



OCTOBER 2019 • Number 8

# Chronicle

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

*Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity*



### SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30am, Upper Room  
11am, Meetinghouse

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**October 6**  
**World Communion Sunday**  
9:30am & 11am  
See page 2 for details

**October 13**  
9:30am & 11am

**October 20**  
**Joining Sunday**  
9:30am & 11am

**October 27**  
9:30am & 11am

### NEXT CHRONICLE

Deadline: Friday, October 18  
Email Submissions:  
kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org  
Editor: Kasey Kalchert

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Church of Akron  
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Beloved,

We are blessed as a people of Christian faith to claim as our own a tradition that speaks over and over again of God's providence, of God's protection, God's guidance and promises.

Our sacred text is still core to our faith because it contains this ancient wisdom: **God's got this!**

From the exodus out of Egypt freeing the Israelites from the tyranny of Pharaoh; from the exile in Babylon; from Esther to Jesus' countless healings, we are assured that God weaves goodness and deliverance, hope and promise into every strand of creation, into each new daybreak.

So in the midst of our world that races by faster and faster each day, in the midst of the frailty of our own lives, in the midst of our loves and our losses, and in the midst of all that changes, let us cling with faith and with hope to the overarching constant and our one certainty: **God's got this!**

Let our act of justice and compassion be, at its core, a declaration of our hope and faith in a present and living God who walks beside us through life's most challenging times and who will deliver us safe on Canaan's side.

Blessings,

*Nanette*



## World Communion Sunday

Join us for World Communion Sunday on October 6! During both worship services, we will celebrate communion with Christians all over the world. Please bring a piece of cultural fabric to lay on the Communion table. At the 11am worship service we will be joined by guest, Eka Anthony, a Rwandan refugee from the Congo who will share his story as we celebrate love of neighbor far and near.



## Fellowship Potluck

On Sunday, October 20, the Fellowship team invites you to a chili potluck, following each of the worship services. Please bring your favorite chili or hot soup! If you don't have a favorite recipe in mind, you're welcome to bring a side of cornbread or rolls or a dessert to share with the group. Please sign up in the office, Upper Room, or Fellowship Hall to avoid too many duplicate dishes!



October 20 is also Joining Sunday! The potluck will also be a chance to welcome new members to First Church and enjoy fellowship with friends, old and new!

## Fall Clean-Up Day

The Building and Grounds Board is holding a Fall Clean-Up on Saturday, October 19, from 9am-12pm. Please stop by as you are able to help clean up the churchyard as we prepare for the upcoming winter months. If you are able, please bring gardening gloves and gardening tools. Thank you!



## Immigration Exploration

On and around World Communion Sunday this year, First Church is offering a variety of opportunities for community members to learn more about the many nuances and lived experiences of immigrants as we consider scriptural precedent and hear stories of modern-day immigrants.

On Wednesday, October 2, from 6:45-8pm in the Conference Room, Pastor Nanette will be joined by Rev. John King who, as a former Catholic priest, served for many years at a mission in El Salvador.

On October 6, at the 11am worship service we will be joined by guest, Eka Anthony, a Rwandan refugee from the Congo who will share his story as we celebrate love of neighbor far and near.

On October 9, we'll be joined by Kathryn Ress a co-founder of Akron Interfaith Immigration Advocates, a group of various Akron-area faith communities who work both with documented and undocumented immigrants in the area.

On October 16, we will be joined by Susan Berg Herman who works with ASIA Inc. and has long supported immigrants in the Akron area and has herself lived and worked overseas in Asia.

All of these opportunities will provide depth and perspective to consider on this, often hot button, topic in which we often feel pulled by very real concerns amidst a desire to love and respect all of God's people. You are welcome to attend one or all of the sessions and are encouraged to invite a friend along.



## Community Art Show

All through October, First Church is showcasing art from the congregation and friends in the Fellowship Hall!

Be sure to stop by and check it out, starting Sunday, October 6. Works featured in mediums from photography, sculpture, and more will be available for viewing through October 20. Questions? Contact Ann Snyder at [catseyeann@gmail.com](mailto:catseyeann@gmail.com)

## Sunday Worship Flowers

Sponsoring flowers in the worship service is a wonderful way of celebrating a loved one, an anniversary, or some other special occasion. The \$50 arrangement may be taken home or marked for our pastors to deliver to a homebound member of First Church. If you would like to order worship flowers, please contact Patty Durkos at 330.253.5109 x110 or [patty.durkos@akronfcc.org](mailto:patty.durkos@akronfcc.org).



## Our Youth on Sunday Mornings

There are many fun and exciting events upcoming for the youth at First Church, and we encourage you to mark your calendars and get involved! On October 27, during the 11am service children are invited to attend church school in costumes where there will be a special trick-or-treat time!

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 Antigoné. 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 during the 11am service for your use. It is equipped with toys, toddler furniture, a changing table, a rocking chair, and has access to a restroom. Activity packs are also available.

**OCTOBER 6: World Communion Sunday**

**OCTOBER 13: Church School classes**

**OCTOBER 20: Sunday Funday Crafts**

**OCTOBER 27: Trick or Treat Church School**

*Submitted by Antigoné Lowery, Associate Minister*

## Feeding Hope Food Pantry

On September 24, the Feeding Hope Food Pantry kicked off its first Tuesday evening service hours, serving close to 20 clients with the help of many new and current volunteers from First Church and the wider-Akron community. The evening was a great success and we are encouraged by the large amount of support we have received!

The Feeding Hope Food Pantry is a Network Partner of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank and are open every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 6:30-7:30pm and invite you to join us as we seek to do our part in cultivating food justice in the Akron community!

**Feeding Hope Food Pantry**, continues on page 5

## New Bible Study for Men\*

You are warmly invited to join Steven Savides for a thematic exploration of the scriptures on the first Saturday of each month. We'll meet over breakfast in Fellowship Hall from 7:30 to 9am.

The themes for upcoming gatherings are:

October 5: New Creation! (Focus scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

November 2: Rules for the Christian Life (Focus scripture: Ephesians 4:25-5:2)

December 7: Who is Jesus the Christ? (Focus scripture: Colossians 1:15-23)

Participants are encouraged to read the focus scriptures before the meeting, to bring a Bible (any translation will do), and to be prepared for a journey through scripture aimed at providing both perspective and depth.

Steven is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and a PhD candidate at the University of Notre Dame's Department of Theology and Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. It just so happens that he is also Pastor Nanette's husband and a member of First Church.

Please RSVP to Kasey Kalchert at [kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org](mailto:kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org) or 330.253.5109 so that we can have a headcount for breakfast.

*\*The designation "men" is meant to create a space in which all who identify as male or who embrace a masculine identity can feel welcome, challenged, and find fellowship.*

*Submitted by Steven Savides, First Church member*

## Inquirer's Gathering

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 Gathering on 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!

## Coming Out Christian

Join us as we rethink God's love toward LGBTQ+ Christians in the new discussion group, Coming Out Christian. In a safe space, members of the LGBTQ+ community will

come together to explore Christianity and each other's faith journeys. Beginning October 13, Coming Out Christian will be meeting in the First Church Chapel from 6-7pm. These meetings will continue monthly on the first Sunday. All ages are welcome.



## Summer Garden

Surely there must be a break in the space/time continuum around the wrought iron garden gates that makes time move faster inside of them than outside, because I can hardly believe it's October already. Before we know it, the garden beds will be at rest under a layer of wheatgrass mats and a foot of snow - but thankfully, there is work yet to be done.

October is the traditional time to plant garlic to be harvested next summer. Individual cloves are planted in the fall, which sprout and overwinter to mature into heads of garlic by July. I love this process because the planting schedule is so different than other annual vegetables, being fall to summer instead of spring to fall, and because the labor now feels like an investment for the future.

As I mentioned, we are covering our garden beds for the winter with wheatgrass mats, which are a fantastic resource. Pure Intentions is a local company run by Kathy Evans which produces organically grown wheatgrass for sale to restaurants, grocery stores, and individuals all over Ohio. The wheatgrass is harvested from trays, leaving behind a rectangular "mat" of soil, root material, and plant matter. These mats are diverted from the landfill by the Community Compost Collaborative program of Let's Grow Akron and used in gardens all over the city as mulch, weed suppression, and additional organic matter. We are grateful to use this resource and look forward to the benefits it brings to our soil!

The Feed My Sheep garden seeks regular or one-time volunteers for a variety of garden-related tasks including harvesting, weeding, and washing trays. Garden hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 8am - 12pm. Groups are welcome! Please call the church office at 330.253.5109 or email [sam@letsgrowakron.org](mailto:sam@letsgrowakron.org) if you are interested.

*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 churches 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](http://akronhousingdiscussion.eventbrite.com). The next meeting is October 22! All materials will be provided.



## October Mission: Minority Behavioral Health Group

Minority Behavioral Health Group (MBHG) is a community health agency that consists of psychologists, counselors, pastors, case managers, and administrative personnel who are committed to providing culturally appropriate and comprehensive counseling services to Summit, Portage, Stark, Franklin and Cuyahoga counties.

MBHG is a comprehensive resource for minorities that provides counseling, education, outreach, and consultation services.

If you would like to make a contribution, checks can be made out to First Church with "Mission of the month" written on the memo line. Thank you!

### Mission of the Month Updates

Our August mission, Margie's Hope, received a combined total of \$759! Thank you for your contribution!

## Homeless Outreach

We are currently collecting items for the Homeless Outreach program. Items in need are shoes, shorts, T-shirts, and other clothing items. Please drop off your donations in the church office. Thank you.

## Love Truck

The next service will be on Saturday, October 26 from 4-6:30pm. If you are unable to volunteer, but would like to contribute, the Love Truck is accepting donations of food, either prepared or specific ingredients. Cash donations are always welcome too. For more on the ministry, visit [www.the Lovetruck.org](http://www.the Lovetruck.org) or contact Tiffany Thorne at 330.592.0282.



**Feeding Hope Food Pantry**, continued from page 3

We are grateful to Clay and Debbie Canfield for their continued service and dedication to this ministry. First Church welcomes Andrew Courtney and Lindsay LeVally-Wallace, who, with assistance from Associate Minister Antigone Lowery, have come forward to manage the evening distribution hours.

Have you ever considered being a food pantry volunteer? Now is your chance! We need volunteers for the following jobs:

On Monday mornings from 8:30 to 10am:

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

On Tuesday mornings from 9:00am-noon:

- 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.

On Tuesday evenings from 6:00pm-8:30pm:

- 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.

Please email [food.pantry@akronfcc.org](mailto:food.pantry@akronfcc.org) or contact the church office at 330.253.5109 for more information or to inform us of your interest. First Church welcomes and needs your help, either once or more often. Thanks!



## Labyrinth Returns

On October 10, the tradition of the Labyrinth walk returns to First Church. But, what is it?

*The Sacred Circle: A Short History of the Chartres Labyrinth*

Dr. Lauren Artress, head of the World Wide Labyrinth Project and Canon of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco says “labyrinths are patterns, usually circular, based on principles of sacred geometry. They have been called ‘divine imprints’ because they are found around the world as sacred patterns and have been passed down through the ages for at least 4000 years in various forms. Labyrinths are mysterious because we don’t know the origin of their design or exactly how they provide a space that allows clarity.” They are found in almost every religious tradition around the world.

The tradition of pilgrimage is as old as religion itself, according to Dr. Artress in her book *Walking a Sacred Path* (Riverhead Books, NY \*1995). “Worshippers traveled to holy festivals and high holy days or to journey to the Holy Land back to Jerusalem. Christians in the Middle Ages made a vow to make a pilgrimage to the Holy City of Jerusalem once during their lifetime. However, by the 12th century, when the Crusades swept over Europe and Jerusalem became the center of religious struggle, travel became dangerous and expensive. In response to this situation, the Roman church appointed seven pilgrimage cathedrals to become the ‘Jerusalem’ for pilgrims. The walk into the labyrinth in many of these cathedrals market the ritual ending of the physical journey across the countryside. It served as a symbolic entry into the spiritual realms of the Celestial City.” The labyrinth again appears during the reformation period in churches. “In the Christian tradition, walking the labyrinth represents journeys and the long pilgrimages we take in our lives.” For more information, read Dr. Artress’ book.

St. Augustine said “It is solved by walking.” The labyrinth is a walking meditation. In a time when many people are seeking ways to integrate psychology with spirituality, the labyrinth creates a safe, open space where the inner and outer meet and become one. Here is a space where meaning is recovered, self-knowledge is discovered, comfort is restored and healing can take place. The labyrinth is a spiritual journey, for anyone seeking healing of one sort or another, for people in transition, for times when there is a strong-felt need for such things as clarity, letting go, reconciliation and forgiveness, meaning and purpose, understanding and peace.” (From channel 5, Newsnet 5, special assignment).

The labyrinth is not a maze. A maze tricks you with dead ends. In a labyrinth there are no blocks. It has only one path into the center and you walk out on the same path where you walked in. The labyrinth at First Church is an eleven-circuit labyrinth, modeled after the one at Chartres Cathedral in Chartres, France, built in 1202.

**Labyrinth Returns to First Church**, continued on page 6

**Labyrinth Returns to First Church**, continued from page 5  
 Through months of education, research, and exploration of the history, meaning and spiritual aspects of the labyrinth, we opened October 1, 1998 with a walk of prayer.

The next presentation of the Labyrinth will be October 10. The doors open at 6pm, with the first walk beginning at 6:30pm. The last walk will begin at 7:30pm, with the lights coming back up at 8pm. The room is handicapped accessible and there is a wooden finger tool for individuals in wheelchairs or with difficulty walking. Music will be provided by the Mickeys, bringing the melodious Scottish and Irish country sounds to usher in the first walk of the season. Music offers a more spiritual significance for the participant. Facilitators are available for consultation through the evening. For more information or to arrange for a presentation, contact Nancy Nierman-Baker at 330.618.4412.



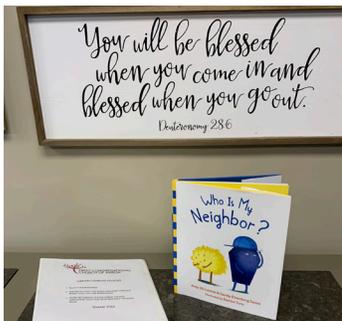
*Submitted by Nancy Nierman-Baker, Labyrinth Facilitator*

## Check Out Our Library!

With the support of a memorial donation from his family in memory of Gene Stalnaker, the First Church Library underwent changes to become a more functional and welcoming meeting space for First Church members. In addition to new furniture and carpet, the shelves were also updated. Titles and topics, from devotional to self-help, are available and waiting to be read.

Members of the congregation are always welcome to check out the books and take them out as needed. If you are looking to borrow a book, there is a binder in the Library with a sheet to fill out with the book's title, your name and contact information, and the date of checkout. There is no limit on how long you may keep the book, but please return as you are finished so that others may enjoy it too.

Among the new books, you'll find this hidden gem in the children's section: *Who Is My Neighbor*, by Amy-Jill Levine and Sandy Sisenberg Sasso. This story is about a world where Blues and Yellows just don't mix, and that's how it's always been. No one remembers why. But then comes the day Midnight Blue takes a tumble along the road. His friends Navy and Powder Blue don't even stop to help! It's only when a Yellow comes along that everything changes forever. Check it out, among other children's books!



## Prayer Blankets Need You!

Would you like to get involved in the Prayer Blanket Ministry? Each month, on the second and third Tuesday at 3:00pm, the members of the Prayer Blanket Ministry gather in Fellowship Hall to begin their volunteer work. Some cut the large squares of fleece, some cut the fringe around the outside of the blanket, others tie knots, or work the sewing machine to create Patches of Godlight.

If you aren't able to join the group during the week, there are other ways to get involved. Consider donating buttons to help with the Patches of Godlight. Donate JoAnn Fabrics gift cards, enabling this ministry to purchase more fabric, thread, and other supplies. Or make a donation to this ministry – be sure to write "Prayer Blankets" on the memo line of your check or specify Prayer Blankets if you give online. If you have questions or want to learn more, please contact Deborah Anderson at [Deborah\\_anders@yahoo.com](mailto:Deborah_anders@yahoo.com). Thank you!



## Soul Armour Yoga

Join us in the First Church Fellowship Hall for Soul Armour Yoga on October 1 and October 22. 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](mailto:kscott8356@sbcglobal.net) or 440.371.9927.



# 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 you are able. All are welcome!

## In-House Dinners

Weekly on Wednesdays, starting at 6pm, dinner will be catered by First Church's own Food Service Coordinator, Debbie Riley, in Fellowship Hall. The meal has 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.

## Faith Enrichment

### MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10:45am-noon in the Library

It would be difficult to count the number of named individuals in the Bible, let alone the number of unnamed women in the Bible, but one thing is for certain—they each have a story worth knowing and sharing. We hope that you will join us for intriguing conversations and fellowship as we seek to better know God and one another through the stories of these important women!

Starting October 23, join us for a 6-week study of the *Pursuit of Wisdom: Insights from Proverbs and Ecclesiastes*.

It is commonly understood that the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes contain a number wise sayings, which bring awareness to many of life's challenges. At their core, the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes remind us that we should never become complacent in our pursuit of wisdom, which serves to help us address all that we face in life, while seeking to grow closer to God and others.

### EVENING DISCUSSION GROUP 6:45-8pm in the Conference Room

Join Pastor Nanette to consider immigration in new and enlightening ways through personal story and bible study during the first 3 weeks of October. See page 2 for details.

Starting October 23, join Pastor Nanette for a 6-week study of *Some Fundamentals of our Faith*, a series considering some of the core building blocks of Christian theology.



## 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!

### October 2 - a feature film

*The Storyteller*: The love of an enchanted young girl brings wonder and healing to a broken family. On the run from her mysterious past and guided by a fairy that only she can see, Abby sparks a daisy chain of compassion, bringing joy, and music back into the family. *The Storyteller* is a powerful exploration of reality and the true meaning of family.

### October 9 - three short films

*Family Ties*: When a young man receives an unusual package in the mail, he begins to understand the importance of gratitude for those who have invested in his life.

*Contigo*: In this sweet animated film, Maia remembers her father through the stories they used to write together.

*Dear Chickens*: When a stubborn old man and fretful teenager are forced to share a hospital room, an unexpected friendship forms over hatred of fake cheerfulness and bad hospital food.

### October 16 - a feature film

*Blur Circle*: Jill is still grieving the loss of her young son after he disappears two years ago. Unable to face the possibility that she lost him forever, she pursues every lead and meets Burton Rose, a man with a shrouded past.

### October 23 - three short films

*Stag*: After getting dumped by his fiancée, Ben decides to take the couple's swing dance class that he signed them up for ... solo.

*The Happiness Tour*: A short quirky documentary about a hilarious, motley crew of seniors who in their 80s and 90s decide to form a band to spread happiness.

*Memories*: After nearly dying in a tragic accident, a lonely man remembers a love from another lifetime and ventures to follow his memories to an unimaginable search that could change his life.

### October 30 - a feature film

*The Finishers*: Julien dreams of adventure. But when you live in a wheelchair, such dreams are difficult to fulfill. To do so, Julien challenges his father to compete with him in the "Ironman" triathlon in Nice. A whole family comes together and reconnects in an attempt to see this incredible exploit through.

## Volunteer Opportunity in Akron

Nazareth Housing is in need of volunteers to assist with construction, demolition, and landscaping projects at vacant houses in specific neighborhoods in Akron.

Please note that on work sites, tools may be limited. If you would prefer to bring your own tools you are encouraged and welcome to.

If you are unable to volunteer, but would like to contribute, Nazareth is accepting donations of bottled water or on-site supplies such as dust masks, drop cloths, putty knives, utility knives, paint scrapers, shovels, power drills, screw guns, etc.

If you would like to volunteer with Nazareth, please reach out at 330.374.1526 or email [projects@nazarethhousing.org](mailto:projects@nazarethhousing.org) to let them know how you would like to help.

## Empower Your Life Conference

Friday, October 18 and Saturday October 19

8:30am - 4pm

6111 Landerhaven Drive, Mayfield Heights 44124

If you know anyone that is living with epilepsy, please tell them about this conference. It is sponsored by the Cleveland Clinic with wonderful speakers in this field. It is meant for anyone who understands the needs of people dealing with epilepsy- parents, care-givers, teachers, etc. as well as people with epilepsy. The conference is free to the public and lunch is provided. Please contact Tana Alexander 330.836.8576 if you have any questions or interest in attending. Thank you!

*Submitted by Tana Alexander*

### Empowering Epilepsy Yoga

Empowering Epilepsy is hosting monthly yoga sessions at the Fairlawn Kiwanis Community Center (3486 S.

Smith Road) each month from 7-9pm.

It is an opportunity to meet others who understand epilepsy, learn strategies to manage your or a family member's seizures, and make new friends. Food will be provided and the event is free! The next meeting date is Wednesday, October 16. Be sure to wear comfortable clothing and it

is recommended that you do not eat anything after 4:15pm that day. For more information, please contact Leigh Goldie at 440.248.6158 or [leigh@empoweringepilepsy.org](mailto:leigh@empoweringepilepsy.org).



## Countryside Public Market

Countryside Public Market is a year-round, indoor farmers' market located at 21 Furnace Street in Akron. The farmer's market is open every Sunday from 10am-2pm and features local farmers, food producers, artisans, children's activities, food demos, live music and monthly events for the whole family! Market offerings change seasonally throughout the year so check back often for your local favorites. Countryside Public Market proudly accepts Ohio Direction Cards and matches in SNAP incentives up to \$20. To arrange a free informational tour of the market, please email Alicia Hall at [ahall@cvcountryside.org](mailto:ahall@cvcountryside.org)

## Taste of the Holy Land

Follow the footsteps of Jesus on October 6 at 5pm at "A Taste of the Holy Land," where you can sample middle eastern cuisine and take a virtual trip to the Holy Land at Bethany United Church of Christ (1235 Broad Blvd, Cuyahoga Falls). The cost is \$10 per person.

Randy J. Malick, Director of Faith Formation for Adults at St. Hilary, will be your tour guide for the evening. Encounter Jesus anew, see places of great importance in his life, from his birth in Bethlehem, to his upbringing in Nazareth, to his ministry in the Galilee, and to his passion, death, and resurrection in Jerusalem! See what his closest friends, the Apostles (who lived with him and were apprenticed to him) saw as Jesus worked mighty miracles and as they witnessed his ultimate victory over the grave!

Register on Eventbrite (\$12.24 per person, including \$2.24 Eventbrite fee) at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-taste-of-the-holy-land-registration-69890886523?aff=HolyLand>

For more information, call 330.923.5277 between 10 – noon.

## Earth-Saving Ideas

Toothbrushes are one of the things that are found in the trash a lot-- mostly because of the dentist recommendation to replace your brush every three-six months. You can put that old brush to good use! Old toothbrushes are great cleaning tools to scrub down surfaces and on tile grout. You can use a clean brush to help brush off corn silk on corn for your next grilling! Or, if you want to have a little fun with it, you can make a bracelet out of a toothbrush! Check out this simple how-to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuQ8gs-jHm8>



## University of Akron Symphony

Join us on Tuesday, October 29 to hear the University of Akron Symphony Orchestra! The concert will be held in our historic Meetinghouse, starting at 7:30pm. The concert will feature pop music from works by John Williams, John Barry, Danny Elfman, Howard Shore, Hans Zimmer, Meredith Willson and Ronan Hardim. The orchestra is conducted by Dr. Guy V. Bordo.

Please mark your calendar for the next performance on Thursday, December 5.



## Tret Fure at First Church

Tret Fure will be at First Church on Friday, October 18! The concert begins at 7pm and is free and open to the public! Be sure to invite a friend!

### About Tret:



A prolific artist in the contemporary singer-songwriter arena, Tret Fure has released 16 albums and CDs over the course of her 48 year career. In addition to being a gifted songwriter, Fure has engineered and produced countless recordings by a variety of artists, including her own work.

Now after 8 acoustic releases on her own label, Tomboy Girl Records, she has re-established herself in the folk world, winning the South Florida Folk Festival Singer/Songwriter Competition in 2 out of 3 categories: Best Overall and Best Up-Tempo Song. She also won the prestigious Jane Schliessman Award for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Music. In 2009, Tret was voted "Pride In The Arts Favorite Female/Lesbian Musician." In the same year, she received the Janine C. Rae Award for her work in Women's Music. She is also the #1 folk artist for Reverbnation in Newport News, VA. In 2017, Tret took 2nd place in the Musicians United to Protect Bristol Bay songwriting contest for her song "The Fishermen of Bristol Bay."

In 2018, Tret released a stunning collection of songs on her latest release "Roses in November," which was on the Folk DJ charts for over 6 months. Her song "Lessons From Home Plate" was the #1 song in June 2018, with the album at #4 and she was the #2 artist. In November 2018, the title song was #7.

## Sacred Harp

The Northeast Ohio Sacred Harp Singers invite you to join them on October 6! The group meets the first Sunday of every month from 2-4pm in the First Church Chapel. Questions? Contact Corey Sees at [coreysees@gmail.com](mailto:coreysees@gmail.com).

## 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.

## Bean and Pasta Soup

Submitted by Lola Rothmann

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup of dried white beans
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 cup of diced onions
- 1 cup of diced carrots
- 1 cup of diced celery
- 2 garlic cloves minced
- ¼ cup of diced green pepper
- 2 bay leaves
- 8 cups of chicken broth
- 4 ounces of bow-tie pasta
- ½ cup of diced sun-dried tomatoes
- ¼ cup of chopped parsley
- Salt, to taste
- Parmesan cheese

### Directions:

- In a large pot, cover the beans with cold water and bring to a boil. Remove from the heat, cover, and let stand for 1 hour. Heat oil in a soup pan over medium heat. Add veggies and bay leaves. Cover and cook for about 15 minutes, or until the onions are tender, stirring occasionally. Add beans and broth and bring to boil. Cover partially and let it simmer until beans are tender, which takes about an hour. Add pasta and tomatoes and cook until the pasta is tender. Discard bay leaves. Pass the Parmesan cheese separately. Yields: 4 servings.



## 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. We ask that users return the devices to the office immediately following worship each week.

## 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/>.

<b>Stewardship/Finance Report (unaudited)</b>				
	<b>August</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Percent to Budget</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
2019 Loyalty Campaign	\$11,701	\$153,223	\$140,503	109.1%
Non-pledge Income	\$4,327	\$40,267	\$34,980	115.1%
Food Pantry	\$1,424	\$16,729	\$17,665	94.7%
Other Special Ministries	\$4,153	\$7,151	\$4,839	147.8%
Endowment, Sparrows Trust, Pollock	\$45,217	\$371,960	\$326,835	113.8%
Rental and Food Service Income	\$1,889	\$18,726	\$14,017	133.6%
Other Income	<u>\$400</u>	<u>\$46,745</u>	<u>\$6,296</u>	742.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$69,111	\$654,801	\$545,135	120.1%
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Personnel & Admin Expenses	\$37,838	\$351,250	\$320,688	109.5%
Membership Board	\$2,805	\$4,179	\$4,110	101.7%
Governing Board	\$0	\$11,536	\$13,409	86.0%
Food Pantry	\$4,422	\$25,199	\$32,065	78.6%
Other Special Ministries	\$15,805	\$23,511	\$21,848	107.6%
Congregational Care & Education	\$1,531	\$8,166	\$8,424	96.9%
Music	\$0	\$10,563	\$12,878	82.0%
Fellowship Team	\$0	\$0	\$466	0.0%
Development Team	\$0	\$0	\$612	0.0%
Food Service Expense	\$1,787	\$12,144	\$10,681	113.7%
Maintenance/Utilities	<u>\$25,392</u>	<u>\$184,655</u>	<u>\$190,891</u>	96.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$89,580	\$631,203	\$616,074	102.5%
Net Income/Loss	-\$20,469	\$23,598	-\$70,938	-33.3%

## In Our Prayers

Ruth Ann Allison, Kathy Berg, Margaret Civitello, Jessica Fox, Barbara Hansford, George Kostan, Art Wallach, and Doug Weyrick.

## In Sympathy

Our thoughts are with the family of John C. Hall, who passed away on September 18, 2019. John's late wife, Barbara, was a member of First Church before her passing in 2016.

We also extend our prayers to Linda Avers' family. Linda passed away on September 18, 2019. Reverend Nanette Pitt officiated a committal at Glendale Cemetery with the family on Tuesday, September 24, 2019.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Marshall and Katie Brink on the birth of their baby girl! Kelsey Meredith Brink was born September 2, 2019, weighing 7 pounds and 10 ounces. Mike and Jamie Brink are the proud grandparents.



## Welcome!

Please join us in welcoming Nicole Camino to the First Church staff! She started in September as a child care worker in the Village Room or Nursery on Sunday mornings and for designated events. Nicole has previous experience in childhood development and education. Be sure to stop by and say hello!



## Thank you

Thank you so much for the beautiful funeral service for my brother, Duane Angel. The fellowship and luncheon following the service were also very much appreciated.

*Sincerely, Pat Ellwood*

*Dear First Church friends,*

I am writing to thank you for the lovely flowers you sent to my mother's memorial service. It was very special to have our family's long association with First Church acknowledged in this way. Thank you and many blessings to all.

*From, Karen Leggett*

## 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!



## Box Tops for Education

The Box Tops for Education program is changing to a mobile app, so the time of cutting out the coupons is coming to a close. If you have any remaining cut-out coupons, please bring them to the church office as soon as possible so that we can make a final deposit. If you would like to continue participating, you can download the Box Tops for Education app from your app store, and then select the school you wish to support. Each time you shop, you will need to scan your full grocery receipt into the app. It will then calculate the number of coupons earned by your purchases, and credit them to the school you selected. Thank you!



## Seeking Lay Readers

Are you interested in being a lay reader at the 11am service? Please contact Kasey Kalchert in the church office for more information! You can email [kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org](mailto:kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org) or call 330.253.5109.

## Parish Nurse

October 20 is the next date for the monthly blood pressure and diabetes checks by the First Church Parish Nurse team. Be sure to stop by the Conference Room between 10am and 1pm, if interested!

## 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](mailto:aac24@zips.uakron.edu) for more information.

## 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**.

## When to Call Your Ministers

You can call on us:

- 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 or 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 First Church.
- When you are unhappy about First Church.
- When you are delighted with First 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.

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 reach out!

Rev. Nanette Pitt, Senior Minister  
Office: 330-253-5109, ext. 100  
Cell: 330-907-1050  
Email: [nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org](mailto:nanette.pitt@akronfcc.org)

Antigoné Lowery, Associate Minister  
Office: 330-253-5109, ext. 101  
Cell: 330.780.8122  
Email: [antigone.lowery@akronfcc.org](mailto:antigone.lowery@akronfcc.org)





*Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity*



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## Event Highlights

### World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 6, during both 9:30am and 11am worship

Join us as we partake in communion with Christians from around the world. More information can be found on page 2.

### Community Art Show

From October 6-20, in the Fellowship Hall

Stop by the Fellowship Hall to see artwork on display from members and family of the First Church congregation.

### Tret Fure

Friday, October 18, in the Meetinghouse at 7pm

Tret Fure is a folk artist, with chart-topping hits such as *November Roses*. The event is free and open to the public. More information can be found on page 9.



### Joining Sunday

Sunday, October 20, during both 9:30am and 11am worship

Welcome new members to the congregation at both services! Following both services, there will be a chili-soup potluck. See more information on page 3.

### Loyalty Sunday

Sunday, November 3 during both 9:30 and 11am worship

Please join us for this annual event as we celebrate the joy of supporting the mission and ministries of First Church. Join us following service for a Mashed Potato bar in the Fellowship Hall.