



October 2018 • Number 8

# Chronicle

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF AKRON

*Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity*

## OCTOBER 2018

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30am - Upper Room  
11am - Meetinghouse

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 7

#### Humanity Sunday: Season of Creation V

9:30am & 11am  
*Created and Creating*  
Genesis 1:26-28 &  
Genesis 2:7-8,15,19

October 14

9:30am & 11am  
*Congregationalism 101:  
Whose in Charge?*  
Hebrews 4:12-16 & Mark  
10:17-31

October 21

9:30am & 11am  
*Congregationalism 101:  
Free for Faith*  
Hebrews 5:1-10 &  
Mark 10:17-31

October 28

9:30am  
*Congregationalism 101:  
Covenanted Communities*  
Hebrews 7:23-28 & Mark  
10:46-52  
11am  
Hymn Sing Sunday,  
see page 3

### NEXT CHRONICLE

Deadline: Mon Oct 17  
Email Submissions:  
kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org  
Editor: Kasey Kalchert

### First Congregational

### Church of Akron

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Dear friends,

We are living in a time of great anxiety. While, statistically speaking, we have less to fear than ever before, we find that many in society are more afraid than ever before – of terrorism, of illness and death, of the state of our politics, of neighbors and strangers. Many fear for themselves, their loved ones, for their way of life. Michael Kinnamon suggests that fear becomes anxiety when “the threat is more anticipated than immediate, more generalized than specific, more subjective (an inner state) than objective and external.” Indeed, we live in anxious times.

Beloved, I want to assure you that our faith tradition is for such a time as this. Jesus’ refrain in John 14:27 – “Do not be afraid!” – is echoed throughout scripture and it is perhaps the most important aspect of our tradition for us to hear and for us to speak into our world at this time. Choosing to believe or hope in an eternal presence and a secure end is to rise above the insecurity and anxiety of anything we may come to face. It doesn’t mean we become immune to the imaginings that drive fear and anxiety, but, in light of God’s promises – however mysterious we find them – we choose to place a higher value on the love that God calls us to. Mahatma Gandhi said: “The enemy is fear. We think it is hate; but it is fear.” Perhaps recognizing this, the author of the 1 John 4:18, could write: “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.”

During these times, let the great hymns of our tradition lift your spirit with their age-long wisdom, let the company of your fellow travelers warm your heart on a Sunday morning as we gather in worship and open our hearts to the Spirit of Love that can cast out our fear and let us bear this hope to our world.

In faith,

*Nanette*

## Loyalty Campaign – FOR IMPACT!

The IRS refers to First Church as “not-for-profit” or a “nonprofit” organization. I prefer to think of us as a FOR IMPACT organization. After all, that’s what our visionary Big Hairy Audacious Goals are all about. First and foremost, I believe that Congregational Life is focused on our faith development and how we can bring the Light into our life and into the lives of others. Our primary purpose is about making a spiritual IMPACT on the individual.

Food Justice and Community Development are about making an IMPACT in other ways: through charitable efforts, we can give people a fish and take it further, by teaching people to fish.

The Stewardship & Finance Board plans to create a 2019 budget for the congregation’s consideration that will take a different approach than we have in the past: it will focus on our BHAG priorities. The budget makes a promise to provide opportunity for Boards, Ministry Teams and individual members to be creative and explore ways to make an IMPACT, and goes above conducting “business as usual.”

The Governance Review Team is hard at work praying, researching, and brainstorming about how we, as a congregation, can be more responsive in ministry.

Combined with the new staff organization and a different budgeting process, the possibilities are endless! Not only will it enhance how we invest our financial resources, but we will have bigger opportunity to invest in the incredible potential of our human resources.

All of this work is aimed at making this church a beacon of hope and providing all of us with a vehicle to explore and grow spiritually.

As the renowned philosopher, Clint Eastwood (yes, THAT Clint Eastwood!), said “What you put into life is what you get out of it.” Now is the time to turn to prayer and really think about what you’re putting in. I urge you to consider not only your Loyalty Campaign’s financial investment, but also how you will invest your time and talents at First Church.

This year’s campaign is all about building your personal and our corporate ministries through service at First Church. Money is only a tool. What matters is how we use it and we want to use it to make an IMPACT!

*Larry Becker, Moderator*

## Get Social!

First Church is on social media! Have you “liked” our Facebook page? You can find us at **FCCofAkron**. We will keep you up-to-date with the latest news and events, so be sure to visit our page. Prefer Twitter? Follow **1stChurchAkron**.

## Ecuador Scholarship Program

For over 25 years, the generous donations from the First Church congregation has provided funding to give many indigenous Ecuadorian students the opportunity to attend high school or university. This year, we would like to fund the costs of tuition for one university student (\$800) and four high school students (\$350 each).

If you would like more information, please contact Agneta Solomon at [agnetauakron@aol.com](mailto:agnetauakron@aol.com) or 330.239.0018 or Martha Vye at [vye@uakron.edu](mailto:vye@uakron.edu) or 330.644.7490. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this long standing international outreach.

Please make your check payable to First Church with “Ecuador” written in the memo line. The recipients of these scholarships are most appreciative of the support they receive from us. In the past sponsors have received letters of thanks, written in Spanish and translated by Agneta Solomon.

## Ohio Open Doors

On Sunday, September 16, First Church participated in the Ohio History Connections’ Ohio Open Doors project. The Open Doors Project allowed local residents the chance to discover Ohio’s amazing heritage as historic buildings and landmarks across the state opened their doors for special tours and events.



First Church hosted guided tours of our historic Meetinghouse, Narthex, Upper Room, and Fellowship Hall that were very well received by attendees. A special thanks to Larry Becker, Kathy & Ed Berg, Denny Conrad, Susanne Schoffner, Sue Tolley, Lee Wallach, and Courtney Zimmerman who volunteered.

## Food Pantry Walmart Pickup

The Food Pantry is seeking volunteers to help with donation pickup from Walmart on Arlington Road. Volunteers do not have to be members of First Church so please reach out to your network – this is a great way to do good!

Each Saturday morning, volunteers use two large vehicles to collect donations and deliver them to the Food Pantry. The teams will rotate each week, so the more teams we have, the less frequently each team will pick up.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Clay or Debbie Canfield at 234.678.6754. We are grateful for this new way of obtaining additional food for the Food Pantry at no cost to the church! Thanks for your support!

## Akron Swing Dance Club

On October 6, First Church will host the Akron Swing Dance Club from 7-11pm. The cost of the event is \$10 per person, with a special rate for families: \$25 for two adults and two children. Children under the age of 2 are free. Dancers of all ages, with any range of experience are welcome to attend.



## Hymn Sing Sunday

While the performance culture of the modern age has made many reticent to lift their voices, our faith tradition is rich with the encouragement to praise God through song.

Our hymnody creates a sense of identity and the strong melodies and powerful lyrics lift our spirits in times of hardship as well as celebration. Hymns connect us to the past, as well as the ones we love and remember, while helping shape our future as we sing our hopes and dreams together. Hymns are an offering of praise and a practice of “togetherness” that hold great meaning and power.

In anticipation of our Hymn Sing Sunday on October 28, 2018, at the 11am worship service, we invite you to email Julie and Pastor Nanette ([julie.lehman@akronfcc.org](mailto:julie.lehman@akronfcc.org), [nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org](mailto:nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org)) a short list of hymns you would like to sing.

Please respond by Monday, October 15, and include both the hymn title and hymn tune, if you know it or have a preference. While we may not be able to sing all the hymns that day, we welcome your submissions and will, if necessary, save some for a Spring Sing!



## Fall Apple Picking Outing

Come out on Saturday, October 27, for some Northeast Ohio fun! We will meet at 11am at Hillside Orchard, 2397 Center Road in Hinckley.

Plan to start out by buying your \$25 half bushel bag in the farm store. Each bag holds 23-25lbs. Our group will meet right outside the store and head into the orchard together by 11:30am.

Afterwards, there are plenty of sweet treats, lunch items, and cider to purchase in the farm store so we'll plan to gather at the picnic tables outside the front of the store until about 2pm.

If you have any questions, please contact Membership Board co-chairs, Logan Báez, 419.490.5026, and Kari Ledger, 330.620.8427.

## Sunday Mornings

9am-11am: Early Morning Childcare for age 4-7 is available on the 2nd floor from 9am until we transition to Church School with 11am worship.

9am-12:15pm: Nursery care (infants and toddlers ages 3 and under) is available on the 2nd floor.

9:30am Worship: Children and youth are invited to attend worship with their families. There is an activity carpet available in the worship space.

11am Worship: Children and youth are welcome to attend worship with their families. The Family Room at the rear of the Meetinghouse is also available for your use and is equipped with toys, toddler furniture, a changing table, a rocking chair, and has access to a restroom. Following the Children's Message, children from Pre-K through the 8th grade are invited to accompany our volunteer teachers to Church School for a fun and engaging experience.

*See Page 9 for Church School details*



## Chicken in Every Pot!

Help the Food Pantry provide clients a chicken for their holiday meals. A \$5 donation will help buy one chicken. The campaign will kick off on Sunday, October 14. To make a donation, there are envelopes in the pews, or you can write your check payable to First Congregational Church with “Chicken in Every Pot” written on the memo line. Thank you!

## Fall Garden Updates

Warm weather crops are slowing down, cool season crops are coming in, gray skies are overhead... fall has arrived in the Feed My Sheep Garden. Fall signals the end of the growing season, but it also begins the preparations for the next year. There is plenty to do!

During autumn, we can amend the soil, clean up the garden, fix beds and trellises, prepare the compost, flush irrigation lines, cut back perennials, and begin planning crops for next year. This fall in particular, we will install a new floor in our shed, replace the last of the original wood in the 8-foot beds, finish up the remodel of our compost bins, and remove our spent strawberry plants in preparation for a fresh planting in the spring.

As the beds of finished crops are cleared, you may notice a cover crop growing in some of the beds. A cover crop is planted not to harvest, but to add nutrients and organic matter to the soil. Our cover crop this year consists of white clover and oats. The plan is for the cover crop to grow over the fall and begin fixing nitrogen from the air into the soil, and then die during the winter, adding dead plant matter to the soil. Nitrogen and organic matter are crucial components of healthy soil and nutrient-dense produce. I've heard it said many times that farmers and gardeners don't grow food, we grow soil!

Our Future Story program participants wrap up their season in the garden mid-October with a graduation ceremony. We couldn't have had such a successful season without Jamie and Kelly's hard work in the garden. I especially appreciated their positive attitudes and willingness to try new tasks and plant new vegetables. Both of these women stayed at the Haven of Rest over the course of the summer and I'm very happy to announce that, as of mid-September, they have both secured their own apartments. This is a very big step for them and I hope you'll join me in wishing them well and thanking them for their hard work this season!

*Sam Phillips, Garden Manager*

## Inquirers' Gatherings

Learn more about First Church on October 14 from 12:15-1:30pm in the Conference Room. Light refreshments will be available. Those who wish to join will be welcomed into membership on Sunday, October 28. For more information, please contact Membership Board co-chairs, Kari Ledger and Logan Báez, or Pastor Nanette at 330.253.5109 x100 or at [nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org](mailto:nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org).



## Mission of the Month Updates

### October – Neighbors in Need

The Outreach Board has selected Neighbors in Need as the October Mission of the Month. The Neighbors in Need fund supports the United Church of Christ's ministry of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC Justice and Witness ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, healthcare, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

The last third of the offering supports the UCC Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today, there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota, supported by CAIM. An invaluable resource, CAIM also supports more than a thousand individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations, who are members of other UCC congregations throughout the United States.

If you would like to contribute to this mission, please write your check payable to First Church with "Neighbors in Need" written on the memo line. Thanks!

### August Mission of the Month Report Back

Our August Mission of the Month, LINKS, received a combined donation collected from the congregation and matched by the Outreach Board, totaling \$600. Thank you for your support!

## Keeping Akron Beautiful

First Church is the proud recipient of a 2018 Beautification Watch Award from Keep Akron Beautiful. This award was created in 1983 to recognize the individuals, organizations, and businesses that consistently work to keep their publicly visible property clean and beautiful. We were selected as one of the 2018 institutions that exemplify the following: being litter free, having well-maintained flowers, shrubs and/or trees, being free of weeds, and standing out from its neighbors. Thank you to the Building & Grounds board, church members and staff who have dedicated many hours to making our exterior grounds worthy of being an award winner.

## Flu Shots at First Church

On Sunday, October 21, in the Conference Room, the Sand Run Pharmacy will partner with the Parish Nurse Team, offering the influenza vaccine to everyone older than the age of 7. The high dose influenza vaccine will be available for those who are 65 and older. The Parish Nurse Team will also be available October 21 for blood pressure and blood sugar screenings.

Most insurance companies, including Medicare Part B and all of the Medicare Advantage plans, (i.e.: SummaCare, Anthem, Medical Mutual of Ohio) cover the vaccine 100% with no copays or deductibles. Without insurance the cost of the vaccine is \$35.

Both versions of the pneumonia vaccine (Pneumovax 23 and Prevnar 13) will also be available. Our thanks to Tom Lamb, RPh and the Sand Run Pharmacy for providing this service.

## Seasonal Recipes from the Archives

Over the years, First Church has published many recipe books. Each month we'll share a recipe from the archive celebrating the submissions made by church members.

### Blue Cheese Lettuce Bowl

From Cynthia Young

Ingredients:

- ½ cup evaporated milk
- ½ cup salad oil
- 3 tablespoons vinegar
- 1 teaspoon onion salt
- 2 ounces crumbled blue cheese
- 2 heads of lettuce, diced
- 1 cucumber, peeled and diced
- 1 dozen cherry tomatoes, halved

In a blender or bowl, combine evaporated milk, oil, vinegar, onion salt, and blue cheese. Blend or beat for a few seconds until smooth and thickened. Chill until serving time (yields 1 ½ cups).

Before serving, tear lettuce into a salad bowl. Add the cucumbers and tomatoes and toss gently.

Yields about 8 servings.



# Autumn

Let the fields be jubilant, and  
everything in them; let all the trees  
of the forest sing for joy.

Psalm 96:12

## Wednesdays at First Church

Wednesdays offer great opportunities for fellowship, exploration, relaxation, conversation, and faith formation at First Church.

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

We modern people tend to want just the facts. We want to be able to trust the source to tell us the truth. Many of us carry this perspective over into our reading of scripture. Many people struggle to see the merits of the bible because they expect to be told they will have to accept belief in strange and impossible things. If you're skeptical, intrigued, or doubtful, this bible study is for you! We are learning about *An Odd Couple: Jonah and Ruth*, 10:45am-noon each Wednesday in the Library with Pastor Nanette and a Kerygma Bible Study of these two books of the Bible until Thanksgiving. You are welcome to attend one or all sessions, as your schedule permits. If you can, bring a Bible and notebook along to the sessions.

### Wednesday Night Dinner

Through the fall, join us for Wednesday Night Dinner in Fellowship Hall at 6pm. The cost of dinner is \$8 per meal, either paid in advance or at the door. Reservations are required. Please sign up either in person or by calling the church office by 2pm on the Monday prior.

### Wednesday Evening Seekers Group

On Wednesday evenings from 6:45-8:30pm, Pastor Nanette will be facilitating conversations based on the provocative DVD resource, *Living the Questions 2*. Weekly theological topics through the course of October and into November are A Kingdom without Walls, Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision, Incarnation: Divinely Human, Prayer: Intimacy with God, Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry, Creative Transformation, and Embracing Mystery. Come to one or all, as you are able. Supplemental reading materials are available for download at [www.akronfcc.org/explore-learn/faith/](http://www.akronfcc.org/explore-learn/faith/)

### Wednesday Night at the Movies

If you enjoy thought-provoking, insightful, and entertaining cinema, grab your ticket for Wednesday Night at the Movies at 6:45pm, with discussion to follow. Contact Bernie Babb with any questions at 330.687.0823. We hope you will join us for a fun evening in the 2nd floor Theatre Room!

*Movie details in the next column*



### Join us on October 3 for three short films:

*White Cane*: Vanessa is a passionate, talented dancer who happens to be blind. She meets Danielle, who yearns to dance but struggles to translate her passion into movement. Is there a place for both of them in the competitive world of dance?

*Still Sophie*: Four and a half years ago, young actress Sophie Salveson's life changed forever. Doctors said she would never walk, never talk, and never perform again. They were wrong.

*Deighties*: Octogenarian widower Phil decided that he no longer wishes to be alone and embarks on a quest to find companionship. Times have changed though and Phil must contend with the world of online dating.

### Join us on October 10 for a feature film:

*Off the Menu*: The callow heir to a Mexican fast-food empire goes hunting for the next food trend and finds himself in a small, dusty New Mexican town where foodies come from all over to experience the cuisine of a local, feisty female chef.

### Join us October 17 for three short films:

*The Elder*: Considering a drastic step on her 5th wedding anniversary, Sally stops in a wood and accidentally meets Elder who has seen it all before.

*I'm Going to Mum's*: Eight year old Jacob is stuck in the middle of a divorce, so he takes drastic action to make himself heard.

*Tree*: One evening, Alisi climbs a huge tree and won't come down. As night falls, her secret is revealed and she must either follow tradition or find a new path.

### Join us on October 24 for a feature film:

*The Dreamseller*: A disheveled, bearded "dreamseller" points out the madness in modern society and invites others to embrace his ideals. As his influence grows, detractors emerge, but he has an answer for everyone, until a giant high-tech corporation, a favorite target of the dreamseller, forces him into a corner.

### Join us October 31 for 3 short films:

*Good Hands*: A woman in the midst of heartbreak discovers the person she's really missing.

*Writer's Block*: Past her prime, and afflicted with a severe case of writer's block, a veteran songwriter finds new inspiration in a bird that takes up residence outside her home.

*Tomato*: An unemployed actress finally snags a paid role but the job turns out to be quite different than what she anticipated.

## Earth-Loving Ideas for Everyone

### Meatless Monday!

Have you ever considered going vegetarian for a day each week? Not only would reducing your intake of meat products be beneficial to your health and save you some money, it would also help the environment!



Raising livestock for our current level of meat consumption requires an extraordinary amount of resources and takes a devastating toll on our planet. According to a study conducted by the Institute of Water Education in the Netherlands, by eliminating just one ¼ pound of beef burger from your diet, you can save over 400 gallons of water from livestock production!

Meatless Monday is a global movement, from Australia to the United Kingdom and has boosted citizens' health and helped the economy! Give it a try – the animals will thank you!



### Celebrating Abundance, Sowing Generosity Finance Workshop

Join our UCC Association's Stewardship and Finances Working Group for worship, workshops, panel discussion and more on Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 9:00am-2:30pm here at First Church. The workshop is open to area Association churches and lunch is included. All interested church members are encouraged to attend this day of informational workshops to help strengthen local churches and share best practices. Topics will include giving, investing, leveraging capital resources, and generosity as a spiritual practice. Workshops include: How do we ask people to give? How do we repurpose our church building for meaningful ministry? How do our investments sustain our ministry and mission? How does our church's wider mission make a difference? How do we learn and nurture generosity? How do we organize for planned giving? To register, please contact Kasey Kalchert in the church office, 330.235.5109, as First Church will sponsor the \$10 per person lunch cost.

## First Church Free Concert Series

Through this program year, First Church will be hosting musicians from all over Akron. The concerts are free and open to the public. Save these dates and bring a friend along!

- **Thursday, October 18, 2018, 7pm-9pm**  
*Hey Mavis* - Learn more at [www.hey MAVIS.com](http://www.hey MAVIS.com)
- **Thursday, November 15, 2018, 7pm-9pm**  
*Jennifer Mekel and Friends Gospel Choir*
- **Thursday, January 17, 2019, 7pm-9pm**  
*Paul Kovac's Big Grass Band* - Learn more at [www.paulkovac.com](http://www.paulkovac.com)
- **Thursday, February 21, 2019, 7pm-9pm**  
*The Akron Big Band* - Learn more at [www.theakronbigband.com](http://www.theakronbigband.com)
- **Thursday, March 7, 2019, 7pm-9pm**  
*Celtic Rush* - Learn more at [www.celticrush.com](http://www.celticrush.com)
- **Thursday, May 16, 2019, 7pm-9pm**  
*The Akron Pops Orchestra* - Learn more at [www.akronpops.org/concerts](http://www.akronpops.org/concerts)



Hey Mavis Photo by Shane Wynn

### Who are Hey Mavis?

Laurie and Eddie Canner formed Hey Mavis while serving as artists-in-residence in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The group has released three albums, two of which ranked in the top 10 on the national Folk DJ-L radio charts. Hey Mavis' latest project "Silver-Ribbon Dream: People & Stories of the Erie Canal" is a collaboration with acclaimed artist Leandra Drumm. Preliminary reviews of the project have ranged from "unconventionally beautiful" to "startingly original."

### UA Symphony Orchestra

On Thursday, October 25 at 7pm, the orchestra, directed by Dr. Bordo, will play a selection including Wagner's *Die Meistersinger Overture*, Weber's *Concertino for Clarinet*, and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*. The concerts are free and open to the public. Free-will donations will be graciously accepted in support of the First Church Music Fund. The next in the series will be on December 6.

## First Church's Urban Ministry

Our congregation has remained a downtown congregation over the years, engaged in urban ministry as the city of Akron has evolved and as many other congregations have either relocated or closed. We have embraced God's call that we minister in relevant ways to our city and region by tackling Food Justice and Community Development concerns. We also feel strongly called to be a welcoming church – a place of sanctuary and hospitality for those who are seeking or who are in need. This means that on any particular day, those passing through our doors are very diverse, and often have vastly different life experiences with regards income, health, education, addiction, employment, family circumstance, gender expression, sexual orientation, housing, age, and ability, to name just a few aspects of identity.

As a Christian church, we seek to meet people where they are and minister, as we are able, to one another's need. This can sometimes be challenging in an urban setting and so here are a few helpful reminders:

- You may not feel equipped or comfortable meeting everyone's need, and that is okay. If you find yourself unsure, please redirect the person to the nearest church leader, or walk with them to the church office to hand off their inquiry to our front office staff person, usually Darren Jones-Baker.
- It is recommended that you never hand out cash, even small change. Instead, there are plenty of social services available that are outlined in the Akron "Street Card" pamphlet. Copies are always available from the front office staff person.
- If you are ever unsure about leaving the building on your own, please feel comfortable asking another church member or our front office staff person to accompany you into the parking lot or to your car.
- If you observe behavior from any individual on our property that is inappropriate or unsafe, please alert the Akron Police Department. On Sundays an officer, usually Detective Mike Leslie, is out front. At other times, you may choose to call the police non-emergency number 330-375-2552. Remember, in cases of an emergency, always dial 911.

## Yom Kippur Panel

On September 19, Pastor Nanette was an invited panelist for the "Does Morality Matter?" discussion hosted by Temple Israel and moderated by Rabbi Emeritus, David Horowitz. Other panelists included Dr. Shannon E. French, the Director of the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence at Case Western Reserve University and Dr. David B. Cohen, Professor of Political Science at the University of Akron.



## Mason CLC Half-day Tutor Funded

Just before school resumed in August, the Mason Community Learning Center staff worked together to find a way to better serve their students academically this year.

Since research shows that early intervention is key to long term literacy outcomes, the school's instructional focus will be literacy in grades K-3. With this goal in mind, the teachers decided to hire a half day tutor through an Americorps program to work with at-risk students on Friday mornings.

The anticipated cost of this stipend through Americorps is \$4,500. From last year's Special Christmas Offering and the Mission of the Month, First Church holds a reserve of \$6,481 so we are grateful to be able to support this important initiative. With the hire of the tutor, our Mason Discretionary Fund will still hold \$1,981 to cover any additional expenses that we may incur from this program.

We will be working closely with Mrs. Angela Harper, Mason's school principal, to bring the Americorps tutor on board. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Maggie Grigsby at 330-882-4950 or [MGrigsby@neo.rr.com](mailto:MGrigsby@neo.rr.com).

*Maggie Grigsby, Linda Hultz, and Emily Mosconi*

## A Bright Idea!

Beginning in August, things have been getting much brighter around First Church! As part of our vitality process, to help the church become more energy efficient, and to make our rooms and hallways more welcoming, every light fixture throughout the building was replaced or bulbs upgraded to LED lighting.

Even our historic pendant chandeliers in the Meetinghouse are now energy efficient! This was quite an extensive project, and many thanks go out to the Buildings and Grounds board, the Stewardship and Finance board, and the staff who collaborated together to complete this large project.



## I Have a Dream Award

First Church was recently presented with the "Keeping the Dream Alive" Award by Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan. This award was in recognition of our helping to facilitate 40 years of social justice advocacy under the auspices of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Coalition and the annual celebration and scholarship fund we have supported.

## New Chronicle Newsletter Format

The new format of this Chronicle newsletter means that our birthday list can now be found in the Community Directory and our calendar of events at [www.akronfcc.org](http://www.akronfcc.org). If you need assistance finding either or if you have questions about this new layout, please contact Kasey Kalchert at the church office: 330.253.5109 x112 or [kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org](mailto:kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org).

## Contact Pastor Nanette

To arrange a meeting or phone appointment with Pastor Nanette, please contact Kasey Kalchert, Congregational Life Coordinator, at 330.253.5109 x112 or [kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org](mailto:kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org). To contact Pastor Nanette directly, please call either 330.253.5109 x100 (church), 330.907.1050 (cell) or email her at [nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org](mailto:nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org).

Wishing you a  
*Happy Fall!*



## With Sincerest Thanks

*Dear Friends,*

Thank you for sending the lovely orchid plant to my brother David Kovac's memorial service. Please know how much I appreciate your kindness and the many prayers lifted up for my brother and me! I've been blessed with a wonderful church family.

*Love, Elizabeth Wilson*

Little did I know that Friday the 13th could be so "deadly." I will never plan another vacation to commence on that date EVER. Well, I've learned the hard way: a long stay at the hospital and then a stay at rehab and then rehab at home.

Thanks from the bottom of our souls for your prayers, thoughts, concerns, and cards. Who says prayer does not work? Someone was watching over me. Even the doctors were amazing at my recovery.

*Sandy DiMascio*

## Church School Is Now In Session

At First Church, Church School offers an engaging spiritual journey for children from Pre-K through grade 8.

In the Pre-K and Kindergarten class Pat Burke, Rev. Sarah Courtney, and Anna Dusseau are the volunteer teachers using the new *Shine: Living in God's Light* curriculum. These dynamic lessons engage children by inviting them to experience the transforming power of God's love and nurture. Using imaginative and interactive biblical storytelling, the curriculum explores the meaning of our stories of faith and encourages children to express faith through a life of compassionate peacemaking and service.



Grades 1-4 are taught by volunteers Erin Burtoft, Rev. Sarah Courtney, and Jen Kowalski, while Isaac Báez, Jenni Gray, and Steven Savides work with grades 5-8. Both classrooms are using a curriculum called *A Joyful Path* which explores the foundation of progressive Christianity and the teachings of Jesus. The lessons encourage children to ask questions and be curious, to be creative, share their gifts, and continue learning about their passions.

Valerie Stewart continues in a volunteer capacity to encourage those children who want to sing, to learn uplifting and fun songs of faith and encouragement. If your child would like to sing, please contact Val for the music schedule.

If you are interested in helping out, we are looking for adults willing to chaperone in each classroom with each week's teacher. This ensures a safe environment for all and also helps connect us intergenerationally. Please contact Kasey Kalchert, Pastor Nanette, or Valerie Stewart for more information or to sign up as a second adult or teacher.

## World Communion Sunday

**Sunday, October 7, 9:30 and 11am**

Once again, this year, on the first Sunday in October, we will celebrate with congregations around the globe. On this one Sunday, we remember that no matter our different nationalities, ethnicities, languages, and denominational affiliations, we are all followers of Jesus Christ and children of God. As a symbol of our diversity, you are invited to bring a piece of fabric from another culture and to lay it on the Communion table as you arrive.



<b>Stewardship/Finance Report (unaudited)</b>				
<b>August 2018 - Final</b>				
	<b>August</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Percent to Budget</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
2018 Loyalty Campaign	16726	166850	166650	100.13%
Non-pledge Income	2800	26910	29997	89.71%
Special Ministries-incl. Spec. Offer.	258	23971	29726	80.64%
Endowment, Sprowls Trust, Pollock	44276	366383	366171	100.06%
Other Income	1186	17910	18346	97.62%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65246</b>	<b>602034</b>	<b>610890</b>	<b>98.55%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Total Admin. & Support	6332	39859	45742	87.14%
Total Mission	4128	54941	65527	83.84%
Food Service Expense	555	21297	18258	116.64%
Personnel	27974	259180	322370	80.40%
Property Expenses	19253	173933	203331	85.54%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58242</b>	<b>549210</b>	<b>655228</b>	<b>83.82%</b>
<b>* All Boards, Pastoral Care &amp; Special Ministries</b>				



## In Our Prayers

Duane Angel, Shayne Donald, Joanna and Jim Gartner, Barbara Hansford, Joanne Mazzaferro, Lee Pritchard, Bill Rodefer, Lola Rothmann, Agneta Solomon, Art Wallach, and Doug Weyrick.

## Worship Flowers

First Church requests donations of worship flowers for the following dates: Dec 2, Jan 6, 13, and 20, and Feb 3 and 24.

If you would like to honor, celebrate, or remember a loved one on one of these dates, please contact Patty Durkos at 330.253.5109 x110 to place an order.



## Mason CLC Christmas Kick-off

For the sixteenth year, First Church is reaching out to the children at Mason Community Learning Center. This year's Christmas drive kicks off on Sunday, November 11, 2018 and there will be several ways for you to make a child smile:

**Coats:** Select an ornament from our Coat Tree. Each pink and blue coat ornament will have a specific size and family code to identify the Mason family children who are in need of a winter coat. Please attach the ornament to your gift before placing it in the designated coat box.

**Toys:** Select a ornament from our Toy Tree, and you will help make a Christmas wish come true for a Mason child. You can leave your gift under the Toy Tree, marked with the ornament.

**Family:** Our Mason Family Book will be available for your consideration in the Fellowship Hall. From the book, you can select a family in need and provide the children with specifically requested gifts.

**Clothing:** Ornaments on the Clothing Tree will outline basic clothing needs of socks, uniform pieces, and underwear for the Mason CLC children. Please attach your ornament to your gifts when returning your donations to the tree.

Please bring your purchased coat, toy, family items, or clothing to the church no later than the December 9. Monetary gifts will be gladly accepted. Please make checks out to the First Church with "Mason CLC" in the memo line. If you have any questions, please contact Maggie Grigsby at 234.369.9261 or the church office at 330.253.5109.

## UA Make a Difference Day

Save the date of Friday, October 26 for the University of Akron's Make a Difference Day! Students have the opportunity to volunteer around the community. Please contact the church office for more details.

## The Love Truck

The Love Truck will serve a meal on Saturday, October 27, from 4:30-5:30pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Nathan Walder for more information at [the.lovetruck@yahoo.com](mailto:the.lovetruck@yahoo.com).



## Women's Spiritual Journey

On the first and third Monday of the month, Linda Peshina and Jamie Brink are hosting Women's Spiritual Journey in the small dining room at 12pm. Come join the discussion! Lunch will be served at the cost of \$7 or you are welcome to bring your own. For more information, contact Linda Peshina at 330.606.5874.

## Men's Lunch Bunch

The Men's Lunch Bunch meets on Mondays at noon for lunch and discussion on the Great Courses video series on early civilizations and development. All men of the church are invited to attend. Cost of the meal is \$7. Please sign up in the church office. For more information, please contact Howard Tolley, 330.867.1469.

On Monday, October 8th, the Men's Lunch Bunch will host featured guest speaker, Ernie Stadvec. He has led a very colorful life and will share his various military and civil aviation experiences. After eighteen years with both Active and Reserve status in the Army Air Corps and Air Force, he left with the rank of First Lieutenant. Ernie also had a brief Airline career with Capital and Eastern Airlines, then started his own freight airline and flying school, Shawnee Airways, where he was President and Chief Pilot until retiring. After he started his own flying business, Mr. Stadvec taught aviation subjects at the University of Akron and Wooster College.

## Hands on Sustainability – Annual Sustainability Conference

First Church is hosting the Hands on Sustainability Annual Sustainability Conference on October 19. Join the conversation to look at the sustainability efforts of the local food system and as well as the challenges and opportunities in healing the soil while working toward common solutions. The event is on October 19, from 9am to 5pm and includes discussion panels, workshops and demonstrations on the importance of food sustainability. Hands on Sustainability 2025 is part of an eight-year initiative in which a yearly conference, and other efforts, will be implemented with the City of Akron, focused on a specific sustainability topic each year. Other topics include Water Waste Management, Energy, Local Food, People & Neighborhoods, and Transportation. The idea of the conference was borrowed from the incredible efforts that have taken place in Cleveland through the success of the Sustainable Cleveland 2019 project. The conference is named in honor of the year 2025 being the 25th anniversary of the Cuyahoga Valley National Parks' (CVNP) official recognition as a national park. We see the CVNP as an incredible natural resource, inspiration, and driving force behind our initiatives. We hope to implement biomimicry, mimicking the natural world, of the Park System into the facilitation of our programs, and system designs that surround sustainability in the City of Akron. For more information, please contact [bigloveakron@gmail.com](mailto:bigloveakron@gmail.com).



## Prayer Blanket Ministry

The Prayer Blanket Ministry meets on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 3-5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Blankets are made with soft fleece and simply cut and tied together, with no sewing involved. They are blessed in worship services on the last Sunday of the month and delivered to patients at Akron General Medical Center and also used for baptisms here at First Church. If you would like to request a blanket, or have questions about volunteering in this ministry, please contact Deborah Anderson at 330.666.6332.



*Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity*



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# Welcome

First Congregational Church of Akron unconditionally affirms all people as we live out our call to follow Jesus Christ and his teaching of inclusive love.

We welcome people of every race, age, nationality, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, family circumstance, socio-economic status, physical and mental ability, or spiritual background. We invite all who are seeking God's presence in their lives to participate fully in our church life, ministry, and leadership.

We strive to be a safe place, free from the fear of judgment, where wounds can heal, differences are cherished, and inclusivity is intentional. We commit ourselves to the struggle against injustice, discrimination, violence, and hatred, in order to foster a world of peace and wholeness.

*God loves you. Christ invites you. We embrace and celebrate you.*