

The Herald

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge United Church of Christ

"Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living"

Playing Piano, Moving Furniture, and the "theology" of Ellis Fourman

Our friend Janine's father died the week before Holy week several years ago. Ellis and his wife Shirley owned a furniture store in Englewood, Ohio for many years. His family produced a loving remembrance to him in the form of a small booklet. This booklet contained many pictures and personal remembrances contributed by those who knew Ellis.

Ellis was known for his many aphorisms. In the booklet, they collected many of his sayings. He



was known to say things like, "Ten percent of all I earn is mine to keep!"... "Well, Shirley, let's go to bed so these good people can go home" and "Mom and Janine played the piano, Chris and Craig played the trombone; when I was a kid, I played on the linoleum!"

Though they did not write this one down, I always remember the saying Ellis was said to have used with his sons when they worked for him at the furniture store, "When moving furniture through a door, your hands are on the outside – skin will always grow back!"

There is something to be said about a "theology" like that. Life can be messy. Christianity is a life's journey lived in service to others. Sometimes that service calls for us to get our hands dirty or maybe even get our knuckles scraped. Ellis' legacy reminds us that our "skin will grow back."

We have sometimes "sanitized" our missional work. We have preferred to send money or say "I will pray for that situation," rather than go and help because we are afraid of losing some skin. Jesus said, "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account." (Matt. 5.11)

As Christians, we chose this path. We chose to be Christ's hands and feet in this world. So, we will experience the bumps and scrapes of life. But we will also experience the joys and celebrations as well.

It seems as though summer is a relaxing time. We vacillate from completing those outdoor projects we need to get done in good weather and vacationing – again, taking advantage of

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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www.fcctallmadge.org

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First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, Ohio UCC

> Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm Fri: 9am-12pm

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2—Worship Schedule, Dan's Installation, Cleaning Day

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7—Treehouse Celebration

8—Faith in Action, Bibles, Faith and Family

9-Thank Yous, WNI Fashion Show, Kickball, Drama Kids

10-11—Upcoming Sundays, September Calendar the warmer weather. Fall is approaching and the routine of our corporate life will soon grace our days. Maybe it is time to play some piano, move some furniture, participate in one of the new Faith In Action groups, and get our hands a little scraped up. Ellis' voice will be in my head – "Don't worry, your skin will grow back!"

Grace for the journey,

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

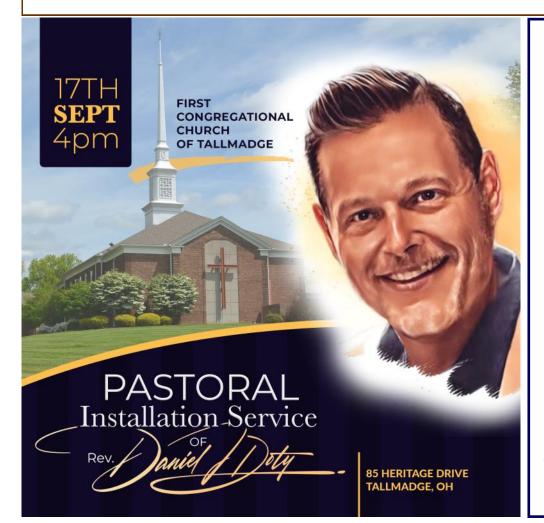
AUG 20— TWELVTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Scripture: Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28 Message: "For the Whole World"

AUG 27— THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20 Message: *"Who Do You Say I Am?"*

SEP 03— FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Scripture: Matthew 16:21-28 Message: "Called by Name" SEP 10— FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Scripture: Matthew 18:15-20 Message: GUEST PREACHER

SEP 17— SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35 Message: *"Road to Freedom"*

SEP 24— SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16 Message: *"Tensions in the Wilderness"*



FCC CLEANING DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH 9AM—12PM

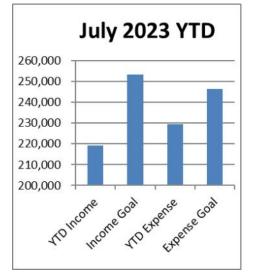
We will have a clean up day on September 9th from 9am - noon. We are seeking volunteers to help. The goal is to make the building shine for Dan's Installation Service. We want our guests

to know that we take pride in FCC Tallmadge. Check the weekly bulletin for more details.



MONTHLY FINANCIALS





July, 2023 operating income of \$25,428 was \$10,778 **below** the monthly income budget. Operating expenses for the month were \$27,176 resulting in a **deficit** of (\$1,748) in July, and a YTD **deficit** of (\$10,357). Faith offerings have increased in 2023, however so have the cost of our ministries at work in the world. 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 web ite, mailed to the Church or sent from your bank's online system.

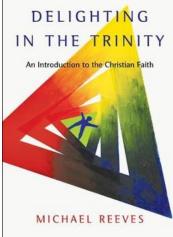


Community Spaghetti Dinners will resume Thursday, October 21st! Mark your calendars!!

Wednesday, August 23 1pm

Women's Book Study— Delighting in the Trinity

After our successful bible study, our group is meeting again on Wednesday, August 23rd at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the book "Delighting in the Trini-



ty." Additional copies will be available for anyone who wants to read, discuss and "dive" deeper into the meaning of the trinity and what it might mean in our everyday lives. It's just a short book, fast reading, but the impact of its meaning is well worth it. Any questions, ask Ann Holt.

THE PRAYER CHAIN CONNECTION

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 Bod who did not refuse me the kindness 7 sought in prayer. Psalm &&:20

Dorothy Achimasi Brad Ashley Noreen Ashley Tim Ashley Carrie Blaydes (Sherri Tanner's sister) Marilyn Berta Rob Broocker (Cousin of Kristin Yoho) Steve Burr Bea Clarke *Jim and Bonnie Collinson (friends of Connie Mason)* Carson Davis (nephew of Kyle and George Herron) Devin Devies (grandson of Patty Calvarese) Dianne Drummond Christine Gibson (friend of Arlene Miller) Kara Grant (daughter of Ken & Diana Caldwell) Judy Gump Eleanor Hall Zell Lambert Bill Laymon Danielle Leonardi

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





Faith in Action Book Club

Many of you have read about our new "Faith in Action" groups. These small groups are designed to build relationships and allow space for dialogue and growth in our faith. These groups will center around quarterly topics. The first quarter (Sept.-Dec.) will focus on a discussion of world religions. For this class, we will be using "Christianity and World Religions" by Adam Hamilton. Class will be held in the David Bacon Room at noon on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 20, 2023. Feel free to bring your lunch!

In Adam Hamilton's book, *Christianity and World Religions*, he examines the world's major religions - Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Readers will gain a better understanding of the similarities and differences between Christianity and the faiths of some of their next-door neighbors.

In each chapter, you'll read about one of the major religions, discovering its essential beliefs and the historical setting of each faith. This study looks for common ground while noting differences, and, hopefully, readers will come away

with a better understanding and appreciation of other faiths and be led to better fulfill Jesus' command to "love our neighbor as we love ourselves."

Books are available from most online bookstores. Please let the office know if you need help in securing a book.

Faith in Action Bible Study

Many of you have read about our new "Faith in Action" groups. See the article about the Book Club for further details on the format, etc. This bible study will also be held in the David Bacon Room at 1PM on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 20, 2023.

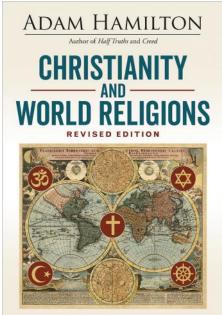
The Gospel of John has often been called the "maverick" gospel. (There is even a book by that title!) The Gospel of John is very unlike the other three gospels that we have studied so far. For me, studying such a different gospel requires a different study style. For the Bible Study, we will be using "The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic" by John Shelby Spong. This book is cutting edge in its explication of the gospel. I ask that you give it a chance as we learn together!

The book's description from Amazon, "John Shelby Spong, bestselling author and popular proponent of a modern, scholarly and authentic Christianity, argues that this last gospel to be written was misinterpreted by the framers of the fourth-century creeds to be a literal account of the life of Jesus when in fact it is

a literary, interpretive retelling of the events in Jesus' life through the medium of fictional characters, from Nicodemus and Lazarus to the "Beloved Disciple." The Fourth Gospel was designed first to place Jesus into the context of the Jewish scriptures, then to place him into the worship patterns of the synagogue and finally to allow him to be viewed through the lens of a popular form of first-century Jewish mysticism.

The result of this intriguing study is not only to recapture the original message of this gospel, but also to provide us today with a radical new dimension to the claim that in the humanity of Jesus the reality of God has been met and engaged."

Books are available from most online bookstores. Please let the office know if you need help in securing a book.



QUESTIONS WE ASK ABOUT OTHER FAITHS

John Shelby Spong Journal of the Bible for a Nor-Religion World The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic

Mission Moment from Bangladesh

Sohagini Hemrom is an indigenous woman from Fulbanda village in the Dinajpur district with her two sons and one daughter. Her husband has mental health challenges, and he often goes away from home for extended periods, abandoning his family. For a long while, her financial condition remained precarious and challenging. It



was difficult for her to manage her household expenses, and she worried about feeding her children and providing them with a good education. Day by day, her life became more and more difficult.

One day, Sohagini learned about the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) and the forum it organized in her village that offered transformative training programs. Inspired by the potential, she joined the Phulbandha Forum and began saving money. Over time, she deposited two to three thousand takas (the currency of Bangladesh). Seeking financial assistance, Sohagini approached a CCDB Forum worker and requested a loan of nine thousand takas. The CCDB worker enthusiastically supported the possibility and granted her a loan. With ten thousand takas, Sohagini leased a plot of land and ventured into farming with her sons.

Realizing the limitations of relying solely on farming, Sohagini contemplated her long-term prospects and sought a more sustainable income source. Fortunately, during that period, the CCDB's Comprehensive Poverty Reduction Program (CPRP) was providing support through the IGA fund. Sohagini received support from CCDB, amounting to ten thousand takas, and an additional fifteen thousand takas from the Forum. She also obtained a loan of twentyfive thousand takas to bolster her business further. With a total capital of fifty thousand takas, she ventured into the grocery business, seizing the opportunity to secure a regular income for herself and her family.

After a successful year, with the profits from her shop, Sohagini paid off her whole loan of twenty-five thousand takas. Encouraged by the shop's profitability, she borrowed an additional thirty thousand takas from the Forum. She invested it in stocking more commodities in her shop, increasing her earnings. Sohagini decided it was time to build her house as the shop thrived. Gradually purchasing bricks with the shop's growing profits, she fulfilled her dream of constructing a four-roomed house. Sohagini's life has transformed with CCDB's community-building efforts, commitment to empowerment, and financial support. She opened a successful grocery shop, becoming economically independent and improving her quality of life. From enduring hardship to enjoying three meals a day, CCDB's assistance has been pivotal in her journey of empowerment.

The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) is dedicated to uplifting underprivileged and impoverished women in rural areas of Bangladesh. CCDB's mission is to create a just and caring society where marginalized individuals can claim and enjoy their human rights, ensuring sustainable livelihoods and dignity.

ATTENTION: GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL!

Do I have your attention? Please keep reading....

I'm inviting you to consider joining the Chancel Choir. However, to be a member, you need to enjoy singing praises to God, have a desire to be a part of a loving, supportive group within the church, and wish to leave the cares of the world behind for at least one evening a week. Did you notice? NO mention of needing to possess a good voice and NO attendance restrictions. If you need to miss a Sunday or a Thursday rehearsal, we understand. We even have snow birds in the choir! The important thing is that you attend whenever you can.

We need voices in all categories: soprano, alto, tenor and bass

Our first rehearsal will be August 24th at 7:00 PM in the choir room—followed by ice cream served in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there — and bring a friend.



Treehouse Preschool celebrated in style this last weekend. We had a great time celebrated with family and friends from the community and the church. We certainly couldn't have done it without all of the volunteers. It began with our committee; Kyle Herron, Linda Kester, Helen McKee, Nan Nagel, and Dee West. They have been working together for a year to plan a weekend full of activity. The planning was done with a few, but the weekend was possible because of many. This includes church members, preschool teachers, trustee

members, CE members and preschool board members; I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

As I reflected on this weekend, I am so fortunate to have a job that I am passionate about and have people around me to support that passion. I also appreciate my gift of hard work and dedication that I get from my dad and the compassion and creativity that definitely came from my mom. These are gifts that are definitely needed on weekends like this. Lastly,

I want to thank Ken and Zachary, they have been my "go to" guys the last month; they really went above and beyond the call of being a husband and son. Thank you everyone for celebrating this special ministry.













Growing



Faith in Action

(a new intergenerational Sunday School opportunity) I would like you to imagine sitting at a dinner table at Thanksgiving with your family, including siblings, children and grandchildren. Ken and I would have 30 at that table. Imagine if I asked everyone a question. That conversation would be a little chaotic, right? We

probably would end up having smaller discussions with the people around us instead of the entire table. This is an example of why we feel a small group ministry, Faith in Action, might work well here at FCC. We would like to create small groups to see where faith discussion can take faith into action.

Sunday School hour has been changing for some time, and we are going to change it here, too. Our faith discussions aren't only for Sunday mornings or within 3rd grade Sunday School class. We want to see how our faith fits into our life and stretches us to see other's faith in action, too. We are going to try small group ministry here at FCC.

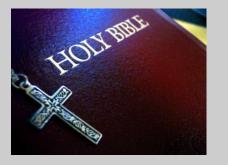
Beginning Sept. 10, we are going to create small groups of about 8-12 people. You can sign up a group or we can help you find a group. Then on Sept. 24 at 11 AM, we are going to have a Faith in Action potluck. Rev. Dan and Wendy will be leading discussions and activities based on the topic of world religions. After the potluck, we will encourage your small group to meet at a regular time of your group's choosing. You will be able to use the discussion topics, craft and activity suggestions that we will provide.

For example, a Grandma and Grandpa come to church with their grandchildren. They get to know other people who sit around them and begin to form a relationships. Grandma, Grandpa, the grand children and others can form a small group. They chose to meet on Monday afternoon after school at someone's house. They get an afternoon snack and discuss what it means to be a Christian. Since many children don't learn from just discussion, they could use the video and book selection provided by Dan and Wendy. We will also have craft and activity suggestions where faith can be put into action.

There will be 3-4 sessions per year so groups can change as everyone's family life may also change throughout the year. So, for the first session, you can begin signing up in groups on Sept. 10 in the Atrium. You can sign up as a family, single, couple whatever works for you.

Confirmation and 3rd Grade Bibles

Sunday, Sept. 24 during worship, the Board of Christian Education will give bibles to our 3rd graders and our confirmation class (8th grade or older). Please let Wendy Brown know if your child will be joining us that day to receive a bible.



F<u>Faith and Family</u> Family Ministry at First Congregational Church Tallmadge, OH

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

This fall we are going to provide an opportunity for families to come together and build relationships with other families. A family unit may vary so all are welcome. The last Faith and Family group still values the friendships they made. We will gather around the church playground October 1 @ 11:00 am. Bring a calendar and activity ideas for children ages 2-10. Though this is open to families with children of all ages, we try to pick activities that will fit that age group.



Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your cards, concern, kindness and prayers over the past almost two years of health issues. Our church

family means so much to me and gives me the strength to go forward each day with a positive attitude (most of the time :)). I believe in the power of prayers so keep 'em coming as I go through my next phase of cancer. Thank you all!! Love, Dianne

Rev. Dan and my church family, I want to thank you for all the prayers, cards and concerns that you have expressed during my hip surgery and recovery. I'm looking forward to being back with all of you soon! Love, Kitty Maddox

YOUTH UPDATE

Join us for a night of



Sunday, August 27, 2023 5:00-7:30 PM 6th-12th Grade...Bring a friend! Any questions: contact Jen Ross at 330-606-2673

15th WNI Fashion Show by J Jill Hudson Store

Monday, September 18, 2023 6:30 pm



Salad & Dessert Supper FCC Fellowship Hall Please bring a large salad or dessert.

Sign up on Sunday mornings in September or at the Atrium Welcome Center.



330-687-8601 Dramakids.com/oh3

DRAMA KIDS OF GREATER AKRON IS NOW ENROL-LING FOR FALL!

We do drama differently. Enjoy an exciting mix of theater games, improvisation, scripted work, and more in a safe and inclusive envi-

ronment. Boost self-expression, social skills, and creativity with us! Whether your child is destined for the stage or the boardroom, we.... - Build confidence -Grow emotional-intelligence - Foster creativity -Strengthen public speaking - Develop social skills - Embrace individuality. Fall semester begins September 14th, 2023, and ends May 23rd, 2024. We are thrilled to be offering classes at First Congregational Church of Tallmadge!

Now offering: **Kinder Kids** (Ages 4-5): 4:00pm – 4:45pm \$55 a month **Creative Drama** (Ages 6-12): 5:00pm – 6:00pm \$68 a month We accept Ohio ACE Grants!

Worship Attendance

July 23	101
July 30	120
August 6	112
August 13	180



Beginning September 3rd

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE WORSHIP: 10:00 AM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

	Greeters		Altar Flowers	
Aug 20	Walter and Ann Holt	Aug 20	Jennifer and Ethan Ross	Sign up in
Aug 27	Don and Judy Woerz	Aug 27	Jeff and Edith Sullivan	the hallway
Sep 03	Sylvia Taylor and Jim Chapman	Sep 03	Cliff and Sue Yeager	\$28 per arrangement
Sep 10	Walter and Ann Holt	Sep 10		
Sep 17	Don and Judy Woerz	Sep 17		法
Sep 24	Walter and Ann Holt	Sep 24		and the second
		15		

Ushers

Aug 20	Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
Aug 27	Ken and Diana Caldwell, John and Anita Lahrmer
Sep 03	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Al Lytle, Ken Caldwell
Sep 10	Terri Poff, Karen Huth, Kim Fulton, Larry Robinson
Sep 17	Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
Sep 24	Larry Robinson, John and Anita Lahrmer, Ken Caldwell



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September—May OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 am—3:00 pm Friday: 9:00 am—12:00 pm

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 8:45 AM—Social Ac- tion Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship/ Communion	4 LABOR DAY 6:00 PM—Heritage	5 6:00 PM—Naranon	6 9:00 AM—Quilters 6:00 PM—NA	7 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 12:00 PM—WF Luncheon 7:00 PM—Choir	8	9 9am– 12m Cleaning Day
10 8:30 AM—EC Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship	11 6:00 PM—Heritage	12 6:00 PM—Naranon	13 9:00 AM—Quilters 6:00 PM—NA	14 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 7:00 PM—Choir	15	16
17 10:00 AM—Worship 4:00 PM—Dan's Instal- lation Service	18 6:00 PM—WNI Fash- ion Show 6:00 PM—Heritage	19 6:00 PM—Cards 6:00 PM—Naranon	20 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book and Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA	21 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 7:00 PM—Choir	22	23
24 10:00 AM—Worship/ Bibles to 3rd Grade and Confirmands 11:00 AM—Faith in Action Potluck	25 6:00 PM—Heritage	26 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon	27 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book and Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA	28 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 7:00 PM—Choir	29	30

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

DATE: August 16, 2023

Spiritual and Pastoral Care Ministry Contacts				
Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group and	Roberta Nehrenz	220 624 0712	ranch rong Oott not	
Elders Ministry	Roberta Nehrenz	330.634.0713	rgnehrenz@att.net	
Hearts in Service	Janet McCaulley	330.633.3775		
	Barbara Rowles		<u>34babs@sbcglobal.net</u>	
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 Kemph	Youth Ministries Coordinator		<u>derekskemph@gmail.com</u>	
Nancy Lynn Robinson	Choir Director / Organist		nrbgp@aol.com_	
Amy Doty	Bell Choir Director		amydeandoty@icloud.com	
Bill Hoover	Finance Administrator		<u>bhooverfcc@sbcglobal.net</u>	
Teresa Snyder	Head Custodian		budrose42@yahoo.com	
Gary Marlow	Sunday Custodian			