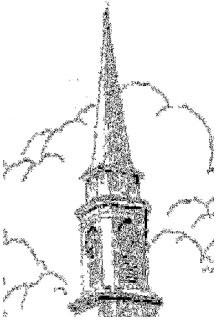


## *Message from the Pastor:*

"Never curse the king, not even in your thoughts; nor the rich man, either; for a little bird will tell them what you've said!"

Ecclesiastes 10:20, from The Living Bible



Dear Friends,

I thought of this verse recently in the light of the controversy over the preaching of The Reverend Jeremiah Wright, pastor of Trinity UCC in Chicago, where Senator Barack Obama has been a member. In this case, the little bird seems to have been the internet.

What I would understand in all this is that, where God is concerned--and curses do involve God, as negative blessings--nothing is private, not even our hearts and our houses of worship. Preaching, worship and congregational life are not just to the choir, but toward the nation, toward the world and toward all. Each of our lives is an expression of how each of us perceives the common life that God has granted to us together; and those whom we curse will hear, for a little bird will tell them.

God bless you!

Pastor Jim Link

On Sunday, April 6, Women's Fellowship will have a bake / no bake sale after the service in Fellowship Hall. The proceeds will be used to benefit the Verna Easley Book Scholarship. Bring your money and help support this worthwhile cause. Women's Fellowship matches the amount that students get from the Verna Easley book fund which is sponsored by Church Women United.

On Wednesday, April 16, Women's Fellowship is sponsoring the "Souper" Supper. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. There will be many varieties of soup to choose from. Everyone is invited to attend. If you have never attended a "Souper Supper", you might wish to give it a try. It is a good chance to get to know other members of the congregation better, and a chance to eat some good food. It is very casual. You don't have to bring anything but yourself. Join us for an evening of good soup and good fellowship.

**July 18th will be the Church Night for the Akron Aeros game.** This is sponsored by the Fellowship Committee. There will be fireworks after the game. Ticket prices are \$7 and will include the fireworks show. We have 30 tickets available. There will be a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall shortly. It will be posted in the bulletin when it becomes available. Mark this date on your calendar!!!

Thanks for the support of the annual Church World Service Blanket Sunday offering in February. An assortment of bedding and blankets were taken to the Emergency Center for distribution locally. Over \$500 was collected and sent to purchase Church World Service blankets and tools for distribution throughout the world where there has been famine, war, and disaster including areas in the U.S. recently experiencing flooding or tornadoes. As always, check the CWS weekly hotline report posted on the Benevolence Bulletin Board or go to [www.churchworldservice.com](http://www.churchworldservice.com) for updates of your gifts at work. Special thanks to the Sunday School classes for their special collections, which will buy ten of the CWS blankets.

Other recent activities involving the Benevolence Committee includes:

- Sponsoring the March soup supper
- Encouraging those who are able to fast a meal once a week during Lent culminating in an all day fast on Good Friday with the cost of the meal put to use by purchasing non-perishable food for the Emergency Center.
- Approving committee goals for 2008 one of which is to try to educate both the committee and the congregation about the work of not only this church but the church in its mission around the world.
- Added to the \$58.28 received at the Week of Prayer Service at FCC to send \$100 to the Stranded Travelers Fund administered by the Ministerial Assn.

The drive for the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering will begin in April with May 4 designated as OGHS Sunday.

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING MAY 4

Coin banks will available early in April for those who like to use them to collect their loose coin for the weeks before May 4 OR to use for the coming year and return on OGHS Sunday next year

Since 1949, the United Church of Christ has joined eight other North American Christian churches to support the One Great Hour of Sharing. Through these funds, the churches work alongside Church World Service, transforming lives in this country and around the world in many ways including:

- Creating sustainable sources of income for rural villages.
- Providing micro-credit to women to start poverty-escaping businesses.
- Teaching trades and job skills to people maimed by landmines.
- Resettling refugees into new lives.
- Helping rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters.

Watch for more OGHS material on the Bulletin Boards and in the weekly worship folder.

### Children's Sermon Schedule

April 2008

- April 6— Gayle Davet
- April 13—Terri Bissell
- April 20—Ariel Bissell
- April 27—Terri Bissell

If there are any changes to this, please let the office know so that it can be correct in the bulletin.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry



During March, the 300<sup>th</sup>. Prayer shawl made by members of the Seeker/ Prayer Shawl Ministry was given away. Although the majority of the shawls are given to offer comfort and warmth, many have also been given in recognition for accomplishments and or a show of gratitude. Founded by Marian Rockney, mother of Annetta Muir, this ministry has been blessed with occasional financial gifts or gifts of yarn that have allowed the ministry to reach out not only to friends/members of this church but wherever there is a need made known to the group. Please advise the church office know if you know of someone who would appreciate a shawl. Anyone, wanting to join the ministry is welcome to join the group on the second or fourth Mondays of each month from 7 to 8 p.m. in the church library. More than just a time to knit or crochet, this is a special hour set aside for sharing, fellowship, and prayer; learners are welcome!

Thank you to everyone for all of your cards, prayers, phone calls and visits. It has meant so very much.

Doris Turnbull and family

**Lockup Trustee for the month of April -  
Connie Van Gilder**

## NEWS from CHRISTIAN ED



### Graduate Information Needed

The Christian Ed committee is in the process of compiling a list of people that will be graduating this spring or summer from high school, college or post-graduate school, so that we may honor their accomplishments on Christian Ed Sunday, June 8. If you or a family member will be graduating this spring / summer semester or this past fall / winter semester, please submit the name of the graduate, the diploma or degree that was earned, the area of study and future plans to any member of the Christian Education committee, or drop it in the folder to the office.

## Women's Fellowship News . . .

Women's Fellowship Luncheon and meeting  
Thursday, April 5, 2007  
12:00 Noon Pot Luck Luncheon  
Bring food to share and table service

**Evening Women's Fellowship**  
The Evening Women's Fellowship group will meet on Monday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The program will be Line Dancing conducted by Elsie Peel. We had such a good time last month that we decided to do it again. Come and join in the fun. No experience necessary.



## Mother's Day Flowers

*In memory of or honor of  
any special woman*

Sponsored by the Fellowship Committee

Please place this order form and your check made payable to the church into the offering plate or drop it off at the office by May 4th. Please note "Mother's Day flowers" on your check. It would be appreciated if you could order early so we can get some idea of how many to order.

**Number of pots:** \_\_\_\_ **x \$12.00 =** \_\_\_\_\_

*In Memory Of:* \_\_\_\_\_

*In Memory Of:* \_\_\_\_\_

*In Honor Of:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Presented By:* \_\_\_\_\_

HAPPY SPRING!



I am so glad to be back at my church. This congregation really knows how to eat. And eat well. It didn't hurt to come back at this time of the year also. First there was the Souper Supper put on by Benevolence. I tried all three of the soups and can't determine which was the best. The kettles looked like they would feed a multitude but I was supposed that the soup was practically gone when you all left. Mary Lou makes that soup she makes for the Bazaar and she left a bit for me to try. Wow!! I noticed Andrea Bennett working there in the kitchen. I hope she left the lid off the sugar so I can get into it.

Then there was the feast on Palm Sunday. I ate at the first seating as I was hungry. The pancakes were so good but I noticed that the coffee was a bit weak. But then someone invited me to eat after church too. I tried to help Ken, Bob, Art and the team but I kept getting in the way. The then the helper, Andrew I think his name is, saw me and grabbed me a piece of sausage. Thanks, guys.

I do have to mention the service that morning. I really enjoyed the choir singing their two numbers. The first one was the best because Kathy played that terrific accompaniment on that thing that thinks it is a piano. She really had me hopping. I hope she does that kind of playing again.

Must go. I have to check what the kids have left me in the way of crumbs on the floor.

The Church Mouse

# Member News

## Happy Birthday to:

Marge Roberts

04/03/08

Judy Eisenberger

04/06/08

Mary Lou Sheller

04/07/08

Wilfred Terrill

04/07/08

Jonathan Murphy

04/08/08

Fred Bissell

04/10/08

Don Bissell

04/11/08

Ariel Bissell

04/14/08

Mike Muir

04/14/08

Nicholas Latonia

04/15/08

Emily Adams

04/17/08

Denise Link

04/18/08

Ashley Bissell

04/22/08

Nicole Clark

04/24/08

Louisa Anderson

04/25/08

Marianne Davet

04/26/08

Allison Williams

04/26/08

Lacy Logan

04/26/08

Jerry Corbett

04/27/08

Gail Reihl

04/30/08

Art Prentice

04/30/08



## Celebrating

*An Anniversary This Month*

Scott & Jeanette Hoyt 4/13/1985

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



Footsteps Fund Raiser  
Annual Pasta Dinner  
Saturday, April 26,  
2008  
Serving from 5:00  
p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

First Congregational Church  
Of Twinsburg

Adults \$8.00  
Kids 10 & under \$4.00  
Kids under 3 eat free!

Sponsored by D'Angelo's Ristorante  
Please make checks payable to:  
American Cancer Society

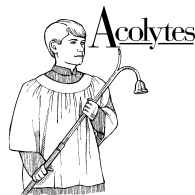
Tickets are available from any Footsteps  
Team member.

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

## ATTENDANCE

	Sunday School	Worship Service
Mar. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	N/A	N/A
Mar. 9 <sup>th</sup>	6	35
Mar. 16 <sup>th</sup>	40	120
Mar. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	N/A	138
Mar 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Sunrise		108

# April Schedule



April 6, 2007  
**Gordon Weiss**  
Emma Link

## April Servers

Bonnie Williams  
Dan Richner  
Rick Sheehan  
Dave Schilling  
Cody Roberts  
Ken Prentice - Bread  
Judy Turk - Greeters  
Dan Richner - Lay Readers



April 13, 2007  
**Jared Verbic**  
Joey Schultz

April 20 2007  
**Robert Hoyt**  
David Schilling

April 27, 2007  
**Doug Verbic**  
Isaac Link

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!

### Communion will be

#### Sunday, April 6th this month

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

**WANTED - Lay Readers** - Every Sunday the Deacons are responsible for having a lay reader in the pulpit to help the Pastor during the service. We are trying to get more people in front of the congregation. Anyone interested in participating, please see a member of Diaconate so that you can get on the schedule. All ages are welcome. There is no pressure, we would just like to get more people involved in the worship service.



## **Knitwitters** **1st Quarter 2008** **Metro Health**

142 Blankets      213 Hats  
98 Pairs of Socks      16 Sweaters

**Cancer Units in Cleveland**  
**delivered by Lynn Homan**  
19 Lap Robes

**Hospice of Western Reserve**  
19 Lap Robes

## **Scrap Booking Friday** **April 18, 2007**

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



# MissionMoment

## God is still speaking,

*Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more -Micah 4:3*

Recently I was deeply honored to interpret at the "Inter-Religious Conference on Article Nine of the Japanese Peace Constitution", organized by the National Christian Council of Japan. Article Nine of the Japanese Constitution renounces war as a means of solving international disputes and prohibits the maintenance of armed forces. This cross-cultural exchange included over 200 people from Japan, India, Korea, China, and America. Muslims, Buddhists, Christians and Hindus all came together, out of a deep commitment to our religious traditions, to affirm a common commitment to protect life. It was a community that declared "No More War!"

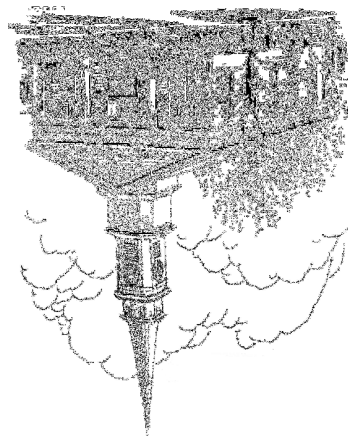
The Japanese constitution is scheduled to be reviewed in 2010, and there is an internal struggle between powerful nationalist political forces who want to do away with Article Nine, and other grassroots people's movements who want to renounce war once and forever. The voices we heard at the conference were the voices of religious people who refuse to stand in despair, and who dream together of an alternative world where people would learn war no more.

One of the closing prayers still stays with me and I share part of it:

O God of love  
Into a chalice, we have poured our stories of the wounds of war  
Into this cup, you have dropped your tears of compassion  
But also your breath, your grace, your power to transform.  
In moments when we dance on the edge of despair  
Help us remember this cup of stories and longing  
And drink strength from new global bonds of solidarity  
Fuel us to be co-authors to break open a new moment in history  
And chart a path to abolish war forever. Amen.

*Jeffrey Mensendiek serves with the Council on Cooperative Mission as Director of the Gakusei (Student) Center in Sendai, Japan.*

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.