



NOVEMBER 2021 • Number 8

Chronicle

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF AKRON

Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity



Beloved,

Humor is never in short supply in our church family and I have come to treasure the levity of many of my daily interactions with the members of our community who are older (and wiser) than I am. The idioms that pepper greeting rituals are my favorites, like these:

Me: Good to see you!

Member: Better to be seen than viewed!

Me: How are you?

Member: I'm on the top side of the grass, so good!

In this season of thanksgiving, our minds may automatically go to the clear blessings, the "wins," in our lives, yet on reflection, each and every day we will likely find that we are truly more thankful for what we call the "small mercies" in our lives. Have you ever considered the meaning of that? Being grateful for the small mercies means being grateful that things are as they are and, conversely, that they aren't worse.

It's an odd way to give thanks and, yet, it is God's small mercies that sustain us through daily life and through some of the hardest struggles we face. Being thankful for the small mercies is a recognition of God's saving grace constantly at play in our daily walk of faith.

This is perhaps the richest and most meaningful of all of God's blessings to us – the recognition that sometimes what is, now, is a blessing. For many of us, while things could certainly be better; the recognition that things could be worse too is a way of shifting the narrative from a defeatist one to one of triumph and possibility. It is then possible that even in the midst of trial, struggle, and even suffering, God is *for* us, God is *with* us, and God blesses us. This is a shift of note!

The wisdom of our elders comes, in this case, in a flippant and humor-laden manner but it is wisdom nonetheless.

These are the blessings of community and of living a shared life of faith. Thanks to my experiences with you in our church life, I will be counting the small mercies this Thanksgiving, as well as thanking God for the blessings in my life, in our church, and in our world.

May each and every day bring us a renewed sense of the Spirit at work in our lives and world. Amen!

Grace and peace,

Nanette

Inquirers' Gathering & Joining

Do you really know what it means to be a member? Do you already consider yourself a member? Join Pastor Nanette on November 7 & 14 from 10-10:50am for a set of Inquirers' Gatherings. During these meetings, you'll learn what being a member of First Congregational Church of Akron entails and how to join.

On Sunday, November 7, the basics of our Congregational faith tradition and wider church affiliations will be explained. Participants will have an opportunity to meet one another and watch a virtual nooks-and-crannies tour of the building. The following Sunday, November 14, you'll learn a little of First Church's history, how we function, and what we believe God is calling us to do.

These two events will occur in-person in our Fellowship Hall between worship services. You can also attend virtually via Zoom at this address: <https://bit.ly/InquirersGathering>.



Thanksgiving Sunday

NOVEMBER 21, 2021, 9AM AND 11AM

On November 21, we will give thanks for life and welcome new members into the community.

The Steelpan Band is slated to make its reappearance during the 11am Festival worship service as well, and is something you won't want to miss!

Meetinghouse Butterflies

The butterflies that have beautified the Meetinghouse since the beginning of our Season of Creation will soon be on their way. If you haven't seen them yet, make sure to do so soon as they will be leaving in time for the holiday decorations to go up!



A Thanksgiving Note

Dear Parents and Families,

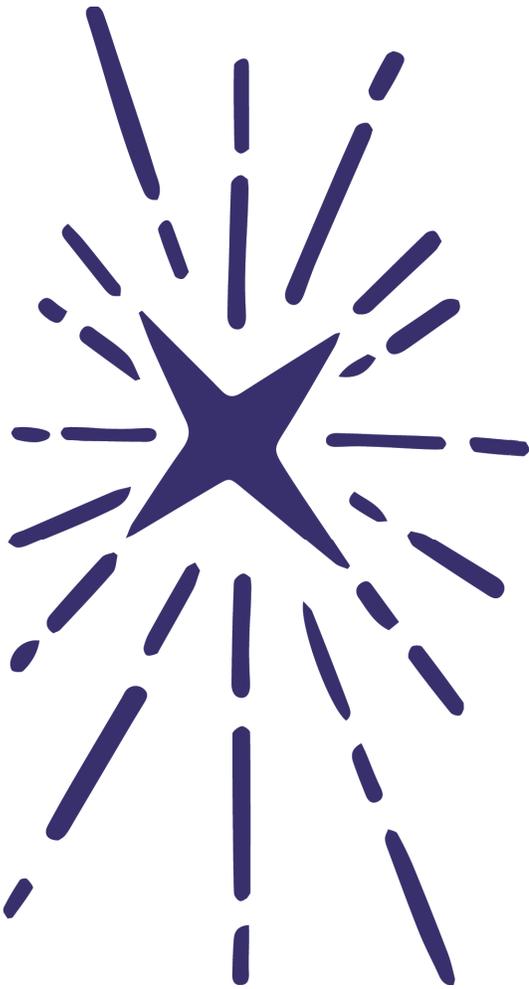
The first thing I want to say is: I don't know how you do it, but I can imagine that it isn't easy for you right now. Parenting is one of the hardest jobs out there; no one teaches you how to do it, but everyone has expectations and opinions of how you should be parenting your children. It was hard before the pandemic started with endless practices and events competing for time, and not participating meant your child would be left out and other parents might look down at you. Now, with the pandemic in full swing, school back in session, and the holidays rapidly approaching, it has to be even more straining and difficult. Not only are you expected to be returning to every commitment and practice you had before, but everyone is trying to make-up for lost time by rescheduling events that were missed during the shutdown. Your calendar is undoubtedly bursting at the seams and I can only imagine that the weight of the world is on your shoulders.

So, the question becomes: What do you do? How do you cope? To be honest, I don't have a one-size-fits-all answer for you; everyone's life is different. However, if there is one piece of advice I could share with you as we enter the holiday season, it's this: Learn to say "no", by saying "yes" to yourself and your family. This holiday season, consider what will be truly meaningful to your family. While it's nice to go to every holiday event you're invited to, is that really what you need? Do you need your calendar to be endlessly full, allowing for minimal rest and relaxation? Or, do you need to get away from the endless distraction and commodification of the world around us? Consider that even during creation, God took a day to rest and recharge. If rest is good for our Creator, it is also good for us.

So, this holiday season, and onward into the New Year, I invite you to say "no" to endless commitments, and say "yes" to resting. Say "no" to the constant pull to do more, and say "yes" to being happy where you are, with what you have. Say "yes" to time together doing little things like watching movies, sipping cocoa, and playing in the snow, all the while saying "no" to people who drain you of energy and joy. Say "yes" to spending time each week with your family, drawing closer together, while also drawing closer to God who believes that rest is holy and sacred.

In Peace,
Bobby





DRAW NEAR

AT FIRST CHURCH THIS ADVENT SEASON

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 19

This year, our Advent theme is *Draw Near*; an affirmation that God has drawn near to us by taking on flesh and experiencing what it is to be human. It is a plea for God to draw closer to us and to the spaces in the world that are broken.

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 28 and runs through Sunday, December 19. Join us this season online or in person as we all Draw Near to Wonder, Truth, Justice, and One Another!

Attend Sunday worship each Sunday at 9am or 11am in-person in the Meetinghouse or online on our [YouTube channel](#) to participate in the lighting of the advent candles, see the beautiful decorations, and prepare our hearts and minds to receive the Christmas Story in a brand new way.

Help Create This Year's Advent Banners

Join members Amber Keaton and Ann Snyder to create our 2021 paper lace advent banners that will inspire our worship as they decorate the Meetinghouse.

This project will take place through November until the beginning of Advent. Beginning on Sunday, November 7, from 4-6pm we will be projecting images onto a hanging canvas, tracing the image, and cutting it out to make two lacy banners to hang in the Meetinghouse. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Amber Keaton, ambercullenart@gmail.com. Additional meeting times will be discussed after a group has been formed on November 7.



Hanging of the Greens

In preparation for the season of Advent, Acting Associate Minister Bobby will be leading our annual Hanging of the Greens. Come out and start to build Christmas Spirit and fellowship with each other. Join us for a physically distanced dinner in Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm on Monday, November 22, followed by decorating in the Meetinghouse. Please RSVP to Alex Morris, alex.morris@akronfcc.org, 330.253.5109 x112.





Young Adult Hiking Group

SOLE SEARCHING – WONDERING WHILE WANDERING
2nd & 4th SAT OF MONTH, 10AM, SELECT METRO PARKS

It's time for the Summit Metro Parks' Fall Hiking Spree, and Sole Searching wants to help you reach your 8 hikes! Between now and the end of the year, hike with Bobby at 10am on the following days at the following parks:

- 11/13 - Goodyear Heights Metro Park, Pioneer Area, 550 Frazier Ave., Akron, OH 44305
- 11/27 - Wood Hollow Metro Park, 2121 Barlow Rd., Hudson, OH 44236
- 12/11 - Firestone Metro Park, 2620 Harrington Rd., Akron, OH 44319
- 12/25 - CHRISTMAS DAY, no hike planned, but if you are interested, please reach out to Bobby, bobby.burt@akronfcc.org, 330.780.8122.

Hope to see you out there! For info on the Fall Hiking Spree, please visit <https://www.summitmetroparks.org/hiking-spree.aspx>.

LGBTQIA+ Support and Care

COMING OUT CHRISTIAN



On Sunday evenings twice each month, from 6-7pm, members of the LGBTQIA+ community meet together in person or online 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 LGBTQIA+ Christians!

On the second Sunday of the month, Coming Out Christian meets virtually on Zoom. To attend this virtual meeting, please register at <https://bit.ly/ComingOutChristian>.

On the fourth Sunday of the month, the group meets in-person at First Church.

Please email facilitator Brenda Waddell, waddellb2017@gmail.com, with any questions.

Contem-PAINT Creative Space

NOVEMBER 7, 2021, 4PM

Contem-PAINT is a supportive and encouraging space for artists and crafters, not just painters! Bring your project (or just your creative energy) along on Sunday, November 7. This small group will meet in the Art Room from 4-6pm. This is a space and time for those of all (or no) skill levels and for all ages.

Create time and space in your life to relax and just express something random and beautiful or something intentional and artistic- all are welcome!

Meetings take place on the first Sunday of each month. For more information, contact facilitator Amber Keaton at ambercullenart@gmail.com.



Men's Lunch Bunch

MONDAYS, NOON

Every Monday at noon, older and retired men from the First Church community come together to enjoy a meal and watch a video in the theater. If you're interested in joining this small group gathering, please come to the church on any Monday at noon! At this time, participants bring their own lunch. Coffee, tea, and water are provided.

Cookbook Update

It is with great excitement that the group working on the cookbook announces *Return to the Garden of Eat'n*, which will be coming to you in May of 2022. While there is still much work to be done, we need your help! The thing that makes this cookbook great are all the diverse and delicious recipes submitted by the community, and that's exactly what we need; more recipes please! Don't have any recipes of your own? That's okay! Consider submitting one in memory of a loved one; maybe your grandmother or father, or maybe a recipe you got from a friend or coworker. And don't be afraid to share where your recipe comes from or why it's important to you.

You can submit your recipes at <https://www.typensave.com>. Log in with the following credentials:

Username: FCCAkron

Password: season120

Want to submit a recipe but don't have access to the internet? Bring a copy to the church office and we will be happy to get it added for you.



Wednesday Offerings Continue

Through Wednesday, November 17, Wednesday morning and evening Faith Enrichment offerings continue.

FINDING MEANING BOOK CLUB

Join Bobby Burt for a book club from 10:45am-noon in the Conference Room. All are welcome to join as the group reads and discusses *Finding Meaning: The Sixth Stage of Grief* by David Kessler. Please order a copy of the book from your favorite bookseller and bring it with you. The group meetings will begin later in the month to afford those who wish to participate, a chance to begin reading the text.

This series will be helpful to those who are actively grieving the loss of a loved one. It will also be meaningful for anyone who has dealt with grief or who is trying to make meaning of life and life's losses in the midst of the pandemic that is only one in many recent societal shifts.

In *Finding Meaning*, Kessler shares the insights, collective wisdom, and powerful tools that will help those experiencing loss. We hope you will join Bobby on Wednesday mornings for this discussion opportunity.

DE-AND-RE CONSTRUCTING FAITH

Beginning on Wednesday, October 6, and meeting each Wednesday evening from 6:45-8pm with Pastor Nanette, this series will explore classic Christian themes and empower participants to reconsider and reconstruct their hopes, dreams, and theology. This discussion based group will use bible study and the writings of theologians and thinkers as fuel for exploration and consideration.

The group will meet in person each week in either the Conference Room or Fellowship Hall, as necessary to allow for physical distancing. Participants may also join virtually by registering at <https://bit.ly/Faith-Enrichment>



Walter Kowalski enjoys some of the treats he received in his Fall Children's Outreach Bag.

Have any fun photos of you or your family enjoying your outreach bag that you want to share?

Share them on social media by tagging #FirstChurchAkron or send them to Alex Morris, alex.morris@akronfcc.org.



Sojourner Truth Presentation

Last year, community leaders in Summit County came together to establish the Summit Suffrage Centennial Committee to recognize the importance of the Suffrage Centennial in Summit County. From this committee, the Sojourner Truth Statue Project was born. This project is a renewed effort to establish a Sojourner Truth statue in Akron, the site of Truth's famous speech that challenged the exclusion of women of color from the women's rights movement.

Join Lisa King, Executive Director of the Summit Metro Parks, on November 11 at 7pm for a virtual presentation on this project. Lisa will discuss how much progress the project has made, how far it has to go, and what you can do to help. Register for this meeting at <https://bit.ly/Sojourner-Truth>.

Congregational Check-In Hour

1ST AND 3RD FRIDAYS OF EVERY MONTH

Feeling disconnected? Want a way to see familiar faces, without leaving home? Acting Associate Minister Bobby Burt will be hosting a time where you can all come together as the church to talk about what's happening in your life, check-in and catch up with people who may not have seen in a long time, and most importantly, enjoy time in virtual community. Join us on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month via Zoom at 2 pm.

If you would like to join any of these sessions, or if you have any questions, please contact Bobby, bobby.burt@akronfcc.org, 330.780.8122.

Christmas Eve Services

DECEMBER 24, 2021, 5PM, 8PM, AND 11PM

On Christmas Eve, join your First Church Community in celebration at one of three services and concerts planned for the evening. At 5pm, bring the kids and family for a Family Festival Worship service. Then, at 8pm, we'll host a Service of Lessons and Carols. Finally, at 11pm, a Christmas Music Concert of seasonal favorites to send you off into Christmas Day.

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias can be ordered through November 22 for the December 19 and Christmas Eve services. The bulletins on these days will list the names of those being honored. To place your order, return the form below to Congregational Life Coordinator, Alex Morris, by the November 22 deadline along with a payment of \$10 per plant. Checks should be made out to First Church with 'Christmas Poinsettias' on the memo line. Payment can also be made online at <https://www.akronfcc.org/donate>. Fill out the online form as a one-time donation, select 'Flowers Payment' from the dropdown menu, and write 'Christmas Poinsettias' in the comment section.

You can pick up your poinsettias after the Christmas Eve services, after worship on December 26, or on December 28 during office hours.

Holly Jolly Drive-Thru

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVENT – DECEMBER 17, 7-8:30PM

Save the date for a fun family Christmas experience at First Church! The Membership board is planning a special event that can be experienced from the comfort of your family vehicle. More information to come soon via worship announcements, the weekly News & Notes, and the Winter Chronicle, but mark your calendars now!

Volunteers will certainly be needed to help set up, tear down, and run the event. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, or if you have any questions, please contact Membership Board Chair Toby Liechty-Clifford, tmcliff1966@gmail.com.



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Christmas Poinsettias 2021

Christmas Poinsettias are available again this year! Please return your completed form with payment to the church office by November 22.

Cost per plant: \$10 _____

Total number of plants: _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

The bulletins on December 19 and 24 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, after worship on December 26, or on December 28 when the church reopens.

Ordered by: _____ **Phone:** _____

**Please make your checks payable to First Church with "Christmas Poinsettias" on the memo line.*



Faith Formation Youth Groups

OFF TO A GREAT START!

On October 17, we had our first meeting of new youth groups and everyone who came had a lot of fun! They played a giant game of Candyland, helped paint our free Little Library, and enjoyed some snacks, all in our beautiful garden space. October's group was a success and we are hoping to build on that success by having even more fun with you and your families at November's youth group gatherings. So, save the date for November 21, 2021.

Meeting Times are as follows:

4:30pm-5:15pm - SPROUT (2yr- 2nd grade)

4:30pm-5:15pm - Parents' Forum

5:30pm-6:15pm - GROW (5th-9th grade)

6:30pm-7:30pm - EVOLVE (10th-12th grade)



Youth Volunteer Opportunities

GET INVOLVED WITH SUNDAY WORSHIP!

One way for children to build a deeper sense of faith and belonging in the church is participating in worship services. Here at First Church, children and youth are welcomed and encouraged to take part in many aspects of the worship experience. Some ways to get involved include lighting the candles before service, reading (call to worship, Bible passages, other selected readings), or even greeting. If this is something you or your children would like to participate in, please contact Acting Associate Minister Bobby Burt, bobby.burt@akronfcc.org.

Summer Camps, 2022

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO THINK AHEAD

Summer seems to have just ended, but it's never too early to start planning ahead, especially when summer camp registration is just around the corner in January! Whether you are young in age or young in heart, there are lots of opportunities to join summer camp ministries. Some possible dates and camps available include:

Grandparents & Family Camp: June 12-15

This is an intergenerational camp experience where adults can bring their young family members (ages 4-2nd grade) to an introductory half-week of camp.

MMADD Camp and Just Camp: June 19-25

Music, Mime, Art, Drama, and Dance Camp, which is led by our own Bobby Burt and friends, is a great opportunity to go camping and make friends. The focus of this camp is building skills in all the core areas of the arts. (Grades 2-12)

Just Camp, which will also be led by Bobby and friends, is a new camp this year which will pair with MMADD Camp, exploring areas of camping like fire and shelter building, outdoor cooking, wild edibles, and much more. (Grades 2-12)

Sports Camp: June 26 - July 2

Sports Camp is exactly what it sounds like: Sports, sports, and more sports! You will build skills in games like soccer, football, and volleyball while also learning to play new games like Gaga Ball, Crossnet, and Spikeball. (Grades 2-12)

All grade levels are based on the participant's grade level as of April, 2022, and scholarships are available both through the camping programs themselves and First Church.

Volunteer opportunities also exist for anyone who may want to counsel, lifeguard, or provide healthcare.

If you or your children are interested in camp, or if you have questions and want to know more, please contact Acting Associate Minister Bobby Burt, bobby.burt@akronfcc.org, 330.780.8122.





End of Growing Season

The 2021 growing season is rapidly winding down. By planting crops in close succession and counting on increasingly warmer temperatures into the Fall, the Feed My Sheep Garden continues to harvest. Cold-hardy crops include beets, carrots, radishes, turnips, greens, spinach, peas, and more. Greens like kale and collards are said to taste sweeter after the first Fall frost. The garden will be put to bed for the Winter by the end of November.

This season's harvest is estimated at over 2,000 pounds, which is on par with the garden's high standard of a one pound yield per square foot. The fresh produce grown in this small space feeds families all over our city via the Feeding Hope Food Pantry and the Summit Lake Neighborhood Farmers' Market. Thanks to all who volunteered and supported the Feed My Sheep Garden in the 2021 season!

Submitted by Sam Phillips, Garden Manager



Food Pantry

CALL FOR DONATIONS

The Feeding Hope Food Pantry is in need of plastic screw top jars (ex: peanut butter jar) up to 18oz in size. Please clean the jars as well as possible before donating. Donated jars can be left in the food pantry donation bin located in the main hallway by the Chapel. If you have any questions about this particular donation request, or in general about the food pantry, please email food.pantry@akronfcc.org.



November Mission of the Month

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES INC.

Family and Community Services Inc. effectively responds to community needs by advocating for social awareness and social action in four primary areas: Engaging and Empowering Communities; Strengthening and Supporting Individuals and Families; Focusing on the Futures of Children, Dependents and Youth; and Providing Tools for Healthier Lives. Funds raised from Mission of the Month will be used to help provide support to low-income seniors and disabled individuals who are unable to afford the cost of a meal on their own through the Mobile Meals program, one of FCS's many programs. For more information on FCS, visit their website, <https://fcsserves.org/>. For more information on their Mobile Meals program, visit <https://www.mobilemealsinc.org/>.

In addition to the meals, this program also provides recipients with a socially distanced daily check-in, offering peace of mind for both seniors and their families. If you would like to make a contribution, please make your check out to First Congregational Church of Akron with "Family and Community Services, Inc." in the memo line, or give online at <https://www.akronfcc.org/donate>. Thank you!

Earth Saving Idea

HOLIDAY EDITION

As the holidays approach, we hope everyone has planned some fun (and safe!) activities and gatherings with family and friends. There are many things to be conscious of, so whatever your reason, here are some ideas for Earth-Friendly Holidays!

Biodegradable Supplies

If you are able to use reusable place settings (plates, silverware, napkins, etc), that's great! If you have a larger gathering, or truly enjoy the convenience of single-use items, consider buying biodegradable supplies. These don't have to be expensive, either. The cheapest paper plates are often the simplest in terms of what's used to make them, and are usually biodegradable. Napkins too! What you really need to watch out for is silverware. Spending a little more on biodegradable silverware is worth the convenience of not having to wash, right?

Second-Hand Decorations

Did you know that organizations like Goodwill use the money earned from their stores to fund their actual missions that benefit the community? This one's a twofer. Purchasing holiday decorations from your local Goodwill will benefit you, and your community!



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.

Chicken Cacciatore

Submitted by Lola Rothman

Ingredients:

- 4 whole chicken breasts
- 1 cup sherry wine
- ½ cup chopped onions
- 1 cup chopped green pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp curry powder
- 1 tsp powdered thyme
- 1 (28oz) can tomatoes
- 1 tbsp chopped parsley
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 cup dried currants

Directions:

• Poach chicken until cooked and remove bones in good-sized pieces. Marinate in sherry several hours, or overnight in refrigerator. Combine onions, green peppers, and garlic; sauté in small amount of oil. Add marinated chicken and other ingredients (except currants). Correct seasoning. Heat in 350° oven for 30 minutes. Stir in currants. Serve with rice, topped with sliced almonds. Yield: 8 to 10 servings.

• If thicker sauce is desired, mix 1 to 2 tbsp cornstarch or flour with water and stir into sauce.



Time Change

Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed on November 6!

Join Us Online:

<https://bit.ly/First-Church-YouTube>

All worship services are available on our YouTube channel. Look in the description for quick links to different parts of the service.



   **Get Social**

First Church is on social media! You can follow us on Twitter (@1stChurchAkron) or on Facebook and Instagram (FirstChurchAkron). Be sure to check out our posts about special events, announcements, and more!

Handbell Choir Opportunity

If you are interested in playing bells, our bell choir could use a sub from time to time. Can you read note values? Do you have 5:30-6:45pm free on Wednesdays? Contact director Christine Allison, cdanotes@gmail.com, 330.705.6436.

The bell choir rehearses every Wednesday evening at 5:30pm in the music room and performs about once per month during the 11am worship service.



November Birthdays

November 1
Sue Kruder

November 4
Hermine Meyer

November 5
Elizabeth Fesler

November 6
Gregory Zimmerman

November 7
Bill Brandy

November 10
Susan Dudas

November 11
Chuck Scholl

November 13
Bette Jenkins
Pam Bof

November 14
Mike Jones

November 18
Elizabeth Wilson

November 20
Judy Young
Dan McCarthy

November 24
Doris Logan
Emily Mosconi

November 25
Tana Alexander

November 30
Richard Wilson
Daniel Scholl



Stewardship/Finance Report (unaudited)				
Actual Thru September, 2021				
	September	September YTD	YTD Budget	Percent to Budget YTD
INCOME				
Pledge Income	\$9,210	\$33,096	\$56,667	58.4%
Non-pledge Income	\$7,543	\$32,694	\$30,987	105.5%
Grant Income	\$4,747	\$65,958	\$1,500	4397.2%
Food Pantry	\$2,452	\$10,877	\$9,667	112.5%
Other Special Ministries	\$75	\$1,105	\$1,100	100.5%
Endowment, Sprowls Trust, Pollock	\$48,045	\$202,474	\$201,681	100.4%
Rental and Food Service Income	\$2,893	\$5,402	\$8,667	62.3%
Other Income	\$0	\$18,234	\$6,817	267.5%
TOTAL	\$74,964	\$369,839	\$317,084	116.6%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$53,005	\$164,917	\$183,220	90.0%
Admin and Mktg	\$5,294	\$20,827	\$17,533	118.8%
Membership Board	\$345	\$4,485	\$5,153	87.0%
Governing Board	\$0	\$688	\$4,667	14.7%
Food Pantry	\$343	\$1,219	\$7,583	16.1%
Other Special Ministries	\$1,985	\$3,344	\$4,365	76.6%
Congregational Care	\$95	\$661	\$2,333	28.3%
Worship	\$3,057	\$10,531	\$8,803	119.6%
Fellowship Team	\$0	\$46	\$200	23.0%
Christian Education	\$247	\$528	\$2,837	18.6%
Development TeamW	\$0	\$132	\$67	197.6%
Food Service Expense	\$676	\$3,589	\$4,000	89.7%
Property Expense	\$31,445	\$137,800	\$166,400	82.8%
TOTAL	\$96,493	\$348,767	\$407,163	85.7%
Net Income/Loss	-\$21,529	\$21,073	-\$90,079	-23.4%

“Will” It or Won’t It?

When a person passes, and their estate is being divided up, as long as they had a will everything will go to the correct places, right? Unfortunately, not always. Don’t get me wrong, a will is incredibly important, and everyone, regardless of age, should have one in place. However, there are directives that can supersede what is specified in a will.

With your 401(k), IRA, or pension, your listed beneficiaries for those accounts will receive your money, regardless of what is specified in your will. This can be sticky – say you want your current spouse to receive everything and have said so in your will. If your ex-spouse is still the beneficiary of your 401(k), then they get the money, not your current spouse. Same with your life insurance beneficiaries in most cases. Any bank account or real estate holdings held jointly, or with a TOD (transfer on death) will go to the surviving spouse, even if you wanted them to go to your children. So, take a look at your finances and make sure all of your beneficiaries have been named and are current. A rule of thumb is to check once a year, but this certainly should be done at the time of any life event – marriage, divorce, birth of a child, or death of a beneficiary. If you have questions or want to discuss leaving a legacy gift to First Church, contact Finance & Operations Manager Janis Worley, janis.worley@akronfcc.org, 330.253.5109 x111.

Listen Up!

So, you want to stay up and watch the last inning of the game, but your partner wants you to turn the TV off so they can go to sleep. Tunity to the rescue! Tunity is an app developed to allow users to hear live audio from muted televisions. Through a patented technology, Tunity identifies a live video stream and its exact timing, syncing the audio with the user's mobile device. Turn the sound down on your TV, plug in those earphones, and you can hear everything loud and clear (this app only works with live feed television, you won't be able to sync up your favorite Netflix program). Tunity also works in bars, doctor's offices, or any public place with a muted television. Give it a try!

Learn more: <https://www.tunity.com>



Download for Apple



Download for Android

Mason CLC Winter Drive

FINAL CALL FOR COATS – NOVEMBER 7

This year, we're collecting new coats for families (other organizations are handling the other winter clothing items this year, like hats and gloves). To see what is still needed and to sign up to donate, please visit <https://bit.ly/CoatsforMason>. If you don't have internet, call the church office for assistance signing up, 330.253.5109.

If you shop online, you can have your donation delivered directly to the church:

First Congregational Church of Akron
292 E. Market St.
Akron, OH 44308

Otherwise, please drop them off at the church office during the week or on Sunday mornings. This year's coat drive is almost over, so please have all donations in by the Sunday, November 7, deadline. When donating the coats, please attach your name to them so that we know which items on the list has been received.

Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted and will be used to purchase remaining coats off the list after the drive has ended. Please designate monetary donations for "Mason CLC." If you have any questions, please contact Mason Ministry Team coordinator Laura Bishop, lbishop10@neo.rr.com.



In Gratitude

Dear First Church,

Stewart's Caring Place gratefully accepts your gift. With your assistance, we are able to provide a relaxed, caring environment in our community. This work would not be possible without your generous support and that of our community.

Sincerely,

Jeannine Marks, Chief Executive Officer

First Church Friends,

Thank you for pulling for the House and your generous gift! Pull tabs are sent to a local recycler who weighs them and sends us a check for their value, which we use to provide meals, items, and emergency assistance to families.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Ohio

Friends,

Thank you so much for covering me in prayer with the beautiful prayer blanket. It has been a blessing to me. Please continue to pray for me and I will pray for you.

God Bless You,

Joanne



In Our Prayers

Trusting in God's unfailing love for each and every person, we offer to God expressions of joy and concern in prayer. In our First Church community, we pray for Erin B. and family, Antigone P., Art W., Barbara S., Betty S., Bill F., Callahan H., Duane P., Elizabeth V., Joan L., Karen F., Margaret P., Margaret P., Michael L., Mildred A., Patti N., Paulette J., and Rick T.

If you have any questions about those listed, would like to add a name, or would like to share a celebration or condolence with the wider First Church community, please email Acting Associate Minister, Bobby Burt, bobby.burt@akronfcc.org.



Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity



Thanksgiving Season
 GIVING THANKS AND WELCOMING

November 7 and 14, 10am:
 Inquirers' Gatherings

November 21, 9am and
 11am:
 Thanksgiving and Joining
 Sunday

2021 Advent Season
 DRAWING NEAR

November 22, 5:30pm:
 Hanging of the Greens

December 17, 7-8:30pm:
 Holly Jolly Drive Thru
 Family Christmas Event



Christmas Eve
 CELEBRATE AT 5PM, 8PM, & 10PM

December 24, 5pm:
 Family Festival Worship

December 24, 8pm:
 Service of Lessons & Carols

December 24, 11pm:
 Christmas Music Concert