



Message from the Pastor:

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sometimes I wonder where to begin in this newsletter article. The Stewardship Committee has reminded me of a good starting place. The theme for this year's stewardship emphasis is **God is still giving...** What can this mean?

We have been blessed with applicant Dan Barber's accepting the organist/accompanist position (see more on page 8). We have been blessed with Kathy Lessman's steadfast love and commitment to this congregation in her willingness to serve as organist while the Music Committee searched. We are blessed in the Seeker's Prayer Shawl ministry, their having given away 400 shawls. We are blessed in our teaching and youth staff; in the fresh appearance of our building with the recent painting; with the new voices in the choir; with the anticipated return of the soup suppers. We are grateful for those among us who walk in solidarity with those who seek healing; those who care about our church members learning better each others' names; who help maintain the church building's cleanliness; who plant flowers; who prepare and share food; who participate in worship leadership; and the list goes on...

Again, an outsider might ask, "How does this list relate to "God is still giving"? I believe that it is in our life together that we most readily see God acting in our lives and in the world. When we act as the Body of Christ, new possibilities emerge. Hope for a better way, for a fuller life becomes reality even in the midst of some chaos and evil. The listing above is a taste of the full meal deal. October 4, we celebrate World Communion Sunday (the full meal deal) and the beginning of discovering our Neighbors in Need this year. Sometimes those neighbors are down the street. Sometimes they live in another state. Sometimes they are us. Please read the Benevolence article, OCTOBER: NEIGHBOR AWARENESS MONTH. We are being challenged to be good neighbors as we discover ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts God has given to us.

New Members Gathering – If you are considering church membership, October 4 and 11 are dates planned to help you in making that decision. (Your attendance does not obligate you to join now.) You will meet members from the church's working committees. They will describe their purpose and ways individuals can take part. We plan to discuss theology, beliefs and practices in this church specifically and the United Church of Christ. Following worship on these Sundays, the gathering will meet in the church library for an hour, with the Deacons serving a hearty snack. October 25 new members will be received in the 10:30 a.m. worship.

Blessings,
Kay Krejci

OCTOBER: NEIGHBOR AWARENESS MONTH

Expanding the annual Neighbors in Need offering scheduled for October 18, the Benevolence Committee has designated October as Neighbors Awareness Month. Friends/Members of First Congregational Church are encouraged to consider **who** is their neighbor, **how** we as individuals and as a congregation are practicing being good neighbors, and consider new ways to reach out as neighbors.

Examples of the congregation's current neighborly awareness is the creative efforts of the Knitwitters and Prayer Shawl ministries, collection of non-perishable food items for the Northern Summit County Emergency Center, and maintaining the Friends of the Church emergency fund. Extending a welcome to visitors and inviting people to Sunday School and church is practiced but can always be increased.

Suggestions for additional church neighborliness includes having a signup for persons willing to help church members/friends who may need help with fall chores such as raking leaves and fall yard clean up—watch for more information. Sunday School classes are being asked to create art work illustrating neighbor awareness. These will be posted around the church and be used as worship folder covers on Oct. 18.

YOUR suggestions for more neighbor awareness as a church or as individuals are encouraged and may be left in the church office or placed in the Sunday morning worship folder. Suggestions will be shared on the bulletin board or in the worship folder as space allows.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SUNDAY – OCTOBER 18 – The annual NIN offering supports the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations supported by CAIM along with support provided for an additional 1,000 individuals from tribes who are members on other congregations in the U.S.

Two-thirds of the offering is used by the Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. This would include working on issues such as hate crimes, immigration, voting rights, environmental justice, and health care.

SEEKERS "PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY" - In anticipation and celebration of giving away their 400th. prayer shawl (395 have been distributed at the time this article was submitted), Seekers sponsored coffee hour on Sept. 20. A reminder that the group meets in the church library on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 7 to 8 p.m. Persons who crochet or knit, or want to learn to do either, are invited and urged to join the group.

THANK YOU to the Women's Fellowship for funding the fall mums, which have been planted outside adding color to the exterior of the church. As has been the recent custom of the church, the plantings are in memory of past members of the Women's Fellowship.

It is so good to be back in the swing of things again. I had fun at the kickoff for Christian Ed the other Sunday. I visited all the Sunday School classes and found them good. It seems like all the kids grew a whole lot over the summer. Tom's class is bursting at the seams. Gayle's group really fills up the whole room. I think I'll join Mary Lou's class. It's more my size. Of course, the best thing about the day was the goodies at Fellowship hour.



I certainly enjoyed the music the morning the Miller girls played those big things that looked like tin cans. I couldn't believe how good they sounded. They are just a bit too big for me to try. I thought that Madison and Linden only played the harp. They're good. For the children's sermon Carol gave, I wonder what would have happened if I had been in the bag that the kids put their hands into. That would have been a big surprise. I thought the kids did a good job of guessing.

It's good to see the choir back in their place. I've missed them. I also noticed two new faces, Tara and Claudia. What a great addition. I know that in a week or so we will be getting a new organist. I hear that his name is Dan. It will be fun getting to know him.

I hear by way of the grapevine the Souper Suppers are back. So everything is well with the world.

You're Invited to the Eighth Annual Thanksgiving Day Celebration

**Nov. 26, 2009 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 after November 1 in Fellowship Hall, or call the office.

Thank you, and may God bless.
Rick & Gail Herrilko
330-650-2642 Home

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

There will be a Pot Luck Dinner for the congregation on Sunday, October 11 at 5:00 p.m. There will be a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for what you will be bringing. The sign up sheet will include main dish, side dish, salad and dessert. Please bring your own table service. This will be the kick off for the 2x4's. There is also a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you are interested in joining.

"Souper" suppers are back starting October 21 at 6:00 p.m. Fellowship will be sponsoring the one in October. We will need committees to sponsor the ones in the coming months. Please see Gayle Davet to schedule your committee or leave a message with the office.

Congratulations!

IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO ANNOUNCE MARK HOLZWARTH FROM THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TWINSBURG, AS OUR YOUTH AWARD WINNER FOR THIS YEAR. HIS PARENTS ARE TOM & KAREN HOLZWARTH.

MARK WAS BORN ON MARCH 20, 1996. AS A YOUNG YOUTH FROM OUR CHURCH HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED MANY THINGS. HE WAS OUR FIRST YOUTH READER. HE COULD HARDLY SEE OVER THE PULPIT, BUT WE COULD HEAR HIM VERY DISTINCTLY.

MARK HAS BEEN A GREAT PART OF OUR CHURCH BY BEING INVOLVED WITH ACO-LYTES, GOING TO SUNDAY SCHOOL, & HELPING WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFER-ING. HE SANG IN THE YOUTH CHOIR AND HAS ADVANCED TO THE ADULT CHOIR. HE ATTENDED PILGRIM HILLS CHURCH CAMP THIS PAST SUMMER. MARK ALSO HELPS WITH THE CHURCH SOUND SYSTEM.

MARK AND HIS FATHER HAVE SUNG DUETS TOGETHER THE LAST COUPLE YEARS IN THE SUMMER.

HE ATTENDS CHAMBERLIN JR. HIGH. HE IS VERY MUCH INVOLVED WITH WRES-TLING. HE WORKS OUT AT THE FITNESS CENTER TO BE READY FOR WRESTLING. HE PLAYS AYSO SOCCER IN THE FALL MARK IS ALSO IN PROJECT PLUS AND POWER OF THE PEN. HE IS TAKING 3 HONORS COURSES THIS YEAR. MARK VOLUN-TEERS AT THE LIBRARY. THIS PAST SUMMER HE HELPED RUN THE CHESS CLUB.

HE IS A BIG BROTHER TO TWO SISTERS, VICTORIA & ELEANOR.

HE IS THE APPLE OF HIS GRANDPA ZENISEK'S EYE, WHEN THEY GO SHOOTING CLAY TARGETS TOGETHER.

WE FEEL VERY PROUD OF MARK HOLZWARTH, OUR YOUTH OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER FROM CHURCH WOMEN UNITED!

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED CHILI SUPPER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2009 FROM 4:00—7:00 P.M.

COST IS \$7.00 FOR ADULTS; \$4.00 FOR CHILDREN

THE MENU CONSISTS OF SALAD, CHILI, BREAD, DESSERT AND BEVERAGE.

THIS EVENT HELPS RAISE MONEY FOR
THE VERNA EASLEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

The Western Reserve Christian Church in Hudson is presenting a concert for youth on Saturday, October 10th from 7—9 pm. The praise and worship rock band, Ward 9, will be performing. This is a local group who currently have 2 CD's out and are work- ing on a third CD. The ticket price is \$5.00. The band is raising money for a meeting place for youth that is safe, fun and Christian oriented. Their website, www.ward9.com, has more information regarding this.



Scrap Booking
Friday,
October 16
6:00 p.m.—midnight
in the Fellowship Hall

There was a lot of interest in the “fried pies” from the Amish at the Farmer’s Market. Thanks to Paul Munn for bringing in a recipe for these tasty treats.

- 1 (12-ounce) bag dried peaches
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups water
- 6 canned biscuits, uncooked
- 1 cup flour
- 2 cups cooking oil

In a large saucepan, combine the peaches, sugar, and water. Cook on low heat until the peaches are tender. Drain the peaches. On a lightly floured surface, roll out each biscuit into a thin sheet. Fill each sheet on one side with the peaches. Fold the other side over, and seal it with a fork. Dredge the pies in the flour. Heat the oil in a large skillet, and cook the pies on each side until brown, turning twice. Drain on paper bags. For fried pies with apple filling, substitute dried apples for the peaches. Follow the same directions, but add 1/2 tsp of cinnamon and 1/2 tsp of apple pie spice. Note: when drained on paper towels, the pies have a tendency to stick to the towels.

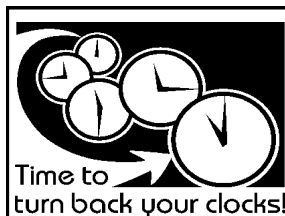
**Lockup Trustee for the
month of October -
Gail Herrilko**

Women’s Fellowship luncheon
and meeting
Thursday, October 2, 2009
12:00 Noon
Pot Luck lunch
Bring food to share and table service

Evening Women’s Fellowship
Will meet at Mavis Winkle’s Restaurant
on Monday, October 5 at
6:00 p.m. All women are invited
to attend.

“Souper” Suppers are Back!

The “souper” suppers will begin again October 21st. 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.



**Daylight
Savings Time
Ends 2 a.m.
Sunday,
11/01/2009**



There will be a Blood-mobile at the church on Tuesday, October 13 from 2:00—7:00 p.m. There is a critical shortage so please plan to give if you are able. You must be at least 18 years old and in good health. Please bring a valid ID.

Member News

Happy Birthday to:

Vera Murphy

10/01/09

Roni Prentice

10/03/09

Donovan Bissell

10/04/09

Lillian Bissell

10/04/09

Jack Williams

10/08/09

Danny Thomas

10/08/09

Aaron Mayer

10/09/09

Jill Sokolowski

10/10/09

Todd Downor, Sr.

10/11/09

Lisa Downor

10/13/09

Robert Hoyt

10/13/09

Joan Terrill

10/14/09

Dottie Oliver

10/15/09

Lucille Fiorelli

10/17/09

Jim Karabec

10/17/09

Loretta Thomas

10/17/09

Carol Hubicsak

10/18/09

Scott Hoyt

10/19/09

Katie Muir

10/19/09

Rusty Roberts

10/21/09

Ken Roddie

10/23/09

Mitzi Karabec

10/24/09

Freda Cutlip

10/25/09

Jim Roberts

10/27/09



Happy Birthday to:

Harold Munn

10/27/09

Robert Mayfield

10/28/09

Justin Doe

10/30/09

Jim Link

10/30/09

Emma Link

10/30/09

Happy Anniversary to:

David & Yvette Schilling

10/10/1992

Jerry & Esther Corbett

10/18/1969

Pat & Richard Barnes

10/20/1973

Todd & Marie Maynard

10/21/2000

Bev & Ron Hegedish

10/28/1950



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

ATTENDANCE

	Sunday School	Worship Service
August 30 st	None	92
Sept 6 th	None	60
Sept 13 th	None	98
Sept 20 th	None	119

October Schedules

Servers—October 2009

Ken Prentice Judy Turk
Rich Bissell Bonnie Williams
Stan Jewell
Dan Richner - Bread

**Communion will be
Sunday, October 4th this month
Communion will be served in the
Sanctuary and the library**

Acolyte Schedule - October 2009

October 4— **Brooke Dolfi**
& Jared Doe

October 11—**Andrew Prentice**
& Jason Powell

October 18—**Peter Weiss**
& Gwen Richner

October 25— **Madelyn Sokolowski**
& David Schilling

Lay Reader's Schedule

October 2009

October 4— Dan Richner
October 11—Dottie Oliver
October 18—Gwen Richner
October 25—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.

Children's Sermon Schedule

October 2009

October 4— Gayle Davet
October 11—Benevolence
October 18—Will Adams
October 25—Tom Holzwarth

***If you are unable to serve as
Lay Reader, Children's Sermon,
or Acolyte on
your assigned week,
please find a replacement and
notify the church office of the
change. Thank you!***

Flower Schedule

October 2009

October 4—
October 11—
October 18—
October 25—

Coffee Hour Schedule

October 2009

October 4—
October 11—
October 18—Benevolence Committee
October 25—

Welcomers Schedule - October 2009

October 4— Dave & Diane Powell October 18—Steve & Carol Doe
October 11—Rick & Denice Sheehan October 25—Ken Prentice & Rich Bissell

Welcome to Our New Organist

The Halloween Party will be held on Sunday, October 25th from 5—7 p.m. Christian Ed and Youth Group are sponsoring this event. Christian Ed will provide drinks and “special” sandwiches. They are asking the congregation for donations of snacks or finger foods to share. There will be a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall indicate what you can bring. If you have any questions, please see Denice Sheehan or Debbie Dolfi, or call the office.

We are excited to announce the addition of Daniel Barber to our music staff. Daniel will be starting October 1, as our new organist/accompanist for our choir and special music. Daniel and his family reside in Cuyahoga Falls and we are happy to welcome him into our church family.

Daniel’s qualifications and accomplishments are very impressive. He holds degrees from Cleveland Music School Settlement, Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, and a doctoral from Indiana University with minors in Musicology and Music Theory.

Daniel’s past teaching experiences were at Indiana University, Illinois State University, Baldwin-Wallace College, Cleveland State University and the list goes on.

Daniel has been recognized by International Who’s Who in Music and Musician’s Directory, Men of Achievement, Who’s Who in American Music, and Personalities on America.

He has also performed in orchestral engagements, recordings, recitals, and given lectures and lecture recitals.

The choir is looking forward to the upcoming year of honoring God through our music and welcoming Daniel to our church family.

There are empty spaces on the Coffee Hour sheet and the Flower Dedication sheet. Please stop by Fellowship Hall and sign up for a Sunday.



Come and join us for the Annual Family Halloween Costume Party

*(Sponsored by Christian Ed
& Youth Group)*

**Sunday, October 25th
from 5 - 7 pm**

Join us for a frightfully
good time!

There will be food, fun and
games for all ages!

We have new large print Bibles that will be dedicated by Memorial Committee on November 15. If anyone would like to dedicated a Bible, you may do so. The cost is \$15. Please make your check out to Memorial Committee and put it in the collection plate along with the name of the person the Bible is dedicated to. Any questions, please see Elsie Peel or call the office.

It's a bit difficult to believe that as I sit here at the keyboard writing for the October Tower, my window is open and I can here crickets and other critters outside. It sure wasn't much of a summer, weather wise, we'll pray for a beautiful Autumn and a mild winter.

Yes winter is right out there so close we can reach without stretching. Soon God will put our part of the planet to sleep so we can plant and sow another year. I'm certainly not a big fan of winter but I'm not going to start whining about it yet, I'll wait. Marge and I are expecting our first load of firewood tomorrow, I'll start whining when I order the second.

There are some great things happening in the life of our Congregation, and I'm not going to try to mention all of them as they will be covered elsewhere, by others.

I will however remind everyone that this is the time of year when we will be asking for a Leadership Development Committee who will begin recruiting members for committees in the coming year. We welcome everyone who is interested, and will be more than happy to explain all the responsibilities and privileges included with committee membership.

Did you happen to notice the choir is back up front where we belong. I'll be the first to admit that I enjoy taking the summer off and sitting in the congregation, but I really enjoy sitting where I can see who's paying attention during the service.

We will be welcoming a new organist very soon. I've not had the pleasure of meeting him yet but I have every confidence in our music committee and in our choir director. I'm sure we'll find we have a new and very talented friend in Mr. Dan Barber.

Did you realize that our prayer shawl ministry has made and given away almost four hundred prayer shawls since they started. Many of these have been given to folks they don't know, and haven't met. I cherish the one they gave me when Tom went to Iraq. I keep it on the back of the couch where I spud, and I pull it over me when I feel nappy, and in the coming months, I'll keep it with me all through the house. It's warm in several ways. First its warm because it's a shawl, and it comes between me and the cold air. It's warm because I know, that whoever actually knitted or crocheted it did so because they cared about me and about my family, and what we were going through. It's warm because it represents God's love, which our wonderful Creator shows us through ourselves and others. On October 11th, we will honor our prayer shawl ministry by bringing our prayer shawls to worship. I'm sure they will have reached the four hundred mark by then.

Also, don't forget, souper suppers will return on October 21st at six o'clock prior to the council meeting.

God's love to you

clousseau

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**Come worship with us
and bring a friend!
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.**

Tower Submissions

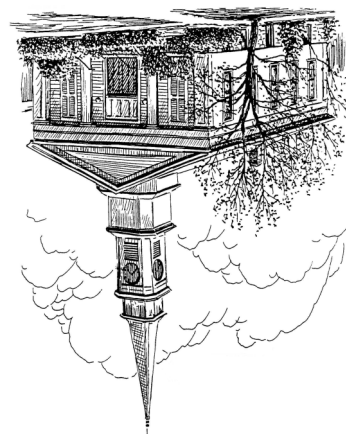
Articles for the *Tower* may be e-mailed directly to the church at firstcongregational.church@windstream.net. Hard copies, CD's, or diskettes may be dropped off at the office.

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.

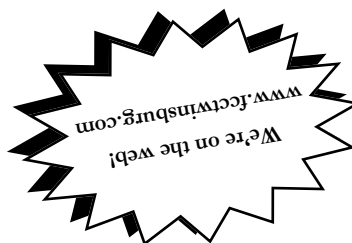
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since 1848

On the square in Twinsburg



**Dated Material—
Please Rush!**



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