



Volume 54
Issue 1
THE TOWER

Message from the Moderator:

Well, this is my final letter as Moderator and I wanted to let all of you know that I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the church these last 2 years. Thank you all of your support, patience and graciousness over the past 2 years as it has been a privilege to serve the faithful saints of The First Congregational Church of Twinsburg.

I was delighted to hear that Will Adams will serve as Moderator and that Carol Zenisek will continue to serve as Co-Moderator. The church will be in good hands with these two long-standing faithful servants that both have experience in serving as Moderator. Please remember Will and Carol in your prayers as they accept this responsibility.

In closing, I will offer a sincere prayer of one of my favorite benedictions,

May the grace of our lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of His Spirit be with you always. May God bless you and keep you, may God's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May God lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

In Christ,

Joel S. Pietrantozzi
Moderator

The First Congregational Church of Twinsburg – United Church of Christ

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Schedule

All services will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 20

Host: Christian Community Fellowship Speaker: Bishop William Smith

Monday, January 21

Host: First Congregational Church Speaker: Rev. Jim Davis

Tuesday, January 22

Host: Faith United Methodist Church Speaker: Rev. Jim Link

Wednesday, January 23

Host: Shepard Road Christian Church Speaker: Rev. Mike Millet

Thursday, January 24

Host: Christ the King Lutheran Church Speaker: Rev. Mike Tralyor

Friday, January 25

Host: The Sanctuary of Praise Speaker: Deacon Vince Belsito

Please plan to join us for these services.

Bits from Benevolence

The Benevolence Committee is grateful for the support given committee projects in the past. A reminder that funds for Benevolence comes from three sources:

–Church budget. These funds are directed to Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM), which supports the work of the UCC at the state, national, and world-wide levels.

–Non-specified funds (noted as missions on giving envelopes), which are the funds directed by members/friends for the committee to disburse and may be used locally through the church’s emergency fund, child sponsorship, disaster relief, etc.

–The four mission offerings of the UCC - One Great Hour of Sharing, Blanket Sunday, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, Christmas Fund, along with special offerings such as for Blanket Sunday, the Stranded Travelers Funds, and disaster relief.

A reminder: Throughout the year, church members/friends can direct monetary gifts through the church for specific causes (i.e. Global Missions, Church World Service, Red Cross, disaster relief, etc); the Benevolence Committee will disburse the funds accordingly.

Continuous collections include:

- used eye glasses, which are reconditioned for use by those in property areas throughout the world. Glasses may be left in the church library.
- non-perishable food-items that are taken to the Emergency Assistance Center for distribution in northern Summit County. Container for items is in hall by the kitchen.
- pop can tabs for Akron City Hospital burn unit. Container for tabs is on the counter in Fellowship Hall.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

As always, this ministry is open to anyone who would like to join, whether or not one knits or crochets. Twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., the group meets in the church library for a time of fellowship, sharing, and prayer.

At this time the group is in need of gift bags for the shawls, If you have any that are large enough for a prayer shawl, the Seekers would appreciate having them. The bags can be plain; there are some young people who like to decorate them. They can be left in the church library.

Don't forget the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27 after worship service. Annual Reports will be available for review the Sunday before. Any questions, please call the office, 330-425-2181.

**Donated to the Metro
Health NICU:**

493	Preemie Hats
347	Crocheted Blankets
152	Pairs of Booties
40	Preemie Sweaters
12	Large Afghans for babies
10	Soft toys—crocheted mini dolls
4	Christening Dresses
8	Tied Quilts

**Donated to the Bone Marrow
Cancer Unit via Lynn Holman:**

14	Lap Robes
	Soft Toys made by Millie Frieling

**USO Service Center
For Soldier's Families:**

7	Tied Quilts
5	Crocheted Baby blankets
117	Soft toys made by Millie Frieling

**Donated to
Dr. Shaw's office:**

159	Preemie Hats
15	Barge Afghans for babies
9	Baby Sweater Sets
5	Tied quilts
16	Children's Stocking Caps
2	Children's Scarves

**Donated to Blessings of Summit
& Portage Counties
(Unwed Mothers Program) :**

21	Receiving Blankets
16	Stocking Caps
5	Sweater Sets
22	Baby Blankets
11	Tied Quilts
2	Scarves

**Donated to the Hospice of
The Western Reserve:**

102	Lap Robes & Afghans
13 pr	Bed socks

These ladies have been busy! Thanks to all of their hard work many people have been blessed with their handiwork.

From the Church Library...

To make the library more "user friendly," the check-out procedure involving signing out items is being eliminated. As a reminder to return items, labels are being placed on the front (when possible) of all church library materials requesting return to the church library. The labeling has been completed! Thanks to Mary Lou Sheller, Nancy Tyson and Andrea Bennett.



WANTED

Kathy Lessman



Thank You!!

Description: Usually Wears a Smile

CAUTION: Heavily

Armed With Kindness...

This Could Be Contagious!

PRIOR CONVICTION:

Thoughtfulness and Generosity

Please Help Me!!! I have been arrested and will be put in jail for the **Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Lock-up**. Don't even bother asking what crime I have committed – it's not really that important. I just have to raise my bail of \$ 1,500 *before* the Lock-Up and they will go easy on me, but I need *your* financial assistance to post my bond. Please lend your support!

Your 100% tax-deductible donation will help MDA continue research into the cause and the possible cure of the 43 neuromuscular diseases they cover. Your support of the **MDA Lock-Up** will also help MDA provide wheelchairs, clinic visits and summer camp for the families served by the Association in our local area.

**I MUST TURN IN ALL MY BAIL MONEY
ON January 16, 2008, SO PLEASE HELP
ME NOW!!!**

I know it is a bad time of year to ask for donations, but this is a very good cause. Please drop your donations off at the office or mail them to the church. I appreciate your help in raising my "bail money". Any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

**Thank you for helping me help MDA....
to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association**

Angel Tree - Thanks from the Youth Group for everyone's support. We received: 12 packages diapers; 13 packages wipes; 3 baby powder; 2 cans formula; 1 baby oil; 2 baby wash; 2 pacifiers; 23 baby bottles; 18 pairs of socks; 17 bibs; 7 crib sheets; 72 hats / gloves; 6 blankets; 14 washcloths & towels; 20 blankets; 5 pajamas; 16 boys/ girls sleepers; 55 Onesies; 16 boys / girls coats; 12 boys / girls outfits and miscellaneous toys.

We also received this via email from Shannon Wolf, Volunteer Coordinator for Pregnancy Care:

I will be sending official thank you's to everyone later, but I just wanted to let you know how appreciative we are of your efforts to help us provide for our families at Christmas.

The items collected at your church were just delivered--what a blessing the generosity of your congregation is to us!

I will be in touch!

Thank you!
Shannon Wolf
Volunteer Coordinator

Life is measured not by the
breaths you take,
but by the moments that
take your breath away.

January Schedules



January 6, 2008
Robert Hoyt
Mark Holzwarth

January 13, 2008
Caitlyn Sheehan
Tara Schilling

January 20, 2008
Jason Powell
Vivian Weiss

January 27, 2008
Isaac Link
Kevin Powell

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!

January Servers

Rick Scheehan

Mike Muir

Will Adams

Kenny Prentice

Dan Richner- Bread

Judy Turk - Greeters

Bonnie Williams - Lay Readers



Communion will be
January 6th this month

Lockup Trustee for the month of January - Ken Prentice

Scrap Booking Friday
January 18, 2007
6:00 p.m.—midnight
in the Fellowship Hall

ATTENDANCE		
Sunday School Worship Service		
Dec. 2 nd	N/A	128
Dec. 9 th	None	115
Dec. 16 th	48	95
Dec. 23 rd	55	100

Evening Women's Fellowship
Monday, January 7, 2008
7:00 p.m.—Fellowship Hall

The presentation will be given
by Judy Richner
"Motif Notation"

This is part of her dance teaching.
Participation is encouraged.
Dress comfortably.

No prior experience is required. Come and experience warm fellowship and a good time.

The Diaconate Committee's next meeting will be held on January 29 at 7:30 p.m. All old and new committee members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions, please see Mike Muir or leave a message with the office.

Member News

Happy
Birthday to:



Mike Geither
01/02

Andrea Bennett 01/02

Katie Delgado 01/05

Brandon Miller 01/06

Peter Weiss 01/07

Bonnie Williams 01/08

Irwin Turnbull 01/09

Jared Verbic 01/11

Terri Bissell 01/11

Gail Herrilko 01/15

Gordon Weiss 01/16

Robert Barbey 01/16

Stewart Lessman 01/17

Jane Gant 01/19

Donna Miller 01/20

Kalem Sokolowski 01/23

Risa Roberson 01/24

Janet Hanzel 01/24

Chloe Wentz 01/26

Audrey Turner 01/26

Rich Bissell 01/28

Joel Pietrantozzi 01/29

Happy
Anniversary
to:



Doris & Irwin Turnbull
01/10/1953

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

NEWS from Youth Group

January Youth Group Schedule

Sunday, January 6, 6:00 p.m. - Sledding
Party at Bissells & rescheduled Christmas
party. Please bring a \$5 gift suitable for a
male or female.

Sunday, January 20, 6:00 p.m. - Meet at
church—Easter planning.

The annual youth group sub sale will start
on January 13 after worship. The sale
will continue through January 27. The
youth group will be "locked in" February
2-3, when they will make the subs and
have them ready to be picked up after
service on February 3. The subs will be
\$4.25 each or 3 / \$12.00. Please help
support the youth. This is one of their big
fund raisers for the year.

**Don't forget the Annual Meeting
on Sunday January 28
after worship service.**

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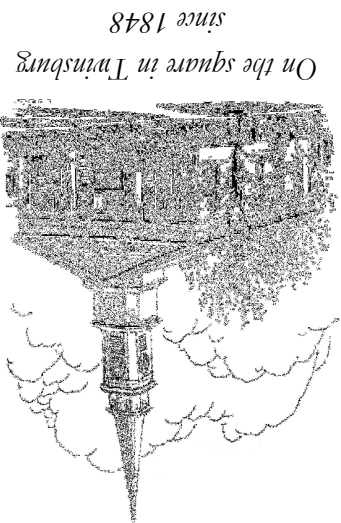
Come worship with us
and bring a friend!
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Tower Submissions

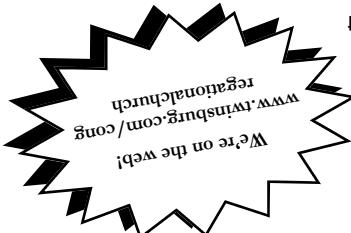
Articles for the *Tower* may sent via e-mail directly to the church at firstcongregational.church@windstream.net. Hard copies, CD's, or diskettes may be dropped off at the office.

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.

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Dated Material—
Please Rush!



e-mail: firstcongregational.church@windstream.net

Church: 330-425-2181
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Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 1p.m.

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