

The Herald

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge United Church of Christ

"Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living"

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First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, Ohio UCC

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm Fri: 9am-12pm

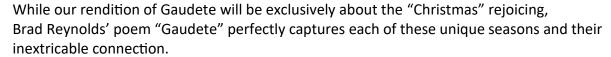
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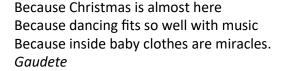
- 2—Worship Schedule, Advent 2023
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- 6—Breakfast with Santa, Advent Workshop, Treehouse Preschool
- 7—Youth Group, Faith in Action, Christmas Pageant
- 8-Mission Moment
- 9—Thank Yous, Christmas Luncheon, Annoucements

10-11, insert Upcoming Sundays, December Calendar, Poinsettias and Music As many of you know, I have been singing in the Baldwin Wallace Men's Chorus this past year. One of the selections we are singing on our Holiday Concert (Dec. 3rd, 2 & 5 pm #shamelessplug) is entitled Gaudete. Gaudete is the Latin word for "rejoice." In the liturgy of the church, it is a part of the entrance antiphon for the Third Sunday of Advent. It is also related to another Latin word Laetare, which also means rejoice and is in the entrance antiphon of the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Thus, we find a connection between the two major seasons of the liturgical calendar.

In our arrangement, you will hear sung over and over the text, "Gaudete, Gaudete Christus est na-

tus." This Latin phrase means, "Rejoice, rejoice, Christ is born!"





Because some people love you Because of chocolate Because pain does not last forever Because Santa Claus is coming. Gaudete

Because of laughter
Because there really are angels
Because your fingers fit your hands
Because forgiveness is yours
for the asking
Because of children

Grace for the Advent journey,

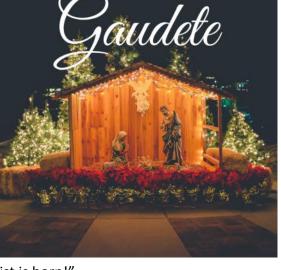
Because of parents. *Gaudete*

Because the blind see. And the lame walk. Gaudete

Because lepers are clean And the deaf hear. *Gaudete*

Because the dead will live again And there is good news for the poor. *Gaudete*

Because of Christmas Because of Jesus You rejoice.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

NOV 19 — TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

Message: "Extravagant Opportunity"

NOV 26 — TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46 Message: "The Reign of Christ"

DEC 03 — FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-5, Mark 13:24-37 Message: "And the Glory of the Lord"

DEC 10 — SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-4,6, Mark 1:1-8 Message: "For Unto Us a Child is Born"

DEC 17 — THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT "Christmas Lights"

DEC 24 — FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—10 AM

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-4,6, Mark 13:24-37

Message: "Hallelujah"

DEC 24 — CHRISTMAS EVE—5PM

Message: "Lessons and Carols from FCC"

DEC 31 — FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Casual Christmas Carol Sing and Brunch



Handeling Advent

This year join Rev. Dan and the chancel choir as we explore Advent themes in Handel's "Messiah." Handel worked with librettist Charles Jennens who utilized texts from the King James Bible and the Coverdale Psalter. It was first performed in The Great Music Hall in Dublin, Ireland, on April 13, 1742.

It was written toward the end of 1741 and miraculously completed in 24 days. At the end of his manuscript, Handel wrote the letters "SDG"—Soli Deo Gloria, "To God alone be the glory." This inscription, taken with the speed of composition, has encouraged belief in the apocryphal story that Handel wrote the music in a fervor of divine inspiration in which, as he wrote the Hallelujah chorus, "He saw all heaven before him."

Come hear the choir present selections from "Messiah" on Sunday mornings during Advent and on Christmas Eve!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Advent & Christmas

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 2nd, 9-11am

Hanging of the Greens and Advent Workshop

Sunday, December 3, after worship

Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon

Thursday, December 7th, 12pm

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 10th, during worship

Christmas Palooza

Monday, December 11th, 6pm

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 17th, during worship,

Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 21st, 5pm

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24th, 5pm

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 I sought in prayer. Psalm GG:20

Dorothy Achimasi

Cheyenne Andrews (Lucy Larson's mom)

Brad Ashley

Noreen Ashley

Tim Ashley

Marilyn Berta

Bryan Briggs (Judy Woerz's son)

Rob Broocker (Cousin of Kristin Yoho)

Steve Burr

Jim Caplinger

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

Bonnie Fordham

Kara Grant (daughter of Ken & Diana Caldwell)

Judy Gump

Eleanor Hall

Alleen Hilbish

Zell Lambert

Danielle Leonardi

Katie Moore

Marie O'Neil

Walt and Margie Nicholson

LTJG John Norton (Connie Stone's Grandson)

David & Jackie Parker

Allen Rutledge (Bonnie Fordham's nephew)

John Triola (friend of Joe Labay)

Richard Thomason

Alzheimer's Care Giver Support Group

Confidential Names on our Prayer List



3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH | 4:30—7:00 PM NOVEMBER 16 | DECEMBER 14

Spaghetti Dinner Menu

Spaghetti and Meatballs \$9

Spaghetti and Chicken \$11

Meatballs and Chicken \$12

Special Dinner \$12

Children 12 and Under \$6

Side Dishes \$2

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

For November our extra entrée is a pork Chop with broccoli and rice pilaf. For December, we will have chili or potato soup with salad or grilled cheese. YUM!

To-go orders call: 330-633-3384

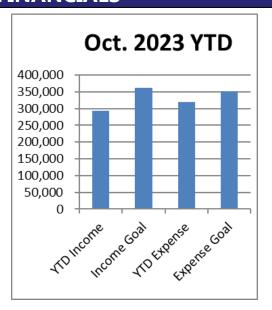
WITH SYMPATHY

With sadness we announce the passing of our former custodian, Steve Ristich on November 10, 2023.



MONTHLY FINANCIALS





October, 2023 operating income of \$25,540 was \$10,666 **below** the monthly income budget. Operating expenses for the month were \$30,162 resulting in a **deficit** of (\$4,622) in October, and a YTD **deficit** of (\$25,153). Faith offerings are at the core of our commitment to stewardship along with time and talent. We look forward in prayer to a theology of generosity and the ability to strengthen the growth of our ministries as we move forward into 2024. 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.



Support Local Families this Christmas

DONATE GIFT CARDS TO GOOD NEIGHBORS

Support local families this Christmas by donating gift cards to Good Neighbors! They will accept gift cards to any store and in any amount. Please turn in your cards to the church office by Sunday, December 3rd.

DONATE MONEY FOR SHELTER CARE

Help WNI purchase items for Christmas for the young moms and their babies at The Highland, the Shelter Care home on South Ave. in Tallmadge. You may donate money after worship on Dec. 3rd and 10th and also at the Christmas Palooza on December 11th. THANK YOU!

BLUE CHRISTMAS A Service of Comfort for the Weary

Blue Christmas. During the holidays, so many of us can suffer for all kinds of reasons. The magnitude of our weary world weighs on our hearts and minds. We wrestle with chronic pain, broken relationships, shattered dreams, fragile faith, and unexpected losses. Our grief and sorrow feel particularly acute when compared to the festivity and joy everyone else seems to be feeling. In response to these realities, First Congregational Church of Tallmadge will offer a "Blue Christmas" service (also sometimes called the Longest Night service).

This contemplative service will allow for space to reflect on our grief and longing during this season. Soothing scriptures and subdued hymn singing will allow us to hear the Christmas story while not being forced to sing "Joy to the World" when our hearts are hurting. Our Blue Christmas service will be held on Thursday, Dec. 21st (the Longest Night) at 5:00 PM.

Casual Christmas Carol Sing & Brunch

Join your church family on the First Sunday after Christmas (Dec. 31st this year) for a casual service of carol singing in our Fellowship Hall. Wear a Christmas sweater (ugly or not!) We will gather around tables



and eat, color Christmas mandalas, sing, pray and hear scripture readings. We will also be creating a "Christmas Tree" out of vintage (or not) Christmas tree ornaments. So please also bring a Christmas ornament that will be used in this Christmas crafting project!

Christmas Concert

December 10th, during worship
Be sure to attend worship on December
10, 2023. All the musical groups in the
church will participate in the service as
a musical Christmas gift to the
congregation.



QUILT RAFFLE

Just in time for Christmas, we are raffling off the "Ann Smith Quilt" and matching pillow. Ann Smith was a long-time member of our church and the quilting group. When she passed away, her family donated the 11 lovely squares that Ann had hand embroidered. We have put the squares together and hand quilted this beautiful queen/full-sized quilt.

Tickets are \$1.00 each and can be purchased before and after church from November 12th through December 17th.

NEW QUILTING GROUP

Did you know that people have been making quilts in this church for over 150 years? Have you ever admired the quilts we raffle and thought, "I'd like to do that!"? Well, now is your chance. I am starting a new quilting group – QUILTING 101 - on Thursday evenings from 7 – 8:30 beginning November 16th. No experience is needed and all ages are welcome! I will be happy to teach you what I know about this beautiful art form, and together we can keep quilting going strong at Tallmadge FCC!



Breakfast with Santa December 2

Breakfast seating every 15 minutes between 9-10:30 am.

\$5/person (3 and younger are free)

Tickets include pancakes, eggs, sausage,
drink, 3 crafts, Santa visit and a gift.

Advent Workshop and Hanging of the Greens Potluck

December 3 @ 11:00 – 1:00

Come enjoy making some Advent crafts as a family. For those not wishing to craft, we would use your help hanging the greens in the sanctuary and atrium to make our worship space look more festive. For the crafts, we are asking for a donation of \$10/family. We will be making ornaments, bracelets and Advent "to go" boxes.

Treehouse Preschool Give Back program

During the month of November, Treehouse Preschool is collecting books to donate to the Bright Star Book Program. They collect gently used and new books to give back to those in short supply of books. If you would like to donate children's books, please bring them to Treehouse between Nov. 1–16. We will have bins in the hallway.

Our Main Book Giving Programs:

Growing Young Readers: We give bags of about 5 books to the children of WIC clients (aged 0 - 5) twice a year



Free Book Fairs: We give reading-level appropriate books to children at Title I elementary schools at no cost



Story Time: We read, then give away, storybooks to

children at WIC Clinics and other social service agencies

Treehouse Preschool Registration 2024-25

Registration for NEXT school year, 2024–2025, will be on **Jan. 31 from 10–2** for church members and siblings of Treehouse Preschool graduates. On February 1 from 6-7 PM is Open Registration for all new families and non-church members.

To register, you will need a copy of your child's birth certificate and \$50. We have classes for 2 1/2- yr- olds with a parent or grandparent and 3-, 4-, and 5-yr-olds.

Treehouse

Mark your calendars now:

Nov. 26 @5-7

Movie Night, Home Alone (Amber Headley). Bring a pillow and blanket and enjoy a movie with popcorn and candy "bar."

Dec. 10 @ 11-1

Lunch Bunch Christmas Party

(Erin Hoffman). Please bring a \$5 gift for a gift exchange and a snack to share.

Students who are

in 6th—12th grade

are invited to our

youth group

Jan. 14 @ 11-12:30

Lunch Bunch and youth games (Wendy Brown)

Confirmation Class – our Confirmation students, 8th grade and older, will be meeting in the David Bacon Room on the following dates @ 11:30 – 1:30:

November 19 World Religions

December 17 Bible/Christian History

January 21 Jesus





<u>FAITH</u> ≧ACTION

(new intergenerational Sunday School opportunity)

Faith in Action Potluck will be served on Jan. 14. This is for everyone involved in the World Religion groups—Wednesday, bible study, book study, Bible and Brews,

Roberta's early elementary and Diane's older elementary groups. Bring the family or come by yourself. We will have a review of the World Religion discussion and the beginning of "Service to Others," our second Faith in Action discussion. If you didn't join the discussions last session, give this one a try.

Christmas Pageant "Christmas Lights"

On December 17 @ 10 am, the children will be sharing the annual Christmas Pageant. If your child is in 1st – 5th grade, we would love to have them join us for at least 2 of the practices below;

Nov. 12 @ 5-6 pm Dec. 4 @ 6:30-7:30 pm

Nov. 30 @ 5-6 pm Dec. 16 @ 9-10 am

We also would like as many of our participants here on Sunday mornings as possible.





Nepal is a beautiful country nestled in the Himalayan mountains and is situated between India and China. The world's highest mountain, Mount Everest, is on the border between Nepal and China. Tourism in Nepal is its most important industry and the major source of its revenue and foreign exchange. A monarchy ruled over Nepal for 240 years and it was abolished in 2008 and a new constitution was adopted in 2015. Since then, Nepal has been striving to be a Federal Democratic Republic.

Sharing borders and culture with India, Nepal is beset with similar issues and challenges posed by the caste system

and caste-based discrimination. Poverty and marginalization go along with the caste-based privilege or disprivilege that is prevalent in most aspects of people's lives in Nepal. Child labor is an issue that troubles Nepal despite much progress in the last couple of decades in reducing the number of cases. The reality of children facing exploitation and dangerous living conditions through child labor has been exacerbated due to the closures and restrictions around the COVID-19 pandemic.

Out of the total population of close to 30 million, more than 60% are young and the unemployment rate among this section of the population is significantly high. This causes many young people to migrate to India, the Arabian Gulf countries, and Europe and North America in search of work and better living conditions. Nepal currently ranks 143rd on the Human Development Index among 191 countries, and the report identifies inequalities along gender, caste, and geographic regions as prime reasons for the lack or the loss of human development within its borders.

Samari Utthan Sewa (SUS) or Samaritan Upliftment Service, a social development organization in Nepal, established in 2008 by a group of Christian youth from the Dalit community, has worked with Global Ministries recently. SUS continues to work with the Dalit, poor, vulnerable, and other socially excluded segments of society, focusing on their basic needs and improving livelihoods. It also contributes to the process of empowering them to raise their voices for the cause of human rights, particularly Dalit rights. During the COVID-19 pandemic, SUS has responded by distributing WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) items, and it continues to establish hand washing stations at strategic locations in Dalit and indigenous people populated areas. Likewise, SUS has researched "Vulnerability and Religious Minorities in Nepal," as discrimination based on religious faith or belief is prevalent in Nepal, just as it poses an increasing challenge worldwide. Global Ministries has had an opportunity to partner in these initiatives of SUS.

Devastation caused by heavy floods, soil erosion, and landslides are adding sections of the population to the ranks of the impoverished who continue to face "multidimensional poverty" and undernourishment. When we consider the fact that a vast majority of Nepal's workforce is involved in small-scale and subsistence agriculture and that caste-based discrimination is more prevalent in rural areas, the future for the vulnerable sections of Nepal's population could be grim unless there are significant changes to the social and political fabric and ethos of Nepal's society.



Dear First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, We are neighbors on Orrlawn Drive, two streets north of the church, and we wanted to tell you how delighted we are for the return of the carillon at noon and 6 pm and Sunday morning as well. We really missed it and are so happy to hear it again. Thank you for sharing this wonderful sound with us.

Mindy & John Manning

Thank you so much on behalf of all members of the Stow Historical Society for being raised up in prayer during the October 15th worship service by Rev Dan in relation to the devastating fire we had in our oldest historic house and museum that we manage. Restoration is long and difficult, and we thank you greatly for those prayers and thoughts.

Tim Burns, Stow Historical Society Treasurer

In joy or sadness, flowers are our constant friends....

We are looking for someone to take over Kim Futon's job of ordering special flowers for Christmas and Easter. Kim will be glad to train her replacement this year. Please contact the church office if you are interested in this job.









BRING BACK OUR CHAIRS

We are missing several of our folding chairs with cushions. If you have borrowed some from the church over the years, please return them.

THANK YOU!

FCC Tallmadge is now hosting WeightWatchers in our Fellowship Hall.

Thursdays at 8:30 am and 6:00 pm Saturdays at 7:30 am and 9:00 am

See <u>weightwatcher.com/us/</u> for more details.



Worship Attendance

October 22	141
October 29	130
November 5	142
November 12	160



WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WORSHIP: 10:00 AM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

	Greeters		Altar Flowers	
Nov 19	Bob and Sandy Haydu	Nov 19	Barbara Rowles, Tom and Joe L	abay
Nov 26	Bob and Sandy Haydu	Nov 26	Sandy Haydu and Dianne Huth	
Dec 03	Terri Poff	Dec 03	Donna Phillips, Dianne Drumm	ond
Dec 10	Don and Judy Woerz	Dec 10	Sandy Haydu	Sign up in
Dec 17	Mark and Cathleen Clark	Dec 17	POINSETTIAS	the hallway
Dec 24	Walt and Ann Holt	Dec 24	POINSETTIAS	\$28 per arrangement
Dec 31	Walt and Ann Holt	Dec 31	The Cammel Family	arrangement

Ushers



Nov 19 Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
 Nov 26 Larry Robinson, John and Anita Lahrmer, Ken Caldwell
 Dec 03 Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Al Lytle, Ken Caldwell
 Dec 10 Terri Poff, Karen Huth, Kim Fulton, Larry Robinson
 Dec 17 Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
 Dec 24 Larry Robinson, Don Simmons, John Huffman, Ken Caldwell

Gary Marlow, Jim and Dee West, Larry Robinson

September—May OFFICE HOURS

Dec 31

Monday—Thursday:

9:00 am-3:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am—12:00 pm

OUR CHURCH OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 25-JANUARY 1

DECEMBER 2023

Breakfast with Santa Santa Breakfast with Santa Santa	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
8.45 AM—Social Action 10.00 AM—Vorship/ Communion 10.00 AM—Staff 10.00 PM—Editor 10.00 AM—Staff 10.00 PM—Editor 10.00 PM—Edi						1	7:30/9:00 AM— WW 9:00-11:00 AM— Breakfast with
BOY SCOUT LOCK—IN 10:00 AM—Worship/ Christmas Concert 1:00 PM—Heritage Group Mach 1:00 PM—Naranon 1:00 PM—Narano	8:45 AM—Social Action 10:00 AM—Worship/ Communion 11:00 AM—Advent	6:00 PM—Heritage 6:30 PM—Pageant Practice 6:30 PM—Trustees	1:00 PM—Ladies Video Study	9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA	8:30 AM—WW 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 12:00 PM—WF Christmas Lunch 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—Bell Choir	BOY SCOUT	7:30/9:00 AM— WW BOY SCOUT
10:00 AM—Worship/ Christmas Pageant 11:30 am— Confirmation Class 6:00 PM—Heritage 1:00 PM—Ladies Video Study 6:00 PM—Naranon 9:00 AM—Quilters 10:00 AM—Herald 6:00 PM—NA 8:30 AM—WW 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 5:00 PM—Blue Christmas 6:00 PM—Bell Choir 7:00 PM—Choir WW 24 10:00 AM—Worship 5:00 PM—Christmas Eve Worship 25 CHRISTMAS DAY 26 27 28 29 30 31 NEW YEAR'S DAY NEW YEAR'S DAY Image: New Year of the property of the p	BOY SCOUT LOCK—IN 10:00 AM—Worship/ Christmas Concert 11:00 AM—Youth Lunch	6:00 PM—Heritage 6:00 PM—WNI	1:00 PM—Ladies Video Study	9:00 AM—Quilters 6:00 PM—NA	8:30 AM—WW 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 4:30-7pm— Spaghetti Dinner 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—Bell Choir	15	7:30/9:00 AM— WW 9:00 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM—Pageant
10:00 AM—Worship 5:00 PM—Christmas Eve Worship CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 31 NEW YEAR'S DAY	10:00 AM—Worship/ Christmas Pageant 11:30 am—		1:00 PM—Ladies Video Study	9:00 AM—Quilters 10:00 AM—Herald	8:30 AM—WW 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 5:00 PM—Blue Christmas 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—Bell Choir	22	7:30/9:00 AM—
31 NEW YEAR'S DAY	10:00 AM—Worship 5:00 PM—Christmas		26	27	28	29	30
			CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED				
	24	NEW YEARIO DAY					
		NEW YEAR'S DAY					
Christmas Carol Sing and Brunch CLOSED CLOSED	•						

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DATE: November 15, 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	scdcg@icloud.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 Nancy Lynn Robinson Choir Director / Organist nrbgp@aol.com **Bell Choir Director** Amy Doty amydeandoty@icloud.com Bill Hoover Finance Administrator bhooverfcc@sbcglobal.net Teresa Snyder **Head Custodian** budrose42@yahoo.com **Gary Marlow Sunday Custodian**

2023 POINSETTIA ORDERS

Help decorate FCC for Christmas. *Please place all orders by December 3rd.* §9.00 per plant. Please mail in or drop off your order form with your money to the church office. Names of those honored will be listed in the bulletin on December 24, 2023.

Name	
Phone	
Email	
Total number of plants	
Total amount enclosed (at 9.00 per plant)	
Message	
If you are ordering flowers and donating for	music, please write separate checks!!
	AS EVE SPECIAL MUSIC
Each Christmas we are blessed to have instrumentalists a contribute to our special music fund to support these mu Please fill out this form and return it to the office by Dece in the bulletin on December 24, 2023.	sicians by making an honorary or memorial gift.
Name	
Phone	<u> </u>
Total amount enclosed \$	
Message	