



Holy Week Schedule of Events

April 5 - Palm Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.

**April 9 - Maundy Thursday Worship
and Holy Communion - 7:00 p.m.**

April 10 - Good Friday Youth Group Prayer Vigil - 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

- Good Friday Worship 12 - 1 p.m. - Twinsburg Ministerium

**April 12 - EASTER "Sonrise" - Youth Lead in Worship and
Holy Communion - 7:30 a.m.**

**Followed by a Continental Breakfast, an Easter Egg Hunt
for young children, and Sunday School. Please check with
your teacher for details.**

- EASTER FESTIVAL of Worship and Holy Communion - 10:30 a.m.

**Please be sure to pick up your Easter Lily after the service
on Sunday, April 12.**

HOLY WEEK begins with **PALM SUNDAY**, this Sunday, April 5. We will remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Palms will be distributed in worship. Beginning Palm Sunday, April 5, "Welcome Visitor Bags" will be available in the narthex. Thanks to Peggy Davis-Griffin, Kathy Lessman, the Deacons and the Scrapbookers for getting these together. The Softball team is serving a Pancake Breakfast/brunch (before or after worship).

Maundy Thursday, April 9, we gather for worship at 7:00 p.m. On this night so long ago, Jesus shared a Passover meal with his disciples. We remember, sharing bread and wine together, guests at the Lord's Table, the most sacred of Christian practices. And then, we tell the story through The Service of Tenebrae. "Tenebrae" is Latin for "shadows". Scripture is read, hymns are sung, and candles extinguished symbolizing Christ's death. The light does return. Come be part of this dramatic way of telling the story.

Good Friday, April 10, the Youth Group provides resources for a **prayer vigil from 9:30-11:30 a.m.** From **12 noon to 1:00 p.m.**, The Twinsburg Ministerium will lead **worship in our sanctuary**. PLEASE NOTE, this is a change in time from last year. Worship is at 12 noon, not at 7:00 p.m.

EASTER is APRIL 12. The Son-rise, youth led, worship begins at 7:30 a.m. A light breakfast is served from 8:30-9:00 a.m. and an Easter Egg Hunt is planned at the same time. At 10:30 a.m., come and celebrate the resurrection in an Easter Festival of Worship and Holy Communion.

Last night (March 25), the Church Council welcomed Charlene J. Smith from the United Church of Christ national office. She is Minister of Evangelism for Church Development, Renewal and Vitality. We asked her to help us discover and describe our vision for ministry here at First Congregational Church. A vision helps in guiding our Church Council and committees in naming goals and plans which support the mission of this church. A vision is a clear, shared compelling picture of a desired future. The next step is writing a mission statement, describing why we exist.

Ready, Set, Grow is the process. The process includes getting to know each other, prayer and Bible study. Each stage in the process has questions to ponder and work in small groups involving as many church members as can gather. Ms. Smith reminded us that this process takes time and we can trust that God is with us. It was a thoughtful and stimulating evening. We have asked Ms. Smith to return to work with the Church Council in taking the first step.

Certainly, as we anticipate Easter, "Ready, Set, Grow" can help us celebrate the Easter Good News. Also with Peggy and Kathy's help, the Stewardship Committee is developing a listing of the many ways people can participate in the life and ministry of First Congregational Church.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Day to day living is filled with so many little things like laundry and dirty dishes, groceries and cleaning office work and deadlines. Sometimes I get stuck in the little things. Today, I find myself staring at the stapler on my desk.

STAPLES

HOLD THINGS TOGETHER

THEY DON'T JUST PASS THROUGH

THEY PUNCTURE THROUGH A RESISTANCE

AND THEN

FOLD TO EMBRACE.

BREAD IS A STAPLE.

Staples hold things together.

Jesus said, "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE".

Sometimes little things yield big surprises!

HOLY COMMUNION IS SERVED MAUNDY THURSDAY AND AT BOTH EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES.

Blessings

Kay

LENTEN FAST – For those persons who have been participating in the one-meal-a-week fast during Lent, a final day fast (breakfast and lunch) is suggested for Good Friday and, if your schedule permits, spending the morning in prayer and meditation at the Youth Group Good Friday prayer vigil. A special gift of food items placed in the Emergency Center donation box on Good Friday is a positive way to activate your fasting efforts. As always, be sure to drink fluids during the fasting period.

CLEVELAND CHRISTIAN HOME WALK/RUN – Due to mainly the timing (the Saturday before Easter), we will not be participating in this annual event at the Cleveland Zoo on April 11 as a church activity. However, information is posted on the bulletin board for anyone able to participate as individuals or as a family activity in this worthwhile fundraiser for a deserving institution.

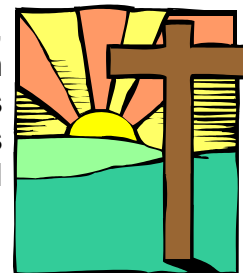
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING—Following World War II, a number of Protestant denominations made appeals for relief and reconstruction and by 1949 combined efforts for a joint appeal. In 1950, the title “One Great Hour of Sharing” was used for the first time. Currently, there are nine denominations (including the United Church of Christ) participating in this offering and working with Church World Service and overseas partners to make the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disasters, conflict, or severe economic hardship.

MAY 17 has been designated as One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday for First Congregational Church of Twinsburg. This annual drive, one of four special offerings in which we participate, will begin **April 19**. The theme this year is “*Where is Your Treasure?*” and coin banks will be distributed that Sunday. Two possible uses for the banks are to either use the bank to collect loose coin and return it on May 17 or use the bank for the coming year and return it on OGHS Sunday next year.

BLANKET SUNDAY RESULTS – Thanks to YOUR generosity with Blanket Sunday donations and non-directed Benevolence funds, \$600. was sent to Church World Service to help in their work throughout the world. Also, the following items were collected and taken to the Emergency Center: 10 blankets/quilts; 31 sheets, 27 pillowcases.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS - Thanks to all who responded to the request from Church Women United for Church World Service school supply kit items. The final tally of the items collected during March at First Congregational will be announced in next months Tower. A special thanks to the women who made the bags for the kits!

The Youth Group will be hosting its annual Prayer Vigil on Good Friday, April 10, 2009 from 9:30 am – 11:30 am. The Prayer Vigil is a time of prayer, meditation and reflection on the atoning work of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Booklets will be made available that contain Scripture and stories for reading during this time of contemplation. Music will accompany the event. All are invited to attend and join our Youth Group in preparing our hearts and minds for the Easter holiday.



The Youth Group will be hosting an Easter Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009 at 7:30 am. The Youth Group will lead the entire service that will include hymns, prayer, children's sermon, mini-sermons, a skit, and communion. Please come and watch our Youth lead us in this most important service on Easter. Immediately following the service will be a Continental Breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt for our little ones (chicks). Please check with your Sunday School teacher to see if your class will be meeting that day.



The Softball Team will be hosting their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday April 5th. Serving hours will

be from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., then after worship service until 1:00 p.m. There will be no Coffee Hour on that Sunday. Proceeds will go to pay for the softball team fees to play in the league. Tickets will be available at the door.

Adults - \$5.00;
children 10 and under - \$3.00. Any questions, please see Roni Prentice or Gayle Davet.



Women's Fellowship News . . .

Women's Fellowship Luncheon and meeting

Thursday, April 2, 2009

12:00 Noon Pot Luck Luncheon

Bring food to share and table service
This will be a combined luncheon with Knitwitters. The program will be presented by Jeannette Abbel from Blessings of Summit and Portage Counties. Don't forget about the Spring Fashion Show to be held on May 17, 2009.

Evening Women's Fellowship

The Evening Women's Fellowship group will meet on Monday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The program will be a travelogue on South Africa hosted by Carol Zenisek. She will discuss her recent trip to South Africa. Everyone is welcome to attend.

July 17th 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!!!

I changed my mind about going on a diet. First there was the pancake breakfast. Those boy Scouts are very good cooks. We are lucky to have so many of them at our church. Maybe I will take a break from church this spring and go on one of their campouts. I've always wondered what they do when they go camping.



Then there was the spaghetti dinner. The spaghetti was delicious, and so were the salads and desserts. It was as good as the last spaghetti dinner. This time instead of helping serve meatballs, I helped Bonnie collect tickets. Did anybody hear me cheering when Marge Heston won the blanket? I know she'll find it warm and comfy. (I did.)

It was so much fun to have the chime choir in church again. I always enjoy their playing. I wonder if Chrissy would let me play the littlest chime? Kayla Bensie is singing in choir so now we have two youth in choir. In a few weeks my little mousekins can join the choir, too. They know all of the hymns in the little hymnal already.

I watched a movie called "The Whale Rider" with the confirmation class. Tara, Justin, Robert, Doug, and Joey were there. I was so fascinated I didn't notice Joey coming in. I almost got stepped on! It's not your fault, Joey; I'm much smaller than a whale. Next time I will find a better spot.

I do have one complaint. Little snacks are OK for children's sermon but snakes should not be allowed in church!

The Church Mouse

NEWS from CHRISTIAN ED

The Christian Ed Committee has been busy planning, creative ways for kids to worship, create, play and sing! How might we accomplish this, you ask? Through Vacation Bible School – That is our task! We searched far and wide for a VBS theme that's fresh & fun, and puts on a really cool show, where kids will hear stories of those who teamed up with God and learn that God's with them wherever they *GO!*

Kids will be given a Bible Challenge each day which they will be encouraged to carry out in ways they choose. We'll give you a few hints and see if you can guess by our thought provoking and cleverly prepared clues. So, whether it is Bob Barker saying, "Come on down!" on the Price is Right, or the turning of letters on the Wheel of Fortune by Vanna White, or Regis Philbin asking the famous question, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?", or someone exclaiming 'Deal or No Deal' to Howie Mandel, you can guess at what we are hinting by now, you surely must know, 2009 's theme for Vacation Bible School is 'Studio GO! Game Show!'

We're looking for volunteers AND participants since you're guaranteed to have a ball, run, don't walk to sign up on the sheet located in Fellowship Hall! If interested, please contact any Christian Education Committee Member or Debbie Dolfi in person, by phone at 330.405.6916, or via e-mail at deborah_dolfi@yahoo.com. Volunteers are needed for the following: A Leader, Teachers; Snack Preparation/Kitchen Help; Crafts; Science Projects; Music, Games; Activities; Mission; and Decorating.

Western Reserve Community Band

12th Annual Spring Concert

Sunday - April 5, 2009 - 3:00 p.m.

Hudson Middle School Auditorium

FESTA ITALIANO

Special Guest Performances By

Piccolo Soloists Erika Federmann and Sarah Manka

Guest Conductor Ed Wiles from Western Reserve Academy

Come hear your friends and neighbors perform:

Florentiner March • Venetian Masters Suite • William Tell Overture
Pines of Rome • Nessun Dorma from Turandot • Vivaldi Concerto for 2 Piccolos
Inglesina • Grand March from Aida • Viva Italia
• Great Themes from Great Italian Movies
Selections from A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum
• Parade of the Charioteers
Cantus Jubliante • My Kind of Towns

Free Admission

WRCB is offered through Hudson Community Education & Recreation

For More Information Call 330 656-5113 or 330 467-7528

Email: wrcband@windstream.net Website: westernreserveband.org

**This concert made possible in part by the generous support of our
Individual Donors, Corporate Sponsors, Agency and Foundation Grants**



A NATIONAL PHILANTHROPIC TRUST PROJECT

Presented by **Energizer**

Yes, I'm doing it again - I signed up for the 2009 Breast Cancer 3-Day! I had such an incredible experience doing the 3-Day last year that I'm going back for more. I'm so excited about this event, even though this year I really know what I've gotten myself into.

This event isn't easy, but I promise you, I wouldn't be doing it if I didn't believe 100% that it was worth every muscle ache, weary night and training walk!

I need your help. I am planning on surpassing the amount that you - my friends and family - gave so generously last time around to help fight breast cancer.

Like so many of you my life has been touched by cancer in many ways. Family members, friends, and family of friends have all struggled through this disease or another form of cancer. I am walking for all of those people and for the future in the hopes that we can find a cure. It would be a wonderful day when cancer no longer was such a horrifying diagnosis. I love all of you that have fought cancer this walk in is your honor!

I know times are tough so ANY help is appreciated. If you can help me by forwarding this message on to someone you know I would greatly appreciate it.

Just follow the link to visit my personal fundraising page and make a donation.

http://www.the3day.org/site/TR/Walk/WashingtonDCEvent?px=2827956&pg=personal&fr_id=1303

If you have any questions or want to hear more about what I'm doing, I love talking about the event. Thanks for all of your support. I'm incredibly lucky to have people like you in my life!

Love,

Andrea

P.S. Don't wait - donate today! (But if you need more time please take it...and check out the spread payment option on the donation page).

P.P.S. Spread the word!

Happy Birthday to:

Marge Roberts

04/03/09

Judy Eisenberger

04/06/09

Mary Lou Sheller

04/07/09

Jonathan Murphy

04/08/09

Fred Bissell

04/10/09

Don Bissell

04/11/09

Ariel Bissell

04/14/09

Mike Muir

04/14/09

Nicholas Latonia

04/15/09

Emily Hoy

04/17/09

Denise Link

04/18/09

Ashley Bissell

04/22/09

Nicole Clark

04/24/09

Louisa Anderson

04/25/09

Marianne Davet

04/26/09

Allison Williams

04/26/09

Lacy Logan

04/26/09

Jerry Corbett

04/27/09

Gail Reihl

04/30/09

Art Prentice

04/30/09



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.

Congratulations!

Jessica Franckowiak and Bryan Barnes were united in holy matrimony on February 28, 2009 at the church. Bryan is Chloe Wentz' grandson. It was a beautiful service.

FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY...

Our church library is fortunate to have a nice assortment of inspirational and devotional books for all ages in its collection. During this season of Easter, especially Holy Week, you are encouraged to take out a book or books and spend some time in quiet meditation either in the library or at home. A selection of these books will be on the library cart; others can be located by category on the library shelves.



GOOD NEWS!!!!!!!

We received good news today from Lucille Fiorelli regarding Azibanato C. Emiete. He is able to get out of bed and walk on his own. He is able to talk and partially use his hands. He is very grateful for everyone's prayers on his behalf. Please continue to keep him, his family, doctors and caregivers in your prayers.

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

April Schedule

April Servers

- Dan Richner
- Karen Powell
- Dave Schilling
- Aaron Mayer
- Lynn Schmidt
- Diane Powell - Bread
- Ken Prentice - Greeters
- Judy Turk - Lay Readers



Communion will be

Maundy Thursday, April 9th and
Easter Sunday, April 12th this month

Lay Reader's Schedule

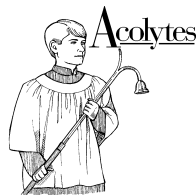
- April 5—Kathy Lessman
- April 12—Rick Sheehan
- April 19—Gwen Richner
- April 26—Gayle Davet

Children's Sermon Schedule

- April 5— Ariel Bissell
- April 12—Will Adams
- April 19—Joel Pietrantozzi
- April 26—Denice Sheehan

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 April -
Bob Davet**



April 5, 2009
Kayla Bensie
Jason Powell

April 12, 2009
Seth Richner
Gordon Weiss

April 19, 2009
Jared Verbic
Brad Verbic

April 26, 2007
Brianna Pratt
Mark Holzwarth

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!

ATTENDANCE		
	Sunday School	Worship Service
Mar. 1 st	N/A	122
Mar. 8 th	24	103
Mar. 15 th	46	107
Mar. 22 nd	N/A	111

Scrap Booking Friday

April 17, 2009

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

It was about a month ago that I heard Dick Goddard say that spring had sprung in Key West and was working it's way north. I trust Mr. Goddard, he's been at his trade here in the Cleveland area for quite some time. There is a whole generation who can't remember a time when he wasn't reporting the weather on TV. I am not one of that generation, I actually remember him as a fresh faced new kid. Even though I trust Dick, my Margie and I decided to go to Key West and see if spring was there. We were too late, spring had left the Keys and was working its way north. We found apple trees in blossom around Columbia, South Carolina, spring must be on its way.

This time of year always makes me think about those few moments at the theater right after the house lights go down, but before anything happens on stage. It's too dark to read the playbill, the orchestra has stopped tuning, and we're all waiting. In the next few moments, the trees will start to show buds, the daffodils will bloom, and spring will begin in earnest. The birds are already playing the overture, the curtain is about to open, and we'll say goodbye to another long, long cold winter.

Just as we watch God renew our corner of the planet we look forward to a renewal of our life and faith as Christians as we prepare to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection. I don't think it's any great coincidence at all.

We had a great council meeting this month, Charlene J. Smith, of the UCC national offices joined us to introduce us to a revitalization process. I haven't yet processed enough of the wealth of information I gained tonight to be able to discuss it intelligently, but she made some really good points, and I would like to have her return to help us look more deeply into the program.

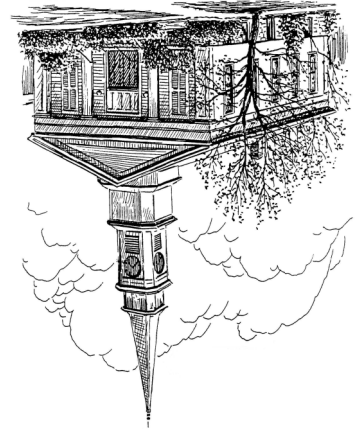
Thanks to all committees for making your written reports for this months meeting available so we could give Ms. Smith our complete time and attention. We will have our April meeting as schedule on 15 April, at 7 pm as requested by the majority of council. This date happens to fall on the Wednesday after Easter, it doesn't appear we'll lose but two council members to spring break vacations. We still need someone to provide soup before the meeting, Mary Lou and I have volunteered, but we could use a couple more soups and some desserts. Just let me know if you're moved to help out.

Be sure to look else where in the Tower for the calendar of Holy week worship, and if you run out of things to do, hug somebody.

God Bless,

Will

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.



SUNDAY MAY 17, 2009

Women's Fellowship will be hosting

FROM HOUSE DRESSES TO BRIDAL GOWNS Fashion Thru The Years

**Vintage Fashion Show at 2:00 p.m.
followed by a delectable Ladies Tea**

\$6.00 for adults

\$4.00 for children 12 and under

***So gather your Moms, Daughters, Grandmothers, Granddaughters,
Aunts, Cousins, Friends and Neighbors
to joins us for a delightful afternoon of memories,
friendship, fun and tasty treats!***



Seating is Limited

**Tickets available during Coffee Hour or
Call Liz Murch (330-425-8393)
or the Church Office(330-425-2181)
For Reservations**