



March 2019 • Number 2

Chronicle

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF AKRON

Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity

MARCH 2019 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 3

Mardi Gras Service Transfiguration & Communion Sunday

11am only
Back to Work
Luke 9:28-43a

March 6

Ash Wednesday Service of Remembrance & Recommitment

7:30pm, Chapel
Acts of Worship for an
Audience of One
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 10

First Sunday in Lent

9:30am & 11am
Resisting Temptation
Christian Character Sermon Series
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Luke 4:1-13

March 17

Second Sunday in Lent

9:30am & 11am
Living with Courage
Christian Character Sermon Series
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

March 24

Third Sunday in Lent

9:30am & 11am
Persevering in Faith
Christian Character Sermon Series
Psalm 63:1-8
Luke 13:1-9

March 31

Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:30am & 11am
Unconditional Love
Christian Character Sermon Series
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



First Church friends and family,

Let's take Lent on! Some of you, like me, did not grow up in a church tradition that celebrated the season of Lent so it's a foreign concept. For others it's a part of the staunch and controlling tradition you shed years ago. So why would I say *let's take Lent on?*

I propose that this year, we take the opportunity of these forty days in the run up to Easter to take on a Lenten practice that is helpful, rewarding, and, even, healing. Specifically, I suggest we **give thanks**, express gratitude, and testify to the good things God is doing in our lives by keeping and swapping Blessing Journals.

Here's how it will work... all you need is a pen and a notebook with blank, lined sheets of paper. If you don't have one, we'll have a bunch available on Mardi Gras Sunday, March 3. On March 6, Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins we'll start to write a blessing in our books each day, thinking back over the day and reflecting on one positive thing, one gift from God. Then, here's where it gets interesting and fun...

Each Sunday, we'll bring our books to church and we'll swap books all the way through Palm Sunday so that each of our books will have the testimony of our church family members and create one tapestry of voices giving thanks. I encourage you to add your name below your entries and to read the other entries in the journal. In the first service, we'll swap books right at the coffee table and at 11am at the welcome table in the foyer – drop your book off and pick up another each week.

Join us this Lent in taking on and sharing the practice of gratitude!

Grace and peace,

Nanette

First Congregational
Church of Akron
292 East Market St.
Akron, OH 44308
330.253.5109
www.akronfcc.org



Another Day Closer to Spring ...

... And another day closer to **First Church's Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 5**. If they haven't already, the Nominating Board may be contacting you asking you to consider serving on one of the Boards, which are a crucial part of our ministry presence. I hope and pray that you will say YES! Board service is important and that does not preclude you from doing other things within the church.

As you contemplate Board service, it may be helpful to recall that the church leadership is exploring making significant changes in our **church governance model**. So the future roles that we all will play in ministry may very well change. That being said, *"Confidence is the feeling you have before you fully understand the problem."*

As the ad hoc team appointed to make recommendations got further into the project, we realized just how challenging that task is. So we are currently studying various options to find the best practices for an inner city church of similar size and complexity. But we will get this done and we will bring it before the congregation for further review.

The church is still running slightly behind where we had hoped in receiving **Loyalty Campaign pledges**. If you have not as yet pledged your support for 2019, please consider doing so. These pledges are important because it allows the church to better plan our 2019 Ministries. Pledge forms may be found in the church office and can be turned in to Patty Durkos.

Associate Pastor Antigone Lowery is integrating herself into the life of the church, visiting with our shut-in members and meeting with families with children. One of the ways that all of us can welcome her to our faith community is by **volunteering for one Sunday in the Church School**.

It's easy and fun. There are teachers in place, so all the volunteer needs to do is be present and love the children. **That's it. Volunteer for just one Sunday. It's fun and rewarding.**

The **864 Groups are off and running**. We have 64 people involved in this Congregational Life activity, meeting new friends and deepening the relationships that already exist. It's another example of dynamic engagement in the church.

And, as a reminder, the **Governing Board minutes** are posted in the hallway across from the Conference Room. The meetings are open to all members and take place, generally, on the last Monday of the month.

Larry Becker, Moderator



Sunday Mornings

9am-11am: Early Morning Childcare for ages 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 Celebrate Worship: Children and youth are invited to attend worship with their families. There is an activity carpet available in the worship space.

11am Festival Worship: Children and youth are welcome to attend worship with their families.

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.

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.

What does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God
Micah 6:8

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**.

Next Chronicle Deadline

The next Chronicle deadline is Friday, March 15. Email submissions can be made to Kasey Kalchert, editor, at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org.

Mardi Gras... Did You Know?

Lent begins after Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday. This celebration originated hundreds of years ago in Europe and continues today as a way for Christians around the world to have one last night of eating rich, fatty foods before the Lenten season begins. We are celebrating Mardi Gras on Sunday, March 3, but did you know...

1. New Orleans did not host the first North American Mardi Gras! Mardi Gras is believed to have arrived in North America on March 3, 1699, when the French-Canadian explorer Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville camped about 60 miles downriver from the future site of New Orleans. Knowing it was Fat Tuesday back in France, Iberville named the spot Point du Mardi Gras and held a small gala. A few years later, French soldiers and settlers feasted and wore masks as part of Mardi Gras festivities in the newly founded city of Mobile (present-day Alabama). To this day, Mobile claims to have the oldest annual Mardi Gras celebration in the United States.

2. The official colors of Mardi Gras are purple, gold, and green. They represent justice, power, and faith, respectively.

3. King Cake is a traditional dessert eaten only during the Mardi Gras season. It is typically made with brioche dough, braided and laced with cinnamon, and glazed with purple, green and gold sugar or covered in icing. The King Cake tradition includes a small plastic baby hidden inside; whomever finds the baby in his or her slice must buy the next cake or host the next party!

4. The tradition of throwing beads from parade floats began in the late 1800s, when a carnival king threw fake strands of gems and rings to his "loyal subjects." Today, throws include beads, doubloons, fake jewels, and other trinkets.

5. Masks are another symbol of Mardi Gras. The practice of masks dates back to the earliest celebrations of Mardi Gras in Europe, when those celebrating could conceal their identity at parties. It is thought that this allowed them to really get into the spirit!



Lent 2019 Begins

Mardi Gras Sunday - March 3

Join us on Transfiguration Sunday right before the beginning of the season of Lent for a celebratory Mardi Gras jazz worship service at 11am in the Meetinghouse. Please note that we will only hold one worship service that morning. Communion will be served. Worship music will be provided by local guest jazz musicians featured in a recent edition of Akron Life magazine, including Tom Lehman and Tharon Brown. We'll be serving a pancake and sausage breakfast in Fellowship Hall to those attending worship, with fun activities for kids. Free-will donations for breakfast gratefully accepted; food service will be from 9:30-10:30am.

Ash Wednesday Worship - March 6

Our service of Remembrance and Recommittal in the Chapel at 7:30pm offers an opportunity to begin the period of 40 days leading to Easter Sunday and makes the journey to this day, a deeper journey into one's spirituality and experience of Christianity.

Reminder: There will NOT be Wednesday Night Programming on this date!



Breakfast with the Bunny

On April 6, we will host our annual Breakfast with the Bunny in the Fellowship Hall. This event is free and open to the public; please invite your favorite "peeps" to attend! From 9am-11am, we will be serving a pancake and sausage breakfast while children can meet the Easter bunny!

We are seeking volunteers to help! If you are interested, please contact Paula Speight or Kasey Kalchert, at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org.



Feed My Sheep Garden

March Mission of the Month

The Outreach Board has selected Feed My Sheep Garden as the March Mission of the Month.

The Feed My Sheep Garden is a 2000 square foot community and market garden established in 2012 at the First Congregational Church of Akron. We use organic and sustainable methods to grow fresh fruits and vegetables for distribution at First Church's weekly Food Pantry as well as the Summit Lake Farmers' Market.

From 2012 to 2018, the Feed My Sheep Garden was a job training site for chronically homeless women in the Harvest Home's Future Story program. In 2018, First Church contracted Let's Grow Akron to manage the Feed My Sheep garden, a partnership that has increased produce yields and provided access to gardening resources, canning classes, and broader community relationships.

From May to October of 2019, the garden will be open to visitors and volunteers on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings from 8am to 12pm. Please contact Sam Phillips, Garden Manager, at sam@letsgrowakron.org with any questions or for more information.

Mission of the Month Updates

February Mission of the Month

Our February Mission of the Month, South Street Ministries received collections from the Sunday offering in addition to a \$600 contribution from the Outreach Board. Thank you for your support!

Books for PB&J

The PB&J Program would appreciate new or gently used books for the children at Mason CLC, grades K-6, again this year. The younger children enjoy picture books, but the older children want chapter books. It would be helpful if the chapter books were at a low reading level, as many students are below grade level in reading. We will collect books until May 1. Please bring books to the church office.



Thank you for your continued support of the Mason school children.

Homeless Outreach

Homeless Outreach is collecting new or gently used blankets, coats, gloves, boots, and shoes for local homeless men and women. If you would like to donate, please bring your items to the church office. Thanks!



Seeking Your Talents

You may have noticed an added insert to the Sunday bulletin in the last weeks of February. If you are interested in joining any boards or committees at First Church, please return the insert to Kasey Kalchert's mailbox in the church office by March 3. Help us minister to Akron and beyond; you can make a difference with your unique talents here at church!

Food Pantry Updates

The Food Pantry is in need of several items this season, including bath and hand towels (new or used), silverware, pots and pans, and kitchen utensils. They are also in need of birthday bag supplies: gift bags, balloons, candles, banners, plates, napkins, and cake mix. All donations can be dropped off at the church office. Thank you so much!

Keep Calm and Carry Yarn

In collaboration with the nationwide nonprofit group, Warm Up America!, the Mansfield Correctional Institution formed a new group to help decrease anxiety and stress among inmates. The group meets three times a week to learn to crochet and create winter items to help meet the needs of area homeless and crisis centers. We are seeking donations of yarn to help with their cause! It will be accepted in any form: remnants from other projects, leftovers from crafts, tangled balls- it's all needed! Please drop off your donations in the church office. Thank you!





Akron Swing Club

The Akron Swing Club will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall on March 16 at 7pm. The cost of the event is \$10 per person or \$25 per family, with two adults and two children attending. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend; no experience is necessary to join the fun!

Parish Nurse Ministry

Blood pressure and diabetes checks will be available on March 17 from 10am to 1pm in the Conference Room.

Canaan Sales

Food products from the Holy Land will be in the Fellowship Hall on March 17, before and after the 11am worship service. If you have questions or are looking for particular items, please contact Carolyn Durway at spicewood@neo.rr.com.

Game Night & Pasta Potluck

Membership Board is hosting a Game Night on Friday, March 22. Join us at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall for a BYOP: bring your own pasta dish to share with the group! Don't forget your favorite game! Please sign up in the church office. Questions? Contact Membership Board co-chairs, Kari Ledger and Logan Báez.



Governing Board Meeting

The Governing Board will be meeting on Monday, March 25 at 6:30pm in the Conference Room. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

Love Truck

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

Women's Spiritual Journey

On the first and third Monday of the month, Linda Peshina and Jamie Brink host 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. All the 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 at 330.867.1469.

Save the date!

The Building and Grounds Board will be holding a Spring clean up day on April 27. Please come join us as we spruce up the church yard for springtime. The day begins at 9am and should last until 12pm.



Spring Sing Sunday!

On Sunday, April 28, at our 11am worship service, we'll be holding a hymn sing. Please email requests for your favorite hymns to our Organist and Choir Director, Julie Lehman, and to Pastor Nanette (julie.lehman@akronfcc.org, nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org). Please include both the hymn title and tune name, if you know it or have a preference. This service will allow us to celebrate and share our rich tradition of hymnody with one another. Please send your favorites in soon!

Church School Volunteers

Are you interested in helping out in the church school? We need additional support people for our teachers! These volunteers will create presence for our children and assist the church school teacher as needed. Help to grow our youth ministry with just a small commitment of one hour on the Sunday of your choice. Please contact Antigone Lowery, Associate Minister, for more information or to volunteer. Thank you!

When to Call Your Minister

- When you don't know your minister, but would like to.
 - When you are facing a problem with your job, children, parents or anything or anyone else where a sympathetic friend might be helpful.
 - When you've lost your job.
 - When you're considering a new career.
 - When you're having trouble in your relationship or marriage.
 - When someone you know is interested in the church.
 - When you'd like to invite a friend to church but you're not sure how to go about it.
 - When there is illness or hospitalization. Remember that hospitals can no longer legally notify a church when you are in the hospital. We won't be able to visit and bring your church family's prayers if you don't let us know you've been hospitalized, so ask a friend or family member to let us know.
 - When someone close to you has died, is critically ill, is struggling or is facing an operation.
 - When there is a wedding planned.
 - When you are considering a divorce.
 - When you must make an important decision.
 - When you are pregnant and glad you are or wish you weren't. When you would like to have children but can't.
 - When you feel ready to join the First Congregational Church.
 - When you are unhappy about the First Congregational Church.
 - When you need someone to talk with in confidence.
 - When you are facing a religious struggle.
 - When you have religious questions.
 - When you want to have your child baptized.
 - When you are feeling joyful and want to share your joy.
 - When you are delighted with the First Church!
- You could also call if you win the lottery, want to request a favorite hymn or have a good joke to tell. No matter what, please do call.

Pastor Nanette Pitt: 330.253.5109 x100 (church), 330.907.1050 (cell), nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org

Associate Minister Antigone Lowery: 330.253.5109 x127 (church) / 330.780.8122 (church cell), antigone.lowery@akronfcc.org

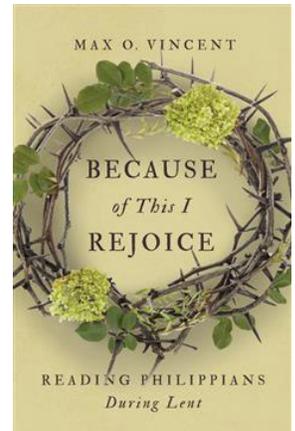


First Church Reads This Lent

For too long Lent has been thought of as a season of self-sacrifice and discipline that sounds to many Christians like a list of spiritual chores. Lenten disciplines become the spiritual equivalent of New Year's resolutions. These promises are easily made and often quickly broken, leaving us feeling like we do not measure up to what we should be.

In his letter to the Philippians, the apostle Paul joyfully turns to spiritual practices that draw him closer to God amid persecution and imprisonment. These practices keep Paul connected to a sense of God's power and presence. Joy flows from Paul and becomes a vital part of his relationship with God and others.

Join us this Lent in reading *Because of This I Rejoice*. The accompanying study questions will form the basis of exploration and discussion for our Wednesday Faith Enrichment led by Associate Minister Antigone Lowery from 10:45am-noon and 6:45-8pm, or can be used for personal reflection. Copies are available from the church office for a suggested donation of \$12 or may be purchased for Kindle online or sourced from your favorite bookseller.



Inquirer's Gatherings

The Membership Board and Pastor Nanette will host two informational Inquirer's Gatherings on March 17 and 24 for any who would like to learn more about First Church and who may be considering covenanting in membership. The sessions are from 12:15-1:30pm in the Upper Room. For more information, please contact Membership Board co-chairs, Kari Ledger and Logan Báez.

New Member Sunday

New members will join the church on Sunday, April 7, during both services. Please join us to welcome them to the congregation!

Annual Meeting 2019

Absentee ballots will become available for the Annual Meeting on April 5.

Annual report submissions are due on April 8. Please make your submissions to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org.

The Annual report will become available on April 28, 2019.

The Annual Meeting will be held on May 5, 2019, following the 11am worship in the Meetinghouse.

Wednesdays at First Church

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

Wednesday Faith Enrichment

Beginning March 13th, we invite you to join Associate Minister Antigone Lowery through a 5-week Lenten study of the book of Philippians using Max O. Vincent's, *Because of This I Rejoice*. Lent is often recognized as a season of self-examination—a season where we give something up or where we give more of ourselves for others.

This study will challenge us to take this practice of self-examination to the next level by asking and answering the question: "How can I use the season of Lent to rejuvenate my relationship with God?" Each week, we will consider how the Apostle Paul urges the practice of individual spiritual disciplines and practices as a means of helping us rid ourselves of worldly delights that compete with our relationship with God, and instead begin to use them as a means of drawing us closer to God. Whether it be devoting more time to prayer or forgoing sweets for a time, this Lenten study will aid us in nurturing our relationship with God in intentional ways, while also preparing our hearts and our minds for the coming of Easter.

The groups will meet on Wednesday mornings from 10:45am-noon in the Library OR on Wednesday evenings from 6:45-8pm in the Conference Room. We hope to see you there!



Wednesday Evening Dinner

A delicious dinner with dessert will be served in the 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 church office by 2pm on the Monday prior.

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. We hope you will join us for a fun evening in the 2nd floor Theatre Room!

March 13, 2019 -- A feature film

I, Daniel Blake. Winner of the Palme d'Or at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival, this is a gripping, human tale about the impact one man can make. Gruff, but goodhearted, Daniel Blake is a man out of time: a widowed woodworker who has never own a computer, he lives according to his own common sense moral code. After a heart-attack leaves him unable to work, Daniel must stand up and fight for his dignity, leading a one-man crusade for compassion that will transform the lives of a struggling, single mother and her two children. Graced with humor and heart, *I, Daniel Blake* is a moving, much-needed reminder of the power of empathy.

March 20, 2019 -- A feature film

The Station Agent: A comedy about friendship in which Fin McBride, a loner with a passion for trains, inherits an abandoned train station in the middle of nowhere. He soon discovers that his isolated depot is more like Grand Central Station; there is Olivia, a distracted and troubled artist, and Joe, a friendly Cuban with an insatiable hunger for conversation. With absolutely nothing in common, they find their lives coming together in a friendship none of them could foresee.

March 27, 2019 -- A feature film

Lovely Still: 78-year-old Robert Malone has been alone his whole life. A week before Christmas, a new mysterious woman moves in across the street and teaches him that love conquers all.



SCCS Visit

Have you considered expanding your family to include a foster child? Are you looking for ways to help children in the local area? On March 10, Brent Hite from Summit County Children Services will be visiting First Church at both services and will have an information table in the Fellowship Hall after the 11am worship service. You will have the chance to ask questions and learn more about the great work of SCCS in our area.

Bereavement Support

Starting Tuesday, April 2, Rev. Karen Bruno, Chaplain of SouthernCare Hospice Services and member of this church, is facilitating a bereavement support group here at First Church called *Grief Work, Healing from Loss*.

The group will meet weekly on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12pm in the Small Dining Room. These meetings build on each other, so attendance to all 7 is crucial for the goal of taking the next step in the healing journey. Please note that the group will also have some non-church members in attendance.

If you are interested, contact Karen at 330.329.9277 or karen.bruno@southerncares.com. Pre-registration is required as space is limited.

Spring Forward!

It's that time of year again! Don't forget to move your clocks *forward* one hour for Daylight Savings. The time change will occur at 2am on Sunday, March 10.



Guess Who?

Do you recognize the baby in this photo? He's one of your First Church staff members!



If you think you know, email Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org. Good luck!



Last month's feature was Debbie Riley! Congrats to all those who guessed correctly!

Earth Saving Ideas

Have you seen our new water fountain in the hallway to the church office? There's something different on this new upgrade: a designated spot to refill water bottles!

Instead of wasting plastic bottles, we are now able to save a little plastic with each bottle refill - and the fountain even keeps track to show the impact we could have on the environment. Check out this infographic from *Hydration Anywhere* to see why reusing a water bottle can help save the planet!

www.hydrationsanywhere.com

- ### 1 THE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY BOTTLE

The United States uses over **17 million barrels of oil** to create upwards of **50 billion disposable plastic water bottles** every year. **Only 1 out of 5 are properly recycled.** You can put an immediate stop to your own contribution to this environmentally damaging waste of resources by owning a reusable water bottle
- ### 2 IT WILL SAVE YOU MONEY

\$200 Year

2000 Times

The average American spends about \$5.00 per week on bottled water, meaning you will save enough to pay off your reusable bottle in a month, and save over \$200/ Year by supplying your own water to drink.

Amazingly, prices for bottled water can be as much as **2,000x More Expensive Than Tap Water.**
- ### 3 CONTROL THE WATER SOURCE

Know exactly where your water comes from - and exactly what you're putting into your body. No matter where you go, there is almost always somewhere to safely fill your reusable bottle. Tap water is remarkably safe across the developed world. In places like the United States, **the cleanliness of the water supply is protected by strict laws.**
- ### 4 THE HEALTHIER CHOICE

Disposable plastic water bottles have the potential to "leach" foul-tasting or even potentially harmful chemicals into the water they hold, especially if exposed to high temperatures for extended periods. This can be responsible for the nasty "bottled water" taste!

In contrast, reusable bottles made from materials like BPA-free Tritan plastic, stainless steel, or best of all glass, do not contain these nasty chemicals at all. They leave your water just as delicious and refreshing as when you poured it in.
- ### 5 THE TASTIER OPTION

At least **25%** of bottled water on the market is just filtered tap water and has that "bottled water" taste that you put up with because it is supposedly "clean". Only **one out of every third taste tester** in a tap water taste test from Boston University could correctly identify the taste of tap water compared to bottled water. Why should you literally pay for something that you can get right from your own house? Especially if you have the added investment of a home water filter. Delicious!
- ### 6 DRINK WHAT YOU WANT, THE WAY YOU WANT, WHENEVER YOU WANT

Speaking of deliciousness, your reusable bottles are not tied down to just hosting water. The right bottle could hold any drink you like, and even hot soup! A quality insulated bottle will keep your cold beer ice cold or your fresh coffee piping hot. Reusable bottles are a great way to carry any drink you want on the go! Don't limit yourself - but do remember to drink a healthy supply of H2O.

In Our Prayers

Duane Angel, Kathy Berg, Barbara Hansford, Bernard Vaughn Hunt, Nita Elizabeth Hunt, Eric Johnson, Joan and Don Lastocy, Chuck Mills, Lee Pritchard, Bill Rodefer, Art Wallach, and Doug Weyrick.

Thank you

Dear friends,

Now that I am somewhat settled in my new apartment, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who expressed their sympathy, their love, and support during the most difficult time after Jan's passing.

A special shout out to all that were part of the Meal Train.

I am slowly healing and I attend a grief support group, most of the time I spend praying, reading, and working on a book I am writing since I have no car. I am pretty much isolated but God is good, Healing takes time.

My contact info is as follows:

George J. Kostan
 38 Saxton Sttreet, Apt 20
 Madison, Ohio 44057-3241
 440.391.9806
 george_kostan@yahoo.com

The peace of the Lord be with you, George Kostan

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.

First Church Kitchen Chicken Casserole

Ingredients

- 2 cups of diced chicken
- ½ cup of chicken broth
- 2 cans of cream of mushroom soup
- ½ cup of diced onion
- 2 cups of diced celery
- 1 package of slivered almonds
- 1 can of sliced mushrooms
- 2 cans of chow mein noodles
- 1 can of bean sprouts

Directions:

Mix all ingredients together, reserving one can of chow mein noodles to spread over the top of the casserole. Bake for 45 minutes at 350°



Stewardship/Finance Report (unaudited)				
December 2018 - FINAL				
	December	YTD	YTD Budget	Percent to Budget
INCOME				
2018 Loyalty Campaign	22101	235192	250000	94.08%
Non-pledge Income	15811	56596	45000	125.77%
Special Ministries	10491	36820	44594	82.57%
Endowment, Sprowls Trust, Pollock	47565	548918	549312	99.93%
Other Income	<u>-22868</u>	<u>10955</u>	<u>27522</u>	<u>39.80%</u>
TOTAL	73100	888481	916428	96.95%
EXPENSES				
Total Admin. & Support	5361	58357	68620	85.04%
Total Mission	8198	77848	98300	79.19%
Food Service Expense	1905	29050	27390	106.06%
Personnel	26946	395904	483603	81.87%
Property Expenses	<u>18141</u>	<u>283864</u>	<u>305027</u>	<u>93.06%</u>
TOTAL	60551	845023	982940	85.97%
* All Boards, Pastoral Care & Special Ministries				

UA Symphony Orchestra

Join us on Thursday, March 14 from 7:30 - 9:00pm in the Meetinghouse to hear the University of Akron Symphony Orchestra!

Directed by Dr. Guy Bordo, the Symphony Orchestra will be performing selections from Barton's *Hungarian Pictures*, Boorodin's *Symphony No. 2*, and *Blue Cathedral* by Jennifer Higdon.

A freewill offering will be accepted at this concert. It is free and open to the public.

UA Choir Concert

On March 9, join the University of Akron's Choir in the Meetinghouse at 7:30pm. Featuring Grammy-award-winning baritone Elijah Blaisdell, and Alumna soprano Lauren Corcoran Emrich, the UA Concert Choir will present Brahms' haunting four hand piano version of *Eine Deutsches Requiem (A German Requiem)* and Handel's rarely excerpted second part of the *Messiah*. The concert is free and open to the public.



Tuesday Musical Association

On Saturday, March 23, First Church will host the Tuesday Morning Collegiate Scholarship Competition in the Meetinghouse.

Hailed as the best of its kind in Ohio, Tuesday Musical's Annual Scholarship Competition provides valuable support for talented university students embarking on careers as music educators and performers.

The 2018 Scholarship Competition drew a record 174 applicants and awarded 22 scholarships totaling \$25,300. Since 1955 and with support from generous donors and volunteers, Tuesday Musical has awarded nearly 550 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000.



First Church Free Music Series

Celtic Rush will be performing at First Church on Thursday March 7, from 7pm-9pm in the Meetinghouse. The concert is free and open to the public, so spread the word to your friends and neighbors! A freewill donation will be accepted to support the First Church Music Fund, which helps make events like these possible.



Who is Celtic Rush?

Celtic Rush (formerly "Akron Ceili Band") is a traditional Irish band with a non-traditional twist. The group performs with a variety of instruments including fiddles, guitars, tin whistle, upright bass, mandolin, and Irish drum (bodhran). Their musical repertoire includes Irish and Scottish jigs, reels, hornpipes, waltzes and polkas, sometimes even adding some unexpected non-traditional favorites. Learn more at www.celticrush.com

Next in the Concert Series

The Akron Pops Orchestra

Thursday, May 16, 2019, 7pm-9pm

Learn more at www.akronpops.org/concerts

Seeking Volunteers!

The Music Board is seeking volunteers to help greet and direct concert-goers at these special events. If you are interested, please contact Ron Meyer at 330.688.1289. Thank you.

Hear the Handbell Choir



The First Church Handbell Choir will be performing on March 17 at the 11am worship. Be sure to join us to hear their beautiful sound fill our hearts during Sunday service.

Church Directory

Do you need a copy of the church directory? You can get it online anytime at www.akronfcc.org/connect/directory.

Address changed?

If you have any contact or address updates, please contact Kasey Kalchert in the church office to ensure our directory stays up to date! Thank you!

Sermon Recordings Available

Did you miss a Sunday service and still want to hear the Word? You can listen online at akronfcc.org or request a CD copy of the sermon. To request a copy, please see the form in the sign-up sheet binder in the front office. You will be notified when your copy is available for pick-up.



A Gift of Recognition

Every person's life is full of poignant moments – birthdays, graduations, weddings, new babies, time spent with loved ones, and so much more. Throughout the year First Church offers you the opportunity to share your celebration of those happy moments, or the remembrance of loved ones who have passed on, through your sponsorship of the Sunday worship flowers. You can select a Sunday near that special date, or you can let us select for you. Your support of this program allows the members of First Church the opportunity to share in your celebration or remembrance, and the arrangement makes a beautiful addition to the worship space. Your sponsorship dedication will be recognized in the Sunday bulletin, and after the service the flowers will be delivered to a homebound or hospitalized church member to help brighten their week. A sponsorship can be purchased at any time throughout the year for \$50 – please contact Patty Durkos for more information at patty.durkos@akronfcc.org. We appreciate your support of this program!



Rest Assured Catering

First Church is building a new partnership with a local Akron entrepreneur, Kismet Bridgefort. Kismet is the owner and operator of a small catering business called Rest Assured Catering. They specialize in serving memorial

services with a comfort food menu. Starting this spring, they will be renting out the First Church kitchen. Rest Assured Catering's mission is "to provide service that helps bring comfort and ease during what might otherwise be a difficult time making final decisions for a loved one. To achieve this goal we strive to offer appealing, high quality foods so that families and their loved ones can rest assured." More information will be provided as it becomes available.



Winter Weather Closures



Closing information can be heard on iAlert WKYC TV3, WEWS TV5 and WTAM 1100 AM radio and will be posted to our church website www.akronfcc.org and Facebook page.

Do You Need a Nametag?

The Membership Board encourages everyone to wear their nametags so that we can greet one another by name with a warm welcome. If you need to request a new nametag, there is a sign-up sheet in the office. You can also request one by contacting Kasey Kalchert in the church office.

Lay Reader Opportunities

Are you interested in becoming a lay reader or scripture reader at the 11am worship service? Please contact Kasey Kalchert at the church office at 330.253.5109 or at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org.

Sunday Parking at Church

Please remember the upper parking lot nearest to the church building is reserved for disabled drivers on Sundays and the lower lot for those who have mobility challenges.

Hearing Assistance Devices

If you are in need of a hearing assistance device for the 11am worship service, please stop by the church office. Our devices can connect with the user's personal hearing aid or we can provide an earphone. Please return the devices to the office immediately following worship each week.



Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity



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.