

The Chronicle

May 2018 Number 5





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Sunday Worship

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

Worship Schedule:

May 6

Communion

9:30am & 11am
A New Commandment
John 15:9-17

May 13

Seventh Sunday of Easter

9:30am & 11am
As We Are One
Psalm 1
John 17:6-19

May 20

Pentecost Sunday

9:30am & 11am
Fanning the Flames
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Acts 2:1-21

May 27

Trinity Sunday

9:30am & 11am
All Adopted
Isaiah 6:1-8
Romans 8:12-17

Next Chronicle

Deadline: Fri., May 11
Mailing: Wed., May 23

Email Submissions:

deborah.anderson@akronfcc.org

Editor: Deborah Anderson

A Letter From the Pastor

Beloved,

I have a question for you:

Where in the church, our church, do you see buds and blossoms of hope?

You know well by now how much I love to be out in nature and to see the seasons change - not just the obvious changes, but the little changes too, like the first swelling of the buds on the branches of a tree or the tiniest inkling of a crocus pushing up through the earth and its blanket of snow.

Sometimes, especially at the beginning of the change between winter and spring, before the first warm days, it can be hard to see the buds swelling on a tree if you are not intentionally looking for them. The life of faith is very much like this. Sometimes we can't avoid the big, obvious signs of blessings. The prophet Ezekiel called these "showers of blessing." But they can also be few and far between, depending on our vantage point. A lot of the time we really need to look for them, and look closely.

So I clarify my question for you: where in the church, our church, are you finding the buds and blossoms of blessing that are signs of hope for you? Obvious signs, yes, but also signs of hope you may not see at first glance.

I invite you to join me in joyfully looking for and testifying to the hope that we find in this place. And I invite you to write it down on the paper leaves that we have available and then to paste them up on the tree with empty branches in the main hallway behind the Meetinghouse (thanks to Ann Synder for this life-giving artwork). Let this tree of testimony become for us a tree of healing, like the tree mentioned in Revelation whose "leaves are for the healing of the nations."

If we begin to look, we will see, and when we see our whole vision of who we are and who God is calling us to become, it will be clear.

Grace and Peace,

Nanette



184th Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

Dear fellow members,

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:

Agenda Items:

1. First Congregational Church of Akron Community Covenant.
 - a. Presentation about the purpose and meaning of a covenant and introduction of a draft.
 - b. Discussion - listening, sharing, and seeking consensus.
2. Big Hairy Audacious Goals (BHAGS) / Vitality Process.
 - a. Update on recent progress and plan for continued discussion and implementation.
 - b. Discussion - listening, sharing, and seeking consensus.
3. Nominations for 2018-2019 Officers and Board Members.
 - a. Presentation of slate of nominees.
 - b. Discussion - listening, sharing, and seeking consensus.
 - c. Resolution - VOTE to approve.
4. Organizational and Governance Structure.
 - a. Presentation proposing that (1) the congregation authorize the exploration of newer models of church organization (boards and committee structures) being used by other Congregational churches with a plan to (2) return to the congregation with a proposal of a model that is more closely aligned to our current vision and needs.
 - b. Discussion - listening, sharing, and seeking consensus.
 - c. Resolution - VOTE to authorize. Since any update to organizational structure would impact the whole church, our Moderator and Senior Minister recommend that in keeping with our Congregational polity, the leadership first seek the members' approval and endorsement to begin the process. (NOTE: this is NOT a vote to change the structure, but rather to simply explore the possibilities.)
5. Other comments for the good of the order.

A quorum of 15% of our membership must be present to vote. Please make every effort to attend our Annual Meeting because your vote will make a difference.

Chip Houghton
Moderator

2018 Annual Leaders' Retreat Saturday, May 12 - 9am

Please join us for the 2018-2019 Leaders' Retreat. Breakfast will be provided and available at 8:30am and the meeting will start at 9am in the Fellowship Hall.

The retreat is for all church leaders including incoming and ongoing board, committee, and ministry team members.

Each year's retreat offers an opportunity for planning and orientation for the upcoming program year. This year's retreat will include time for the boards, committees, and teams to meet together and conduct their regular May meeting ministry business.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Larry Becker at larrybecker2900@yahoo.com or phone 330-696-6709. See you at the retreat!

Stay Connected with First Church!

www.akronfcc.org/media-news/directory/

The Church Community Directory will help you stay connected! We encourage everyone who attends First Church, members and friends, to sign up for the First Church Community Directory. If you have questions, please contact the church office at 330-253-5109.

The directory is a password protected PDF on our website so you can download the most recent edition anytime.

Here are some of the directory subscriber features to keep you connected:

Mobile App

You can view the directory from your iPhone, iPad, Android or Kindle Fire by downloading the free Instant Church Directory Members App. Follow that link or search for "Instant Church Directory" in the Apple App Store, Google Play, or Amazon App Store. Your email address has to be in the directory already in order to use the app.

Upload Your Photo

You can load a new photo anytime. On your phone? Snap a quick selfie and upload it!

Instant Church Directory Now Online

You can view the Community Directory from your computer, or any other device, by logging into the Instant Church Directory Church Member Sign In. You will need to create an account on your first visit and your email address has to be in the directory already in order to create an account.

What is "Congregational Life?"

On Saturday April 14 over 30 members, friends and staff assembled to pray over and discuss First Church's Congregational Life Big Hairy Audacious Goal (BHAG). The results were dynamic.

Recall that a BHAG is a long term proposition, something we, as a Faith Community, aspire to. Thus, the framework that we were operating on was to examine ideas that we can work on *over the next church year*. This will be an ongoing process to strengthen and create relationships within our Faith Community.

The assembled group was engaged and committed to the mission and values of this Church and was not shy about dreaming and offering creative ideas. Among the desired **IMPACTS** (or Outcomes) - what achieving this goal will look like - are:

- Vibrancy and engagement in all of the activities of the church - worship, fellowship, faith enrichment, missions, ministries for children, & outreach to potential members.
- Growth in community with Jesus and one another - number of members engaging more deeply as well as in increased numbers of new members.
- Our values and shared beliefs reflected in our actions individually and corporately.
- A welcoming and connected community where many diverse people (children and adults of all ages, abilities, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, and family circumstances), feel welcomed and find a place - feel supported and can support others.

IMPACTS are important - as long as there are **STRATEGIES** developed to define how we will get there. Broadly, the nearly 50 strategies were grouped in the areas of:

- Hospitality,
- Small Group,
- Christian Education / Faith Enrichment and
- Worship.

The *Chronicle* does not offer the space to list all of the innovative ideas that were suggested, but that information will be shared with the congregation in a variety of ways as the weeks and months unfold. Additional assemblies will be convened to further develop the impacts, strategies and dreams. This is an ongoing process designed to strengthen and create relationships within our Faith Community.

For more information, contact vice moderator Larry Becker at Larrybecker2900@yahoo.com or calling 330.696.6709.



From the Parish Nurse

Judy Young, RN, BSN

Choose Happiness!

When you're feeling down, grouchy or generally out of sorts, it can feel like you'll never be happy again. It's part of the human experience. A bad mood can block us from enjoying life and connecting with others - but under most circumstances, a bad mood is a choice and we do not have to choose to stay there. We can *choose* to be happy! Often simply shifting your perspective will improve your mood. Give these simple mood boosters a try.

BREATHE - Often a bad mood is the result of anxiety and a frenzied lifestyle. Slow Down. Acknowledge that you are feeling out of sorts - stop - and take 10 long, slow breaths. Breathing deeply promotes oxygen flow and helps most people relax. The simple act of conscious breathing can help you reconnect with yourself.

SMILE - A smile is not always a sign of happiness, it can be a step toward happiness. The physical act of smiling sends a message to your brain that you are feeling happy. So, even if you don't feel like it, force a smile. You'll be surprised with the results.

VISUALIZE - Pause, close your eyes, and imagine yourself in your happy place. Make it vivid. Imagine the sight, sounds, smells, and feelings associated with the place. (Example: I walk ankle deep in the warm, crystal clear waters of a deserted beach. The sun is hot. I can feel the warm breeze on my face. It smells clean and fresh.)

MUSIC - It has been shown that music can alter brain waves and trigger a relaxation response. Turn on some upbeat music and feel your mood shift.

DANCE - Don't stop with the music. Get up and dance! You're sure to feel your spirits lift.

GRATITUDE - Start listing all of the things for which you are grateful. Visualize your glass as half filled rather than half empty. Try to cultivate an attitude of gratitude and feel your spirits lift.

GIVE - If you are feeling low, a good way to lift your mood is to do something for someone else. Volunteer, help a friend with a chore, drop off a treat for a neighbor. You'll boost your mood along with others'.

LAUGH - You may not feel like laughing, but it's a great mood lifter. Watch a funny movie, read jokes, play with children - do something to tickle your funny bone and feel your mood improve.

ENJOY LIFE...CHOOSE HAPPINESS!!!
God Bless, Judy

Personnel Board Update

At a congregational meeting on January 7, 2018, the Personnel Board and church leadership introduced a revised organizational structure intended to better match our human resources - staff roles and responsibilities - to First Church's vision, ministries, and mission. We recognize and celebrate that our staff is one of our greatest assets and resources as they work each day to help us achieve our goals as a community of Christ.

We are pleased to let you know that, together with Pastor Nanette, we are now taking some significant steps toward our restructuring. You can view information about the open positions on the church website www.akronfcc.org/about/employment. In each instance, we have received applications from many highly qualified candidates and are now moving rapidly towards identifying top candidates for almost all of our openings.

If you have specific questions about our process or any of the openings, please speak with Pastor Nanette, myself, or incoming Personnel Board chairperson, Jim Gartner. Please pray for this process as you pray for the staff who bless us each day at First Church. Thank you.

Laura Bishop, Personnel Board chair

A Shift in our Church School

We are grateful and blessed that Rev. Karen Bruno was able, as part of her ordination covenant as a member of First Church, to temporarily step into the role of Interim Church School Director this past program year. When our Church School program year winds down for the summer on May 20, Karen will be moving out of this role.

Karen says that her pedometer loves Sundays but that she looks forward to transition back into life as a member only, sharing: "when I started this position in September, my full-time job as Chaplain of SouthernCare Hospice Akron office, was still small. My Hospice location is a new start and last year at that time we had about 5 patients. As of this week we have 46 patients. Needless to say, I am busy! As you might guess, I need all the free time possible to stay centered in God's love and do that job with compassion."

Karen says it has been wonderful getting to know the children of the church through this experience. All of our church families - those with and without children - have, in turn, appreciated the time and energy she offered to helping us support this valuable ministry in our midst. Thank you, Karen.



Children's Program Updates

The last day of Church School will be Sunday, May 20. Enjoy your Summer!

Summer Childcare begins Sunday, May 27.

Nursery care:

9:00am to 12:15pm for infants and toddlers (age 3 and under) is available on the 2nd floor of the Education Wing.

Childcare:

9:00am to 11:00am for children (age 4 through grade 8) who prefer not to attend early worship service with their parents and for children whose parents are involved in early Sunday morning activities. Located on the 2nd floor of the Education Wing.

11:00am to 12:15pm for children (age 4 to 7) who prefer not to sit in the worship service with their parents. Located on the 2nd floor of the Education Wing.

As always, all children are welcome to attend either the 9:30am or 11am worship time!

Church School Volunteer Appreciation

On **June 10**, we will celebrate our teachers, volunteers, and staff during worship. We especially want the children to attend that day to help with the festivities. Join us as we give thanks for the many people who give of their time and talent to our children's ministry.



Graduation Recognition



We are making plans to honor our graduates during worship on Sunday, **June 10**. If you are graduating from high school or college this year, please contact Patty Gillespie at 330-253-5109 or email patty.gillespie@akronfcc.org.

Wednesdays at First Church

Dinner in the Fellowship Hall 6:00-6:30pm
(Dinner will be available on May 2 and 9 only before breaking for the summer.)

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 May, 10:45am-noon, join Rev. Dr. Don Skinner and a small group in the church library for a lively and informative conversation about the Bible. All are welcome!

Evening Living the Questions 2

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. Each session considers a particular topic so you are welcome to attend one or more sessions, as you are able. 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, 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

The Wednesday Night at the Movies program will meet at First Church on **May 2 and 9** before breaking for summer.

Here are the movies for May:

May 2

Cape of Good Hope - The winner of this year's Best Feature Film at the Spiritual Cinema Festival-At-Sea, this truly inspiring first feature introduces us to the faces of South Africa today through some of the most memorable characters we've seen on film. By interweaving the stories of these amazingly diverse people, we come to know a moment in life for an interconnected group of humans who become a symbol of our oneness on the planet. By giving us honest characters and great performances we are honored to witness a refreshingly hopeful and positive vision of Africa, with all of its beauty and complexity.

May 9

Wonder - Based on the New York Times bestseller, WONDER tells the inspiring and heartwarming story of August Pullman. Born with facial differences that, up until now, have prevented him from going to a mainstream school, Auggie becomes the most unlikely of heroes when he enters the local fifth grade. As his family, his new classmates, and the larger community all struggle to find their compassion and acceptance, Auggie's extraordinary journey will unite them all and prove you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.

Prayer Blanket Ministry

The Prayer Blanket Ministry meets on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to join us, please contact Deborah Anderson at deborah.anderson@akronfcc.org or phone 330-253-5109. We'd love to have you join us!





Feed My Sheep Garden

Spring is a time of new awakenings in the garden - and in the gardener. After a long winter of reflection on the past season, many conferences and workshops are held in early spring as farmers and gardeners begin to itch with anticipation for the growing season to begin. On Saturday, April 7, a delegation consisting of garden manager Sam Phillips, Future Story participants, Feed My Sheep garden participant Duane Husted, and Let's Grow Akron (LGA) staff and volunteers traveled to Central State University for the annual Minority, Women, and Small Farmer's Conference.

First Church has partnered with Haven of Rest Ministries to provide the space and structure for their Future Story market garden training program for the past 5 years. Future Story is a social enterprise job training program through which women who have employment barriers can gain the skills and experience to cultivate income and improve their lives. Through the new partnership with LGA, executive director Lisa Nunn and garden manager Sam Phillips are developing a new, in-depth curriculum combining content-based workshops and exploratory field trips with hands-on learning. The Minority, Women, and Small Farmer's Conference was the perfect introduction to a whole new world of farming for this year's Future Story participants.

The staff at Central State University acknowledge that minority, women, and/or small farmers face a unique set of challenges that their large-scale, white, and/or male counterparts do not. This conference's speakers, presenters, and workshops were selected to represent a wide range of perspectives and experiences. Conference attendees chose between a host of topics in content areas such as Agriculture Finance, Farm Management, Urban Agriculture, and others. Some examples of session topics include New & Beginning Farmers, Community Garden & Urban Farming, Aquaculture/Aquaponics, Women in Agriculture, Veterans in Agriculture, Local Food Systems, Healthy Communities, and more. The diversity of people and content represented made this conference accessible to all members of our group. Garden manager Sam was hopeful that this experience would help the brand-new Future Story participants feel connected to something larger than themselves.

(continued in next column)

Back at home, the First Church basement is coming to life with seedlings, grown both for the Feed My Sheep Garden and for LGA community gardens across the city. Kale and collards will be planted out in the greenhouse by the end of April to be harvested for the Food Cupboard. Cucumber seedlings are just poking their heads up out of the soil. Despite snow in mid-April, our tenacious seedlings remind us that spring has indeed sprung and we are impatient to get out in the garden to apply the knowledge and experience gained at the conference.

Sam Phillips
Garden Manager

(If you would like to help nurture and grow the vegetables in our Feed My Sheep Garden that bless the clients of our Food Cupboard, please contact Sam Phillips, Garden Manager, at sam@letsgrowakron.org. She will be happy to schedule a time for you to volunteer. All are welcome to be a part of the Food Justice Ministry at First Church.)

Earth-Loving Ideas for Everyone

One quick and easy way to make a positive impact on our planet - cut back on food waste. Did you know that in the United States, we throw out about 40 percent of our food every year? In fact, the amount of global food waste produced annually is more than enough to feed the nearly 1 billion hungry people in the world.

How can you reduce food waste? Here are a few simple ideas... Plan your meals for the week, make an ingredient list, and only buy what you plan to cook. Don't go to the grocery store hungry. Commit to eating leftovers or freeze them for another time. Start composting - it recycles nutrients back into the ecosystem, which keeps food out of landfills and waterways and enriches the soil. Check to see if your city has a program or pick up a bin at your local hardware store.

On the Cover

On the cover of this issue are the nine *Fruits of the Spirit* according to Galatians 5:22. They are: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control. *Which spiritual fruits are blossoming in your life?*

May Mission of the Month: Gennesaret

The Outreach Board has selected Gennesaret for the May Mission of the Month. This all-volunteer nonprofit corporation on W. Exchange Street provides free four-course meals every Tuesday and Saturday to needy families and individuals. They also distribute about 60 tons of produce, potatoes and pastries yearly, along with over 7,000 items of clothing. Many individuals, businesses, and churches have donated everything from money, materials, major appliances, furniture, food, and clothing. Gennesaret does not accept government funding.

Gennesaret does more. It provides apartments and houses to motivated two-parent families for a period of one to two years, after which they may apply for a grant to purchase their own home.

If you wish to make a donation to this mission of the month, please make your check payable to First Church with "Gennesaret" written on the memo line. Thank you!

Mission of the Month Update

The March Mission of the Month was the Boys and Girls Club. 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 deodorant, dental floss, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, and re-usable bags or backpacks for the walkers and bus riders. Please leave donations in the basket outside the church office. Thank you!

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.

AAIC 9th Annual Hunger Walk May 6, 2018

Join the Akron Area Interfaith Council's 9th Annual Hunger Walk on May 6! Registration begins at 2:00pm with the walk starting at 3:00pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church - 3300 Morewood Rd., Fairlawn 44333. Join us for food and fellowship after the walk!

All donations for the Hunger Walk will go to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. Nonperishable food and financial donations will be collected at the UUC. If you would like more information, or to sign up to participate in the walk, please contact Clay and Debbie Canfield at 234-678-6754. Thank you!



Mitzvah Day June 2 & 3, 2018

Mitzvah Day, a day of caring in the community, brings together members of area congregations to prepare hundreds of meals for the hungry, sort clothes for the homeless, brighten the days of children in need, visit seniors in nursing homes, provide entertainment to children and teens, paint or spruce up an agency working to serve underprivileged individuals, or clean up outdoor parks that are enjoyed by many in the community—all in just one day. In keeping with Judaism's teachings of *tikkun olam*, to repair the world, Mitzvah Day strives to inspire its participants to pursue social justice through social activism.

First Church has participated in Mitzvah Day with Temple Israel since 2002. This year, our First Church Feed My Sheep Garden will be a project site for Mitzvah Day. There are already enough volunteers on this project; however, if you would like to volunteer in the garden this spring and summer, please contact Sam Phillips, Garden Manager, at sam@letsgrowakron.org.

Look for all volunteer opportunities for Mitzvah Day and learn how to sign up at www.mitzvahdayakron.com or you can contact First Church member Tiffany Thorne at 330-592-0282 for more information.



Mitzvah Day 2011

Stewardship & Finance Board

Stewardship/Finance Report (unaudited) March 2018 - Final

	March	YTD	YTD Budget	Percent to Budget
Income				
2018 Loyalty Campaign	15,184	83,352	62,500	133.36%
Non-pledge Income	4,186	9,939	11,250	88.35%
Special Ministries-including Special Offering	1,596	2,816	11,390	24.72%
Endowment, Sprowls Trust, Pollock	44,276	132,828	136,578	97.25%
Other Income	<u>3,043</u>	<u>8,945</u>	<u>7,080</u>	<u>126.34%</u>
TOTAL	68,285	237,880	228,798	103.97%
Expenses				
Total Admin. & Support	7,858	15,134	22,500	67.26%
Total Mission	1,943	10,290	27,187	37.85%
Food Service Expense	2,658	5,246	4,072	128.83%
Personnel	36,647	100,694	116,725	86.27%
Property Expenses	<u>35,901</u>	<u>79,539</u>	<u>75,342</u>	<u>105.57%</u>
TOTAL	85,007	210,903	245,826	85.79%



Take Me Out to the Ball Game! Rubber Ducks vs. Altoona Curve June 30 at 7:05pm

Join in our First Church outing on Saturday, June 30 to cheer the Rubber Ducks on to victory over the Altoona Curve. Game time is 7:05pm with fireworks following. We have 60 tickets reserved including 3 wheelchair accessible. Tickets are \$8 each prepaid. Sign up in the church office or contact Kari Ledger at (330) 620-8427.

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's - *Symphony No. 8*

Dr. Guy Bordo, Conductor

Minju Kim, Faculty Violinist

Breakfast with the Bunny, March 24, 2018

The Easter Bunny visited First Church on Saturday, March 24, 2018 at our Annual Breakfast with the Bunny! It was a great day for a yummy pancake breakfast, visiting with the Easter Bunny, crafts, egg decorating, and community outreach! Thanks to all the many volunteer helpers. We could not do it without YOU!



In Our Prayers

Jake Cook	Rev. Bill Rodefer
Elizabeth Fesler	Agneta Solomon
Barbara Hansford	Art Wallach
Elsie Oldfield	Lee Wallach
Lee Pritchard	Doug Weyrick
Larry Reed	

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.

Book Signing and Brown Bag Lunch

Bill Brandy's brother, Tom, has published his first historical novel, "Robert's Wing", about the U.S. Civil Air Patrol just before and during WWII.

He will be speaking at Men's Lunch Bunch in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, June 18 at 12:00pm. All who are interested are welcome to attend - just bring a lunch with you and join the group. Tom will be discussing this topic, then will have a book signing. He will bring books for sale should anyone wish to purchase.

If you are interested in learning more about the book and/or wish to purchase a copy prior to the presentation, you can find the information at www.amazon.com and search under "Books" for *Robert's Wing* by Thomas Brandy.

No reservations required. If you have questions, call Bill Brandy at 330-655-4007.

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 May Ushers

Mike Brink, Bernie Babb, Kathy Petsko, and Nick Speight.



Holiday Hours



The church office will be closed on Monday, May 28. We wish you a happy and safe Memorial Day!

A Note of Thanks

I would like to thank the many people at church who sent me cards, emails, calls and other good wishes after my emergency surgery and ongoing recovery. Your prayers, love, and concern have meant a lot to me. I am still recovering but have been back at church since Easter. If I haven't seen you there, I hope to see you in the near future. Your good wishes are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Gustely Durway

Compassionate Meals

Occasionally, First Church members need assistance in providing meals for themselves or their families. If you would be willing and able to cook and deliver a meal to a church member, please contact Chris Becker, Compassionate Caregiver, at 330-665-4746. She will add your name to a list of volunteer meal providers that may be contacted when the need arises. Thank you!



Blood Pressure & Diabetes Checks May 20

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

Upper Parking Lot Reserved on Sundays

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

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. 100 (church), 330-907-1050 (cell) or email her at nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org.

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><i>Please Note: Any calendar information may be subject to change after printing.</i></p>		<p>1</p> <p>9:30am-11:30am Food Cupboard</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:45am Faith Enrichment</p> <p>12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm Handbells</p> <p>6:00pm Dinner <i>(reservations please!)</i></p> <p>6:45pm Faith Enrichment</p> <p>6:45pm Movies</p>	<p>3</p> <p>12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p> <p>7:30pm UofA Symphony Concert</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12:45-2:00pm Peanut Butter & Jelly Program</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 Communion</p> <p>9am-12:15pm 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>12:00pm Annual Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12:00 Noon Men's Lunch Bunch</p> <p>Women's Spiritual Journey</p> <p>AA Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm Steelband Class</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30am-11:30am Food Cupboard</p> <p>5:30pm Prayer Blankets</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:45am Faith Enrichment</p> <p>12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm Handbells</p> <p>6:00pm Dinner <i>(reservations please!)</i></p> <p>6:45pm Faith Enrichment</p> <p>6:45pm Movies</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Chronicle Deadline</p> <p>12:45-2:00pm Peanut Butter & Jelly Program</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00am-12:00pm Leader's Retreat</p>
<p>13 Happy Mother's Day</p> <p>9am-12:15pm 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>14</p> <p>12:00 Noon Men's Lunch Bunch</p> <p>AA Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm Steelband Class</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30am-11:30am Food Cupboard</p> <p>5:30pm Prayer Blankets</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:45am Faith Enrichment</p> <p>12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm Handbells</p> <p>6:45pm Faith Enrichment</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:45-2:00pm Peanut Butter & Jelly Program</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 Pentecost Sunday</p> <p>9am-12:15pm 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>BP & Diabetes Checks before & after 11am worship</p>	<p>21</p> <p>12:00 Noon Men's Lunch Bunch</p> <p>Women's Spiritual Journey</p> <p>AA Meeting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30am-11:30am Food Cupboard</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Chronicle Mailing</p> <p>10:45am Faith Enrichment</p> <p>12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p> <p>6:45pm Faith Enrichment</p>	<p>24</p> <p>12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>4:30pm Love Truck</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9am-12:15pm Nursery</p> <p>9am-11am Childcare (age 4-grade 8)</p> <p>9:30am Worship <i>Children may attend worship with their families</i></p> <p>11am-12:15pm Childcare (age 4-7)</p> <p>11:00am Worship <i>Children may attend worship with their families</i></p>	<p>28</p>  <p>Memorial Day Church Closed</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30am-11:30am Food Cupboard</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:45am Faith Enrichment</p> <p>12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p> <p>6:45pm Faith Enrichment</p>	<p>31</p> <p>12:00 Noon AA Meeting</p>		

The Chronicle

First Congregational Church
292 East Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44308-2016

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

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

1	Kimberly Lynch	10	Mark Hornak	17	Jamie Boyd Shawn Grigsby	24	Cami Anderson
3	Patty Babcox	11	Spencer Burtoft Susan Godard	18	Aaron Yeager Oliver Zimmerman	25	Art Wallach
5	Joseph Black	13	William Klinginsmith Finn Zimmerman	19	Kevin Anderson Chris Becker	26	Jay Hershey Jim Peshina
6	Lola Rothmann	14	Linda Hultz Patricia Noel Anita Rayburn	21	Ruth Strayer Ed Wickline	27	Joseph Burford Mary Ann Gray Matthew Petras Jayne Stahr
7	Thomas Barnes Duane Husted Barbara Keene Howard Tolley	15	Tiffani Akers Richard Bair Aixa Bakuhn Ann Snyder	22	DeAnn Clemons Kevin Speight	30	Chelsea Weyand
9	George Kostan Kristian Limbach Anna Weyrick	16	James Gartner Deborah Graef Roya Long	23	Margaret Canady Juliet Moses	31	Ron Bof Sarah Corbin Chris Godard