Dear Church,

You are truly “church”! If asked to say in just a few words what I believe “church” is, beyond a group of people who worship God together and follow Jesus Christ together, I would say a group of people who share the love of God with one another and the world in tangible ways. You have truly shown the love of God to me and my family these last few weeks! I developed a painful frozen shoulder in late August. This happened right as our foster children were starting school again and as Steven’s PhD dissertation proposal was due. It felt like it couldn't have come at a worse time. My physician and the orthopaedist believe I may have a rotator cuff injury causing the extreme pain and seizing my right shoulder. I was able to return to church in the first week of September, albeit sporting an ice pack and sling, and will continue with physical therapy in the coming weeks.

We are enormously grateful for the grace and understanding, for the prayers, meals, and messages you have extended during this time. I am also grateful to the staff who have worked so hard this summer to facilitate the ministry and work that we are able to do.

As we anticipate the start of a new program year, my fifth with you as Senior Pastor, the love you extended to me and my family reminds me of the one constant amidst all of the transformation we experience – the love of God. I am blessed to be a part of this church and I know that as we share the love of God with one another in life's good times as well as in life's difficult times, we give comfort, we show compassion, we advocate for justice, we act in kindness, and we make the world a better place for ourselves and for others to the glory of God.

I look forward to the year ahead with you and hope you will read on to learn more about the exciting programs and events coming up at First Church this fall.

Blessings,

Nanette
The Challenge of Change

Whether we like it or not, change happens. It is inevitable. American society and its relationship with church has most certainly changed. Consider the following which tracks weekly attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditionalists</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby Boomers</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generation X</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millennials</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Given that Gallup’s polls are based on the 18+ U.S. adult population, the 1998-2000 time period would have included only a small portion of the millennial generation.

GALLUP

So our challenge – and our opportunity – lies in how we approach the inescapable changes we will encounter. We can either be proactive or reactive. Here at First Church, we have chosen to be proactive in our approach to ministry.

Years ago, as the chart indicates, people attended worship regularly. Today, I am aware of at least a dozen members who are not regular attendees at Sunday worship, but they faithfully (no pun intended) participate in the Food Pantry, the PB&J program, and the Prayer Blanket ministry.

The manner in which they put their faith into action has changed. So the Church is responding by offering more opportunities for our members and friends to get involved in ministry beyond just attending worship. Our members are involved and supporting the church, but in different ways.

We will soon receive the results of the consultants’ congregational survey, which will provide us with the information we will need to better chart our path toward greater ministry. That information will be shared with the Working Groups, the Governing Board, and the entire congregation.

“Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change.” (Wayne W. Dyer) The only constant is change. Let us be proactive in creating the future we want to be.

Submitted by Larry Becker, Moderator

Program Year Kickoff!

We are so excited to start the 2019-20 Program Year! Join us for Community Celebration Sunday on September 8! There will be an ice cream sundae celebration on the front lawn, following both services and weather permitting. We hope to see you there!

Popsicle Love at the Love Truck

On July 27, as I almost always do on the last Saturday of each month, I volunteered with The Love Truck ministry that serves dinner to many of the under-served in Akron. It was a scorcher day - 87 degrees - but our commitment to serve a hot meal, rather than a sandwich or a bag lunch, meant that we served spaghetti with meat sauce or meatballs, salad, and garlic bread to our guests. We had many desserts, donated by our local Panera. And I brought popsicles.

We served more than a hundred people. They lined up down the front walkway of our church. We had enough food for to-go servings. I can’t think of anyone who doesn’t like spaghetti. My favorite thing to do at this dinner is to get out from behind the table, where we serve buffet-style, and be with the people. To serve them.

I took pitchers of water, sweet tea and fruit punch around and refilled cups as people needed. As they sat on the lawn and enjoyed their meal, my maternal instinct caused me to worry about the heat and keeping people hydrated. Does everyone have something to drink?

As I noticed people finishing up their food, I went into the kitchen and grabbed the boxes of popsicles and fudge pops. I walked around and offered. “Would you like a popsicle or a fudge pop?”

“Oooh! I’d love one.”

“I don’t know if we’ve met. My name’s Tiffany.”

Continued on page 6

An Artist’s Journey to Hawaii

To me, God has always manifested most deeply as Creator, as Mother. As an artist, I am continually made aware of the vast beauty of all that is around us, and inspired to make and create from my own circumstances as well. Art has been a companion through many life seasons—from being a child and trying to understand all of life’s paradoxes that I was being immersed in around me, to early adulthood and finding myself as a woman in ministry with a specific call, to now where I am beginning to teach and facilitate spaces of creating for others. I see the Spirit as a creative presence too—a spirit of movement, of justice, of shalom, of expression. The Spirit is the fire of Pentecost, affirming expressions and identities of all. The Spirit is protest and fire—Native Hawaiians standing on the ancestral land of Mauna Kea in protest of the TMT, black clergy leading a non-violent protest after the non-indictment of Darren Wilson for the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, advocates and warriors standing alongside the undocumented and declaring all an injustice. To me, art and God, art and Spirit, art and our spiritual journeys, art and our communities, are intimately intertwined.

Continued on page 11
Inquirer’s Gatherings

Are you thinking about covenanting in membership here at First Church? Would you like to learn more about our church and branch of the Christian faith tradition? Please plan to attend the Inquirer’s Gatherings on September 29 and October 6 in the Upper Room from 12:15-1:30pm.

Joining Sunday will be held on October 20 at both worship services. Please plan to join us as we welcome new members!

Our Youth on Sunday Mornings

With the arrival of fall comes a new school year and new opportunities for Christian Education at First Church!

Starting in September on the 15th, Church School will be held during the 11am service every 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sunday of the month. As always youth will begin worship with their families in the Meetinghouse and leave for Church School following Thoughts for the Young. On the 1st Sunday, youth are invited to remain in the 11am worship service with their families for Communion Sunday worship. Special bulletins for children and a Thoughts for the Young message will be a part of worship.

On every 3rd Sunday, during the 11am service, we will host a Sunday Funday craft for youth in the Art Room on the 2nd floor Educational Wing. Youth will again start in worship with their families and leave after Thoughts for the Young.

If you would like to volunteer to support these programs, please contact Pastor Antigone. Working with our youth can be one of the most important and rewarding roles in church.

Childcare for infants and toddlers will remain the same with the 2nd floor Nursery and Village opening at 9am every Sunday until after the 11am worship service.

During the 9:30am service in the Upper Room, youth are invited to attend worship with their families. There is an activity carpet available in the worship space and activity packs are available.

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. Activity packs are also available.

SEPTEMBER 15: Programming begins with Sunday Funday!
SEPTEMBER 22: Church School classes
SEPTEMBER 29: Church School classes

Submitted by Antigone Lowery, Associate Minister

Fellowship Outing

Save the date! On October 5, join us for a church outing to the Canal Fulton Canalway Center to take a ride on a replica canal boat, the St. Helena III, which is pulled by two Persian horses, down the original sections of the Ohio & Erie Canal. During the one hour trip the crew steers with rudder and poles, and an on-board historian provides facts and stories of life during the Canal Era. Riders will pass the McLaughlin Dry Dock, where the boat is stored for winter, and continue down to Lock IV.

Then, we’re going to see the Victorian Wake Dinner Show! Based upon ghostly superstitions during the Victorian era, this show is so ridiculous and over the top fun, it is considered “historically hysterical!” Imagine participating in the wake of poor Silas who passed away at the end of the 19th century, as “mutes” or paid mourners. Feel free to wear black as it was believed that the spirit of the deceased that was hovering around would not be able to not see you.

Price for the whole outing is $42 per person and the deadline to sign up is Sunday, September 8. Payments should be made to First Church in the office.

Art Show at First Church

From October 6-20, we will be displaying artwork created by members of the congregation and their immediate families (parents and children included). This is not a sale, just a display to highlight the art created by our own members and friends. The pieces will be on display in Fellowship Hall. This will include paintings, drawings, photographs, stained glass and other wall art. In addition we will include 3D art such as sculpture, glass, pottery, needlework, or any other mixed media that doesn't hang on the wall. We will accept up to 3 pieces per artist, and depending on the response, may not be able to display all pieces at this time. If necessary, another show may be scheduled. The church will do everything possible to ensure the safety of the pieces, but cannot accept any liability for any pieces submitted for the show. Please do not submit extremely fragile or extremely valuable pieces.

With each submission, please include the name of the person submitting, the name of the artist, and the relationship of the artist to the person submitting. Also include the title of the work if there is one, the type of media, and approximately when it was made.

Questions can be submitted to Ann Snyder, phone or text 715.222.9664 or email catseyeann@gmail. Submission deadline dates will be provided soon. Items can be delivered to the church office during that time.
Summer Garden

Late summer in the Feed My Sheep Garden is all about rhythm. Daily practices, weekly schedules, and bimonthly succession plantings create a pattern that is both comforting and exciting, and makes the weeks fly by. Harvest tomatoes, cucumbers, and okra daily; Food Pantry and Summit Lake Neighborhood Farmers’ Market every Tuesday; seed beans, carrots, and beets every three weeks; flip the compost pile every three days; turn on the water in the greenhouse every other day; chase the resident bunny out of the garden beds every morning. It always surprises me when it’s harvest day again, or when it’s time to seed the next planting of beans again, or when the perennial beds need weeded again because it feels like the time between these tasks flies by. Gardening is one of those cases where the journey is the destination.

Our journey this summer has included the construction of our new vertical strawberry planters, which will enable us to grow strawberries more efficiently while freeing up 120 square feet of garden space for more annual vegetables. Speaking of construction, many thanks to Darren and Denny who kindly rebuilt the deteriorated floor of the garden shed for us - much appreciated! We have also begun to experiment with growing lettuce and micro-greens indoors, which would enable us to offer our Food Pantry patrons fresh, local produce year round.

The Feed My Sheep Garden is seeking volunteers for the following tasks: harvesting and processing between 7 and 10am on Tuesdays, and sanitizing pots and trays between 8am and 12pm on Mondays and Thursdays. Feel free to drop in once or twice if you have an opening in your schedule, or set up a regular time if you have consistent availability - either way, we would be grateful for your contribution. Please call the church office at 330.253.5109 and/or leave a message with Kasey Kalchert, Congregational Life Coordinator (kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org) containing your contact information, or email me directly at sam@letsgrowakron.org. Thank you

Submitted by Sam Phillips, Garden Manager

Urban Housing Discussions

The Living Water Association of the United Church of Christ invites you to Community Discussions about housing in the city of Akron with other church’s and community groups.

The group will meet the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Cascade Village YMCA (210 E North Street, Akron, 44304) from 6:30-8pm. Discussions will center on a study of the Bible and Matthew Desmond’s book called Evicted.

The group is free and open to the public, but you will need to register at akronhousingdiscussion.eventbrite.com. The first meeting is September 24! All materials will be provided.

September Mission: LINKS

LINKS mission is to be a community and family services organization created to engage the community and provide opportunities for redevelopment, self-empowerment, and tolerance and unity. Through different programs, events and services, LINKS provides support, education, resources and connections for individuals, families and children.

Pastor Yolanda Parker will be visiting First Church on September 15 during the 11am service. She will share the great work of this organization in the Akron community. You can have the opportunity to meet Rev. Parker, in the Fellowship Hall following worship, to learn more about LINKS.

Mission of the Month Updates

The June Mission of the Month, Gennesaret, received a combined donation totaling $1,067.50 and our July Mission, the Boys & Girls Club, received $1,007.95. Thank you for your generosity to the Akron community!
Mason Ministry Updates

After having served in the Mason Outreach Program for eleven years, Linda Hultz, Emily Mosconi, and I are retiring from our volunteer roles in this community outreach. The Mason initiative has been a viable and meaningful mission to the members and friends of First Church for over 16 years. What began as an outreach to provide coats for the children of Mason Elementary School, now Mason CLC, expanded into other areas of need at the school under the guidance of speech therapist, Mina Riazi. This has truly been an outreach very dear to our hearts.

At this time, we are very pleased and excited to announce the Mason Outreach Program will continue under the new leadership of Nancy Jenkins, Laura Bishop, and Tonya and Tiffani Akers. We look forward to new ideas and continued success of the Mason program under their guidance. Our annual Mason Christmas Program will be available for members and friends of First Church as it moves forward with our new volunteers.

Linda, Emily, and I cannot thank you enough for your overwhelming support of the Mason Outreach these past eleven years of our leadership. Your commitment to the beautiful Mason children has been phenomenal. Please know that you have helped changed the lives of many Mason children over these past sixteen years.

Submitted by Maggie Grigsby

Updates from the Food Pantry

The Food Pantry, with Governing Board approval, is planning to add a Tuesday evening distribution of groceries to people who are income eligible to receive food assistance based upon current federal poverty guidelines. In addition to the current morning distribution from 9:30 to 11:30 am each Tuesday, the choice pantry will be offered on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month in the evening from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Clients may receive food once each month either morning or evening. September 24 is the planned start date for this additional service offering.

New volunteers are needed from 6 to 8:30 pm, although individual volunteers in each time slot may work less, to:

- Set up to prepare for the distribution.
- Help clients select items from food groups on shelves or tables and place them on serving carts.
- Bag the items, put them in a grocery cart, and help clients with their bags to the parking lot.
- Do intake processing using PantryTrak software.
- Restock.
- Clean and put things away.

Additional volunteers are also welcome on Tuesday mornings to provide some relief to the current volunteers, some of whom volunteer every week.

Volunteers are needed on Monday mornings from 8:30 to 10 am to:

- Store items received by a delivery from the Foodbank on pallets or in refrigerators or freezers.
- Repackage some items.
- Start setting up for distribution.

The plan is to also seek both volunteers and funding from outside sources. To facilitate that, the name of the pantry has been changed to Feeding Hope Food Pantry.

Please email food.pantry@akronfcc.org or contact the church office at 330-253-5109 for more information or to inform us of your interest. We welcome and need your help, either once or more often. Thanks!

Submitted by Clay and Debbie Canfield, Food Pantry Coordinators

Community Conversations

On Thursday, October 3, the Greater Akron community will engage in conversations about Drugs & Addiction, Our Aging Seniors, and Diversity, Equity & Social Inclusion. These community conversations are part of the Akron Community Foundation’s initiative to help bring attention and funding to aspects of our common life.

We encourage you to join the conversation at First Church that day either for breakfast at 7:30-9 am, lunch from 12-1:30 pm and in the evening for conversations and dinner from 5:30-7 pm. Food and beverages will be served at each meeting at no cost.

If you would like to join one of the conversations, please sign up in the church office or contact Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org, 330.253.5109

School Supplies for Food Pantry

We would like to provide school supplies to the school-age children served by the pantry again this year. Donations of notebooks, notebook paper, pencils, pens, crayons, glue, scissors, etc. can be placed in the Food Pantry donation bin outside the office. Thank you for your help with this ministry!

Submitted by Maggie Grigsby
Soul Armour Yoga
On September 17, join us in the First Church Fellowship Hall for Soul Armour yoga class. Karen Scott, an Akron local, will be leading the class, starting at 6pm.

Come as you are and connect with yourself, your breath and your body in a yoga class that meets you where you are. Gentle movement and restorative poses ease you out of a busy day and into a relaxing evening, preparing your soul for the next day.

Are you challenged by an ailment, physical or even mental? Bring it up and Karen will work with it. Can’t get on the floor? No problem, chairs can help. Need an extra prop for a pose? Karen will have all the tools you need to help you!. Come join us and remember, we don’t come to yoga because we are flexible, we show up to become flexible, body and mind.

Questions? Contact Karen at kscott8356@sbcglobal.net or 440.371.9927.

Bereavement Support
Starting Tuesday, September 17, 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 evenings from 5:30-7:30pm in the Conference Room. These meetings build on each other, so attendance to all 6 sessions 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@southerncareinc.com. Preregistration is required as space is limited.

Progress Through Preservation
Progress Through Preservation of Greater Akron is sponsoring a tour of four Akron landmark churches on Sunday, September 22, from 2-4pm. This is an opportunity to see and hear the history of these magnificent buildings. Featured churches on the tour will include our very own First Church along with St Vincent’s, St. Bernard’s and Trinity Lutheran. For more information or to RSVP to the event, please contact Patti Noel at 330.907.1178.

Get Involved with the Love Truck
If you are interested in becoming involved with The Love Truck, the next service will be on September 28 from 4–6:30pm. We may also be looking for donations of food, either prepared or specific ingredients. Cash donations are always welcome too. For more on the ministry, visit www.thelovetruck.org or contact Tiffany Thorne at 330.592.0282.

Popsicle Love at the Love Truck
“I’m Bill. I’m Hailey. I’m Calvin.”
Hot faces brightened with child-like smiles.
We were seven years old again. We heard the sound of the ice cream truck on our street, coming closer.
We felt the excitement. We remembered running into the house to try to scrounge up some money for a frozen treat.
“What was that thing with the gumball on the bottom? Do you remember?” “A screwball!” “Right! But that frozen gum ball wasn’t good. It kind of cracked and just wasn’t good.” “You’re right. You’re right. I remember that now.”

We are all barefooted kids filled with anticipation of that cold sweet.

I’m out of fudge pops. I didn’t know so many people love them like I do. “Girl, there are women here and you know we like our chocolate.” Yes, we do. We do.
Popsicles were our shared holiness that Saturday evening. Our souls joined with the Divine. As the red, orange, purple and brown sticky-melt dripped onto our hands, I recalled the practice of Namaste. And the meaning of Namaste as I was taught. “That which is sacred within me recognizes that which is sacred within you.”

Black, white. Old, young. Male, female. With means and without. Christian, Muslim, Jew, whatever. The bond was a simple as a popsicle and as deep as the acknowledgment that we may see sacred love in the eyes of the other if we just look into them.

Submitted by Tiffany Thorne, Love Truck volunteer & First Church member
Wednesdays at First Church

Through the program year, Wednesdays offer great opportunities for fellowship, exploration, relaxation, conversation, and faith enrichment at First Church. Come each and every week or as and when you are able. All are welcome!

In-House Dinners
Starting Wednesday, September 11, First Church’s Food Service Coordinator, Debbie Riley, will cater our weekly Wednesday night dinners in Fellowship Hall. The meal will be served at 6pm with a suggested donation of $8 per person. Please make reservations for each week’s dinner online or in the church office by noon each Monday.

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. Each week’s showing and conversation are facilitated by Bernie Babb and visitors and new attendees are always welcome. Please contact Bernie with any questions at 330.687.0823. We hope you will join us for a fun evening in the 2nd floor Theatre Room!

September 11 - Three short films:

Faking It: Shining a light on the power of laughter and the growing social phenomena of laughter groups, this remarkable story follows everyday people who set out to tap into their brain’s mood-altering chemicals through laughter.

You’re It: A businessman waits for his daily bus to work when he notices that something is wrong with the nearby playground: it seems to be populated by zombie-like kids, all consumed with devices.

Scrap Dolls: On the east side of Detroit, an 11 year old boy, grieving over the loss of his best friend, encounters an artist who makes art out of abandoned objects.

September 18 - a feature film

Cas & Dylan: A dying doctor, who plans to check out on his own terms, takes a reluctant detour when he inadvertently winds up with an “anything but normal” 22 year old girl.

September 25 - three short films

Always With You: An elderly man finds a magical way to not only reconnect with his recently departed wife, but to transform his current reality.

A Bicycle Lesson: When a young woman teaches her mother how to ride a bicycle, she discovers a secret that has the potential to mend their fractured relationship.

Off Book: Natalie is an ambitious small town girl looking for love. Steve is a leather jacket wearing city guy that has life figured out. They meet for a first date at a Chicago cafe, but their date takes an unexpected turn when Steve brings something with him that leaves them both changed.

Faith Enrichment

EVENING DISCUSSION GROUP
6:45-8pm in the Conference Room, beginning Sept. 11
Finding fulfillment can easily become a task separate from our faith. We are often taught to seek happiness in external and transient things. Join us for an indepth look at the Christian view of happiness and how it relates to recent research on the topic. This 3-week study and discussion group will encourage participants to strengthen the connection between their faith and their lives with inspiring ideas and conversation. Facilitated by Rev. Nanette Pitt, Senior Minister.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY
10:45am-noon in the Library, beginning Sept. 18
Just as they have in the past, names continue to be of great importance, because they shape so much of our identity. As David S. Slawson once wrote, “names are an important key to what a society values.” If this is true, what kind of value can be given to an individual without a name, as is the case with so many female figures in the Bible?
Beginning on September 18th, join us in the newly renovated Library for a 5-week study of the Unnamed Women of the Bible to explore the lives and stories of many unnamed women and to bring value to their unknown names once again. Facilitated by Antigone Lowery, Associate Minister.

New UASO Season Begins!

Join us on September 26 for the first performance of the University of Akron Symphony Orchestra! The concert will be held in our historic Meetinghouse, starting at 7:30pm. The concert will feature music from Verdi’s Overture to Nabucco, Persichetti’s The Hollow Men, Adam Schoenberg’s Canto, Mascagni’s Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana, Respighi’s The Pines of Rome with faculty trumpeter Jim Johnson. UASO is conducted by Dr. Guy Bordo.
Please mark your calendar for the next performance on Tuesday, October 29.
It’s Music To Our Ears!

Earlier this summer, the Governing Board, in consultation with many groups in the church, decided to support the storage needs of the Food Pantry. The decision was made to renovate the Small Dining Room (aka Memorial Lounge), into a new Music room allowing the Food Pantry to take over the space that was, at that time, being used by our Chancel and Handbell Choirs. The staff, with the guidance of the B&G Board and in consultation with the various stakeholders in our wonderful music ministry, then undertook the renovation project.

First, all the furniture needed to find new homes. You may have noticed the beautiful breakfront near Fellowship Hall that used to reside in the Small Dining Room, and the round tables from that room are a nice, needed, addition to Fellowship Hall. The coffee station table received a decorative coat of paint, and can now be found in the newly refurbished church Library.

Next, the wallpaper (from 1993!) was stripped, the damaged walls were repaired, and then the room was painted. Many thanks to Straight Line Painting for their excellent work! The carpeting needed to be removed, as it negatively affected the acoustics of the room. A rustic wood laminate was installed, which does a nice job of brightening up the acoustics! Kudos to Barrington Carpet for their expert assistance.

While the renovation work was going on, decisions had to be made regarding the extensive music library that First Church maintains thanks to the efforts of Margaret Maurer. A section of the Upper Room was cleared out, and has now become the new home of our music library. Many thanks to the wonderful church members who came in and helped carry all the music to its new home - Deb and Clay Canfield, Ann Snyder, Larry Becker, Julie Lehman, Crickett West, Margaret and Jeff Maurer, Chip Houghton, Darren Jones-Baker and Pastor Nanette.

The staff found a third wardrobe cabinet to add to the two that currently stored robes, so now the Choir robes will have a little more breathing room, plus the cabinets were given a coat of paint to enhance their appearance. The rack storing the Chancel Choir notebooks was also spruced up, and before you knew it the piano and bell tables were being moved in!

This new location brings the bell tables significantly closer to the Meetinghouse for performances. In addition, it brings the Chancel Choir much closer as well. Stop by and take a look, and feel free to join in the fun as a member of either the Handbell or Chancel Choirs!

Library Renovation

“The more that you read, the more things you know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” – Dr. Seuss

With the support of a memorial donation from his family in memory of Gene Stalnaker, First Church was able to renovate the library meeting space this summer. The B&G Board assisted with the project by providing support to strip the wallpaper, paint the walls, and install new carpet tile.

New furniture was ordered, keeping in mind how the room has been used in the past for Faith Enrichment classes and board meetings, and with the hope of greater flexibility to be able to host other meetings and groups in the future.

Our extensive book collection was curated, keeping in mind that we would like this library to be a good resource for our members and the issues many face today. The books have been re-shelved by areas of interest, and with the assistance of the Ralph Falconer Adult Education fund, more books have been purchased to supplement our holdings.

The library is located near the Food Pantry, and across the hall from Pastor Nanette’s study. If you would like to see the library, or borrow a book, please stop in to the Church office and we would be happy to assist you!

Street Art

During the past few years, you may have noticed many new murals and art installations occurring throughout downtown Akron. Associate Minister Antigoné Lowery felt that Room 6 in the Education Wing needed some large-scale pop art, as she’s working to transform it into a fun youth space. With the artistic help of Wittenberg University art education senior Grace Worley, we now have some bright, inspirational art of our own right in our own building! Pictures don’t do it justice – please stop by anytime to see it for yourself!
Improving Our Curb Appeal

This summer the B&G Board has been hard at work on the exterior of our building. Earlier in the summer our very large locust trees were trimmed back and dead branches were removed. Shrubs and plantings around the perimeter of the building were removed or relocated, to improve the appearance of the building and/or to improve safety. Slats were added to our air conditioning unit fenced pens to improve their appearance from the street.

Permits have been approved for our exterior signage and we hope to have new signage installed before the end of the year. Work is underway on the patio, located next to the Chapel/Office entrance door. The goal for that area is to provide a place of respite for our visitors, with plantings that support fauna and flora and bring beauty to our building. At the same time some sidewalks will be leveled and curb cuts added to provide greater accessibility to the building.

Sunday Guest Welcome Table

The Membership Board is seeking help at the Sunday Welcome Table. Before the 11am service, volunteers stand at the table to greet and welcome incoming guests and answer any questions. If you love First Church and want to meet new people, this job is for you! Please contact Amanda Cole at aac24@zips.uakron.edu for more information.

Influenza Vaccine Clinic

An Influenza Vaccine Clinic will be held at First Church on Sunday, September 15, 2019, in the Conference Room before and after the 11am service.

Most insurance companies, including Medicare Part B, all of the Medicare Advantage plans, i.e., SummaCare, Anthem, Medical Mutual of Ohio, just to name a few of the insurance carriers, cover the vaccine 100% with no copays or deductibles. Without insurance the cost of the vaccine is $35.

The influenza vaccine can be administered to everyone age 7 and above. The high dose influenza vaccine will be available for those who are 65 and older. 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.

The Parish Nurse Team will be available for blood pressure and blood sugar screenings.

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.

Apple Pudding Cake

Submitted by Sue Tolley

Ingredients:
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 beaten egg
- ¼ cup of butter
- 1 cup of flour
- 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- ½ teaspoon of cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon of nutmeg
- 4 or 5 medium apples
- 1 cup of nuts, chopped

Directions:
Cream butter and sugar. Add the egg and beat well. Add flour, baking soda, cinnamon and nutmeg. Mix well. Peel and finely chop the apples. Add apples and chopped nuts and mix well. Spread in a greased 8x8inch pan; bake at 325 for 30-35 minutes. Serve plain or with whipped cream or ice cream. The cake will stay moist.

Recipe yields 16-25 bars.

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 users personal hearing aid or we can provide an earphone. We ask that users return the devices to the office immediately following worship each week.

Pop Tabs to Help Families

Did you know the Ronald McDonald House of Akron turns pop tabs into cash to help support operations of the House and to provide services for families? Collect your pop tabs and help families who have sick children at Akron Children’s Hospital! Drop your tabs off anytime in the church office. Thank you!
### Stewardship/Finance Report (unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>July</th>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>YTD Budget</th>
<th>Percent to Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Loyalty Campaign</td>
<td>$12,824</td>
<td>$141,522</td>
<td>$140,503</td>
<td>100.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-pledge Income</td>
<td>$3,221</td>
<td>$35,940</td>
<td>$34,980</td>
<td>102.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
<td>$1,376</td>
<td>$15,305</td>
<td>$17,665</td>
<td>86.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Special Ministries</td>
<td>$457</td>
<td>$2,998</td>
<td>$4,839</td>
<td>62.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment, Sprowls Trust, Pollock</td>
<td>$45,217</td>
<td>$326,743</td>
<td>$326,835</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental and Food Service Income</td>
<td>$1,103</td>
<td>$16,837</td>
<td>$14,017</td>
<td>120.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$48</td>
<td>$46,345</td>
<td>$6,296</td>
<td>736.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$64,246</td>
<td>$585,690</td>
<td>$545,135</td>
<td>107.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **EXPENSES**         |          |           |            |                  |
| Personnel & Admin Expenses | $54,803  | $313,411  | $320,688   | 97.7%            |
| Membership Board      | $625     | $1,375    | $4,110     | 33.5%            |
| Governing Board       | $0       | $11,536   | $13,409    | 86.0%            |
| Food Pantry           | $3,239   | $20,777   | $32,065    | 64.8%            |
| Other Special Ministries | $1,226   | $7,705    | $21,848    | 35.3%            |
| Congregational Care & Education | $2,875 | $6,635   | $8,424     | 78.8%            |
| Music                 | $1,646   | $10,563   | $12,878    | 82.0%            |
| Fellowship Team       | $0       | $0        | $466       | 0.0%             |
| Development Team      | $0       | $0        | $612       | 0.0%             |
| Food Service Expense  | $286     | $10,357   | $10,681    | 97.0%            |
| Maintenance/Utilities | $23,852  | $159,262  | $190,891   | 83.4%            |
| **TOTAL**             | $88,552  | $541,621  | $616,074   | 87.9%            |

### Women’s Spiritual Journey

The Women’s Spiritual Journey meetings will begin on Monday, September 16, starting at noon. The group meets the first and third Mondays of each month for lunch and discussion. A meal can be purchased from the kitchen for $8 or you’re welcome to bring your own. Please contact Linda Peshina with questions at 330.606.5874.

### Men’s Lunch Bunch

On Monday, September 9, the Men’s Lunch Bunch begins their fall programming. A hot lunch will be served, starting at 11:45 am. The program is a continuation of the excellent Great Courses series about colonial America. For additional information, contact Howard Tolley at 330.867.1469.

### Staff Changes

August 25 was Jessie Busson’s last Sunday in the nursery. Jessie has started a new full time job as a specialized tutor in the Chippewa Local School District. Thank you, Jessie, for your dedicated service to our church and for helping to care for our youth! Best of luck in your new endeavor!

### Thank you!

**Dear First Church Family and Friends,**

We, the family of Rev. Duane Angel wish to thank you for your thoughts, prayers, food of comfort, calls and many cards and letters. Duane loved First Church as no other and treasured friendships he made there. Thank you to Rev. Nanette Pitt, Assoicate Minister Antigoné Lowery, Rev. Karen Ballard and Rabbi David Horowitz for their kind words of love and support. The beautiful service and wonderful kindness, food and fellowship at the lunch after the funeral will remain in our memories with love forever.

*Blessings to all, Pat McKay and the Rev. Duane Angel Family*

### In Sympathy

Our prayers and sympathy to the family of Ruth Ellen Smith, who passed away on July 18, 2019. Ruth Ellen joined First Church in 1949.

### In Our Prayers

Ruth Ann Allison, Kathy Berg, Jessica Fox, Barbara Hansford, George Kostan, Art Wallach, and Doug Weyrick.
Prayer Blanket Ministry

Our Prayer Blanket Ministry is now in its 9th year, and was established in memory of David and Gwen Crow, using memorial funds donated to the church following David’s passing in 2010. David had received a prayer blanket shortly before he passed, and it brought him great comfort and peace. Seeing the remarkable results from this simple act of kindness, Deborah Anderson was moved to create this ministry to bring warmth, comfort, hope and peace to others in their time of need or in times of celebration and joy.

This year, the number of Prayer Blanket volunteers has grown, and we are gratefully able to produce more blankets each month than we ever have before! However, the cost of the fabric to keep up with the production will be exceeding the budgeted allowance soon, so monetary donations are needed to sustain this program. Won’t you consider a donation to support this ministry?

Many of the blankets are sent to the Akron General Oncology department, to be passed out as needed by the nurses. The wife of one recipient wrote, “David and I loved the blanket, and I keep it on me every night since his passing. He grabbed onto the “God’s Patch of Light” and it will be buried with him. He felt the blessings and prayers that came with it and had it on his bed constantly.”

To take part in this ministry, contact Deborah Anderson. If you have a friend or loved one in need of a blanket, please contact Kasey Kalchert to make your request. To make a donation to support the work of this ministry, be sure to make your check out to First Church and write “prayer blankets” on the memo line. Thank you!

Church Directory

Have you used the online church directory? You can access it anytime or learn more about it, just visit http://www.akronfcc.org/connect/directory/.

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.

Off and Running!

Are you running in this year’s Akron Marathon? Or are you participating in the half-marathon, or as a member of a Marathon Team? Let us know - we would love to cheer on our First Church runners! Send an email to janis.worley@akronfcc.org and let us know how you are participating! Race day is September 28!
Program Year Begins

Community Celebration Sunday
Sunday, September 8, 9:30am and 11am
Each service, 9:30am & 11 am, will be followed by an ice cream social on the front lawn, weather permitting.

Wednesday Programming
Morning and Evening Faith Formation classes begin, along with Wednesday Night Dinner and Wednesday Night at the Movies. Read more on page 7.

University of Akron Orchestra
Thursday, September 26, 7pm
The new season with UASO begins! Concerts are free and open to the public. See more on page 7

On The Table Conversations
Thursday, October 3
First Church is joining the conversation as a super host at the Akron Community Foundation’s On The Table Conversations. Read more on page 5

Fellowship Outing
Saturday, October 5, 4:30pm.
Join us at the Canalway Center in Canal Fulton. Read more on page 3