



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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 First Congregational
 Church of Tallmadge, Ohio
 UCC

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

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While the bells of Christmas rang a while ago, they still seem to echo in our ears, and yet it is time to turn our hearts toward Easter. In a little while we will wave the palm branches and celebrate. We all love Easter Sunday! It is a happy time with flowers, new clothes, and the expectation of spring in the air.

But it is too easy and promotes a cheap grace to focus only on the high points of Palm Sunday and Easter without walking with Jesus through the darkness of Good Friday, a journey that begins on Ash Wednesday. Through prayer that gives up self, we seek to open ourselves up before God and to hear anew the call "Come unto me!" We seek to recognize and respond afresh to God’s presence in our lives and in our world. We seek to place our needs, our fears, our failures, our hopes, our very lives in God’s hands, again. And we seek by abandoning ourselves in Jesus’ death to recognize again who God is, to allow God’s transforming grace to work in us once more, and to come to worship God on Easter Sunday with a fresh hope that goes beyond the new clothes, the spring flowers, the happy music.

During Lent this year, we will be considering the covenants we make. We will also hear how Jesus didn’t stay in one place for long. His earthly ministry was one of moving from one place and encounter to the next. He also moved through every part of the human experience, encountering everything from temptation, to joy, to suffering and even death. As we encounter the life and ministry of Jesus, we cannot stay the same. We ourselves are moved to grow and change as followers and imitators of the gospel. The comforting truth of Lent is that as we all delve deeper into our own self-examination, we find we are not alone. God is still on the move in our lives, walking with us every step as we travel the road to Easter.

But it begins in ashes. And it journeys though darkness. We hear in 2 Chronicles 7:14: ". . . if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." It is not a call for others to repent; it is a call for us, God’s people, to repent. It is our land that needs healed; it is our destructive ways from which we need to turn. We are the ones who need to seek God’s face.

Perhaps during the Lenten season, we should stop praying for others as if we were virtuous enough to do so. Perhaps we should take off our righteous robes just long enough during



these 40 days to put ashes on our own heads, to come before God with a new humility that is willing to confess, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner." That might put us in a position to hear the still-speaking God in ways that we have not heard in a long time. And it may be the beginning of a healing for which we have so longed.

Grace for the journey,



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FEB 25 — SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Mark 8:31-38
Message: *"Covenant: Promises We Can't Keep"*

MAR 3 — THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Guest Preacher: Rev. John Phillips
Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17, John 2:13-22
Message: *"Covenant: Contracts and Covenants"*

MAR 10 — FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21
Message: *"Covenant: Unbreakable?"*

MAR 17 — FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Guest Preacher: Rev. David Kiewit
Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 12:20-33
Message: *"Covenant: Marriage Vows"*

MAR 24 — PALM SUNDAY/NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Mark 11:1-11
Message: *"Covenant: What Happens When You Assume?"*

MAR 31 — EASTER SUNDAY

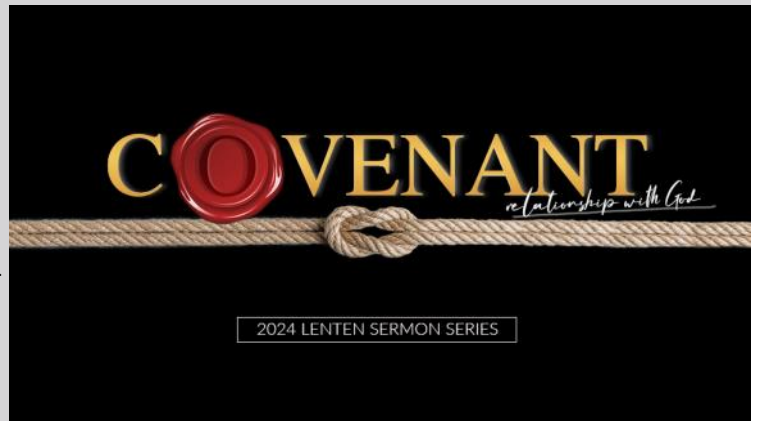
Scripture: John 20:1-18

Covenant: A Lenten Sermon Series

This Lenten season we will explore what it means to be in covenant relationship with God. Most adults have had the experience of signing a contract or other legal document.

To borrow money, rent an apartment, or buy a car, we are asked to sign on the dotted line. Contracts are built on distrust, protecting ourselves from liability if the other person doesn't hold up his or her end of the bargain. Yet healthy human development and relationships are built on trust.

Trust becomes possible only when we willfully and lovingly yield all authority and power and make ourselves vulnerable. The deepest and most eternal trust that undergirds our souls comes from a relationship with God, who has given all to be with us and keeps not only God's promises but ours as well, in an unbreakable love known as covenant.



Our condolences to the family and friends of:

David Kester, brother of Tom Kester, who died on February 1, 2024.

Bob Kroah, husband of Carol Kroah, who died on February 10, 2024.

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

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
Jim and Bonnie Collinson (friends of Connie Mason)
Devin Devies (grandson of Patty Calvarese)
Baby Matthew Engel
Lyn Fendenheim (friend of Joe Labay)
Eleanor Hall
Alleen Hilbish
Kenneth Holt
Walt Holt
Sandi Hughes
Zell Lambert
Yvonne Larson
Rebecca Moore
Walt and Margie Nicholson
Marie O'Neil
LTJG John Norton (Connie Stone's grandson)
Laura Orr (friend of Karen Sauerbrey)
David and Jackie Parker
Paulina Rodriguez (friend of Kim Stock)
Dr. Mike Shimmel (friend of Sandy Farabee)
John Triola (friend of Joe Labay)
Richard Thomason
Alzheimer's Care Giver Support Group
Confidential Names on our Prayer List

GIVE ONLINE HERE



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SPAGHETTI DINNER

3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH | 4:30—7:00 PM

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.



To-go orders call: 330-630-0704

BIBLE & BREWS

FEBRUARY 21, 2024 | 7:00PM



SAMMIE'S BAR & GRILL

JOIN REV. DAN TO DISCUSS BIBLE & FAITH

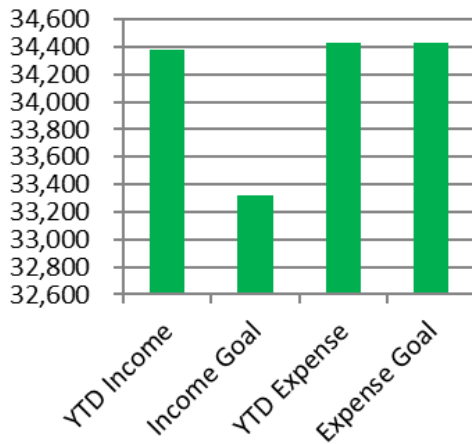
First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, United Church of Christ

MONTHLY FINANCIALS

January 2024



Jan. 2024 YTD



January, 2024 operating income of \$34,383 was \$1,060 **above** the monthly income budget. Operating expenses for the month were \$34,429 resulting in a **deficit** of (\$45) in January, and a YTD **deficit** of (\$45). The year 2024 brings new opportunities and possibilities for our ministries and programs. 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 the New Year. 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.

6 Generosity WAYS TO GIVE

at FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE



The Baldwin Wallace Men's Chorus will present music from their Spring Concert at First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, Ohio, UCC on Sunday, March 10 at 4PM. Rev. Dan sings with this chorus and will solo at this concert. This concert is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be taken.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

March Luncheon

LONGHORN STEAKHOUSE
443 HOWE AVE.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH | 12 PM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 23rd | 9:00 AM



Mission Moment from Thailand

Thailand means “land of the free,” yet it is home to many who live in bondage. Despite a relatively stable and industrialized economy, internal and cross-border migration, human trafficking, drugs, and organized crime are rampant.

Christianity was introduced in Thailand by the Catholic missionaries as early as 1550. In 1828, God led Protestant missionaries to respond to the call to spread the Gospel in the country. The mission of the Protestant missionaries was blessed with the founding of an indigenous church, the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT), in 1934. Historically, it has played a significant role in the modernization of Thailand. These activities included evangelism, church planting, nurturing of believers, Bible teaching, and providing education and health care. Attention was also given to social sustainable development and enhancing justice and peace.

The CCT is very involved in society, believing this is an important part of its Christian witness in a predominantly Buddhist country. Thus, as of 2023, CCT runs 28 primary and secondary schools, two universities, three international schools, two theological seminaries, five Bible schools, and eight hospitals.

The CCT plays an important role in developing Thailand’s musical life. Social work is carried out in the slum communities of Bangkok, and various agricultural and community sustainable development programs are conducted in rural communities.

In conjunction with local government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and interfaith partners, the CCT organized basic human rights and humanitarian work in poor and marginalized communities among refugees and migrant workers from neighboring countries.

Looking for a church home?

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Feb 25th and Mar. 10th
- 9:00 am -

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge will offer two membership orientation classes. These classes are designed to give you an introduction into the FCC family. These classes will be offered on Sundays, February 25 and March 10, at the 9:00am hour before worship. If participants are led to join FCC in membership, the New Member Sunday will be celebrated on Palm Sunday, March 24th. Please let the church office know if you are interested. You can email Cathy Cotter, the church’s Office Administrator, at tallmadgefcc@sbcglobal.net



Yarning for Peace is proud to announce that several ladies have come forward and turned in some prayer shawls to help with this ministry. I commend them

for stepping up to help fill the need. These ladies are willing to make additional shawls, but they are in need of the yarn that is used to make them. If you or someone you know has any extra yarn that you or they would wish to donate to this ministry, that would be great. It takes four to five skeins of yarn to make one shawl. If you do not have any yarn, perhaps you would consider making a small monetary donation which would be used to purchase the yarn. Either way, yarn or monetary donations can be turned into the church office with Elaine's name and Yarning for Peace on it.

Any way you can help is appreciated. Just as a reminder, Yarning for Peace is still an active ministry, having given out three shawls so far this month, with one going to California.

Youth Faith In Action— on the 2nd Sunday of the month, students in grades 6-12th are invited to join in faithful discussion from 9-10 AM in the youth room.

Youth Group— Students who are in 6th—12th grade are invited to our youth group events.

Mark your calendars now:

Feb. 25— Paint splatter and Rage room 5-7 pm

Mar. 10— Lunch Bunch @ 11-12:30 PM

Mar. 24— NO YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Confirmation Class – Our Confirmation students will meet in the David Bacon Room @ 11:30– 1:30:

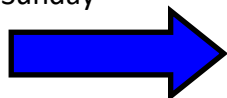
March 17 Boston Trip (The confirmands who did not attend the Boston Trip will still meet at 11-1:30.)

April 21 Service

April 28 Youth Sunday

May 5 Confirmation Sunday

See mission trip and fundraising information.



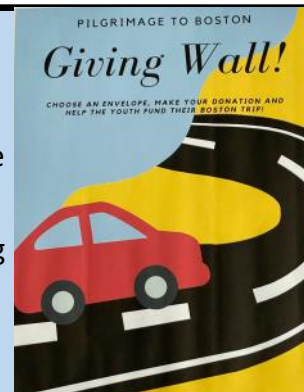
Project Shine

For our Mission Trip this summer, FCC Tallmadge will join Project Shine for a week of service, June 17-22. Project Shine brings people together to help make Christ known to residents of Akron as they work to provide basic home improvements. We will work, live and worship alongside other youth groups as we transform homes with basic outside home improvements such as painting, staining, yard clean-up, and small construction projects. This is open to ANYONE who is 12 years or older. We hope you consider working the entire week, but if only a day or two works for you, you can share that on this form. REGISTER for this work week by March 24, by clicking on this form, <https://forms.gle/Mb5cB5THCMTsFfm8A> . The cost is \$200 for the first family member and \$150 for any other members from the same family. This will cover the expenses for the week— work, travel, food, shelter and a fun day, which will be Saturday, June 22.



The Giving Wall

Our Confirmation Class and Youth Group are planning some big experiences. In March, our Confirmation Class will be going to Boston, and in the summer, we will offer a youth mission experience here in Akron with Project Shine. Please consider supporting the youth experiences by participating in the Giving Wall fundraiser. Here's how it works: you pick an envelope from the wall and place the donation in the envelope and return it to the basket.



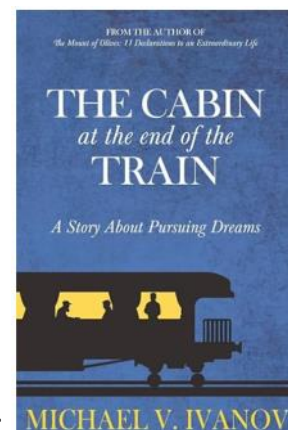
Please make sure your name is with the donation so we can log it with your giving statement. We ask that all donations are made by March 24.



Please make sure your name is with the donation so we can log it with your giving statement. We ask that all donations are made by March 24.

Women's Spring Book Club

The Cabin at the End of the Train by Michael V. Ivanov will be our book for Spring. This book is an enriching story about pursuing dreams. The author beautifully blends true events from his personal life with fiction and allegory in an entertaining and inspiring instruction manual for better living. From a chance meeting with a remarkable old man, a mysterious WWII veteran who shows up on the train at just the right time, The Cabin at the End of the Train provides 12 priceless lessons about purpose, life, and the importance of perspectives. We will meet weekly in the David Bacon Room @ 9-10, Mar. 3– Apr. 14 (except Easter). Wendy can purchase the book for \$15 if you need one, just let her know.





Treehouse Preschool

We have opened registration for the fall. We are very full, but we have at least one opening in all of our age groups. Registration fee is \$50, and we would also need a copy of your child's birth certificate. If you are looking for a preschool or know someone who might be, please call the office to arrange a tour, 330-630-0704.

Spring Basket Raffle will be taking place February 29– March 7th. The winners will be announced at our Party like a Preschooler event on Mar. 7. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Baskets will be on display Sunday Mar. 3. Tickets will be available then as well. All proceeds will support capital improvement projects like muscle room and playground updates, toy or electronic replacements.



Thank you for supporting the youth experiences by purchasing SUPER-BOWL SUBS. They raised \$774.



March 17th Livestream

On Sunday, March 17, some of our confirmation students will be in Boston. This confirmation field trip allows the confirmands to get better acquainted with our Congregational history. On Sunday morning, they will be in worship with the Old South Church in Boston. This service will be at 11:00am. For the FCC confirmands who cannot make the trip, we will livestream the Old South service in our sanctuary that day at 11:00am. We invite the congregation to stay and watch this service with our confirmands.



OLD
SOUTH
CHURCH
in BOSTON

Congratulations 4th Graders

Fourth Graders Logan Birch, Nathan Scovern, and A.J. Bozic have been taking classes with Dan and Wendy to learn more about Holy Communion. On February 18, they celebrated by taking Communion with their families in front of the congregation. Congratulations Logan, Nathan, and A.J.!

Thank you!

I want to thank my church family for all the get well wishes, love, and prayers during my knee surgery and afterwards. I love you all! - Bonnie Fordham

Thank you once again for your prayers and cards of encouragement. We appreciate them very much. We are continuing to get better; can't wait for springtime. We can't wait to get out and about more.

Thank you—Jim and Bonnie Collinson

Thank you everyone who sent cards and brought food while I was recovering from hip surgery. Everything was much appreciated!

Yvonne Larson



Share the Light

One Great Hour of Sharing 2024

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS, you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response and recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment, and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs, and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

SUPPORT OGHS



Worship Attendance

January 21	153	January 28	148
February 4	145	February 11	155
February 18	187		

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

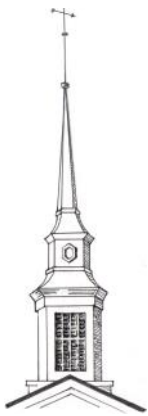
Greeters

Feb 25	Don and Judy Woerz
Mar 3	Dee West
Mar 10	Walt Holt and Dorothy Seal
Mar 17	Nan Nagel and Sue Canavan
Mar 24	Don and Judy Woerz
Mar 31	Terri Poff

Altar Flowers

Feb 25	
Mar 3	Nan Nagel
Mar 10	
Mar 17	Heather Read
Mar 24	Denise Haynes
Mar 31	EASTER FLOWERS

Sign up in
the hallway
\$28 per
arrangement



Ushers

Feb 25	Scouts
Mar 3	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Al Lytle, Gary Myers
Mar 10	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Fulton, Jane Charles
Mar 17	Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
Mar 24	Larry Robinson, John and Anita Lahrmer, Don Simmons
Mar 31	Jim and Dee West, John and Anita Lahrmer

HE HAS RISEN

6:30 am & 10 am

SONRISE @ FIREPIT GRAND CELEBRATION

MARCH 31

EASTER

HOLY WEEK

MARCH 24 PALM SUNDAY

10 am

MARCH 28 MAUNDY THURSDAY

FELLOWSHIP HALL

7 pm

MARCH 29 GOOD FRIDAY

7 pm



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
of Tallmadge UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 8:45 AM—Social Action 9:00 AM—Women’s Book Club 10:00 AM—Worship	4 1:00 PM—Video Study 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:30 PM—Trustees Meeting	5 6:00 PM—Naranon	6 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	7 10:00 AM—Staff 12:00 PM—WF Luncheon 6:00 PM—Bell Choir 7:00 PM—Choir 7:00 PM—Quilting 101	8	9
10 9:00 AM—EC Meeting 9:00 AM—Mem. Class 9:00 AM—Sun. School 9:00 AM—Book Club 10:00 AM—Worship 11:00 AM—Lunch Bunch 4:00 PM—BWMC	11 1:00 PM—Video Study 6:00 PM—Heritage	12 6:00 PM—Naranon 6:00 PM—Cards	13 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	14 HERALD DEADLINE 10:00 AM—Staff 6:00 PM—Bell Choir 7:00 PM—Choir 7:00 PM—Quilting 101	15	16
17 9:00 AM—Book Club 10:00 AM—Worship/ OGHS Dedication 11:00 AM—LiveStream Boston Service	18 1:00 PM—Video Study 6:00 PM—Heritage	19 PRIMARY ELECTION 6:00 PM—Naranon	20 9:00 AM—Quilters 10:00 AM—Herald Angels 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	21 10:00 AM—Staff 4:30 PM—Spaghetti Dinner 6:00 PM—Bell Choir 7:00 PM—Choir 7:00 PM—Quilting 101	22	23 9:00 AM—Men’s Prayer Breakfast
24 9:00 AM—CE Meeting 9:00 AM—Book Club 10:00 AM—Worship/ Membership Sunday/ Palm Sunday 11:30 AM—New Mem- ber Reception	25 1:00 PM—Video Study 6:00 PM—Heritage	26 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon	27 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 10:00 AM—Staff 7:00 PM—Maundy Thursday Service	29 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 PM—Good Friday Service	30
31 EASTER SUNDAY 6:30 AM—Sunrise Service 10:00 AM—Easter Worship/Communion						

Easter Special Music Donation 2024

The 10:00 AM Easter service on March 31st will feature a brass quintet sponsored by our "Special Music Fund." Please consider contributing to this fund as a memorial or honorary gift. Simply fill out this form, then place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office with your check made out to First Congregational Church of Tallmadge. In the memo line at the bottom of your check, please write "Easter Special Music

Donation." Names of those honored will be listed in the bulletin.

Forms must be returned to the office by March 10th.

Name _____

Phone No. _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

If you are ordering flowers and donating money for music PLEASE PROVIDE 2 SEPARATE CHECKS

Message _____

Easter morning, March 31st, we will adorn the Chancel with beautiful flowers. We are offering a selection of colorful potted spring flowers along with the traditional Easter lilies. The cost is **\$10.00 per plant**. Please complete this form, then bring it to the church office or place it into the offering plate on Sunday morning. Checks may be made out to First Congregational Church. Names of those honored will be listed in the bulletin.



The last day to order is February 25th .

Name _____

Phone No. _____

of Easter Lilies _____

of Tulips _____

of Daffodils _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Message _____

Please check one: Pick up flowers _____ Donate your flowers _____

If you are ordering flowers and donating money for music PLEASE PROVIDE 2 SEPARATE CHECKS

If you are planning on taking your flowers home on Easter morning, please tear off the portion below and make a note of the variety of flowers you ordered to retain for your records. THANK YOU!

=====

I ordered _____ # of _____ Flower Variety.

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: February 21, 2024

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
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	