

The Herald

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge UCC

"Making God the Foundation of Every Day Living"

Serving Summit, Portage, Medina, Stark Counties

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Date: November 1, 2011

Issue: 597

Worship Services 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Web site: www.FCCTALLMADGE.org

Phone (330)633-4931 Fax 330-633-7010

For Sunday Service of November 6, 2011

November Special Benevolence: Veterans of the Cross

Communion Sunday, All Saints Day, Veterans Day

The Rev. Matthew Wooster will be giving the message.

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday School – all ages

9:00 a.m. Confirmation I & II

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsals

10:30 a.m. Children's Worship 5th grade & younger

11:00 a.m. Linger Longer

11:15 a.m. Nominating Committee – D.Bacon

11:30 a.m. Sr. High Fellowship – Leaf Raking

Altar Flowers today are from:

Jim and Betty Cottrill

and from

Don and Glenna Simmons in celebration of
57 years of marriage!

Christmas Eve Services



There will be **two services** on Christmas Eve this year:

5:00 p.m. -- a candlelight service and a re-telling of
the Nativity Story

11:00 p.m. -- a candlelight service with harp and violin

Over the past two years there has been discussion about the time of the second service due to declining numbers in attendance. At the August Executive Council Meeting it was decided to hold the second service at 9:00 p.m. Members of our church expressed to me, as well as to Scott Kempf, Chair of The Board of Deacon's Ministry, and other church leaders about reversing the decision and keeping the second Christmas Eve service at 11:00 p.m. At the October Executive Council meeting, council voted to reverse the August decision passing change by a narrow margin. I want to thank those who expressed their opinions. The leadership of this church will continue to work in the best interest of this congregation in fulfilling our mission to serve God and people.

Please Join *Warrior's Journey Home Ministry*

A Warrior's Evening

Sunday, November 13, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

To Celebrate Veteran's Day

Video of the Vietnam Journey and

Panel Presentation with Veterans of War

And Reception Following here at

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge



The *HERALD* Newsletter

NOTE: The **next Herald** mailing date will be on **Tuesday, November 15, 2011**. The **deadline** for Lori to receive articles is **Friday, November 11, 2011**.
Thanks!



PASTOR'S SIDEBAR

I finished raking leaves. Again. More to fall.

I just finished reading a book that was given to me by Rev. Diane Shirey, Pastor of the Church in Silver Lake. The book was written by Richard Rohr a Franciscan Priest and the title is "Falling Upward" and describes the spiritual richness of the second half of life. It is a remarkably insightful, thought provoking, alarming and comforting book that I will reference repeatedly through the course of my life.

"Falling Upward" came at the perfect time for me personally as well as professionally. There are excellent theological insights in to the healing work of ministry we are doing with veterans and their families; however more importantly it has provided a base of knowledge for our emergent Senior's Ministry. The steering committee has given language to describe and validate our retreats, discussions, and including an Elder's Blessing in several of our services of worship.

Paul writes, "Be in the world but not of the world." To the world aging is viewed as a problem to be solved or a burden to endure. From a spiritual vantage point aging is viewed as a precious gift and a time of deep insight and wisdom. These are the gifts we have received as we age and these are the gifts needed by our churches and other faith communities. When I attended the General Synod last July in Tampa, Florida there was much discussion and celebration around the youth activity in our churches but nothing about the need for elders and their wisdom and guidance and blessing.

In many churches, I am afraid, the elders feel a sense of disconnect and a loss of purpose. I have spoken with pastors who speak about their elders as an enigma. Last Tuesday we gathered with thirty of our elders and celebrated their spiritual journey beginning with baptism and drawing us together in the sacrament of Holy Communion. In Story Circles we listened to stories of life's journey and the presence of God through activities and people. In both times of celebration and trial, God was always present and personal faith was strengthened.

We will continue to foster growth in this specific area of ministry and as I write this our Associate Pastor Intern, Charity Omartian, is composing a plan for integrating our elder's stories of faith with artwork by our children and youth. In this way we are growing in faith through expressions of art and story- telling.

I am excited and humbled by the possibilities of how this ministry will help our congregation to grow.

Love,
Dr. John

High School News

November 6 First Sunday Outing, Raking Leaves

Join with a large group of all ages from the church to rake leaves for our neighbors and church members who need help with this kind of physical work. Bring a rake and clothes for raking to church. After worship, we'll have lunch and then spend the early afternoon raking leaves.

2nd Sunday Lunch Club,

November 13 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Lunch is on us after church this Sunday. Meet in the David Bacon Room for lunch on us.

Middle School News

Fellowship and Youth Ringers

Wednesday evenings for everyone in grades 6-8!

6:00-7:00 PM Middle School Fellowship in the Youth Room 100

7:00-7:45 PM Youth Ringers in the Sanctuary

Fellowship is an hour filled with games, funny skits, and a time for discussion and devotion, led by Rev. Matt Wooster. Games will be held outside when the weather is nice.

Youth Ringers is a handbell choir just for middle school, led by Denise Daniels. No experience is required. Everyone in grades 6-8 is welcome to attend both groups, or either one separately.

Upcoming Dates:

November 9 – Animal Night. Youth Ringers meets.

November 16 – Giving Thanks.

November 23 – No Fellowship the night before Thanksgiving.

Confirmation for Adults

Seminar series on the first Tuesdays of the month. Begins November 1, 7:00-8:30 PM

Sometimes adults want to go back to those questioning days of confirmation class to address basic issues of our faith. Here's your chance. Led by Rev. Matt Wooster in the David Bacon Room.

December 6: Jesus Christ What does it mean to say that Jesus is both human and divine?

Trailmarkers



I need your help.

I want to create a Year in Review list for this church community - a way to remember and celebrate a year of blessings. The list can include blessings that are personal or global. It can include things that happened on one day, or things that were true throughout the year. The blessings may be small or large. Whatever they are, please send them to me for our Year of Blessings list, which will be published in this newsletter in January, 2012.

The idea for a Year of Blessings list came from a column I wrote last year about how I love all the year in review lists at the end of each year: biggest news stories, best movies, the year in photos, books of the year.... I love these lists because they remind me of things that I have forgotten, or things that I've become so used to that I have stopped noticing them. The year in review lists help me to remember what a year it has been. I also wrote about the tradition that Betsy and I have on our wedding anniversary of looking back over the year, to remember what we have experienced.

After I wrote that column, Jana Caplinger told me about a similar tradition in her family. She keeps a notebook in which they record the memorable events of their lives and in the news, and it has become a regular part of the holidays. Together, we decided to try a list with the church.

To compile our list, please spend some time thinking back over the year of 2011, and take note of ways in which your life has been blessed. Write them down and keep them someplace safe. Share them with family and friends. Then, if you'd like to contribute to the church Year of Blessings, choose 1-3 blessings, each described in one sentence, and send them in to me, drop them off at the church office, or email me at mcwooster@yahoo.com.

**May God's peace be with you,
Rev. Matt Wooster**

P.S. Thank you to the entire congregation for the kindness and support you always give to me, and for the gift I received from the church on pastor appreciation day. I am blessed to serve with such a loving congregation. The feeling of deep appreciation is certainly mutual. Thank you.

Tallmadge Good Neighbors is again asking for your loving support of our families at Christmas by taking a gift card, which will be on a table in the Atrium, in a few weeks. Please purchase a gift and return it wrapped, with the card, **by Sunday, December 4th**.

Thank you! Jo Berry 330-633-8905

Church Attendance

October 23, 2011

8:30 a.m. Worship	38
10:00 a.m. Worship	332

October 30, 2011

8:30 a.m. Worship	34
10:00 a.m. Worship	224



Please Remember in Prayer

Virginia (Ginny) Acken
 Ryan Anderson (*Beth Schluep's student*)
 Alberta Bauch
 Carol Carter
 Milt Collins (*father of Mike Collins*)
 David Huth (*Jane Huth's son*)
 Odell Kalbaugh
 Grace Kish
 Zell Lambert
 Gerald Liggett
 Donna Marlow
 George and Pat Paler
 Stephen Parker
 Gary and Vicky Rambler
 Margretta Stocker
 Sherri Whittington (*Sandee Markulis' relation*)
 Lou Wray
 John Zreny (*son-in-law of John & Wanda Strott*)
 Wheels4Change
 1st Battalion 145th Armored Regiment (Ohio Nat'l. Guard)

Prayers for Families who are Unemployed
 Prayers for our Christian Education & our Youth as they return to school.

=====

Sincere Sympathies to the extended family of **Brian C. Hastings**, who passed away on October 23, 2011. Brian is survived by his mother, Kolleen Hastings, and was nephew to Gary & Arlene Miller. A memorial service was held on October 28. Donovan Bagnoli handled the arrangements.

=====

Fund Raiser Church Treasure If you have an item for donation, or are looking for a specific item to purchase, watch *The Herald* or call **Jim/Kathy Harris** at 330-630-9627 or e-mail kharris375@hotmail.com. There will also be an ongoing list of items available for donation and/or requests in the Atrium.

Items available *For Sale:* None at this time.

Items *Wanted:*

Kendal Taylor is looking for Quilt tops. Please call her at 330-676-9986 if you can help her!

Remember --- To Donate or put in your request:
 Call Kathy / Jim Harris at 330-630-9627
 or email them at kharris375@hotmail.com.

SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

There is a new ALERT! Letter and a new Fall, 2011 SENIOR NEWS Flyer available for you!

The Alert Letter tells you about an incident regarding a wallet left inside a car. The Senior News Flyer discusses domestic violence, cases of theft, and different aspects of abuse.

Both are located at the Office window – please take one of each for informative reading!

For Sunday Service of November 13, 2011

November Special Benevolence: Veterans of the Cross

Victory Sunday

8:30 a.m.	Worship Service
9:00 a.m.	Sunday School – all ages
9:00 a.m.	Confirmation I & II
10:00 a.m.	Worship Service - Baptisms
10:00 a.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsals
10:30 a.m.	Children's Worship 5 th grade & younger
11:00 a.m.	Victory Sunday Celebration Lunch - FH
11:30am	Sr. High Sunday Lunch Club
6:00 p.m.	WJHM – FH for Veterans Day

Altar Flowers today are from:

Sandy Teeling in memory the Steen and Teeling families.
and from Sandy Farabee in memory of Ted Farabee.



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Silent Auction / Luncheon / Doll House Raffle . . . the day was a huge success. A special thanks to the set-up / clean-up crew, cashiers, and luncheon helpers . . .without your help the day could not have been as eventful. Our Atrium fund benefited to the tune of **\$7,650**. *Jane Huffman*

~~~~~

**Thank you**, everyone, for all your cards and prayers when I had hip surgery. Also, to Dr. John for being there and to Rev. Matt for calling. Everything was very appreciated!  
*Jack Gron*

~~~~~

Thank you so much to the members of Trustees, church members, visitors, and Boy Scouts for helping with 3 outside work days this year. All was greatly appreciated.
Tom Kester

**STEPHEN MINISTRY BULLETIN BOARD
CHECK IT OUT!**

This month's Stephen Ministry bulletin board features our pastors, Rev. Dr. John and Rev. Matt. We appreciate the support from our pastors and, therefore, created a bulletin board to show their "lighter side". Please check it out. The bulletin board is located in the hallway of the Treehouse Preschool.

We'd like to thank Karen Sauerbrey for creating this month's board. She had the help of her nephew's artistic talents. Karen is retiring this month from Stephen Ministry and has maintained our bulletin board for a couple of years. She has done a great job. We appreciate all her efforts and will miss her.

We are looking for a "bulletin board specialist" to take over for Karen. If you are interested in working with Stephen Ministry in creating a bulletin board every few months, we'd love to talk to you! You can talk to Ron Mitchell or Jana Caplinger.



Race Across America – RAAM

Cassie Schumacher has become a person known around our church because of her involvement with Warriors' Journey Home Ministry: Listen – Speak – Heal. Last year Cassie qualified for Race Across America and had planned on racing in June 2011. However, due to the need for safety and the assembly of a competent race team it was decided that she would post-pone her participation until June 2012. Since that decision Cassie worked the 2011 RAAM as a race official and learned much about the race and the racing strategy. The greatest benefit has been the time to assemble a crew and prepare herself both physically as well as spiritually. Cassie has worked tirelessly to champion the needs of homeless veterans bringing awareness through bicycle races and fun rides. RAAM is a 3,000 mile endurance race across America beginning at Oceanside, California and ending at Annapolis, Maryland. Since last summer Cassie has raced across Oregon and also raced in the 544 mile Adirondack race coming in second and beating her old time by nearly an hour. The monies she raised last year are being held in the Warriors Journey Home account on a separate line item. Please keep Cassie and her crew in your prayers as she trains for the upcoming race.

STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Dr. John Schlupe, *Senior Pastor* jschluepfcc@sbcglobal.net
 Rev. Matthew Wooster, *Assoc. Pastor* mcwooster@yahoo.com
 Charity Omartian, *Assoc. Pastor Intern*
charityomartian@gmail.com

Nancy Beken, *Admin. Asst + Secry.* tallmadgefcc@sbcglobal.net
 Lori Heath, *Receptionist, Herald, Bulletin* lorifcc@yahoo.com
 Wendy Brown, *Dir. Christian Educ.* wbrownfcc@sbcglobal.net
 Nancy Lynn Robinson, *Dir. Music* nrbgp@aol.com

Stephen Ristich *Head Custodian (Mon – Fri Day Shift)*
 Teresa Snyder *Pt-Time Evening Custodian (Mo, Tu, We & Th)*

Stephen Leaders

Jana Caplinger (330 / 896-4320) jcaplinger@neo.rr.com
 Jackie Parker (330 / 867-7149) jackieinministry@att.net
 Ron Mitchell (330 / 633-4055) Mitchell_rd@hotmail.com

Rake 'n Run: THIS SUNDAY



Rake 'n Run is scheduled for **November 6**. Calling all families and youth members, we need your help. This is a fun activity when we all get together to accomplish a large task. We encourage all those who are able to help us rake yards to join us on November 6 immediately following worship. We will meet after church (11:00) for lunch and then head out after that. Bring your kids, friends, parents... and RAKES; everyone is invited. You might want to bring gloves, tarps and leaf blowers too. Please let Wendy or Matt know if you are going to join us and bring a dish to share. We usually work until about 3 or so.

Kid Stuff Books

Treehouse Preschool is offering Kid Stuff books for the price of \$25. They have coupons for clothing stores (Kohls, Dicks, Pat Catans, etc.), food (Applebee's, Friday's, etc.) and entertainment. They are similar to the entertainment book but it has coupons for more clothing stores like Kohl's, Dicks, Kmart, Sears and more where the entertainment book is more food and entertainment. If you are interested, please see Wendy Brown.



Christmas Pageant Practice

Christmas Pageant has started the rehearsals. We are going to practice on TUESDAYS from 5:30- 6:30 PM! We are getting ready for our Christmas performance of A King is Coming to Town. I wonder what King it is. You will have to come and see the performance to find out. The performance will be December 18th beginning with lunch at 11:00 followed by the performance.



Breakfast with Santa, December 3

The Board of Christian Education will host our 12th annual breakfast with Santa on Saturday, **December 3** at no cost to you due to a donation for the breakfast. We will have 3 different breakfast times, 9:30, 10:00 and 10:30 so stop in the office and get your tickets. We will also have crafts available from 9:30 – 11:00 am and you can visit Santa after your breakfast. So mark your calendars now and come in to get tickets for your family; it is a great tradition and we are glad to be offering it once again.



Bottle Caps needed....

We are making a craft on **December 3** for Breakfast with Santa and we need bottle caps; lots of them. If you have bottle caps- any kind, please bring them into Wendy Brown.

All Saints Day

Our tradition of celebrating All saints Day is to read the list of names of all those who have died over the past year, November 1 to October 31, at the 10:00 a.m. hour of worship on the first Sunday in November. This year, on **November 6th**, we will read the list of the names of the Church Triumphant whose lives we will hold in our sacred memory. I invite you to attend this special day in the life of our church and to remember all those loved ones who have "finished their course in faith." A candle will be lighted as each name is read and we will sing as our opening hymn, "For All the Saints."



PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES



The new directories will be available for **pick-up in the Atrium on Sunday, November 13th**, before and after the 8:30 Service and after the 10:00 service.

Those able to receive a directory are: families or individuals photographed for this directory, or those who submitted a picture during our photograph sessions. We are aware some people leave our beautiful state for the winter. If you are one of them, your directory will be waiting for you upon your return. We will schedule a spring pick-up date. If you are a shut-in and can't get your directory, one will be delivered to you. If you have any further questions, please contact Kim 330-733-3542

For Living Waters:

"Living Waters will be *meeting* in the Library on Sundays at 9AM. In our very busy lives we have many roles like mother, father, wife, husband, single parent, employee, friend, and much more. We will bring concerns and joys associated with those roles to God and each other during this time we have set aside for our spiritual wellbeing. All are welcomed just as you are, wherever you are in your journey.

Yarning for Peace



Yarning for Peace will meet on Monday, **November 14**, at 7:00pm in the David Bacon Room. We hope all our knitting/crocheting members, both novices and experienced, will be able to attend. New members who would like to learn to knit or crochet are always welcome.

PECANS ARE HERE!



WNI is holding their **annual PECAN SALE** and they are here! Pecans will be available at the Women's Fellowship Bake Sale on Sunday, **October 30**, 2011, in the Atrium – as well as during the entire month of November. This year Pecans are selling for \$9.00 per pound. Be sure to get your for holiday baking.

Chairperson for this project is Chris Thompson (330-633-6878) or ask any member of WNI.

Women's New Initiative



Monday, **November 7th** the Women's New Initiative (WNI) evening program will feature **speaker Marissa Hoffmann**, Associate Director of the Steven A. Comunale Jr. Family Foundation. The Stephen A. Comunale, Jr. Family Cancer Foundation is a local nonprofit organization that endows an outreach program to provide comfort to Summit County cancer patients and their families by easing the ancillary financial burdens that confront them. Men and women of the church are invited to come learn more about this important resource in our community at the program beginning at 6:30 p.m. "Care Bags" will be distributed for our members who are unable to attend programs as part of the **Give Thanks; Give Back** Service Project.

CELEBRATION LUNCHEON NOTICE

If attending our Celebration Luncheon on Victory Sunday, **November 13**, we **NEED** you to **RSVP** by **Monday, November 7**.

Look for the RSVP slip inserted in your Bulletins on Sunday.

Call Christie Speicher (330) 628-0151 if questions.

WNI December Service Project

The Women's New Initiative December "Special Project" for this year will be a monetary donation to be used toward **Baby Items** for a young woman and her family. Your donations may be given to Sandy Farabee, Susan Schunk or to the church office in an envelope marked "WNI December Service Project." Thank you for your generosity for this special family. **We will need all donations by December 1st.**



NOTE! Daylight Savings Time ends **this Sunday, November 6, 2011.**

Don't forget to TURN CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR on Saturday night, November 5th!



HELP CHILDREN WITH CANCER

William's Legacy is a non-profit established for the purpose of providing quality of life and comfort to children with cancer. The foundation is modeled after Stewart's Caring Place in Fairlawn, Ohio and The Gathering Place in Cleveland, Ohio, except they serve adults and we serve children. The organization also works with Akron Children's Hospital Palliative Care Center. William's Legacy is having a fundraiser at Ohio Prestwick Country Club located at 3751 Glen Eagles Blvd in Uniontown, Ohio on November 11, 2011 beginning at 6:00 pm. The event will be a Beer and Wine Tasting together with an assortment of appetizers and a Silent Auction. Please come join us!

Donovan-Bagnoli Funeral Home...

... is sponsoring a FREE informative session on:

Estate Planning, Medicaid Updates and Recognizing when memory difficulties are beyond the changes with normal aging on **Tuesday, November 15th at 1:00pm**

Tallmadge Lion's Club

Please pick up a flyer on the Welcome Center in the Atrium for more details.

Call to reserve your seat at (330)633-3350 9am - 4pm

Family Promise -

Interfaith Hospitality

November 20th -- put that date on your calendar.

Ott Electric will have a truck in the parking lot by the playground to fill with supplies for Family Promise (Interfaith Hospitality). We will be collecting such things as mops, brooms, bleach, cleaners and all types of paper products. The donations will help our families that we serve at Family Promise when they get into their new homes. **LET'S FILL THE TRUCK.**

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge

November 1, 2011

Dear Friend,

Every month I spend a good portion of time in meetings for the business and finance of our church. These meetings are important and necessary for the health of our congregation and we are blessed to have many good business minded people offering their guidance; we are effective stewards because of them. There are two distinct ministry areas: First, are the *Program Ministries*; Christian Education, Social Action & Missions, Deacons Ministry and Music Ministry. Several of these aforementioned ministries are funded through the operating budget of the church. Many ministries are un-funded and must raise their own operating monies such as Women's Fellowship, Women's New Initiative, Youth Fellowship, and Warriors' Journey Home Ministry who benefit from the in-kind support but raise their own needed program funds.

The second ministry areas are the *Support Ministries* supporting the aforementioned program ministries. These ministries are; Trustees and Stewardship. These two areas have to do with building maintenance and making certain that the doors are opened, the heat and air-conditioning systems are working, the roof doesn't leak, the sound system if functioning, lights are on, rooms are available, the parking lot is clear of snow and ice, the kitchen is safe and clean and meets government standards, and that tables and chairs are available, and our building is safe and secure for all those who frequent our building. On average nearly 1,000 people enter our campus on a weekly basis (Scout programs, 12 Step Recovery Groups, Writing Classes, Choral Groups, AARP, and others). I have yet to mention the expectations of the availability of bulletins, The Herald newsletter, paper products, hand soap, dishes and flatware, candles for the Christmas Eve Candlelight services, etc.

At a recent finance meeting discussing the drop in the number of pledges I asked, "Businesses don't know what their income will be annually so what do they do?" The response from one of our members; "As a business owner I project what we did last year and what last year expenses were. After these projections I look at where I can reduce costs by negotiation and going after new business."

The ministries are possible and supporting this church is possible because of God's benevolence. You are asked each year at this time to prayerfully consider your faithful financial response and support of God's work through this church. Our ministries are based upon the amount pledged by individual members and partners of this church. Knowing the pledged amount of income allows us to continue the ministry of this church without interruption. In several weeks you will be invited to make your pledge of financial support of the ministries of First Congregational Church so that we can continue to move forward.

Beth and I have made our commitment to Christ and our church and I will be expressing that commitment on November 6, 2011 at the services of worship. On November 13th The Rev. Kate Huey will be speaking about our faithful response to God's call to service. I am inviting you to prayerfully consider your financial support of this church and making your pledge of support. Below is a facsimile of the pledge card. I encourage your attendance and participation in this important and vital ministry.

Blessings,
John M. Schlupe, D.Min.
Senior Pastor

Estimate of Giving Card
For Stewardship Year beginning on
January 1st

"Share God's Gifts"

God provides abundantly so that we may share abundantly and do it as a cheerful giver...
II Corinthians 9:6-15

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and His Church, I plan to TAKE One STEP UP in my giving and in support of the programs of Tallmadge First Congregational Church.

- Step Up To Tithing - I will give 1/10th of income to God's work.
- Step Up Toward Tithing - I will grow one step and move toward that goal and become a percentage giver.

My commitment is \$ _____ per week effective January 1, _____

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Zip _____ Ph# _____

Record of Estimate for Stewardship
Tallmadge First Congregational Church
My commitment is \$ _____ per week
Effective _____

Spiritual Care Corner

The Indwelling Spirit of Hospitality
Charity Omartian, Associate Pastor Intern
November , 2011

The greatest gift the church has to offer to the world is hospitality. What made Christianity so appealing to everyone was not the status or the power that came later when the religion became an imperial religion. It was the hospitality that was extended to the lame, the blind, the poor, the sick and the outcast. Of course it is not enough simply to perform acts of kindness—we are asked to live it wholeheartedly. We are all familiar with Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus' life and death was the great example of this hospitality. All of us can think of times when we have felt fully welcomed or not.

I visited this church a couple of times before the church made a commitment to having me as an intern. At that time, no one necessarily knew my background. Each time I came into the church I was greeted by someone who truly wanted my family to feel comfortable. My son, who comes to worship with us regularly, was embraced by the other worshipers. Many people would make him smile and laugh. It is always hard to be a mother and father with your children in church. You can feel a sense of fear that your child will disturb the rest of the people who are worshipping. This church embraced my child, making it clear that this was his sacred space too. Since I have been working here, many people have been extremely encouraging, inviting me to learn and engage in the community. There is always a little anxiety around entering into a community—whether you will be received well or not. Immediately, the kindness of this congregation made those feelings dissipate. We are called to this great, extravagant welcome not only as a community, but also in our daily lives. How do we allow the spirit to work in us so that when we leave the walls of our church that we embrace all? We can all think of time when we have not been fully hospitable to others and ourselves, but that is why we don't enter into this calling alone. The spirit is with us to help us.

The holiday season is coming near, and we have the opportunity to reflect on hospitality as a spiritual practice. We can be intentional about taking time to care for others and ourselves. If you know someone who may not have a family to celebrate the holidays with, you could invite them to eat with you. Or be intentional on how you interact with people. For example, when you are stuck in

traffic, or in a long line, you could take a moment to reflect on how you can show kindness rather than exchanging the same behavior. We can also remember to extend hospitality to all of God's creation by making a bird feeder or using reusable items. The best way we can enter into this practice is to intentionally reflect and take time to allow the spirit to dwell within us, focusing on the ministry of Jesus Christ. "Come, you that are blessed..., inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundations of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25:34b-35).

Financial Secretary Reminder:

Direct Debit is available for fulfillment of either Church Operating Pledges and/or for Atrium Pledges. When you elect to utilize this option the amount(s) you designate will be debited from your selected bank account on the 15th of each month January through December 2012. This option is secure and most practical when the amount is consistent each month throughout the year.

If you already have Direct Debit set up, you will still need to submit a Pledge Card indicating your 2012 pledge(s).

Direct Debit is easy to set up. Authorization Forms are available at the Welcome Center and can either be dropped into the collection plate or placed in a sealed envelope then into my mail box in the copy room.

If you have questions please contact me at 330.808.3050 or via email at ekhbennett@gmail.com.

Sincerely, Elise Bennett



CALENDAR



NOVEMBER 3 – NOVEMBER 17, 2011

Thurs., Nov. 3 8:00 a.m. Financial Advisory Team
 10:30 a.m. Women's Fellowship Mtg. – D.Bacon
 12:00 noon WF Luncheon - FH
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Friday, Nov. 4 5:00 p.m. Craft Nite

Sunday, Nov. 6 **8:30 a.m.** **Worship Service**
Communion Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – all ages
 9:00 a.m. Confirmation I & II
All Saints Day and **10:00 a.m.** **Worship Service**
Veterans Day 10:00 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsals
 10:30 a.m. Children's Worship 5th grade & younger
 11:00 a.m. Linger Longer – Atrium
 11:15 a.m. Nominating Committee – D.Bacon
 11:30 a.m. Sr. High Fellowship – Leaf Raking

Monday, Nov. 7 6:30 p.m. Women's New Initiative - Atrium
 7:00 p.m. Heritage AA in 100
 7:00 p.m. Pre-Election Mtg - FH

Tuesday, Nov. 8 6:30 a.m. Election Day – all day -- FH
 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study – Bagnoli home
 12:15 p.m. Pastor's Lectionary Study – Dr. John's Office
 5:30 p.m. Pageant Practice
 7:00 p.m. Board Meetings
 8:15 p.m. Executive Council

Wed., Nov. 9 8:00 a.m. Standards of Excellence in Ministry - Library
 9:00 a.m. Quilters
 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship
 6:00 p.m. Stephen Min. – D. Bacon
 7:00 p.m. Youth Ringers
 7:00 p.m. Creative Writing Class – Narthex
 7:00 p.m. Preaching Project Group Mtg. – Library (Rev. Matt)

Thurs., Nov. 10 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir & 8:00p.m. Chancel Ringers
 Fri., Nov. 11 -----

Sunday, Nov. 13 **8:30 a.m.** **Worship Service**
Victory Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – all ages
 9:00 a.m. Confirmation I & II
 10:00 a.m. **Worship Service – Baptisms**
 10:00 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsals
 10:30 a.m. Children's Worship 5th grade & younger
 11:00 a.m. **Victory Sunday Celebration Luncheon - FH**
 11:30 a.m. Sr. High Sunday Lunch Club
 6:00 p.m. WJHM – FH for Veteran's Day

Monday, Nov. 14 7:00 p.m. Yarning for Peace – D.Bacon
 7:00 p.m. Heritage AA – Rm.100

Tuesday, Nov. 15 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study – Bagnoli Home
 12:15 p.m. Pastor's Lectionary Study – Dr. John's Office
 5:30 p.m. Pageant Practice
 6:30 p.m. Card Making - FH

Wed., Nov. 16 9:00 a.m. Quilters
 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship
 7:00 p.m. Creative Writing Class – Kent State
 7:00 p.m. Youth Ringers

Thurs., Nov. 17 9:30 a.m. WF Executive Board Mtg. – D.Bacon
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir & 8:00p.m. Chancel Ringers

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
PO BOX 420
TALLMADGE OH 44278
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TALLMADGE OH
PERMIT No. 30

DATE: November 1, 2011

Spiritual / Pastoral Care Ministry Contacts

<u>Hearts in Service</u>	Barbara Rowles	330-733-2008	34babs@sbcglobal.net
<u>Life's Journey Ministry</u>	Leslie Taylor	330-687-0881	ltaylor@services4aging.org
<u>Pastoral Staff</u>	Rev. Dr. John Schluep Rev. Matthew Wooster	330-633-4931 330-633-4931	jschluepfcc@sbcglobal.net mcwooster@yahoo.com
<u>Prayer Chain</u>	Dorothy Taylor	330-633-3008	-----
<u>Stephen Ministry</u>	Jackie Parker Jana Caplinger Ron Mitchell	330-867-7149 330-896-4320 330-633-4055	jackieinministry@att.net jcaplinger@neo.rr.com Mitchell_rd@hotmail.com
<u>Warrior's Journey Home Ministry</u>	Rev. Dr. John Schluep	330-633-4931	jschluepfcc@sbcglobal.net
<u>Yarning For Peace</u>	Dee West	330-633-4421	dwest890@aol.com