

MissionMoment

God is still speaking,

“Hands Wide Open”

Lent is a time of spiritual discipline in preparation for the celebration of Easter. At root, penitence, like repentance, involves a turning away from self-reliance to trust in God—a change of mind and life direction evoked by the good news of Jesus Christ. At heart, stewardship is about where we place our trust. It is less about possessions than possessiveness. Our capacity to love is hampered by our need to have. This is an issue of control: How much must I maintain to feel secure? Stewardship is a spiritual discipline that loosens our grip on what we have for the sake of what we love. Loving and trusting God in the spirit of Christ, we live and give more freely and openly, less anxiously, less selfishly, more generously. An ancient rabbi wrote, “We are born with our fists clenched and die with our hands wide open.” The plain facts of life and death confirm God’s will and point to God’s way for us. In effect, we have to find a way to hold onto life with open hands. That is the Lenten discipline of stewardship: learning how to hold what we have less tightly, without clutching, more openly and hopefully—turning toward God, hands open.

Easter Season Schedule of Events

**Please join us for a performance of “Behold! God’s Holy Lamb”
in conjunction with the Solon Community Church choir
here on Sunday, March 18th at 10:30 a.m.**

**Palm Sunday Service will be held here
on Sunday, April 2nd at 10:30 a.m.**

**Maundy Thursday Service will be held here
on Thursday, April 5th at 7:00 p.m.**

**Youth Group Prayer Vigil will be held here
on Friday, April 6th - Time to be announced**

**Good Friday Community Service will be held here
on Friday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m.**

**Sunrise Service will be held here
on Sunday, April 8th at 7:30 a.m.**

**Easter Sunday Service will be held
here on Sunday April 8th at 10:30 a.m.**

LENT HUNGER FAST - Friends/members of the congregation, who are able, are asked to consider fasting for one meal a week during Lent with the cost of that meal put aside as a donation to a hunger center. Hunger center donations given through the church will be distributed to an area hunger center. It is also suggested that the meal time be used as a personal meditation/prayer time. Those unable to fast can certainly participate through meditation/prayer and hunger center donations. Extra donations of non perishable food items for the Emergency Center during Lent could also be an active way to address local hunger.

SOMEONE NEW - Thanks to your gifts to Missions, First Congregational has sponsored a child through Global Ministries since 1993. Our child, Palden Sangpo, having turned 18 in February is now a young man and no longer eligible for sponsorship. However, the church has been given the opportunity to sponsor another child, Tenzin Nonzin, age 11, who is also a resident at the Tibetan Refugee Center (where Palden lives), in Darjeelling, India. A picture of Tenzin and information about her is on the bulletin board at the base of the steps from the narthex. The money we send for sponsorship provides much needed help for schooling, housing, clothing, basic medical care, and extra needs of Tenzin.

BLANKET SUNDAY - Your generous gifts to the special Blanket/Tools of Hope Offering total over \$400 at this time. With additional funds still to come in, and help from non-directed gifts, First Congregational should be able to submit a gift of \$500, which could buy 80 of the Church World Service blankets given during disaster relief. Thanks also for the donations of bedding which will be taken to either the Emergency Center or a shelter.

Lent Should Be More Than a Time of Fasting; It Should Also Be a Time of Feasting

FAST from judging others;
FEAST on Christ indwelling them.

FAST from emphasis on differences;
FEAST on the unity of all life.

FAST from apparent darkness;
FEAST on the reality of light.

FAST from thoughts of illness;
FEAST on the healing power of God.

FAST from words that pollute;
FEAST on phrases that purify.

FAST from discontent;
FEAST on gratitude.

FAST from anger;
FEAST on patience.

FAST from pessimism;
FEAST on optimism.

Don't forget to spring forward! Daylight savings time begins on March 11th this year.



Graduate Information Needed

Christian Ed will honor graduates from high school, technical school, or college on Christian Ed Sunday. Please call, email the office, or leave a note in the Christian Ed box with the graduate's name, school information, and future plans.

Mark These Dates on your Calendar

June 3 - Christian Education Sunday
June 11 - 15 - Vacation Bible School
June 24 - June 30 - Camp Christian for Sr. High
July 8-July 14 - Camp Christian for Jr. High

Youth Group News



The Youth Group met for its annual lock-in on February 3rd-4th. There were 20 youth and 5 adults in attendance. It began with games, then the group made 180 subs, which were delicious. The group was treated to breakfast on Sunday morning by the Boy Scouts. The youth group made a profit of approximately \$200. The youth will now set its sights on planning and preparing for the Easter Sunrise Service.



Women's Fellowship News . . .



Women's Fellowship Luncheon and meeting

Thursday, March 1, 2007

12:00 Noon Pot Luck Luncheon

Bring food to share and table service

President: Lea Bissell

Hostesses: Dorothy Bascombe & Vi Downer

Devotions: Lucille Fiorelli

Program: Tour of Italy
presented by Marti McHugh
She will be presenting
slides of her trip.



FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY...

During Lent, people very often want to spend some extra time in meditation and prayer. Available in the church library are many books offering thoughts for reflection and inspiration. A selection of the books will be featured on the book cart but many others are on the library shelves and include:



THE ART OF LISTENING in which the author, Robert Brizee, portrays listening to others as offering special gifts of reference, patience, awareness, healing, and freedom to those to whom we are listening.

HAVE BREAKFAST WITH GOD AND START YOUR DAY OFF RIGHT provides daily meditations with a combination of scripture, stories, quotes, and other uplifting ingredients to get one going and growing in the right direction.

HOMEMADE HUMBLE PIE AND OTHER SLICES OF LIFE contains memorable stories about people of all ages and walks of life and is designed to warm, enrich your spirit, and inspire a new appreciation for the unique people in your own life.

ORIGINAL SELF by Thomas Moore has fifty meditations to encourage the reader to look within for his/her God-given personality.

ONE WOMAN'S EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY OF THE SOUL - Author Betty Clare Moffatt takes an in-depth look at the soul but does so with a touch of warmth, insight, and humor to encourage people to live lives of joy, compassion, and understanding.

First Congregational Church Relay for Life Team "Footsteps" has begun for 2007. Once again, Betty McKnight has a goal to sell 10,000 candy bars. There will be a Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser on Sunday, April 29th from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. The Relay for Life Rally will be on June 2-3. This year it will begin on Saturday morning and run through Sunday. The next team meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. New members are always welcome. If anyone is interested in joining the team, please contact Marge Roberts at 330-425-4821.



Church Women United
First Congregational Church
March 2nd, 9:30 a.m. Coffee
10:15 a.m. Program
"United Under God's Tent"
Please join us!



*Order your
Easter
Lilies
In memory of
or
honor of*

... and help decorate the Church Sanctuary

Plants are 6 1/2" single stem. They may be taken home after the service on Easter Sunday. Orders are due by March 25th. Same price as last year.

Number of plants: _____ x \$7.50 = _____

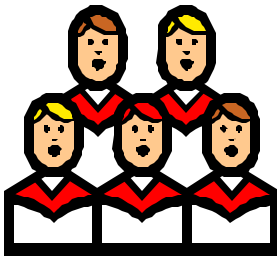
In Memory Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

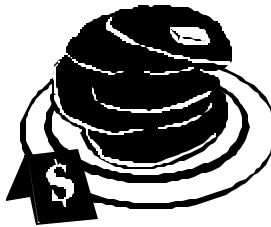
In Honor Of: _____

If you need more room to write, attach the information to this form. Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church, and place order form and payment in the offering plate or drop off at the office.



The Adult Choir will perform a cantata, **Behold! God's Holy Lamb**, with the Adult Choir from the Solon Community Church. Both choirs will perform

at the First Congregational Church on Sunday March 18th during worship. They will then perform at the Solon Community Church on Sunday, March 25th. Please plan to attend. Spread the word and bring a friend. Last was a wonderful performance, and it should be again this year.



The Softball Team will be hosting their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday April 1st. Serving hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to

10:00 a.m., then after worship service until ????. There will be no Coffee Hour on that Sunday. Proceeds will go to pay for softball team fees to play in the league. Watch the Sunday Bulletin and next month's Tower for ticket information. Any questions, please see Roni Prentice or Gayle Davet.



Member News

Thank You!

Happy Birthday to:

Tom Adams

03/04/06

Olivia Dolfi

03/05/06

Luvette Irvin

03/11/06

Jan Cook

03/13/06

Steve Murphy

03/14/06

Alicia Van Gilder

03/17/06

Morgan Murphy

03/18/06

Jonathan Williams

03/19/06

Sharon Beck

03/20/06

Sarah Muir

03/20/06

Robert K. Davet

03/20/06

Mark Holzwarth

03/20/06

Cayla Van Gilder

03/22/06

Isabelle Franks

03/25/06

Bryan Bencie

03/27/06

Natalie Nichols

03/28/06

Kevin Murphey, Sr.

03/30/06

Seth Richner

03/30/06



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers, phone calls and cards since my stay in the hospital. They have lifted my spirit and emotions so much. I am doing better, but still have a way to go. I am at my Pam and Rich's house for in home care, etc. So until I return home and can drive, I will keep you all in my prayers.

Sincerely yours,

Millie Frieling

And we will keep you in our prayers also, Millie.

~~~~~

**Kathy Lessman's  
Piano Student Recital**

Saturday, March 24th,  
1:30 p.m.

in the Church Sanctuary

Refreshments following  
the performances in Fellowship Hall.

~~~~~

If we missed your anniversary, please contact the church office to update our records.

Celebrating An Anniversary This Month

Rich & Terri Bissell 3/22/1980

Jack & Bonnie Mayfield 3/21/1981

If we missed your anniversary, please contact the church office to update our records.



Western Reserve Community Band

10th Annual Spring Concert Tribute to American Music

Come hear your friends and
neighbors perform Sousa,
Gershwin, Satchmo,
Rodgers & Hammerstein
An All American Music Program
Sunday, March 18, 2007
3:00 p.m.

Hudson High School Auditorium
Free Admission

Our own Bob Davet is a member
of this band.

Second Annual Buffalo Stew Dinner

This is a fundraiser for the
Traditional Ojibway Pow-Pow

Saturday, March 24

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Tickets will be available at the door.

Adults \$9.00

Children 12 and under \$5.00

There will be traditional Ojibway
Indian songs played on the drum.

Ever Feel Like You're the Only Mother Who Stays Home?

*You are not alone!
Come meet other at-home mothers
at the MOMS Club!*

The MOMS Club (MOMS Offering Moms Support) is an International nonprofit organization specifically for at-home mothers everywhere! We help you feel good about your decision to stay home with your children and give you the opportunity to share activities with other at-home mothers and their children!

Our local Twinsburg chapter of the MOMS Club has meetings with interesting speakers and discussions, park playdays, age-specific playgroups, babysitting coops, and other activity groups like art 'n crafts and monthly MOMS Night Out (activity groups change according to members' interests). We also perform service projects to help needy children in our community!

Our chapter meets during the day because that's when mothers-at-home need the most support and children are always welcome to come with their mothers to our activities!

For more information please visit our

website: [www.freewebs.com/
momscluboftwinsburg](http://www.freewebs.com/momscluboftwinsburg)

email us: momsclubtwinsburg@yahoo.com

or call: (330) 405-4937

March Schedule

March Servers

- Ken Prentice
- Mike Muir
- Will Adams
- Andrea Bissell
- Kenny Prentice
- Dan Richner - Bread
- Judy Turk - Greeters
- Bonnie Williams - Lay Readers



Communion will be

Sunday, March 4th this month

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

March 04, 2007

Robert Hoyt
Joey Schultz

March 11, 2007

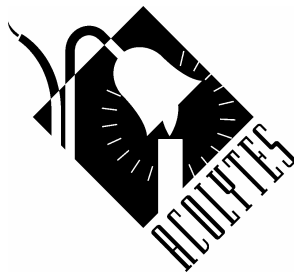
Madison Remick
Mark Holzwarth

March 18, 2007

Gwen Richner
Sophie Keith

March 25, 2007

Austin Roberts
Caitlyn Sheehan



The families of the names in **bold** have Acolyte Coordinator Duty and should light the sticks and assist the acolytes. Please see the instruction sheet posted on the wall next to the sticks.

If you are unable to serve on your assigned week,

please find a replacement and notify the church office of the change.

Thank you!



Scrap Booking Friday

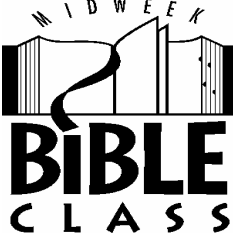
March 16, 2007

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

ATTENDANCE

	Sunday School	Worship Service
Feb. 4 th	n/a	n/a
Feb. 11 th	52	107
Feb. 18 th	34	67
Ash Wednesday		55
Feb. 25 th	39	59

M I D W E E K



Adult Bible Study

meets 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.

Congratulations to Kathleen Roberts. She is the new acolyte coordinator. If you have any questions, please see her, or leave a message in the office. Many thanks to Connie Van Gilder for her many years of service doing this job.

Message from the Moderator:

The Season of Lent

*Psalm 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.*

*2 Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.*

*3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.*

Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of Lent spans 40 days beginning on [Ash Wednesday](#) and climaxing during [Holy Week](#) with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding the Saturday before Easter.

Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead Him to abandon His mission and calling.

Lent is a time to place ourselves humbly before God realizing that we have no righteousness to bring before Him to justify our salvation. It is a time to confess our total inadequacy before God, to strip ourselves of our pride concerning our "godly" pretenses, and to come before God in 'sackcloth and ashes'. Lent is a time to empty ourselves of our rationalizations that prevent us from seeing ourselves as needy creatures, of our "perfectionist" tendencies that allow us to identify the speck in our neighbor's eye but blind us to the beam in our own eye.

Through our penitent prayers, we need to come before God with a new humility that is willing to confess, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner." We need to recognize and respond to God's presence in our lives and in our world and to place our needs, our fears, our failures, our hopes, our very lives in God's hands, again.

This will allow us to hear God in ways that we have not heard Him in a long time and to experience His healing presence in our lives for which we have longed.

In Christ,

Joel S. Pietrantozzi

On the square in Twinsburg
since 1848



**Dated Material —
Please Rush!**



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.