



# Chronicle

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

*Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity*

### SEPTEMBER 2018:

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30am - Upper Room  
11am - Meetinghouse

#### WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

September 2  
**Communion Sunday**  
9:30am & 11am  
Song of Solomon 2:8-13

September 9  
**Community Celebration Sunday**  
**Planet Earth Sunday:**  
**Season of Creation I**  
9:30am & 11am  
Genesis 1:1-25, Ps. 33:1-9,  
Romans 1:18-23, John 1:1-14

September 16  
**Water Sunday:**  
**Season of Creation II**  
9:30am & 11am  
Genesis 8:20-22, 9:12-17,  
Psalm 104:27-33,  
Revelation 22:1-5, Matthew 28:1-10

September 23  
**Sky Sunday:**  
**Season of Creation III**  
9:30am & 11am  
Congregational Meeting 10:30am  
Jeremiah 4:23-28, Psalm 19:1-6,  
Philippians 2:9-13, Mark 15:33-39

September 30  
**Creature Sunday:**  
**Season of Creation IV**  
9:30am & 11am  
Genesis 2:18-25, Psalm 148,  
Revelation 5:11-14,  
Matthew 6:25-29

**NEXT CHRONICLE**  
Deadline: Mon., September 17  
Email Submissions:  
kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org  
Editor: Kasey Kalchert

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## Open Hearts



Dear friends,

As we launch into our new program year, I invite you to consider afresh how you might support the vision that is emerging at First Church. Visioning has been a priority for us as we navigated the interim period and during these first three years of my ministry here. We'd be foolish to think that visioning is what church is about though. Rather, we are called to bravely become the hands, feet, and heart of Christ Jesus in the world, being flexible enough to respond to new calls and challenges as they arise. Our three "Big Hairy Audacious Goals" are a roadmap for the season ahead:

**Community development.** Akron's rich history makes it an ideal place to explore and respond to the intersections between generational urban poverty, addiction, and disparities in our education and justice systems as we consider what empowerment and urban renewal might look like. How might you be supportive?

**Food justice** is already an area of strength. However, as our Food Pantry and Feed My Sheep Garden boom so does our need for volunteers and organizational energy. How might you be supportive?

**Congregational life** is an area in which we are poised to grow as we deepen our commitment of ministering to our younger members and offer additional opportunities for worship, small groups, congregational care, and faith formation. How might you be supportive?

Finally, new staff roles and staff have been coming online in the past three years as a means of fulfilling this emerging vision. Let's be intentional about naming the newness of these relationships and continue to invest in getting to know our pastors and staff as we grow together in purpose, mission, and ministry.

This is an exciting time at First Church and I look forward to this new program year with you as I continue to be deeply blessed and humbled to serve with you in ministry.

In faith,

*Nanette*

Please see more Pride Day photos on page 7

# Be selfish by being generous

I'd like to suggest that, as a congregation, we conduct a "study" between now and the end of the year. I want you to be selfish. But in a good way.

Here's the theory – Start giving your money and time away: research shows you'll be happier for it. Americans who describe themselves as "very happy" volunteer an average of 5.8 hours per month. Those who are "unhappy" only volunteer 0.6 hours per month. This is just one of the findings in *The Paradox of Generosity*, a 2014 book by sociologists Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson presenting the findings of the Science of Generosity Initiative at the University of Notre Dame.

Don't give your money and time away for others – do it for yourself. Try it and see if YOU feel happier.

I would suggest that you give of your time, talent and treasure here at First Church over the next couple of months, just so we can "measure" how successful we are at being selfish – and how successful we are as a community of faith at being happier together.

Use this challenge to see if we build stronger kinship and to see if we live out our Core Values (Acceptance, Spirituality, and Community) as well as our Bedrock Beliefs (God is Love, Mission, Spiritual Growth, and Worship) in a more active and apparent manner.

Consider volunteering in one of our many ministries at First Church: the Church School, Feed My Sheep Garden, the Food Pantry, or the Love Truck. We are seeking substitute ushers and can always use a Greeter at 9:30am or 11:00am worship services on Sunday. There are volunteer opportunities around the office or consider a music program: handbells or the chancel choir. Have you ever participated in the Wednesday Night programs?

Get involved in the Mason Community Learning Center programs. How about the PB&J program? Or increasing your pledge during the annual Stewardship Campaign?

I hope and pray that you will participate in our little "study." God is calling. Are you going to pick up?

Larry Becker, Moderator

## Sunday Mornings

9am-11am: Childcare, for children ages 4 to grade 6.

9am- 12:15pm: Nursery, for children ages 3 and under.

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

11am: Worship. Children (grades 1 to 8) begin worship with their families and go to Church School after the Children's Message.

## Core Values

**Acceptance:** First Church seeks to be a safe place where all are welcomed regardless of human or social distinction. Having been accepted as we are, we are open to others.

**Spirituality:** First Church seeks greater understanding and connection, individually and collectively, with God and with one another.

**Community:** First Church seeks to unite individuals and families into a network of fellowship and compassion within the congregation and beyond. We view Family as a form of Community and Fellowship as an expression of Community.

## Bedrock Beliefs

**God is Love:** We believe that God extends unconditional acceptance, forgiveness, concern and care to all.

**Mission:** We believe God is the cause and mission is the effect. We receive God's love and extend that love to others, in word and deed, within and beyond the congregation.

**Spiritual Growth:** We believe that faith is not static but dynamic. We seek, through prayer, study, worship, service and life experience to deepen and broaden our individual and collective understandings of, and reliance upon, God.

**Worship:** We believe that through worship, whether in personal devotional time or within the gathered community, we connect with God. The acts of worship bring us comfort, challenge and courage to discover, nurture and live out our individual and corporate spirituality.

## Call to a Special Congregational Meeting

The Governing Board is calling a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday, September 23, to vote and adopt the Community Covenant that we have been discussing since the spring. The meeting will take place between our regularly scheduled morning services beginning at 10:30am in the Meetinghouse.

The Community Covenant is a Biblically-based statement of behavior and values. It challenges us to be the best we can be. I hope and pray that you will plan to join with your Faith Community in worship and meeting on September 23. A quorum of 15% of our membership must be present to vote. Please make every effort to attend by staying a little later or arriving a little early – your voice counts.

For more information, contact moderator Larry Becker at: [Larrybecker2900@yahoo.com](mailto:Larrybecker2900@yahoo.com) or 330.696.6709.



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**!



# New Food Pantry Outreach

Starting this program year, the Food Pantry needs additional regularly scheduled or substitute volunteers through the week on Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday mornings. We are also seeking volunteers to assist with the collection and distribution of pots, pans, and kitchenware.

We need help on Monday mornings from 8:30-10am to receive cases of items delivered from the Foodbank, and to put them in stacks on pallets or place them in refrigerators or freezers. Some repackaging, restocking, and a start on setup may be done on Mondays.

Tuesday morning distribution to clients occurs from 9:30-11:30 am. Volunteers are needed to either help clients select items from food groups on shelves or tables and place onto a serving cart, bag items in plastic bags and put them in a grocery cart, help clients with their bags to the parking lot, or restock shelves and tables. We need help to set up, prepare for the distribution, clean, and restock afterward.

The Food Pantry is participating in a pilot of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's Agency Direct Retail Pickup Program as part of Feeding America's Food Rescue Program. In this program, volunteers pick up donated items from the Walmart on Arlington Road each Saturday morning. Items are brought to the Food Pantry, sorted into the appropriate reporting category, weighed, placed in storage, and the pounds received are reported to the Foodbank. Since the amount received may range between 400 to 800 pounds, and be contained in 20 to 30 boxes, multiple vehicles, including a van or SUV, are used and multiple people are involved. So far, produce has been the largest category of items received.

The Food Pantry has started offering kitchen utensils to patrons. Margaret Maurer discovered a nonprofit in Kent called Recycle Pots and Pans that offers free pots, pans, and kitchenware. Learn more about Recycle Pots and Pans at [www.recyclepotsandpans.com](http://www.recyclepotsandpans.com). Marsha McGregor is coordinating our efforts to bring these amenities to the Food Pantry, but we are seeking volunteers in these areas:

- Once a month or every other month, as needed, volunteers will go to Recycle Pots and Pans in Kent on Monday, between 1pm and 5pm, to select pots, pans and utensils in good condition. Typically, three or four boxes worth should suffice. After selection, the items



are to be dropped off at the church. Boxes and guidelines will be provided.

- Once a month or every other month, as needed, volunteers will meet on Tuesdays at 12:15pm for about an hour to assemble small cooking kits or baking kits in the Small Dining Room.
- Individual donations of clean pots, pans, and kitchen utensils in good condition are always welcomed! We are always in need of baking sheets, stock-pots, medium and large frying pans, griddles, and casserole dishes. Please leave donations in the church office or in the Food Pantry donation basket in the hallway. Please do not include glassware or previously used deli containers, margarine tubs, or other recycled plastic food containers in a donation.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Marsha McGregor at 330.418.3884 or [marshamcgregor@aim.com](mailto:marshamcgregor@aim.com).

If you interested in helping once or more a month on Monday, Tuesday, or Saturday or if you have any questions, please contact Debbie or Clay Canfield at 234.678.6754.

Thanks for your interest in serving those in need in our community!

## Community Celebration Sunday

On September 9, join us in worship as the summer gives way to the program year and the fall season. On this Sunday, we gather as a whole community to celebrate and give thanks. Join us to celebrate the end of our wonderful summer with ice cream sundaes on the lawn following worship!



## New Community Ministers

Ordained ministry takes place in many different settings. We are blessed by the clergy we formally "call" who minister to and with us at First Church. Now we also have the opportunity to support clergy who minister in the wider community with our support or who are in the discernment process toward ordained Christian ministry.

Following a Governing Board vote, First Church will begin offering endorsement and support to Reverend Andrew Courtney who is a part-time chaplain with the Army National Guard. Andrew and his wife, Sarah, are both ordained United Church of Christ ministers. They met while at seminary and were married in 2012. They have since served various churches in Connecticut and Ohio. Andrew decided to enter the INFOSEC industry earlier this year after they adopted their first child, Asher. Sarah is now able to be a stay-at-home mom and the family is excited for this new chapter of their life and look forward to getting to know everyone at First Church.

Member Tiffany Thorne continues her journey, discerning her sense of God's calling in her life, as she begins another school year at Chicago Theological Seminary. Similarly, member Brenda Waddell continues her studies at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Brenda's wife, Reverend Karen Bruno is another community minister whom we support and endorse. Karen continues in her ministry as a chaplain for SouthernCare Hospice in Cuyahoga Falls.

First Church's Support Team (Isaac Báez, Amanda Cole, Rev. Nanette Pitt, and Judy Young) prayerfully support these four clergy members on behalf of First Church.



Andrew and Sarah Courtney with their son Asher.

## Introducing the 2018-2019 Governing Board

Meet the 2018-2019 Governing Board! Elected last spring, these are your leaders for the 2018-2019 program year. The Governing Board meets at 6:30pm on the last Monday of each month. Members are welcome to attend meetings to learn more about what's happening around the church. The bulletin board dedicated to the Governing Board can be found in the main hallway. After each meeting, minutes will be posted there, and pictures of the officers and pastors of First Church can be viewed to help the congregation become better acquainted with church leaders.

Larry Becker, Moderator

DeAnn Clemons, Vice Moderator

Curt Clemons, Treasurer

Sue Yoder, Secretary

Ellsworth Poole, At Large 2017-2019

Laura Bishop, At Large 2018-2020

Jay Hershey, At Large 2018-2020

Chip Houghton, At Large 2018-2020

Andy Weyand, Buildings and Grounds Chair

Valerie Stewart, Christian Education

Kara Ashley, Christian Outreach Co-chair

Elizabeth Fesler, Christian Outreach Co-chair

Martha Vye, Diaconate

Jim Gartner, Human Resources

Ron Meyer, Music Co-chair

Becky Moore, Music Co-chair

Logan Báez, Membership Co-chair

Kari Ledger, Membership Co-chair

Kellie Ramirez, Nominating

Bob Renner, Stewardship & Finance

Rev. Nanette Pitt, Senior Minister

## Akron Area Interfaith Council News

Akron Area Interfaith Council will be co-sponsoring an Author Talk with the Akron-Summit County Public Library, Main branch, for the 2018 Fall Forum on Sunday, September 16 from 2-5pm. Lead speaker, Dr. Bernard Powers, a professor at the College of Charleston, will discuss the June 2015 murders of nine members for the Charleston Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. If you have questions about the event, please contact Elizabeth Fesler.

The Akron Area Interfaith Council has requested that each church begin a project regarding a Disaster Emergency Response Plan, DERP. The emergencies could include security plans, emergency plans like fire, severe weather, power outages, bomb threats, chemical threats, and others. If you are interested in helping with the project, please see Elizabeth Fesler.

## Worship Flowers

First Church requests donations of worship flowers for the following dates: October 14 and 21,

November 25, and December 2 and 9.

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.



# Summer Garden Update

As gardeners, we wait all winter for the first sign of summer and then we're always surprised how quickly it goes by. This summer was no different! Between transplanting, seeding, weeding, pruning, harvesting, washing, and packing, the days have gone by too fast. Of course, we wouldn't have it any other way!

At the time of print, 861 pounds of fruits and vegetables organically grown and distributed by the Food Pantry. Combined with the 550 pounds sold at the Summit Lake Neighborhood Farmers' Market through the Future Story program, that's a total 1,411 pounds of organically grown fruits and vegetables grown and distributed in support of First Church's food justice mission!

In the midst of the busy growing season, education and experiential learning remain top priorities of our garden program. So far this summer we have hosted Master Gardeners for workshops on soil health, composting, irrigation, and basic botany. We also visited Seasons Micro Farm, a small farm in Kent run by Sarah Ketchum and her family. Sarah was kind enough to give us a tour of her operation and answer questions about the finances of a backyard farm business. This was particularly impactful for the Future Story program participants, as a main goal of the program is financial independence and small business skills.

On June 3, we hosted volunteers for Mitzvah Day. This annual day of service in the Jewish tradition emphasizes serving outside of one's own religious community in an effort to build interfaith relationships. We were honored to participate in this great tradition



and were very grateful for the extra helping hands in the garden!

Our workshops and volunteer events are always free and open to the public. If you are interested in being involved in the garden in any capacity, please send me an email at [sam@letsgrowakron.org](mailto:sam@letsgrowakron.org). Thank you as always for your support of the Feed My Sheep Garden, the Food Pantry, and all of First Church's ministries!

*Sam Phillips, Feed My Sheep Garden Manager*

## Harvest Home – Mission of the Month

Selected by the Outreach Board, **Harvest Home** is the September Mission of the Month. Harvest Home opened in 1979 in response to the growing need for an emergency shelter for women and children in crisis. The shelter can accommodate up to 59 women and children, with services including:

- Emergency shelter for, on average, 3-6 months
- Three meals and two snacks per day
- Clothing and household items
- Case Management
- Individual counseling
- Evening devotions
- Chapel service
- Daily Bible studies
- Nutrition classes



- Computer-literacy and GED courses
- Career development programs
- Expressive art courses
- "Becoming Discipleship" programs
- Lydia's Purse

To donate to the Harvest Home, please make your check payable to First Church with "Harvest Home" written in the memo line. Thanks!

## Mission of the Month Updates

The Mission of the Month for May was **Gennesaret**, in June it was **Open M**, and in July it was **Limitless Ambition**. In each case, the combined donation of gifts from the congregation matched by a donation from the Outreach Board, was a total of \$600 to each ministry. Thank you!

*Elizabeth Fesler, Outreach Board Co-Chairperson*

# Wednesdays at First Church:

Wednesdays offer great opportunities for fellowship, exploration, relaxation, conversation, and faith formation at First Church. We hope you'll join us this month for some of these opportunities.

## Wednesday Morning Discussion Group: Living with Alzheimer's

Some of us are people living with Alzheimer's, others of us care for loved ones living with Alzheimer's, and so we are also a church living with Alzheimer's. Join Pastor Nanette and others on Wednesdays, September 19 and 26, from 10:45am-noon for a discussion about how we can care for self and others as a family of faith. The conversation will be guided using a resource written by Christian educator, Carol A. Wehrheim.

## Wednesday Evening Dinner

Beginning on September 12, 2018, a delicious dinner is available 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 in the office by 2pm on the Monday prior.

## Wednesday Evening Faith Enrichment

Drawing on the dynamic DVD resource, Living the Questions 2, join Pastor Nanette on September 19, from 6:45-8:30pm, for an exploration of the rapture - a concept that has informed our theology, as well as popular culture in movies and books. On September 26, we'll build on that, discussing God's relationship to and care of creation.

## Prayer Blanket Ministry

Beginning September 11, the Prayer Blanket Ministry will be meeting on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at a new time, 3-5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. The prayer blankets are sent to patients at Akron General Medical Center and used for baptisms here at First Church. Blankets are made with soft fleece and no sewing is involved, simply cutting and tying. They are blessed in worship services on the last Sunday of the month. If you would like to request a blanket or have questions about volunteering with this ministry, please contact Deborah Anderson at 330.666.6332. We would love to have you join us!

## Thank you to our September Ushers

Chip Houghton, Susanne Shoffner, Carol Johnson, Sam Corbin, and Alauna Redfern

## Wednesday Night at the Movies

If you enjoy thought-provoking, insightful, and entertaining cinema, grab your ticket for Wednesday Night at the Movies at 6:45, 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!

### Join us on September 12 for three short films:

*Wishing You Well:* An orphan boy entrusts an old well with a poignant wish... and much to his surprise, he receives a reassuring answer. Then years later, he rediscovers the well and a bottle containing a message pops up to the surface.

*Curpigeon:* A heartwarming animated story centering on a group of park pigeons and their old human pals who come together to help one of their own endure a great loss.

*Dear Erik:* Erik Madden fell in love with the silver screen at a young age and decided to write to some of his favorite stars. A few wrote back, seeding what became a huge collection of letters and photographs.

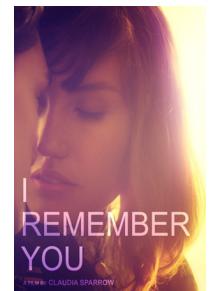
### Join us on September 19 for a feature film: *Cape of Good Hope*.

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 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.



### Join us September 26 for a feature film: *I Remember You*.

A swimming accident brings together two strangers, Samuel, an actor, and Leah, a scientist, who start to feel a mystical connection. Leah begins to have strange, vivid dreams and intense anxiety, and Samuel can't shake the feeling that he knows Leah from... where?



# Akron Pride March and Festival

Our thanks goes to all those who joined in the March for Equality and Pride Festival on Saturday, August 25, 2018. The First Church booth and march contingent made a great impact celebrating the diversity of our community and the extravagant welcome of our God and church. It was a day of celebration – thanks to all who volunteered or stopped by to say “hello!”



We love your photos of church events! Please be sure to share your pics with Kasey at: [kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org](mailto:kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org)

## Stewardship/Finance Report (unaudited)

**July 2018 - Final**

	July	YTD	YTD Budget	Percent to Budget
<b>INCOME</b>				
2018 Loyalty Campaign	15710	150134	145825	102.95%
Non-pledge Income	3860	24110	26248	91.85%
Special Ministries-incl. Spec. Offer.	316	23713	26012	91.16%
Endowment, Sprowls Trust, Pollock	44276	322107	320414	100.53%
Other Income	2082	16724	16054	104.17%
<b>TOTAL</b>	66244	536788	534553	100.42%
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Total Admin. & Support	2572	33527	40026	83.76%
Total Mission	5042	50813	57338	88.62%
Food Service Expense	1405	20742	15977	129.82%
Personnel	29058	231206	282086	81.96%
Property Expenses	20150	154680	177922	86.94%
<b>TOTAL</b>	58227	490968	573349	85.63%

\* All Boards, Pastoral Care & Special Ministries

### 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.

### Fresh Vegetable Salad

From Lee Wallach and Jackie Funk

- 1 head of cauliflower, cut in florets
- 1 bunch broccoli, cut in florets
- 1 ¼ cup of frozen peas, do not thaw
- 2 grated carrots
- 1 cup of sour cream
- 1 cup of mayonnaise
- Mix all the ingredients and chill overnight before serving. The recipe will keep up to a week in a refrigerator.



### Inquirer Gatherings

Learn more about First Church on September 30 and October 14 from 12:15-1:30pm in the Upper 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.

### 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 pay the tuition for one university student (\$800) and four high school students (\$350 each.)

If you would like more information, please contact Agneta Solomon via email at agnetauakron@aol.com or by phone at 330.239.0018 or Martha Vye via email at vye@uakron.edu or by phone at 330.644.7490. Please consider this longstanding international outreach.

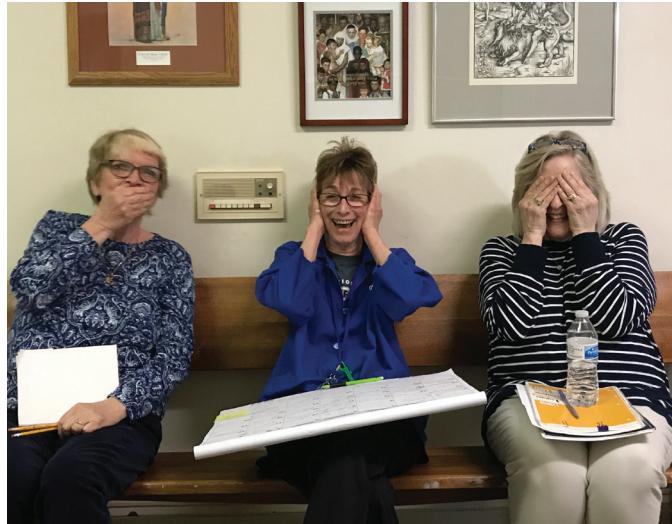
If you'd like to contribute, please make your check to First Church with "Ecuador" written in the memo line. The recipients of these scholarships are most appreciative of the support they receive from us. In the past. In the past, sponsors have received letters of thanks written in Spanish (and translated by Agneta Solomon.)

### Blood Pressure and Diabetes Checks

Parish Nurses will be available on Sunday, September 16, in the Conference Room before and after the 11am worship service to offer blood pressure and diabetes checks.

# We've Been Busy...

There is a lot of activity at First Church throughout the week. Our volunteers, lay leaders, pastors and staff, work hard each day to help move us in the direction we believe God is calling us. We are blessed by a wonderful facility and fantastic human resource that enables us to offer ministry from our space to the wider community on a regular basis. These are just a few pictures of the initiatives underway to ensure we can be a vital and vibrant presence in Akron and beyond! Thank you for your support.



## Additional Sunday Bakers Needed

The Sunday Baker Team needs some additional help! We need a few more people who are willing to provide food for coffee hour after the 11am worship service on Sundays. This ministry was begun to help visitors feel welcome to stay and be welcomed by members. It also encourages current members to stay for coffee hour and visit with each other.

You do not necessarily have to bake, as we provide savory treats in addition to sweet. If you like to bake, you'll fit right in! If you

don't like to bake, but are willing to put together some veggies and dip or crackers and cheese, then you'll fit right in also! Generally, you will need to provide goodies just once a month. Sunday Bakers operate from mid-September through early June. We take the summer off!

If you are able to participate in this fun ministry, please contact Chris Becker at 330.665.4746 or email at [bitemegal@gmail.com](mailto:bitemegal@gmail.com). Thanks in advance for your help!

**Canaan Fair Trade** Olive oil and other organic food products from the Holy Land will be available on September 16 in the Fellowship Hall before and after the 11am worship service. For more information, or to place an order, please contact Carolyn Durway.

# Congratulations

Congratulations to **Chelsea and Andy Weyand** on the birth of **Halle Ann Weyand**, born on June 4.

Congratulations to **Clever and Peyton Kossick** who were baptized on June 24, and to their mom, **Laura Miller**, for her reaffirmation of baptism the same day.

Congratulations to **Jennifer and Kevin Kowalski** on the baptism of their child, **Walter**, on July 1.

Our congratulations to **Patty and Larry Durkos** who were married on Saturday, July 21, at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Portage Lakes.

Congratulations to **Jessica and Scott Fox** on the baptism of their child, **Noah**, on July 22. Noah is Jamie and Mike Brink's grandson.

Congratulations to **Sarah and Andrew Courtney** on the adoption and baptism of their son, **Asher**, on Monday, August 27.

## With Sincerest Thanks

*Nanette and all our friends at First Church,*

Thank you so much for all your thoughts and prayers, calls, and the flowers and cards. It all meant so much to our family during this hard time.

*Sincerely, John and Emily Mosconi*

**Dear Family and Friends of First Congregational Church,**

Thank you so much for the lovely bouquet of spring flowers you sent to Elsie Oldfield's memorial service. I know Mom would have been very touched by your kindness.

*Blessings, Renée Oldfield Marsh and the family of Elsie Oldfield*

**Dear First Church Family,**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the lovely retirement gifts and reception held for me last June. I deeply appreciate your kindness and generosity. This summer, I attempted to send personal notes to all those who contributed to my gift, but if I missed anyone, I apologize. Special thanks to Pastor Nanette, the Governing Board, Debbie Riley and Chris Becker for the many ways you helped make my retirement and reception so wonderful and memorable for me and my family. This summer I enjoyed a family beach trip to North Carolina, a trip to Maine, working on projects, reading books, and spending time with my family and friends. I look forward to the future and what God has in store for me next!

*With love and blessings, Deborah Anderson*



## In Our Prayers

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

## In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of **Elsie Oldfield**, who passed away on May 23 at age 88.

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of **Ruth Strayer**, who passed away on June 8.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Elizabeth Wilson and her family. Her brother, **Paul Kovacs**, passed away on August 8 at the age of 58.

Our prayers and sympathy go to the family of **Newt Thomas**. Newt passed away on August 8 at the age of 91.

## Room Name Changes

Over the years, the rooms at First Church have had many different names. In an effort to help eliminate confusion and to help streamline information, the Governing Board has endorsed our using the following names going forward:

- The upstairs Learning Center will now be known as the **Upper Room**.
  - Formerly known as the Social Hall, Dining Room, or Fellowship Hall, this room is now called the **Fellowship Hall**.
  - Memorial Lounge will be known as the **Small Dining Room**.
  - The Meeting Room, located directly across from Pastor Nanette's study is now called the **Library**.
  - Back in the front foyer of the Meetinghouse, our vitality process and staff have repurposed the room known as the Bride's Room so that it is now the **Family Room** and includes chairs, a changing table, and toys to offer a space for families with children during worship.
  - Located in the back of the church's main office suite, there is a room that was once the pastor's office, it is now our **Break Room** for staff and volunteer use.
- Soon there will be new signage around the building to help remember the changes. Please help us to adapt to these new names and we thank you for your patience as this transition continues.

## The Love Truck

The Love Truck will serve a meal on Saturday, September 29, from 4:30-5:30pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Nathan Walder for more information at the. [lovetruck@yahoo.com](mailto:lovetruck@yahoo.com).

## Akron Swing Dancing Club

On September 15, First Church will host the Akron Swing Dance Club from 7-11pm. This event is free and open to the public. New and experienced dancers are welcome and the congregation is invited!

## University of Akron Symphony Orchestra

- September 27 at 7pm
- October 25 at 7pm
- December 6 at 7pm

Directed by Mr. Guy Bordo, the orchestra will play a selection including Mozart's *Don Giovanni*

*Overture*, Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite*, Stephanie Simon's *Dawn*, and Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*. The concerts are free and open to the public. Free-will donations will be graciously accepted.



## 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. A free-will donation will be graciously accepted.

### ● Thursday, October 18, 2018, 7pm - 9pm

Hey Mavis - Learn more at [www.heybatis.com](http://www.heybatis.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)

### ● 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)



## The Cleveland Chamber Choir Concert

On Saturday, September 22, First Church is hosting the Cleveland Chamber Choir in the Meetinghouse. The program is called "Remembrance: War, Peace, & Comfort," featuring works by Janequin Schütz, Mauersberger, Mendelssohn, Rosenthal, Chatman, and more. The concert is presented in honor and memory of Northeast Ohio's fallen armed forces members. Artistic Director Scott MacPhearson warmly invites the congregation to attend this free event.

## Ohio Open Doors



On September 16 from 1-3pm, First Church will be participating in Ohio Open Doors, a program sponsored by the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office to encourage community learning and engagement with historic sites throughout the state. We will be offering guided tours and refreshments. If you are interested in serving as a tour guide, the training/building information will be provided! Please contact Courtney Zimmerman at [cpfint@gmail.com](mailto:cpfint@gmail.com) to sign up. If you are unable to volunteer, this event is open to the public- please join us to learn about our historic building!

## Men's Lunch Bunch

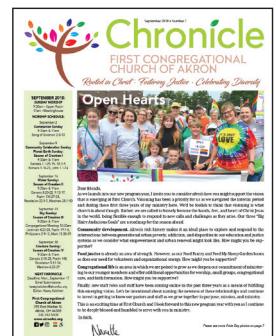
Starting on September 10, the Men's Lunch Bunch will begin fall programming with a Great Courses video series on early civilizations and development. The group meets on Mondays at 12pm and all men of the church are invited to attend. Cost of the meal is \$7. Please sign up in the church office. For more information, please contact Howard Tolley, 330.867.1469.

## Mason Community Learning Center

The Peanut Butter and Jelly program for Mason Community Learning Center begins its service on September 21, 2018. Volunteers pack bags of food for student lunches and deliver them directly to Mason CLC. The group meets on Fridays from 12:45pm during the school year. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Fesler or Mary Ann Gray.

## The Chronicle Gets A New Look

We offer our utmost thanks to designer Joy Taylor for our new Chronicle format and style! Please note that the birthday list can now be found in our Community Directory and our calendar of events at [www.akronfcc.org](http://www.akronfcc.org). If you have any questions about the new design, please contact Kasey Kalchert, Congregational Life Coordinator, at the church office or at [kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org](mailto:kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org).



## Earth-Loving Ideas for Everyone

Shred that shirt! As you regroup after the summer and begin pre-winter sorting and cleaning projects – don't rush out and stock up on paper towels. Cut up an old t-shirt or article of clothing instead to use as a rag. Then collect all of your used rags in a basket and wash them at the same time. Use, re-use, and repeat! Save money and the planet at the same time!





292 East Market St.  
Akron, OH 44308

*Rooted in Christ • Fostering Justice • Celebrating Diversity*



## Community Celebration Sunday

**Sunday, September 9**

Come and celebrate community in worship at 9:30am and 11am. Each service will be followed by an ice cream social on the front lawn, weather permitting. Come join the celebration!

## Ohio Open Doors

**Sunday, September 16, 1-3pm**

First Church will be participating in Ohio Open Doors, a program sponsored by the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office to encourage community learning and engagement with historic sites throughout the state. See page 11 inside for more.

## World Communion Sunday

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

Come celebrate World Communion with congregations of different Christian traditions around the globe. If you have a piece of fabric from another culture, please bring it and place it on the Communion table as you arrive for worship.



Hey Mavis Photo by Shane Wynn

## Hey Mavis Concert

**Thursday, October 18, 7s-9pm**

Don't miss the opportunity to hear Americana-folk band "Hey Mavis" for free! The group has released three full-length CDs, two of which ranked in the top 10 on the national Folk DJ-L radio charts. Other concerts listed on page 11.