



MAY 2020 • Number 4

Chronicle

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF AKRON

Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity



Dear Church,

One might think that as a pastor I would be used to the discomfort of not being able to change people's circumstances as I support them through times of hardship and distress. I certainly am practiced at it by this time but hardly comfortable. It irks that in the face of COVID-19, a global pandemic, we can do little to make substantive change in the moment and we are forced to accept the reality the pandemic is creating for so many – sometimes positive, most often mixed and difficult.

The poet Mary Oliver eloquently reminded us that our work is to love the world. We do this, in part, by loving our neighbor as ourselves, by standing in the muck of life alone or with others and making our peace. If springtime has taught me anything this year it is the lesson of presence and the unrelenting presence of God with us in our world as we learn to simply be.

So know, if nothing else, I am here supporting you and praying for you! And I thank you for the many ways you have been with me. The little notes that come along with things you mail in to the office, the quick voicemails, and emails. I find myself overjoyed during the opportunities we've had to gather on Zoom and when a few of have been able to gather on Tuesdays for the Feeding Hope Food Pantry. My heart yearns for the day we will be gathered together again in person for worship! I miss you, I pray for and with you, and I stand alongside you. For two are surely "... better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up." Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Standing alongside,

Nanette



OUR FOOD PANTRY REMAINS OPEN...

TUESDAY MORNINGS FROM 9:30-11:30AM

SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 6:30-7:30PM

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. Galatians 6:9-10

COVID-19 Update

Please join us in remembering in prayer the millions of people directly impacted by COVID-19, as we acknowledge how difficult this time has been and continues to be for so many of us. Oddly, at the same time many of us can celebrate that, even as we wrestle with fear and social isolation, this time has also brought blessings with more time at home, a chance to regroup, and reduced carbon emissions. We thought it was time for us to write again and share with you what we know today, what we expect in the near term, and what we are anticipating for the longer term.

WHAT WE KNOW NOW...

On April 27, Governor DeWine announced the Responsible Restart Ohio plan in which most businesses will reopen in the next two weeks, provided they meet mandatory safety requirements for customers and employees. These include requiring face coverings for all employees and recommending them for clients and customers at all times; maintaining good hygiene and social distancing; and limiting store capacity in order to meet social distancing guidelines.

If you do not have access to a mask to wear, please contact the church office and we will source one for you.

Because the danger of COVID-19 still exists, Ohio's Stay at Home order remains in effect to encourage Ohioans to continue making reasonable decisions about leaving home. Gatherings of more than 10 people are still prohibited. Additionally, as you know, public schools are online-only for the remainder of this school year, as are most universities.

Therefore, our church building remains closed at this time. Apart from the essential functions outlined below, we will not host any in person gatherings, groups, or meetings. We ask that you observe the Stay at Home order and refrain from visiting the church, dropping off items for donation, etc.

The May 17 congregational meeting has been postponed. We will reschedule it when restrictions on large in-person gatherings are lifted and, even then, we plan to take a very cautious and well-considered approach.

The members of your Governing Board have agreed to continue serving in their respective roles until a congregational meeting can take place. We hope that all the other board members will do similarly until our next congregational meeting when a new slate is presented by the Nominating Board.



The Governing Board will meet remotely via Zoom on Thursday, May 28, to adopt our new budget (for our new fiscal year running June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021). All church members are welcome to join this meeting. Please contact Larry if you would like to attend.

WHAT WE EXPECT IN THE NEAR TERM...

Worship will continue to be offered online only on Sundays at both 9:30 and 11am and may be viewed at www.akronfcc.org/live and www.facebook.com/FCCofAkron. We continue to appreciate your presence and support as we refine our system and invest in equipment to improve your remote experience. Our pastors also offer a Midweek Time of Refection on Wednesdays at 12pm online.

Our food justice ministry continues to meet the needs of families experiencing food insecurity during these troubling times. All of these programs pay special attention to correct social distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing protocols.

- The Feeding Hope Food Pantry, run by a small cadre of lower-risk volunteers, distributed food for almost 16,900 meals this past March to 1,408 people in 480 families.
- The Feed My Sheep Garden, in collaboration with Let's Grow Akron, is gearing up for our second annual Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17. Online ordering is now available at <https://lets-grow-akron.square.site>. To schedule a pick up time, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y8jadvhu>. Delivery is also available within a 5 mile radius. A small group of volunteers is needed for the plant sale. Please read more on page 6.
- The Love Truck continues to provide a community meal on the last Saturday of the month.

We continue to offer opportunities for online faith and fellowship gatherings. Each week's News & Notes (included in our Sunday worship materials) and our monthly Chronicle detail these offerings.

WHAT WE PLAN FOR THE LONGER TERM...

Together with the Governing Board, we will pay close attention to the recommendations from state and local government and add a judicious amount of caution as we seek to protect and thereby love our neighbors as ourselves in deciding when to roll back the current restrictions. We are committed to protecting the health and wellbeing of our members and friends and therefore plan to continue to offer online options, especially for worship.

We need your support to continue these vital ministries.

Continued on page 3

Sunday Worship Online

While our building remains closed, worship continues on Sunday mornings as the church gathers together online.

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 9:30 and 11am

Join us online for Sunday worship at 9:30 and 11am streaming live from our Meetinghouse and Upper Room at www.akronfcc.org/live or on www.facebook.com/FCCofAkron. Before services, worship materials – the order of service as well as children’s activity bulletins – are available to download at www.akronfcc.org/live

THOUGHTS FOR THE YOUNG

Encourage your kids to watch this weekly video message with you. One of our pastors offers an inspiring and age appropriate message every Sunday and the video is posted to both Facebook and our website between services. You can also find the videos on the church blog at www.akronfcc.org/category/blog/thoughts-for-the-young/

**THE BUILDING IS CLOSED
BUT THE CHURCH IS OPEN**

COVID-19 UPDATE *Continued from page 2*

Please consider making a gift to support the church operations at www.akronfcc.org/donate. A recurring gift supports the church’s mission even more fundamentally, bolstering ministries that can then be planned and secured.

Members and friends have been impacted greatly by the pandemic. Some have been furloughed, some have lost their jobs, and others do not know if there will be a job to return to. If you need to lower your giving, please consider still giving whatever you can. Gifts in any amount are valuable.

If you are financially secure, please consider increasing your gift and donating to the church’s Confidential Aid Fund, which is used to assist members and friends with bills and other necessary expenses when they are in financial distress. Conversely, if you find yourself in financial difficulty as a result of the pandemic, please contact Rev. Nanette Pitt as the Confidential Aid Fund may be able to assist.

We invite your continued prayers for our neighbors around the world and for the world itself. We urge you to continue to stay home except for essential trips, to wear a mask when you are out of the house, to continue to follow social distancing guidelines, and, of course, to wash your hands often.

In faith, Rev. Nanette Pitt, Senior Minister, and Larry Becker, Moderator



A Midweek Time of Reflection

WEDNESDAY PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Join our pastors each Wednesday at noon for a livestream time of prayer and inspiring readings and ideas. If you miss them, you can always find the posts on Facebook and on our website afterwards to watch at your leisure.

Virtual Hymn Sing Service

Visit <https://vimeo.com/414589390>

Enjoy this online service anytime and anywhere! Featuring our beautiful Casavant Frères organ, trumpet, flute, and the quartet, the service is a great blessing of song and sound! Recorded in the Meetinghouse, it brings us stirring hymns of hope and faith, reminding us of God’s grace and comfort.

Pentecost Sunday

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 9:30 & 11AM

Pentecost Sunday marks the end of the Easter season with Jesus’ ascension and the blessing of the church with the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is in fact the moment, we believe, when the followers of Jesus really became the church empowered to live out their mission. Each year we celebrate this day as a way of remembering that first Pentecost and God’s constant presence with us through the Spirit and the gathered community. See you online!

Graduation Celebration Sunday

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 9:30 & 11AM

Join us to celebrate all of the graduates and teachers at First Church! We recognize that this year is especially difficult as teachers and students have had to transition to online classes, and as tough decisions have been made to cancel some in-person graduations. Even still, we want all our teachers and graduates to know how proud of them we are and to recognize their hard-work and accomplishments. If you have a child or family member who will be graduating in any way this year, please email Pastor Antigone at antigone.lowery@akronfcc.org.



Weekly Video Challenges

We invite children and youth, along with their families, to participate each week in a fun and interactive challenge! Whether you are an introvert or extrovert, silly or serious, these challenges can be enjoyable for everyone and are a great way for families to get creative.

There are only 2 rules: 1) videos must be between 1-2 minutes or shorter and 2) have fun!

Each Wednesday, Pastor Antigone will email out the challenge for the next week and you have until Sunday at 5pm to email your video submissions to Pastor Antigone at antigone.lowery@akronfcc.org. Stay tuned for prizes!

WEEK 1 CHALLENGE

Embrace your inner performer and act out a scene from your favorite Bible story! Stories like Daniel and the Lion, David and Goliath, or the Parables of Jesus are great options! Are you up for the challenge?

Time with Tots Breakfast

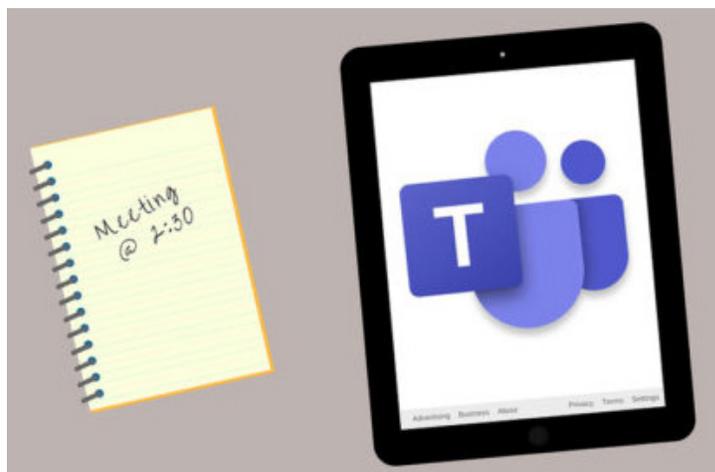
We invite families with toddler-aged children to join Pastor Antigone on Saturday, May 9 from 8am-9am for a Breakfast Zoom gathering! This will be a time to catch up, discuss some of the joys and challenges of parenting at home during COVID-19, while enjoying your favorite breakfast. Please RSVP to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by Friday, May 8, at 5pm to join!

Youth Scavenger Hunt

If you enjoy participating in scavenger hunts outside, then you will surely enjoy a scavenger hunt in your own home! We invite all middle school and high school aged students to join Pastor Antigone for a Zoom scavenger hunt on Friday, May 15 from 6pm-7:30pm. Each student will be given a list of items to find around their home and the first student to find all the items on the list will win a free pizza which will be delivered to you! This scavenger hunt will be unlike any you have ever played before, so we hope you are ready for lots of fun, laughter, and thrills! Please RSVP to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by Friday, May 15, at 5pm to join!

Ministry Team Roundtable

All Ministry Team Coordinators, Small Group Leaders, Board Chairs, and Governing Board members are invited to a Ministry Team Roundtable on Monday, May 11, at 6:30pm. This an opportunity to talk together about how we how we are adapting our ministry to our new realities now and how we plan to relaunch those that have been inactive during the pandemic. We'll share questions and advice we have been receiving as we look towards being able to gather again in person. The meeting will be on Zoom. If you want to attend, please contact Pastor Nanette.



Care Team Meeting

A virtual Care Team meeting will be held on Zoom on Sunday, May 17, at 1:30pm. This will be an opportunity for Care Team members to check-in and discuss further ways to engage with the church community. We will also have an opportunity to review some helpful materials from the *Called to Care* training resource.



Governing Board Meeting

The members of the Governing Board have agreed to continue serving in their respective roles until a congregational meeting can take place and they have extended a similar invitation to all of the other members of their respective boards.

The monthly Governing Board meetings are open to any members and friends of First Church. The May meeting will take place on Zoom on Thursday, May 28, at 6:30pm. The agenda will include adopting our new budget (for our new fiscal year running June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021). Contact Moderator Larry Becker to attend.



Great Themes of the Bible

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm on Zoom

Great Themes of the Bible is our topic for study and conversation this May!

Join us on Zoom on Wednesday evenings in May for this bible study led by our own First Church member Brenda Waddell who is also a Member in Discernment for ordained Christian ministry with the United Church of Christ.

Brenda will be graduating from Methodist Theological School in Ohio next month and looks forward to serving God and others through ministry. If you would like to join us for this thought provoking study, please RSVP to Kasey Kalchert, kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by 5pm each week. We look forward to seeing you online!

Bible Study for Men*

You are warmly invited to join Rev. Steven Savides online for an exploration of the scriptures every second Saturday morning this May. Participants are encouraged to have a bible with them (any translation) and to be prepared to journey through scripture with thought-provoking conversation.

Steven is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Notre Dame and an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. To attend, please RSVP to Kasey Kalchert by 5pm the Friday before at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org and she'll email you the Zoom link to join.

**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 and find fellowship.*



Coming Out Christian

Coming Out Christian will be meeting on May 17 and 31 on Zoom! In a safe space, members of the LGBTQ+ community can come together to explore Christianity and the possibility

of understanding faith in new ways as we reclaim and explore our faith journeys. Join us as we rethink God's love toward LGBTQ+ Christians! If you would like to join the discussion, please RSVP to Kasey Kalchert at kasey.kalchert@akronfcc.org by 5pm on the day of the meeting and she'll email the link so you can join the conversation.



Thank you for the Masks!

Our heartfelt thanks to Tana Alexander, JoAnne Dawson, Della Kurzer-Zlotnick, Ann Snyder, and Matthew Smaby for donating handmade cloth masks to First Church for use by our Feeding Hope food pantry volunteers. Their generosity is essential in keeping our volunteers and staff safe as we serve the community!



Feed My Sheep Garden

They say April showers bring May flowers... April 2020 brought thunderstorms, snow, and a tornado, not to mention the rise of a global pandemic, so I think it's fair to say we deserve some flowers! If you are looking for flower, herb, and vegetable seedlings, look no further than the second annual **Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser** put on by First Church and Let's Grow Akron. We are pleased to offer heirloom varieties of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, greens, herbs, and flowers all grown with organic practices right here in your church's basement. We are taking every precaution to ensure that you can get your plant starts safely so we are offering two options for purchase.

1. Online sales: Pre-order your plants online at <https://lets-grow-akron.square.site> between May 1 and May 14, then sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/y8jadvhu> for a half hour window to pick up your purchase at First Church on May 16 or 17 between 9am and 3pm. Remain in your vehicle and a volunteer will load your pre-paid purchase into your trunk.

2. In-person sales: Sign up for a half hour window to visit the plant sale at <https://tinyurl.com/y8jadvhu>. Remain in your vehicle and a volunteer will take your order, fill it, and load your purchase into your trunk.

We are also in need of **plant sale volunteers** from both First Church and Let's Grow Akron to host our plant sale. We are asking volunteers to sign up in advance, in shifts, to ensure healthy social distancing. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y8fwb9xl>.

Preparations for the 2020 growing season continue as the weather seems to be finally evening out. Our 150 new strawberry plants are showing new growth and seem to be happy in their pallet planters. Buds are also appearing on the blackberry cuttings taken with permission from an overgrown community garden in North Hill and transplanted to the Feed My Sheep Garden last fall. We can't wait to get our warm weather crops planted out after the chance of frost has passed.

I hope you are all finding ways to stay safe, be active, and connect with each other. A home or community garden is a great place to do all three! If you need help finding a community garden or advice for your home garden, please don't hesitate to send me an email at sam@letsgrowakron.org. We hope to see you (from a distance) at our Plant Sale!

Submitted by Sam Phillips, Garden Manager



First Congregational Church of Akron + Let's Grow Akron's
Second Annual



Plant Sale

May 16 + 17

Schedule pickups for online orders between
9am and 3pm

Fundraiser benefits First Church's Feed My Sheep Garden + Let's Grow Akron

Vegetable, herb, annual flower,
and native perennial seedlings

Pick up at 292 E. Market Street

Entrance and free parking on Union Street

Volunteer & Make a Difference

Our second annual Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser needs volunteers to help with taking drive-up orders and delivering plants safely to their designated buyers' vehicles. Proper safety precautions including gloves and face masks will be provided to volunteers, as well as hand sanitizer. If you're in a lower-risk category and would like to help, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y8fwb9xl> to sign up or contact Sam Phillips, Garden Manager at sam@letsgrowakron.org.

May Mission of the Month

South Street Ministries

South Street Ministries upholds its mission of “unlikely partners taking shared risks to renew our community for Christ’s sake” through youth programs, recovery services and the Front Porch Café. South Street holds four major youth programs: RICH Kids Enrichment, Bike Shop, Open

Gym for teenage boys, and #AdjustTheCrown for teenage girls. Other programs include Faithful Servants Urgent Care Center and South Street Recovery Services. On Tuesdays, the Front Porch Cafe hosts a weekly re-entry meeting to support re-entry citizens in their journey to restoration. South Street Ministries primarily serves residents of South Akron and Summit Lake, as well as re-entry participants. Funds raised from Mission of the Month will be used for summer youth programs including, RICH Kids and Bike Shop, to empower these programs to minister to youth more regularly. If you like to make a contribution, please make your check out the First Congregational Church of Akron with “South Street Ministries” in the memo line or donate online at www.akronfcc.org/donate

Mission of the Month Updates

The March Mission of the Month, Limitless Ambition, received a combined donation totaling \$1177. Thank you for your generosity to the Akron community!



Love Truck Community Dinner

The next meal service will be on Saturday, May 30 from 4-6:30pm. In collaboration with the Love Truck, we plan to continue to serve meals to the homeless as long as we are able to. Following recommendations from the Foodbank, the process for food distribution will be done in a vastly different way, handing out pre-packed foods so that clients do not congregate and social distancing is maintained. If you are willing and able to support this ministry during this time, please contact the lovetruck@yahoo.com. We especially encourage people in the lower risk categories to volunteer. Please spread the word! If you are unable to volunteer, but would like to contribute, cash donations are always welcome too. For more on the ministry, contact Nathan Walden at the.lovetruck@yahoo.com or Tiffany Thorne at 330.592.0282.



Making Your Donations Count!

Donating money or goods after you pass away through statements in your will is common, but some forms of donating wealth need to be established while you are still alive. Here are the eight ways you can donate money, and the steps you need to take:

1. **Specific Bequest.** This is a statement in your will that gives a specific item to a specific person or organization. For example, "I give my neighbor Mary Smith my antique lamp."
2. **General Bequest.** This is usually a very specific sum of money. For example, "I give Academic University \$10,000." If you pass and at the time of your death you do not have \$10,000 in your bank account, other assets will need to be sold until \$10,000 is created to complete the bequest. This could mean that your family, who would be inheriting the remainder of your estate, may end up with nothing.
3. **Contingent Bequest.** This means the bequest can only be carried out when a specified condition is met. For example, "I give my child, Jessica, \$20,000, to be given when she graduates from college." If the condition is not met the bequest is not carried out.
4. **Residuary Bequest.** This means that the person you name receives whatever is left after all the bequests, taxes and debts are fulfilled. What you think this person will inherit, and what they actually get may be dramatically different. For example, if you owned property currently valued at \$200,000, and your will states that you child receives \$50,000 and your spouse receives the residual amount. You may feel that your spouse will be receiving close to \$150,000 after all taxes and debts are paid. But if the housing market drops, and your property is now worth \$75,000, your spouse will only be eligible for what is remaining after the \$50,000 bequest is made. This is a situation where many suggest leaving bequests as a percentage of the estate. For example, "I leave my son 25% of my estate, and my spouse the remaining 75%". So, if the market does fall, the son would receive \$18,750 and your spouse would receive the remaining \$56,250.

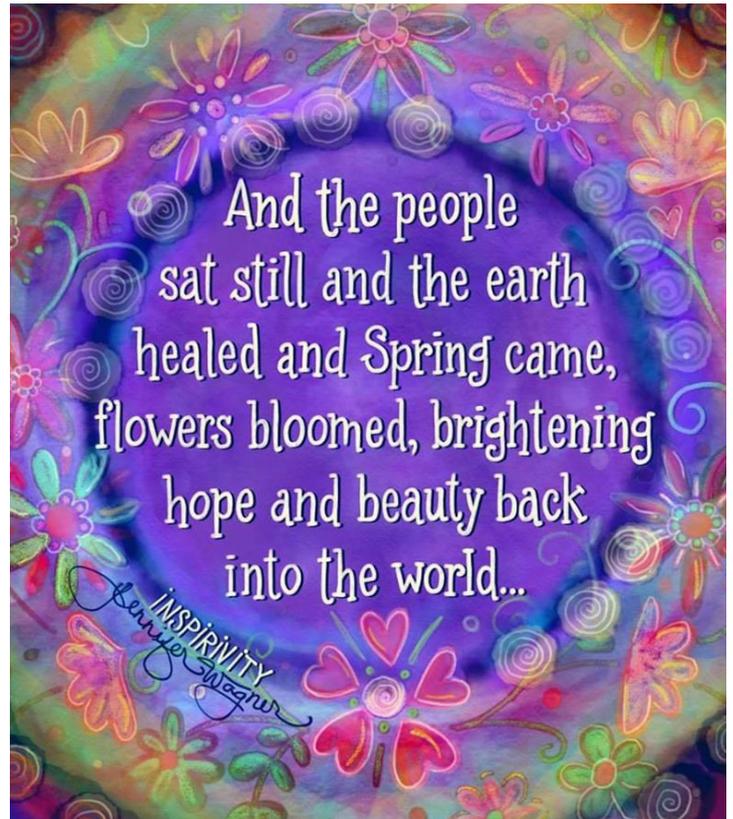
The first four bequest examples can be used for both individuals and charitable organizations. The following four requests are primarily used for charitable organizations, and some definitely require pre-planning.

5. **Unrestricted Bequest.** This is a donation to an organization, and can be used by the organization for whatever purposes the governing board selects. **This is the most valued donation**, as it can be used for pressing needs at the time of the gift, which may be different than needs at the time the gift was established.

6. **Restricted Bequest.** This is a gift in which you specify how the funds are to be used. For example, "I give Academic University \$10,000 to purchase computer equipment for the College of Engineering." If you wish to make this type of bequest, it is best to consult with the receiving organization to make sure your intent can be carried out as you desire.
7. **Honorary or Memorial Bequest.** This is a gift made "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone. This type of bequest can be unrestricted or restricted as well, and if restricted, the receiving organization should be consulted to make sure your intent can be carried out.
8. **Endowed Bequest.** This allows you to restrict the principal amount of your donation, requiring the charitable organization to hold your funds permanently and only use the annual investment income earned. This provides the organization a consistent cash flow that helps the charity to be more stable financially. This does require consulting the receiving organization so that the intent of the gift can be honored and carried out as you wish.

Interested in making a charitable donation to First Church? Want to learn more about the options available? Please contact Finance and Operations Manager Janis Worley at janis.worley@akronfcc.org.

Submitted by Janis Worley, Finance and Operations Manager





Earth Saving Ideas

Create your own compost!

Now that it's gardening season again, there is no time like the present to build your own compost pile. In a few easy steps, you can get it done without breaking the bank.

1. Get a bin. It is suggested to find a plastic bin that is at least 24 inches tall and has a lid. The lid is important to keep out any unwanted guests.
2. Drill holes in your bin with a power drill. You will need 8-10 holes on both the bottom and the lid covering for aeration purposes.
3. Create a base. For this you can use old, shredded newspapers or dried leaves. Make sure to fill the bin between an eighth or a quarter up with your material.
4. Fill your bin from there with dirt, until it's about half full.
5. Toss in food scraps or compostable materials. This can include banana peels, apple cores, old veggies, and even lint from the dryer. Avoid things that may carry disease (like animal feces!) Follow this [link](#) for more ideas.
6. Give the bin a stir with a shovel, just to make sure the clippings and peels are covered by the dirt.
7. Add water – just enough to add moisture. Too much water may cause your bin to stink!
8. Find a place for your bin. It's a good idea to keep it out of the sun, because then it will dry out.
9. Collect your compostables! It might be a good idea to have a separate receptacle in your kitchen (or other rooms!) for your compostable items to make it easy to toss them in the bin outside.

It could take two-three months for your compost to be ready, but when it is you will be able to use to fertilize your gardens and vegetable patches. It can also be used for lawn seeding. When you do start to use your compost, be sure to leave at least a third leftover to start the process over again!



The CARES Act

In case you missed it, as part of the CARES Act passed this spring, you may be eligible for new or increased charitable deductions on your 2020 taxes, even if you do not itemize. Under normal circumstances, cash contributions are limited to 60% of a taxpayer's adjusted gross income. However, the CARES Act has increased the limit to 100% for 2020. Any amount in excess of 100% can be carried over and deducted on subsequent years' returns until the excess is used up or until five years have passed, whichever happens first.

The CARES Act also created an above-the-line charitable contribution for taxpayers who don't itemize their deductions. This will allow for a charitable deduction for cash contributions to qualified charities of up to \$300 made in 2020.

Although not a special provision, if you are age 70.5 or older, you can make charitable contributions by transferring funds from your IRA account to a charity, which are referred to as qualified charitable distributions (QCDs). The only hitch here is that the funds must be transferred directly from the IRA to the charity, meaning your IRA trustee will have to make the distribution to the charity. No minimum amount needs to be transferred, but the maximum of all such transfers for the year is \$100,000 per year per taxpayer.

As always, please consult a tax professional or financial advisor for guidance specific to your circumstances.

Submitted by Janis Worley, Finance and Operations Manager



Stewardship/Finance Report (unaudited)				
Actual Thru March, 2020				
	March	YTD	YTD Budget	Percent to Budget YTD
INCOME				
Pledge Income	\$15,407	\$52,553	\$56,251	93.4%
Non-pledge Income	\$3,001	\$13,312	\$16,249	81.9%
Grant Income	\$3,000	\$8,738	\$0	
Food Pantry	\$2,591	\$10,212	\$7,575	134.8%
Other Special Ministries	\$627	\$1,844	\$1,095	168.4%
Endowment, Sprowls Trust, Pollock	\$53,747	\$146,438	\$147,136	99.5%
Rental and Food Service Income	\$1,308	\$4,138	\$8,870	46.6%
Other Income	<u>\$8,719</u>	<u>\$9,720</u>	<u>\$4,472</u>	217.3%
TOTAL	\$88,400	\$246,954	\$241,648	102.2%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$31,242	\$106,919	\$123,167	86.8%
Admin and Mktg	\$5,410	\$11,837	\$10,935	108.2%
Membership Board	\$203	\$883	\$690	128.0%
Governing Board	\$40	\$40	\$1,800	2.2%
Food Pantry	\$1,654	\$8,646	\$9,000	96.1%
Other Special Ministries	\$567	\$1,974	\$13,635	14.5%
Congregational Care	\$763	\$1,910	\$1,905	100.3%
Music	\$1,710	\$3,995	\$8,545	46.8%
Christian Education	\$398	\$2,249	\$1,578	142.5%
Fellowship Team	-\$45	\$101	\$60	167.7%
Development Team	\$0	\$0	\$300	0.0%
Food Service Expense	\$1,372	\$5,595	\$5,091	109.9%
Property Expense	<u>\$15,342</u>	<u>\$88,975</u>	<u>\$94,268</u>	94.4%
TOTAL	\$58,656	\$233,124	\$270,974	86.0%
Net Income/Loss	\$29,744	\$13,831	-\$29,327	-47.2%

In Our Prayers

We offer daily prayers of thanksgiving for all who are struggling in body, mind, or spirit each day. We pray especially for all those around the world who are affected by the coronavirus; those who are sick and those who care for them, those who work tirelessly to provide treatment and vaccine. We give thanks for our public officials and leaders, those who staff hospitals and work in grocery stores, for first responders and emergency service providers. Within our community we pray for Chris, Larry, Marilyn, Margaret, Jessica, Jim, Barbara, Carole, George, Madeline, Betty, Wanda, Art, and Doug.



In Sympathy

Our thoughts are with the family of Willa Douglas, who passed away on April 28, 2020. Willa was a member of First Church for 68 years.

We also extend our prayers to Janet K. Wright's family. Janet, a member for 60 years, passed away on Monday, April 20, 2020. Reverend Nanette Pitt officiated a private burial at Chestnut Hill Memorial Park with close family and friends on Monday, April 27, 2020.

Thank you First Church

Dear First Church,

On behalf on VANTAGE Aging, Inc., I would like to thank the congregation for support of the RSVP Program. Your financial support for our job clinic helps us to continue our mission to provide high quality programs to empower the economic, social, physical, and mental well-being of adults as they age.

We greatly appreciate your support of older adults' desires to age-in-place and of RSVP.

Sincerely, Dawn Moeglin, Senior Director of Community Engagement.

Cleaning, Cleaning, Cleaning

As many of you at home have been doing, the staff at First Church has been using this COVID-19 time to do a thorough, deep cleaning of the entire facility. Every room has had walls, windows and floors scrubbed, and items cleaned and sanitized. With less people in the building, we have taken the opportunity to repaint the hallway outside of the Food Pantry, and will be doing walls in the foyer area and stairwells next. Two stained glass windows on the fourth floor have been removed and are being repaired, and will be reinstalled later this spring. In addition, on the request of the B&G Board, we have had all the smoke and heat detectors in the building replaced to keep our facility safe. On the outside of the building we are continuing much of the work that began last fall, doing additional cleanup in all the planted areas, repairing and repainting the patio benches, and cutting back and removing all the brush along the sides of the large parking lot. We still have a long list of tasks ahead of us, but we are looking forward to showing you our results when we are able to be back together again!



Spring Word Scramble

- WBNIAOR _____
- BLLAMURE _____
- WFLORE _____
- PLITU _____
- NERGE _____
- MLOBO _____
- PLRIA _____
- LFBTUTREY _____
- NIAR _____
- DREGNA _____
- EBE _____
- YMA _____
- GNRIPS _____
- HSSNIEUN _____
- YBNUN _____
- CAMHR _____
- EDES _____



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.

Banana Bread

Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup butter
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 1/3 cups mashed overripe bananas

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 9x5 inch loaf pan. In a large bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, cream together butter and brown sugar. Stir in eggs and mashed bananas until well blended. Stir banana mixture into flour mixture; stir just to moisten. Pour batter into prepared loaf pan. Bake in preheated oven for 60 to 65 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into center of the loaf comes out clean. Let bread cool in pan for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack.





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Now Streaming Sunday Worship Services

JOIN WORSHIP FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE!

At 9:30am and 11am on Sundays join us remotely at www.akronfcc.org/live or www.facebook.com/FCCofAkron.

A Time of Prayer and Reflection

Wednesdays at noon, Pastor Nanette and Pastor Antigone will be live on www.akronfcc.org/live or www.facebook.com/FCCofAkron for a time to center and reflect.



Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser

Saturday & Sunday, May 16 & 17

The 2nd Annual Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser is being held on May 16 and 17, and due to safety precautions, this year, you have the option to order [online](#) and pick a [designated pick-up time](#) at First Church. Learn more on page 6.