



NOVEMBER 2019 • Number 9

# Chronicle

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF AKRON

*Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity*



Dear Beloved,

As we begin to anticipate the start of Advent on December 1, and the Christmas season that follows, I realize we are now entering the last month of the liturgical year – the calendar year that stretches from the first week in Advent through Christ the King Sunday and guides our Christian pilgrimage through the major seasons and holy days. What could be more fitting than to wrap up the church's worship year on a note of thanksgiving?

Over and again our tradition encourages us to embrace an attitude of thanksgiving. In Philippians 4:4 Paul writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." In the verses that follow, he implies that this attitude correlates to our ability to live contentedly: "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

I pray that as we approach the busyness of the holidays and in the midst of our world's ever-heightening angst and fear, we at First Church would embrace this Thanksgiving as an opportunity to reinvigorate our faith through adopting a posture of gratitude. And as we close out the liturgical year filled with thanksgiving, may we then be ready for the advent of the peace and light of God to fill our hearts in Christ Jesus, no matter our circumstances or the world around us for our hope will be rooted in a vision far more profound and eternal. Last month we finished our Season of Creation celebration in worship. The prayer that follows bridges that and Thanksgiving for me so I share it with you. It was written by Black Elk of the Oglala Lakota:

Grandfather, Great Spirit, you have been always, and before you nothing has been. There is no one to pray to but you. The star nations all over the heavens are yours, and yours are the grasses of the earth. You are older than all need, older than all pain and prayer. Grandfather, Great Spirit, fill us with the light. Give us the strength to understand the eyes to see. Teach us to walk the soft earth as relatives to all that live. Help us, for without you we are nothing.

Blessings,

*Nanette*

## Strengthening Ministry

I have **three things** I wish to discuss with you. This letter is later than I would have preferred (and for that, I apologize) but life, as they say, has been full, rich and interesting – the emphasis on full.

1. Recently, the Governing Board accepted a motion from the Stewardship & Finance Board and voted unanimously to adopt a **June 1-May 31** fiscal year starting in 2020. This aligns our budget year with the church's program year and will allow for much more effective ministry planning.

2. **Loyalty Sunday**, our annual day when we offer our financial commitment to support the ministries of First Church, will take place on **November 3** – the day that Daylight Savings time ends (and we get an additional hour of sleep!)

Just like at home, having an estimate of our income allows the church to have a better idea what resources we can plan to use to put our values into action. You can also give as you are able. Following both services the church will host a **Mashed Potato Bar with fixins' galore** as a thank you for your ministry commitment of time, talent, and treasure.

This year's effort has a slightly different scope. To simplify the fiscal year transition and the accompanying planning challenges, we encourage members and friends to do two things:

- **Please consider** making a financial commitment that will run *from January, 2020 through May, 2021 (17 months)*; and
- Through the church's website establish a *recurring weekly or monthly gift*. If you need guidance please contact Janis Worley, our Finance and Operations Manager, and she will be glad to help you.

3. Finally, the consultants that First Church retained to **survey our congregation** a couple of months ago have nearly completed their work. The response to the survey was frankly, phenomenal and a ton of information was collected – more than we anticipated. Thank you!

The Working Group of church members are reviewing the data collected and are preparing their report which will be presented within the next few weeks.

I pray that you will join us on Sunday, November 3, at either 9:30 or 11am, for a day celebrating the remarkable length and breadth of First Church's ministries!

*Submitted by: Larry Becker, Moderator*

## Holiday Office Closures

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the church office will close on November 27 at 12pm and be closed all day on November 28 and November 29.

## Loyalty Sunday

At both worship services on Sunday, November 3, we will honor the legacy and loyalty of many who have blessed and touched our lives with love here at First Church.

Please join us for this annual event as we celebrate the joy of supporting the mission and ministries of First Church. In the 11am service, as is our tradition, you are invited to pick up and wear a colored ribbon corresponding with the year you began attending or joined the congregation. Then, during the service, you'll be invited to bring your pledge forward during the singing of hymns. After worship, please plan to join the community in the Fellowship Hall for a mashed potato bar luncheon.

We are seeking volunteers to help with clean-up after lunch. If you are willing to help out, please sign up in the church office or contact Kasey Kalchert, Congregational Life Coordinator, at [kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org](mailto:kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org) or by calling 330.253.5109 x112.

## All contributions have impact!

Many people think you have to have extraordinary wealth to make a gift. But even a small donation can have a big impact! One way to benefit an organization simply takes a little advance planning. If you hold a life insurance policy, you can designate First Church as your beneficiary. The insurance company will make the transfer to First Church after your passing, and, if you desire, you can work with First Church before your passing to share where you would like to see your money best put to use. Along the same lines, you can also add First Church to your will or trust as a recipient of a donation upon your passing. If First Church has made a difference in your life or the life of your family, or if First Church and its ministries are a cause you are passionate about, please consider us in your estate planning! If you would like to explore either option, have already included First Church in your plans, or have questions or need more information, please contact Janis Worley, Finance and Operations Manager, at 330.253.5109 x111 or [janis.worley@akronfcc.org](mailto:janis.worley@akronfcc.org).



## About the Chronicle

The Chronicle newsletter is edited by Kasey Kalchert, Congregational Life Coordinator at First Church. Please send your submissions to [kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org](mailto:kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org). The deadline for the December/January 2020 issue is Friday, November 15.



## Our Youth on Sunday Mornings

With the arrival of fall and the changing of leaves, we are excited to see and experience all that God has in store for our children and youth this season! In Church School, youth are continuing their exploration of New Testament stories through the Holy Moly Curriculum each 2nd and 4th Sunday, creating wonderful crafts each 3rd Sunday during our Sunday Funday activity, and participating in corporate worship and communion each 1st Sunday. We have several fun upcoming events planned for youth, to include a Fall Harvest pajama party on November 24!

We are always looking for new and familiar faces to join us in Church School and other youth programming. Should you have an interest, please reach out to Associate Minister Antigone Lowery for more details!

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.

During the 11am Festival worship service, 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.

**NOVEMBER 3: All Saints and Loyalty Sunday**

**NOVEMBER 10: Church School classes**

**NOVEMBER 17: Sunday Funday**

**NOVEMBER 24: Fall Harvest Pajama Party**

## First Church Fellowship Fun

On Saturday, October 5, the Fellowship Team held an outing to the Canalway Center in Canal Fulton, where the group got to ride the St Helena III on the Ohio Erie canal, followed by the *Victorian Wake!* dinner show. A great time was had by all!



## Time with Tots

Join us for a new and exciting time of fellowship and fun with Time with Tots every 4th Saturday from 9am-10am in Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be served.

Time with Tots has been created to provide a space for families with young children, 3 years and under, to connect, share experiences, offer advice and parenting tips, and foster new and meaningful relationships. The first meeting will be held on Saturday, November 23. Please RSVP to Kasey Kalchert, Congregational Life Coordinator, at [kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org](mailto:kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org) or by calling 330.253.5109 x112. We hope to see you there!



## MERGE Youth Group

In collaboration with Trinity UCC in Canton, First Church youth are invited to participate in a multi-church youth group.

On the last Sunday of the month, high school and middle school aged youth will meet at Trinity UCC from different northeast Ohio churches for fun, food, and fellowship. The group meets from 6-8pm.

A carpool will be available from First Church, leaving at 5:30pm. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Associate Minister Antigone Lowery at 330.780.8122 or [antigone.lowery@akronfcc.org](mailto:antigone.lowery@akronfcc.org).

## Get Air Fellowship Outing

Please join us on Saturday, November 9 at GET AIR, which is an indoor trampoline park at 1886 Buchholzer Ave. We have reserved a two-hour jump time from 10am-12pm. This fun place is for adults as well as kids, but only those who jump need to pay. Besides trampolines, there is the Ninja obstacle course (rings, climbing nets, etc), foam pits, dodgeball, and massage chairs for adults who want to just sit and watch! The big people and little people have separate areas, so your little ones can stay safe! The cost for 2 hours is \$22 for Big Air (adults & bigger kids) and \$14 for Little Air (kids under 46"), plus \$3 for jump socks. HOWEVER, if we get 15 or more people we qualify for a special rate which is \$8 LESS per person! Sign up by November 6 in the church office. Any questions contact Chris Becker at [bitemegal@gmail.com](mailto:bitemegal@gmail.com) or Stephanie Corbin at [shtefiec@gmail.com](mailto:shtefiec@gmail.com).



*Submitted by Chris Becker, Fellowship Team*

## Garden Season Ends

Cleared garden beds, frosty windows on the greenhouse, the first flurries of snow... if it weren't for the physical indicators of winter coming, I wouldn't believe it. This growing season has absolutely flown by and I am surprised and humbled to be writing an end of season recap. First, I want to start by thanking our garden crew members, Jamie and Duane. We accomplished so much together this season and none of it would have been possible without their hard work, positive attitudes, and adaptability. We are truly blessed to have each of them for their unique skills and strengths!

Together, we grew over 1,600 pounds of fresh produce this season. Of that total, over 700 pounds were sold at the Summit Lake Neighborhood Farmers' Market and over 900 pounds were distributed at our Feeding Hope Food Pantry. We raised almost \$4,000 at our first annual spring plant sale fundraiser, which directly benefited the Feed My Sheep Garden and our partnership with Let's Grow Akron. We designed and constructed 8 new vertical strawberry planters using almost entirely reclaimed materials. We hosted groups from Edge Academy and ASIA Inc. in our garden for exploration, education, and community connection. More recently, of course, we have begun to work with volunteers from United Disability Service's BraVo! program, which has already been mutually beneficial. I am looking forward to growing alongside that group in the coming growing season.

Finally, I want to thank you. Whether you are a first time visitor or a long time member of First Church, your energy and support of our garden ministry is what keeps us going and keeps us growing. This program would not exist without your commitment to First Church's guiding principle of Food Justice. Whether you are working alongside us in the garden or the food pantry, enjoying a quiet moment at our garden picnic table, or simply sharing our joy in the successes of the season, we could not do what we do without you. And on a personal note, this is without a doubt the most life-giving job I've ever had - thank you for giving me that. I look forward to growing with you another season. See you next spring!

*Submitted by Sam Phillips, Garden Manager*

## Open M Christmas Baskets

This year First Church is responsible for providing 210 16oz cans of pork and beans for OPEN M's Christmas baskets. Please bring your contribution to the church office by December 1. If you have any questions, please contact Chris and Sue Godard at 330.699.0509. Thank you so very much.



## Mission of the Month

Recycle Pots & Pans is the November Mission of the Month!

While foodbanks are doing a heroic job of providing food to those in need, oftentimes the food goes to homes without the tools required to prepare it. Recycle Pots & Pans was developed to address this by collecting and redistributing gently used cooking items to those in need.

Since its inception in 2011, Recycle Pots & Pans volunteers have distributed more than 130 complete kitchen sets to individuals making transitions from shelters and other temporary housing to more permanent residences. Our very own Feeding Hope Food Pantry collaborates with Recycle Pots & Pans to offer items to pantry clients.

Abbe Turner will be visiting First Church on Sunday, November 3 during the 11am service. She will share the great work of this organization in the Akron community. You can have the opportunity to meet Abbe, in the Fellowship Hall following worship, to learn more about Recycle Pots & Pans.

## Mission of the Month Updates

The September Mission of the Month, LINKS, received a combined donation totaling \$958.80. Thank you for your generosity to the Akron community!



## 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 November 26! All materials will be provided.

## Food Pantry Volunteer Needed

The Food Pantry needs a volunteer from 7:45 - 9:30am Tuesdays to give tickets to clients as they enter the Chapel waiting area door and answer questions from first visit people. An alternate and backup are also needed. Please contact Clay Canfield at [food.pantry@akronfcc.org](mailto:food.pantry@akronfcc.org) or 330.354.8497. Thanks!

### Food Pantry Items Needed

Bar soap, shampoo, plastic grocery bags, egg cartons, and cake mix & frosting. Please leave in the pantry donation box by the office. Thanks!

## Homeless Outreach

In the upcoming colder months, our homeless neighbors are especially at risk. Please consider dropping any of these items off at the church office for distribution over the winter. Together, we can share hope and warmth. We are currently collecting shoes, socks, coats, sterno cans, and tarps. Please drop off your donations in the church office. Thank you.

## Love Truck

The next service will be on Saturday, December 7 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.thelovetruck.org](http://www.thelovetruck.org) or contact Tiffany Thorne at 330.592.0282.



### Sweets wanted!

The Love Truck ministry needs donations of desserts! No need to bake them, unless you really want to. We welcome you to pick up some mini brownies, cupcakes, cookies etc. at the store. The Love Truck is next serving on Saturday, December 7. Please drop donations at the church on the Thursday or Friday before. Thank you!

## First Church Partners with UDS

First Church and United Disability Services (UDS) are excited to announce a new partnership to expand the UDS BraVo! volunteer program. The program officially began on Monday, October 14.

BraVo!, an acronym for Building Relationships and Volunteer Opportunities, provides individuals served by UDS with the opportunity to explore their community, further develop social skills and gain a sense of independence and accomplishment through a variety of volunteer experiences. BraVo! participants will be here throughout the week, Monday – Friday, both to help with various projects and ministries here and to go out from this new home base to volunteer in the wider community. Please welcome our new partners when you see them!



## Mason CLC Christmas Kickoff

For the seventeenth year, First Church is reaching out to the children at Mason Community Learning Center. This year's Christmas drive kicks off on Sunday, November 10, 2019 and there will be several opportunities for you to make a child smile:

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

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

**Clothing:** Ornaments on the Clothing Tree will be available to provide basic clothing needs of socks, uniform pieces, and underwear to the Mason CLC school population. Please attach your ornament to your gifts when returning the donations to the tree.

We currently have a generous supply of coats, so we will not be collecting them this year.

Please bring your purchased toy, family items, or clothing to the church NO LATER than Sunday, December 8. Monetary gifts will be gladly accepted. Please make checks out to First Church with "Mason CLC" on the memo line. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Bishop at 330.620.3754 or call the church office at 330.253.5109.

## Thanksgiving Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday is November 24! There will be ONE worship service held this day at 11am in the Meetinghouse. Following worship, please join us for the annual Thanksgiving dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

A traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be served, with options for those with dietary restrictions, including lactose and vegetarian meals. The majority of the meal is gluten-free, with the exception of stuffing. Please RSVP, online at [www.akronfcc.org/thanksgiving-sunday-2/](http://www.akronfcc.org/thanksgiving-sunday-2/) or RSVP in the church office or contact Kasey Kalchert at [kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org](mailto:kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org) or 330.253.5109 x 112.

Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up after the event. If you are able to help, please sign up in the church office or contact Kasey Kalchert. Thank you!

## Advent Lunch and Workshop

The Advent Lunch and Workshop is on December 8, from 1-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. A lunch of Sloppy Joe sandwiches and salad will be served to attendees. Please sign up in the church office or contact Associate Minister Antigoné Lowery with any questions.



## Hanging of the Greens

Join our pastors and other members to decorate for the Christmas season! Tuesday, November 26, is our annual Hanging of the Greens. A pizza dinner will be served at 5pm and decorating will begin in the Meetinghouse at 5:30pm. Please sign up in the church office to participate!

This is a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday spirit and get the season off on the right foot - recognizing the "evergreen" presence of God in Jesus Christ. Come and join us as we decorate our Meetinghouse together and anticipate Advent.

## Breakfast With Santa

Breakfast with Santa is Saturday, December 14. Children and adults alike are invited to First Church for a pancake breakfast and a morning of fun activities, including meeting Santa Claus. Breakfast is served from 9-11am.

We are seeking elf volunteers to help in the kitchen, serve, and clean up at this event. Any interested holiday elves can contact Kasey Kalchert, at 330.253.5109 x 112 or email [kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org](mailto:kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org) or sign up in the church office. Volunteer this year and bring love and light into a neighbor's heart!



x



## Christmas Poinsettias 2019

*Please return your completed form with payment to the church office by December 1, 2019.*

Cost per plant: \$10

Total number of plants:

Total amount enclosed: \$

In memory of:

In honor of:

The Sunday Bulletin on December 15 will list the names of those being remembered and honored.

Please be sure to pick up your poinsettias after the Christmas Eve Service on December 24 -- or on December 29 when the church reopens.

Ordered by:

Phone:

# 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

On Wednesdays at 6pm, First Church's Food Service Coordinator, Debbie Riley, will cater our weekly dinners in Fellowship Hall. The meal has a suggested donation of \$8 per person. Please make reservations for each week's dinner 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!

### November 6 - Three short films:

*From Life:* An artist sketching in a churchyard encounters a woman who might be a ghost. The truth is stranger than that.

*The Gift of the Red Fern:* A child of the military, Kevin is always the new kid, shunned, lonely, and friendless. When his teacher reaches out to him with a thoughtful act of kindness, it changes his life in a way she never could have imagined.

*Aile and Grandmother:* Aile is a young girl with a special relationship with nature that only she and her grandmother know, using plants as medicine. But one day, she finds out a secret that turns her world upside down.

### November 13- a feature film

*Being Rose:* After being diagnosed with serious health issues, ex-cop Rose Jones goes on a road trip in a wheelchair to search for her estranged son; along the way, she falls in love with Max, a handsome old cowboy.

### November 20 - three short films

*Brothers:* Syrian refugee Issam Hadhad embarks on his first ever camping trip into the Canadian wilderness with his new best friend, Frank. A touching story of unexpected friendship from opposite sides of the world, showing what's possible when acceptance and connection bridge a conversation.

*40th:* Before Anne's mother passed away, she wrote her a card for every birthday, up to her 40th. Today is Anne's 40th birthday and she's about to open the last card her mother left for her.

*Man from Mars:* A cynical podcast host hellbent on making fools out of small town celebrities has just met his match: A charming woman who has her entire community convinced that she's the second-coming of Jesus Christ.

Submitted by Bernie Babb

## Faith Enrichment

### MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10:45am-noon in the Library

Join Associate Minister Antigone Lowery for a 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 of 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 and Rev. Steven for the continuation of a study of *Some Fundamentals of our Faith*, a series considering some of the core building blocks of Christian theology. This is a space for dialogue so curiosity, questions, and doubts are welcome.

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## 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:

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

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 Rev. Steven Savides

## Master Chorale Singers

The Master Singers Chorale of Northeast Ohio, under the baton of Artistic Director, Edward Arthur Shure, with guest pianists Donna Lee and Andrew Le, will present the “Liebeslieder Waltzes Op. 52” of Brahms and Thompson’s “Frostiana” based on the poetry of Robert Frost, along with Copland’s “The Promise of Living” and “Stomp Your Foot” from his Opera, The Tender Land, on Sunday, November 10, 2019 at 3pm at First Church.

The concert is free, the venue is accessible, and there is ample parking. A free-will offering will be taken.

Pianists, Donna Lee and Andrew Le, are both faculty members at Kent State University. Ms. Lee is the coordinator of the piano division at the University. Her biography can be found here: [www.kent.edu/node/donna-lee](http://www.kent.edu/node/donna-lee). Mr. Le, a Steinway Artist, just joined the faculty at Kent State this season. His biography can be found here: [www.drewle.com/drew](http://www.drewle.com/drew). Both are highly regarded and sought after concert artists.

For more information please visit the Chorale’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/MasterSingersChorale](http://www.facebook.com/MasterSingersChorale) or visit their website at [www.mastersingersinc.org](http://www.mastersingersinc.org). You can email the Chorale at [mastersingersdirector@gmail.com](mailto:mastersingersdirector@gmail.com).



## 2020 Offering Envelopes

2020 Offering Envelopes will be available in mid-November for pickup in the front foyer of the Meetinghouse. More information will follow.

## 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**.

## Parish Nurse

The Parish Nurse team will be available on Sunday, November 17 for blood pressure checks and diabetes screenings in the conference room.

## 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.

## Old Fashioned Bread Pudding

Submitted by Betty White

*pudding ingredients:*

- 2 cups of milk
- ¼ cup of sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon of salt
- 3 beaten egg yolks OR 2 eggs
- ½ teaspoon of vanilla
- 1/8 teaspoon of nutmeg
- Butter
- 3 slices of white bread

*Vanilla sauce ingredients:*

- 3 tablespoons of butter
- 3 tablespoons of flour
- 1 cup of hot water
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon of salt
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla

*Directions:* Beat all pudding ingredients except the bread and butter together until well blended. Pour into a baking dish. Spread butter on three slices of white bread. Cut bread in halves and place into custard. Set dish in a pan that has hot water in the bottom. Place in a 325 degree oven for 45 minutes or until it sets. Serve with vanilla sauce and serve.

*Vanilla sauce:* Melt 3 tablespoons of butter and blend with 3 tablespoons of flour. Stir in 1 cup of sugar, 1 cup of hot water, and salt. Cook and stir over low heat until thickened. Add 1 teaspoon of vanilla and pour over bread pudding.



## Countryside Public Market

Countryside Public Market is a year-round, indoor farmers market located at 21 Furnace Street in Akron, Ohio. 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)

# Welcome to First Church!

Sunday, October 20 was Joining Sunday! Please help us as we welcome our new members to the church family!

## John Keller



John is a Flight Attendant with Southwest Airlines. He is an avid animal lover who enjoys spending time with friends and family and collects vintage airline memorabilia. John also enjoys cooking and baking. He attends the 11am Festival worship on Sunday mornings.

## Natalie Miller & Caroline Altizer

Caroline and Natalie attend the 9:30am Celebrate! service on Sunday mornings as well as volunteer with Church School. Natalie is the Workforce Development Director with the Great Trail Council at Boy Scouts of America while Natalie works as a Service and Support Administration Coordinator with the Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board.



## Janice Moore



Janice is an Engineer at GOJO Industries here in Akron. Her hobbies include reading and ballroom dancing. She is also an avid fan of all things Disney. She attends the 11am Festival worship service and Wednesday Evening Faith Enrichment.

## Cal & Beth Robertson

Cal and Beth attend the 9:30am Celebrate! service and actively volunteer with the Peanut Butter and Jelly ministry. Cal is a retired VP of an engineering company and Beth is a retired not-for-profit administrator. Cal enjoys golf, and Beth enjoys reading and sewing.



# Keeping Akron Beautiful

First Church has been recognized by Keep Akron Beautiful for of the effort we have shown in keeping our property well maintained. To be considered for a Beautification Award, you need to exemplify the following criteria:

- Property should be litter free
- Property should have well-maintained flowers, shrubs and/or trees
- Property should be free of weeds
- Property should stand out from its neighbors.



What a wonderful honor!

# Entrance Beautification Project

During the last few weeks of summer, the B&G board was busy with their planned renovation of the entrance area near the canopy/Chapel entrance. Those that park in the lower lot will see a new, paved sidewalk that replaces the uneven and strongly sloped sidewalk that was a slipping hazard during the winter. The patio area was improved by removing the uneven pavers and replacing it with a level concrete pad. This solution is not only easier and safer to walk on, but will solve the issue of weed growth through the paver cracks. The garden beds lining the patio were redefined, allowing for the addition of a bike rack, and for easier garden bed maintenance. This fall you will see the bed filled with mums and hydrangeas, and this spring the intention is to plant additional perennials and pollinators. In addition, the benches will be receiving new slats which will finish the project. These renovations now provide First Church with a beautiful and peaceful area for reflection, conversation and fellowship as members and visitors come and go from the building.



# Earth-Saving Ideas

Thanksgiving is nearly here! While we gather to give thanks for our many blessings, let us remember Mother Earth and give thanks for our wonderful planet. Here are some tips for a greener Thanksgiving celebration:

1. Avoid plasticware and disposable products for serving and leftovers. These plastic products create a lot of waste in landfills. If it's not possible to fully avoid these products, look for post-consumer recyclable products or something that is compostable.
2. Be mindful of energy use when cooking. Dishes that cook at the same temperature can go into the oven together and even using room temperature butter can save energy by reducing cooking time.
3. Use smaller plates. Small plates mean smaller portions and people will be less likely to take too much food and therefore, you can reduce your food waste.
4. Shop locally and organically. If possible, check out some local farmers markets for more sustainable products, and oftentimes, these foods are fresher and even taste better!
5. Use nature for inspiration! Are you looking for some decor for your table? Look no farther than your yard: fill a jar with colorful leaves and acorns or create your own cornucopia!

| <b>Stewardship/Finance Report (unaudited)</b> |                  |                  |                   |                          |
|---|------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
|   | <b>September</b> | <b>YTD</b>       | <b>YTD Budget</b> | <b>Percent to Budget</b> |
| <b>INCOME</b>                                 |                  |                  |                   |                          |
| 2019 Loyalty Campaign                         | \$15,447         | \$168,670        | \$180,750         | 93.3%                    |
| Non-pledge Income                             | \$3,951          | \$44,218         | \$45,000          | 98.3%                    |
| Food Pantry                                   | \$1,402          | \$18,130         | \$22,725          | 79.8%                    |
| Other Special Ministries                      | \$453            | \$7,604          | \$6,225           | 122.2%                   |
| Endowment, Sparrows Trust, Pollock            | \$54,352         | \$426,312        | \$420,457         | 101.4%                   |
| Rental and Food Service Income                | \$2,402          | \$21,128         | \$18,032          | 117.2%                   |
| Other Income                                  | \$4,284          | \$51,029         | \$8,100           | 630.0%                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                  | <b>\$82,290</b>  | <b>\$737,091</b> | <b>\$701,289</b>  | <b>105.1%</b>            |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                               |                  |                  |                   |                          |
| Personnel & Admin Expenses                    | \$39,318         | \$390,568        | \$412,550         | 94.7%                    |
| Membership Board                              | \$318            | \$4,498          | \$5,288           | 85.1%                    |
| Governing Board                               | \$60             | \$11,596         | \$17,250          | 67.2%                    |
| Food Pantry                                   | \$2,424          | \$27,624         | \$41,250          | 67.0%                    |
| Other Special Ministries                      | \$1,534          | \$25,044         | \$28,106          | 89.1%                    |
| Congregational Care & Education               | \$215            | \$8,381          | \$10,838          | 77.3%                    |
| Music   | \$1,699          | \$12,263         | \$16,568          | 74.0%                    |
| Fellowship Team                               | \$6              | \$6              | \$600             | 1.0%                     |
| Development Team                              | \$0              | \$0              | \$788             | 0.0%                     |
| Food Service Expense                          | \$2,380          | \$14,524         | \$13,741          | 105.7%                   |
| Maintenance/Utilities                         | \$29,364         | \$214,019        | \$245,571         | 87.2%                    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                  | <b>\$77,319</b>  | <b>\$708,523</b> | <b>\$792,548</b>  | <b>89.4%</b>             |
| Net Income/Loss                               | \$4,971          | \$28,569         | -\$91,259         | -31.3%                   |



## In Sympathy

Our prayers are with Ed Berg, Theresa Arist and Susan Berg Herman and their family following Kathy Berg's passing on Sunday, October 13, 2019. A Memorial Service was held at First Church on Saturday, October 26, with Pastor Nanette officiating. Expressions of condolence may be mailed to Ed and family at 359 Village Court, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223.

## Thank you!

LINKS Community & Family services would like to thank you for the generous contribution your congregation made to our organization lately. We are very blessed to have been selected as the recipients of your kindness and will use the gift to continue serving the needs of our community.

*From Dana & Patty Noel, Progressive through Preservation of Greater Akron*

## In Our Prayers

Margaret Civitello-Poole, Jessica Fox, Barbara Hansford, George Kostan, Pat McKay, Art Wallach, and Doug Weyrick.

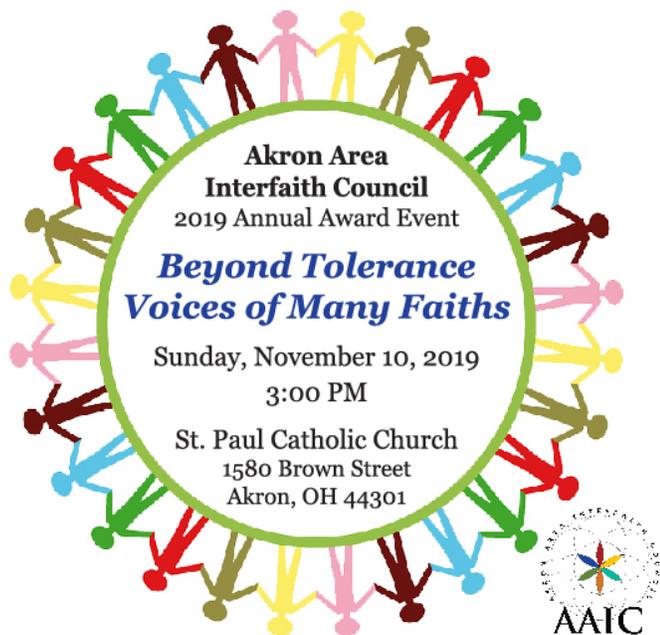
## Deployment Prayer Request

As many of you may already know, my partner, Rachel, currently serves on active duty in the Army and is stationed at Ft. Gordon, Georgia. She recently deployed to the Middle East in support of her unit's Military Intelligence mission and will be away for the next several months. Your thoughts and prayers for the safety and work of the soldiers and civilians she will be serving alongside as they seek to do their part in the ongoing initiatives of the Armed Forces in the Middle East would be greatly appreciated.

*Submitted by Antigoné Lowery, Associate Minister*

## Congratulations!

On November 1, Ting Renner took the Oath of Citizenship and was sworn in as an American citizen. Join us as we offer her our sincerest congratulations!



A free event that celebrates the diversity within our community. Enjoy music, dance and reflection.

Master of Ceremony  
Reverend Dr. Carl P. Wallace

Award Recipient  
Pastor Bradley Jagger of The Church in Silver Lake

For more information go to:  
[www.akroninterfaith.org](http://www.akroninterfaith.org)

## 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/>.

## 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.

## Worship Flowers

First Church requests donations of worship flowers for the 11am service. If you would like to honor, celebrate, or remember a loved one, please contact Kasey Kalchert at 330.253.5109 x112 to see which dates are available and to place an order.

## First Church Care Team

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo once wrote that, "without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community." Seeking to be an intentionally caring community, we are forming a new Care Team at First Church. Different members with different skills and interests, will continue to provide meals, visit homebound parishioners, send cards, and help us engage and care for one another in new ways. If you would like to participate, please contact Associate Minister Antigone Lowery at 330.780.8122 or [antigone.lowery@akronfcc.org](mailto:antigone.lowery@akronfcc.org).

Two Core Values and Bedrock Beliefs motivate us in this:

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

**Community:** First Church seeks to unite individuals and families into a network of fellowship and compassion within the congregation and beyond.

## Coming Out Christian

Spread the word and join us as we rethink God's love toward LGBTQ+ Christians in this support group.



In a safe space, members of the LGBTQ+ community can come together to explore Christianity and each other's faith journeys. On Sunday, November 10, Coming Out Christian will be meeting in the First Church Chapel from 6-7pm. These meetings occur on the second Sunday of each month. All ages are welcome.

## Women's Spiritual Journey

The Women's Spiritual Journey meets on 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 Mondays, a hot lunch is 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.

## 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.



*Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity*



## Event Highlights

### All Saints & Stewardship Sunday

November 3, 9:30am & 11am worship services

Join us at both worship services as we celebrate the legacy of First Church! More details on page 2.

### Get Air Fellowship Outing

November 9, 10am-12pm, Get Air Indoor Trampoline Park

Jump into some fun for the family friendly fellowship outing! More details on page 3.

### Master Chorale Concert at First Church

November 10, 3pm in the Meetinghouse

Come hear the Master Singers Chorale of Northeast Ohio in the Meetinghouse. More details on page 8.



### Thanksgiving Sunday

November 24, ONE worship service at 11am

Join us for worship, followed by a meal together in the Fellowship Hall. More details on page 6.

### Hanging of the Greens

November 27, 5pm

Help us decorate the church for the Christmas season!

### University of Akron Symphony Orchestra

December 5, 7:30pm in the Meetinghouse

Save the date for the next performance of the orchestra, directed by Dr. Guy Bordo.