and the primary contact with CATALYST. He is also a role model for persons with and without disabilities. When he was in his late teens, Sweeny lost his sight to macular degeneration. Despite the loss of sight, and the added challenge of living in a developing country, he completed college and received a master's degree.

Sweeny is so accomplished despite the culture's boundaries, that he has been featured in *The Jamaican Gleaner*, a major daily newspaper on the island. The humble and self-effacing Sweeny also works to increase inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society.

He spends a great deal of his time providing mental health and other types of counseling to members of the community. So many residents have been victims of trauma, having lost multiple loved ones to accident, disease or violence. Sweeny is a steady, calming presence at Grace and Staff and loved by the community. I have spent many hours walking the streets of Southside with him on my arm, in conversation. He is

not only an exceptional counselor and program manager, but he is a wonderful friend.

Doctoral Work Begins at Chicago Seminary

By the Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Minister

In the last days of August, I began my doctoral work at Chicago Theological Seminary. Working with my advisor, Professor of Theology, The Rev. Dr. Susan B. Thistlethwaite, I will be traveling at least twice a year to Chicago – the last weeks of January and August each year. The program will be completed in the Spring of 2015.

My focus for the doctoral work is in the developmental stages. During the winter, I took an on-line course called "Public Theology" which focused on skill-building for speaking clearly as a religious leader in the changing public square of the 21st Century. Included in my winter work was my new blog: www.socialgospelrising.com. Over the next two years, I will be doing research, taking classes here and in Chicago in areas of Bible Study, preaching and leadership in non-profit organizations.

I offer a heart-felt thanks to the congregation for financial support of my studies in year #1. I am using my continuing education time (two weeks each year) and my personal time for the work. So, it will take no time away from my ministry among you. I ask for your prayers in the coming years. Blessings to you all as we grow together in faith and wisdom.



Budget Update

Pledges Budgeted
\$592,220

July Actual Pledges
\$33,857.53

Pledges Needed Monthly
\$49,351.67

July and August Mission Offerings

CATALYST - \$351.47

Strengthening the Church - \$223

Good Samaritan - \$519.86

Faith Mission - \$335.50



Recent Gifts to First Church

By Bill Johannes and Jane Werum

Given to the Jackie Owen Music Endowment Fund in celebration of the life of Jackie Owen by:
William Owen



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

September 2 - Mid-Ohio Workers Assoc.

September 9 - UCC Coalition

September 16 - CWS Disaster Relief

September 23 - Gladden Community House

September 30 - UCC Seminaries

Help Design Our Playground!

We are asking our children/youth and parents to give us ideas in designing our new playground at First Church. We would love for the children to draw pictures or make lists of what they would like to have installed in the playground.

Parents, don't forget to put your ideas down as well, like benches and shade. Please send your picture drawings, lists and ideas to Mark Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org.

Member Happy September Birthdays

2: Diane Cole	22: Alex Weaver
5: Christina Bonito	23: Victor John
5: Elisa Batchelor	23: Stan Lange
6: Katie Mansfield	24: Wayne Piper
7: Dave Proctor	26: Gerry Hudson
7: Vince Papsidero	26: Daniel Ahrens
8: Sallie Danneberger	27: Bernie Bouman
9: Steven Ferris	27: Ron Reiger
9: Kosby Carrico	27: Pavan Peter
10: Amy Nicholson	28: Tom Kuhn
12: Bob Fowler	29: Betsy Zahn
12: Linda Reiger	29: Pauline Fritz
12: Matt Lazar	29: Cassie Reid
13: Lucille Kropp	30: Janine Wilson
14: Doug Zimmerman	30: Cami Curren
14: Meredith Knueve	
15: Richard Grieser	
16: Carly Kutschbach	
18: Christopher Washington	
18: Deena Bowers	
19: John Bachman	
19: Tom Daniels	
19: Caroline Sanders	
20: Jim Gallagher	
20: Randy Hoffman	
21: Shannon Washington	
22: Bill Kutschbach	
22: Janette Hoffman	
22: Molly Sass	

Member Happy September Anniversaries

1: Melinda and Jon Anderson
1: Janice and Amos White
1: Betsy and John Zahn
6: Elisa and Andrew Batchelor
9: Diane and Kent Rambo
9: Janice and Ron Cook
10: Elizabeth Drotleff and Eric Chambers
12: Lisa and Scott Warrick
13: Dayna and Michael McCrary
16: Bev and Bert Cook
16: Lisa and Andy Thomas
19: Jennifer and Michael Weaver
21: Suzie and Bill Rhoads
24: Leslie and David Fulford
25: Roland Weller and James Gaugh
25: Susan and Matthew Walton
30: Kelly and Matt Allen

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

Dene Barnard to Speak at Thursday Fellowship

The Thursday Fellowship (combining the First and Second Thursday groups) will meet in the Parlor at 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 13. Dene Barnard, minister of music emeritus, will give a presentation on his summer trip to England and Scotland, complete with pictures. Refreshments will be provided, and everyone is welcome.

Calendar

Sunday, September 2

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

Monday, September 3

LABOR DAY – Building Closed

Tuesday, September 4

12 pm – Care Ministry – 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
7 pm – Music Search Committee – Rev. Ahrens' Office

Wednesday, September 5

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, September 6

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

Saturday, September 8

10 am – First Church Quilters – LC

Sunday, September 9 (Celebration Sunday)

9 am – Worship – PH
9 am – Teen/Treble Choir
10 am – Christian Education Hour – Rooms C and D
10 am – First Church Choir – Sanctuary
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
6 pm - Middle School Youth – Middle School Room
6 pm – Sonreir – PH and Youth Room

Monday, September 10

5 pm – Constitution Committee – LC
6 pm – BREAD – PH
7 pm – Church Growth/Parish Life – Ed Wing, Room D
7 pm – Trustees – LC

Tuesday, September 11

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

Thursday, September 13

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

Saturday, September 15

9 am – House and Grounds - PFR

Sunday, September 16

9 am – Worship – PH
9 am – Teen/Treble Choir
10 am – Christian Education Hour – Rooms C and D
10 am – First Church Choir – Sanctuary
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
6 pm – Sonreir – PH and Youth Room

Tuesday, September 18

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

Wednesday, September 19

11 am – Book Study – Parlor

Thursday, September 20

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

Saturday, September 22

9 am – New Members Class – Parlor
9 am – BOBS Meeting – LC

Sunday, September 23 (Legacy Sunday)

9 am – Worship – PH
9 am – Teen/Treble Choir
10 am – Christian Education Hour – Rooms C and D
10 am – First Church Choir – Sanctuary
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Fellowship Hour – PH
6 pm - Middle School Youth – Middle School Room
6 pm – Sonreir – PH and Youth Room

Monday, September 24

7 pm – Budget and Finance – LC
7:30 pm – Constitution Committee – PFR

Tuesday, September 25

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

Thursday, September 27

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

Saturday, September 29

7:30 pm – Parish Life Social – Parlor

Sunday, September 30 (Anniversary Sunday)

9 am – Worship – PH
9 am – Teen/Treble Choir
10 am – Christian Education Hour – Rooms C and D
10 am – First Church Choir – Sanctuary
11 am – Worship – San
12 pm – Anniversary Potluck – PH
6 pm – Sonreir – PH and Youth Room

Fellowship Hour Beverage Sales



Coffee and tea sales will be available on September 2 and 16 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 October *First Church News* is September 20 at noon. It will be published Monday, October 1.

Prayers

September Fellowship Hour

Sept. 2: Zechariah
 Sept. 9: Acts
 Sept. 16: Amos
 Sept. 23: Colossians
 Sept. 30: Corinthians

September Acolyte Schedule

Sept. 2: Luke and Nina Zimmerman
 Sept. 9: Ben Allred and Jansen Allred
 Sept. 16: Emma Rau and Nina Zimmerman
 Sept. 23: Ben Allred and Dylan Hopcraft
 Sept. 30: Jansen Allred and Erin Murray
 (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.

Baptisms

Emma Elaine Dean – August 19

Weddings

Danielle Ray and Nathan Myers – August 4
 Brittany Craver and Justin Kuss – August 18
 Jessica Underwood and Mars Robinson – August 25

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

Don't Forget!

Annual Pet Blessing

Saturday, October 6, 10 a.m.

East Lawn

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: Tuesday, September 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