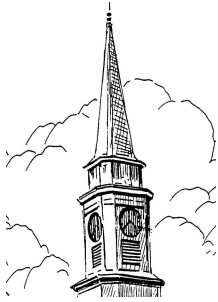


## **Message from the Pastor:**

Dear Friends,



January brought to the congregation two reminders that through our Lord Jesus Christ we have been granted “a hundredfold” inheritance of brothers and sisters. (Mark 10:30) These two early valentines were the visit of Lorin Cope, Minister for Conference Relations in the United Church of Christ, and our celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with other congregations of Jesus Christ in Twinsburg. We believe the holy catholic church, a world-wide church rich in diversity, for which there are no barriers to unity, through the power of the Holy Spirit!

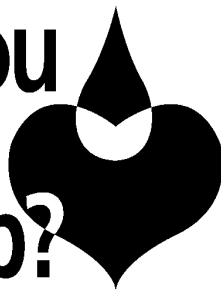
If we want to know more about this inheritance we have been given, it is certainly good to start in our own backyard and read this Tower. Lorin’s gracious and warm visit with us is also a reminder that we would do well to read United Church News (available at the church and free to those who wish to subscribe by calling 1-800-363-0575) or to check out the United Church of Christ web site ([www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)). Moreover, what joy we will find if we continue to engage in honest and open conversation, prayer, worship, and work with our brothers and sisters in other congregations, trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit!

God bless!

Pastor Jim



**Can You  
Spare  
A Drop?**



**Tuesday, February 6th**

**2-7 p.m.**

**Bring valid  
photo ID.**

**There is a blood emergency! Please plan to  
donate if you can.**

Thanks to the generous support of the congregation, the Benevolence Committee was able to make the following end-of-the-year disbursements following the December 31 worship service:

Stranded Travelers Fund - \$715 (included special offering gifts collected at Jesus' birthday party)

Veterans of the Cross - \$460.

One Great Hour of Sharing (disaster relief) - \$230.

Church World Service (disaster relief) - \$230.

Salvation Army - \$250 (in response to directed gifts received)

A reminder that gifts given through Benevolence (missions) may be directed to a specific cause if you would like to do so; just note so on your giving envelope and the committee will comply with (and when able add to) your wishes. Please refer to the annual Benevolence financial report (posted on the bulletin board or in the annual report) to learn how your gifts have been disbursed this past year. Prayerful consideration is given at each meeting prior to directing funds as the committee/church reaches out to our brothers/sisters locally, in the area, country, and internationally.



## BLANKET/TOOLS OF HOPE SUNDAY

February 11



There are several ways in which you can support this annual giving ministry:

- (1) **Financial contributions** - Envelopes will be in the pew racks on February 4, 11, 18 for your gifts which will be sent to Church World Service for support of their Tools & Blanket program, which provides more than \$3.7 million to help people in some 80 nations, including the U.S. The right tool (including the traditional CWS blanket) at the right time can make a world of difference in the lives of children and families faced with an emergency or struggling to keep food on the table.
- (2) **Used Blankets and Bedding Collection** - These items (CLEAN AND IN GOOD CONDITION) will be collected at the church February 4 through February 12 and will be distributed locally depending upon the items received. Please leave items in the narthex or downstairs under the coat rack near the kitchen entrance.
- (3) **Prayer Shawl Remembrance/Rededication** - In response to a suggestion by the Seekers (Prayer Shawl Ministry), those who have received or whose loved ones may have received one of the 220 plus prayer shawls are urged to bring them to church on February 11 for a time of remembrance/rededication and sharing the warmth and love created by these special "blankets."

This letter was received from Pregnancy Care:  
(The organization sponsored by the Christmas Angel Tree )

January 2, 2007  
Attn: Youth Group

Dear Terri Bissell,

On behalf of all of us here at Pregnancy Care, I want to express our deepest appreciation for all of the wonderful donations you have blessed us with.

This year, through our Christmas Giving program, we were able to help more than eighty families, which means we were able to provide Christmas gifts for over 130 children!

We are so grateful for your organization - we feel truly blessed and we thank you so much for choosing our agency as the beneficiary of your generosity.

I wish you a wonderful 2007!

Sincerely,

Shannon Wolf  
Volunteer Coordinator



### Youth Group Lock-in February 3, 2006 8:00 p.m.

Bring sleeping bag, pillow and extra blankets.

Movies, board games, snack to share, clothes for church.

(yes, bring tooth brushes and deodorant)

Super Bowl Subs will be made, movies will be watched and games to be played.

Sleep is optional.

Subs will be distributed on Sunday, February 4.

If you have not yet done so, please pay for them when you pick them up.

Thanks for everyone's support!

The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday. Boy Scout Troop 223 is taking this opportunity to show their appreciation for First Congregational Church chartering the Troop by participating in the service and providing a Pancake Breakfast.



**Date:** February 4<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 8:30 am – 10:00 am and again at 11:30 am – 12:30 pm.

**Cost:** Donations will be accepted

**Menu:** Pancakes, sausage, orange juice, and coffee (supplied by Kokopelli Coffee)

## FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY...

Many thanks to the donation of books appropriate for a church library. Most recently, some very nice young children's books - a popular item have been given and are available on the children's shelves.



February is often a time that the winter doldrums sometimes set in and a time that a little extra inspiration may help lift one's spirits. Featured on the library cart this month will be the collection of inspirational books for readers of all ages. Some of the titles include:

**The Traveler's Gift** by Andy Andrews combines self-help with fiction with instructions for positive thinking and suggestions for overcoming life's obstacles.

**Little Taps on the Shoulder** by Mary Hollingsworth reminds us that God doesn't always come into our lives with an almighty shout...often He floats in with a whisper, like a butterfly.

**Whispering in God's Ear** in which Wayne Holmes has compiled humorous and inspiring stories and prayers from authors and speakers that can teach us spiritual truths.

**Small Miracles** compiled by Yitta Halberstam and Judith Leventhal is a collection of over sixty stories that are moving, heartwarming, and inspirational.

**Walking from East to West** is a book in which renowned Christian thinker, Ravi Zacharias shares the intimate account of his journey beyond a turbulent childhood and the Eastern culture of his homeland.

Although the library is often used for meetings, it and the materials in it are available anytime the church is open. Please follow the self check out procedures and enjoy the books. A reminder that the library operates on the honor system and depends upon those checking out the materials to return them.

# Seekers Prayer Shawl Ministry

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 2  
THE TOWER

A special request to all who are able to do so. Please bring your prayer shawl/scarf (or one that may have been given to a loved one) to church on Blanket Sunday, February 11 for a special time of sharing/remembrance/and rededication during the worship service. Over 220 shawls/scarves/lap robes have been given away since this group was started in September, 2003. The group was founded, inspired, and left a legacy by the late Marion Rockney, mother of Annetta Muir. Although many of the shawls have been given to persons with no contact to the church, many friends and members have received them. It would be a tribute not only to Marion but to your loved ones to share the love and warmth generated by these shawls on February 11.

## From the Stewardship Committee . . .

Happy New Year! Each day we are challenged by obstacles that are emotional, physical and often financial. Last year our church was challenged by some of these as well. During those times we, as a church family/community, looked to God to give us guidance. Our church family pulled together and kept moving forward in a positive direction. As we move forward into 2007 we must not forget our commitment to stewardship. Our church cannot survive without tithes and offerings from our members. If you have not filled out your pledge card please do so.

Best Wishes for a happy, healthy and blessed 2007.

The Stewardship Committee

# Women's Fellowship News . . .

Women's Fellowship luncheon and meeting  
Thursday, February 1, 2007  
12:00 Noon Pot Luck luncheon

Bring food to share and table service  
President: Lucille Fiorelli

Hostesses: Dorothy Bascombe, Lea Bissell, & Mary Lou Sheller

Devotions: Dottie Oliver

Program: Lucille Fiorelli will be giving a talk on Betty Crocker.

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## Women's Ecumenical Mini-Retreat

**Saturday, February 3, 2007**  
**Christ the King Lutheran Church**  
**10285 Ravenna Rd. Twinsburg, OH 44087**  
**330-425-7377**

**Theme: "A Study of the Book of Titus -  
or It's about Character!"**

**Theme Verse: GOD'S GRACE BE WITH YOU ALL TITUS 3:15B**

Continental Breakfast 8:00 AM

Chapel Starts at 9:00 AM

with the Praise Music Group "Hearts Afire"

Bring your Bible, a coffee cup and a friend for the day!!!!

Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m.

Free will offering will be collected.

Contact Marge Roberts for more information: 330-425-4821

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**PART-TIME JOB OPENING WITH UCC GLOBAL MINISTRIES**, downtown Cleveland – the Southern Asia office of UCC Wider Church Ministries is seeking an administrative assistant (3/5's time). The job encompasses typical administrative duties and maintenance of records and databases, as well as some "welcoming" functions related to international guests and/or missionaries on home leave, and also some financial work to keep track of donations, overseas scholarship assistance, and grants for special projects. Application deadline is Feb. 7. A full job description is available in the church office or at [www.ucc.org/classifieds](http://www.ucc.org/classifieds). To apply, contact Alisa Lewis, 700 Prospect Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44115 or email [evridgej@ucc.org](mailto:evridgej@ucc.org).



# Candy Bars

# \$1.00

# 9 lbs.!



## Daffodil Days

### A Relay Team Fund-raiser

# \$6.50

The next meeting of the Relay for Life team is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We are always looking for new members. Anyone interested should see Marge Roberts or call her at 330-425-4821. The fundraisers are continuing also. **Daffodil Days** - The orders for daffodils are \$6.50. The price for the Boyd Bear with daffodils is \$25.00. The team is selling chances to win a 9 lb Nestle's Crunch Candy Bar. Chances are \$1.00 each. The drawing will be held on February 11. You need not be present to win. Please see any team member during coffee hour to place an order and buy chances. Candy bars will be available until they are sold out.

**Help Wanted: Candy Bar Salesperson**

**Hours: Flexible**

**Wages: Satisfaction guaranteed for a job well done**

**If interested, please see Betty McKnight.**

**Sales Goal: 20,000 Candy Bars**

To understand what the flag draped coffin really means..... Here is how to understand the flag that laid upon it and is surrendered to so many widows and widowers.

Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

Have you ever noticed the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times? You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The 1st fold of the flag is a symbol of life.



The 2nd fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.



The 3rd fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.



The 4th fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.



The 5th fold is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."



The 6th fold is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The 7th fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic.



The 8th fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.



The 9th fold is a tribute to womanhood, and Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.



The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.



The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their nations motto, "In God We Trust."



After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

## Congratulations !

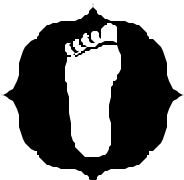
To the Footsteps Team for Relay For Life.

They received several awards at the kick off meeting in January.

**Platinum Team - They raised more than \$10,000**

**Top Candy Bar Sales**

**Best Campsite**



# Member News

# Thank You!

Happy Birthday

to:



Helen Green

02/05/07

Doris Turnbull

02/6/07

Andrea Bissell

02/7/07

Vivian Weiss

02/7/07

Victoria Holzwarth

02/7/07

Stephen Doe

02/7/07

Beverly Hegedish

02/11/07

Kimberly Lacy

02/12/07

Judy Richner

02/13/07

Dan Richner

02/16/07

Betty Tomko

02/20/07

Jim Peel

02/21/07

Walter Sterling

02/24/07

Mikki Pietrantozzi

02/24/07

Brooke Dolfi

02/25/07

Mary Schmidt

02/25/07

Richard Turner

02/25/07

Lois Gandee

02/26/07

Kristen Williams

02/27/07

Gayle Davet

02/28/07

RONNIE AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR CARDS AND PRAYERS. MY ENTIRE FAMILY HAS BEEN LIFTED UP FROM THE KIND THOUGHTS AND WELL WISHERS. THOUGH MY BROTHER IS STRUGGLING, HE KNOWS HIS FAITH WILL GET HIM THROUGH THIS. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

TONY ROBERSON

Dear Church Family,

I am really thankful for the all of the good people at First Congregational Church. They are really very good people. Thanks for all of your prayers, cards, kind thoughts and support.

Thanks

Ruth Prentice

Congratulations to those who were recognized at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon:

**The Knitwitters -**

**Outstanding Volunteer Organization**

**Twinsburg Garden Club -**

**Outstanding Volunteer Organization**

**Ashley Bissell -**

**Outstanding Teen Volunteer**

If we missed your birthday, please call the church office so we can update our records.

## “ A View from a Pew”

From Lucille Fiorelli

On January 14th we did include a new hymn in our service titled “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”. What a beautiful rolling melody it has! I hope it becomes part of our regular list of favorites.

Mr. Lorin Cope’s talk with our congregation gave this member an optimistic outlook for our future. The question part of the meeting started slowly. That is normal. As things “warmed up”, the questions covered a wide variety of concerns. Mr. Cope’s answers were straight forward and enlightened us to the variety of choices we have within the UCC Constitution. His sense of humor and enthusiasm renewed my trust and optimism.

## News from Friends far away . . .

**Ken Hunt** has had a stroke. His son, Rev. Philip Hunt, moved him from Alliance, Ohio to a nursing home in Coshocton, which will be more convenient for all.

**Georgia Walker** is well and wished us good health and peace.

**Elenore Perzesker and June Cook** were safe from hurricanes this year in Florida, but endured a great deal of hot weather. June traveled to Chicago and Houston to visit with family members.

**John Rezabek** sends good wishes. He still resides in Virginia.

**Mr. & Mrs. Azibanato C. Emiete** keep all of us in their prayers, and send their concerns and love, from Nigeria.

## News of those who have passed on:

### Margaret Stevenson

Margaret Stevenson, of Maryville, TN, died October 5, 2006, at Asbury Place at the age of 94. She was born July 17, 1912, in Kuling, China, daughter of missionary parents, Harvey C. Roys and Grace Woodbridge Roys. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1934, Phi Beta Kappa, Mortar Board, Outstanding Woman Student. Attended graduate school in social work at the University of Pittsburgh. Married Bob Stevenson (graduate of Maryville College and Pittsburgh Xenia Seminary) in 1936. Preceded in death by her husband the Rev. William Robert Stevenson, former pastor at the First Congregational Church in Twinsburg, Ohio. Survived by her children, Judy Hogan, Moncure, NC, Margie Ribble, Maryville, TN, Bill Stevenson, Jr., (Rosemary), Grand Rapids, MI; grandchildren, Mark Ross (Priscilla) Maryville, TN, Steve Ross (Kym) Stephenville, TX, Sarah Cohen (Mark) Ft. Worth, TX, Amy Cook (Tim) of Salado, TX, Tim Hogan (Sherrie) Rio Rancho, NM, Ginia Neal (Stuart) Pittsboro, NC, Rachael Koeson (Aaron) Portland, OR, Clark Stevenson, Grand Rapids, MI; 14 great-grandchildren; brother, Harvey C. Roys, Jr. (Ruth) Seattle, WA.

## News of those who have passed on:

**MARGARET B. MORGAN** (nee Stone), 82, of Twinsburg. Former wife of Sheridan E. Morgan Jr.; loving mother of Cynthia Morgan, Eddie Morgan, Marnie (Gregg) Davis, Linda (Bill) Wilson, Beverly Marshall and the late Donald Morgan; dear grandmother of 11; great-grandmother of six; sister of Marcy Cowley, Patricia Tse-Truth and the late Robert, Ernie, Harry, John, Evelyn, Libby and Florence; daughter of the late Harry and Margaret Stone. She passed away on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2007. Funeral services were held at the First Congregational Church in Twinsburg on Wednesday, January 24, 2007. Pastor Jim Link officiated. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to Twinsburg VFW Post 4292 Ladies Auxiliary, c/o Marge Yanok, 9045 Chamberlin Rd., Twinsburg, OH 44087. Burial was at Crown Hill Memorial Park.

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**I**n the 50's, Stuart Hamblin was a song writer that was known for his womanizing and drinking. A young preacher came to town holding a tent revival and Stuart invited him to his show for an interview. To gather more information about the preacher, Stuart Hamblin showed up at one of the revival services. During the sermon the preacher said, "There is a man in the audience that is a big fake." Stuart Hamblin thought the preacher was talking about him. The words haunted Stuart so he went to the preacher's hotel room at 2 a.m. asking the preacher to pray for him, and they talked until 5 a.m. when Stuart fell on his knees crying for God's forgiveness.

Hollywood turned it's back on Stuart Hamblin when he became a Christian, so he tried his hand at writing Christian songs. He wrote a song for Rosemary Clooney titled, "This Old House".

Later, one of his good friends, John, asked Stuart if being a Christian was worth it. Stuart answered "YES!" John asked him how he could give up all the things he loved in life, his booze and women. Stuart Hamblin responded, "It's no big secret. All things are possible with God." His friend John said, "That is a catchy phrase. You should write a song about that." And the rest is history.

Stuart Hamblin wrote, "It is not a secret what God can do. What He has done for others He will do for you. With arms wide open, He'll carry you. It is not a secret what God can do."

John's last name was Wayne and the preacher's name is Billy Graham.

There is no secret what God can do at First Congregational Church, UCC. This year has been a tough year because of obstacles we have faced. I want you to know, **it is no secret what God can do!** We serve a God that majors in doing the impossible! Let us move forward like a mighty army as we head into the future. If we trust God, there is no secret what He can do.

Submitted by Bob & Marge Heston

# February Schedule

## February Servers

- Will Adams
- Mike Muir
- Andrea Bissell
- Kenny Prentice
- Ken E. Prentice
- Judy Turk - Bread



### Communion will be

### February 7th this month

*Those attending church who wish to receive communion need to be present in the sanctuary.*

## Scrap Booking Friday

### February 16, 2007

6:00 p.m.—midnight  
in the Fellowship Hall

# ATTENDANCE

|                       | Sunday School | Worship Service |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Jan. 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 67            | 123             |
| Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup> | 61            | 117             |
| Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup> | 63            | 95              |
| Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup> | 58            | 120             |



February 04, 2007

**Justin Doe**  
Jared Doe

February 11, 2007  
**Cassie Pietrantozzi**  
Anthony Pietrantozzi

February 18, 2007  
**Vivian Weiss**  
Gordon Weiss

February 25, 2007  
**Kevin Powell**  
Kayla Bencie

The families of the names in **bold** have Acolyte Coordinator Duty and should light the sticks and assist the acolytes.

**If you are unable to serve on your assigned week**, please find a replacement and notify the church office of the change. Thank you!

## Adult Bible Study

continues to meet on the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Thursdays, at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Joel Pietrantozzi is conducting the class. Brown bag dinners are welcome for those coming directly from work.

### Penny Collection Reminder

Women's Fellowship is continuing to collect pennies, so bring them in. The containers are downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

Based on the following: 48 pennies = 1 yard; we collected 625 yards of pennies so far. Hopefully, we can collect one mile of pennies. That would be 84,480 pennies. We are almost halfway there!

## Lockup Trustee for the month of February - Bob Hewett

*EPH 3:14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

Our Scripture is taken from Ephesians Chapter 3 and is the Apostle Paul's prayer for the believers at the church in Ephesus. Paul's prayer is different from many of my personal prayers in that he is not asking for God to provide for the good health, financial prosperity, or the prevention or quick relief from pain or anxiety. I believe that Paul isn't praying for these things because sometimes these prayers are inconsistent with God's purpose and the way He works in the lives of His children. However, Paul is praying for something that God has promised and purposed for His glory and our good.

Paul is praying for the spiritual strengthening of the believer through the power of the Holy Spirit. Christ is in every believer and Paul prays that His dwelling in us might be magnified. Paul is praying for spiritual growth, so that each day God is more evident in our lives and that we are more aware of and devoted to Him.

Paul is also praying that the believer gains continual understanding of the love of God. The love of God is infinite. Exploring the love of God is like exploring the universe. The more we explore the love of God, the more we realize that it has no boundaries and there is so much more left to explore.

These requests of Paul are permanent, never to be removed from his "prayer list". This is because these prayers are never fully answered in this life. We can pray, like Paul, all our lives because these prayers will not be fully answered until we are with Christ in the Kingdom of God. In this life, we never fully grasp the love of God and yet we can pray for it life-long so that we will continue to grow in the grasp of that love everyday of our lives.

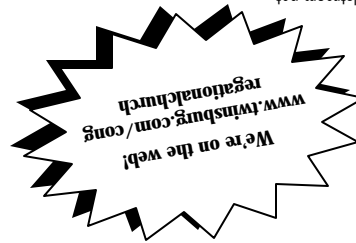
Please join me in praying for the spiritual growth of the First Congregation Church of Twinsburg and that the love of God will be magnified in our hearts.

In Christ

Joel S. Pietrantozzi



Dated Material —  
Please Rush!



We're on the web!  
www.twinsburg.com/congregationalchurch

e-mail: firstcongregational.church@windstream.net

Church: 330-425-2181  
Fax: 330-425-1759

Office Hours:  
Monday through Friday  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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**Come worship with us  
and bring a friend!  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.**

Tower Submissions

Articles for the *Tower* may be e-mailed directly to the church at firstcongregational.church@windstream.net. Hard copies, CD's, or diskettes may be dropped off at the office.

Tower deadlines are posted on the monthly calendar and in the Sunday worship bulletin. For questions, or to be added to or taken off the mailing list, please send an e-mail or call the church office at 330-425-2181.