



"Making God the Foundation of every Day Living"

The Herald

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge
UCC
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

March Herald 2015 "Sidebar"

WORSHIP SERVICE

8:30 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Worship

www.fcctallmadge.org

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When you receive this copy of the Herald there will be two weeks of Lent remaining, the second week being Passion Week which begins on Palm Sunday. Recently I was listening to a lecture by Joseph Campbell titled "The Power of Myth" in which he stated that *Christianity has lost the mystical presence of Christ and substituted ethics for the mysterious*. (My words). He uses this observation as one cause for the empty Christian Churches in Europe and a missing piece in American Christian Churches.



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Religion has been reduced to a set of well-intentioned rules, dogmas and doctrines with the intent of passing on the faith through a set of fairly regulated strictures. Meant to teach Christian religion the rules became a burden to bear and protect the institution of The Church. Dr. Campbell believes that woven in to our humanity is this "hunger" for that which is spiritual and mystical and when we fail to recognize the mystical in our communities it will manifest in other, perhaps subversive ways, acting out but not knowing the *why*. (Ask a well tattooed person *why* they have tattoos and they may reply "I am expressing my life through art. My body tells my story.")

The arts, poetry, and song have long been methods of describing the mysterious. Religious art "speaks" for what we cannot see but we can experience and our religion is intended to connect us in this world to the "spiritual world." Or, *our religion ought to connect us in this temporal world to the eternal world*.

Attending a recent Lenten bible study focused on the Serenity Prayer, ***God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things that I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.*** I stated, "I sense that within our church we are experiencing a re-awakening of The Spirit, a renewal of that which is spiritual." I see this through our services of Sunday worship and the numerous ministries we practice daily, monthly and yearly. From Miller Ave. UCC to Faithful Servants, Retreats, Family Promise, Women's Fellowship and Women's New Initiative and the Spiritual & Pastoral Care ministries.

Easter is coming! We know that and I encourage you to allow this season of Lent and Easter to be for you a spiritual journey. Everything in and about your faith does not have to be explained; so experience Easter as a mystical time that continues to nourish your spirit and comfort your soul.

Love,

Dr. John

Hello friends!

We begin next month, journeying through Holy Week, from the joy and celebration of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, to the reflective, introspective, and sullen service where we recall the last supper and remember Christ's death. In the lowest of the low, that Saturday, when all hope is gone, we realize just how important Christ is in our lives, how empty we are with him, and then, on Sunday morning, we rise, with new hope, overwhelming joy, in knowing that Christ has risen! Christ overcame the grave and lives! Lives in our lives this day! This week is holy. This time in our liturgical year brings us through many emotions, and we are reminded that there is always hope in Christ. Death does not have the last say. Our darkest days do not have the last say. We have hope in a new day, a new life. This hope found in the Resurrection provides strength for all, not just on Easter, but every day of the year. God will overcome. Good will win. Truth will stand in the end. We are a Resurrection people. We are a people of hope, even when we cannot see beyond the darkness.



Hope allows us a second chance. Hope provides a future. When we fail at something, hope allows us to get back up and try once more. Hope allows us to wake up a new day with joy. Hope keeps us going through the wildernesses in our lives. In the 1994 blockbuster, "Shawshank Redemption," the main character, Andy Dufresne, provides a truth that all should mark on their hearts when he says, "Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things. And no good thing ever dies." As Christians, our hope is found in Christ.

Jesus Christ was able to see beyond our faults, beyond our sins, and see our truest selves. We also should desire to see past each person's faults, and see them for not who they are, but who they could become. As Christ hung on the cross, he forgave those who persecuted him. He forgave the soldiers who put nails in his hands. He saw beyond their actions and saw their hearts. Christ loved us when we were unlovable. If we as Christians hope to continue this message of Easter year round, we too must love others and hope for healing of their souls, emotions, and even actions. When we tell a person that because of their actions, there is no longer a chance for God to love them, we limit God. God's love covers all sins. When we forgive others, help them to turn away from wrongdoings, we provide them a hope of a new life.

A French priest once said, "To love anyone is to hope in him always. From the moment at which we begin to judge anyone, to limit our confidence in him, from the minute at which we identify him, and so reduce him to that, we cease to love him, and he ceases to be able to become better. We must dare to love in a world that does not know how to love." Christ dared to love us in hopes that we would become better children of God.

And we must extend that love and hope to others.



May the God of HOPE fill you with all JOY and PEACE as you TRUST in him, so that you may overflow with HOPE by the power of the HOLY SPIRIT. (Romans 15:13)

Pastor Sarah

INVITATION TO PASTOR SARAH'S INSTALLATION

"Lord, here I am, send me..." (Isaiah 6:8)

On Sunday, April 19, 2015 you are invited to join us as we celebrate the Installation of our Associate Pastor, Rev. Sarah Diane Courtney. This celebration will take place at 1:00 PM in the Sanctuary, through worship and with God's Word. Your presence will make this service a memorable experience for Rev. Courtney, so please join us in the joy of this day.

A reception will be held immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall.



BOOKMARKS

Happy Easter and prayers for an early spring.



As I write this we are getting ready for our Book Give-Away. I hope all of you took time to look at these books and found some that interested you. We had a good variety and some good books.

I just recently read a book given to our library. A novel, entitled *"The Perfect Day"* by Richard Paul Evans (He also wrote *"The Christmas Box"*). This story is one about a happy, ordinary family man that becomes famous after the publication of his first book. Like many people that attain fame and fortune they lose sight of the good life they had. They become so wrapped up in the attention and fame, that they become obsessed with the notoriety. Often their family and loved ones are put in second place or totally forgotten. The book gives you a good look why singers, actors, and authors have such "rocky" lives involving divorce, drugs, alcohol....Money doesn't buy happiness nor does fame and fortune buy happiness. An easy read book.

Please note: In the library on the shelf below the veterans section, there are many CDs and DVDs that may interest you. They are about WJH, some talks by Dr John on Warriors and the two trips to Vietnam. Some very interesting listening. You can play it in your car while on the road. This is better than using cell phones or texting.

Blessings,

Jo Hostutler



To our many friends at First Congregational Church we say Thank you. Our family greatly appreciates all the Memorials sent, the beautiful cards and well wishes, the delicious food and the support at the time of Bob's death. Darlene, Debra, & Dean, their spouses along with our five grandchildren and myself are very grateful. Dr. John Schluep, Rev. Sarah Courtney and the office staff were truly there for us during this trying time. ***You have been a blessing to all of us. Dorothy Taylor***

I would like to thank the Yarning for Peace group for my prayer shawl .I will always know that I am not in this illness alone when I use the shawl for comfort. ***Thank you, Chuck Stayshich***

Special Thank you to Dr. John for his home visit and for the beautiful prayer shawl form Yarning for Peace. Delivered on a perfect day- the coldest one in February. So appreciate all the cards and prayers. ***Feeling God's Love, Jack Gron***

Dear One's,

Thank you so much for your kind thoughts and prayers for Paul, the four weeks he was in the Hospital. Also the prayers for me and my family after his passing. It meant so much to all of us. Thanks to Pastor Sarah for her many hospital visits. Her kind words were beautiful. Thanks also for the beautiful planter.

Thanks so much! In Christian Love, The Gulledge Family- Betty, Candy/John and Rick/Mary

Dear Pastors & Friends, Thank you all for your cards, calls and prayers during our hospital stay and beyond. We are home and glad to be mending. His ways are wonderful. ***Love, Zim & Pat***

Thank you for your contribution to the "Memorial Endowment Fund" for Dalit women students at The united Technological College, Bangalore, South India. The income from this fund will assist students for many years. Thank you all for helping with this effort. We are within sight of our goal of \$15,000. ***Rev. Paul B. Kiewit***

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS



College Scholarships for high school students, college students, and adults pursuing continued education, are now available on the Welcome Center in the Atrium. Please make sure to pick yours up today. ***The deadline to return them to the office is April 26th.***



Emmaus / *Spirited People Leading Spirited Lives™*

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP MEETING

Parents and students are asked to come to our second meeting to go over Mission trip specifics on April 30th at 7:00PM.

A second payment of \$125 is due April 1st.

Any questions, please see Pastor Sarah.



Thank you to all the students, parents and members who supported our 6th Annual Soup Challenge by either making a soup or voting on them! We raised \$465 from the soup challenge and an additional \$175 for the service auction! It was a huge success!

High School Fellowship Schedule

Faith, Fun, Food, Fellowship
April 12, 11:30AM-1:30PM

Pastor Sarah's Installation
April 19, 1:00PM

Bowling
(for those NOT on the Boston Trip)
April 26, 11:30AM-2:00PM



CONFIRMATION II: BOSTON TOUR MEETING

We will have our second Boston Tour Meeting on **Tuesday, April 14 at 6:00PM.** At this meeting we will go over any additional information we need to hand out, give you an opportunity to ask more questions, and go over our final plans. Look forward to seeing you there!

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Morning Schedule Change

- March 22- Choir during 10-11 hour (no children's worship). They are practicing for Choir Appreciation Sunday (April 19)
- March 29- Children's Parade of Palms at the VERY beginning of 10:00 worship
Choir during 10-11 hour (no children's worship)
- April 5- Easter- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
NO CHOIR, please have children attend the very beginning of worship with you, then leave for CHILDREN's WORSHIP in the Fellowship Hall.

Middle School Fellowship

- Mar. 19 Fellowship; 6-7:15
- Mar. 26 **NO FELLOWSHIP**, Spring Break
- Apr. 2 Fellowship, 6-7:15 (Maundy Thursday service at 7:30 PM)
- Apr. 9 Fellowship, 6-7:15
- Apr. 12 "Family Wed" Game Night at 4:30 PM *
- Apr. 16 Fellowship, 6-7:15, Last Fellowship

Middle School Fellowship Family Night *

On **April 12**, we are planning a family picnic and celebrate our 8th graders going on to High School Fellowship. The place has to be determined, but we will plan to meet at 4:30 PM and have a few games and then eat dinner together. This is for the entire family and we hope to have many join in the festivities. **Reservations are a must! Please sign up on the bulletin board.**



Faith and Family

Each month, families with young children are invited to come together at a social event. We only have a few more left this school year; the next one ,on **April 12**, is family bowling at Stow- Kent Lanes at 1:00 PM. Please plan on paying for your own family at the bowling alley.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit." John 15:5

First Congregational Church is on Facebook

If you are unaware, FCC is on Facebook, First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, Ohio, UCC. Please share our events and postings. It is a great tool to make people aware of our ministries and events at FCC. If there is something you would like to advertise to the public, contact Wendy Brown and she can do that for you.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome Sunday Receptionists!

On Sunday mornings, the busiest day of the week for our church, we now have a receptionist. Well, two actually, Alissa Anderson and Alexandria (Alex) Joyner will alternate monthly responsibilities. They are at the receptionist's desk at office window to answer the phone and address questions that a member or guest might have about the services of worship, Sunday School, Children's Nursery, or weekly activity schedule. The Sunday morning phone calls range from pastoral care requests, times of services or the schedule of Youth Fellowship events or Warriors' Journey Home meetings. We are a congregation of radical hospitality, so imagine you and your family are walking in to our atrium for the very first time – what questions would you have? Where are the classrooms for Sunday School? Are we welcome to the coffee and doughnuts? In our effort to continue to improve our gracious welcome we now have Alissa and Alex! Alissa and Alex are college students and they are active members of our church. They received training from our receptionist/secretary Beth Loresch and an orientation to our office protocol. So, on Sunday morning stop by the office window and say “Good morning and thank you” to our receptionists. -Dr. J.

Adult Boston Tour

We are planning a walking Boston Tour for adults on **October 23-26, 2015**. This will be set up just like the Confirmation trip to learn and explore our church's heritage in the Boston area. We will be doing a lot of walking to see the sights listed below in only 2 days.

Walker Center (sleeping quarters)

Boston Commons

Freedom Trail

Statehouses

Cemeteries

Congregational Library

Old South Meeting House

Old North Church

Holocaust Memorial

Quincy Market

Harvard (founded by Congregationalists)

Old South Church worship

Faneuil Hall



The cost of the trip will be around \$450. There is a sign up in the Atrium if you are interested and feel free to take an itinerary from there as well. **A deposit of \$100 is due by April 15** along with a registration form (also on the welcome center).

YEE HAW

Buckaroo!

**ENJOY A NIGHT AT THE
STARLIGHT RANCH**

**Saturday,
MAY 2, 2015**

**DINNER
ENTERTAINMENT**

\$30 per person

To benefit our adult and youth mission trips. Board of Social Action and Missions

SAVE THE DATE



Saturday, April 25th

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

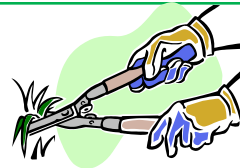


CHURCH WORK DAY

SATURDAY, March 28th, 8 AM-12 NOON

Spring is here. LOL No, seriously, Easter and Spring are just around the corner. The Trustees have scheduled an outside workday for March 28th. We are hoping to clean up limbs, leaves, and debris in the yard and flower beds. There is a signup sheet on the Welcome Center. Having an idea of how many will be here helps us to organize ahead of time for how much we can get accomplished. Prayerfully consider giving some of your time and talents on March 28. A member of Trustees will call to remind you.

Thank you and God Bless, The Board of Trustees Ministry.



CONGREGATORS - Tuesday, April 7th at 12 noon. East Park in Brimfield. Contact Judy Woerz if not called: 330-633-3625.



Yarning for Peace will meet on Monday, April 13th at 7 pm. in the David Bacon Room. We always welcome anyone who would like to join our group to make Prayer Shawls. Don't knit or crochet? There are still things you can do to help this tangible ministry. Come to the meeting for more details.

General Synod 2015

June 26-30
Cleveland, Ohio



Every two years, General Synod brings together thousands of faithful members of the United Church of Christ for formal church witness, inspirational worship, and fellowship with friends (new and old).

In June 2015, thousands from across the country (and abroad) will gather for General Synod 30 in Cleveland, Ohio — the birthplace of the United Church of Christ. Together, we will discern resolutions of witness, church structure, and function. We will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness. And we will join together in worship each day to lift up the Still speaking God.

At General Synod 30, we will explore some of the "Unexpected Places" where we hear God's voice, encounter the Spirit, and find the United Church of Christ lifting up its witness in the world.

We are asking each of you to prayerfully consider volunteering for General Synod. The dates are June 26 – 30. Please see Mike Collins at the table in the Atrium for more information.

Or, check out the website: <http://www.ucc.org/synod>

Partners in Ministry is an educational program offered by the Eastern Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ as a means of helping lay leaders to expand their knowledge and skills. The program provides courses in a variety of areas which may lead to certification through completion of the program requirements.

Anyone is welcome to take courses for personal enrichment whether or not they are working toward certification. The courses are designed to strengthen discipleship, broaden one's understanding of commitment, and enrich one's personal faith journey.

The goal of the program is to strengthen the ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ by equipping those who serve "In His Name."

Contact Dr. John with questions about Partners in Ministry



NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF SOCIAL ACTION AND MISSIONS MINISTRY

What God can do with a mighty crew!

2014 Report from the Faithful Servants Care Center

Drs. Mark and Sue Myer are grateful for the commitment of all the volunteers who donate their time, money and prayers to the work of the Faithful Servants Care Center. Looking back over 2014, they report the following:

- 3,102 patient visits = \$3 million in free care;
- 3,000 free prescriptions = savings of \$30,000;
- Free inhalers = \$20,000;
- New diabetic clinic cared for 34 diabetic patients;
- Monthly orthopedic clinic cared for 20 orthopedic patients;
- Echocardiograms and ultrasounds = \$16,000 in savings;
- Volunteer dentists and specialists = free procedures and evaluations
- Mobile clinic reached out to three new locations in Akron.

Mark and Sue “stand amazed and grateful for God’s vision being played out through the hearts, eyes, hands, and feet” of all the volunteers, and they send “an ocean full of thanks and a mountain of good wishes.”

News from Family Promise

March 19th - Bob Evans Fundraiser, next one is April 16th. Flyers are on the Welcome Center.

At our last hosting, we served 3 families, 5 adults and 4 children. Thanks again to all of the volunteers who made our week a very successful one. This year, we have served 10 families with the average length of stay of 18 days.

Sunday, March 29th, our walk Back On Your Feet will be at 3:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 3300 Morewood Road in Fairlawn. In 2014 we had requests from 421 homeless families consisting of 840 children. We were only able to provide assistance to 234 of these families and 64 of the homeless children. We want to serve more families in 2015 and reach our goal of raising \$15,000.00. The family-friendly gathering will include food, music, and other entertainment. Prizes will be awarded, and raffles will also be held. All are invited and welcome to join us. Say goodbye to winter, and say hello to spring by joining Family Promise outdoors to walk for a good cause. Sign up by contacting Pauline Egan at 330-253-8081 or [pauline at familypromisesc.org](mailto:pauline@familypromisesc.org). Hope to see you there. Thank you for reading - Betty Cottrill - 330-923-8517

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF SOCIAL ACTION AND MISSIONS MINISTRY- MILLER AVENUE UCC

Andrew Kishman, Pastor of the Miller Avenue UCC, has written a letter highlighting the mission’s 2014 achievements. The teen center, now named “Students With A Goal,” or SWAG, has seen a dramatic increase in the students’ dedication to the program and it was necessary to cap numbers at 25. To earn membership in the program, students need to maintain nearly perfect attendance, academic participation, and discipline. Andrew states that “with the help of the students’ principals and Akron Public Schools, we instituted a rigorous new academic system that is specifically directed at building our students’ weakest areas.” There is now a very thorough system of academic accountability and each student has an adult mentor who remains in close communication with the students’ parents and teachers. The young adult staff monitors grades and attendance and during the 4:30 – 6:00 P.M. time frame, the five member teams are evaluated on their effort and attitude. The teens are beginning to see dramatic improvements in their academics.

Summit Lake’s first collaborative partnership, which includes all service providers in the neighborhood, has been assembled in order to provide a single continuum of care for children in the neighborhood. This partnership includes REACH Opportunity Center, South Street Ministries, Let’s Grow Akron, OPEN M, Summit Lake Community Center, Miller Avenue, and the Catholic Worker. The group now distributes a Summit Lake Street Card that catalogues over forty ministry programs in the area and sorts them by time, day, and location.

Andrew expresses his sincere gratitude for our monetary donations and for the many volunteer hours devoted to the Miller Avenue programs. We are helping to provide “an abundant blessing” for the Summit Lake neighborhood.

Men's & Women's Ministries

Men's Ministry Announcement: Next Meeting Sat April 11th

All Men of the church are welcome to attend our next Men's Ministry meeting.

Please join us for a great opportunity to gather for some topics of discussion, followed by a time of Fellowship. Let this be a time to meet some new people, as well as grow spiritually together!

Men of all ages are welcome to attend...look for more details in the upcoming Bulletins!

Please join us at:

Panera Bread 689 Howe Ave, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 We will purchase our own food as we arrive.

April Meeting: Saturday, April 11th: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

May Meeting: Saturday, May 16th: 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Questions? Tim Burns timburns999@gmail.com (330) 703-4807



Lions, Tigers and Bears . . . Oh, No . . . Raccoons, Hawks and Possums, Perhaps!

Women's New Initiative will be hosting Fran Kitchen from Operation Orphan Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc. on **Monday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m.** She will be bringing animals that are being cared for and rehabilitated. Children and well-behaved men are welcomed to this program. Snacks will be provided. The service project this month is for the Portage County Animal Protective League, and a list of items needed can be found on the Welcome Center. Any questions? Call Ginny Collins or Marie Zimmer.

Come One and All For Spring Bingo

Women's Fellowship will be having their next meeting on **Thursday, April 2nd at 10:30 am.** Please consider coming for a fun morning of Bingo followed by a delicious lunch for just \$6. Please bring a wrapped spring surprise to add to the prizes! Join us for fellowship, fun, prizes and a full tummy!



IMAGE OF GOD WOMAN'S CONFERENCE W/ LAURA STORY

April 25 @ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm



Saturday, April 25, 2015 9a.m.—4 p.m.

God of Every Story

Women's Conference

Guest Artist: Laura Story

Registration: Grace Baptist Brunswick 330-225-4366

CLASSES, SEMINARS, & SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

The ART of DYING

Presentations & Discussion on The End of Life

Saturdays at FCC, 9:30– 1:00 pm (doors open at 8:30 am)

March 21 Speakers:

Rev. Dr. John Schluep— Religious faith & spiritual dimensions of the end of life

Cindy Mason, J.D.—Attorney/expert in geriatric law

April 18 Speakers:

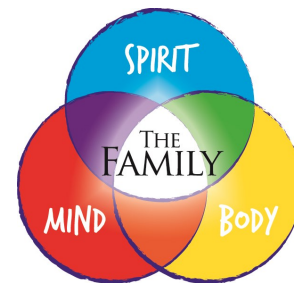
Rochelle Sheppard, MA, LPCC, Spiritual Care and Bereavement Services of VNS

Rev. Dr. John Schluep—Pastoral Care

Cost: A donation of \$5.00 per session will be collected at the door.

CEU's are available for nursing and legal professionals for \$20 per session.

For more information & to register: www.fcctallmadge.org or call 330-633-4931



All God's Children – March 3, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

A supportive group for families and friendships with people who are gay, lesbian, transgender, and bisexual (GLBT) within our congregation. We meet in the Heritage Room every month on the 1st Tuesday.

Song and Poetry Class: Join us as we prepare our hearts for Easter through the songs and poetry of Lent and Easter. We will meet Sundays, through March 29, in the Library from 9am to 10am. This is an open class - please attend any Sunday even if you cannot attend all of them! All are welcome! This class is facilitated by Norma Bryant



alzheimer's association®

A SPECIAL WORKSHOP presented by the Alzheimer's Association– Greater East Ohio Chapter

at First Congregational Church on ***TUESDAY, MARCH 31st at 11 AM***

Living with Alzheimer's for Caregivers

This is a one-hour program that will define common symptoms of dementia and **communication techniques for caregivers**. Attendees will also learn about ways to access services and maintain health as a caregiver.

Warriors' Journey Home



In 2001 The United States invaded Afghanistan following the attack on the Twin Towers in New York City. In 2003 we invaded Iraq. With an all-volunteer military the state's National Guard was federalized and the Marine, Navy, and Army Reserves were activated. Over 2.5 million men and women of the uniformed armed services have served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan with 37,000 having five deployments. Our church responded with prayer support, healing services, and intentionally putting names and faces to the numbers by reading the names associated with our church, and sending care packages to those serving in combat areas. Without judging the rightness or wrongness of the war we are a caring presence in the lives of those directly engaged.

With the end of the conflict in Iraq and the exit of US combat ground forces in Afghanistan the needs of our veterans have changed. The care packages we sent to the combat areas were greatly appreciated but are not needed now. Now we have been invited to support our veterans and their families through Valor Home in Akron and Freedom House in Kent with personal items for those veterans who are homeless.

A list of items will be provided through the Sunday worship bulletin and the Herald. *(see article below this one)* On the fifth Sunday of each month, four times a year, we will make you aware of needed items, collect them and deliver them to Freedom House and Valor Home.

I can tell you that as a veteran your care is appreciated and needed for the return home and for the healing that leads to peace. Thank you. ***Dr. John Schluep***

On Sunday March 30th, we will be honoring those who serve by publishing our military list in the bulletin. We will not be reading the names of the military on the 5th Sunday but listing the names to keep those who serve in our hearts and personal prayers.

If you have anyone that you would like to add to our list, update, or remove, please send an email to Ann Carter at acwjhm@gmail.com prior to that Sunday.

We will be accepting donations of the following items in sponsorship of Freedom House in Kent and Valor Home in Akron. Both were established by Family & Community Services to offer transitional housing for homeless veterans. Please place your donations in our WJHM box located in the education wing so we can deliver them in early April. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

Razors,
Q-tips
Laundry detergent
Kleenex
Any coffee mugs
Gently used acoustic guitars
New printer

Warriors' Journey Home Ministry– Tallmadge/Upcoming Events

Cleveland International Film Festival _ In Country" (2 showings)

Friday March 27 @ 5:15 pm. "In Country" - Tower City Cinema

Sunday March 29th @ 12:15 pm. "In Country" - Tower City Cinema

If you would like to volunteer to help "man" the WJHM informational table, please sign up.

Tallmadge Expo– Saturday April 18th

WJHM will have an informational booth at Tallmadge Rec Center. 10a.m. to 3 p.m. Stop out and visit!

Spring Gala Fundraiser for WJHM

SAVE THE DATE : April 23, 2015 (Thursday) at Guy's Party Center

WJHM Program, dinner and silent auction. Tickets are \$50 each or a table of 8 for \$360.

WJHM Spring Retreat

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, April 25, 2015.

Camp Wanake: 9463 Manchester Ave. SW Beach City, OH

Registration Forms for this Retreat are on the Welcome Center in the Atrium.



Warriors' Journey Home: *Healing the Invisible Wounds of War*

Listen – Speak – Heal

2nd Annual Gala Dinner

On Thursday evening April 23rd the Warriors' Journey Home, Incorporated, will hold their second annual fund-raising gala event. The event will be held at Guy's Party Center on Waterloo Rd. in Akron and include dinner, entertainment, a silent auction, and presentations. Our keynote speaker is journalist and radio host Mr. Jim Carney. Mr. Christopher Reynolds will provide the musical entertainment. A presentation of the past year's story and our future plans will be shared. A silent auction is also part of our evening's program. Admission tickets are \$50.00 each or a table of eight for \$360.00. Tickets will be available from a Warriors' Journey Home member or through our church office.

In 2006 Warriors' Journey Home: Listen – Speak – Heal was established as a pastoral care ministry of our church. Over the past years several other communities asked to replicate this specific ministry which led to organizing a training program and standards of excellence. In 2012 Warriors' Journey Home formed a separate organizational structure and acquired its own 501c3 as a non-profit organization. Presently there are Healing Circles in four communities: First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, UCC; MOCA House in Wooster; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Akron; and Berea United Church of Christ in Berea. In 2013 the General Synod of the United Church of Christ unanimously accepted a resolution co-authored by The Rev. Dr. John Schluep and The Rev. Gary Friend encouraging local congregations to actively and intentionally minister to the veterans and their families.

The Stephen Ministry Caregivers Compass symbolizes five characteristics of a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers are Compassionate, Trustworthy, Faithful, Skilled and Christ Centered.

How do Stephen Ministers keep Jesus at the center of their caring relationships?

Stephen Ministers pray for their care receivers, and they pray with them when their care receivers welcome such prayer together.

Stephen Ministers trust Jesus to bring healing and wholeness to their care receivers. They don't believe they have responsibility for somehow curing or changing their care receivers.

Stephen Ministers use distinctively Christian caring tools, such as the Bible and forgiveness, in ways that care receivers welcome.

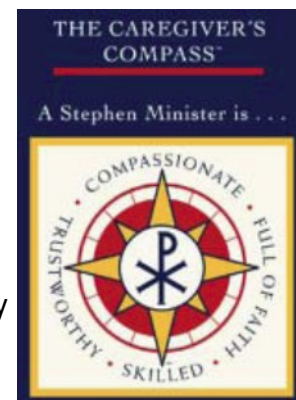
When appropriate, Stephen Ministers witness about all that God has done.

Stephen Ministers do what they can to help care receivers hear and believe that God loves them.

Stephen Ministers...work together with Rev. Dr. John and Rev. Sarah to reach more people with Christian care than our pastors can reach by themselves. Do you need Stephen Minister who is Christ Centered to journey with you through your difficult time? Are you concerned about someone you know? You are encouraged to contact: Sharon Letzler (330) 699-9794 or Rev. Dr. John or Rev. Sarah @330-633-4931 for more information.

Stephen Minister Update—

We currently have 5 female Stephen Ministers in caring relationships, (in the Stephen Ministry program men support men and women support women). We have one male Stephen Minister and two male Stephen Leaders without a care receiver and who are willing to support you.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Noreen Ashley
Tim Ashley
Larry Bagnoli
Janette Beckwith
Marian Belisle
Marilyn Berta (Coletta Spoler's daughter)
Tom Bower
Jack & Nancy Burgess
Carol Carter
Lillian Cochran
Dick & Jean DeWitt
Rev. John Forest (*son in law of Michael & Crickett West*)
Jean Freyman
Deanna Getowski
Sherry Soppi Gron
Joan Haby

Fay James
Ray Jurkowski
Joe Kainrad
Jim Kelly
John King
Dolores Koneval
Bob & Eva Lowry
Katie Moore
Jane Mullins
Cecil Nelson
Jackie Parker
Doris Parson
Bill Peverall
Gary Rambler
Jim Salmond
Karen Sauerbrey
Lynn Sax
Betty Schoffman
Janet Scoville

Jay Showalter
Charles Stayshich
Janet & Russ Terrell
Betty Vestal
Steve Wood
Donice Wooster
Rita Wray
Olive Yohey
Pat Zimmerman
1st Battalion 145th Armored
Regiment [Ohio National Guard]
Alzheimer's Care Giver Support
Group
Communicant Class & Trip
Preparation
The Art of Dying Presentations &
Discussions Preparations
Senior Pastor's Lenten Study

It is a privilege to offer prayers on your behalf. Our prayer request list can become quite lengthy! If you feel there is no longer a need to remain on the prayer list please contact the church office at 330.633.4931, thank you. Pastoral Care Staff

The Prayer Chain Connection.

There are ten church members dedicated to service through praying for individual's concerns and celebrations. Prayer requests may be known by filling out a yellow colored prayer card and placing it in the offering plate on Sunday morning or in the prayer box in the narthex. You may wish to call Dorothy Taylor at 330.633.3008 or Karen Sauerbrey at 330.920.1285. Thank you.



Condolences:

Sincere sympathy to Betty Gulledge and family on the loss of her husband Paul. Paul Gulledge passed away on February 19, 2015. A service was held at the Donovan Funeral home on Monday, February 23rd at 3 pm. The Rev. Dr. John Schluep officiated.

Our sympathy to the family of Kay Burket. Kay passed away on February 17, 2015.

Deepest sympathy to Jim & Jana Caplinger on the loss of Jim's brother, Jerry. Jerry Caplinger passed away on March 1, 2015 in Virginia.

Sincere sympathy to Gayle Savage and family on the loss of her sister, Melony. Melony Heyn passed away on March 1, 2015. A funeral service was held on March 7, 2015 at the Donovan Funeral Home.

Our sympathy to the family of Jerry Feezel. Jerry passed away on March 5, 2015. The funeral service for Jerry Feezel was March 9, 2015 at First Congregational Church. The Rev. Dr. John Schluep officiated.

Deepest sympathy to Jean Freyman and family on the loss of Herb. Herb Freyman passed away on March 14, 2015. A funeral service will be held at the Donovan-Bagnoli funeral home on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 2 pm. Calling hours are prior to the service from 12 noon to 2 pm. The Rev. Dr. John Schluep is officiating.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS/SERVICES

Preaching Schedule:

March 22 Rev. Sarah Courtney
March 29 Dr. John Schluep
April 5 Rev. Sarah Courtney (Sunrise service)
 Dr. John Schluep 8:30 & 10 am
April 12 Dr. John Schluep
April 19 Rev. Sarah Courtney



Holy Week Schedule

April 2 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service with Communion
April 3 8 a.m.– 3 p.m. Good Friday
 Sanctuary open for personal communion and meditation
April 5 7 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service at the Historic Church
8:30 a.m. and 10 am Easter Sunday Worship Services
 with Brass Quintet

Altar Flowers

March 22 Haynes/ Crighton
March 29
April 5 Easter Flowers
April 12 Marlow, Johnson
April 19 Fickes, Villers, Bumpas, Penrod



March 22 Dave & Joni Peters, Jim & Jana Caplinger

March 29 Stephen Ministers

April 5 Sunrise: John & Jane Huffman, Joe Hedrick
 8:30 am Chuck & Paula Victor, Jim & Kathy Harris
 10 am Mark & Lesley Bowers, Judy & Will Looman

April 12 Patsy & George Lowe, Alleen Hilbish, Lois Frazier

April 19 Mike & Lori Bell, Fred & Annette Pederson



Acolytes

March 22 Parker Ramp, Ryan Riter
March 29 Olivia Speicher, Zachary Brown
April 5
April 12
April 19

March 22 Pam Birch, Terri Poff, Mike & Ginny Collins

March 29 Gary & Carol Myers, Vic & Bev Green

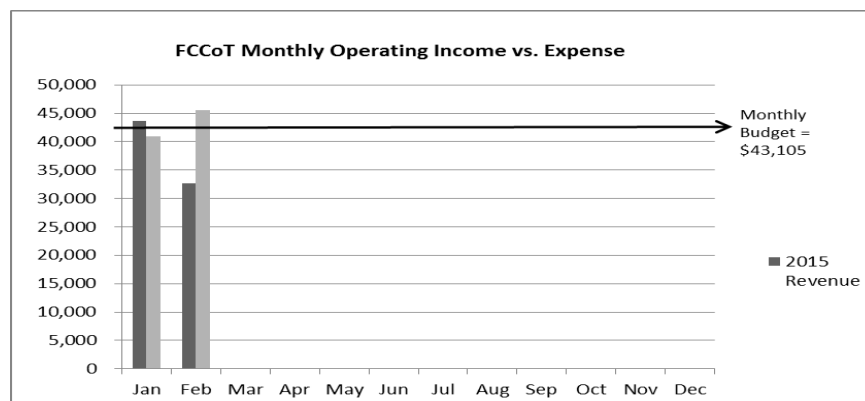
April 5 Sunrise: John & Jane Huffman, Joe Hedrick
 8:30 am Phil & Barbara Tanner, Kevin & Sherri Tanner
 10 am Gary & Kim Fulton, Jim & Dee West

April 12 Leslie & Mark Bowers, Jack & Cheryl Schafer

April 19 Jon & Mindy Hill, Dave & Donna Marlow



General Operating Fund Note: During February, 2015, receipts of \$32,684 were (\$10,421) below the monthly budget. Actual expenses for February were \$45,619 leaving a **deficit** for the month of (\$12,935) and a year-to-date **deficit** of (\$10,294). This was primarily due to a decline in attendance (weather and snow-birds?) in February and corresponding drop in Faith Offerings. Operating expenses are only \$400 over budget year-to-date, which is good news considering the winter-seasonal increase of many expenses. Our cumulative Operating Fund Deficit sits at (\$38,057). And, we also remain mindful that our expenses will continue to remain high during winter. Signing up for electronic transfers is an easy way to meet your monthly pledge goals and to pre-arrange regular purchases of SCRIP cards. Faith Offerings can also be mailed to the Church Office. Please continue to support the SCRIP Program for both your day-to-day and big ticket purchases.



March/April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
22 8:30 am Worship 9:00 Song/Poetry Class 10:00 Worship 11:15 SPCM	23 7 pm Heritage	24 7am Bagnoli Bible Study 10:15 Lenten study	25 9 am Quilters 6:30 Chancel Ringers 7 pm Poetry class 7 Lenten Study	26 9:30 WF Board 7:00 Chancel choir	27 12 Noon AARP	28
29 Palm Sunday 8:30 Worship 9 Song/Poetry Class 10 am Worship 6 pm WHJM	30 7 pm Heritage	31 7am Bagnoli Bible Study 11 am Alzheimer's support group	1 9 Quilters 6:30 Chancel ringers 7: Poetry Class	2 Maundy Thurs. 10:30 am WF Spring Bingo & Lunch 6:00 Middle school Fellowship 7:30 Maundy Thursday Service	3 Good Friday 8-3 pm Sanctuary open	4
5 EASTER 7am Sunrise Service 8:30 am Worship 10:00 Worship	6 7 p.m. Heritage	7 7am Bagnoli Bible Study Noon Congregators- 2:00—Sr. Advisory 7:00 p.m. All God's	8 9 am Quilters 6:30 Stephen Min. 6:30 Chancel Ringers 7: Poetry Class	9 6:00 Middle school Fellowship 7:00 Chancel choir	10	11 9-10:30 am Men's Ministry @ Panera Bread on Howe Ave.
12 Communion 8:30 Worship 10 am Worship 11:30 Sr High Lunch Bunch 1 pm Family Ministry Bowling 4:30 Game night – Middle School & Families! 6 pm WJHM	13 6:30pm WNI event: Fran Kitchen 7 Yarning for Peace– DB 7 p.m. Heritage	14 7am Bagnoli Bible Study 6 pm Boston Tour meeting for confirmands & parents 7 pm Board Meetings 8:15 Executive	15 9 am Quilters 6:30 Chancel Ringers 7: Poetry Class	16 6:00 Youth Fellowship (last one for spring) 7:00 Chancel choir	17	18 9:30 a.m. The Art of Dying
19 Choir Recog. 8:30 am Worship 10:00 Worship 11:15 SPCM 1 pm Rev. Sarah Courtney's Installation	20 6:30 Steph Min. 7 pm Heritage	21 7am Bagnoli Bible Study 6pm Card Making	22 9 am Quilters Herald 6:30 Chancel Ringers 7: Poetry Class 15	23 9:30 WF Board Meeting WJH Gala Dinner 7:00 Chancel choir	24 12 AARP <i>Confirmation II</i> to Boston	25 Rebuilding Together WJHM Spring Retreat

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DATE: March 18, 2015

Spiritual/ Pastoral Care Ministry Contacts

Pastoral staff	Rev. Dr. John Schluep	Senior Pastor & Warrior's Journey Home Ministry	330.633.4931	jschluepfcc@sbcglobal.net
	Rev. Sarah Courtney	Associate Pastor	330.633.4931	revsarahfcc@sbcglobal.net
Heart's in Service	Barbara Rowles		330.733.2008	34babs@sbcglobal.net
Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group & Elders Ministry	Roberta Nehrenz		330-634-0713	rgnehrenz@att.net
Life's Journey Ministry	Leslie Taylor		330.687.0881	ltaylor@services4aging.org
Prayer Chain	Dorothy Taylor		330.633.3008	
Stephen Ministry	Ron Mitchell		330.633.4055	Mitchell_rd@hotmail.com
	Tom Letzler		330.699.9794	tletzler@neo.rr.com
	Sharon Letzler		330.699.9794	
Yarning for Peace	Dee West		330.633.4421	dwest890@aol.com

Staff E-Mail Addresses

Nancy Beken	Administrative Assistant & Secretary	tallmadgefcc@sbcglobal.net
Beth Loesch	Receptionist, Herald, Bulletin	bethfcc@sbcglobal.net
Wendy Brown	Director of Christian Education	wbrownfcc@sbcglobal.net
Nancy Lynn Robinson	Director of Music / Organist	nrbgp@aol.com
Denise Daniels	Chancel Ringers	Jackspsy@aol.com
Bill Hoover	Finance Administrator	bhooverfcc@sbcglobal.net
Steve Ristich	Head Custodian (Mon-Fri, Day Shift)	
Teresa Snyder	Assistant Custodian (Mo,Tu,We & Th)	
Mark Bell	Assistant Custodian	