



**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH** *of Akron*

An Open and Affirming Church

The Chronicle

March 2018 Number 3




FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of Akron
 www.akronfcc.org
 www.facebook.com/FCCofAkron

Sunday Worship

9:30am - Learning Ctr.
 11am - Meetinghouse

Worship Schedule:

March 4

Communion Sunday
Third Sunday in Lent

9:30am & 11am
Nothingness
 Sermon Series III
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

March 11

Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:30am & 11am
Hakuna matata
 Sermon Series IV
 Ephesians 2:1-10
Daylight Savings Time Begins Today

March 18

Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:30am & 11am
Hygge
 Sermon Series V
 Jeremiah 31:31-34

March 25

Palm / Passion Sunday

9:30am & 11am

March 29

Maunder Thursday

7:30pm, Meetinghouse

March 30

Good Friday

Chapel open 9am-noon
 Scripture Reading and
 Organ Music at noon
 in the Chapel

April 1

Easter Sunday

9:30am & 11am
Tell Everyone!
 Mark 16:1-8

A Letter From the Pastor

Beloved,

Seeking to capture the poetry of the original Hebrew, Everett Fox's translation of Genesis beautifully captures the chaos that reigned before God breathed the Word that would begin to bring a sense of order to the earth:

*At the beginning of God's creating of the heavens and earth,
 when the earth was wild and waste,
 darkness over the face of Ocean,
 rushing-spirit of God hovering over the face of the waters –
 God said; Let there be light! And there was light.
 God saw the light that it was good. (Genesis 1:1-4)*

In these days of Lent the world around us certainly has seemed wild and waste and dark with events at home and abroad reminding us of the chaos humanity seems so adept at creating. Whether it is the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, the intensifying war in Syria, the deep partisan divisions that persist in our nation, or the realities of violence, addiction, poverty, homelessness, and hunger right here in Akron, it can be easy to lose sight of the rushing-spirit of God still hovering over the face of the earth.

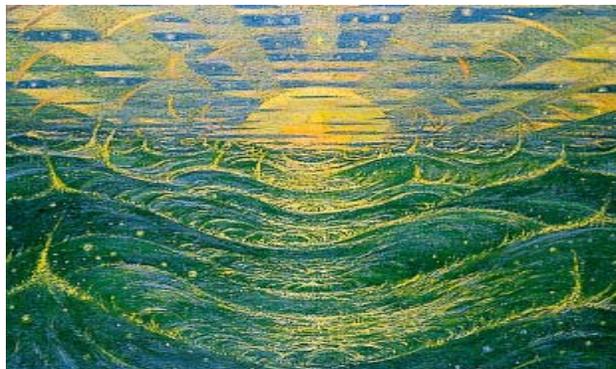
One of the challenges we perpetually face as Christians is to develop and nurture the faith that God's spirit still hovers over the face of the earth, that God truly is present with us, around us, within us - each of us. Indeed, Lent offers us the opportunity to examine ourselves and identify those thoughts and attitudes that keep us from living fully into God's love and grace. Lent is an invitation to each of us to identify the obstacles *in our own lives* to being in relationship with God.

I encourage you to make use of the remaining weeks of Lent. Honestly consider the obstacles in your relationship with God and pray with all your heart, mind, and strength to be closer to God, who draws close to you and loves you so very much. Pray to see the reality of God's spirit hovering over the face of the earth.

Just imagine how meaningful Easter will be this year with a clearer sense of God's abiding presence even amidst the chaos of the world.

Yours in Christ,

Nanette





A Reminder of the First Church BHAGS!

In January 2017, the Vitality Team met with church consultant Don Hill together with members of the Governing Board. Don helped the nineteen people who gathered plan the next steps that ultimately launched our vitality process into an implementation phase.

Drawing on the visioning done at that time - our most recent Vitality Team's conversation, as well as the church's earlier discernment leading to the adoption of our Core Values and Bedrock Beliefs - the group focused on identifying **Big Hairy Audacious Goals** or BHAGS (pron. bee-hags). A BHAG is an organization-wide goal which is audacious enough to be questionable but so visionary and emotionally compelling that it becomes a unifying focal point and clear catalyst for mission and ministry.

These BHAGS were presented to the entire Governing Board at their February 2017 meeting and unanimously endorsed. At our Congregational Meeting last May, the congregation voted to adopt these goals.

These are the three BHAGS:

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

First Church is the largest, most vibrant and diverse church in Northeast Ohio, seeking Christ's Spirit and advancing Christ's justice.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

First Church is recognized as the leading faith community partner for racial, social, and economic empowerment in Northeast Ohio.

FOOD JUSTICE

Every person in the region has access to healthy food choices, and food insecurity is reduced in the region.

The next step is to implement these goals into the life of First Church. How do you see them being carried out by the church? What is your vision?

Chronicle Deadline and Submissions

Deadline: Friday, March 9
Mailing: Wednesday, March 21

Email Submissions to:
deborah.anderson@akronfcc.org

First Congregational Church of Akron 184th Annual Meeting, May 6, 2018

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2018. The full agenda will be communicated to the congregation in April. The current agenda is as follows:

1. Voting on the 2018-2019 First Congregational Church of Akron officer and board member nominees.

Members of the congregation who have an item they wish to have considered for inclusion on the agenda of the annual meeting should submit the item to Moderator Chip Houghton by email (wbhoughton@gmail.com) by March 9, 2018.

In accordance with the First Church Bylaws, absentee ballots will be available for those members who are unable to attend the meeting. Please request your absentee ballot from the church office beginning April 6, 2018. You may request your absentee ballot in-person, by phone (330-253-5109), mail (292 E. Market Street, Akron, OH 44308-2016), fax (330-253-8303), or you may email Deborah Anderson (deborah.anderson@akronfcc.org). Your ballot must be returned and logged in no later than one hour prior to the meeting via one of the preceding means. Absentee ballots do not count toward the required quorum. If a motion is amended or modified from the published agenda, absentee ballots on that motion will not be counted.

Chip Houghton
Moderator

Annual Reports Due March 9

The 184th First Congregational Church Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 6 following the 11am Worship Service. **The deadline to submit an Annual Report is Friday, March 9.** Please submit your report via email to deborah.anderson@akronfcc.org. Thank you!

An Invitation to Lay Leaders and Readers

If you are interested in being a lay leader or scripture reader at one of our Sunday services, please contact Deborah Anderson at the church office, 330-253-5109 or deborah.anderson@akronfcc.org.

The Passing of the Peace

You may have noticed that on Communion Sundays we've begun to "pass the peace" with one another. I thought it might be helpful to give a little background and context to this practice of turning to those around you at church and exchanging some variation of the words "Christ's peace be with you" and responding with something like: "And also with you."

More than an opportunity to simply greet someone sitting near you, the passing of the peace has rich Christian meaning. It emulates the first words Jesus spoke when he appeared to his gathered followers after his resurrection (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 26). When we extend the blessing of peace to one another, we extend the affirmation of Christ's love and peace. In Matt. 10:12-14, Jesus sent his disciples out with the instruction: "As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it."

We observe the passing of the peace on Communion Sundays because we seek to embody the reconciliation and unity Jesus desires for us (John 17:21). It is on this day that we remind ourselves of Jesus' teachings in Matthew 5:23-24 that we should be reconciled to our brother and sister before approaching the altar to offer our gifts. The *Didache*, a late first-century Christian document, says in the context of the Lord's Supper: "But every Lord's day gather yourselves together, and break bread, and give thanksgiving after having confessed your transgressions, that your sacrifice may be pure. But let no one who is at odds with his fellow come together with you, until they be reconciled, that your sacrifice may not be profaned..." (*Didache* 14.2). When we extend the blessing of peace to one another, we make a profound statement of the possibility of forgiveness, reconciliation, and love in our world beginning in our Meetinghouse.

Scripture reveals that this is a Christian practice belonging to all branches of the Church. As we see in Rom. 16:16 and 1 Peter 5:14, it is one of the earliest rituals observed, a kiss in the Mediterranean cultures of the time being the equivalent of a handshake in contemporary American society. In this way we understand the practice to be adjusted for cultural norms. At times like our current flu season, it is perfectly acceptable to visit the Purell dispenser at the back of the Meetinghouse before or after the exchange or to keep ones hands lowered and make only the verbal greeting.

I encourage you to embrace this practice that shapes our hearts, hands, and tongues in the ways of Christ's peace (Matt. 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:20).

May the peace of Christ be with you,
Rev. Nanette

Food Ministry Tours

Food Justice is one of the three goals the church adopted last year. To help the congregation's understanding and awareness of the current food ministries, Food Ministry Tours will be offered on Palm Sunday, March 25 after the 11am worship. Please gather in the Chapel by 12:30pm to experience how our clients are served in the Food Cupboard. Representatives of the Feed My Sheep Garden and the Peanut Butter & Jelly Program will also be available to explain how their programs operate. Come see how your support of these programs are helping First Church serve people in need. We look forward to seeing you!

Clay and Debbie Canfield
Food Cupboard

Inquirers' Gatherings and Joining Sunday

Learn more about First Church on Sunday, March 11 and 18 from 12:15-1:30pm in the Learning Center. Light refreshments will be available. Those who wish to will then be welcomed into membership on Sunday, April 8. If you would like more information, please contact Kari Ledger at kledger64@gmail.com or contact Logan Baez at loganstogsdill@gmail.com.



First Church Community Steelband taught by Matt Dudack

Spring Session: April 9 - May 14, 2018
(Performance Date: May 20 at the 11am Worship)

Each week will have one class offering:

5:30-6:15 pm Combined Beginners and Intermediate

Cost: \$60/participant (\$10/week/person). Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Please speak with Pastor Nanette to explore this option.

To sign up, please pick up a form in the office or download it from our website, www.akronfcc.org, and return it along with your payment to reserve your spot. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis so don't delay!



BREAKFAST
with the **BUNNY**

Pancakes & Activities

Saturday, March 24, 9-11am
Free, Fun, Open to the Public

Bring the children in your life to a fun, safe place to see the Easter Bunny!

(Please sign up to volunteer in the church office, 330-253-5109.)

Special Easter Offering

It seems appropriate as we approach the Easter Season to give consideration to the idea of hope. With that in mind, the Board of Christian Outreach has selected our church's Food Cupboard as the recipient of our annual special Easter Offering.

How blessed we are with the generous gifts we receive for the works of this church! Please consider giving an Easter gift to help sustain our Food Cupboard. A special Easter Offering letter and envelope will be arriving in your mailbox soon. Checks may be written to First Church with "Food Cupboard" written on the memo line. Thank you!

Candy Needed for Easter Egg Hunt!

In preparation of our annual Easter Egg Hunt for toddlers through grade 4, the Board of Christian Education is asking for **individually wrapped small pieces of candy** that will go into plastic Easter eggs! Please bring items to the church office no later than March 25. Any extra candy we receive will be donated to the Food Cupboard. Thank you!

Holiday Hours

The church office will be closed on Monday, April 2. We wish you a Happy and Blessed Easter!



PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25

9:30am Celebrate Worship

Rev. Nanette Pitt, Senior Minister
Dave Aberth, Musician

11:00am Worship

Rev. Nanette Pitt, Senior Minister
Mark Peterson, Interim Choir Director & Organist
Children's Procession with Palms

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 29

7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service

Worship, Holy Communion, & Tenebrae

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30

9:00am - 12:00 Noon

Chapel open for prayer & meditation

12:00 Noon

Scripture Reading and Organ Music in the Chapel.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1

Infant and toddler care is available for both services on Easter morning. An Easter egg hunt is available for toddlers through grade 4 following each intergenerational worship service.

9:30am Worship in the Meetinghouse

Join us for a lighthearted and relaxed Folk Music service led by Rev. Nanette Pitt and musicians Kathy Johnson, Mary Starbuck, Kellie Ramirez, Jim Stone, and John Reynolds.

11:00am Worship in the Meetinghouse

Join us for an uplifting traditional Festival Worship service led by Rev. Nanette Pitt and organist, Mark Peterson, together with brass musicians and the Chancel Choir.

Easter Flowers 2018

Please return this form and \$8.00 per flower to the church office by Sunday, March 18 in order to have an Easter flower in the church on Easter Sunday, April 1.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

With this donation, the names of those mentioned will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin, April 1.

_____ I will be present to claim my flower.

_____ I wish the flower committee to take my flower to someone who is sick or homebound.

Ordered by: _____ Contact Number _____



Exciting Church School News!

Church School Workday Thanks!

The Church School Workday was a huge success! Many thanks to all who helped! There were 20 volunteers and we completed our work in a little over 2 hours. The Church School rooms look great; feel free ask Rev. Karen for a tour!

Childcare Expanded!

In February, we started a new childcare program available on Sunday mornings from 9-11am for children ages 4 through grade 6 in the Village Classroom located on the 2nd floor of the Education Wing. This class will be supervised by our new Childcare Worker, Jessie Busson. (Learn more about Jessie below.) A wide variety of activities for children in this age group will be offered. We hope this new program will help give our members and friends the opportunity to participate in more Sunday morning activities.

New Church School Class

If you don't already know, we have begun a two-room schoolhouse for children ages Pre-K through grade 4. This class begins with a short DVD about the lesson for that day, and then the children have age-appropriate activities to enhance what they learned. The children in grades 5-8 continue to meet as a group and enjoy helping the younger children.



Sunday Mornings for Children and Youth

Nursery Room: Our Nursery (infants and toddlers ages 3 and under) is located on the second floor Education Wing and is available from 9am until after the 11am service.

Childcare: Childcare (ages 4 - grade 6) is available in the 2nd floor Village Room from 9am until 11am.

9:30am Worship: Children and youth are invited to attend the 9:30am worship in the Learning Center with their parents. An activity carpet is available.

Children's Choir: Children (ages 4 - grade 6) are invited to attend Children's Choir at 10:30am on the 2nd floor.

Church School, 11am Worship: Children (ages PreK-K - grade 8) are invited to begin worship with their families and will leave together for Church School on the 2nd floor with their teachers. Parents and guardians, please sign children out of Church School following worship.

Please Note: On Communion Sundays, children will return during worship to sit with their families for Communion.)

Meet the Staff

Mary Ann Gray, Childcare Worker

Mary Ann is a retired Special Education Teacher/Intervention Specialist from Akron Public Schools. She has worked in our nursery for the last 4 1/2 years. Mary Ann says, "I love being with the little ones as they keep me young and as long as I can get up and down off the floor, I figure I am doing pretty well." Mary Ann also enjoys being a part of the First Church Prayer Blanket Ministry and the Peanut Butter & Jelly Program for Mason School. In her spare time, Mary Ann enjoys seeing her retired and working colleagues and doing sudoku puzzles.

Jessica Busson, Childcare Worker

Jessie is a California native. She relocated to the midwest in 2016. Jessie is currently a student at The University of Akron, studying Early Childhood Education and Special Education. She has four years experience working as a preschool teacher. Jessie says, "I enjoy working with children and being a part of their growth and discovery of the world." In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, being outdoors and cooking.

Russ Gaipe, Senior Sexton

Russ began working at First Church in early December, 2017. He has worked as a sexton for over 15 years at other churches. Russ teaches junior high Sunday School at Redeemer Church in Hudson, where he is a deacon. He also works with a prison ministry writing letters of encouragement. Russ loves reading and blogging about theology.



Jessie and Mary Ann



Wednesdays at First Church

Dinner in the Fellowship Hall 6:00-6:30pm

Dinner - pay at the door; cost \$8.00
Reservations a must - Sign up in the Office
or Fellowship Hall by the prior Monday by 2pm

Faith Enrichment 10:45am-Noon

See description below. 6:45-8:00pm

Wednesday Night at the Movies 6:45-8:00pm

If you enjoy thought-provoking, insightful and entertaining cinema, your ticket is Wednesday Night at the Movies. Discussion follows the movie. Look for a brief description of the movies in News & Notes of the Sunday Bulletin each week. Questions, call Bernie Babb (330-687-0823). This is a fun evening and we hope you will join us in the Theater Room.

Faith Enrichment

Morning Bible Study

On Wednesdays, March 7, 14, and 21, from 10:45am-noon join Rev. Dr. Don Skinner for "Three (Very) Brief Early Christian Letters: Philemon, 2nd Peter, and Jude." Each of these books of the Bible possesses at least one important idea, and even more ideas worth chewing on! Our guest facilitator, Don, has delivered public lectures, taught classes, or occupied pulpits in thirty-eight churches in twelve states and is the author of four books and twenty periodical articles. Participants should please read Paul's letter to Philemon (one chapter, one page long!) before March 7, and are encouraged to bring a Bible and notepad along.

Evening Living the Questions 2

Beginning in March, on Wednesdays from 6:45-8:30pm, join Rev. Nanette for an open-minded alternative study - Living the Questions 2. This DVD-based curriculum features notable thinkers such as Diana Butler Bass, John Dominic Crossan, Brian McLaren, Emilie Townes, Robin Meyers, and the late Marcus Borg. Each session opens conversation and exploration as participants discuss an evolving faith together with concrete spiritual practices and theologies. Please pick up a set of readings in the church office or visit <http://www.akronfcc.org/explore-learn/faith/>

My One Word - Check-in

Join Karen Bruno on Sunday, March 4 and May 20 at 12:15pm in the Conference Room to discuss how the journey with your one word is progressing. For more information, please contact Karen at karen.bruno@akronfcc.org.

Wednesday Night at the Movies Schedule 6:45-8:00pm in the Theater Room

Here are the movies in March:

March 7 - a trilogy of short films:

Deep Storage - Gus, a stuttering loner, lives with his mum. When she dies he becomes homeless and moves their things, and himself, into a local storage facility where he gets a job as a cleaner.

Your Old Man - On the day of her grandfather's funeral, eighteen-year-old Maggie discovers that her father was adopted and she must find a way to tell him, despite their strained relationship.

The Bus Ride - A young homeless man down on his luck crosses paths with an elderly woman at a bus stop. The encounter changes his life forever when he decides to tag along on what becomes her last bus ride through the city.

March 14

A Rising Tide - After a hurricane destroys his family's restaurant, Sam comes to the aid of a wealthy patron and then falls for the newly separated Sarah Bell. A chain of unexpected events unfolds for all of them, as they discover the only way to achieve their dreams may be to acknowledge what they owe to others, and realize that the greatest investments take more than cash.

March 21

The Last Word - In *The Last Word*, Shirley MacLaine is Harriet Lauler, a once-successful business woman in tight control of every aspect of her life. As she reflects upon her accomplishments, she's suddenly inspired to engage a young local writer, Anne Sherman (Amanda Seyfried), to pen her life's story. When the initial result doesn't meet Harriet's high expectations, she sets out to reshape the way she is remembered, with Anne dragged along as an unwilling accomplice. As the journey unfolds, the two women develop a unique bond which alters not only Harriet's legacy, but also Anne's future.

March 28

No movie due to Holy Week.

Yoga for Everyone!

Yoga class meets on Wednesdays at 5:30pm in the Chapel with Larry Ott, instructor. Cost is \$5.00 per person. All are welcome!

March Mission of the Month: Boys and Girls Club

The Board of Christian Outreach has selected the Boys and Girls Club as the March Mission of the Month. The Boys and Girls Clubs of the Western Reserve is an autonomous affiliate of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Their mission is changing young people's lives by providing a safe place to belong after school where staff members and caring volunteers help them in developing academic success, good character and citizenship and healthy lifestyles. The clubs depend on financial contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations. Volunteers are important and as little as one hour per week can make a positive impact on a young adult's life.

If you would like to contribute to this mission, please write your check payable to First Church with "Boys & Girls Club" written on the memo line. Thank you.

Mission of the Month Update

The January Mission of the Month was First Glance. A total amount of \$600 was given to this ministry. Thank you for your generous donations.

Food Cupboard Update

The Food Cupboard is in need of shampoo, body wash, body lotion, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, and magazines. Please leave donations in the basket outside the church office. Thank you!

Food Cupboard Monthly Activity

In January, the Food Cupboard distributed food for 8,757 meals for 973 people in need. A total of 431 volunteer hours was provided by 37 volunteers in this ministry.

The Love Truck

The Love Truck will serve a meal on the last Saturday of each month from 4:30-5:30pm. Please contact Nathan Walden for more information about volunteering to help serve our neighbors at the.lovetruck@yahoo.com.

Homeless Outreach

Homeless Outreach, a federal program through Community Support Services, Inc., is collecting new and used blankets, coats, gloves, hiking boots and shoes for local homeless men and women. Please bring items to the church office. Thank you for your support.

Peanut Butter & Jelly Program Needs Books

The PB&J Program would appreciate new or gently used books for the children at Mason CLC, grades K-6, again this year. The younger children enjoy picture books, but the older children want chapter books. It would be helpful if the chapter books were at a low reading level, as many students are below grade level in reading.

We will collect books until May 1st. Please bring books to the church office. Thank you for your continued support of the Mason school children.

Prayer Blanket Ministry

The Prayer Blanket Ministry meets on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 5:30-8:00pm. If you would like to join our group, please contact Deborah Anderson at the church, 330-253-5109 or you can email deborah.anderson@akronfcc.org. All are welcome! If you find it difficult to attend the meetings but would like to participate in making prayer patches, please let me know! There is no sewing involved to make the blankets, but the patches do need to be sewn on a machine. We would love to have you join us!

Boxtops and Tyson Chicken-A+ Coupons for Education

First Church continues to participate in Boxtops and the Tyson Chicken - A+ coupons. Boxtops bring in 10 cents each. Be sure to check the expiration date on the Boxtops. Tyson Chicken - A+ coupons are worth 24 cents each. Please save both of those educational coupons and bring them to the church office. CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS HAVE BEEN DISCONTINUED. We are no longer collecting those labels. Thank you for your support!

Your Mason CLC Committee

Earth-Loving Ideas for Everyone

One quick and easy way to make a positive impact on the world - stop using straws in your drinks! Did you know that straws cannot be recycled and are a small but significant part of the unnecessary plastic waste in our environment? Start seeing those little straws in a different light and ask for your drinks without them! And don't stop there - why not share the idea with others too?

Stewardship & Finance Board

Stewardship/Finance Report (unaudited) January 2018 - Final

	January	YTD	YTD Budget	Percent to Budget
Income				
2018 Loyalty Campaign	54,464	54,464	20,825	261.53%
Non-pledge Income	3,096	3,096	3,748	82.60%
Special Ministries-including Special Offering	634	634	3,795	16.71%
Endowment, Sprowls Trust, Pollock	44,276	44,276	45,508	97.29%
Other Income	<u>1,367</u>	<u>1,367</u>	<u>2,359</u>	<u>57.95%</u>
TOTAL	103,837	103,837	76,235	136.21%
Expenses				
Total Admin. & Support	4,677	4,677	7,497	62.38%
Total Mission	3,744	3,744	7,809	47.94%
Food Service Expense	2,737	2,737	2,327	117.62%
Personnel	35,406	35,406	39,571	89.47%
Property Expenses	<u>28,876</u>	<u>28,876</u>	<u>25,104</u>	<u>115.03%</u>
TOTAL	75,440	75,440	82,308	91.66%

Music at First Church

First Church is pleased to host the following concerts. We hope you will join us!

Two Men and a Bench, March 17, 7:00pm

Chorus for a Cause, April 21, 3:30pm

Two Men and a Bench

MARK THEWES CHAD PITTMAN

Unique Organ Duet Concerts
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 292 E MARKET ST, AKRON, OH 44308
MARCH 17TH - 7:00PM
 WORKS BY CALLAHAN, MORRICONE, MASCAGNI, MICHEL,
 VAUGHAN-WILLIAMS AND SAINT-SAENS

A CHORUS FOR A CAUSE
 DIRECTED BY CHRISTINE ALLISON
 IN CONCERT PRESENTS

Listen TO THE Earth

APRIL 21, 2018
 3:30 PM - DOORS OPEN AT 3:00
 FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 292 EAST MARKET STREET
 AKRON, OH 44308

TICKETS **\$15**

AVAILABLE NOW FROM:
 FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
 AND AT THE DOOR THE DAY OF THE CONCERT

Proceeds to benefit

SUMMIT FOOD COALITION

ACHORUSFORACAUSE.ORG
 A Chorus for a Cause is a 501c3 non-profit

In Our Prayers

Carolyn Durway	Larry Reed
Karen Foley	Rev. Bill Rodefer
George Kostan	Agneta Solomon
Elsie Oldfield	Michael West
Lee Pritchard	Doug Weyrick

In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers are with the following First Church families:

To Nancy Nierman Baker and family on the passing of her husband, Don Baker, on February 10, 2018. A memorial service was held at First Church on Saturday, February 17 with Rev. Nanette Pitt officiating.

To Kathy Petsko and family on the passing of her mother, Mary Margaret Sprague, on February 10, 2018.

Men's Lunch Bunch

The Men's Lunch Bunch meets on Mondays at 12:00pm for lunch and a program. Cost of the meal is \$7.00. All men of the church are invited. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Howard Tolley, 330-867-1469.

Women's Spiritual Journey

Women's Spiritual Journey meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 12:00pm for lunch, conversation, and study. For more information, please contact Linda Peshina, 330-628-9137.

Thanks to our March Ushers

Chip Houghton, Susanne Shoffner, Carol Johnson, Sam Corbin.

**Blood Pressure & Diabetes Checks
March 18****2018 Offering Envelopes**

If you have requested 2018 Offering Envelopes, you can pick them up in the Narthex. If you would like to request a box of envelopes, please contact Patty Gillespie at 330-253-5109. Thank you.

Baby Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jennifer and Kevin Kowalski on the birth of their baby, Walter Lee Kowalski, born on February 17, weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces, and 20 1/2 inches!

Labyrinth Walk - March 1

In celebration of Don Baker's journey of life, you are warmly invited to join his family for a memorial Labyrinth walk on Thursday, March 1 from 6:30 until 8pm at First Church. Celtic music will be provided by The Mickeys! For more information, please email Nancy Nierman Baker at nierbaker@aol.com. For information on the labyrinth, please visit www.akronfcc.org.

University of Akron Symphony Orchestra

We are pleased to host The University of Akron Symphony Orchestra on March 22 at 7:30pm. The concert is free and open to the public.

MARCH 22, 2018 • 7:30pm

Ince-Before Infrared

Dello Joio - Air for Strings

Mozart-Flute Concerto in D, K. 314

Erin Latham, flute - UA Concerto Competition Winner

Copland-Billy The Kid

Dr. Guy Bordo, Conductor

Flower Donors Needed

Flower donors are needed on the following dates: June 3, July 8, 15 and 22. Please contact Patty Gillespie at 330-253-5109, ext. 110, if you're able to fill any of these dates & she'll provide you an order form. The floral arrangements cost \$40.00 with checks payable to First Church. Thank you!

First Church Recycles!

You may have noticed a new large white recycling bin in the Fellowship Hall. Things you can recycle include: metal cans, foil, papers, newspapers, magazines, glass bottles and plastic bottles, jars and jugs. Things you cannot recycle include food waste, plastic cups, take-out food containers, plastic grocery bags, plastic bottle caps, styrofoam, and used napkins and paper plates. There are pictures on the bin to guide you. Thank you for helping us be good stewards of the environment!

Hearing Assistance Devices

If you are in need of a hearing assistance device for the 11am worship service, please stop by the church office. The devices must be returned to the office immediately following worship.

To Contact Pastor Nanette...

To contact Pastor Nanette, you can call 330-253-5109 ext. 111 (church), 330-907-1050 (cell) or email her at nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org.

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please Note: Any calendar information is subject to change after printing.</i></p>				<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30-8:00pm Labyrinth</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:45-2:00pm Peanut Butter & Jelly Program</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>
<p>4 Communion</p> <p>9am-Noon Nursery</p> <p>9am-11am Childcare (age 4-grade 6)</p> <p>9:30am Worship <i>Children remain in worship with their families</i></p> <p>10:30am Children's Choir</p> <p>11:00am Worship</p> <p>11:00am Church School</p>	<p>5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:00 Noon Men's Lunch Bunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Women's Spiritual Journey</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AA Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:30am-11:30am Food Cupboard</p>	<p>7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:45am Faith Enrichment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:30pm Handbells</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:30pm Yoga Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00pm Dinner <i>(reservations please!)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:45pm Faith Enrichment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:45pm Movies</p>	<p>8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30pm Justice & Peace Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chronicle Deadline</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:45-2:00pm Peanut Butter & Jelly Program</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9am-Noon Nursery</p> <p>9am-11am Childcare (age 4-grade 6)</p> <p>9:30am Worship <i>Children remain in worship with their families</i></p> <p>10:30am Children's Choir</p> <p>11:00am Worship</p> <p>11:00am Church School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:15pm Inquirers Gathering</p>	<p>12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:00 Noon Men's Lunch Bunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AA Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:30am-11:30am Food Cupboard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:30pm Prayer Blankets</p>	<p>14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:45am Faith Enrichment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:30pm Handbells</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:30pm Yoga Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00pm Dinner <i>(reservations please!)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:45pm Faith Enrichment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:45pm Movies</p>	<p>15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:45-2:00pm Peanut Butter & Jelly Program</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:00pm Two Men and a Bench Concert</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9am-Noon Nursery</p> <p>9am-11am Childcare</p> <p>9:30am Worship <i>Children remain in worship with their families</i></p> <p>10:30am Children's Choir</p> <p>11:00am Worship</p> <p>11:00am Church School</p> <p>12:15pm Inq. Gathering</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BP & Diabetes Checks <i>before & after 11am worship</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:00 Noon Men's Lunch Bunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Women's Spiritual Journey</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AA Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:30am-11:30am Food Cupboard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:30pm Prayer Blankets</p>	<p>21 Chronicle Mailing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:45am Faith Enrichment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:30pm Handbells</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:30pm Yoga Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00pm Dinner <i>(reservations please!)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:45pm Faith Enrichment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:45pm Movies</p>	<p>22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30pm Univ. of Akron Orchestra Concert</p>	<p>23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:45-2:00pm Peanut Butter & Jelly Program</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Breakfast with the Bunny 9-11 am</p>
<p>25 Palm Sunday </p> <p>9am-Noon Nursery</p> <p>9am-11am Childcare</p> <p>9:30am Worship <i>Children remain in worship with their families</i></p> <p>10:30am Children's Choir</p> <p>11:00am Worship</p> <p>11:00am Church School</p> <p>12:30am Food Ministry Tour</p>	<p>26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:00 Noon Men's Lunch Bunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AA Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30pm Governing Bd.</p>	<p>27</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:30am-11:30am Food Cupboard</p>	<p>28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p>	<p>29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Good Friday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9am-noon Chapel open for prayer & meditation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Noon Scripture reading & music in the Chapel</p>	<p>31</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:30pm Love Truck</p>

The Chronicle

First Congregational Church
292 East Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44308

Please join us in wishing these MARCH 2018 BIRTHDAYS a
"HAPPY BIRTHDAY"!!

If we have the wrong date or have omitted anyone, please let us know.

1 Danielle Dudas	8 Carrie Ruth	15 Christopher Petsko	24 Curt Clemons Cherie Meyers
2 Lisel Powell	9 Jean McCurry	17 Kersten Swartz	25 Jake Cook
4 Mica Campbell Dennis Conrad Liza Salchak	11 Christopher Anderson	18 Christine Allison	27 Shayne Donald
5 Jennifer Gray Andrew Houghton	12 Marilyn Bednar-Kasarda	19 John Bakuhn Sandra Campbell	28 Madeline Baughman
6 Carole Conner	13 Pierson Shields	22 Kathleen Petsko	29 Gary Klein
7 Lewis Roberts	14 Paula Singleton Susan Herman	23 Ava Moses	31 Audrey Buser Wanda Tettelbach Susan Wilson