To See As God Sees

In my third grade Sunday school class, there was a picture of Jesus.

The picture featured a white Jesus with children of all colors sitting on his lap. We sang loudly: “red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in his sight.” That image of Jesus liking all kids of all colors made me like him very much.

Later I learned that every culture paints Jesus in their own skin color. I am convinced that Jesus doesn’t care what color you make him in your part of the globe as long as you know he cares equally for the entire globe.

I grieve more than anything else, the ugliness of racism that persists in our country with the dial seemingly turned up in recent times.

Through the August screams of “black lives matter” and “blue lives matter,” I hear the decent voice of the Chief of Police in Dallas saying with tears in his eyes, “This has got to stop.” And now the Governor of Louisiana has said the same.

I hear, from the grave, Scott Peck saying, “The only way to stop is to stop.”

A conversation must begin.

Albert Einstein described where the conversation must begin: “A human

I t’s been said that every baby should come with a manual. Now, thanks to the talents and generosity of two First Community Church members, each comes with a blankie, no instructions necessary.

“We thought it was a wonderful idea to greet the new babies in our congregation,” said Barb Davis, one half of the baby blankie pair.

Barb and sewing mate Sally Wandel volunteered to take on the new project for member families who welcome a baby. Each does a portion of the work from home before joining their work to complete the infant’s soft, tactile companion.

“Barb is the only one in our group who has an embroidery machine,” Sally said. “The project has to come out of Barb’s house.”

The blankies are made using soft materials with silky loops of ribbon lining the edges. The First Community rose emblem graces one side, connecting the recipient to their church family.

The project is the brainchild of Paula Russell, Director of Congregational Care. With two to three babies born to First Community each month, the task is not only meaningful, but manageable. “It’s a small token representing blessings and love for a new baby in our church family,” Paula said.

The first recipient was Kori Alyssa Hood, born to church

Blankies Are Their Baby

Women Stitch Their Way into Church Family’s Hearts

By Michael Barber

Dr. Richard Wing
Senior Minister

SEE GOD, PAGE 2

Quilters Barb Davis, left, and Sally Wandel took on the baby blankie project to welcome new babies into the church family. PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL BARBER

Kori Alyssa Hood, daughter of Robin and Dustin Hood, sleeps peacefully snuggled with her baby blankie. PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBIN HOOD

SEE BLANKIES, PAGE 2
**Letters to the Editor**

I just received my new format of firstnews. WOW! I know it is quite a challenge to tell us everything we need to know without a newsletter the size of the Yellow Pages!

You and your staff and volunteers have done an outstanding job of creating a super firstnews. My only concern is that if this gets around you will be hared away by The New York Times or CBS!

Many thanks to you and your “gang” for a super effort.

— Don Jameson

The paper looks great. Good job, as usual!

— Jim Hutchins

I love, love, love firstnews:

What a treat to sit down over the holiday and read some thoughtful articles in depth. I think you have a winner.

— Diane Keeler

The new format does not print out well when downloaded to a pdf format. Please change us back to U.S. Mail.

— Betty & Neil Drobny

Editor’s Note: The larger size of the printed newsletter presents challenges to online readers with small screens. However, the reduced cost of printing and mailing firstnews welcomes those who may have opted out of receiving the news by mail to subscribe once again. To do so, simply email your name and address to editor@FCchurch.com.

I just read the newspaper articles (Prison Ministry) this morning. You got it right!

— Vickie Murphy

The Media Ministry of First Community Church is an important time every Sunday morning for us. Due to a mobility problem, we are unable to attend services at our local church (First United Methodist Church of London). Therefore, we are very grateful for First Edition.

As a retired organist, I especially enjoy the music portion of First Edition. Thank you for this ministry.

— Sue and Gene Babb

Firstnews welcomes your letters and opinions.

Write to Michael Barber at mbarber@FCchurch.com.

**New Baby?**

The birth or adoption of a child is cause for celebration. There is a sense of awe at the creation of new life, and we want to celebrate with our church members that joy. Please let us know when a new baby in your family so that we can share our blessings with them.

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Paula has great respect for the seamstresses and their desire to make each blanket perfect. These are little pieces of art for them, she said. “They want each one to be unique in some way.”

“Besides, every quilter loves a fabric store,” Paula said.

**Foundation Updates**

**By Walter Neff**

We bid farewell to Darian Torrance who has done an excellent job as the Formation Administrator and has helped us with the detail work necessary for the Foundation. She agreed to help us after she retired from a full-time position at Ohio State University. We wish her well in her “second retirement.”

We welcome our new Foundation Administrator Cindy Sue Gepfert, and “yes” she is Don and Donna Gepfert’s daughter. She has returned to Columbus from Texas and brings exemplary skills and experience to benefit First Community Foundation.

The Foundation has approved the following grants:

To Sherri Whetzel: Women’s Guild Group 7 Finance Committee $15,000 for the First Community Church

lovie or whatever feels good to them. It is meant to be a reminder that holding on to something special can help us feel loved, safe and reassured.

The women continue to sew, stitch and, most importantly, shop. “It doesn’t take long to realize,” Sally said. “It probably takes about an hour. It depends on how long I spend playing with ribbon. Trying to decide which ribbon to use. I don’t have enough choices to make it fun. I need to shop more.”

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**BLANKIES FROM PAGE 1**

administrative assistant Robin Hoad and her husband Dustin on June 5. Kori joins brother and sister Bobby and Nicole.

“The blanket is beautiful,” Robin said. “It’s amazing how much love we felt when we held it. We will tell Kori how the blanket was made with love and prayers from our church family and how it was made just for her. It is so special and we are blessed.”

Naming a baby can be difficult, but not nearly as difficult as naming a blanket, it seems.

“No one knew exactly what to call them,” Paula said. “It is the child who will eventually name it their blanket, binke, or...” Paulina and Nicole’s baby Kori was born on June 5. Kori joins brother and sister Bobby and Nicole.

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**GOD FROM PAGE 1**

being is a part of the whole, called the universe, (but) we experience ourselves as something separated from the rest—This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us (and like us).

Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.”

God sees in wholes. Humans see in parts. Our calling is to see as God sees. Never lose sight of this—It is a wonderful gift.

We are all in prison until we see in parts. Our calling is to see as God sees. Never lose sight of this—It is a wonderful gift.

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Nothing as Whole as a Broken Heart

At about the same time I was giving the benediction after pronouncing a sermon on the extravagant violence that had taken place that week of July 11, including the much-too-close-to-home shocking death of the young man who lives across the street from me with his parents and younger brother, three police officers from Baton Rouge were being murdered.

Aren’t we all struggling with all the violence going on in our nation and the world?

My young neighbor, Perry, was 26, getting his life together, and doing a good deed for friends who hadn’t yet given up substances. He was going out that Friday at 2 a.m. to pick up some drunk buddies at a bar to take them home, something he often did. Another group of guys had been fighting with Perry’s friends earlier in the evening, and they jumped in their car and went after Perry and his group and a moving gunfight ensued. The only one who did not make it home was the Good Samaritan, Perry, who was shot and killed. Senseless.

I believe that struggling with all of this is a way of responding to evil and is integral to forming more effective responses in the world. The struggle is to hold the senselessness of all of this violence, the utter pain and horror of so much of it, the heart-rending suffering of all those affected, and the systemic injustices that we are all infected by and form the basis for almost all interpersonal activities.

So I offer a few thoughts I’ve picked up over the last weeks that have supported me in expanding my capacity to hold the dark reality of this current time in which we live.

First, a reminder by the contemporary Jewish prophetic voice, Abraham Joshua Heschel, who said about evil perpetrated: “We are not all guilty, but we are all responsible.” I don’t take the blame for systemic injustices like racism, patriarchy or economic injustice, but I can bring to conscious awareness what all those are and how I am consciously or unconsciously participating in them, and attempt to alleviate their effects. I can recognize how I benefit in this nation from being a white, male, well-educated heterosexual. Yes, white privilege is a thing!

Second, in an inquiry with two friends around my own struggles with these violent activities all around us, one of them brought up his book group’s latest topic, philosopher Jacob Needleman’s Why Can’t We Be Good. These thoughts were extremely helpful for me to put my own feelings in context. In this work, Needleman says such personal struggle is necessary in order to come to a place he calls “remorse of conscience.” One of my most profound spiritual experiences came when a state of “essential sorrow” arose in me. Needleman is describing an “essential remorse” that he says is not guilt or shame or self-blame, but rather a clear-eyed and painful recognition that we do not and cannot always do what we know is right, and in fact, are often confused about what is right to do. (My friend said that at this point Needleman quotes the apostle Paul, “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.”)

But it is in staying in this vulnerable place of not-knowing that we might become open to guidance from a deeper source of wisdom—the Holy Spirit, we might say—Divine Guidance.

Third, Episcopal priest Steven Paulikas reminded me of the work of French philosopher Paul Ricoeur in a recent piece for “The Stone,” the philosophical “blog” in the New York Times opinion pages. Ricoeur said that the tragedy of evil is not the act committed, but the experience of the victim, so he advised separating “evil perpetrated” from “evil suffered.” This shifts concern from who or what is evil to the best possible action in the face of it, “which is not a solution, but it is a response.”

For further more powerful witness to the Biblical response to evil, I recommend John Dominic Crossan’s moving description of the spiritual importance of the women’s lamentation around the crucifixion of Jesus in The Birth of Christianity, and the prime ingredient and necessity of grief in Walter Brueggemann’s The Prophetic Function. (If you haven’t just read that entire book.) Without grieving all of this suffering, loss, hatred, and violence, no space is given for new life to arise out of death.

Finally, for all those whose hearts are breaking, and allowing themselves the holy gift of vulnerability, Anne Lamott’s words from her book, Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith:

“There’s a lovely Hasidic story of a rabbi who always told his people that if they studied the Torah, it would put Scripture on their hearts. One of them asked, “Why on our hearts, and not in them?” The rabbi answered, “Only God can put Scripture inside. But reading sacred text can put it on your heart, and then when your hearts break, the holy words will fall inside.”

Our broken hearts allow the infinite shower of divine blessing to enter and heal our woundedness.

In the words of the great Hasidic master, the Kotzkher Rebbe, “There is nothing so whole as a broken heart.”

Early Childhood Changes Leadership

By Rev. David Hett

We are pleased to announce that Leigh Anne Easterling, has accepted the position of Director of Early Childhood Ministries and the Mary Evans Child Development Center following the retirement of Mary Beth Aeh.

And we are equally pleased to announce, as part of a new configuration in Early Childhood Ministries leadership, that Alayna Pierce has accepted the role of Director of Early Childhood Education, located at south campus, where she will also lead Parent Growth classes.

For the first time in the long history of FCC early childhood education, Leigh Anne will work from North Campus where she directs the Mary Evans Center as she has for the past two years.

Leigh Anne will also serve on the Program Staff, be involved in baptisms and special church programs like the child-oriented Christmas Eve Service.

Alayna will report to Leigh Anne, but the two will work in collaboration to present continued excellence of our early childhood programs and promotion of our unique philosophy of early childhood education.

Leigh Anne is a child of the church (parents John and Judy Hoberg) and even of the Preschool program, having attended our Preschool when she was a baby. Later, while attending The Ohio State University, she completed her student teaching in a very same preschool program at FCC.

Leigh Anne majored in Early Childhood Development. Upon graduating in 1994, she immediately began teaching at the Mary Evans Child Development Center. She spent 7 years teaching in the preschool before creating a full-day kindergarten program at the school in 2002. During her 12 years teaching kindergarten, Leigh Anne married her husband, Julius Easterling. They have two boys, Alistair and Cameron, who both attended the Mary Evans Center and still return for the Summer School Age Program.

In 2012-2013 she spent one year teaching in the toddler room before returning to the kindergarten. In June of 2015, Leigh Anne was hired to be the Administrator of the Mary Evans Child Development Center.

Why Can’t We Be Good. These thoughts were extremely helpful for me to put my own feelings in context. In this work, Needleman says such personal struggle is necessary in order to come to a place he calls “remorse of conscience.” One of my most profound spiritual experiences came when a state of “essential sorrow” arose in me. Needleman is describing an “essential remorse” that he says is not guilt or shame or self-blame, but rather a clear-eyed and painful recognition that we do not and cannot always do what we know is right, and in fact, are often confused about what is right to do. (My friend said that at this point Needleman quotes the apostle Paul, “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.”)

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Leigh Anne Easterling

Leigh Anne is a dedicated early childhood educator,” said Mary Beth Aeh, retiring Director. “She has spent her career creating a caring supportive environment in her work at the Mary Evans Child Development Center. Leigh Anne provides a calm and mindful presence in her work with children, families and teachers. In her leadership of the program over the past year she has shown her many strengths and her ability to provide vision for this important ministry.”

Alayna is also very familiar with the Preschool program and philosophy having been a teacher here the past four years and spending the last two as an administrator of the program as well under the tutelage of Mary Beth Aeh. Alayna is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor’s degree in Education and a Masters of Education, specializing in Moderate to Intensive Disabilities. She taught in public schools for three years before becoming a teacher at the Preschool for the past four years.

“I look forward to working with the Early Childhood Ministry team, and I am excited to carry out the Preschool’s philosophy of supporting children where they are developmentally and supporting growth through exploration and play,” Alayna said.

“It is my personal goal to help families understand what early childhood education, support our Preschool teachers so they can continue to be such excellent resources, and work with the church as a team to create new ideas for continued success in the Early Childhood Ministry. When not working, I enjoy spending time outdoors with my husband, two children and dogs.”

“Alayna is a creative early childhood educator,” said Mary Beth. “She enjoys finding interesting activities to enhance children’s learning. She is very present with the children and the parents that she works with. Alayna is a team player and extremely supportive of the teachers. She brings great enthusiasm and energy to her new leadership role in the Summer School Age program.”

As we welcome Leigh Anne and Alayna to their new roles, we thank Mary Beth Aeh for providing such mature, compassionate and solid leadership to Early Childhood Ministries.
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

AUGUST 7
COMMUNION
10 am
Grace Hall, North Campus
Dr. Wing preaching

AUGUST 14
FARMER’S MARKET
10 am
Grace Hall, North Campus
Dr. Wing preaching

AUGUST 21
10 am
Grace Hall, North Campus
Dr. Lindsay preaching

SEPTEMBER 4
10 am
Grace Hall, North Campus
Rev. Long preaching

CREDO Prayer
by the Rev. James C. Fenhagen

Holy God, be in my mind, that I might let go of all that diminishes the movement of your Spirit within me.

Discerning God, be in my eyes, that I might see you in the midst of all the busyness that fills my life.

Loving God, be in my heart, that I can be open to those I love, to those with whom I share ministry and to the whole human family.

Gracious God, be in that grace-filled silence that lies deep within me, that I might live in Christ as Christ lives in me. Amen.

No Grudges

When I was in my second year at the Ohio State College of Law in 1975, I was living on Neil Avenue south of campus. I left one Sunday morning dressed in a blue suit to usher at our church. As I crossed the street to enter my car, I noticed a police car coming toward me very slowly. I got in my car and started to pull away from the curb when the car pulled in front of me with its lights flashing. I was startled and started to get out of the car, when the officer emerged with his gun drawn. I was placed against my car and “frisked,” including going through my pockets. A plain clothes officer searched my car, including the trunk, and I was placed in the back of the cruiser.

As you might expect, I was flabbergasted, not at all certain why this was happening. I was silent for a while as the officer was on the radio. Then I asked him why this was happening to me. He said: “There has been a burglary in the area by a person dressed in blue, and you fit the description to a T!” When I told him that I was a law student on my way to church and mentioned that I had a fraternity brother who was a Columbus police officer, who it turned out, had been in the police academy with the officer.

Undoubtedly realizing that I was not the burglar, he took my basic information and released me.

At the time, I “chalked this up to experience,” probably a good one for a law student taking the introductory course in criminal law. The officer seemed young and inexperienced, as was I. I also realized that I really was not at all prepared for such an encounter and undoubtedly made a mistake getting out of the car. If I was perceived as fleeing or was believed to be armed, I could have been shot. However, I was totally surprised by the actions of the officer and in no way could have been prepared.

This incident came to my mind as I reflected on issues in our society involving encounters of police with citizens, particularly people of color. I am in no way equating what happened to me with the recent deaths of African-American men at the hands of police officers. Race was not a factor in my encounter.

However, what I do remember was how humiliated and powerless I felt. I also remember thinking that if it was a case of mistaken identity, I had many resources available, including the best in legal representation if needed. Indeed, I was in a privileged position by education, economic means, race and access to people of influence and power in the community.

I have no way of knowing what it is like to be black and stopped by police in certain communities and situations. I also have no way of knowing what it is like to wrestle to the ground a suspect who might be armed and dangerous. Any encounter between police and citizens has the potential to be negative, even violent. It is law enforcement, and it is a difficult job. However, there appears to be a genuine issue of policing in communities of color.

Deb Lindsay and I were privileged to take training with police and fire personnel on debriefing those who have been involved in critical incidents involving the death of a fellow officer or a particularly traumatic call or run. There is a strong sense of camaraderie and unit cohesion, particularly among police officers. I saw this when I officiated at a wedding on the weekend of the killing of police officers in Dallas. There was a Dallas police officer in attendance who really felt conflicted and that he should be back in Dallas supporting his fellow officers and their families.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is asked what it takes to inherit eternal life. It is a trick question from a lawyer who is testing Jesus’ understanding. Jesus answers correctly that you are to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. This is the correct answer for any Rabbi. But Jesus adds a kicker. He says you are to love your neighbor as yourself. He bases this on the text of Leviticus 19:18: “You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.”

When I look at the Leviticus text, it very well could be applied only to one’s own people or “people like us.” But when asked who my neighbor is, Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan. A man is a victim of a crime, but the religious leaders of his faith community don’t help him. Only a Samaritan who is by birth an enemy gives him aid and comfort.

As a result, we put the name of Samaritan on hospitals and places of healing. However, the Jews avoided Samarai because it was a different land and the people did not worship in Jerusalem. They were not “people like us.” So Jesus extended the boundaries. Your neighbor is not just your own people, but really everyone, even those we regard as enemies.

When I look at Charleston, Orlando, San Bernardino, Dallas and other recent shootings and atrocities, they seem to involve someone taking the lives of others because the “other” is not their neighbor.

The killers are distorted in their thinking and actions, but at some deep level they represent our fear of those who are different, whether by race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or nationality. They have taken it to the extreme that those who are different do not deserve to live.

Leviticus says we are not to take vengeance or bear a grudge against our neighbor. Jesus says that everyone is our neighbor. Jesus came to show us God, so we can take to heart that roadside sign that presupposes to speak for God: “You know that ‘love thy neighbor’ thing? I mean it!”

Petete Diehl Photos

Liven Brownlee

By Missy Obergfell

Through October, our Brownlee Hall Gallery will feature a rich retrospective look at the artistic photography of our community’s own Pete Diehl (with a few by his wife Pulge, too).

Pete’s journey as a photographer began in his youth, with roots at First Community Church. When young Pete and his friend were showing interest and talent in photography, the church business manager generously taught them the basics of darkroom work—using the church’s own darkroom, which was by the choir room at the South Campus.

Over the years, Pete has studied with several National Geographic photographers.

while on trips to Mexico, Ireland and Chautauqua, as well as a Pulitzer-Prize winning photographer who helped him use photography as a storytelling device. His work has been featured locally and published broadly.

Most of his work is enjoyed by fellow residents at First Community Village where he is the photographer for the monthly resident newsletter, covering events large and small and “targets of opportunity” including some wonderful nature scenes around the Village.

A worldwide traveller, Pete has taken every trip as a photo trip. Rather than aiming for “postcard” shots, Pete enjoys searching out interesting subjects, striking color and intriguing mechanical design elements. He aims to end up with one or two photos he really likes from each trip.

The Worship and Arts Council is proud to present this engaging show. It is full of treasures, sampling a wide range of the photo art Pete has produced over the years.

Pete is donating any profit from the sale of photos in this show to support the ministry of the Heart to Heart Food Pantry.
Back To School

Ways to Help Children With the Transition

By Mary Beth Aeh

All children and adults experience some level of stress as they make transitions from a relaxed summer agenda to the more structured back to school schedule.

The anxiety of starting a new school year can create stress for both children and parents. Sometimes we are all ready to get back to school and be in a routine that feels regulated and predictable. Other times we do not want to give up the more tranquil days of summer.

Here are some ideas to help with this transition:

Prepare your child for change. The beginning of the school year brings many changes at once. It is helpful to familiarize yourself and your child with the physical space of school. This is especially helpful if they are starting a new school or attending school for the first time. Taking your child to the playground at the school before school starts can be helpful. Many schools have a staggered start for younger children to help them feel more comfortable in the school environment.

Discuss the unexpected. Although you cannot anticipate everything that might happen during the school day it is helpful to talk to your child about some of the things she might be concerned about. This might be anything from where do we eat lunch, to who will sit with me on the school bus, or play with me at recess.

Give your child some control over their school supplies, backpack and clothes. Empower your children to choose the things that they like and feel comfortable with. Include that they are excited about can help them feel more at ease and relaxed.

The most helpful way to support your child is to let them share their feelings with you about the transition back to school. They may be worried or anxious, they may also be excited and enthusiastic. Either way it is our job as parents to support them through this transition in emotionally healthy ways.

Fourth Grade First Communion

On September 27, from 6 - 8 pm, fourth graders and their families are invited for dinner and a short class about the meaning and importance of communion. Fourth graders will take communion for the first time on World Communion Sunday, October 2.

Dr. Wing will speak about the significance and symbolism of communion. Fourth graders will practice taking communion and have a picture taken. Pizza and salad will be served.

In addition, our fourth graders will prepare for communion in Sunday school on September 18 and 25. Attendance at these Sunday school classes, as well as the dinner with Dr. Wing will help deepen the children’s understanding of this meaningful sacrament.

Register your fourth grader for the dinner and First Communion at FCChurch.com/K-5

Midweek Missions Info Meeting

By Julie Richards

First Community is a church that deeply values service. As Christians we are called to use our hands to do the work of God. Each Wednesday evening during the school year, K-5 children gather to do service projects that benefit the congregation and community. It allows children to meet new friends, get to know the adults who lead the program and learn the importance of giving to others.

On Wednesday, September 14, the K-5 Ministry will welcome new and returning parents of kindergarten through fifth graders to an information meeting about participating in this fun, hands-on program. You will have the opportunity to register, meet our staff, hear about upcoming projects and ask questions. Meetings will be held at 5:30, 6:15 and 6:45 pm. You can come to a meeting while your child attends choir, or at the time that best fits your schedule.

We understand that kids and families have a variety of commitments throughout the year. Your child is invited to come to Midweek every Wednesday or only when his schedule allows. In addition, children can choose to participate in both Midweek Missions and choir, or only one or the other.

Go to the K-5 Ministry page at FCChurch.com/K-5 for more information.

“The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.” — Albert Schweitzer

K-5 Ministry Fall Dates

By Kirsten Dove

September 11 Kick-Off Sunday

The beginning of the new program year. This is the first day children go to the Sunday school class for the grade they are entering this fall. All classes at both campuses will resume. The K-5 Ministry wants you to have these dates in mind as you plan your busy fall. See the complete K-12 calendar at FCChurch.com.

September 11 Open House for Children Entering Kindergarten

Thirty minutes before worship (9:15 am at North Campus and 10:30 am at South Campus) bring your new kindergartner to their classroom to have a look around, meet the teacher and ask questions.

September 14 Children’s Choirs Resume

The youth choirs provide an emotionally-safe community where children can explore and develop music literacy and vocal technique, becoming confident participants in worship, bringing themselves and the congregation closer to God. No audition required. See FCChurch.com for times for each grade.

September 14 Midweek Missions Information Meetings

Come learn what this fun, hands-on program is all about, including specifics of this year's projects. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend, between 5:30 and 7:15 pm, by grade level. Come to an informational meeting while your child's grade level attends choir.

September 18 Open House at North Campus First through Fifth Grades

Come see your child’s room, meet the K-5 Ministry staff and teachers, learn about the philosophy, method of the program and how to support your child's faith development. Immediately follows service, starting in Grace Hall and moving to classrooms.

September 21 Midweek Missions Begins

Children come for the first night of fun, friendship and service.

September 25 Open House at South Campus First through Fifth Grades

Come see your child’s room, meet the K-5 Ministry staff and teachers, learn about the philosophy, method of the program and how to support your child's faith development. Immediately follows service in Lincoln Road Chapel.

September 27 Fourth-Grade Communion Class and Dinner

Fourth graders and their families are invited for dinner and a short class by Rev. Dr. Richard Wing about the significance and symbolism of communion. Fourth graders will practice taking communion and have a picture taken. Pizza and salad will be served. 6 to 8 pm. Register at FCChurch.com/K-5.

October 2 Fourth-Grade Communion

Fourth graders will receive their First Communion during worship on this World Communion Sunday.

PARISH REGISTER

We share the joys and sorrows of our church family in our prayers.

As of July 20, 2016

BIRTHS

6/19/16

Marshall Franklin Hutchins Son of Joy & Rachael Hutchins Grandson of Janice Hutchins Nephew of Amy Hutchins

WEDDINGS

6/9/16

Walter Watkins & Kay Leonard

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Joanne Ave

Marshall Barney

Paul Baumer

John Gardner

Kathleen Jones

Lona Kemmerling

John Scarlock

Mary Weisman

Dick Wetterbee

DEATHS

6/23/16

Violet Jordan

6/28/16

Gerald Paul Fry

Father of Jennifer Fry

7/8/16

Helen Wood

7/10/16

David Sims

7/14/16

George Richards

Grandfather of Karen (Wes) Patterson

7/13/16

Gerald Koebel

Father of Jodi Patton

Grandfather of John & Jessica Patton

Please send notifications of weddings, births, hospitalizations or deaths to prusell@FCchurch.com or (614) 488-0681 ext. 228.

Our Pastoral Care staff is available if you desire a visit or call during an illness, hospitalization or time of need.

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**Children Build Faith with LEGO**

By Kirsten Dove

This summer in Sunday school, the kindergartners through fifth graders have been learning more than ever about Jesus in Bible stories by playing with LEGO. What have LEGO got to do with the Bible?

Nothing, but the kids love them. By making Sunday school fun, the kids engage and want to participate.

What’s important about this method is that the kids love to play with LEGO. They don’t mind, or even notice, that they are expected to build about the Bible story. It gives them a jumping-off point. Then they build about what made an impression on them from the story. For instance, maybe one group is impressed by the violence of the storm, so they build rolling waves and lightning. Another child is impressed that Jesus sleeps through the storm, so he concentrates on building a boat that has a comfortable space for the sleeping Jesus. Still another group might be moved by the fear the apostles felt, so they build a boat large enough to hold all the apostles.

The teachers don’t tell the children what the story is supposed to mean. The children are allowed to enter the story themselves and spend time with what interests them about the story. This way the child is much more likely to take away something she will remember and be able to use in her life down the road.

The LEGO lessons are inspired by *Building Faith brick by brick* by Emily Sliechter. Given. Each week the teacher reads a Bible story and shows different styles of pictures of the story. What is really special about this method, however, is the “Wondering Questions.”

Much like the Godly Play curriculum model that is used in some FCC Sunday school classrooms throughout the year, *brick by brick*‘s magic is that the lessons ask the children questions instead of telling them what they are supposed to think. This method allows the children to make their own connections and find their own meanings in the stories.

The children meet together in one group during worship service in Lincoln Road Chapel during June and July. The LEGO have been such a hit with the children that the building bricks will be making appearances throughout the coming school year.

The K-5 Ministry will be looking for other ways the children can enter Bible stories to find their own responses and meaning.

In August when worship moves to North Campus, the K-5 children will be exploring the messages of Dr. Seuss, who may have been an accidental prophet. Feel free to drop by a Sunday school classroom after worship or call (614) 488-0681 ext. 116.

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**Preschool Pop-Up Shop Coming to Mary Evans**

By Rebecca Wolfe

August signals the beginning of school days coming soon. While Mary Evans Child Development Center (MECDC) has been going along all summer, there is still a new starting point come fall.

The Tri-Village Trading Post is partnering with MECDC for a unique Pop-up shop of children’s clothing and related items. We will set up in the lobby of the Rose Wing, North Campus, 1377 Dublin Rd. on August 24 and 25 from 3:30 – 6 pm.

Half of the proceeds will go directly to the Mary Evans Scholarship Fund to help more children have the opportunity to attend.

Besides parents of Mary Evans’ children, we hope others will stop by to shop as well as learn all about the Trading Post has to offer young and old alike.
Understanding Jesus’ Death & Resurrection

Monday, August 1
6:30 – 8:30 pm
Wicker Room, South Campus

The work of Richard Rohr has had a major influence on Dr. Wing and our clergy. The Center for Spiritual Search is pleased to offer another in a series replaying current webcasts. In “Jesus: Forgiving Victim” on August 1, theologian James Alison is in dialogue with Richard Rohr helping us understand what Jesus’ death and resurrection mean for us.

Drawing from philosopher René Girard’s work, they free this familiar biblical story from unhelpful, toxic interpretations such as “sacrifice” and “atonement.” While the human psyche readily projects its shadow onto others, identifying a scapegoat to carry our inner shame, Jesus—

Reimaging Outmoded Christian Beliefs

Saturday, August 20
10 am-Noon
Guild Room, South Campus

This continuing series facilitated by Rev. David Hett examines the basic Christian doctrines that have come into existence over the centuries, looking at them in a new light, discerning some, reinterpreting some, and reimagining how an exciting, viable Christianity might look through 21st-century eyes.

Spiritual discussion animates these classes using new materials from our 2015 Spiritual Search column, in document form, one “Thesis” to recreate building blocks for “A New Christianity for a New World.” Spong’s 12 theses mirrors Martin Luther’s “95 Theses” posted 500 years ago that began the original Reformation. Bishop Spong’s theses chart a new revolution that asks entirely different questions.

Rev. Hett leads the discussion, and even if you missed earlier discussions you are welcome to attend. To register, go to FCchurch.com/2016/01/12theses or contact Natalia njones@FCchurch.com, or leave her a voicemail at (614) 488-0681 ext. 151. The columns, in document form, will be emailed to participants. You are also welcome to make a donation online or at the door to support Center for Spiritual Search programs.

Glasses Change Lives

By Charlie Jacobs

We have collected 365 pairs of used eye glasses from North and South Campus and Tri-Village Trading Post. Last year, we saw a “wish” list from Back Bay Mission. The list mentioned reading glasses. We sent 140 pairs last year. In May 2016, we sent an additional 90 pairs. Not all the glasses came from the First Community collections. We have other sources. Regardless, Back Bay Mission has received 230 readers.

Without glasses, many children will never learn to read. Adults will lose the ability to work. Senior citizens will lose the ability to maintain their independence. Even though we never see the beneficiaries, the glasses are life changing. What a wonderful gift. Please don’t throw glasses away. The used glasses are life changing.

WEEKLY ADULT LEARNING GROUPS

Classes are free except where noted and open to the public. For information or books or registration contact Natalia at njones@FCchurch.com or (614) 488-0681 ext. 151.

For more details, visit FCchurch.com/adult-learning

MEN’S STUDY GROUP

Wednesdays, 7 – 8 am
Wicker Room, SC

The Men’s Study Group is reading and discussing Grounded by Diana Butler Bass. Contact Price Finley at (614) 361-6567 or price.finley@gmail.com, or Craig Sturtz at (614) 481-9060 or craig.sturtz01@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Wednesdays, 7 – 8 am
Brownlee Hall, SC

Presentations and discussion of leading-edge topics. Ends promptly at 8 am.

WOMEN LIVING THE QUESTIONS

Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 am
Wicker Room, South Campus

Our current focus is Michael Singer’s books, The Untethered Soul. The group welcomes any woman who wishes to explore in a safe environment any aspects of her spiritual life. We share and discuss books and videos and occasional guest speakers. For more information contact Linda Baldeck at lbaldeck927@gmail.com

CONTEMPLATIVE WAY GROUP

Thursdays
11:45 am – 1 pm
Wicker Room, South Campus

A time of sacred reading as we near completion of Teresa of Avila’s Interior Castle, 30-minute meditation time; and reflection & discussion. Facilitated by Rev. David Hett and other spiritual directors. Free-will offering.
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL BARBER

TOP: From left, Mae, 6, Logan, 5 and Pierce, 5 react to being sprayed with water.
ABOVE LEFT: Mary Evans teacher Elaine Enderle takes her turn on the slide with Josie, age 2, in tow.
ABOVE RIGHT: Children from Mary Evans Child Development Center line up to take a ride on a water slide while celebrating International Mud Day, June 29.
LEFT: Michael, 3, gets blasted with a hose before making the journey to the bottom of the water slide.
RIGHT: Carter Nicoll, 2, son of Scott and Ryan Nicoll, experiences his first water slide.

Mud Day, Fun Day
Let's Build

Governing Board Approves $13.745 Million Plan to Begin Construction in 2017

By Michael Barber

On Monday, June 27, the Governing Board of First Community Church gave the Capital Projects Committee (CPC) authorization to move forward with Phase 1 of the Capital Projects at a cost of $13.745 million, just shy of the Capital Project’s original $15 million goal.

As of June 28, a total of $10.4 million has been raised through all phases of fundraising, including the All-Member Phase (REALIZE), which began February 28.

Less than $200,000 remains in a $1.5 million matching fund provided by three anonymous donors. Each have waived their naming rights in order to match donations from the congregation dollar for dollar.

The CPC’s proposal introduces value engineering strategies and other cost reductions to align the project scope with the revised budget.

It is expected that, at the time of the approval of the contracts, all fundraising would be completed. It is anticipated that construction of the sanctuary and rental cabin could begin in the spring or summer of 2017.

Approval for a construction for the Welcome Center at South Campus was approved by the Board in September. Plans for this project are underway. It is anticipated that construction could begin as early as the fall.

“The approval by the Governing Board allows us to build what we have committed to the donors that we would do: a sanctuary at North Campus, a Welcome Center at South Campus and needed improvements at Camp Akita,” said CPC Chair Paul Anderson.

“We will now complete the design work with the hope of signing construction contracts by spring or summer of 2017.”

Construction will pose unique challenges for programming, particularly at North Campus. Pam Jameson, Director of Facilities Ministry, is ready.

“This is an exciting time for our church and our faith community,” Pam said. “As the construction process affects many areas and ministries of our church, I will be involved within the planning process, timeline and scheduling of our facilities balancing the needs of our staff and programs during construction. I am very excited for this new journey.”

Following the vote, Owner’s Representative Nan Weir put the Projects, which began March 2013, in proper perspective. “I’m thrilled that we will now be able to address the long-term needs of our congregation – providing sacred space at North Campus and more welcoming and accessible facilities at all three locations,” she said. “The real work for the design team is just beginning.”

For complete information on the Capital Projects, visit FCchurch.com/REALIZE.

South Campus Welcome Center Evolves

By Michael Barber

After more than a year of thoughtful planning, the South Campus Design Committee (SCDC) is honing in on what will soon be a new, handicapped-accessible entrance to 1320 Cambridge Boulevard.

“After the Governing Board decision in June to approve money for building, we went back to the design to talk about options available and construction materials,” said Pam Jameson, SCDC Chair.

“It was an opportunity for us to revisit the design. It is still evolving.”

From the beginning, Architect Phillip Markwood has been involved in the design process of a Welcome Center for South Campus and a sanctuary at North.

“The SCDC was inspired by Markwood’s latest design concepts for the new Welcome Center,” said Nan Weir, owner’s representative for the Capital Projects. “The committee will continue to collaborate with Phillip to refine the design. They look forward to sharing the design with the congregation very soon.”

Pam says she is always amazed by Phillip’s ability to constantly come up with new ideas. “We are always amazed by what he can do, particularly at North Campus.”

What is known is that the Welcome Center will provide a clear point of entry from the south end. A reception area will greet visitors and an elevator will provide greater handicapped accessibility. The center’s architecture will complement the current structure and a portion of the exterior will provide a meditative space.

“It will be a prominent spot that says ‘you are welcome here,’” Pam said. “We are very excited by this much needed addition.”
Spiritual Searcher Nancy Abrams

Save the Dates: November 11 & 12

Friday Evening Lecture
7-9 pm, November 11
Nancy E. Abrams
A God That Could Be Real in the Scientific Universe

Saturday Morning Workshop
9 am-12pm, November 12
Nancy Abrams & Joel Primack
Breaking Through the Spiritual Glass Ceiling with Science
(Including stunning new video visualizations of the evolution of the galaxies)

Humanity is heading into a do-or-die period, because as a species we have unleashed technological powers that have escaped our control. The important thing is, we can improve the odds by rethinking misleading assumptions in light of recent scientific discoveries – especially the assumption of what God is.

If we find a way to rethink God for the volatile, high-tech age we are actually living in, using knowledge no one ever had before, God can be something not only scientifically possible but radically inspiring.

We’re living at a time of scientific revolution with the first new picture of the universe ever based on science. Our universe is turning out to be very counterintuitive, but if we accept it as reality, then such a new way of thinking exists.

If we want to find a God that is real, we have to look for it in what we know is real. The question that matters is, “Could anything actually exist in the universe as science understands it that is worthy of being called God?”

Nancy Ellen Abrams is a philosopher of science, lawyer, and author. She and her husband, world-renowned cosmologist Joel R. Primack, developed a new visual language to express the big ideas underlying the new universe picture, which Primack helped create.

For ten years they co-taught a course called “Cosmology and Culture” at the University of California, Santa Cruz, which won prizes from both the Templeton Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies. The course led to their coauthoring The View from the Center of the Universe: Discovering Our Extraordinary Place in the Cosmos. Yale University invited them to give the prestigious Terry Lectures in 2009, which they rewrote to become The New Universe and the Human Future: How a Shared Cosmology Could Transform the World. This book won the 2012 Nautilus Gold award for best science book of 2011.

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OVEN ROASTED RATATOUILLE

INGREDIENTS
1 cup marinara sauce $0.52
1 small yellow onion $0.28
1 small eggplant $1.53
1 medium zucchini $1.73
1 medium yellow squash $1.62
3 medium roma tomatoes $1.21
Pinch of salt and pepper $0.05
1 tsp dried basil $0.05
1 tsp dried oregano $0.05
1 cup shredded mozzarella $1.20

INSTRUCTIONS
Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Spread ½ cup of marinara sauce over the bottom of a deep pie dish or a rectangular casserole dish. Thinly slice the onion and sprinkle the slices over the marinara. Thinsly slice the eggplant, zucchini, yellow squash, and tomatoes (about ¼ inch thick). The vegetables are easiest to layer when they are the same diameter, so if one of your vegetables is much bigger around than the others, slice the rounds in half or into quarters to make it more similar in size. Layer the vegetables in the casserole dish like dominos. Fit as many of the vegetable slices in as possible.

Heat to Heart provides recipes to their clients and the larger community using fresh produce often available at the pantry. Recipes can be found at facebook.com/hearttoheartpantry

PREP TIME: 20 mins
COOK TIME: 45 mins
TOTAL TIME: 1 hour 5 mins
Total Cost: $8.24
Cost Per Serving: $2.06
Serves: 4-6

Recipe and photo by BudgetBytes.com
Meal Brings Muslims, Christians to Table

Young Muslim women share a meal at sundown during an inter-faith gathering of Muslims and Christians at First Community Church Wednesday, June 29, South Campus. The meal, celebrating Ramadan, is known as an Iftar. Ramadan is celebrated during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad according to Islamic belief.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL BARBER

Meal Brings Muslims, Christians to Table

Youth Choirs Start Dates and Information

By Sally Beske

Registration for the 2016-17 youth choir season is available to all new and returning choir members at FCchurch.com/youthchoirs.

All children from kindergarten through high school are welcome to participate. No audition is required.

Please contact youth choir director Sally Beske at sbeske@FCchurch.com for Bell Choir availability and further information.

Bell Choirs are limited to 11 children in each group and fill up very quickly. Contact Sally to reserve bells for your child.

Youth Choirs rehearse at the North Campus every week from September-May and participate in worship every four to six weeks.

All Vocal Choirs rehearse in Room 118; Bell Choirs rehearse in Room 111.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL BARBER

Embracing Friendship

Dr. Deborah Lindsay, right, shares a hug and a laugh with her friend Sally Kriska during a Muslim-Christian event held in Brownlee Hall, June 29. The event, hosted by First Community Church, was successful in enlightening both practitioners of faith.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL BARBER

Meeting on Wednesday Evenings Beginning September 14:
Kindergarten Choir: 5:30 pm-6 pm
Cherub Choir: 6 pm-6:30 pm (for grades 1 and 2)
Junior Choir: 6:30 pm-7:15 pm (for grades 3 through 5)
Youth Bell Choir 1: 7:15 pm-7:45 pm (beginning ringers)
Youth Bell Choir 2: 7:45 pm-8:30 pm (advanced ringers)

Meeting on Sunday Evenings beginning September 11:
Youth Vocal Ensemble: 6 pm-7 pm (for Middle and High School)
Welcome New Members

By Kristy Glaser

Please join us in welcoming these new members who joined First Community Church on Sunday, June 26.

Herb Goetz first joined First Community Church in 1991. Retiring from a 30-year career with the United States Navy, Herb and Mary Ann moved to Columbus so Herb could answer the call to serve as Executive Minister at FCC during the early years of Dr. Wing’s tenure. Together they have traveled the world and have been active members of military chapels in the cities where they’ve been stationed. They have retained an active membership with First Congregational UCC over the years as they have served other churches in the CSCEOA, but are now looking forward to being reunited with old friends at FCC and worshipping God in the church that feels like home.

Mary Ann Goetz has worked as a licensed school nurse in the inner city for 20 years. She has made a career of serving low income families and advocating for equality in health care and education. Mary Ann plans to channel this passion into working with Heart to Heart and the many other outreach programs at FCC. Herb and Mary Ann attend the 11 am service at South Campus. They enjoy spending treasured time with their kids and 8 grandchildren.

Lauren Latimer is a student at Kent State University. She first learned of First Community Church from the UCC website where she was looking for inclusive churches in the area. The volunteer opportunities at FCC are appealing to Lauren and she’s especially interested in getting involved with Heart to Heart, the Trading Post and Friends of the Homeless. She likes to attend the 11 am service since it’s a time when her family can come and worship together. Lauren is an avid reader and nature lover who enjoys hiking and camping.

Stephanie McCormick enjoys worshipping at First Community Church where all are welcome. Being an early bird, she prefers to attend the 8:30 am service at North Campus. She is employed as Branch Manager for the Defense Logistics Agency. Working with the military, public service has been an integral part of her life. She is looking for ways to incorporate her love of serving others into her church life. Heart to Heart, Friends of the Homeless, ushering and greeting on Sundays are of particular interest to her. Stephanie lives in Hilliard with her spouse, Julie Shivener, and enjoys gardening and reading in her free time.

We have been very fortunate so far this summer to have had a great growing season. We hope all of you gardeners are having a lot of success with your gardens and are planning to donate to our Mission Council Farmer’s Market.

The market will be open Sunday, August 14 immediately after the worship service at North Campus. We will be accepting donations of fresh vegetables and fruits, fresh herbs, plants and flowers, home canned goods and homemade baked goods.

Please bring your donations to church with you on August 14. After church, take some time to stroll through the market and purchase the finest, freshest produce and the tastiest homemade baked goods and jam a person can buy in Columbus, all grown and made with much love. Beth and Cathy Hanson will also sell items from the Tri-Village Trading Post. All proceeds will benefit Heart to Heart food pantry.

We are extremely pleased to announce that Healing Art Missions will once again join our market with truly unique pieces of Haitian art that will be for sale. The money raised from the sale goes directly to provide Haitians with the resources they need to help themselves.

Contact Cheryl VanDeusen at (614) 824-7870 or cvandeus@columbus.rr.com

Somebody I Wish I Had Known

Anderson Palmer

If you take the elevator to the second floor of 1320 Cambridge, and glance to your right, you will see an open door to one of the preschool classrooms.

This was formerly known as the Palmer Room and had been utilized as a meeting area for clients of the Pastoral Counseling Center. Don’t you wonder for whom it was named? It was not for a former minister or even a member of the church.

On November 6, 1920, Anderson Palmer initially walked through the door of First Community Church where he became not only the church caretaker and custodian for the next twenty-seven years, but also a beloved figure to everyone he met. But, just who was this African American man who became so important to our staff and congregation that a room was named after him to perpetuate his legacy?

At an early age, he had left his Georgia home to join a traveling minstrel troupe as an acrobatic tumbler. He did all kinds of work before finally coming to First Community where he found his true calling.

Long-time member Helen Hively reminisced with me about her memories of Palmer, as everyone called him. “He was a very religious man who faithfully ministered to all who came in contact with him,” she said.

“He was everything: a kind, marvelous human being. For whatever was needed, we called on him. He was devoted to this church and during the week, he was the church. One summer, Oliver West called and asked for my help so that the staff and a few church families could spend some time together at camp. Palmer and I ran the church for a week. I answered the phone and he did everything else.”

Dr. Burkart’s secretary, Rosie Weimer, remembered him as a philosopher. “There was a special quality about him,” she said. “So often he made sage remarks which were so apropos to people and situations.”

Lowell Riley told me that Burkie always called on Palmer for a report at the Annual Meeting. “He was a gentle man and everyone loved him,” he said.

Former church treasurer Bob Morrison recalled how Palmer arrived early each morning to stooge the coal furnace so the building would be warm when the staff arrived. As the years passed Palmer and the furnace grew old together.

It was because this highly esteemed man meant so much to so many, that a room in the church was set aside to honor him - the Palmer Room.

We Want Your News

Firstnews is dedicated to providing readers with quality news and features each month. We are particularly interested in receiving information directly from members regarding their participation in church events and programs.

We invite you to submit story ideas, completed stories and photographs for consideration.

Please contact Michael Barber, firstnews Editor, at mbarber@FCchurch.com or visit FChurch.com, click Firstnews Extra
It is with gratitude that First Community Church accepts the following gifts.

**FOUNDATION GIFTS**
- In Memory of:
  - Tom Sheppard
  - Susan Brooks
  - Bettencell Miller
  - Don Miller
  - Betty Solis
  - Tim & Elizabeth Arnold
  - Anmita Meyer
  - Larry Woods
- In Honor of:
  - First Community Foundation
  - Joe Ray
  - Jim Long
  - Don Miller
  - Dominica School & Orphanage
  - Kathy and Ron Hossler
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    - Scott Elliott
    - Carolyn Tehan

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- PSYCHOLOGICAL-SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
- CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL SEARCH
  - Cynthia Kuhn

**Upcoming Events**

**Updates from the Women’s Guild**

- **By Jill Eliot**

  **Service With A Smile**
  Pearl S. Buck wrote, “To serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy and a whole heart and a free mind.” The Guild Executive Board voted to further serve our church and with joy voted to contribute $5,000 toward the purchase of a new dishwasher for the South Campus Kitchen.

  Group 7 is contributing the remaining funds needed for the purchase. Total cost is $12,250. This dishwasher will comply with regulations for Preschool’s management. Ladies, this is not an ordinary dishwasher.

  **Celebrate With Joy!**
  On August 23, 2016 from 6-8 pm in Grace Hall, North Campus, the Women’s Guild will celebrate 105 years with food, friends and fellowship.

  Kicking off the event with diapers, blankets and bottles is a baby shower for mothers who need financial help with layette items. All donations will be given to Church Women United.

  The main event of the evening is the moving Court of Honor introducing new Executive Board Members, new Group Chairpersons and presenting our many past presidents and honoring women who have passed.

  Bring a dish and a layette item (newborn - 6 months) for a night of festivities. Please RSVP to your Group Chairs or email/call Kie Seiple at kieseiple@gmail.com or (614) 325-8633. Deadline for reservations is August 20.

**Summer Worship Moving North**

Sunday worship at 10 am will move to North Campus beginning August 7 through September 4.

We will return to worshiping at both North and South campuses Sunday, September 11.

Complete information regarding the upcoming Program year will be published in the September edition of firstnews.

**SUMMER HOURS**

South Campus will continue to be closed on Fridays through September 2. North Campus remains open on Fridays through the summer.

Upythia Hermin writes words for all to live by:

Celebrate Life • Laugh Out Loud • Dance For No Reason
Have Fun • Dream Big • Create New Paths
Be Bold • Make Mistakes • Be Kind • Inspire
Be Inspired • Shine Brightly • Be Yourself Always

**Warm Welcome**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL BARBER

ABOVE: After spending five days at Camp Akita, seventh grader Olivia Scherner hugs her mother, Jodi, in the parking lot of North Campus. When pressed to choose just one thing she enjoyed most, Olivia said, “It was all really fun.”

TOP RIGHT: Barley, a 2-year-old dog owned by eighth grader Marli Swanson, waits for a ride home with returning Akita campers Wednesday, July 20.

RIGHT: Akita seventh-grade camper Sosi Mahdasian tears up when seeing her mother Kathleen for the return trip home. Sosi said she enjoyed the water slide, foam dome and that she made a lot of friends.
Distributors Help Share Good News

By Michael Barber

Our debut edition of our firstnews newspaper, printed in June, has been met with very positive response. So much so that we have quickly taken our product to the streets.

On this page, you can see a list of distribution partners; local businesses that have welcomed us into their shops, waiting areas and checkout lines.

We are grateful for their partnership in helping us broaden the reach of the inclusive message that we value.

Our hope is that we will continue to grow the list of distributors in the Tri-Village area and central Ohio.

If you are interested in connecting your business with First Community Church in distribution or advertising, please reach out to me or Jane Torbica at (614) 488-0681.

Thank You
to our

DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS

firstnews thanks the following businesses and locations for participating in our distribution program. If you wish to become a distribution partner, contact Jane Torbica at (614) 488.0681 ext. 247 or jtorbica@FCchurch.com

ACCENT ON NATURE
1435 Grandview Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212
(614) 486-7333
accentonnaturerocks.com

ACORN BOOK SHOP
1464 W. Fifth Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212
(614) 486-1860
acornbookshop.com

CHEF-O-NETTE RESTAURANT
2090 Tremont Center
Columbus, OH 43221
(614) 488-8444
chefonette.com

COLIN’S COFFEE
3714 Riverside Dr.
Columbus, OH 43221
facebook.com/Colins-Coffee-199129576778911

FIRST COMMUNITY VILLAGE
1800 Riverside Dr.
Columbus, Ohio 43212
(614) 324-4455
nationalchurchresidences.org

FRESCO FURNISHINGS
1744 W. 5th Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43212
(614) 586-1963
frescofurnishings.com

GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY
1685 W. 1st Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212
(614) 486-2951
ghpl.org

MAILBOX AND SERVICES
1601 W. 5th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212
(614) 486-0031
onemoretime.com

ONE MORE TIME
1521 West 5th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212
(614) 486-0031
onemoretime.com

SAX FIFTH AVE. CAR WASH
1319 W. 5th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212
(614) 486-9093

UPPER ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
2800 Tremont Rd.
Columbus, OH 43212
(614) 486-9621
ualibrary.org

WESTMINSTER-THURBER COMMUNITY
717 Neil Ave.
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 228-8888
westminsterthurber.org

WORLD OF PHOTOGRAPHY
1043 West Third Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212
(614) 824-5047
worldofusedphotography.com

Experience the Music

The Annual Service of Music
SOLI DEO GLORIA
Chancel Choir and Orchestra
Sunday, October 23, 9:15 and 11 am
Grace Hall, North Campus

The 43rd Annual Candlelight
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Chancel Choir, Chamber Singers, & Orchestra
Sunday, December 11, 4:30 pm
Grace Hall, North Campus

Interested in singing with our wonderful Chancel Choir?
Contact Lois Zook in the Music Department at (614) 488-0681, ext. 214.

The Choir rehearses Thursday evenings from September to early June and sings the 11 am service at South Campus. The first rehearsal of the fall season is Thursday, September 8.

A smaller group from the Chancel Choir also sings at the 9:45 am service at the North Campus.

Garden Buds

Loren Von Deusen, left, and Dick Helland were instrumental in creating the Share and Learn Garden at North Campus.

Experienced gardeners, along with children at Mary Evans Child Development Center, grow produce for the Heart to Heart food pantry.

If you are interested in joining this team of volunteers, contact Cheryl VonDeusen at (614) 824-7870.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN KRISKA
Employment Opportunities

AFTER-HOUR CLEANING POSITION open for 12-16 hours per week, evenings/early mornings. Cleaning experience, dependable and trustworthy is essential. Submit resume to Pam Jameson, pjameson@FCchurch.com

K-5 MINISTRY PROGRAM COORDINATOR needed 10-12 hours per week including Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Experience successfully working with children and families is essential. Submit resume to Julie Richards at jrichards@FCchurch.com

View all employment opportunities at FCchurch.com/job-postings

Heart to Heart Food Pantry Totals

Heart to Heart offers a helping hand and caring heart in times of need.

Donation Needs for August: Pudding & Jello Cups

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<th></th>
<th>June 2016</th>
<th>Month</th>
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Gallantly Singing

First Community Church bass soloist Robert Moreen belts out his rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner during a recent Columbus Clippers baseball game at Huntington Park. Robert has participated with the choir for more than 40 years.

Pray for Peace

Gracious God,
We pray for peace in our communities this day.
We commit to you all who work for peace
and an end to violence and tension,
And those who work to uphold law and justice.
We pray for an end to fear,
For comfort and support to those who suffer.
For calm in our streets and cities,
That people may go about their lives in safety and peace.
In your mercy, hear our prayers,
now and always. Amen

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- Assisted Living for those who live with memory loss
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Affiliated with The United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

first news articles and photos must be submitted to news@FCchurch.com by the 15th of each month.

Direct questions to Editor Michael Barber at mbarber@FCchurch.com

THE PROGRAM STAFF OF FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH
Richard A. Wing, Senior Minister; Paul E. Baumer, Minister to the Staff; David S. Hett, Minister of Religious Life and Learning; Ronald J. Jenkins, Minister of Music and Liturgy; Deborah Countiss Lindsay, Executive Minister; James M. Long, Minister of Pastoral Care; Katherine H. Shaner, Minister of Mission and Youth; Michael Barber, Director of Marketing and Communications; Sally R. Beske, Assistant Organist/Director of Youth Choirs; Leigh Anne Easterling, Director of Early Childhood Ministries; Pam Jameson, Director of Facilities Ministry; Bobbi Mueller, Director of Office Operations and Special Projects; Scot Nicoll, Executive Director of Camp Akita; Missy Obergefell, Director of Older Adult Ministry; Alayna Pierce, Preschool Director; Julie Richards, Director of K-5 Ministry; Paula L. Russell, Director of Congregational Care; Tom White, Director of Finance.