

# The Herald

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge United Church of Christ

"Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living"

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Church of Tallmadge, Ohio UCC

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

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6—Trunk or Treat, Faith in Action, Confirmation

7—Children and Youth Programming, Youth Group, WAMM

8—Women's Book Club, Treehouse Preschool, Faith and Family, Acme Receipts

9—Thank Yous, WF Luncheon, Fanny Crosby

10-11—Upcoming Sundays, Prayer Breakfast, October Calendar People often agree with a plan **verbally** but "vote with their feet" by not attending an event, a worship service, a committee meeting, etc. Throughout the coming fall, while words are important, the actions of the people involved are what speak loudest. God has spoken in grace; how will we answer?

On October 1<sup>st</sup> we gather around the table of the Lord with our brothers and sisters across the world to commune as the one body of Christ. Though we are separated by miles, languages, time zones and a myriad of other "things," we covenant to gather on this day in our houses of worship to celebrate the "mysteries" of God.



Some will eat from the same loaf and drink from the same cup, some will eat and drink from the gifts of the table at the same time, while still others will have the elements brought to them because their health or other life circumstance prevents them from being present in person. The gift, however, is the same. The veil of our humanness is lifted for the briefest of times, and we stand in the very presence of our God at the great banquet table where we receive "the foretaste of glory divine."

Here at FCC, this action will take place between two "bookends." On September 17<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the installation of the 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Minister of First Congregational Church. On October 15<sup>th</sup> we will launch into "Our Mission for God in 2024" (Stewardship Campaign). Within the span of five weeks, we celebrate two major events in our corporate lives. We begin a new chapter journeying together as "pastor" and "people," and we commit our time/talent/ tithes to the church as we work to be a place that reaches out in love to the world. All of this is centered on our continual spiritual growth and fortified by the gifts from the Lord's Table.

During the liturgy of the communion service, we will proclaim that "heaven and earth are full of your glory." In the consecration service that culminates our stewardship campaign, we "pledge as a church to be engaged in the transformation of our world with justice, mercy, and compassion."

What a marvelous gift we have in pledging our lives in the service of others! Let's not "vote with our feet" – let's stand fast and hold one another accountable and hold one another in love so that we might also "walk in the way that leads to life!"

Grace for the journey,

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

BOOK

**CLUB** 

David Bacon Room

discuss the book.

by Adam Hamilton

**BEGINNING SEPT. 20TH** 

.lohn

FAITH

#### SEP 24— SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16 Message: "Tensions in the Wilderness"

#### OCT 01- WORLD COMMUNION DAY

Scripture: Matthew 21:23-32 Message: "God's Sustaining Presence"

## **OCT 08— NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Scripture: Matthew 22:1-14 Message: "The Giving Connection"

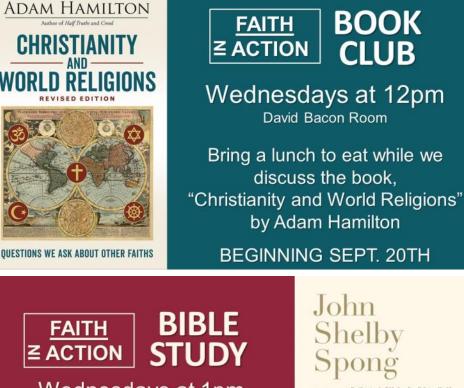
#### **OCT 15— TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Scripture: Matthew 22:15-22 Message: "One Big Soul"

#### **OCT 22— LAITY SUNDAY**

#### **OCT 29— TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Scripture: Matthew 22:34-46 Message: "The Compassionate Life" FIFTH SUNDAY WORSHIP IN FELLOWSHIP HALL



Wednesdays at 1pm David Bacon Room

We're studying the Gospel of John using the book. "The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic" by John Shelby Spong

**BEGINNING SEPT. 20TH** 

## Our condolences to the family and friends of:

Kaye Wilkerson, who died on August 19, 2023 Gary Cassandra, who died on September 7, 2023. Ronald Bennett, who died on September 17, 2023.



Mystic



## **Fifth Sunday Worship**

In an effort to vary worship styles and settings that reflect the preferences of our diverse congregation, it has been decided to move every "5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month" worship service to the Fellowship Hall. Here we will experience a more casual service. Come dressed in casual clothes. The music will also reflect a more diverse tradition incorporating a more contemporary flair. Our second "5<sup>th</sup> Sunday" worship service will take place Sunday, October 29 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. See you there!



### **MONTHLY FINANCIALS**



August, 2023 operating income of \$25,384 was \$10,822 **below** the monthly income budget. Operating expenses for the month were \$28,437 resulting in a **deficit** of (\$3,053) in August, and a YTD **deficit** of (\$13,411). Faith offerings have hit their seasonal low this summer, however, the cost of our ministries at work in the world continues. 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.

## FCC Stewardship Campaign 2024



t is a statement that is both bold and simple. It boldly expresses the truth about the ultimate nature and the purpose of the church: to engage in acts of transformation. It boldly asserts that we see our mission as one that gives assurance to every individual that their life matters, not because we say so, but because the gospel says so.

It recognizes that each of us, by our gifts and the decisions we make to employ them, power this sacred work. Our resources make ministry happen. The arithmetic is not complex. Our choice to grow in our generosity enables the church to increase the impact of the difference it makes.

By choosing to give, even a little bit more, we will expand our shared quest to change lives – even our own!



## 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 hindness 1 sought in prayer. Psalm GG: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) Devin Devies (grandson of Patty Calvarese) Dianne Drummond Elaine Engle Lyn Fendenheim (friend of Joe Labay) Debbie Fickes Kara Grant (daughter of Ken and Diana Caldwell) Judy Gump Eleanor Hall Alleen Hilbish Zell Lambert Danielle Leonardi Ron Mitchell Katie Moore Carole Nettle Marie O'Neil Walt and Margie Nicholson David and Jackie Parker John Triola (friend of Joe Labay) **Richard Thomason** Alzheimer's Care Giver Support Group Confidential Names on our Prayer List



#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19 | 4:30-7:00 PM

## Spaghetti Dinner Menu

Spaghetti and Meatballs	\$9
Spaghetti and Chicken	\$11
Meatballs and Chicken	\$12
Meatloaf Dinner	\$12
Children 12 and Under	\$6
Children 4 and under—free	

All meals include salad, bread, dessert, and a beverage.

Did you know that it takes 32 volunteers and over 126 hours of volunteer labor to make our spaghetti dinners happen? Please consider signing up to help!

To-go orders call: 330-633-3384



Brats & Pretzels Served Bring a side dish/desert to share! Wear your Lederhosen! 5:00-? PM Perhaper a group might like to holde a beverage

#### **Mission Moment from India**

Family Village Farm (FVF) is a charitable society registered as Mudhiyor (Elderly) Balar (Children) Kudumba (Family) Grama (Village) Pannai (Farm). Founded in 1969 by Dr. Pauline E. King, a nurse from Pennsylvania, FVF's mission is transforming the lives of impoverished children, women, and the aged. Since 1969, the FVF has been associated with the United Church of Christ (UCC) and the Christian Church



(Disciples of Christ) through the Global Ministries. Through the Child and Elder Sponsorship Program through the Southern Asia area office of Global Ministries, FVF has received steady support in nurturing impoverished children and the elderly in a friendly and favorable environment. Sponsoring children and elders through Global Ministries helps us provide housing, food, education, healthcare, and emotional well-being through therapy and counseling.

The children at FVF are educated in English from kindergarten to higher secondary school at King's Matriculation School, managed by the FVF. After completing their school education, the children are educated at the university level in professional or vocational training courses. After receiving their college education, hundreds of children earn a handsome salary in secure professions and jobs.

The partnership with Global Ministries assists children's emotional well-being by organizing volunteers and sponsor visits to FVF. Hundreds of children have received their normal childhood back by living at the FVF. They are nurtured with love in a family setting with healthy food, quality education, and spiritual and moral values, transforming them into whole individuals as God intended.

Likewise, elderly females who are called grandmothers at the FVF live a peaceful life in an elder-friendly setup.



Their basic needs are met individually with appropriate medical assistance. This is made possible by partnership with Global Ministries' Elder Sponsorship Program. Better and brighter futures for children and elders testify to the Family Village Farm's partnership with Global Ministries.

Mission Moment written by Mr. Y. Kirubahara Daniel, Director, and Ms. Anita Grace Paul, Sponsorship Coordinator, of the Family Village Farm.

#### YOU'RE INVITED TO ....



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH | 3-4:30 PM

#### Trunk or Treat: October 29 @ 3:00-4:30 pm

We want many people involved in our annual Trunk or Treat. For those who plan to decorate your trunk, we have found that it works really well when you plan a little game for the children to play at your trunk to go along with the treat. Children must be accompanied by an adult while walking around the cars. If you are decorating a car, please plan to be ready by 2:45 pm.

To register your car for this event, please email Wendy Brown, wbrownfcc@sbcglobal.net. We are opening this to the community, so the number of children is unknown.





## Faith in Action Potluck On Sept. 24

First Congregational Church Tallmadge, OH to join our

new small group ministry, Faith in Action. We will kick off with a potluck lunch after worship, so bring a dish to share and stay for lunch. Faith in Action will be a new faith learning opportunity for people of all ages where we will learn about and explore our faith through reading, discussion, experiences and video. This will be a small group ministry where people will come together to experience the topic at hand. We will provide material to facilitate the faith experiences, but it will be driven by the small groups. We invite you to create your own group of 8-12 people or just sign up and we will help you find a group.

The topic we will be sharing this fall is world religion. As we learn about faith traditions in the Muslim, Islamic and Christian faith practices, we will be discussing how to love and CONFIRMATION 2023-24

This year the Confirmation Class will constitute one of our new "Faith in Action" groups. We will meet as a group once a month (date/time TBD) for the next 7 months. These will be extended times of interaction between our confirmands and their teachers. In between these once-a-month meetings, confirmands will meet one-on-one with their mentors to dive deeper into the theme of that month. We will also be scheduling a lock-in early in the process and perhaps a retreat at the end of our time together. Plans are also underway for our Confirmation trip to Boston! More information will be given out at the Sept. 24 meeting/potluck following worship.

#### **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.

#### Children and youth programming

Below you will find some programming opportunities for the children and youth of FCC. We are still looking for leadership help with the 3rd grade and older as well as the youth Faith in Action. This session is world religion with the expectation of exploring other religions and practices so we can learn to respect and appreciate people of different faith backgrounds.

Sunday morning	under age 3	2nd grade and younger	3rd grade and older	youth
9:00- 9:45 AM		Room 207 Faith in Action	ТВА	ТВА
10:00- 10:20 AM	Nursery	Worship	Worship	Worship
10:20- 10:40 AM Nursery WAMM		Music	Worship	
10:40- 11:00 AM	Nursery	Choir	WAMM	Worship
We are looking for Faith in Action leaders for discussion and activities for older elementary and youth age groups				
Confirmation Rev. Dan and Anne Pertick will be reaching out for the plans for 8th graders and older. Students,				
Grade 8 and please think about who can be a mentor for you. You will be meeting once a month and with				
older	older mentors between the monthly meetings.			

## Worship Art Music Ministry (WAMM)

WAMM began Sept. 10. We ask that you take your children with you to worship, then after the children's message, they can go back to WAMM. We will be dividing into two groups this year, 2nd grade and younger and 3rd grade and older. The younger group will start with Wendy in the Fellowship Hall with the scripture object lesson while the older group will be in music with Amy. We will then switch. We are hoping that we can do more challenging activities and music options for the older children. If you have a middle schooler that would like to participate in the music opportunity, they are more than welcome to do so. They can then come back to worship after music. We hope to occasionally include their musical talents in worship as well.





All students in 6th—12th grade are invited to our youth group events!

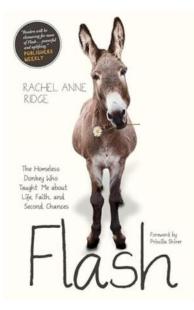
#### Mark your calendars now:

Sept. 24 @4- 6:30	Pumpkins/Corn maze at Ruefner's, \$6/person (Sarah Ickes)
	Sign up now! We will need a few adult driv- ers. Meet at the church at 4pm and ride to- gether.
Oct. 8 @11-12:30	Lunch Bunch-Time to Tailgate! Wear your favorite sports gear (Kyle and George Herron)
Oct. 22 @6- 7:30	Human vs Zombies: Bring a Nerf gun to save the world from the invasion of zombies! (Julie Bozic)
Nov. 12 @11-12:30	Lunch Bunch
Nov. 26 TBA	Escape Room (Amber Headley)
Dec. 15-16 @7pm- 9	am
	Lock in/Christmas party (Note this is the 3rd

weekend) (Erin Hoffman)

## Women's Book Club

For the past couple of years, we have had a women's book club that met weekly. This is open to women of all ages. This year we are going to read the entire book and then meet to



discuss the book. We have selected the book, Flash: the Homeless Donkey Who Taught Me About Life, Faith and Second Chances, by Rachel Anne Ridge.

If you would like the office to order you a copy for \$12.00, please see Wendy. We will share our thoughts about the book on Sunday, Nov. 5 at 9 AM in the David Bacon room.

#### **Nursery Care Provider**

Stop in the nursery and welcome our new nursery care provider, Abby Caruso. She just started her senior year at Tallmadge, and she plays on the high school soccer team. She even traveled Colorado this summer to compete in a national club soccer championship. Abby loves little ones and is eager to meet you and your child. She will be in the nursery during the worship hour to care for the children 3 years and younger.



#### **Treehouse Preschool**

Treehouse started the year out strong. We have only two openings in our 3year-old class and all other classes are full. This year, we have two new staff members, Christin Poling and McKenzie



Willingham. Both were very excited to join our staff, and we are looking forward to the new energy they bring to our team. We did expand our day by 15 minutes so class is now 9:00– 11:30 am and 12:30– 3:00 pm. Please be careful in the parking lots if you are here during that time.



<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 relationship 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 on October 1 @ 11:00 am. Bring a calendar and activity ideas for children ages 2- 10 so we can plan some fun activities. Then our first Faith and Family activity will be Fall Park Day at Munroe Falls Lake Metro Park on Oct. 15 @ 3:00 pm. Bring drinks for your family, snack to share and good shoes to play and walk in. Wendy will have an activity for us to explore the outdoor fall colors then we can play on the playground then enjoy a snack together. This activity is open to families with children of all ages.



#### **THANK YOU**

I would like to give a huge "Thank you!" to: Judy Salmond and Sandy Barabas for the donation of cleaning supplies, and worker bees Janet and Bob Davis, Sandy Farabee, Bonnie Fordham, Joe and Tom Labay, Linda Mayfield, Justin Devies, Anne Pertick, Darlene Farnsworth, Carol Dowey, Ken Caldwell, Chuck Victor, Ethan Ross, and Roberta Nehrenz who helped with the deep cleaning of the sanctuary, upstairs balcony, infant room, narthex, library, atrium, Heritage room, Fellowship Hall, and the long hallway from the atrium to the kitchen. Also, thanks to Bill Galloway for repairing the front doors coming into the Atrium. They gave freely of their time to get our church to sparkle like a shiny new penny. Thank you and God bless you, Earlene Laymon

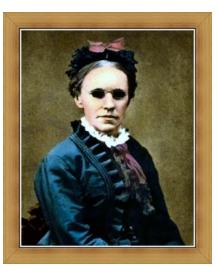
Dear Prayer Chain Family, We want to thank you again for the prayers and cards. Jim had to have emergency surgery in August, but is on the road to recovery. With love and prayers all things are possible. In Christian Love, Jim and Bonnie Collinson

The Women's New Initiative held their 15th Fashion Show event with a salad and dessert supper on September 18, 2023. Sixty-two ladies enjoyed the showing of the beautiful fall clothing line from the J. Jill store at First & Main in Hudson. The models were church members and Treehouse Preschool moms.

WNI extends special thanks to the Hudson J Jill Store, Rev. Dan Doty who entertained the attendees with three beautiful songs, to the church men led by Gary Myers who served the ladies, and to Jackie Mohr for her leadership. The mission of WNI is to provide a variety of informative and social programs for the church women of all ages.



#### Fanny Crosby – "America's Hymn Queen"



Fanny Crosby, born in 1820 in rural New York and was blind from infancy. Over the course of her long life, she wrote lyrics for more than 8,000 hymns and gospel songs.

Life was difficult to be sightless in an age without guide dogs and Braille books; however, she had a remarkable memory and learned whole books of the Bible by heart. At age 15, Fanny attended the New York Institute for the Blind where she spent 23 years, 12 as a student and 11 as a teacher. She sang and learned to play a variety of instruments. She loved writing poetry and said, "I feel a hundred hymns in my head! The Lord has given me a purpose in my life." She composed six or seven hymns each day and only received one or two dollars for each hymn. She often used a pen name for fear that hymn books would have too many Fanny Crosby songs.

Fanny campaigned for better education of the blind and became the first woman to speak in the United States Senate.

In 1858, Fanny married Alexander van Alstyne, a blind church organist. They had one daughter who died shortly after birth. Fanny died in 1915 at the age of 94.

To honor Fanny's memory and dedication, I will play one of her hymns for the first four Sundays in October. — Nancy Lynn

#### Worship Attendance

August 20	124
August 27	153
September 3	111
September 10	116
September 17	131



## FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE WORSHIP: 10:00 AM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

**UPCOMING SUNDAYS** 

Greeters			Altar Flowers	s
Sep 24	Walter and Ann Holt	Sep 24		
Oct 1	Terri Poff	Oct 1	Nancy Johnson, Ray and Ja	ckie Mohr
Oct 8	Bob and Sandy Haydu	Oct 8	Rosemary <mark>Richards, Karen</mark>	Thomason
Oct 15	Walter and Ann Holt	Oct 15	Bonnie Fordham	Sign up in
Oct 22	Donna Marlow	Oct 22		the hallway \$28 per
Oct 29	Don and Judy Woerz	Oct 29	march 1	arrangement

#### Ushers

Sep 24	Larry Robinson, John and Anita Lahrmer, Ken Caldwell
Oct 1	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Al Lytle, Ken Caldwell
Oct 8	Terri Poff, Kim Fulton, Dave Marconi, Larry Robinson
Oct 15	Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
Oct 22	Larry Robinson, John and Anita Lahrmer, Ken Caldwell
Oct 29	Gary Marlow, Jim and Dee West, Larry Robinson



THE CONTRACT



# OCTOBER 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1 8:45 AM—Social Ac- tion Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship/ World Communion Day 11:00 AM—Faith and Family planning meet- ing	2 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:30 pm—Trustees Meeting	3 6:00 PM—Naranon	4 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	5 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 12:00 PM—WF Luncheon 7:00 PM—Choir	6	7
8 8:30 AM—EC Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship 11:30 AM—Youth Group Lunch Bunch	9 6:00 PM—Heritage	10 6:00 PM—Naranon	11 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	12 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 3:00 PM—Spirit Wear Sale 7:00 PM—Choir	13	14
15 STEWARDSHIP KICK- OFF 10:00 AM—Worship 3:00 PM—Faith and Family Fall Activity	16 6:00 PM—Heritage	17 6:00 PM—Naranon 6:00 PM—Cards	18 9:00 AM—Quilters 10:00 AM—Herald 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	19 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 4:30-7 PM— Spaghetti Dinner 7:00 PM—Choir	20	21
22 LAITY SUNDAY 10:00 AM—Worship 11:00 AM—CE Meet- ing 5:00 PM—Youth Group Fall Activity	23 6:00 PM—Heritage	24 6:00 PM—Naranon	25 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	26 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 7:00 PM—Choir	27	28 9:00 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast
29 REFORMATION SUNDAY 10:00 AM—Worship 3:00 PM—Trunk or Treat 5:00 PM—Oktoberfest	30 6:00 PM—Heritage	31 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon				

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

DATE: September 20, 2023

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

	Spiritual and P	astoral Care Ministry Cont	tacts
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	<u>34babs@sbcglobal.net</u>
Prayer Chain	Diana Caldwell	330.265.5723	scdcg@icloud.com
Yarning for Peace	Elaine Engle	330.633.0896	elengle@aol.com
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Nancy Lynn Robinson	Choir Director / Organist		nrbgp@aol.com
Amy Doty	Bell Choir Director		amydeandoty@icloud.com
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Teresa Snyder	Head Custodian		budrose42@yahoo.com
	Sunday Custodian		