

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: March 15, 2011
Issue: 582

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 March 20, 2011

March Special Benevolence: One Great Hour of Sharing

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday School – all ages

9:00 a.m. Confirmation I

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. Matthew Wooster will be giving the message.

Ushers Pam Birch, Shelly Williams
Jon and Mindy Hill

Greeters Atrium -----
Narthex -----

11:00 a.m. Linger Longer - Atrium

11:30 a.m. Sr. High Lunch Club

1:00 p.m. Stephen Min. Training – D.Bacon Rm.200

6:00 p.m. WJHM

Vases of Altar Flowers for today are from:

Mark and Cathleen Clark in honor of life. *Thank you.*
and from

Curt and Janice Carlton in honor of their 40th Anniversary.
Congratulations and Happy Anniversary!

The next HERALD Newsletter :



The next *Herald* mailing date will be *Tuesday, March 29th, 2011*. The deadline for Lori to receive articles is Friday, March 25, 2011. *Thank You!*

As a REMINDER

Our next Red Envelope Sunday is April 3, 2011,



... the first Sunday of the month.

The RED Envelope will *no longer* be inserted into your Herald. The envelopes will continue to be available in the church pews. If unable to attend church, you may mail your contribution to the church office – just label your check "Red Envelope". [The red envelope is designated for the Emergency Fund and the money is used for covering repairs only.] **Thank you.**

COMING SOON!

New PICTURE DIRECTORY of our church family.

Over the next few weeks, several events will take place! Appointments will be made, Sign-Up spots will be filled in, you will have your (household) pictures taken by a professional photographer from Olan Mills, and also meet with a Portrait Consultant at the church.

NOTE that every participating family that selects a pose for the directory will receive a FREE Directory and a Complimentary 8x10 Natural Portrait. Also, you have the opportunity to order additional portraits and if you do purchase extras, you may take advantage of Winter Special Rates that apply to March bookings.

If questions, call Mr. Bill Robison at 330-671-0895.



PASTOR'S SIDEBAR

Daffodils have broken through the snow!

Lent is a journey to Jerusalem and what we know as Passion Week beginning with Palm Sunday. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the visit to the temple started with a cleansing of the temple. (Mark 11:15-18; John 2:13-18) We are told that Jesus fashioned a whip, turned over the money changers tables and quoted from Isaiah 56:7, *My house will be a house of prayer*, and from Jeremiah 7:11, *but you have made it a den of robbers*. Interestingly, all four gospels carry this story.

In a few hours I will be attending the *Wheels4Change* Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction. I am also reminded of the fund-raising activities of our church that take place on Sunday morning and through the week. The aforementioned scripture story comes to mind when I arrive at church and see all the activity in the Atrium. There is a difference between the activities of money changers in Jesus' day and our activities on Sunday morning. Our activities are activities that are raising necessary monies to support unfunded ministry: building a school in Africa, supporting the work to alleviate the suffering of homeless families of Summit County, supporting the soul healing of veterans and their families, raising awareness of veteran's issues and supporting the mortgage reduction of our church. Our hearts are in the proper place and the motivation is to be in ministry. A secondary gain is the community of faithful followers of Christ working together that becomes a way of fellowship and witness. The causes for our ministries point beyond our Church to Christ.

In the time of Jesus, Israel, as a Roman province, conducted daily business with Roman and Greek money. Roman and Greek money was prohibited for use in temple offerings because the coins carried the image of the emperor who was considered a god; therefore, Roman and Greek monies had to be exchanged for Jewish and Tyrian money to be used in temple offerings and to purchase animals for sacrifice. Jesus specifically mentions doves because the dove was the cheapest animal purchased for sacrifice and was purchased most often by the poor and the widows. (Matthew 21:12-13) It is easy for us to see how this system of exchange and purchase could become corrupt with the moneychangers inflating the exchange rate as well as overcharging for doves. All of this was legitimized by the religious authorities. It was the taking advantage of others that Jesus was protesting.

These are the thoughts from my soggy backyard where the emerging green daffodil leaves stir the warmth in my heart and soul.

Peace and blessings,
Dr. J

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

3rd Sunday Lunch Club

March 20, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM at the church.

Boston Tour April 29-May 2

Confirmation Class II tour to the history of Congregationalism.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

Middle School Youth

Fellowship and Youth Ringers - Wednesdays

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

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

Fellowship Themes:

March 23 No Fellowship meeting

March 30 No Fellowship meeting

April 6 Around the World

Received in covenant partnership with First Congregational Church of Tallmadge at our 10am Worship Service on March 13, 2011:

Wiley Daniel Beightol Harley & Betty Sir Louis

James & Derna Bish Kimberly Stock

Timothy Burns Madison Stock

James & Jean Dennis

Kenneth & Cynthia Dodge

Dan & Dianne Drummond

Christopher & Robin Marshall

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

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Wendy Brown, *Dir. Christian Educ.* wbrownfcc@sbcglobal.net

Nancy Lynn Robinson, *Dir. Music* nrbgp@aol.com

Gary Myers, *Business Manager* gbcjmyers597@aol.com

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



Trailmarkers

I was having a discussion last week with some of the wonderful people in our youth group about Lent and Ash Wednesday. They had some great questions for me, and maybe you've had the same ones.

Why would anyone want to go to the wilderness for 40 days?

I had told them that the 40 days of Lent is modeled on the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, following his baptism (it also echoes the 40 years that Moses and the Hebrews spent in the wilderness after the exodus from Egypt).

The gospels don't give specific reasons, but I think that Jesus wanted to spend some time away from distractions in order to be in prayer and contemplation. He was about to begin his public ministry, and he knew that everyone needs times of quiet for spiritual work.

On Ash Wednesday, do churches ever use the ashes of real people?

No, absolutely not. The ashes we use on Ash Wednesday to mark our foreheads come from burnt palms that were waved on Palm Sunday. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, and so the ashes remind us that Lent will end with Holy Week, a week that begins with palms and ends in the death of Jesus.

But it's a good question, because the ashes are a reminder of our mortality. They are a reminder that we will share with Jesus in both death and resurrection. I find that the ritual reminder of my mortality is also a reminder of how valuable life is for as long as we have it.

Why do people give something up during Lent?

Lent is traditionally a season of fasting, in which people ate simple foods, such as broth soups. Christians would often eat less meat and refrain from cooking with fat (thus Mardi Gras, or "Fat Tuesday" is the last day to eat rich foods until Easter). Fasting is a spiritual discipline which helps us to focus on sharing in the sufferings of Christ, and it is an act of solidarity with all people who suffer. Over time, the practice of fasting became focused on a sacrifice of chocolate or sweets, or bad habits. Whenever you experience a longing for what you have given up, that can be a reminder to think of those who must go without.

Another idea is to commit to something during Lent, such as journal writing, sending notes of encouragement, reading the Matthew's gospel, or spending time in contemplation, like Jesus in the wilderness.

May God's peace be with you,
Matt

W.N.I. "Cultivate the Creative Spirit"

Have fun making a pretty, decorative serving spoon for your home. W.N.I. invites all ladies to attend a **Decorative Spoon Workshop** featuring Kim Fulton from Cornflower Florist on Monday, **April 4**, at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. This demonstration will be hands on and kits are being provided. There will be a nominal charge of \$6.00 per kit. In order for Kim to determine the number of kits needed, there will be a **sign-up sheet** available in the Atrium on Sunday, **March 27** and Sunday, **April 3**. Everyone is asked to bring a stuffed Easter animal for donation to Children's Hospital.

Program Chairs are: Carol Penn, Marie Zimmer, and Beth Schluep.

Church Attendance

March 6, 2011

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 8:30 a.m. Worship | 44 |
| 10:00 a.m. Worship | 338 |

March 13, 2011

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| 8:30 a.m. Worship | 34 |
| 10:00 a.m. Worship | 234 |

Adult Mission Project

Meeting for "Rebuilding Together"

There will be a **meeting** on Sunday, **March 20th at 11:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall for anyone planning on participating in the adult mission project for "Rebuilding Together". It will be a short meeting to give an overview of the house we will be working on, meet the project leaders and get or return the Volunteer form. Anyone 14 years and older, both skilled and unskilled, may participate in this project. Persons 14 to 17 require a Parental Permission Volunteer Form to be signed. The workday is scheduled for Saturday, April 30th. If you would like to participate but aren't available that day, you can still be involved. Sometimes work must be started prior to April 30th and/or finished after that day. For further information contact Dee West at 330-633-4421.

Adult Class

Don't Know Much About (Church) History
Six Week Class Taught by The Rev. Jim Painting
April 3 & 10, May 1, 8, 15, 22

Who are Martin Luther, Francis of Assisi, and St. Augustine?

Where did the Protestant and Catholic churches come from? Why is Christianity sometimes persecuted, and sometimes on violent crusades?

Join our guest teacher of Christian history for six Sundays, beginning in early April, and continuing in May, after a break for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Jim Painting is a minister and educator who teaches Christian History and the New Testament. He has also worked as a local sports reporter, and brings a wonderful sense of humor to his teaching. The class will use the book *The Story of Christianity*, which combines concise chapters with great pictures, maps, and illustrations to bring history to life.

Vietnam Healing

On October 19, members of Warrior's Journey Home returned from a three week journey to Vietnam for healing and reconciliation. Our own Rev. Dr. John will bring us closure in that trip with stories and pictures to share with all on Thursday, **April 7 at 10:30 a.m.** A light lunch \$5 will be served following the program. **RSVP** at the Welcome Center or by calling Christie Speicher at 330-328-9289 or email at crs995@sbcglobal.net

This program is open to everyone!

The Starlight Room...

... an evening of fine music and gourmet dining
Valet Parking

April 9, 2011 7-10 p.m.

Reservations taken beginning Sunday, March 20.
\$35/person

Benefiting the Adult/Youth Missions & African Sky

CALENDAR



MARCH 17 -- MARCH 31, 2011



Thurs., March 17 11:00 a.m. Staff Mtg.
St. Patrick's Day 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir & 8:00pm Chancel Ringers
 Friday, March 18 6:00 p.m. Scrapbooking
 Sat., March 19 -----

Sunday, March 20
 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service**
 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – all ages
 9:00 a.m. Confirmation I
 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 – Atrium
 11:30 a.m. Sr. High Lunch Club
 1:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training – D.Bacon Rm.200
 6:00 p.m. WJHM

Monday, March 21 7:00 p.m. WNI Planning Mtg. – D. Bacon Rm.200
 7:30 p.m. Heritage AA – Rm.100
 Tuesday, March 22 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study – Bagnoli home
 10:00 a.m. Lenten Study - Narthex
 12:15 p.m. Pastor's Lectionary Study
12 Noon – 6pm Red Cross - FH
 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training – Library
 Wed., March 23 9:00 a.m. Quilters
 7:00 p.m. Lenten Study – Narthex
 7:00 p.m. Youth Ringers
 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Pack Mtg. - FH
 Thurs., March 24 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
2pm – 9:20pm Pictorial - Narthex
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir & 8:00 pm Chancel Ringers
 Friday, March 25 12:00 noon AARP Meeting, Luncheon-FH
2pm – 9:30pm Pictorial - Narthex
 Saturday, March 26 8:00 a.m. Stephen Ministers – D.Bacon Rm. 200
9:30am – 5:10pm Pictorial – Narthex

Sunday, March 27
 8:30 a.m. **Worship Service**
 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – all ages
 9:00 a.m. Confirmation I
 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 – Atrium
 11:15 a.m. Spiritual Pastoral Care Min. – Dr. John's Office
 1:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training – D.Bacon Rm.200

Monday, March 28 9:00 a.m. WJHM Board Mtg – Dr. John's Office
 7:30 p.m. Heritage AA – Rm. 100
 Tuesday, March 29 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study – Bagnoli Home
 10:00 a.m. Lenten Study - Narthex
 12:15 p.m. Pastor's Lectionary Study
 6:00 p.m. Stephen Min. Training – D.Bacon Rm.200
 7:00 p.m. Lenten Study - Narthex
 Wed., March 30 9:00 a.m. Quilters
 7:00 p.m. Youth Ringers
 Thurs., March 31 9:30 a.m. WF Executive Board – D.Bacon Rm. 200
 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir & 8pm Chancel Ringers



Please Remember in Prayer

Ginny Acken – contact pastors/church for info
 Chuck Balton (*Jackie Parker's step-father*)
 Margaret Bumpas
 Carol Carter
 Rev. Ed Carter
 Joe Cheslock (*friend of Hope Mitchell*)
 Burt Duze (*Peggy Schenley's brother-in-law*)
 Cathy Harper (*aunt of Rev. Matt Wooster*)
 David Huth (*Jane Huth's son*)
 Grace Kish
 Judy Lacey
 Zell Lambert
 Nina Miller
 Ray Mohr
 Jill Newmen (*daughter of Esther Maconachy*)
 Stephen Parker
 M. J. Pickett
 Vicky Rambler
 Gary Rambler
 Ralph Sharpnack
 Margretta Stocker
 Sherri Whittington (*Sandee Markulis' relation*)
 Judy Woerz
 Wheels 4 Change

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

Prayers for our New Members
 Prayers for a closer walk with God and each other during Lent. (*Father, as in heart and mind, we follow step by step the path that Jesus trod. Help us to see more clearly the full extent of your love. Amen.*)

Sincerest Sympathies to Tom and Laurie Bierce and their entire extended family, in the loss of Tom's aunt, **Marjorie Bierce Hartz**, who passed away on March 5, 2011. Service was Monday, March 14, here at First Congregational Church with Rev. Dr. John M. Schluep officiating.

Also, ***Deepest Condolences*** to Angus and Ruth McNair and their extended family, in the passing of Ruth's brother, **Richard Dunlap**, on March 13, 2011. He is from Kent, Ohio and has resided in Pennsylvania for the last few years.



Sharing Our Life Verses...

During our fall retreat the Stephen Ministry Family searched the scriptures for our "Life Verses". We pray that you, too, will be encouraged by the "words we build our lives on".

"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (selected by Kathy Alstrom, Stephen Minister)

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart; and with all thy soul; and with all thy might." From--Deuteronomy 6 (selected by Karen Sauerbrey, Stephen Minister)

"For everything, absolutely everything above and below, visible and invisible...everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him." Colossians 1:16 (selected by John King, Stephen Minister)

We encourage you to identify "Your Life Verse"...

When a line or two of scripture grips you, speaks to your heart, you probably have a verse that is good prayer material.

- . Ponder that scripture.*
- . Let it roll around on the inside of you.*
- . Pray your scripture verse.*

You will end up with scripture prayer that is alive inside of you and have God's life flowing out of you through His living Word. (adapted from: pray-the-scriptures.com)

STEPHEN MINISTRY



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Here at First Congregational Church in the Fellowship Hall

85 Heritage Drive, Tallmadge

Tuesday, March 22 1pm – 6pm

1-800-RED-CROSS redcrossblood.org

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:

Wilbert & Pat Zimmerman have New model #2273 Singer Sewing Machine – never used – asking \$100. Call them at 330-928-0252.

Items Wanted:

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

Wilbert Zimmerman is looking for a regular old typewriter to buy. Call him at 330-928-0252.

Remember --- **To donate or put in your request:**

Call Kathy / Jim Harris at 330-630-9627 or email them at kharris375@hotmail.com.



To Family and Friends:

I would like to *thank my many church friends* for your concern & prayers during my 10-day hospital stay & 5 weeks in rehab – where I learned to stand and walk again! Without the love & support of my family & friends I would be lost. My sincere thanks to John and Matt for your many visits and prayers that meant so much. A heartfelt thanks to Nancy Lynn and Denise D. for your many visits and phone calls. Also, for the beautiful prayer shawl – the hands who made it and a special thanks to the one who brought it to me. I didn't know I was so sick. Now home, I still have tests and a few hurdles to get over. I pray I'll soon get off this roller coaster and back to life and work. You are such a blessing. *Thank you! Joan Haby*

We would like to *thank our church family* for the calls, cards, visits and food during our recent crisis situation. Ray is recovering very well and grandma, Nina Miller, is at Heather Knoll for some care we were unable to give to her at this time. Thank you to Dr. John for the visit and prayers, we needed them. We are so blessed to have such a caring church family.

Jackie Mohr, Christie Speicher, and Cindie Anderson

A very sincere *thank you to all who donated* items for the Outreach to the Homeless. Sean Fremon was so very grateful for everything that we took to him. I will continue to collect any camp items, toiletries, blankets, etc. that you may wish to donate. Simply see me at church or contact me at 330-633-6254 or sschunk555@gmail.com. Your concern for others and generosity of spirit are much appreciated. *Susan Schunk*

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Ushers Fred and Annette Pedersen

Greeters Atrium Mike and Ginny Collins
Narthex -----

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11:15a.m. Spiritual Pastoral Care Min.–Dr.John's Office

1:00 p.m. Stephen Min. Training – D.Bacon Rm.200

Altar Flowers for today are from:

Larry and Barb Dolensky family in memory of Mother and Grandmother, Isabel Bittman. *Thank you.*
and from

Denise Haynes in memory of her mother, Eleanor Mowder.
Thank you.

Janet Merriman Celebrates her 90th Birthday!!

Let's shower her with birthday cards!

Her address is: Janet Merriman
Haven Homes
3605 Marsh Rd.
Stow, Ohio 44224

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: March 15, 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 | 330-633-4931 | jschluepfcc@sbcglobal.net |
| | Rev. Matthew Wooster | 330-633-4931 | mcwooster@yahoo.com |
| <u>Prayer Chain</u> | Dorothy Taylor | 330-633-3008 | ----- |
| <u>Stephen Ministry</u> | Jackie Parker | 330-867-7149 | jackieinministry@att.net |
| | Jana Caplinger | 330-896-4320 | jcaplinger@neo.rr.com |
| | Diana Caldwell | 330-733-0030 | dianasl@neo.rr.com |
| | Ron Mitchell | 330-633-4055 | 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 |