

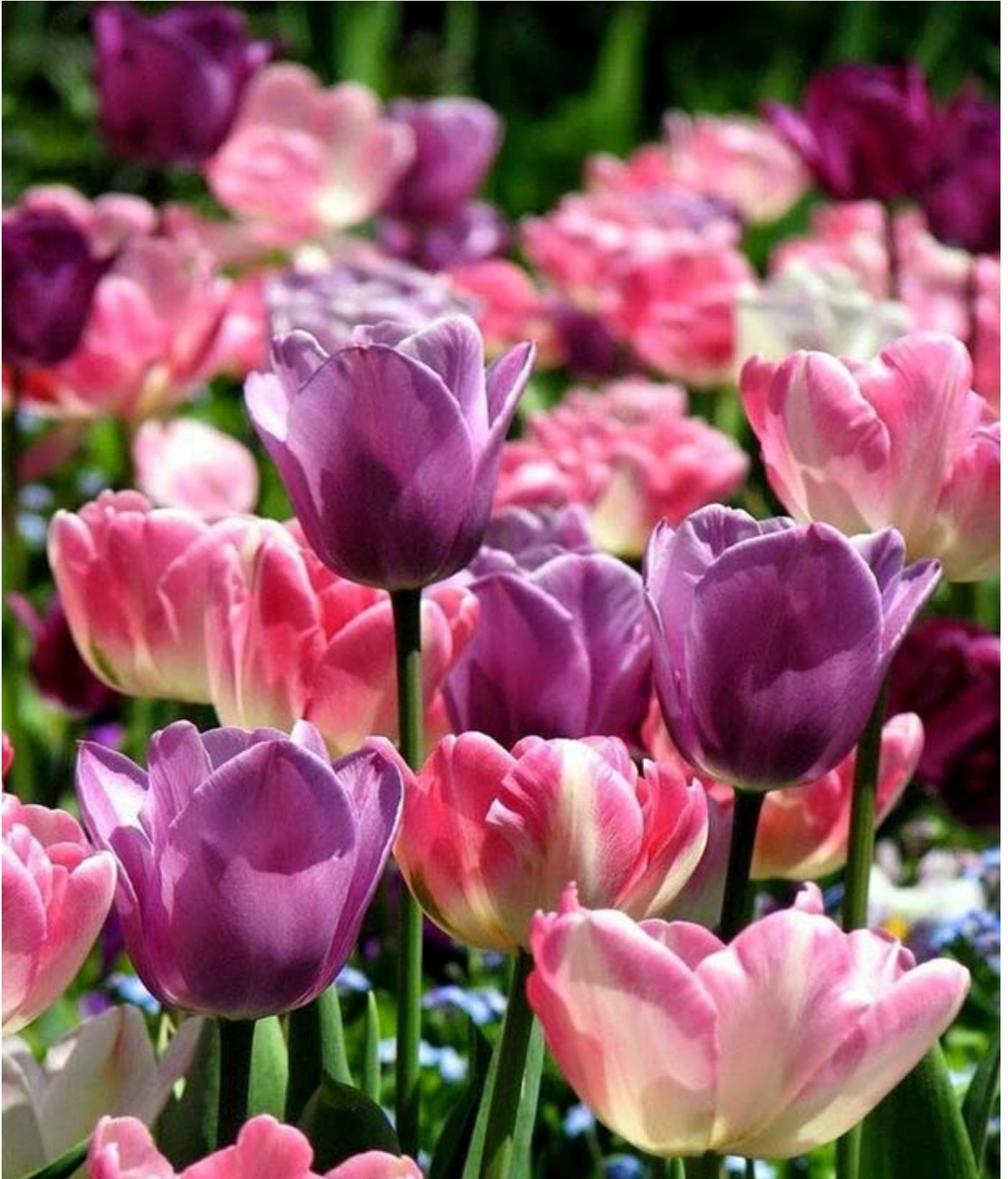


**FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH** *of Akron*

*An Open and Affirming Church*

# The Chronicle

April 2018 Number 4



292 East Market Street

Akron, OH 44308

(330) 253 5109

[www.akronfcc.org](http://www.akronfcc.org)



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### Sunday Worship

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

### Worship Schedule:

April 1

#### Easter Sunday Communion

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

April 8

#### Second Sunday of Easter

9:30am & 11am  
*Trusting Together*  
Acts 4:32-35  
John 20:19-21

April 15

#### Third Sunday of Easter

9:30am & 11am  
*Children of God*  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48

April 22

#### Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:30am & 11am  
*Let's Get Real*  
Psalm 23  
John 10:11-18

April 29

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:30am & 11am  
*God is Love*  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8

### Next Chronicle

Deadline: Fri., April 6  
Mailing: Wed., April 18

### Email Submissions:

deborah.anderson@akronfcc.org

Editor: Deborah Anderson

## A Letter From the Pastor

Beloved,

As we enter the holiest week on the Christian calendar, I am struck by the thought that we are presented not only with one of the greatest themes of hope born out of the worst and most impossible of circumstances, but that the account - the entire narrative - is based on relationship. Had Jesus sequestered himself, we would have no entry into Jerusalem, no betrayal, no injustice, no death, and no resurrection - no terror turned into Love's greatest triumph.

As much as the events from Palm/Passion Sunday through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and into Easter are about Jesus, they are also about relationship: Jesus in relationship with others. I believe that there is as much for us to learn about ourselves in the example of those relationships as there is for us to learn about God and our faith in the events of Holy Week and Easter.

Recently in a service, I invited the offering using wisdom and words from a UU Fellowship in Franklin, SC. I said: "We come to this place because we love what exists here. This church is a living entity, and like all living things, it must have nurture and sustenance. Its breath and its heartbeat... its life itself, can only be derived from its living components." We, the living components of the Body of Christ at First Church, are our church in its present form. Both simple and profound, this statement invites us to recognize that it is in and through us that God works the miracles we yearn for. Each one of us is vitally important to First Church; without us there is no church here and now.

Often at First Church we say that we don't tell one another what to believe, that we welcome one another "no matter who we are or where we are on our life's journey" and that we expect we will disagree with one another from time to time. I wonder sometimes whether, in the midst of those sentiments, we speak often enough of the things that bind us together no matter our differences. Do we all have a strong sense of the role we each play in God's enterprise of church? Do we feel the connection of our covenant to one another so that, like Jesus on Maundy Thursday, we are prepared to sit at the table with one another even when we feel the sting of betrayal? And does our covenant with one another give us faith that we can remain present with one another, committed to one another, enough to talk it through honestly and openly so that we can welcome the miraculous Spirit of Easter even when some may have deserted or doubted?

As we enter the journey of Holy Week and Easter this year, I invite us to reflect on the role of relationships that Jesus navigates and to allow the narrative to minister to us as we continue to learn and grow in our faith and in our covenant with one another at the First Congregational Church of Akron.

Yours in Christ,

*Nanette*



## Welcome New Citizens!

On Friday, March 16, 2018, Steven Savides and Nanette Pitt took the Oath of Citizenship and became citizens of the United States of America. We congratulate them and welcome them to this wonderful nation!

Following the ceremony, Nanette shared her feelings:

“A wonderful and profound day today as Steven and I became citizens here in the United States. The end of a long journey with many ups and downs - this second home is now home in a new way and we’ve joined our pets as citizens! Thanks to everyone who supported us along the way and for those who were able to be with us in person and in spirit today. We feel so very blessed and thankful.”



## News from Church School

### Bulletin Board for Church School News

Be sure to check out the new Church School bulletin board located in the Fellowship Hall for all the latest news!

### Church School Volunteers Needed

Can you give one hour a month to help in the Church School? We need caring volunteers in the classrooms to help nurture our children in Christian Faith. Please consider signing up to help in one of the classrooms one hour a month. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Rev. Karen Bruno at [karen.bruno@akronfcc.org](mailto:karen.bruno@akronfcc.org) or see the new Church School bulletin board located in the Fellowship Hall.



## 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 the 11am 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.

## 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. Checks may be written to First Church with “Food Cupboard” written on the memo line. Thank you!

## Invigorate! Congregational Life

First Church will host a roundtable discussion on **Saturday, April 14 from 9:00-11:00 AM** to begin to develop and implement specific ideas to enhance our Congregational Life together. A fine breakfast repast, hot coffee and tea, fellowship and **childcare will be provided.**

While it is not completely necessary, please sign up in the church office, or simply call the church office at 330-253-5109 (in order to make sure that we provide sufficient food).

As you may recall at last year's annual meeting the following three Big Hairy Audacious Goals (BHAGs) were adopted by the congregation ... but also recall that these are *long term* goals.

- **FOOD JUSTICE** - Every person in the region has access to healthy food choices, and food insecurity is reduced in the region.
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** - First Church is recognized as the leading faith community partner for racial, social, and economic empowerment in Northeast Ohio.
- **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE** - First Church is the largest, most vibrant and diverse church in Northeast Ohio, seeking Christ's Spirit and advancing Christ's justice.

So what is Congregational Life and what does it mean for First Church? That is perhaps the key set of questions we plan to address. But there are others ...

- What can we do as a Family of Faith to enhance our current relationships and develop new ones?
- How does that play into our spiritual growth, both corporately and as individuals?
- And how do we reach out to seekers who are searching for spiritual fulfillment and a church home?

Of the three BHAGs, **Food Justice** is perhaps the best developed. The church sponsors the Food Cupboard, the Feed My Sheep Garden, the PB&J Program (with Mason CLC) and now a Summit Food Coalition entrepreneurial pilot.

Much of that work spills over into our **Community Development** effort.

- We collaborate with Harvest Home and now Let's Grow Akron in the Garden (see *Changes for Feed My Sheep Garden* article on page 7).
- The contribution the Food Cupboard makes toward community development is self-evident.
- Food Coalition Entrepreneurial pilot incubates start-up businesses to help grow our local economy and benefits First Church with exposure to the wider community. *(continued in next column)*

Developing a vibrant **Congregational Life** will not only lend itself to a healthy and growing Church but it will also aid in the pursuit of the Food Justice and Community Development BHAGs. So please plan to join us on **Saturday, April 14 from 9:00 - 11:00 AM** and lend your voice to our dynamic discussion. We are smarter together than we are alone.

Larry Becker  
Vice Moderator

## Food Ministry Open House

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



## 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](http://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!

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

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 6, 2018 following the 11:00am worship service. Notice is hereby given of the agenda:

1. Voting on the 2018-2019 First Congregational Church of Akron officer and board member nominees (see details below).

In accordance with the 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. Your ballot must be returned and logged in no later than one hour prior to the meeting via mail, fax, email, or in-person delivery. Absentee ballots do not count toward the required quorum of 67 people (15% of total membership). If a motion is amended or modified from this published agenda, absentee ballots on that motion will not be counted.

Chip Houghton, Moderator

### Agenda Item 1

The list of nominees, below, is presented by the Nominating Board for the 2018-2019 church year. The nominees have accepted their nomination and will serve if elected. Nominations to fill empty slots (except for the Personnel Board) will also be taken from the floor at the meeting. Empty underlines indicate openings needed to fill minimum requirements for a board.

All board positions are currently for two-year terms, except for the Christian Outreach Board and the Personnel Board (three years each) and Moderator, Vice Moderator, Secretary, and Treasurer (one year each).

### List of Nominees for the 2018-2019 church year:

**Moderator:** (1 year term) Larry Becker  
**Vice Moderator:** (1 year term) DeAnn Clemons  
**Secretary:** (1-year term) Sue Yoder  
**Treasurer:** (1-year term) Curt Clemons

**Governing Board At-Large Members:** (2-year term)  
 Chip Houghton  
 Laura Bishop  
 Jay Hershey

*(continued in the next column)*

### List of Nominees for the 2018-2019 church year continued:

**Building and Grounds Board:** (2-year term)  
 Kathy Berg  
 Darren Jones-Baker

**Christian Education Board:** ( 2-year term)  
 Marian Carlson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Victoria Leach \_\_\_\_\_

**Christian Outreach Board:** (3-year term)  
 Tiffany Thorne (filling unexpired term 2016-2019)  
 JoAnne Dawson (filling unexpired term 2016-2019)  
 Pat McKay

**Diaconate:** (2-year term)  
 Karen Elgin \_\_\_\_\_ Joanne Mazzaferro  
 Tana Alexander \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stefan Forcey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ann Snyder \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership:** (2-year term)  
 Amanda Cole \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elaine Roberts \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Music Board:** (2-year term)  
 Nancy Jenkins \_\_\_\_\_ Richard Moore  
 Michael Yeager \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominating:** (2-year term)  
 Kellie Ramirez  
 Susan Wilson

**Personnel:** (3-year term)  
 Sue Yoder  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Stewardship and Finance:** (2-year term)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Delegate to NACCC Conference:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Delegate to UCC Ohio Conference:**  
 Brenda Waddell

**Delegate to UCC Eastern Ohio Conference:**  
 Brenda Waddell

## 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 in April and May, join Rev. Dr. Don Skinner for a study of the Bible and other topics. A careful reading of the crucifixion and resurrection narratives recorded in the four Gospels makes clear that no two of them tell the story in quite the same way. Indeed, on some particulars, no two of them agree at all. How do thoughtful students of the Bible deal with these apparent contradictions? And is it even possible to reconcile them? The 10:45am Bible study class on April 4 (the first Wednesday after Easter) will focus on this riddle. Then, on the Wednesdays from April 11 to May 30, the class will turn to a topic (or topics) suggested by the class members themselves at our meeting on March 17. Everyone wanting to help set the agenda -- here's your opportunity!

### Evening Living the Questions 2

In April, 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/>

## Yoga Class

Yoga Instructor, Larry Ott, has informed the church that he will no longer have yoga classes on Wednesday nights beginning in April.

## Wednesday Night at the Movies Schedule

6:45-8:00pm in the Theater Room

Here are the April movies:

**April 4** - four short films:

*Does God Play Football?* - A fatherless boy goes to church hoping a priest might become his surrogate "father." What he discovers is miraculously close to the truth. A beautiful tale of family and the innocent search for belonging.

*Revisited* - When a family goes to visit their "scary" grandmother (the one with all the rules), six-year-old Claire decides to break them. Though she is forbidden to go upstairs, Claire's discovery unlocks family secrets, opening doors to renewed hope and possibility for their family.

*A Short History of Sweet Potato Pie and How It Became a Flying Saucer* - This short documentary allows us into the steamy and fragrant kitchen of Pearl Mallory, who brings her faith and her heritage to the sweet potato pies that she bakes for the seniors of St. Mary's Court Retirement Home. An alchemist who clearly mixes her devotion and kindness into her work, Pearl has the power to create a revolution among the elders at St. Mary's, simply through the Joie de Vivre that her cooking inspires. What is this group of seniors capable of? A surprise ending, to say the least!

*Baker's Men* - In this funny and clever short film, two little girls happily play an innocent game of patty-cake until they burst out of their childish ways into a deconstruction of their game and all it teaches them about who they are to become as women on this planet. A profound and ingenious take on gender roles and the tender age at which they take root in our lives.

**April 11**

*Touching Wild Horses* - Jane Seymour stars in this transformational film (not recommended for children under 10) as Fiona Kelsey, a writer who lives alone on an island preserve for wild horses. Although she reseraches and writes about the horses, she is forbidden to ever touch one of the majestic creatures with which she shares her paradise. When her nephew shows up at her doorstep after a horrendous family tragedy, both of their lives are changed forever. A film about the epic adventure that takes place within the hearts of Fiona and her nephew, *Touching Wild Horses* is an ode to the healing power of nature that will stay with you for a long time to come.

(movie schedule continued on page 9)

## Changes for Feed My Sheep Garden

Chances are, if you've been around the building during the week recently, you have seen a smiling new face. It belongs to Samantha Phillips, Sam to everyone, our new garden manager.

Her presence is the result of a partnership between First Church and Let's Grow Akron (LGA), the venerable community gardening organization, which has become a fixture in the Akron urban gardening movement. It can be argued that LGA is the reason Akron even has an urban gardening movement. Led by Director Lisa Nunn, LGA supports community gardens throughout the city, making sure the gardens and especially the gardeners are successful.



Our garden has grown wonderfully over its seven years and we have been blessed by the vision and energy of many people enabling us to bring fresh food to our Food Cupboard clients. With the recent growth in our Food Cupboard and our new Food Justice and Community Development Big Hairy Audacious Goals, it's become clear that we need to increase our garden's capacity for volunteers and community connections. We are grateful especially to the work that Sarah Vradenburg and Duane Husted have undertaken and join them in looking forward to this next step in growth.

This new investment in ministry with LGA will enable greater participation by church and community volunteers while still maintaining our commitment to our training incubator programs - our Participant Program and our relationship with Harvest Home.

After discussions between LGA and church leadership, it was clear our similar missions of promoting access to fresh produce and food justice made partnership a logical next step. Fortunately for us, Sam was available. She is the perfect person to step in at this critical juncture. The Governing Board approved the agreement at its Feb. 26 meeting.



A Medina native and graduate of Denison University, Sam has spent the last several years immersed in Akron's local food movement. Her experience in urban gardening extends to leading community gardens, helping in Ms. Julie's Kitchen -- our local all-vegan restaurant -- not only to prepare food but also to grow it on Ms. Julie's extensive garden operation in Summit Lake. Sam helped get Hattie Larlham's Food Hub organized and operated a grocery store, working with participants in Hattie's produce production program. Sadly, for many of us, Hattie Larlham closed its Food Hub last year. Sam has also worked as an intern at Crown Point Ecology Center in Bath, running its farm operations, which included starting and growing plants for the center's community-supported agriculture program and working with local school districts as their students learned about soil, harvesting and other farm activities.

The garden remains a First Church ministry. Sam will make sure it remains healthy and productive. Rest assured it is in great, soon to be very dirty hands.

If you'd like to learn more about the garden or volunteer, you can contact Sam at [sam@letsgrowakron.org](mailto:sam@letsgrowakron.org). Church members desiring more information on the First Church - Let's Grow Akron partnership and/or the Food Justice BHAG may contact Moderator Chip Houghton or Vice Moderator Larry Becker.



## April Mission of the Month: Oasis

The Outreach Board has selected Oasis as the April Mission of the Month. This program, led by Rev. Lisa Arledge, helps to guide inner-city teens in changing life paths and becoming independent. Local church congregations provide volunteers and donations.

The ministry offers dinner and worship on Sundays. During the week there are opportunities for yoga, music, open gym, dinner, and youth outreach. Student participants describe the program as a safe and great place to be, like a second family.

Your donation is greatly appreciated and checks can be made payable to First Church with "Oasis" written on the memo line. Thank you.

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## Mission of the Month Update

The February Mission of the Month was South Street Ministries. A total amount of \$600 was given to this ministry. Thank you for your generous donations.

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## Food Cupboard Update

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

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## 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](mailto:the.lovetruck@yahoo.com).

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## 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.

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## Earth Day Network: Earth Day 2018

Join Earth Day Network on Earth Day 2018 - April 22 - to help end plastic pollution. Plastic is threatening our planet's survival, from poisoning and injuring marine life to disrupting human hormones, from littering our beaches and landscapes to clogging our streams and landfills. Together, we can make a difference. For more information, visit <https://www.earthday.org/>

## Expenditures For Mason Chromebooks To Be Revised

This past Christmas, Mason Community Learning Center was the recipient of the Special Christmas Offering (\$5881.00) and the December Mission of the Month (\$600.00), totalling \$6,481.00. This money was to be spent specifically for 24 Chromebooks and their accompanying software. This request came from the Mason staff shortly after the school year began in the fall of 2017.

Within the past several weeks, the Mason staff and the Mason Outreach Program received information from the Akron Public Schools that new Chromebooks would be purchased for students in grades 3-5. On Tuesday, February 27, 2018, the Akron Beacon Journal ran an article in the Community section of the newspaper entitled, "Board Debates Student Walkouts." The article verified the decision to purchase 4,019 Chromebooks and 5,001 cases for grades 3-5 for a little over \$1 million.

With this new information, the Mason Outreach Program finds it necessary to revise how the donated Christmas monies for our program will be spent. The Mason staff will be considering what additional instructional/ technological purchases might be needed for the students in the 2018-2019 school year. Please know the monies which we have received (\$6,481.00) from members and friends of First Church will be reserved and used only for instructional and/or technological purchases only. We will keep you informed of any decision made by the Mason staff once we have received that information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Maggie Grigsby at [mgrigsby@neo.rr.com](mailto:mgrigsby@neo.rr.com), 330-882-4950, or 234-369-9261.

Respectfully,  
The Mason Outreach Program  
Maggie Grigsby, Linda Hultz, and Emily Mosconi

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## 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.

## Stewardship & Finance Board

### Stewardship/Finance Report (unaudited) February 2018 - Final

	February	YTD	YTD Budget	Percent to Budget
<b>Income</b>				
2018 Loyalty Campaign	13,704	68,168	41,674	163.57%
Non-pledge Income	2,657	5,753	7,501	76.70%
Special Ministries-including Special Offering	586	1,220	7,595	16.06%
Endowment, Sprowls Trust, Pollock	44,276	88,552	91,070	97.24%
Other Income	4,535	5,902	4,721	125.02%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65,758</b>	<b>169,595</b>	<b>152,561</b>	<b>111.17%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Total Admin. & Support	2,599	7,276	15,003	48.50%
Total Mission	4,603	8,347	15,628	53.41%
Food Service Expense	2,889	5,626	4,656	120.83%
Personnel	25,603	61,009	79,189	77.04%
Property Expenses	14,762	43,638	50,238	86.86%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,456</b>	<b>125,896</b>	<b>164,714</b>	<b>76.43%</b>

### Wednesday Night at the Movies, Cont.

**April 18** - a trilogy of short films

*Cupids* - Two cupids must team up to face one of the greatest challenges of modern times: getting two strangers to talk to each other.

*Look at Me* - Everett is aging, and lonely. To get attention he starts behaving in an eccentric way in front of strangers...and then he tries something even more outlandish.

*Wonders* - A wordless visual/musical window into the beauty of living and loving in a wonder-full world.

**April 25**

*Summer Coda* - In Reno, Heidi gets word that her father has died half a world away. She visits his home and a family she's never known in Australia. In the stunning orange groves of rural Australia she meets Michael, and together they embark on an adventure, discovering that their secrets and lives may be better shared.

### University of Akron Symphony Orchestra

We are pleased to host The University of Akron Symphony Orchestra on May 3 at 7:30pm. The concert is free and open to the public.

**MAY 3, 2018 • 7:30pm**

Sibelius - *Finlandia*

Liadov' - *The Enchanted Lake*

Vaughan Williams - *The Lark Ascending*

Dvorak - *Symphony No. 8*

Minju Kim, Faculty Violinist

Dr. Guy Bordo, Conductor

### Music at First Church

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

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

**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**

Proceeds to benefit

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

 [ACHORUSFORACAUSE.ORG](http://ACHORUSFORACAUSE.ORG)  
A Chorus for a Cause is a 501c3 non-profit

### ***In Our Prayers***

Carolyn Durway  
Elizabeth Fesler  
Karen Foley  
Barbara Hansford  
Elsie Oldfield

Lee Pritchard  
Larry Reed  
Rev. Bill Rodefer  
Agneta Solomon  
Doug Weyrick

### ***In Sympathy***

Our sympathy and prayers are with Linda and Chip Houghton on the passing of Linda's mother, Grace Shirey, on February 28 at the age of 104. A memorial service is planned later in April at the Village of St. Edward Chapel in Fairlawn.

### **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 April Ushers**

Jim Gartner, Paul & Sandy DiMascio, Bill Brandy, and Kathy Berg.



### **Blood Pressure & Diabetes Checks April 15**

### **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.

### **Upper Parking Lot Reserved on Sundays**

Please remember the upper parking lot nearest to the church building is for the disabled and mobility challenged.

### **Holiday Hours**

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

### **Inquirers' Gatherings and Joining Sunday**

Learn more about First Church on Sunday, April 15 and 22 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, May 6. If you would like more information, please contact Kari Ledger at [kledger64@gmail.com](mailto:kledger64@gmail.com) or contact Logan Baez at [logan.stogsdill@pnc.com](mailto:logan.stogsdill@pnc.com).

### **Heartfelt Thanks**

To First Church family,  
As healing continues, thank you for your caring and prayers. Your cards, calls, flowers, rides and help were greatly appreciated and brightened my recovery.

Very sincerely,  
Karen Foley

Dear First Church family,  
Now that all the excitement is over, we would like to thank all at First Church who were keeping us in their prayers since last summer and especially since Paul's heart experience last November. Never underestimate the power of prayer. We are walking examples.

Thank you so much,  
Paul and Sandy DiMascio

### **My One Word - Check-in**

Join Karen Bruno on Sunday, 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](mailto:karen.bruno@akronfcc.org).

### **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](mailto:deborah.anderson@akronfcc.org).

### **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](mailto:nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org).

## April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b> <b>Easter Sunday!</b> <b>Communion</b></p> <p><b>9am-Noon</b> Nursery  <b>9am-11am</b> Childcare (age 4-grade 6)  <b>9:30am</b> Worship  <b>11:00am</b> Worship  <i>Children worship with their families for both services</i>  <b>12:00pm</b> Easter Egg Hunt</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Church Closed</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>9:30am-11:30am</b> Food Cupboard</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>10:45am</b> Faith Enrichment  <b>12:00 Noon</b> AA Meeting  <b>5:30pm</b> Handbells  <b>6:00pm</b> Dinner (reservations please!)  <b>6:45pm</b> Faith Enrichment  <b>6:45pm</b> Movies</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>12:00 Noon</b> AA Meeting</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Chronicle Deadline</p> <p><b>12:45-2:00pm</b> Peanut Butter &amp; Jelly Program</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>9am-Noon</b> Nursery  <b>9am-11am</b> Childcare (age 4-grade 6)  <b>9:30am</b> Worship  <i>Children remain in worship with their families</i>  <b>10:30am</b> Children's Choir  <b>11:00am</b> Worship  <b>11:00am</b> Church School</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>12:00 Noon</b> Men's Lunch Bunch AA Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Steelband Class</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>9:30am-11:30am</b> Food Cupboard <b>5:30pm</b> Prayer Blankets</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>10:45am</b> Faith Enrichment  <b>12:00 Noon</b> AA Meeting  <b>5:30pm</b> Handbells  <b>6:00pm</b> Dinner (reservations please!)  <b>6:45pm</b> Faith Enrichment  <b>6:45pm</b> Movies</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>12:00 Noon</b> AA Meeting</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>12:45-2:00pm</b> Peanut Butter &amp; Jelly Program</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>9:00-11:00am</b> Invigorate! Congregational Life Roundtable</p>
<p><b>15</b> <b>9am-Noon</b> Nursery  <b>9am-11am</b> Childcare (age 4-grade 6)  <b>9:30am</b> Worship  <i>Children remain in worship with their families</i>  <b>10:30am</b> Children's Choir  <b>11:00am</b> Worship  <b>11:00am</b> Church School  <b>12:15pm</b> Inquirers' Gathering  <b>BP &amp; Diabetes Checks before &amp; after 11am worship</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>12:00 Noon</b> Men's Lunch Bunch Women's Spiritual Journey AA Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Steelband Class</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>9:30am-11:30am</b> Food Cupboard <b>5:30pm</b> Prayer Blankets</p>	<p><b>18</b> Chronicle Mailing  <b>10:45am</b> Faith Enrichment  <b>12:00 Noon</b> AA Meeting  <b>5:30pm</b> Handbells  <b>6:00pm</b> Dinner (reservations please!)  <b>6:45pm</b> Faith Enrichment  <b>6:45pm</b> Movies</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>12:00 Noon</b> AA Meeting</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>12:45-2:00pm</b> Peanut Butter &amp; Jelly Program</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>3:30pm</b> A Chorus for a Cause Concert</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>9am-Noon</b> Nursery  <b>9am-11am</b> Childcare (age 4-grade 6)  <b>9:30am</b> Worship  <i>Children remain in worship with their families</i>  <b>10:30am</b> Children's Choir  <b>11:00am</b> Worship  <b>11:00am</b> Church School  <b>12:15pm</b> Inquirers' Gathering</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>12:00 Noon</b> Men's Lunch Bunch AA Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Steelband Class</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>9:30am-11:30am</b> Food Cupboard</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>10:45am</b> Faith Enrichment  <b>12:00 Noon</b> AA Meeting  <b>5:30pm</b> Handbells  <b>6:00pm</b> Dinner (reservations please!)  <b>6:45pm</b> Faith Enrichment  <b>6:45pm</b> Movies</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>12:00 Noon</b> AA Meeting</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>12:45-2:00pm</b> Peanut Butter &amp; Jelly Program</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>4:30pm</b> Love Truck</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>9am-Noon</b> Nursery  <b>9am-11am</b> Childcare (age 4-grade 6)  <b>9:30am</b> Worship  <i>Children remain in worship with their families</i>  <b>10:30am</b> Children's Choir  <b>11:00am</b> Worship  <b>11:00am</b> Church School</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>12:00 Noon</b> Men's Lunch Bunch AA Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Steelband Class <b>6:30pm</b> Governing Bd.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please Note: Any calendar information may be subject to change after printing.</i></p>				

# The Chronicle

First Congregational Church  
292 East Market Street  
Akron, Ohio 44308

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

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

1	Bella Anderson	7	Natasha Bakuhn Pat Sites	12	Ben Speight	19	David Griebing Jordan Ledger Alex Weyrick	27	Olivia Buser Betty Walcott
2	Aaron J. Kraus Pamela Gardner Valerie Stewart	8	Paul Anderson Margaret DeWitt Anna Dusseau	14	Betsy Meyer Joan Tousley	22	Elise Knapp Maurine Speight	28	Marcia McCarthy Kevin Wilson
3	Logan Dusseau Howard Greene	9	Stacie Friend	15	Linda Avers Hannah Clemons Victoria Leach Richard Moore	24	Sharon Nichols Karen Nixon Elsie Oldfield	29	Lindsey Rowland Barbara Skidmore
4	Mark Hornak Jim Vaughan	10	Bill Rodefer	17	Heather Gallen Ruth Ellen Smith	26	Glenn Baughman Katherine Breth Stephen Cates	30	Paul Stewart
6	Catherine Garvey Betsy Pence	11	Stefan Forcey Sarah Yeager						