



Chronicle

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

Rooted in Christ • Fostering Justice • Celebrating Diversity



As the days continue to lengthen and the cool newness of spring gives way to the balmy pursuits of summer days, one can't help but be reminded of the fire that descended upon the disciples on the first day of Pentecost. Those anxious, scared disciples who had hidden away were in no way prepared for what was about to happen. With a burst of wind and blaze of fire, their lives were changed forever as they encountered the Holy Spirit for the first time.

Many of us yearn for an encounter with the Spirit similar to that of the disciples, a moment where we encounter the wild, untamable power of the Holy Spirit and are filled with electricity, where the signs and wonders are evident, where our ministries flourish, and where our faith is affirmed.

We long for and seek out these sensational moments, and when they don't happen, it can be incredibly heartbreaking and frustrating. This is especially true when you are trying to grow a new ministry or start a new one. It can even lead to the point where we begin to question if the Holy Spirit is present among us at all.

I can personally attest to this. My first few years directing MMADD camp saw a large decrease in campers, and it

felt like I was slowly watching something I love die. At times, those first years were terrifying, heartbreaking, and defeating. I had no idea where the Holy Spirit was but I could have sworn it wasn't with us. My co-director and I could have given up but we decided to invest in our campers. We raised the campers up, gave them voices in what their camp would look like, and let them help lead. There was never a moment of electricity or a burst of wind and the only fires present were built by campers. Yet, the Holy Spirit was there indeed, working slowly, subtly, and inwardly in the hearts of each of us, growing us together to form a vibrant, loving community.

As we here at First Church continue the process of reemerging and reengaging in our shared life together, I hope you will be on the lookout for the subtle ways the Holy Spirit is moving among us every day. This season of Pentecost, may we be ever aware that the Spirit is always working in our community, our ministries, and our lives to help grow us together and make us one.

In Peace ,

Bobby

TOGETHER

WE CAN

Together We Can!

After so many months (years!) of being distanced due to COVID, it is now time for us to come together to worship together, volunteer together, and make a difference, together. At First Church, being in community, working with one another in common cause, and supporting our ministries helps us to make a difference in the lives of those in our community. Be it the food we provide through the Feed My Sheep Garden, the Feeding Hope Food Pantry, and the Mason PB&J Ministry or the prayer blankets and prayer patches given to those who are ill or suffering, we are making a difference. Our worship services and faith enrichment programs are helping our community spiritually, and our music programs, such as the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir, help to bring joy into our lives. Our youth programs help provide our youngest members with a foundation for a life of faith, and our visits and calls to our eldest show that a life of faith is everlasting.

This is what First Church has meant to our community. To continue and grow our commitment we need your annual support. Making your commitment to First Church is important. It shows that you are working together with First Church, that you are joining with other believers to make First Church a compelling force in this town, this community, and even around the world.

So, return the annual support card that was sent to you and let us know how you plan to work together with First Church in the coming year. Additional annual support cards are available in the church office. You can also automate your support by setting up a recurring donation, timed at the interval of your choice, by visiting akronfcc.org/donate. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Finance and Operations Manager Janis Worley at janis.worley@akronfcc.org or 330.253.5109 x111.

Beacon's Best

FIRST CHURCH IN TOP FIVE

We owe a big Thank You to everyone who nominated First Church as Best Place to Worship in the Akron Beacon Journal's Community Choice Awards. Because of you, we made it into the Top Five in our category! The next round of voting begins in June. We will need all of you and more for this next round of voting which will take place from June 10 through June 24. Look for directions on how to vote in upcoming News & Notes and on social media!



Akron Pride

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

First Church is excited to be present once again at the Akron Pride Festival this August. We will participate in the march and then have a booth at the festival. Save the date now so you can march with us and visit or volunteer at our booth! Stay tuned for more information later this summer as we will again be looking for volunteers and donations of bottled water which can be delivered to the church office.





Worship & Events

Pentecost & Communion

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 9AM & 11AM

Join us on Communion Sunday in June for the celebration of Pentecost! Pentecost is the date on the church calendar, fifty days after Easter Sunday, that commemorates the formation of the church when the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit as they gathered together in Jerusalem. It is traditional to wear red on this day (but this year, we invite you to wear orange, see the article facing), representing the flame of the Holy Spirit, as we celebrate the Church's birthday! At our 11am Festival worship service, the Handbell Choir will round out their program year by sharing the clarion sound of brass bells!

Trinity Sunday Hymn Sing

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 11AM FESTIVAL SERVICE

Join us at the Festival service on Trinity Sunday for a hymn sing. Submit your favorites in advance by emailing either Nanette or Julie or call them out on the day!



JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth Celebration

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 9AM & 11AM

June 19th, "Juneteenth" or "Freedom Day," is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. It was on June 19, 1865 that Union soldiers, led by Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, landed in Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that all slaves were free. Join us for a special worship service this day that celebrates this new Federal holiday.

Red, White & Blue Celebration

SUNDAY, JULY 3, 9AM & 11AM

Save the date and plan to join us on the Independence Day weekend for a stirring worship experience at both our Celebrate and Festival services with special music.

School Shooting Silent Vigil

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, FOLLOWING BOTH SERVICES

Moved by the latest school shooting, Darren Jones-Baker will be leading an initiative to install 169 markers in First Church's lawn along Market Street each with the name and age of a school shooting victim in the United States since Columbine in 1999, ending with Robb Elementary. This will be a sign of respect for the lives lost and a visual representation of our cries for policy change.

You are invited to join Darren in the Conference Room on Sunday, June 5, following each of the morning worship services, to write a name on a marker. All materials will be provided. While all are welcome to participate, the activity may only be suited to children who have engaged in conversation related to the topic with their parents prior.

Wear Orange

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY, JUNE 3

We encourage you to wear orange this Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 2022, as we gather to celebrate the life and gift of the church and all of God's beloved children.

On January 21, 2013, Hadiya Pendleton marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade. One week later, Hadiya was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago. Soon after this tragedy, Hadiya's childhood friends decided to commemorate her life by wearing orange, the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others.

Wear Orange began on June 2, 2015—what would have been Hadiya's 18th birthday. Since then, Wear Orange has expanded to a period of three days each year: National Gun Violence Awareness Day (the first Friday in June) and Wear Orange Weekend (the accompanying weekend). This year, Wear Orange will take place from June 3-5, 2022.

Orange has become the defining color of the gun violence prevention movement. New York gun violence prevention advocate Erica Ford spearheaded orange as the color of peace through her work with her organization, Life Camp, Inc. Whether it's worn by students in Montana, activists in New York, or Hadiya's loved ones in Chicago, the color orange honors the more than 110 lives cut short and the hundreds more wounded by gun violence every day.

The movement to end gun violence gains momentum when people come together to fight for a future free from gun violence. In 2021, more than 1,000 partner organizations, influencers, corporate brands, elected officials, and landmarks joined hundreds of thousands of Americans to unite around a call to end gun violence. Consider wearing orange this year, posting on social media, and learning how you can advocate for change. Learn more about all the ways you can participate in Wear Orange on wearorange.org.



LGBTQIA+ Support and Care



On Sunday evenings twice each month, from 6-7pm, members of the LGBTQIA+ community gather in person to explore Christianity, the possibility of

understanding faith in new ways, and to reclaim and explore their faith journeys. Join and rethink God's love toward LGBTQIA+ Christians!

OFF-SITE GATHERING

The June 11 gathering will take place at 4pm at the Cascade Valley Picnic Area. Burgers and hotdogs will be provided. Please bring a dish to share if you are able. The June 25 meeting will be held as normal, 6pm at the church, featuring a guest from the congregation.

Please email facilitators Brenda Waddell and Tevin Tietje, cochristian@akronfcc.org, with any questions.

June Mission of the Month

NAZARETH HOUSING

With over 15 years in developing communities and housing, Nazareth Housing specializes in residential rehabilitation and energy-efficient home improvements for lower income families and neighborhoods. They develop the ability to understand and thrive in the ever-evolving housing market, bringing to each project professional relationships with local, reputable contractors to create affordable housing.

Like a good home is built on a solid foundation, and like a healthy family is forged from strong bonds, Nazareth Housing's work is fundamentally reliant on community support.

Join First Church in supporting Nazareth Housing during the month of June. Contribute to our collective donation at akronfcc.org/donate, or leave designated cash or checks at the church office.



NAZARETH
HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

First Church Handbell Choir

BELLES WITH BELLS

The bell tables roll into the Meetinghouse. Twelve people guide them into place for another performance by the First Church Handbell Choir. Playing four octaves of both handbells and choir chimes, their repertoire ranges from simple, Level 1 to moderately difficult, Level 3 music.

Directed by Christine Allison, the 12-member ensemble rehearses weekly throughout the fall, winter, and spring on Wednesday evenings. The current members are Sam Corbin, Ruth Ann Allison, Karen Elgin, Sarah Vradenburg, Ann Snyder, Susan Yoder, Elizabeth Wilson, Anita Rayburn, Tana Alexander, Stephanie Corbin, Jamie Brink and JoAnne Dawson. They are dedicated to bringing music to God both in worship and rehearsals, as well as building a caring community within the group. Each week, at the end of rehearsal, they gather for a time of sharing and prayer.

You might be interested to know that Director Christine also directs [Harmony Ringers](#) and [A Chorus for a Cause](#). The Chorus's programs raise money for various non-profits in the Stark County area. Both ensembles can be found on YouTube and Facebook.

HISTORY OF THE HANDBELLS

Did you know? Handbells were developed in England by church tower bell ringers who would ring the start of a worship service and make the town's people aware of trouble or something important. Ringing those huge bells got tiring, so, the ringers decided to develop small, handheld bells that they could practice with anywhere.

Over the years, the handbell tables have been transformed from plain folding tables covered in green felt to workable, efficient pieces of equipment covered with black corduroy custom-sewn by ensemble member JoAnne Dawson. Those covers include pockets where gloves, mallets, lights, and polishing cloths can be stored for easy access. Wheels have also been added to facilitate the transition between the rehearsal space and the Meetinghouse.

The ringers will perform again at the 11am Pentecost Sunday service on June 5 and then take a break for the summer.

Submitted by Christine Allison and Sarah Vradenburg



Semi-Annual Meeting Recap

The 2022 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting took place on Thursday, May 19, at 7:30 pm. There were 83 members in attendance; thank you to all who were able to make it!

Minutes from the meeting will be posted on the bulletin board outside of the church office. If you would like a copy, please contact the current Governing Board secretary, Jennifer Kowalski.

OUR NEW GOVERNING BOARD

Welcome to our new Governing Board Officers! Listed from top to bottom: Sue Yoder, Moderator, Kevin Kowalski, Vice-Moderator, Pat McKay, Treasurer, and Tori White, Secretary.



THANK YOU!

A very big thank you to all of our outgoing officers and board members. You made so much possible over the past year and we are extremely grateful for all of your hard work, experience, and dedication!

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE REPORT

Fiscal Year June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023
Approved Budget
First Congregational Church of Akron

	<u>2022-23</u>		
	<u>2022-23</u>	<u>Discretionary</u>	<u>2022-23</u>
	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Capital Improv</u>	
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>
Pledge Income	\$110,000		\$110,000
Non-pledge Income	\$140,000		\$140,000
Grant Income	\$74,371		\$74,371
Special Ministries	\$17,500		\$17,500
Endowment, Sprowls Trust, Pollock	\$645,539		\$645,539
Other Income	\$41,700		\$41,700
TOTAL	\$1,029,110	\$0	\$1,029,110
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Membership Board	\$5,680		\$5,680
Governing Board	\$12,075		\$12,075
Congregational & Community Care Ministries	\$87,410		\$87,410
Worship & Music	\$30,195		\$30,195
Christian Education	\$21,250		\$21,250
Development Team	\$300		\$300
Food Service Expense	\$13,200		\$13,200
Personnel	\$580,000		\$580,000
Admin and Mktg	\$55,200		\$55,200
Property Expense	\$223,800	\$335,000	\$558,800
TOTAL	\$1,029,110	\$335,000	\$1,364,110
Net Income/Loss	\$0	-\$335,000	-\$335,000



Summer Involvement

As we look at what Children's Ministries at First Church will look like, it is important that we don't lose focus on the community we have already built. With upcoming vacations and summer sports, this can be a daunting task. Here are some opportunities for keeping your kids plugged in and feeling the church love.

DINNER WITH BOBBY

Let's plan a day for Bobby to join your family for dinner, we'll buy! You can share your hopes and dreams for children's ministries. Even more importantly, your kids can talk about theirs.

SHARE SPORTS SCHEDULES

Bobby would love to support your kids in their sports and activities. Don't hesitate to share game schedules with him or even with other families in the church. Maybe the kids can even be on a team together!

Not interested in sports, but have some other hobby you enjoy and might want to share with others? Let us know, we'd love to attend and support you.

PLAYGROUND

Our playground is beautiful and offers many options for kids. If you are looking for something to do on a weekday, feel free to pack a picnic lunch and come play on the playground. Invite your children's friends and bring them along for some fun as well.

WEEKLY WORSHIP

Bring your kids and show them why the church is important to you. Let them help hold the hymnals, sing with you, and learn the songs. Show them how to find Bible passages and let them have their own bulletin so they can follow along in the service or even draw on it!



Welcome Our New Members



Todd Brown

Todd joined on April 24 during a Governing Board meeting and attends the 9am service. He recently retired from the medical field and lives in West Akron with his husband, Mickey.

Jess & Tim Kenepp

Jess and Tim attend the 9am service with their son, Liam. Jess is a public defender and loves spending time outside in parks, hiking and camping. Tim is a licensed social worker and works with the elderly and disabled population. Tim, in addition to camping and hiking, also enjoys horseback riding, playing board games, coaching his son's i-9 soccer team, and practicing karate.



Stephen Fazzino

Stephen attends the 11am service and is semi-retired, working at Peninsula Hardwoods. He enjoys gardening, crafts, and woodworking.

Ashlee James – ashleejames119@gmail.com

Ashlee attends the 11am service. She is an attorney and enjoys baking, hiking, puzzles, and singing.



Cheryl LeBarre (not pictured)

Cheryl works in the custodial, educational, and child care fields. She loves volunteering in her community and has led Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts, been a PTA member at various schools, was the treasurer and representative for her union, and was very active at her old church. Cheryl regularly attends the 9am service.

Emily & Justin May

Emily is a pharmacist and Justin is a police officer. They enjoy being outdoors while hiking, skiing, backpacking, gardening, fishing, and walking their dogs. They also enjoy traveling and photography. Justin and Emily attend at 9am.



D'Angelo McKee

D'Angelo attends the 9am service and has been active with our Coming Out Christian Ministry since he began attending. D'Angelo also enjoys cooking.

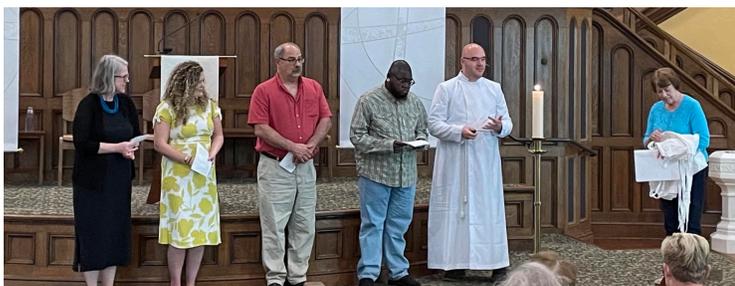
Carrie Petersen

Carrie is a legal editor and enjoys knitting, hiking, cooking, and reading. She attends the 9am service and is a part of our Care Team.



Cheri & Rick Weigand

Cheri and Rick enjoy both the 9am and 11am services. Cheri is the librarian for the Cloverleaf School District and is retiring this year. Rick works in sales. They enjoy staying active through golf, tennis, and traveling. Cheri enjoys reading and Rick enjoys boats.



Associate Minister Update

We bid farewell blessings to Associate Minister Rev. Antigone Pearson who will be seeking other professional opportunities this summer following her residency at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, TX.

As you may recall, a year ago, Rev. Antigone applied for and was accepted into the Army's School for Spiritual Care Clinical Pastoral Education Residency Program so that she might earn the skill identifier of Chaplain Clinician and advance her long-term goals in Army chaplaincy. At that time, the Human Resources Board accepted her request for a voluntary separation from her role and responsibilities as Associate Minister here at First Church. We sent her off with our love and support for the yearlong training opportunity in Texas.

In a recent communication, Rev. Antigone shared:

I am thankful for the experience and mentorship that I received during my time there. First Church will remain a significant part of my life and story... I am grateful to First Church for recognizing and supporting my additional call as a military chaplain – something that I do not take lightly. I hope the best for First Church and for the direction God may be calling it to go in.

We extend our thanks to Rev. Antigone for her ministry with us since January 2019 and wish she and Rachel every blessing in their next season of life and ministry.

We are pleased to share that Bobby Burt will continue on at First Church as our new Associate Minister for Young Adults and Families with Children.

Bobby joined us as Acting Associate Minister in May last year and quickly became part of the fabric of First Church. He will begin to transition into his new role towards the fall season, as we move ahead with the hire of a part-time Associate Minister of Visitation. Until this new hire, Bobby will continue to offer pastoral support to our elder and homebound members.

Bobby is a faithful pastor with a tremendous heart which he shares freely in service of the Gospel. Please join us in welcoming him to this new season of ministry with us.

Submitted by the 2021-2022 Human Resources Board: Julie Brandy, Cal Robertson, Kevin Speight, Martha Vye, Andy Weyand, Chairperson Tori White, Moderator Jim Gartner, and Senior Minister Rev. Nanette Pitt



First Church Reads This Summer

Join this summer's Faith Enrichment reading opportunities with discussion groups in September.

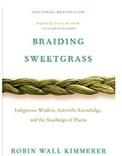
IF GOD IS LOVE, DON'T BE A JERK

Imagine for a moment what the world might look like if we as people of faith, morality, and conscience actually aspired to this mantra. What if we were fully burdened to create a world that was more loving and equitable than when we arrived? What if we invited one another to share in wide-open, fearless, spiritual communities truly marked by compassion and interdependence? John Pavlovitz explores how we can embody this kinder kind of spirituality. Book group discussion with soup dinner on Wednesday, September 7, 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall.



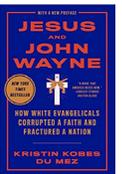
BRAIDING SWEETGRASS

Drawing on her life as a woman and indigenous scientist, Kimmerer shows how other living beings offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. In reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she urges that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. Book group discussion with soup dinner on Wednesday, September 14, 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall.



JESUS AND JOHN WAYNE

Jesus and John Wayne reveals how parts of the Christian church in America have worked to replace the Jesus of the Gospels with an idol of rugged masculinity and Christian nationalism – or in the words of one modern chaplain, with “a spiritual badass.” Book group discussion with soup dinner on Wednesday, September 21, 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall.



THE CODDLING OF THE AMERICAN MIND

“Rising intolerance for opposing viewpoints is a challenge not only on college campuses but also in our national political discourse. The future of our democracy requires us to understand what's happening and why – so that we can find solutions and take action. Reading *The Coddling of the American Mind* is a great place to start.” —Michael Bloomberg, 108th Mayor of New York City. Book group discussion with soup dinner on Wednesday, September 28, 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall.





Building Updates

EXTERIOR

The main First Church building, completed in 1910, is comprised of 17-inch Bedford limestone walls. Over time, some deterioration has occurred to the exterior as well as the natural accumulation of dirt and growth of mold, and mildew. The Building & Grounds (B&G) Board has authorized a project to tuckpoint the entire building and clocktower, as well as to give it a thorough, restorative cleaning. The tuckpointing and cleaning project will be occurring over the next month and will certainly help our building remain in good condition for the next hundred years!



INTERIOR

With the planned addition of a part-time Associate Minister, new office space was needed. The current main office's large reception area had the appropriate square footage for a new office, so the B&G Board authorized its construction in that area. The new office will have a greeting window which will allow visitors easy access to a staffer for questions when entering the building.



Garden Project Update

Spring has sprung and work is moving ahead outside at First Church. The design for the exterior ADA-accessible ramp from the new building doorway into the garden has been approved. The overall garden renovation design, created by Jacob Grimm of Brothers Grimm Landscape & Design, has been approved and a deposit has been made on the contract. Work is anticipated to begin mid-summer.

In anticipation of the garden renovation, the rubberized flooring under the large playset in the garden was extended to include the nearby swing set, replacing the former mulch base. In addition, the existing rubberized flooring, which was installed nearly 10 years ago, was repaired and sealed. Many thanks to the B&G Board and the garden committee: Julie and Bill Brandy, Todd Brown, Terri and Jake Cook, JoAnne Dawson, Jay Hershey, Judy Nicely, Eric Roberts, and Sarah Vradenburg.



Volunteers Needed

As summer approaches, we could use extra volunteers. If you find that you have some extra time this summer, consider volunteering with one (or more) of the opportunities below.

FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry has a number of volunteer opportunities. Monday mornings at about 8am, food from the Akron-Canton Foodbank is received and stocked in the pantry. Mondays at 6pm, bags of food are prepacked for distribution. Tuesday mornings from 8:30am to about 11:30am, the pantry is prepared and food is distributed to clients. Lastly, on Saturday mornings at 8am, another delivery is received from Walmart.

The Food Pantry is also looking for a volunteer to pick up the Sunday evening donations from the Montrose Panera once a month and deliver them to the church on Monday before 6pm.

Any interest in the above opportunities can be directed to the food pantry leadership at food.pantry@akronfcc.org.

APIARY

If you've ever wondered about beekeeping, now's your chance to learn more! We need a few volunteers to assist beekeeper Sarah Smithers with the bees over the Summer and into the Fall for harvesting the honey. If you'd like to get connected, contact Finance and Operations Manager Janis, janis.worley@akronfcc.org.

Garden & Plant Sale

Thanks to our amazing community, the 4th Annual Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser on May 21 & 22 was a great success! This annual event benefits First Church's Food Justice Ministry, the Feed My Sheep Garden, and the partnership with Let's Grow Akron while making local, organically grown seedlings accessible to home and community gardeners in the Akron area. With every seedling purchased, we are able to donate vegetable plants to gardeners in need. This year's festivities included a Makers' Market of arts & crafts vendors, fresh produce, free seeds, and fantastic energy. We are grateful to all involved!

The Feed My Sheep Garden crew and volunteers have been hard at work preparing garden beds and planting this summer's crops. Tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, squash, and okra are among the heat-loving vegetables that we grow. We are now harvesting spring-planted crops including radishes, greens, peas, and herbs for the Feeding Hope Food Pantry. The Summit Lake Neighborhood Farmers' Market begins on Tuesday, June 7, from 4-7pm at 380 W Crosier St. Here you can find our fresh produce and many more locally grown and made products.

We grow in community! Special thanks to our volunteers who are essential to the health and vibrancy of the garden. We need your help! Please feel free to drop in during our garden hours (Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 8 am - 12 pm) or reach out to schedule a volunteer shift at your convenience. All skills and abilities welcome, no experience needed. Older children and teens are welcome with an adult. Thank you!

Submitted by Sam Phillips, Feed My Sheep Garden manager

Every Tuesday
June 7 through September 27
4:00 to 7:00 P.M.



Summit Lake
Neighborhood
Farmers' Market

FRESH and AFFORDABLE, locally grown produce and products!
FREE Canoe Rides provided by Akron Civic Commons!
Summit Lake Community Center 380 W. Crosier St. Akron, OH

Ohio Direction Cards accepted and matched up to \$25 with Produce Perks
Show your WIC card and receive \$10 in Carrot Cash!
WIC, TANF and Senior Farmer's Market Vouchers also accepted.



For more information or to receive updates text or call Let's Grow Akron (330) 745-9700



Member Jennifer Kowalski joined the vendors during May's Makers' Market.





Financial Report

ACTUAL THRU APRIL, 2022

June Birthdays

- June 2
Martha Vye
- June 4
Zion Yi-Howard
- June 5
Mary Beck
- June 6
Courtney Zimmerman
- June 12
Becky Tung
- June 13
Joan Lastocy
- June 14
Sarah Vradenburg
- June 16
Dave Dudas
- June 17
Jonathan Lemmon
- June 19
Karen Bruno
- June 20
Carol Chapman
Jamie Keaton
Jeanine Rodefer
- June 21
Eric Johnson
- June 23
Sally Reed
- June 26
Al Nicely
- June 27
Jean Trawick
- June 28
Carolyn Durway
Matt McCarthy
Sandy Westmoreland
- June 29
Bill Fesler

	April	April YTD	YTD Budget	Percent to Budget YTD
INCOME				
Pledge Income	\$9,908	\$92,593	\$155,833	59.4%
Non-pledge Income	\$10,845	\$112,845	\$85,214	132.4%
Grant Income	\$4,220	\$222,458	\$4,125	5392.9%
Food Pantry	\$2,742	\$26,618	\$26,583	100.1%
Other Special Ministries	\$480	\$3,796	\$3,025	125.5%
Endowment, Sparrows Trust, Pollock	\$48,045	\$528,733	\$554,622	95.3%
Rental and Food Service Income	\$3,460	\$19,902	\$23,833	83.5%
Other Income	\$110	-\$1,549	\$18,746	-8.3%
TOTAL	\$79,809	\$1,005,397	\$871,982	115.3%
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$51,828	\$433,068	\$503,856	86.0%
Admin and Mktg	\$7,956	\$50,217	\$48,217	104.1%
Membership Board	\$0	\$5,853	\$6,072	96.4%
Governing Board	\$0	\$4,412	\$6,708	65.8%
Food Pantry	\$730	\$6,429	\$20,854	30.8%
Other Special Ministries	\$22,960	\$30,343	\$31,985	94.9%
Congregational Care	\$253	\$4,218	\$6,417	65.7%
Worship	\$4,426	\$32,559	\$26,604	122.4%
Fellowship Team	\$18	\$178	\$550	32.3%
Christian Education	\$77	\$1,251	\$7,053	17.7%
Development Team	\$0	\$231	\$183	125.8%
Food Service Expense	\$2,238	\$11,825	\$11,000	107.5%
Property Expense	\$24,291	\$478,376	\$448,725	106.6%
TOTAL	\$114,776	\$1,058,960	\$1,118,224	94.7%
Net Income/Loss	-\$34,967	-\$53,564	-\$246,242	21.8%

Grace House Akron Donations

A HOME FOR INDIGENT INDIVIDUALS AT THE END OF LIFE

One of Summit County's newest nonprofits, Grace House Akron (GHA), is opening its doors in July of this year. They are in need of supplies to fill the home as well as other types of support.

To donate items, visit <https://smile.amazon.com/>, click 'Get Started', and search for 'Grace House Akron'. Anything you purchase off of this Amazon List will ship straight to GHA. You can also sign up for a Meal Train to deliver food to residents throughout the year at <https://mealtrain.com/go801l>. They would also welcome gift cards from grocery stores, especially Giant Eagle, Aldi, and Meijer, and others from popular office supply stores (Staples, Office Depot, etc), retailers (Walmart, Costco, etc.), drug stores (Walgreens, CVS, etc.), and restaurants.

Any and all questions regarding Grace House Akron can be directed to GHA House Manager Demi Bengston, demi.bengston@gracehouseakron.org.



built on love

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.

Ukrainian Honey Bread

Submitted by Nancy Nierman-Baker

Ingredients:

- 4 eggs
- 1 c sugar
- 1 c honey
- 3/4 c cooking oil
- 1 c cold coffee or tea
- 4 c flour
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp cloves
- Few gains of nutmeg
- 1 c nuts, raisins, dates, etc
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 3 tsp baking powder

Directions:

Beat eggs and sugar until light and fluffy. Add in honey, oil, coffee/tea, cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg. Fold in flour, baking soda, and baking powder. Add nuts, raisins, and dates. Bake at 280° for 1 hour. Makes 2 loaves.



Event and Meeting Space

Need a venue for a meeting, birthday party, baby shower or other any other event? Would you like to offer food to your guests? Then remember to consider the facilities at First Church! We have a variety of meeting spaces available for groups of all sizes.

Meetings held in the Meetinghouse (our sanctuary) can be recorded and/or livestreamed. Our other meeting spaces have presentation equipment to suit all needs including projectors, televisions, flip charts, conferencing cameras, and the capability to host hybrid meetings. Rooms can be configured with different sizes of tables and chairs to the style best suited for your use.

First Church is an ADA-accessible facility with lots of free parking. Food service options are available including beverage-only service, boxed meals to-go, and hot or cold meal choices.

As always, there is no room charge for First Church members, boards, or committees. Non-profit organizations will receive 50% off of room fees. For pricing and more information, visit www.akronfcc.org/about/facility. Contact Congregational Life Coordinator Alex Morris alex.morris@akronfcc.org to schedule your next event!

In Gratitude

Dear First Church,

Thank you for your donation to the Falls Cancer Club. All donations are used to assist patients with their medical bills, prescriptions, and medical supplies. Your support is much appreciated. Please extend a special Thank You to your church members.

Sincerely, Susan Tarr

Corresponding Secretary, Falls Cancer Club

Hello Everyone! Thank you!

All of you spent hours and hours planning and setting up the [tea party] and it showed. No one uses the word elegant in current times, however, it is the best word to describe the tea. The teacups were so lovely and I drank three cups of tea so that we could take turns "pouring". I never use lemon or sugar but did so today so I could have the thinly sliced lemons and use the tiny spoon with the sugar cubes. Delicious.

The delicate sandwiches and the yummy desserts were great. The serving dishes, the beautifully folded napkins, the centerpieces, the lacy silver placements; the tea team thought of everything and it was enjoyed and appreciated by everyone.

With love and appreciation to everyone,

Judy Young

First Church,

Your support helps restore peace to families. Your gift brings moments of togetherness and normalcy to families facing a challenging and unpredictable time. The tranquil setting, restful night's sleep, and nourishing meals give our families the rejuvenation that need to be strong for their children and each other.

With gratitude, Craig Wilson, CEO

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Ohio

First Church,

The tea party was wonderful! The food was great, the conversations at the table were fun, and I met two women that I had not known. Thank you for planning such an elegant party.

Elizabeth Fesler

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 Nina R., Jake C., Ray Y., Sue T., Lisa K., Pam R., Shelby S., Maya P., Ron B., Andrew C., Art and Lee W., Barbara S., Betty S., Bill F., Callahan H., Karen F., and Mildred A.

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 First Church community, please email Acting Associate Minister, Bobby Burt, at bobby.burt@akronfcc.org.



Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity



Our first annual Spring Tea party was a great success! Guests enjoyed good food, a variety of teas, sweet treats, and some fun party games. This event was so popular we anticipate holding another one this fall. We hope to see you there!