



The Herald

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge
United Church of Christ

“Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living”

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Tallmadge, OH 44278**

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www.fcctallmadge.org

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First Congregational
Church of Tallmadge, Ohio
UCC

**Church Summer
Office Hours:**
Mon-Thurs
9am-12pm

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A few years ago, I offered the notion in a sermon that we live in a TGIF world. Not a “Thank God It’s Friday” world (though I suspect that many of us live in that world too!), but rather a Twitter, Google, Instagram and Face-book world. Now, I could spend a great deal of time here and now bemoaning that fact. I could rail on the idea that we have lost the personal touch in our society. I could cringe with you that many seem to hide behind the screens of their devices and dare to be bolder with their opinions in cyberspace as opposed to actual space. We could chronicle the rise of apps for parents to limit screen time or filter content. I could even confess my own preoccupation with social media at times. But I’m not going to do any of that!



A few years ago, I took a group of confirmands to the Interfaith Shabbat service at Temple Israel. They hold this service once a year. They invite Christian groups in to see what type of worship service they as Jewish folk conduct. They take you through the liturgy (with lots of singing in Hebrew) all the way to what we might call the sermon time and then they have an extended question and answer session. The questions start slowly but then they come quick and all manner of topics are covered. The confirmands always seem to enjoy this experi-ence (the piles of donuts afterwards notwithstanding!)

At this particular service, the rabbi asked everyone to get out their phones. He said some-thing like “we don’t mind you having your phones out! We like it when you take pictures and post it to your social media accounts. It lets folks know we are here!” I thought to my-self at the time how unique and wonderful that was.

What would that look like at First Congregational Church? The number one way folks visit a church these days is through a personal invitation from a friend or family member. Could these social media posts be a way of inviting someone to come to church? What does it say about you that you are so excited about what’s going on that you just have to share it? Can we create a positive vibe about FCC by consistently posting things online? I think so! So, I encourage you to get out your phones. Take some pics and post them. Tell your friends, family and the online communities you have created what a great church we are. You could even invite them to join our private FCC Facebook Campus Church. (Ask me about this if you’re not sure what it is!)

I attended a Constant Contact workshop several years ago. At that time, the data showed that every person on Facebook had an average of 168 friends. (I’m sure that figure is much higher now!) The important thing behind that number is that when you post something on Facebook, it has the potential to be “seen” by 168 people. If one of those “likes” it or

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

reposts it, it is seen by their 168 friends, and so forth and so on. Imagine how that exponentially grows and all for free!!! So please takes some pics. Post to Facebook, tweet it out. Snapchat it! If we have an event and it is posted to our Facebook page, please share it. Your more-than-168 friends will see it, like it and share it too! What a wonderful way to share your love of First Congregational Church and create a buzz that brings new people in! See you in church with your phone in hand!!!!

Grace for the journey,

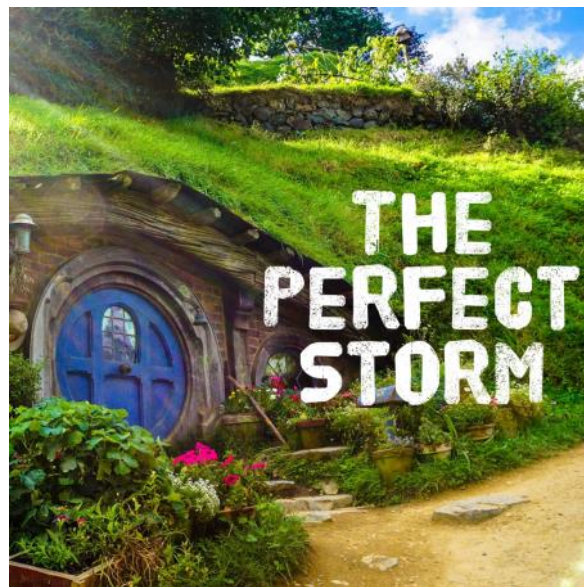
“The Perfect Storm”

Wikipedia will tell you that, “A perfect storm is a meteorological event aggravated by a rare combination of circumstances. The term is used by analogy to an unusually severe storm that results from a rare combination of meteorological phenomena.”

Such a rare combination of circumstances has occurred to me during this summer. Given our desire to see our daughter Katie in New Zealand before she comes home, a choral reunion weekend at BGSU and the UCC General Synod, I will be away for four Sundays in a row (June 11-July 2). I wouldn’t normally choose this, and I try to avoid these types of situations if at all possible. This year, however, it seems the perfect storm has created this situation and I ask for your understanding during this time.

The church will have guest preachers both from within and outside the FCC family. Rev. John Phillips will be “on call” for pastoral care situations throughout the four weeks of my time away. You can receive his contact information from Cathy in our office if you have need of a pastoral visit.

For those of you who follow me on any of my social media feeds, I will look forward to sharing our travels with you. I will also look forward to returning to the FCC fold upon my arrival back the first week of July.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAY 21 — SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (10:00 AM)

Scripture: Acts 1:6-14, John 17:1-11
Message: *“We Are In the World”*

MAY 28 — PENTECOST SUNDAY (10:00 AM)

Scripture: John 20:19-23, A Pentecost Duet
Message: *“God’s Creative Connection:
The Power of Communication”*

JUN 04 — TRINITY SUNDAY (9:30 AM)

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20
Message: *“Doubt in the Midst of Faith”*

JUN 11 — SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (9:30 AM)

Guest Preacher: Rev. Michael Howard, Minister for Faith Action of the Living Water Association

JUN 18 — THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (9:30 AM)

Guest Preacher: Rev. David Kiewit

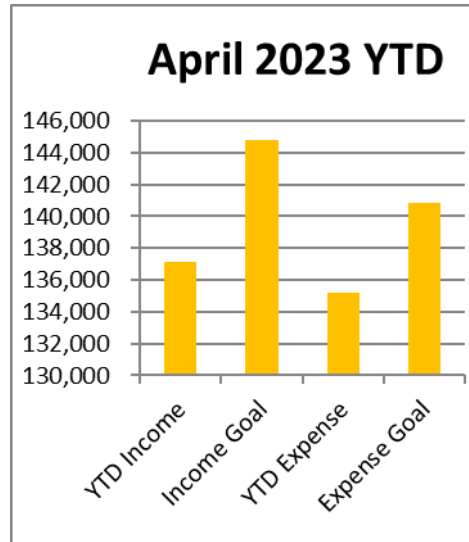
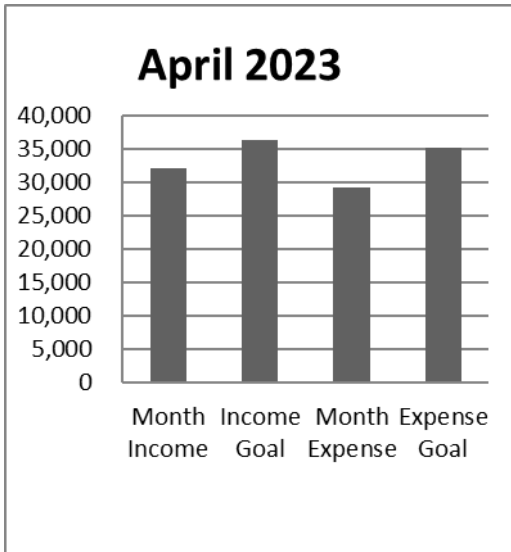
JUN 25 — FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (9:30 AM)

Guest Preacher: Rev. Joyce Schroer

JUL 02 — FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (9:30 AM)

Guest Preacher: Rev. John Phillips

MONTHLY FINANCIALS



April, 2023 operating income of \$32,114 was \$4,092 **below** the monthly income budget. Operating expenses for the month were \$29,124 resulting in a **surplus** of \$2,989 in April, and a YTD **surplus** of \$1,977. Operating expenses have been higher so far this year compared with 2022. We look forward in prayer to a theology of generosity and the ability to strengthen the growth of our ministries as we move forward in 2023. Contact the Church office to find out how to sign up for automatic monthly giving. Offerings may also be made online through a link on our website, mailed to the Church or sent from your bank's online system.



Boiler Campaign Update

In just four weeks, between your generous offerings and the matching \$15,000 from Treehouse Preschool, we have met our goal of \$20,00. We have scheduled the boilers to be installed in May.

Thanks again.

We know that we are all In This Together!



It is with great sympathy that we announce the deaths of the following friends of FCC:

Ben Kester, father of Tom Kester, who died on May 11, 2023.

Rev. A. Arthur Arvay, our Pastor Emeritus, who died on May 14, 2023

A memorial service celebrating Art's life will take place Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 11:00am at Trinity UCC, Wooster. The service will be livestreamed at www.trinityucc.org. The family will receive friends one hour before the service.



Congratulations to
Emerson Jordan Smith,
 granddaughter of
 George and Kyle Herron,
 who celebrated her Baptism
 during worship on May 14, 2023.



FCC Celebration of Life Planning Workshop

The FCC congregation is invited to a Celebration of Life Planning Workshop. This workshop will be held on Saturday, May 20 at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. **This will take the place of the Men's Prayer Breakfast.** This will be an all-church breakfast with the morning meal being sponsored by the Elders Ministry of FCC.



First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, UCC
CELEBRATION OF LIFE MANUAL
 Rev. Daniel J. Doty

WNI PAINT NIGHT

Monday, May 22nd
 @ 6pm
 FCC— Fellowship Hall

THE PRAYER CHAIN CONNECTION

Our Prayer Chain has 13 members dedicated to service through praying. We pray for the individuals listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723.

Bless be God who did not refuse me the kindness I sought in prayer. Psalm 66:20

- Dorothy Achimasi
- Brad Ashley
- Noreen Ashley
- Tim Ashley
- Carrie Blaydes (Sherri Tanner's sister)
- Marilyn Berta (Coletta Spoler's daughter)
- Rob Broocker (Cousin of Kristin Yoho)
- Steve Burr
- Bea Clarke
- Jim and Bonnie Collinson (friends of Connie Mason)
- Dianne Drummond
- Christine Gibson (friend of Arlene Miller)
- Kara Grant (daughter of Ken and Diana Caldwell)
- Eleanor Hall

- Zell Lambert
- Ellen McKee
- Katie Moore
- Marie O'Neil
- Walt and Margie Nicholson
- David and Jackie Parker
- Karen Thomason
- Robert Walchalk (son-in-law of John and Fay James)
- Ken and Linda Wooley (friends of Barbara Rowles)
- Alzheimer's Care Giver Support Group
- Confidential Names on our Prayer List



COMMUNITY DINNER MENU

Pasta w/meatballs \$8

Pasta w/Italian seasoned chicken \$10

Pasta w/chicken & meatballs \$11

Children 12 and under basic pasta dinner \$6

Children 4 and under free

These meals are a great value! Included are salad, bread, beverage, & dessert!

THURSDAY, MAY 18TH | 4:30-7:00 PM

For May, our second entrée is Chicken Marsala for \$12. This will be our last Spaghetti Dinner until September.

We apologize that we have to raise the price of our chicken meals by \$1 due to the increased price of chicken from the store. See updated prices above.

Short on time.. call in for a dinner to go. 330-633-3384. To-go orders will be available from 4:15-6:15pm only. Beverages are only available to those who dine in. Age 0-4 (free) dinners are not available to go. Pick up at the atrium doors.

Mission Moment from Lebanon

As Lebanon enters its sixth month with a caretaker government and no president, it is clear that the country's leadership has little will or interest in lifting the population out of its misery, with the currency all but collapsed, the dollarization of the economy nearly complete, and the entrenchment of the Lebanese (who earn in local currency) squarely in poverty. All this while those whose aim is to amalgamate more control and privileges continue to enjoy their lives.

This presents a great challenge to those institutions, like the church, whose goals are to elevate the entire Lebanese population through better education, higher health standards, opportunities for creative output, greater engagement in civil society, better governance, and economic development, as well as environmentally friendly and sustainable public services, reliable internet, remediating the country's damaged natural resources and so forth.



This is the setting in which the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, including its schools, Haigazian University, its youth organizations, social work, and elder care establishments, minister in Christ's name. As a part of the fabric of Lebanese society as well as of the Armenian people worldwide, this means dealing with a painful and tragic past, remembered each year in April. (Armenian Genocide Commemoration), while also maintaining and strengthening its institutions to continue being a positive force and a source of light in the local Armenian community and in society at large. Much strength is gained in this mission from its partnership with the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as well as from the Armenian Missionary Association

of America.

The unassuming yet victorious presence of Christ Jesus enables the church to gain courage and strength, to share hope and vision where it is most needed!



Appreciation Sunday

Appreciation Sunday, May 21st

Join your church family in showing appreciation to all who make a difference in the worship and educational life here at First Congregational Church of Tallmadge.

Sunday, May 21 is set aside as a time to end another Sunday school year by honoring our Sunday School teachers. We will also honor all the musicians who provide spiritual experiences for us during worship on Sunday mornings. We will also celebrate our Scholarship recipients. This will all take place during the morning worship.

So please make plans to attend and help us honor all who help enrich our lives here at FCC!!!



thank
you

Thank you to Leppo's rental manager Evin Chambers for donating equipment to help us move and spread our mulch.—Joe Labay

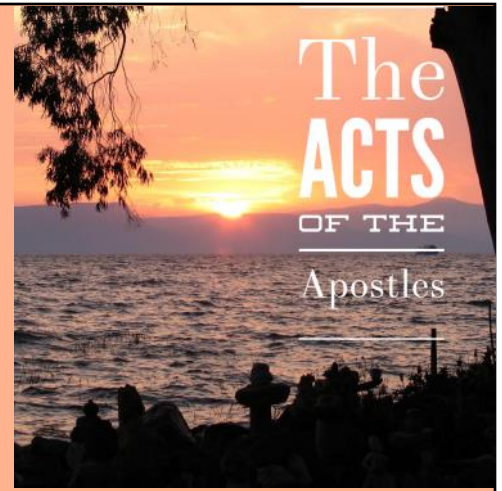
Thank you to Wil Looman for all your hard work spreading mulch around the church . Everything looks great!

Blessings—FCC Staff


Wednesday

Bible Study

The 1:00pm Wednesday Bible study will be reviewing the book of Acts. This 13-week series will begin with the mission of the Apostles to the world and ends with Paul's journey to Rome. Some of the major ideas explored include: a Gospel that cannot be contained, divine initiative and human responsibility, the subtle work of the Holy Spirit, what holds us together, and the plight of theology in a cynical world. We will meet each week in the Fellowship Hall.



Lunch Bunch Book Study



Our Spring Lunch Bunch Book Study will be reading and discussing the Diana Butler Bass book, "Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence."

How can you still be a Christian?

This is the most common question Diana Butler Bass is asked today. It is a question that many believers ponder as they wrestle with disappointment and disillusionment in their church and its leadership. But while many Christians have left their churches, they cannot leave their faith behind.

In Freeing Jesus, Bass challenges the idea that Jesus can only be understood in static, one-dimensional ways and asks us to instead consider a life where Jesus grows with us and helps us through life's challenges in several capacities: as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence.

Freeing Jesus is an invitation to leave the religious wars behind and rediscover Jesus in all his many manifestations, to experience Jesus beyond the narrow confines we have built around him. It renews our hope in faith and worship at a time when we need it most.

Thank
YOU

Last Day of Sunday School is May 21

Please take time to appreciate your child's teacher. Makayla, Roberta, Diane, Kyle and Shelley certainly donate a lot of time to our Sunday School program.

Children's Choir

We meet during *Worship, Art, and Music Ministry* (WAMM) on Sunday mornings after the children's message. We are currently practicing for May 21, Music Appreciation Sunday, when we will play bells. We hope you come join us during WAMM.



JUNE

Next Month:

14 @ 11 am Treehouse Preschool is bringing in "Realm of the Reptiles" to share reptiles with children

26-29 VBS

Did you know?

Treehouse Preschool has been very proud to be a part of First Congregational Church for 50 years. Together with the church, we have been able to contribute to a the following upgrades over the past 10 years.

- 2014 The first WIFI was added to the building
- 2016 Windows were replaced in the education wing
- 2021 Electrostatic cleaning during covid
- 2022 The playground covering, fence and sunshades went up
- 2022 Visual equipment was installed in Fellowship Hall
- 2022 New floors and monitors were installed in classrooms, WIFI upgraded
- 2023 Boiler campaign donation



Treehouse Preschool's 50th Anniversary Celebration on August 12 & 13

This is an exciting moment and we are going to celebrate in grand style but WE NEED YOUR HELP. On **August 12** from 1-3pm we will be offering a carnival-type atmosphere for anyone to attend. We have many activities happening that day:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Kona shaved ice truck | Balloon artist | Connect Four |
| Metropolis Popcorn | Facepainting | Photobooth |
| Ball pit | Duck pond | Wheel of prizes |
| Inflatable slide | Frog flip | Lollipop tree |

This celebration is free to all those who attend, but we need many volunteers to help with this event. We need some people to make some games, run the games and welcome people that day. Here is an opportunity for you to participate this weekend; <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A44A4AC2DA2F58-treehouse2>

On Sunday, **August 13** we will be celebrating in worship followed by a celebration. There were many people from the congregation that have contributed to this school becoming a solid preschool for the past 50 years and we need to honor them and their contributions.

If you were a part of Treehouse Preschool, either as a staff member, board member, founding committee or student, we would love for you to dig out some pictures. You can scan them and send them to treehouse-tallmadge@gmail.com or put them on google drive and share with the same email address.



The Christian Education Board is hosting their annual VBS. This year's theme is: ***Twists & Turns; Following Jesus Changes the Game.*** We will be discovering the twists and turns of life and building our relationship with Jesus Christ like Peter did.

Our daily lessons will include:

Jesus is Holy— Peter following Jesus

Jesus is Trustworthy— Peter walked to Jesus on water

Jesus is worth following— Peter spoke boldly about Jesus

Jesus is for everyone— Peter told Cornelius about Jesus

To register your CHILD (age 4– 5th grade as of 5/1/23) or your youth HELPER (6th– 12th grader as of 5/1/23), please visit our [website](#).

Vacation Bible School

Work Day

June 20 @ 10 AM

We will be gathering craft items, making name tags, creating the stage, prepping crafts, game items, etc. so we need helpers of ALL ages.

Vacation Bible School



We could not run a successful program without this congregation and their generosity. The items we are asking for this year are listed below:

Food items: (fresh food arrive June 25 or 26)

- Watermelon cut in chunks
- 3 Quarts of Strawberries
- 2 Quarts of Blueberries
- 2 Quarts of Raspberries
- 1 bag Green Grapes
- 1 bag Red Grapes
- 6 cans of Mandarin oranges
- 4 bags of pre-popped popcorn
- Plastic spoons – 3 boxes
- 4 bags of mini pretzels
- Ziploc baggies – 2 boxes – Snack Size
- Napkins– 500
- 7-9 oz cups– 300

Craft items: (by June 18)

- 25 white poster boards
- 5 yellow poster boards
- Boxes (medium and large size)
- Unlined index cards (500)
- Sandwich Ziploc Bags (200)
- Stamp pads (10)
- Washi tape (10 rolls)
- Marbles (200)
- Peel and Stick foam shapes (400)
- Stickers (500)

Congratulations



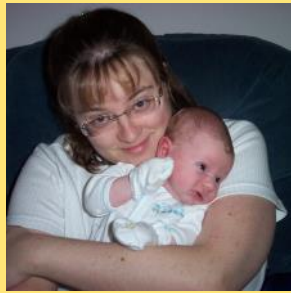
Jacob Newcomer, the son of Scott and Missy Newcomer, is graduating from Stow High School. Going up in the church, Jacob has been involved with many Vacation Bible Schools, Breakfast with Santa and Sunday School classes.

One of Missy's favorite church memories is when Jacob walked into Breakfast with Santa and said, "mom the real Santa is here". He was overjoyed!

Beyond church activities, Jacob has been very involved with the scout program as well as band. Jacob has completed the work to become an Eagle Scout and accomplished a goal of his to be invited to join the Wind Ensemble at Stow High School. Mom and Dad are very proud these goals Jacob set

and the hard work put in to complete them.

As Jacob reflects on the hours he has been at church or church activities, he smiled at the fond memories of helping at VBS and attending camp at Temple Hills. He is also very proud of his AP classes and his invitation to join the wind ensemble. Jacob will be majoring in architecture at Kent State where he has earned Academic Achievement Scholarship. We wish you the best experiences next year Jacob.



Upcoming Events:

May 21st - End of Year Party - Church Picnic

May 28th - No Youth Ministries Events



Worship Attendance

Apr. 23	167
Apr. 30 (Youth Sunday)	168
May 7	145
May 14	186



June—July—August

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

WORSHIP: 9:30 AM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

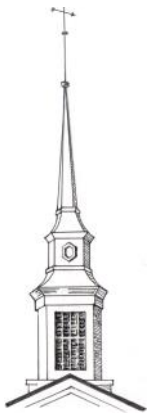
Greeters

May 21	Nan Nagel and Sue Canavan
May 28	Terri Poff
June 4	Ann Holt and Dorothy Seal
June 11	Ken and Diana Caldwell
June 18	Don and Judy Woerz
June 25	Nan Nagel and Sue Canavan

Altar Flowers

May 21	Cindy Cammel
May 28	Cliff and Sue Yeager
June 4	
June 11	
June 18	
June 25	James Chapman, Terri Poff

Sign up in
the hallway
\$28 per
arrangement



Ushers

May 21	Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
May 28	Larry Robinson, John and Anita Lahrmer, Ken Caldwell
June 4	Dave Marconi, Larry Robinson, Al Lytle, Ken Caldwell
June 11	Dave Marconi, Kim and Gary Fulton, Larry Robinson
June 18	Terri Poff, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
June 25	Ken Caldwell, Kim and Gary Fulton, Larry Robinson

Women's Fellowship JUNE LUNCHEON Agavero

400 Howe Ave, Cuyahoga Falls

Thursday, June 1 at 12:00 PM

June—July—August SUMMER OFFICE HOURS



Monday—Thursday:
9:00 am—12:00 pm

JUNE 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 12:00 PM—WF Luncheon	2	3
4 8:45 AM—Social Action Meeting 9:30 AM—Worship/Communion	5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR STAFF PLANNING MEETING 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:30 PM—Trustees Meeting	6 6:00 PM—Naranon	7 9:00 AM—Quilters 6:00 PM—NA	8	12	13
11 8:30 AM—EC Meeting 9:30 AM—Worship	12 6:00 PM—Heritage	13 6:00 PM—Naranon	14 9:00 AM—Quilters 11:00 AM—Treehouse Reptile Show 6:00 PM—NA	15	16	17
18 FATHER'S DAY 9:30 AM—Worship	19 6:00 PM—Heritage	20 6:00 PM—Cards 6:00 PM—Naranon	21 9:00 AM—Quilters 6:00 PM—NA	22	23	24
25 9:30 AM—Worship 10:30 AM—CE Meeting	26 6:00 PM—Heritage	27 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon	28 9:00 AM—Quilters 6:00 PM—NA	29	30	
	Twists and Turns VBS, June 26-29th, 6-8:15 PM					

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: May 17, 2023

Spiritual and Pastoral Care Ministry Contacts

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group and Elders Ministry	Roberta Nehrenz	330.634.0713	rgnehrenz@att.net
Hearts in Service	Janet McCaulley Barbara Rowles	330.633.3775	34babs@sbcglobal.net
Prayer Chain	Diana Caldwell	330.265.5723	dianasl@neo.rr.com
Yarning for Peace	Elaine Engle	330.633.0896	elengle@aol.com

Staff E-Mail Addresses

Rev. Daniel Doty	Senior Minister	ddoty66@gmail.com
Cathy Cotter	Administrative Coordinator	tallmadgefcc@sbcglobal.net
Wendy Brown	Director of Family Ministries	wbrownfcc@sbcglobal.net
Derek Kempf	Youth Ministries Coordinator	derekskempf@gmail.com
Nancy Lynn Robinson	Choir Director / Organist	nrbgp@aol.com
Amy Doty	Bell Choir Director	amydeandoty@icloud.com
Bill Hoover	Finance Administrator	bhooverfcc@sbcglobal.net
Teresa Snyder	Head Custodian	budrose42@yahoo.com
Gary Marlow	Sunday Custodian	