



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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During this past Lenten season, we considered the many covenants we enter into and the covenant we have with God. For hundreds of years, the theologians of the Christian faith taught that Jesus came to supersede the “old” covenant that God made with the Hebrew people. More and more, as we engage in interfaith dialogues and seek to understand issues such as “covenant,” we are finding these old teachings lacking. If a covenant is a promise, a “spiritual contract” between humans and God, then we are called in each generation to understand that as fully as we can. I believe that God and humans enter covenants throughout the journey of life. A great example of this is the baptismal covenant.

In the baptismal covenant, vows are taken and a covenant is formed. While we in our humanness can slip away from our side of the covenant from time to time, I firmly believe that God does not “slip” from the God side of the covenant. For this reason, I will not re-baptize you because I don’t believe God has stepped away from God’s side of the covenant which was entered into during the baptismal vows. I will, and often do, try to help people remember their baptismal vows in meaningful ways.

So, perhaps, it’s better for us to remember that example and affirm that our Jewish ancestors (the people of the Hebrew Scriptures) are still in covenant with God. God entered into a covenant with Abraham and that covenant, which our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrate, is still active and intact to this day!

The chief example of the covenant we celebrate as followers of Christ comes from his words we heard during our Maundy Thursday celebration. At the meal, Jesus says, “this cup poured out for you is the new covenant ...” (Lk 22.20b). About now you are thinking, “but Rev. Dan, you said the Jews remain in covenant with God but now you’re saying that Jesus offers a ‘new’ covenant.” Yes, yes, I did, but even the Jewish folks chronicle an experience of a “new” covenant.

The prophet Jeremiah, writing to a wayward group of folks returning from exile, spoke of God’s desire to have a new covenant with the people. In 31.31 we read, “the days are surely

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.” This wasn’t so much a “new” covenant as a way of living within God’s desire for the people. The previous covenant had been written in stone – as in the Ten Commandments. Other “laws” were also written, and the Jewish people became a people of the book with all of its laws. Again, in 31.33 we read, “but this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; ...”

This, too, is what I believe Jesus tries to do on that evening in the upper room. Jesus says the “new” covenant he is talking about is taking to heart all that he came to teach us about God’s will for humanity. This covenant would be about living in a loving relationship with God and with others. We are, as he first preached in Luke, to “bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and proclaim the Jubilee year.”

This covenant, then, doesn’t supersede any covenant before but merely continues in the unfolding process of humanity trying to understand God’s desire to live in a covenantal relationship with all of creation.

Grace for the journey,



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

APR 21 — FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Scripture: John 12:11-18, Psalm 23

Message: *“Belong, Behave, Believe: When You Say Nothing at All”*

APR 28 — FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Youth Sunday

MAY 5 — SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Confirmation Sunday

MAY 12 — SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mother’s Day/Graduation/Scholarship Sunday

MAY 19 — PENTECOST

Music Appreciation Sunday

MAY 26— TRINITY SUNDAY

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, John 16:12-15

Message: *“God Calls”*

JUNE 2 — SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30 AM WORSHIP BEGINS

Scripture: Psalm 81:1-10, Mark 2:22-3:6

Message: *“Discerning the Voice of God”*

JUNE 9 — THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: Psalm 138, Mark 3:20-35

Message: *“God’s Will”*



It is with great sadness that I announce the death of Paul Arch, husband of Monna Arch. Paul died on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. A private graveside service will be held at the convenience of the family.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, March 24th, FCC welcomed 11 new members to the congregation. Our new members are named and pictured below, with a brief bio. When you see them, be sure to welcome them to the family!



Joe Labay is retired and lives in Akron. He was introduced to FCC by his friend Bonnie Fordham. He has three grown sons and enjoys bowling. He just celebrated his 72nd birthday, but he remains “young at heart.”



Jill DiNuoscio also resides in Tallmadge. She is retired but used to work in accounting. She often brings her two granddaughters, Charli and Lainey, along with her to worship.



John (Tom) Labay is Joe’s younger brother. He is also retired and lives in Akron and was introduced to FCC by his friend Bonnie Fordham. He stays busy caring for his three dogs.



Mary Flohr lives in Tallmadge. She used to run an elder care business and has always had a great rapport with the elderly. She is thrilled to find a church that does not preach “hate or politics” from the pulpit.



Margie Popio is a retired RN and lives in Tallmadge. She chose to join FCC because of the great music, the Pastor, and the friendliness of the congregation.



Bob and Marti (Calderwood) Williams reside in Akron. They are former members of the Bath UCC. They each have two children and enjoy singing in our FCC Chancel Choir.



Jeff and Edith Sullivan reside in Tallmadge. They are both retired. They are very involved with their three grandchildren and enjoy traveling and spending time outdoors. They joined

FCC because it is the “friendliest church” they have ever visited.



James and Amber Harr live in Tallmadge. They are the owners of Sammie’s Bar and Grill. Their three sons, Carson, Parker, and Noah, were recently baptized here at FCC by Rev. Dan.

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.



MARCH 24, 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

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

Roger Fendenheim (friend of Joe Labay)

Eleanor Hall

Alleen Hilbish

Kenneth Holt

Walt Holt

Sandi Hughes

Zell Lambert

Bill Laymon

Walt and Margie Nicholson

Marie O'Neil

LTJG John Norton (Connie Stone's grandson)

David & 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

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

APRIL 17, 2024 | 7:00PM



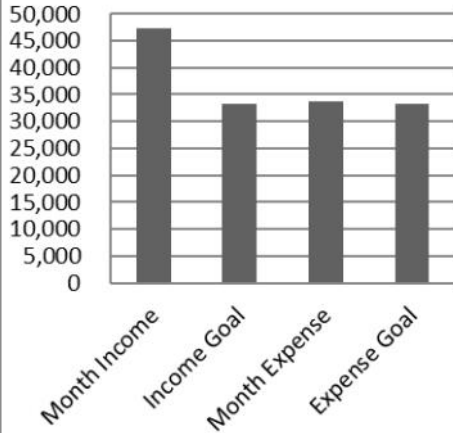
WEST AVENUE TAVERN

JOIN REV. DAN TO DISCUSS BIBLE & FAITH

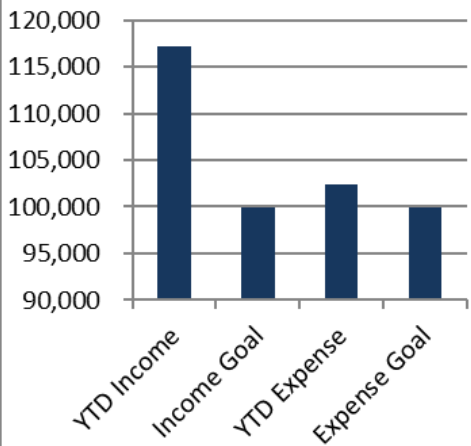
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MONTHLY FINANCIALS

March 2024



March 2024 YTD



March, 2024 operating income of \$47,230 was \$13,900 **above** the monthly income budget. Operating expenses for the month were \$33,728 resulting in a **surplus** of \$13,500 in March and a YTD **surplus** of \$14,870. The March surplus was the result of having five Sundays including Easter, and the timing of annual gifts. 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 in this 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.

FCC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Bring a covered dish and/or dessert to share. Sign up in the atrium!



Saturday, April 20th at 9:00 am

Help us clean up and mulch shrub areas and remove fallen tree branches.

Bring tools you may have

—rake, wheelbarrow, shovel

Questions: Call Wil Looman at 330-907-0293

Your help is needed. Please volunteer!



Yarning for Peace is once again giving out prayer shawls, with three given out this month. One went to West Virginia. This group sends prayer shawls wherever the need arises. One never knows when someone will request a prayer shawl. We are trying to keep the supply of shawls ready for when the requests come in. If you or someone you know would benefit from a shawl, just let Elaine know. You may call 330-633-0896 with your requests. The recipient does not need to be local. They have been mailed across the country. We are still accepting prayer shawls. I am grateful for the talented women who have turned in shawls.

Elaine Engle

Easter 2024 at FCC Tallmadge

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen."



Youth Corner

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.

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

April 21	Service
April 28	Youth Sunday
May 4	Confirmation Rehearsal
May 5	Confirmation Sunday

Mission Experience – June 17-22 with Project Shine in Akron, OH.

Treehouse Preschool

We have opened registration for the fall. We are very full, but we have at least one opening in the 3s, 5s and Me and My Parent 2-year-old class. 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.

We are hiring **substitute teachers**. To be a substitute, you are required to have a high school degree and take three health classes– first aid, CPR and child abuse awareness. You will also be required to have a fingerprint background check done. Treehouse will pay for all those expenses. Speak to Wendy if you are interested or have questions.



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 cleanup, 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.



First Congregational Church Vacation Bible School

Operation Overboard, Dare to Go Deep with God

Who? For all children age 4 through 5th grade (as of May 2024)

What? VBS, a week for of underwater adventures that will engage the children in life-changing habits as their faith grows and they become followers of God.

When? June 24 (Monday) to June 27 (Thursday) from 6-8 PM

Where? First Congregational Church, 85 Heritage Dr, Tallmadge

Registrations will be on our website or you can fill out this google form; <https://forms.gle/HcEmRRSuWLzcWUjf8> or the paper form included in the Herald. **We also need adult and youth helpers all week.** If you are able to help or teach, please contact Wendy with your available days.



VBS 2024 — Operation Overboard

Dare to go Deep with God

June 24– 27, 2024

6-8 PM

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge
85 Heritage Dr.

Free registration **PRIOR** to May 15. After May 15, we will ask for \$5/ person or \$10/ family.

Parent name: _____ Parent email: _____

Parent address: _____

Children information: Please enter all information as of the date, May 1, 2024.

Child 1 Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Does this child know someone who attends FCC, if so who _____

Child 2 Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Does this child know someone who attends FCC, if so who _____

Child 3 Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Does this child know someone who attends FCC, if so who _____

Child 4 Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Does this child know someone who attends FCC, if so who _____

Any allergies that we need to be aware of (please note child's name and allergy): _____

Would you like more information about our church and the ministries we offer? _____

Emergency Contacts:

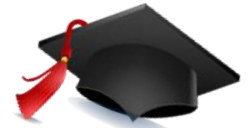
Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____



Please come and support our youth as they lead us in worship on Sunday, April 28th!

2024 High School Graduates



If you have a 2024 high school graduate who would like to be recognized on May 12, please contact Wendy Brown: wbrownfcc@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you!

Bryan Briggs and family would like to say thank you to FCC for keeping him in your prayers though his health issues. His Pet Scan came back clean. He is doing well. As his mother and step-father, Don and I would also like to say thank you to our church family. - Don and Judy Woerz

We just returned home and were so appreciative of all the thoughts, cards and notes of sympathy on the passing of my brother David. We are truly blessed to have such a caring church family.

Thank you—Tom Kester and family

Dear Ladies of WNI,

Thank you so much for funding the Highlands Mother's Day Project! Because of you, the young moms at the Highlands will have a wonderful and special day. For some of the moms, this will be their very first Mother's Day. Thank you for making it such a special day for them!

Gratefully yours, Jessica

Much appreciation for all your wishes, love and support as I transition into the role of your digital minister and youth coordinator. I look forward to continuing to serve and expand visual ministry to you and serve and grow alongside our youth in their faith journey.

Blessings to you, Anne Pertick

Thank you to Diana Caldwell and the Prayer Chain Family for all the beautiful, thoughtful cards that they send to mom and I. Thank you to George and Roberta Nehrenz for all the phone calls and cards also. We appreciate all of this so much. It makes us closer to our church family since we are unable to attend on Sundays. Thank you to the tech team for recording the live services. We watch them on Facebook and really enjoyed the Easter service. Even though not the same as being there, it's a comfort to us!

Lynn Norton and Eleanor Hall



Worship Attendance

March 24	164	April 7	189
March 31	264	April 14	140

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

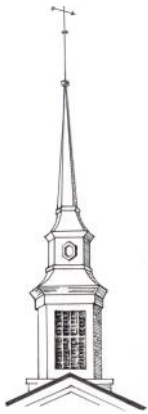
Greeters

Apr 21	Youth
Apr 28	Tom and Joe Labay
May 5	Ann Holt and Dorothy Seal
May 12	Margarete Boschert & Amy Floran
May 19	Suzy Klush
May 26	Ann Holt and Dorothy Seal

Altar Flowers

Apr 21	
Apr 28	Denise Haynes
May 5	Beth Summers
May 12	
May 19	
May 26	

Sign up in
the hallway
\$28 per
arrangement



Ushers

Apr 21	Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
Apr 28	Larry Robinson, John and Anita Lahrmer, Don Simmons
May 5	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Al Lytle, Ken Caldwell
May 12	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Fulton, Jane Charles
May 19	Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
May 26	Larry Robinson, John and Anita Lahrmer, Don Simmons



APRIL

28

Youth
Sunday

MAY

5

Confirmation
Sunday

12

Graduation &
Scholarship

19

Appreciation &
Pentecost

WHAT'S COMING UP...

MAY 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	2 10:00 AM—Staff 12:00 PM—WF Luncheon 6:00 PM—Bell Choir 7:00 PM—Choir 7:00 PM—Quilting 101	3	4 5:00 PM— Confirmation Re- hearsal/Dinner
5 8:45 AM—Social Action 10:00 AM—Worship/ Communion/ Confirmation 11:30 AM— Confirmation Recep- tion	6 1:00 PM—Video Study 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:00 PM—Trustees Meeting	7 6:00 PM—Naranon	8 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	9 HEARLD DEADLINE 10:00 AM—Staff 6:00 PM—Bell Choir 7:00 PM—Choir 7:00 PM—Quilting 101	10	11
12 MOTHER'S DAY 9:00 AM—EC Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship/ Grad & Scholarship Sunday	13 1:00 PM—Video Study 6:00 PM—Heritage	14 6:00 PM—Naranon	15 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	16 10:00 AM—Staff 4:30 PM—Spaghetti Dinner	17	18
19 9:00 AM—CE Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship/ Music Appreciation Sunday/Pentecost	20 1:00 PM—Video Study 6:00 PM—Heritage	21 6:00 PM—Naranon 6:00 PM—Cards	22 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA	23 10:00 AM—Staff	24	25
26 10:00 AM—Worship	27 1:00 PM—Video Study 6:00 PM—Heritage	28 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon	29 9:00 AM—Quilters 6:00 PM—NA	30 10:00 AM—Staff	31	

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DATE: April 17, 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
Anne Pertick	Digital Minister/ Youth Ministries Coordinator	digitalministry@fcctallmadge.org unitedministry@fcctallmadge.org
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	