

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 2, 2010

ISSUE: 574

Worship Services 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Web site: www.FCCTALLMADGE.org

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

For Sunday Service of November 7, 2010

November Special Benevolence: Veterans of the Cross

All Saints Day and Communion 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 – Recognition of Vets

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

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

The Rev. Matthew Wooster will be giving the message.

Ushers Bob McPherson, Joseph Hedrick
Bob Haydu, Walt Nicholson

Greeters *Atrium* Gary and Carol Myers
Narthex Hugh and Marie Zimmer

11:30 a.m. Sr. High Outing – Paint Ball

6:00 p.m. WJHM

Altar Flowers :

Don and Glenna Simmons in celebration of their 56th
Wedding Anniversary.

and from

Jim and Betty Cottrill in celebration of their 56th Wedding
Anniversary also!

Congratulations! Happy Anniversary to all!

The next HERALD Newsletter :



The next *Herald* mailing date is not until *Tuesday, November 16, 2010*. Deadline for Lori to receive articles will be Friday, November 12, 2010. Thank You!

CALL – SPEAK – INSPIRE

How does God speak to you? Do you hear God calling? God's voice is different for each of us. Many of us hear God in Dr John's and Rev. Matt's sermons. Some hear God in the wonderful music we enjoy each Sunday (Chancel Choir, Bell choirs, teen choir, children's choirs and special performers). Possibly God speaks to you through the people – family – who accompany you to church or the church members – friends whom you sit near each Sunday. When it's quiet maybe God speaks to you in the beauty of nature – in the country, the woods, the beach. Maybe it's the Spirit's presence when our sanctuary is quiet.

God's people respond to these unique messages which are designed for each of us individually; special just for you and just for me. On November 21st we will be celebrating our inspiration from God. We will be called to hear God and pledge our support for God's work through this congregation.

The Inspired Giving Team

Church Attendance

October 24, 2010

8:30 a.m. Worship	43
10:00 a.m. Worship	338

October 31, 2010

8:30 a.m. Worship	31
10:00 a.m. Worship	304



PASTOR'S SIDEBAR

I need to rake the yard.

The word religion is derived from the root word that means “connection to the divine.” In my understanding legitimate religions, by definition, ought to connect us to one another. The sacred commandment, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength” is matched by the equally important passage that follows, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Do this, Jesus teaches, and you are not far from the Kingdom of God. (Mark 12:28-34)

Several weeks ago I stood on Lady Black Mountain in Viet Nam and entered a pagoda to pray. It wasn't a traditional church sanctuary, but it was a sacred place. I offered prayers to God through Christ and asked for Christ's guidance through the Holy Spirit. I offered prayers of thanksgiving for my family, for you, and the journey I was on. I asked for guidance and lifted up the many members of this congregation who face an unknown and uncertain future. I listened to the chanting Buddhist monks and smelled the aromatic sweet incense sticks placed at the altar – hundreds of sticks placed in a sand filled vase indicating the prayers of the people who prayed there. I felt God's embrace and I was at peace.

Two weeks later we arrived home to a welcoming that is still being realized. The crowd at the Akron-Canton Airport of friends was, to say the least, overwhelming. I still cannot find the words to describe or define what was felt inside. I saw many familiar faces in the sea of humanity and I saw many who were nameless, yet were there united with others because of the Viet Nam war. Many came to offer the “welcome home” that was not given 40 plus years ago. I know God smiled.

The following Sunday at worship I was given a wonderful blessing by you, the people, who expressed in many ways, your appreciation for me as one of your pastors. I am truly blessed and I am most grateful, and I still cannot find the words to express what I feel in my heart and soul. Thank you.

In my home is a wall hanging that states: **Having someplace to go is home. Having someone to love is family. Having both is a blessing.** You have defined “religion” in the purest definition of the word. Being in your presence is a divine experience whether in Viet Nam, an airport, or in God's sanctuary at 85 Heritage Drive. You are God's blessing.

These are the thoughts looking at a leaf-filled yard from my bay window.

Love,

Dr. J

VIET NAM AND THE SUPER BOWL

Warriors Journey Home Ministry: Listen – Speak – Heal is doing major fund raising to assist our veterans return to Viet Nam in October, 2010. For a donation of \$10.00 you will receive a chance to win two Super Bowl tickets for Super Bowl XLV played in Cowboys Stadium, Arlington Texas in February, 2011. Along with the tickets will be a travel and lodging stipend! Tickets are available through Jane Huffman at 330/633-9628 and the drawing will be held on Thursday, November 11, 2010 (Veteran's Day) at Delanie's Restaurant in Tallmadge.



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 available for sale 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.

TO LOAN: Bath Tub Seat, Potty Chair, Walker-2 wheels
Call Jerry Feezel to inquire about these items 330-633-7465



Trailmarkers

As I write, I am just back from a visit with our son, Sam, for parents' weekend at Ithaca College. Ithaca is nestled in the hills at the southern tip of Cayuga Lake, one of the finger lakes in New York State. One of our favorite things to do there is to hike the trails around one of the many spectacular gorges (the city slogan is a great pun: Ithaca is Gorges). Our hike at Treman Park took us into a gorge where a quiet stream becomes a roar as it crashes down a 115-foot waterfall, surrounded by bluffs, with every small layer of rock exposed. It's like a miniature version of the Grand Canyon.

There are two things that I find amazing about these hikes, apart from the beauty and majesty of the gorges. The first is that they are hidden. Nothing about the drive to the park entrance, or the quiet stream that rolls along by the parking lot at the head of the trail, would suggest to you that there was anything within a quarter mile that will make your jaw drop open. Unless you actually walk into the gorge, you could spend a lifetime going right around it and never know what a fantastic place it is.

The second amazing thing is that in years gone by, a group of people went to a lot of trouble to make a path that takes you right up to the edge of this waterfall. This was no easy feat, since the waterfall is, as I noted, in the midst of steep bluffs. If you can picture scenes of the troll caves from the Lord of the Rings, then you will have an idea of the pathways, stone steps and bridges that surround the gorges in Ithaca.

There is something religious about these parks. Just like the waterfall, we all live our lives right around a force that is majestic, powerful, and beautiful. God's Spirit is right in the midst of our comings and goings, but it can also be easy to miss, unless something, or someone, shows the way. We can be thankful that the saints who lived before us have left us a path.

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

RAKE & RUN GROUP



Thank you to everyone who helped on October 24 to rake up the yards at the homes of some of the dearest members of our church family.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday, November 7: Paintball outing at TPA Paintball, 11:30-4:30. Call Rev. Matt Wooster immediately to reserve your spot.

Sunday, November 14: Fellowship at church, 7:00-8:30 PM

Sunday, November 21: Lunch Club at church, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM. In the David Bacon Room.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Fellowship and Youth Bells

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

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

Fellowship is an hour filled with games, funny skits, and a time for discussion and devotion, led by Rev. Matt Wooster. Upcoming nightly themes are:

November 3: Ultimate Soccer. It's like soccer, but ultimate.

November 10: Backwards "sdrawkcaB"

November 17: Thanksgiving—Giving Thanks

November 24: No meeting on the night before Thanksgiving.

Youth Bells is new this year, led by Denise Daniels. Everyone in grades 6-8 is welcome to join.



I want to express my *gratitude* for the outpouring of appreciation shown by the congregation as a whole, the pastoral relations committee, and many of you individually, on the occasion of pastor appreciation. Your kind and encouraging words and gifts were affirmations of the love that we share in this church family, and I need this church to know how much I appreciate all of you. I am grateful to be in this church. I am grateful to work with this wonderful staff, including Nancy Beken, Wendy Brown, Denise Daniels, Lori Heath, Gary Myers, Steve Ristich, Nancy Lynn Robinson, Teresa Snyder, and, of course, John Schluep.

I also need to say how thankful I am for my wife, Betsy, who is the central support for my ministry here at this church, while she also works in ministry at Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights, where she directs ministry for children and families. *Rev. Matthew Wooster*

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I would like to *thank Dr. John and Rev. Matt* for their visits while I was in the hospital. *Thanks* to our members for the calls and cards. *A special thanks* to the "Yarning for Peace" for gifting me with the beautiful prayer shawl. The caring and concerns shown by members is why we joined forty-one years ago! *Pat Paler*

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Many thanks to Wendy and her crew of great kids who came to our house armed with rakes and blower to clean our lawn of leaves. They did a terrific job and had such fun doing it! It was so appreciated by us. *Ed & Marian Belisle*

SHORT TERM SUNDAY SESSIONS FOR ADULTS

Crash Course on the Psalms: November 7, 14, 21.
(Room 209)

Current Events: December 5, 12, 19.

Spiritual Care Ministry Article

By Jana Caplinger

Mulberry Gardens in Need of Volunteers

We recently received a letter from Tara Miller, Activity Director at Mulberry Gardens Retirement and Assisted Living facility in Monroe Falls. She writes:

“It is our goal at Mulberry Gardens to have at least two worship services per week. Examples include but are not limited to: Bible studies, Prayer services, Communion, Friday Shabbat services, Hymn sings, and Daily Devotions. I am reaching out to area churches for volunteers to help us meet our spiritual potential at Mulberry Gardens. If you are interested, or know someone who would be, please contact me at 330-634-9919.”

If you think this is something you might like to do, call Tara Miller and see how you might help. Thank you for your time and consideration.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



November Prayer Initiative:

Please join us in praying for our church family who are homebound or have entered assisted living and nursing homes. Join us in offering prayers of thanksgiving for our H.I.S. Ministry (Hearts in Service); the volunteers who serve to contact and visit these members.

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Condolences on the passing of Barbara String on October 20, 2010. Services were held on Monday, October 25th at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Gates Mills, Ohio. Barbara was Ann Minar's sister-in-law.



Please Remember in Prayer

Alberta Bauch
Robin Bellinger (*daughter of Jane Huth*)
Christee Burr ridge (*daughter of Ruth McNair*)
Carol Carter
Joe Cheslock (*friend of Hope Mitchell*)
Jean DeWitt
Harold (Tiny) Eriksen
David Huth (*son of Jane Huth*)
Tom Kester
Grace Kish
Gary Kiss
Judy Lacey
Zell Lambert
Nina Miller
Ann Minar
Cecil Nelson (*father of Kathy Harris*)
Nancy O'Neal
Pat Paler
Stephen Parker
Judy Peverall
M. J. Pickett
Vicky Rambler
Gary Rambler
Ralph Sharpnack
Al Stocker

1st Battalion 145th Armored Regiment (Ohio Nat'l. Guard)

Stephen Ministry Interviews

Church Members who are Homebound, in Assisted Living, and in Nursing Homes

H.I.S. Volunteers

(Dear Lord, watch over our Church Family who are unable to join us in worship and ministry activities. Keep Us One in the Spirit. Amen.)

STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Dr. John Schluep, *Senior Pastor* jschluepfcc@sbcglobal.net
Rev. Matthew Wooster, *Assoc. Pastor* mcwooster@yahoo.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* nrobinsonfcc@sbcglobal.net

Stephen Ristich *Head Custodian (Mon - Fri Day Shift)*
Teresa Snyder *Part-Time Evening Custodian (Mo, Tu, We & Th)*
Larry Carlisle *Part-Time Evening Custodian (Fri & Sunday)*

Stephen Leaders

Jana Caplinger (330 / 896-4320) jcaplinger@neo.rr.com
Diana Caldwell (330 / 733-0030) dianasl@neo.rr.com
Jackie Parker (330 / 867-7149) jackieinministry@att.net
Ron Mitchell (330 / 633-4055) Mitchell_rd@hotmail.com



CHRISTMAS QUILT

The Quilters have a beautiful Christmas Quilt to sell! The top was made by Debra Kinzel and was quilted by our Quilters. We will be selling \$1.00 donation Tickets before and after church each Sunday until the drawing on December 5th. Please support the hard work our Quilters do each week.



~ ~ SCRAPBOOKING ~ ~



Cherie Wade and Lori Heath
regretfully had to Cancel Friday, October 29th.

The next night of Scrapbooking will be
Friday night, November 12th 6pm 'till whenever!
here at First Congregational Church ~ in Fellowship Hall.
Call Cherie at 330-630-3448 or Lori at 330-633-3853
if you have any questions!



PENNSYLVANIA TRIP

LAST CALL!! Sign up now for the trip to Lancaster, PA.
to see two beautiful shows:
"The Miracle of Christmas" and "Voices of Christmas"
Trip includes one dinner at Hershey Farms, one breakfast,
room and transportation.

DATE: December 9-10 COST: \$232.00

Contact LaVerne Belcher for reservation and details at
Home 330/633-6051 OR Church (10-11:30am) 330/633-4931



USHERS AND GREETERS

Sign-Up Sheet for 2011 is located
on the Welcome Center in the Atrium.
Any questions, call Jim West at 330/633-4421



FREE -- TREADMILL

Call Betty Schoffman 330 / 633-4455

PECANS !

WNI is selling pecans again this year for your holiday needs. The jumbo pecan halves are fresh from Georgia and are selling for \$8.00 per pound. They will be on sale at church again on November 7 & 14. Chris Thompson is the Fund Raiser Chairwoman for this event. Chris can be reached at 330/633-6878.

SOCIAL ACTION AND MINISTRIES BOARD. . .

is planning to hold a luncheon and Silent Auction on December 5, 2010. We are looking for Silent Auction items to be donated by our congregation to help raise funds for a school in Mali. If you are a crafter or have a business and would like to donate a service or item, or you would like to donate a unique gift for the Silent Auction, please notify Ronda Read at 330-633-8586 or Gayle Kersch at gkersch3@yahoo.com. Thank you for any support you can give us for this worthy cause.

Effective immediately –
Please use email address below

nrbgp@aol.com



to reach Nancy Lynn Robinson. *Thank you!*

NOTICE ! NEW FLYER !

Sherri BevanWalsh Alert!

A Florida-based home security company is using high pressure tactics to sell alarms in Cuyahoga Falls! Please take a flyer and read up on this! The flyer is located on the Welcome Center in the Atrium.

NOTICE !

Calling all collectors, horse enthusiasts!
Breakfast w/ Santa's coming up sooner that we know it!

Do you have a sleigh?

If so, may we borrow it for a prop in the Atrium?
Please call Christie Speicher at 330-328-9289 or email her
at crs995@sbcglobal.net. **THANK YOU!!!**

For Sunday Service of November 14, 2010

November Special Benevolence: Veterans of the Cross

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

The Rev. Dr. John M. Schluep will be giving the message.

Ushers Steve and Chris Burr
Gary and Kim Fulton

Greeters Atrium Ed and Pam Stanek
Narthex Jack and Shirley Gron

11:00 a.m. Linger Longer – Atrium

6:00 p.m. WJHM

7:00 p.m. Sr. Hi Fellowship (9-12)

Altar Flowers today are from:

Sandy Farabee **and from** Chris, Larissa, Greg, and Robin.
Both vases from all above ~~ in memory of Ted.

Thank you.

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**THANK YOU** to all of you who came to the African Dinner to hear Dr. Scott Lacy speak. Your interest and support is very much appreciated. Many people were interested in having the recipe for the West African Peanut Chicken. Enjoy!

**RECIPE**

- 3 lbs. skinless chicken breast
- 3 T. cooking oil
- 1 large sweet onion, sliced or chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped

**SAUCE:**

- 2 cup chicken broth (heated to a simmer)
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 28 oz. can of tomato sauce
- 1 28 oz. can of diced tomatoes
- 2 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp. cumin (optional)
- salt and pepper to taste
- chopped peanuts

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Brown chicken, onion and garlic in oil and place in 9 x 13 glass dish. Blend tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, peanut butter, and seasonings in a bowl. Add warmed chicken broth, stir and pour over chicken. Bake covered for 45 minutes, top with chopped peanuts and cook 15 minutes more. Serve over rice cooked with vegetable broth or vegetable seasoning.

**Change for Children**

Our children Sunday school classes, age 3 through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, are going to collect funds to support African Sky and the building of schools in Africa. We are going to have a contest to see which class can fill the piggy bank. Each class will have a piggy bank in your classroom to put your change in. If you fill up your piggy bank, your class will be invited to an ice cream party. We will continue to collect the offering for African Sky until December 19 with the ice cream party in January.

**Pageant Practice**

Yes, we are starting to get ready for the Christmas Pageant. Practices are on Wednesday nights from 6:00- 7:00PM. All children younger than 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will also be in the pageant and practicing on Sunday mornings until a later date. The Christmas Pageant will be performed on December 19<sup>th</sup> after lunch is served.

**Pageant Prayer Partners**

The pageant is so demanding on the children especially the closer to performance time we get. We would like to have prayer partners for each one of our actors this year. We will be looking for those prayer partners soon. If you would be interested in this opportunity, you will be asked to do the following:

- Please send a card of encouragement weekly (to the present box)
- Please pray for your child regularly
- Please send **NO** gifts
- Please put the child’s first and last name on the every card
- Please plan on attending the pageant on December 19 at 11:30 AM.

**Save the Date**

**Santa Breakfast, December 11 from 9:30- 11:30 AM**

We would like to welcome you to winter wonderland this year for breakfast, crafts and Santa! More details about where to get your free tickets will be coming soon; just mark your calendars now!

**DOG IN NEED OF TEMPORARY HOME !!**

Belongs to Nancy O’Neal – a member at FCCT. Nancy was hospitalized for several months but is now recovering. The dog’s name is Jessie and she’s a 4 year old loving, well-mannered Scottish Terrior. Right now Nancy is doing rehabilitation and won’t be able to care for Jessie immediately after she comes home. It will possibly be 1-2 months after Nancy returns home until she will be able to care for Jessie herself. Please call Christine O’Neal (Nancy’s daughter) at 330-688-3132 if interested.

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## GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Profits since March which began a new year are **1152.40!**

Kohl's cards are now available and you can use them to pay off your charge!

Since September, all profits have been going to pay for the Atrium! That total is \$410.30. Sales have increased dramatically since this announcement, but we have a long way to go! The program averages about 15 customers a week. Just think how quickly our total would increase, if everyone made a monthly commitment to purchase gift cards.

Perhaps you aren't aware that we still owe over \$600,000 on the Atrium. I've worked with other gift card programs that were able to raise over \$80,000 a year. You see the success of the program depends on the number of people willing to make the commitment. I know we could easily reduce the Atrium deficit with the dedication of our congregation! You don't have to dig deeper in your pockets. You are already buying groceries, gas and fast food on a weekly basis. Like everything else, it just takes a little planning to make this program a habit.

Just to give you an idea, if you purchase:

\$10.00/week=\$20.80 profit at year end  
\$25.00/week =\$52.00 profit at year end  
\$50.00/week = \$104.00 profit at year end  
\$100.00/week= \$208.00 profit at year end  
\$200/week=\$416.00 profit at year end

If you want to purchase a larger item, such as, refrigerator, washer, dryer, or computer, special orders are available and the turn-around time is about 2 days.

The profit amount is tax deductible and you will receive a statement at year end.

Diana Fiocca 330-923-8745  
dianafiocca@sbcglobal.net

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## HEARTS AND HANDS REACHING OUT

Many members of this church family, inspired by Christian teachings, reach out to others to show love and give aid where needed. Many serve quietly, in silence, and you know who you are and the joys you receive. Many others serve as representatives of our church and are helped by your gifts of time and money. One month in the year of outreach was October when church members and friends were enabled to continue to raise funds to build a school in Mali, Africa. Members made contributions at the "African Sky" table in the Atrium each Sunday morning. Approximately 80 people participated in the Malian feast when Scott Lacy made a presentation. Many attended the African Sky silent auction held in Fairlawn where sufficient funds were raised to build one school.

The Red Cross Blood Mobile visited our church in late September and a total of 31 pints were donated, exceeding the goal of 24 pints. Those donors were served homemade soup prepared by church members. On a beautiful Saturday morning, members and friends prepared and served a ham dinner as we participated in the "Lunch is on us" program at Miller Avenue United Church of Christ. A total of 154 meals were given out to those living in the area of the church as expressions of love and caring.

Our participation in the Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network) requires nearly forty people to serve in various capacities during our one-week of joint hosting with Northwest Avenue Church of Christ. As host church, an equal number of their members participate. Betty Cottrill is the coordinator of volunteers, from our church, who serve as evening hosts, cooks for dinner, over-night sleepers, and drivers of the van. In October, there were three families, totaling 15 people, who needed help with housing, food and transportation. This special outreach is repeated every eleven weeks throughout the year, thus many have an opportunity to reach out with love to help others. As an expression of thanksgiving for God's blessings, may we all help to share those blessings with others in need.

*The Social Action / Mission Ministries*

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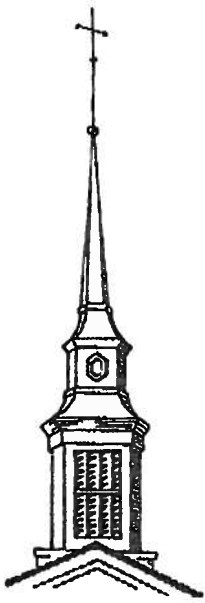
# CALENDAR



NOVEMBER 4 -- NOVEMBER 18, 2010



|                        |                         |                                                    |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Thurs., Nov. 4         | 8:00 a.m.               | Financial Advisory Team                            |
|                        | 10:30 a.m.              | Women's Fellowship Mtg – D.Bacon                   |
|                        | 11:00 a.m.              | Staff Mtg.                                         |
|                        | 12:00 noon              | WF Luncheon - FH                                   |
|                        | 6:30 p.m.               | Chancel Choir & 8:00pm Chancel Ringers             |
| Friday, Nov. 5         | -----                   | -----                                              |
| Sat., Nov. 6           | 8:00 a.m.               | Stephen Ministers – D.Bacon/200                    |
|                        | 7:00 p.m.               | AA Group – FH                                      |
| <b>Sunday, Nov. 7</b>  | <b>Communion Sunday</b> |                                                    |
| <b>All Saints Day</b>  | <b>8:30 a.m.</b>        | <b>Worship Service</b>                             |
|                        | 9:00 a.m.               | Sunday School – all ages                           |
|                        | 9:00 a.m.               | Confirmation I & II                                |
|                        | <b>10:00 a.m.</b>       | <b>Worship Service – Recognition of Vets</b>       |
|                        | 10:00 a.m.              | Children's Choir Rehearsals                        |
|                        | 10:30 a.m.              | Children's Worship 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade & younger |
|                        | 11:00 a.m.              | Linger Longer - Atrium                             |
|                        | 11:15 a.m.              | Sr. Hi Fellowship Outing – Paintball               |
|                        | 6:00 p.m.               | WJHM                                               |
| Monday, Nov. 8         | 7:00 p.m.               | Yarning for Peace – Rm.213                         |
|                        | 7:30 p.m.               | Heritage AA – Rm.100                               |
| Tuesday, Nov. 9        | 7:00 a.m.               | Men's Bible Study – Bagnoli home                   |
|                        | 12:15 p.m.              | Pastor's Lectionary Study                          |
|                        | 7:00 p.m.               | Board Meetings                                     |
|                        | 8:15 p.m.               | Executive Council                                  |
| Wed., Nov. 10          | 9:00 a.m.               | Quilters                                           |
|                        | 6:00 p.m.               | Pageant Practice - Narthex                         |
|                        | 6:00 p.m.               | Youth Fellowship                                   |
|                        | 7:00 p.m.               | Youth Ringers                                      |
| Thursday, Nov. 11      | 11:00 a.m.              | Staff Mtg.                                         |
|                        | 6:30 p.m.               | Chancel Choir & 8:00pm Chancel Ringers             |
| Friday, Nov. 12        | 6:00 p.m.               | Scrapbooking                                       |
| Saturday, Nov. 13      | 7:00 p.m.               | AA Group – FH                                      |
| <b>Sunday, Nov. 14</b> | <b>8:30 a.m.</b>        | <b>Worship Service</b>                             |
|                        | 9:00 a.m.               | Sunday School – all ages                           |
|                        | 9:00 a.m.               | Confirmation I & II                                |
|                        | <b>10:00 a.m.</b>       | <b>Worship Service</b>                             |
|                        | 10:00 a.m.              | Children's Choir Rehearsals                        |
|                        | 10:30 a.m.              | Children's Worship 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade & younger |
|                        | 11:00 a.m.              | Linger Longer – Atrium                             |
|                        | 6:00 p.m.               | WJHM                                               |
|                        | 7:00 p.m.               | Sr. Hi Fellowship (9-12)                           |
| Monday, Nov. 15        | 7:00 p.m.               | WNI Planning Mtg – D.Bacon                         |
|                        | 7:30 p.m.               | Heritage AA – 100                                  |
| Tuesday, Nov. 16       | 7:00 a.m.               | Men's Bible Study – Bagnoli Home                   |
|                        | 12:15 p.m.              | Pastor's Lectionary Study                          |
|                        | 6:30 p.m.               | Card Making - FH                                   |
| Wed., Nov. 17          | 9:00 a.m.               | Quilters                                           |
|                        | 6:00 p.m.               | Youth Fellowship                                   |
|                        | 7:00 p.m.               | Youth Ringers                                      |
| Thurs., Nov. 18        | 9:30 a.m.               | WF Exec. Board Mtg – D.Bacon/200                   |
|                        | 11:00 a.m.              | Staff Meeting                                      |
|                        | 6:00 p.m.               | Pageant Practice - Narthex                         |
|                        | 6:30 p.m.               | Chancel Choir & 8pm Chancel Ringers                |



# *First Congregational Church of Tallmadge*

*a*

*United Church of Christ Congregation*

“Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living”

[www.fcctallmadge.org](http://www.fcctallmadge.org)

November 2, 2010

Dear Friends:

It is indeed an honor to serve in the capacity of consecrating steward. I must also admit at first it was a bit overwhelming. The more I learned of the tasks expected of the position, the more I could relate to Moses in the Book of Exodus. When the Lord wanted Moses to speak for the Israelites, he objected. He argued with God saying things like, “they won’t believe me, I’m not qualified” and finally he pleaded and said “send someone else”. I had similar thoughts. Fortunately, I didn’t require a visit to a burning bush, rather I reviewed the story and what God finally told Moses was that the only thing he needed to know was that God was going to be with him. I know that with God all things are possible; when I thought about that, I agreed to take on the task.

While preparing to address the leadership team of the consecration campaign, I was reminded of the theme for this year’s campaign, God Calls Us, God Speaks to Us, God Inspires us. That theme speaks volumes. If we allow ourselves to be open to that concept it will certainly provide the inspiration we are seeking.

After preparing the best speech ever for a dinner with the Leadership Team of the Stewardship Campaign and while sitting and listening to the other speakers that evening addressing the group, I realized that maybe I hadn’t been actually hearing what God was telling me. Here I believed that I was supposed to provide the inspiration for that evening as well as for the congregation as a whole. No wonder I was intimidated, me an inspiration? Then I thought through the words of the theme and the message from Exodus. God inspires; not me, no pressure.

I trust that the stories that will be told before the congregation over the next several weeks give pause for thought. Each story will be received differently by each listener. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, I will be honored to share my stories with you all. If there is inspiration it will not be from me or the others who will share. Inspiration comes from God. We are the vessels; I hope that our stories reach out to you. In the end “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Luke 12:34)

I pray that you all trust your hearts and listen as God speaks. We all have gifts; how we use them is up to us. I hope that the stories will provide some examples of stewardship in action and give individuals the incentive to utilize their own gifts in acts of stewardship. Need help in deciding? “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths right.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Chuck Victor  
Consecrating Steward

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Rev. Matthew C. Wooster  
*Associate Pastor*

Nancy Beken  
*Administrative Assistant*

Nancy Lynn Robinson  
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