



Message from the Pastor:

GIVING THANKS and THE MINISTRY of HOSPITALITY

A rush of nostalgia and sentiment fill me when November arrives. Homecomings and home making characterized by words like cozy and intimate inspire imagination. I anticipate family gatherings, friends visiting, birds and squirrels eager from my hospitality at the outdoor feeder. It's time to open Grandma's recipe box again with the traditional dishes for this time of year, especially for Thanksgiving.

Childhood memories are strong right now, "Over the river and through the wood to grandfather/mother's house we go." And so we did. A sleigh would have been lovely, but our old Chevy got us there. And, of course, it was worth the ride when Grandma greeted us, wearing the green and white flower patterned apron which tied at her waist, but was pinned at her shoulders. The rest of the family would arrive soon. I could breathe in Thanksgiving dinner long before it was ever on the table.

Thanksgiving fills me with expectation, maybe because Christmas is coming but more significantly, because in my heart of hearts, I know a depth of reality about giving thanks that goes beyond the words to adequately express it. It is like breathing in God's desire that all people know goodness, the joy of shared love in community and abundant life are at the heart of a Ministry of Hospitality.

A little history – Our Pilgrim faith ancestors believed they were being led to a new land, like Moses and the Israelites, where they could worship God without the constraints and persecution of a state church. In Robert Bartlett's book, The Faith of the Pilgrims: An American Heritage, he traces their story to this land with a sojourn in Holland, presenting the details with a scrutiny that leaves little room for sentimentality. No mistake, life was excruciatingly difficult at times filled with dangers, imagined and real. Bartlett offers the original accounts of this people in their own words (i.e. John Robinson, William Bradshaw, Charles Chauncy) and those who followed were convinced that God's hand was in their journey. Indeed, these people survived through God's goodness in sending, not Moses, but the Native American, Squanto, who offered knowledge and wisdom concerning food and shelter that saved a foreign pilgrim people from starvation and death. Our ancestors were welcomed and experienced the hospitality of this first American people.

Remembering our history and early beginnings as a nation, we can celebrate Thanksgiving, offering gifts of life for others too. In a book by David

(continued from page 1)

J. Smith called If the World Were a Village: A Book About the World's People, David helps the reader to understand who we are today in the world. He begins by welcoming us to the global village. He asks us to imagine that the world is a village with 100 people in it. In the section, "Food", he writes: *The smells and sound of the market draw you near. The tables are piled with fresh baked bread, vegetables, tofu and rice...The villagers have many animals...There is no shortage of food in the global village. If all the food were divided equally, everyone would have enough to eat. But the food isn't divided equally. So although there is enough to feed the villagers, not everyone is well fed: 50 people do not have a reliable source of food and are hungry some or all of the time; 20 other people are severely undernourished; 30 people always have enough to eat.*

Sunday, October 26, we have the opportunity to "Imagine a World Free from Hunger" through the Neighbors In Need offering. This offering is part of our Justice and Witness Ministries in the United Church of Christ and is very much connected to a Ministry of Hospitality. May we be generous.

The clergy in Twinsburg and Macedonia invite churches in the area to:

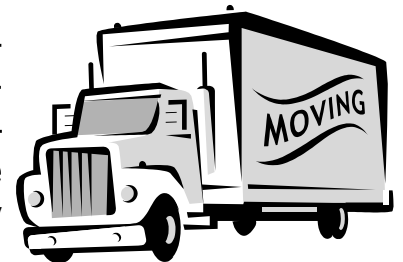
A COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23—6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

At the Church of Christ -1717 East Aurora Road
located on the Twinsburg/Macedonia border

A PERSONAL NOTE

My family and I are pleased to announce that our house in Green Bay has been sold. Our plan is to move into the parsonage here in Twinsburg on Wednesday, November 12. Preparing for this move, I will be in Green Bay November 2-5, returning to Twinsburg the evening of November 6. If there are emergencies, please call Will Adams, Moderator or Kathy Lessman at the church office.



Blessings, Kay Krejci

Evening Women's Fellowship to Meet

The Evening Women's Fellowship will be held on Monday, November 3rd. Our speaker will be Denice Sheehan who will discuss her research project which deals with her Hospice work with young children who were losing their parents to cancer. The parents died within one to 12 weeks after both they and the children had been interviewed. Everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be provided.

In addition to offering “fellowship,” the Women’s Fellowship provides a lot of “behind the scenes” support for First Congregational Church, much of which is taken for granted or not even visible to the congregation. Among the gifts of the fellowship are:

- Keeping the kitchen stocked with beverages (coffee, tea, condiments, punch) paper/plastic products (cups, plates, plastic ware, napkins), etcetera. In addition to Sunday morning coffee hours, this would include the kitchen supplies used at church suppers and other church related activities.
- Cleaning the kitchen – periodically hiring someone to thoroughly clean the kitchen.
- Purchase of tables, chairs, table coverings for fellowship hall.
- Paying for altar flowers on Sundays when flowers have not been paid for otherwise.
- Cleaning the carpeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Purchase of major kitchen equipment – stoves/refrigerators/roasters.
- Matching funds for college students receiving book funds through the Church Women United Verna Easley Book Fund.
- Providing luncheons for families following funerals and or memorial services. Many times donations from the family are received following the luncheons but the total cost is not always covered plus funds are needed up front to purchase necessary food.
- Outreach through support for members of the congregation involved in charitable fund raisers and also to service agencies such as the Battered Women’s Shelter.

The primary source of funds to pay for “gifts” provided by the Fellowship is the annual fall soup luncheon/bake sale and craft fair known as the Yankee Bazaar or Holiday Bazaar and Soup Café, which is scheduled for Saturday, November 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MUCH help in many ways is needed from members/friends of the church to ensure the success of this annual fund raising effort. **PLEASE** consider setting aside some time to support the ongoing funding listed above in one or more of the following ways:

--**Set up**

--**Clean up** – Probably 1 – 1 ½ hours following after 3 p.m.

--**Kitchen** – Baking pumpkin pies (to serve with the soup)

Helping in the kitchen – making sandwiches, serving soup, cleaning up tables, washing dishes.

--**MAKING SOUP** – Many donations and varieties of soups are needed.

--**BAKE SALE** – Any baked goods are welcomed.

--**TRASH OR TREASURE SALE** – Although quite a few items have already been donated, if you have kitchen items or decorating items or children’s toys (**CLEAN AND IN GOOD CONDITION**) they may be brought in November 10 through Nov. 14. Help in this area will be needed prior to the sale to price and set up as well as helping at the sale. Please note that due to space limitations, we can not accept clothing.

--**PURCHASE** raffle tickets.

--**SUPPORT through your attendance and purchases.**

A sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall for any one able and willing to be part of this annual fall event. **THANK YOU!**

You're Invited to the Seventh Annual

Thanksgiving Day Celebration

Nov. 27, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

Church Fellowship Hall

Join us, and bring a friend if you like. We will deliver dinners to those unable to come to us. Please call the office to sign up. If you need a ride, we will pick you up and take you home. Tell anyone you know that would like to join us. Again this year we will need some volunteers to help set up, serve, deliver carry-outs and pick ups. If you could help, please sign up in Fellowship Hall, or call the office.

Thank you, and may God bless.

Rick & Gail Herrilko

330-650-2642 Home

Order your poinsettias... and help decorate the Church Sanctuary

Plants are red, 7 1/2" double stem, red in color. They may be taken home after the service on Christmas Eve. Orders are due by November 25th.

Number of plants: _____ x \$11.50 = _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Please use the back of the form if you need more room to write.
Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church, and place form and payment in the offering plate or drop off at the office.

Thank You!

FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY...



Dear Church Family:

I just wanted to thank you for your generous gift. This semester and next semester I am taking 20 credit yours of classes, and the books really add up. It means so much to me that my church family is supporting me, even when I am away at school. I sincerely appreciate this gift and all of the kind words of encouragement that I receive every time I am home. I love all of you! Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Ashley Bissell

The church library has been blessed to have people wanting to buy or donate books for the library. Some books have also been suggested as possible additions to the library and are listed below if you would like to purchase one. Labels will be placed in books given in memory or honor of someone. ISBN numbers are provided for some of the books. If you decide to purchase one of the books, please advise the church office to prevent duplication. Many, many, thanks!

- The Quiltmaker's Gift* – ISBN 1-57025-199-1.
- The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles – ISBN 0-590-5281-4.
- Mama, Do You Love Me?* by Barbara M. Joose – ISBN 0-87701-759-X.
- Papa, Do You Love Me?* by Barbara M. Joose – ISBN 0-8118-4265-7.
- Young Children and Worship* by Sonja M. Stewart & Jerome W. Berryman – ISBN 0-664-25040-8.
- Following Jesus* – ISBN 0-664-50123-0.
- Let My People Go* – by Patricia McKissik
- More with less Cookbook* by Doris J. Longacre.

First Congregational Church:

Thank you for matching the check for \$50.00 given to me by the Church Women United. It helps me out so much with books that I need to further my education. Thank you again.

Bob Davet

My Church Family:

Thank you for the \$50.00 It helped out a lot when I went to buy some of my books for my classes. Thank you again!

Lisa Davet

Thank you for supporting my participation in the Breast Cancer 3-Day. It was an incredible 60-mile journey and I have so many wonderful memories. I have blisters like I have never seen before, but I have a new appreciation for the determination of people. Because of your generosity, and the support of all of my donors, I raised over \$2600 to help end breast cancer.

Andrea Bissell

Dear First Congregational Church:

Thank you for the check matching the Verna Easley Book fund. It was very thoughtful and will help with my book purchases.

Sincerely,
Heather Hoyt

2008

Yankee Bazaar

November 15th, 2008

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

First Congregational Church of Twinsburg

Homemade Soups & Sandwiches

★ Homemade Soups ★

★ Pies & Desserts ★ Bakery Items ★

★ Crafts ★ Nearly New Shop ★

★ Raffle ★ Pictures with Santa ★

Sponsored by Women's Fellowship First Congregational Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS' ASSISTANTS NEEDED!

Have you ever thought about teaching children with the guidance of an experienced Sunday school teacher? The Christian Education committee invites you to join our group of Sunday school teachers. There are many opportunities throughout the Sunday School program to help with teaching. Please contact Denice Sheehan for more details at 330 405 6676 or denicesheehan@roadrunner.com.

Congratulations!

To Lisa and Aaron Mayer on the birth of their baby girl, Josephine Louise. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 21 " long. Brother Oliver and sister Madeline welcome her with open arms.

To Maggie (Delgado) and Jason Chernick on the birth of their son, Jason, on October 9. Proud Grandparents are Cookie and Bill Delgado.

To Becky Delgado who was baptized on Sunday, October 12. She is the daughter of Cookie and Bill Delgado.

Member News

Happy Birthday to:

Eleanor Sterling

11/01/08

Betty McKnight

11/02/08

Roger Zenisek

11/02/08

Charles Crouse

11/05/08

Tom Holzwarth

11/05/08

Becky Delgado

11/09/08

Isaac Link

11/09/08

Matt Schultz

11/10/08

Marge Heston

11/11/08

Stan Jewell

11/15/08

Robert I. Davet

11/15/08

Lisa Mayer

11/16/08

Grace Fedor

11/16/08

Bob Heston

11/19/08

Bob Hewett

11/20/08

Nancy Tyson

11/25/08

Tony Roberson

11/28/08

Will Adams

11/28/08



Happy Anniversary to:

Ron & Thelma Valentine

11/01/1975

Don & Lea Bissell

11/10/1950

Russ & Colleen Terrill

11/11/1972

Bob & Marge Heston

11/22/1951



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

ATTENDANCE

	Sunday School	Worship Service
Sept 28 th	47	97
Oct 5 th	N/A	99
Oct 12 th	57	104
Oct 19 th	42	102

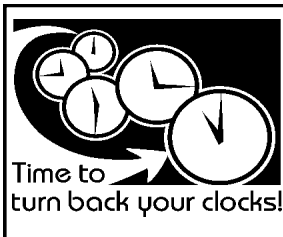


Scrap Booking

Friday,

November 21

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



Daylight Savings Time Ends 2 a.m. Sunday, 11/02/2008

We need names and addresses for members and friends that are unable to get out so that we can remember them during the holidays. Please call the office or drop them off as soon as possible.

**TWINSBURG/MACEDONIA
COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING WORSHIP**

When: November 23rd, 2008 at 6:00 pm

Where: Church of Christ
1717 East Aurora Road

Who: All Twinsburg residents including youth! Youth are welcome and encouraged to come.

Why: To celebrate thanksgiving as a community.

**NEWS from
Youth Group**

The youth group will again be doing a Holiday Collection to benefit Pregnancy Care, an organization to support needy pregnant women and their babies. There will be a wish list available with items that are needed. It will be available the beginning of November and items will need to be returned by November 30th. They will be delivered the first week of December. There will be some specific requests, but the group will happily accept any donations of baby formula, diapers, wipes, blankets, bottles, or new baby clothes, socks, coats, etc. if people want to start watching for sales.

Youth Group Meetings

November 2 6:00 p.m.
November 16 6:00 p.m.
November 30 6:00 p.m.
December 7 6:00 p.m.
December 21—Christmas Party
and Live Nativity



Why I Relay

I Relay for two very strong women in my life, my mom Ruth Prentice and Bob's grandma, Blanche Davies. Both are cancer survivors and both are amazingly strong and were determined to beat their cancer.

I Relay for my family members who lost their battles with cancer. My grandfather, Virgil Bishop, my aunt, Norma Brinkman, Bob's grandfather, Ivan Davet and Bob's cousin Emily Ryan. All of these people were courageous in their fight of this ugly disease, but lost their battles.

I Relay, so that maybe one person, may be cured. I like to think that what little bit I can do to raise funds for Relay for Life, brings us closer every day to a cure.

We are the team called "Footsteps". When I think of our team name, I think of the poem called Footsteps and believe we are making a difference. We are looking for new members to join us with our team efforts for next year's Relay for Life. If you are interested at all, let me know, see someone on our team and join us! I'm looking for some new ideas for fund raising and we can use all the help we can get.

We will be having meetings soon to get started and look forward to anyone joining us. We all have someone in our family or know someone who is fighting or tried to fight cancer – won't you join us in this battle?

Gayle Davet

Communion Servers

Dan Richner
Rick Sheehan
Dave Schilling
Aaron Mayer
Ken Prentice
Judy Turk - Bread
Bonnie Williams - Greeters



**Communion will be
Sunday, November 9th
this month**

Lay Reader's Schedule

November 2—Gwen Richner
November 9—Phil Weiss
November 16—Mike Muir
November 23—Melissa Schilling
November 30—Terri Bissell

Children's Sermon Schedule

November 2— Will Adams
November 9—Joel Pietrantozzi
November 16—Karen Holzwarth
November 23—Gayle Davet
November 30—Ariel Bissell

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

**Lockup Trustee for the
month of November -
Ron Valentine**

Acolytes Schedule

November 2, 2008

Seth Richner
Gordon Weiss

November 9, 2008

Caitlin Sheehan
Anthony Pietrantozzi

November 16, 2008

Mark Holzwarth
Jared Doe

November 23, 2008

Kevin Powell
Todd Downer

November 30, 2008

Kayla Bencie
Jason Powell

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!

Church Women United World Community Day

Friday, November 7th at 9:30 a.m.

St. Mary Catholic Church

340 N. Main., Hudson

Honoring Church Women United's
Most Outstanding Church Woman
from each church.

This year **Gayle Davet** will be
honored from our church.

Please plan to join us.



It's good to be back into the swing of things. I've noticed that the church has a polished look. I saw a group of friends cleaning and working hard the other weekend. I even cleaned out my mouse house. The chandeliers looked especially shiny. It seems that cough drops and gum wrappers were found behind the pew cushions. I guess you all found me out. Now what am I supposed to do if I get a cough?

Oh well, you feed me well. The last Souper Supper was one of the best. The potato soup was indeed super. I had two bowls. I'll have to get the recipe. I hope who ever made it makes it again for the Bazaar. Then I will be sure to come.

Have you found Joel yet? We had the best time with the Youth Group the Sunday we went out to the corn maze. I went with Joel and was that a mistake. We got lost and I was afraid we'd never see the group again. But fortunately I had my GPS with me. Joel, you owe me one.

I surely missed Will's message in the Tower last month. I especially enjoy what he has to say. Will, if you need any help, I am always available.

Congratulations to Gayle Davet for being chosen Outstanding Woman of the Year. I always knew she was and now everyone knows.

Keep feeding me.

The Church Mouse

Thank You!

Dear Congregation:

Thank you for all your cards, phone calls, and meals. Your kindness was appreciated more than words can say. I hope to be back soon.

Love Elsie & Jim Peel

Joan Terrill has moved into her place in Florida. Her new address & phone is:
Joan Terrill
The Tremont
7015 Red Bug Lake Road, Box 318
Oviedo, FL 32765
407-359-0004

Knitwitters
3rd Quarter 2008

Metro Health

79 Blankets	YTD 331
42 Hats	YTD 309
3 Soft Toys	YTD 3

Hospice of Western Reserve

12 Lap Robes	YTD 49
2 Pair Bed Socks	YTD 6

The Giving Connection

Faith is personal but not simply individual—just as being a parent or partner is “personal” but always involves more than “me.” Those who first followed Jesus were not isolated individuals but members of a group of disciples. The church is called “the body of Christ” with different parts that alone would not exist at all. We’re part of a bigger picture. We only become who we are in relationship with others. We find our identity as part of a world larger than ourselves. Our baptismal vows, most church creeds, and the Statement of Faith of the United Church of Christ begin with “we.” We support the United Church of Christ together, as 5,800 congregations, through our giving to Our Church’s Wider Mission. Without each other we are lost to ourselves. This is forgotten amid talk of personal faith as though this were an individual affair. So with giving. This is a personal decision that is more than an individual matter. It shows and confirms our connection with others. And like any relationship that amounts to anything it requires our own emotional investment: the less we give the more we stand to lose. “I’m afraid I’ll be let down!” The only way to avoid getting hurt is not to love—or give—much of anything. If the popular “prosperity gospel” is wrong in promising that greater giving leads to wealth and good fortune, our problem may be more a “scarcity gospel” that ignores what we do get when we give: a better experience of God and one another, a chance to connect with something larger and more important than ourselves, and the discovery that Jesus is right. In giving, even when it’s hard, we receive—more than we thought possible.

One Big Soul

In John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*, Ma Joad is afraid that her son, Tom, could get hurt if he carries on the work of protest and social reform initiated by Jim Casey, a renegade preacher. Overwhelmed by the misery of thousands during the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s, Tom feels he has no choice but to go ahead, risking his life. Responding to his mother, Tom says: “Maybe it’s like Casey says. A fellow ain’t got a soul of his own, just a piece of one big soul that belongs to everybody.” “Then what, Tom?” “Then it don’t matter. I’ll be all around in the dark. I’ll be everywhere, wherever you can look. Whenever there’s a fight so hungry people can eat, I’ll be there. Whenever there’s a cop beatin’ up a guy, I’ll be there. I’ll be in the way guys yell when they’re mad. I’ll be in the way kids laugh when they’re hungry and they know supper’s ready and where people are eatin’ the stuff they raise and livin’ in the houses they build. I’ll be there, too.” Tom Joad was not a regular churchgoer—and Jim Casey not a traditional preacher. Neither were the disciples—and Jesus. Yet from both we get the church which, however imperfectly, expresses the one big soul of God in which we all participate and which Casey, too, calls the Holy Spirit. Through what we give to the church, the power and love of this spirit becomes real for others, beginning right where we are, forming and inspiring us through worship and education. We may be more polite and traditional than Tom Joad and Jim Casey, but our giving as well is meant to say, “I’ll be there, too.”

“The world of the generous gets larger and larger.” Proverbs 11:24

Here we are again, looking back at a year almost past and we're sneaking up on the time set aside for giving thanks. How many of us think that it's purely coincidence that we begin our stewardship drive in time do finish before thanksgiving? Well, I have chosen things to wonder about and that just isn't one of them.

Many of you may have heard that Carol and I have been meeting with some folks in leadership positions at other UCC churches in our area. They group is comprised of people from the Solon church and the Bainbridge church, and we are certainly anxious to have more churches join us. What are we meeting about? We're meeting to talk about the problems that face each of us as older congregations. Each church is facing it's own budget deficit, none of us are having trouble making room for all the new members at worship, or having to turn down folks volunteering to sit on committees. With topics like these for discussion one might think that we are having somber and even dreary meetings, one might think that, but then one would be wrong.

We've chosen amongst ourselves not to dwell on how or why we got where we are, we have chosen instead to recognize the challenges which lay ahead for what they are, and work out new ways to face them. We've got some ideas springing around in our heads and we're starting to make some plans for some joint events. The best part of the whole thing is that we are just a group of like minded folks who have been drawn together. We may become an official body some day but I certainly hope not. We can get a lot more accomplished if we don't.

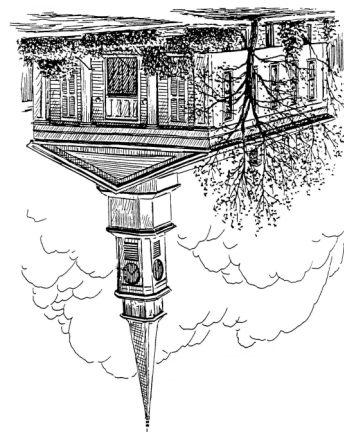
Let's all try to remember to take a few minutes a few times this month and just say a quick prayer of thanks. We'll all gather around a huge meal with family and friends late in the month and have the official holiday, complete with family tiffs and football controversy. So I would like to encourage each of you to take just a moment when you think of it to say thanks to God. Thanks, just thanks. Each of us who is a parent remember how quickly we taught our children "Thank You", and "Please", the magic words. How often do we thank a co-worker for an e-mail, or handing us a tool or anything. We put great stock into thank you notes and cards, and making sure they're sent out in a timely fashion. So thinking about that, lets take just a few moments, a few times during this month of thanksgiving and give thanks to Him, the One who has given us everything.

God Bless
Will

“Souper” Suppers are Back!

The “souper” suppers have begun again. They began with Fellowship Committee sponsoring the one in October. Each month there will be a supper held at 6:00 pm before the Council meeting. The supper consists of soups and bread. Each month a different committee will sponsor the supper. Plan on joining the fellowship and stay for the Council meeting.

On the square in Twinsburg
since 1848



Dated Material—
Please Rush!



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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.