



Holy Week Schedule of Events

Sunday, March 28 at 10:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Service
Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, April 2 at 9:30 a.m.	Youth Group Prayer Vigil
Friday, April 2 at 12:00 noon	Good Friday Service
Sunday, April 4 at 7:30 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service
Followed by a Continental Breakfast, an Easter Egg Hunt for young children, and Sunday School. Please check with your teacher for details.	
Sunday April 4 at 10:30 a.m.	The Festival of Easter Sunday Service
Please be sure to pick up your Easter Lily after the service on Sunday, April 4.	

Message from the Pastor:

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Though times have certainly changed since my childhood, as we enter Holy Week, my memories of earlier times resurface. Maybe that's one of the things that happens in our "maturing". We find ourselves remembering more. This remembering reinforces our identity. Though as a child, I didn't understand everything going on in worship, I did feel that I belonged there in the larger church family. I came to know the faith story beyond my cognitive ability to express it. It was part of me and my family. The words of scripture, the hymns of sorrow and hope, the pungent scent of lilies on Easter morning, and the gathering of the church family in celebration of a love beyond human imagination, makes worshipping this God we know in Jesus Christ an essential part of who we are.

It is my hope for our church family that we are so transformed in this season through Christ's love that we are drawn together celebrating the gift of new life for all people. Easter is the central celebration of the faith. There is no Christian faith without Easter. So it is very important to know the story, share our doubts and faith, and rejoice in the hope that makes life not merely bearable but abundant.

The whole story is important. We cannot grasp the meaning of Easter without living the days preceding it. The richness of joy that is Easter is connected to the depth of sorrow that we share in Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Certainly by the time our children are in Second Grade, they need to be part of this whole story. Remember the worship opportunities on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

(Contd on Page 2)

HOLY WEEK begins with **PALM SUNDAY**, last Sunday, **March 28**. We remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Palms are distributed in worship. New Members are received. See more about them on page 5. The Softball team serves a Pancake Breakfast/brunch.

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 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 shared bread and wine together, guests at the Lord's Table, sharing together in 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 2, 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 Ministerial Association will lead **worship in our sanctuary.**

EASTER is APRIL 4. 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.

Euclid Ave Church - Many of you have seen the pictures on television news of the burning Euclid Avenue Church. Built in 1843, the historic building is totally lost. But as Leon Bibb has reminded all of us, "the building is not the church. The people are the church". Curt Ackley, Minister and Executive, Western Reserve Association, writes, "There will no doubt be needs that the congregation surfaces in the days to come. But for right now, one tangible thing folks could do, would be to support them with notes, cards, signs that they are not alone as they come into Easter. SEND TO Euclid Avenue Congregational Church, PO Box 181430, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118. Let's decorate their sanctuary for Easter with signs of our love and support".

Confirmation - During the month of April, the Confirmation Class and their Mentors will be visiting some homebound members in the church and others who have agreed to a visit. This is an opportunity for intergenerational conversation and hearing perspectives about life that can enrich one another. Our Confirmands and their Mentors are: Marissa Charlton with Carol Doe; Madison Miller with Judy Turk; Anthony Pietrantozzi with Rich Bissell; Kevin Powell with Ken Roddie; and Ashley Pratt with Gayle Davet.

Home Communion – During the week following Easter, the Deacons will be offering communion to some homebound members and those who desire this. Please call the church office if you would like to receive at home. 330-425-2181

Blessings,
Kay Krejci

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SUNDAY – APRIL 18 – “Do you love me?”... “Feed my sheep” from John 21:15-17 is the theme for the 2010 OGHS offering. Administered by the UCC Wider Church Ministries, OGHS supports international programs of health, education and agricultural development, relief, and refugee assistance. OGHS provides support to people in more than eighty countries. Coin banks and giving calendars are available in the narthex and Fellowship Hall for those wishing to utilize them as they participate in this giving ministry.

To thank the congregation for its support, the benevolence committee extends a special invitation to all to the “Around the World” Coffee Hour following worship on April 18.

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF – Thank you for the tremendous support for earthquake relief funds. \$1125. has been sent in thus far. A reminder that disaster relief funds may be given at any time through the church and will be recorded as part of your church giving.

NORTHERN SUMMIT COUNTY EMERGENCY CENTER – Thanks also to those who have been faithful in contributing non-perishable food items to the Emergency Center Collection container (located by the entrance to the kitchen). The Center has had a challenging time keeping up with the requests for food recently and is very grateful for the donations from First Congregational.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS GOD DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET – If you haven’t done so yet, pick up one of the few copies still available in Fellowship Hall. Although purchased for Lent, these devotions can be used at any time. The booklet takes one on a journey asking four questions: (1) Where in the world is God? (2) Where is God in my world? (3) Where am I in God’s World, (4) Where is God in His world?

FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY...

FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY...For any one looking for ideas for a new soup to try at home or for the monthly church soup suppers, the book, *Soup Suppers*, has been donated to the church library. The book contains more than 100 main course soups and 40 accompaniments. Another donation, *Best Church Supper Recipes*, has over 500 potluck favorites from which to choose. Be sure to look through these cookbooks when looking for something new to fix for the next potluck or soup supper.



Another recent donation, which is a valuable addition to the “world religions” collection is *“The Everything World’s Religions Book.”* This book offers simplified explanations and comparisons of over fifty beliefs, traditions and cultures of both ancient and contemporary religions. The “world religions” collection will be featured on the library cart after Easter.

Summit County's leading provider of behavior and mental health care treatment and preventions services to children, adults and families is offering

CREATING HAPPINESS

A personal growth group for adults

hap·pi·ness: a state of well-being and contentment : joy

Thursdays, April 8 - May 20

6:00 - 7:30pm

TWINSBURG

Christ the King Lutheran Church

10285 Ravenna Road

Group facilitator: Vera Buk-Bjerre, Ph.D., Psychologist

COST: \$225.00

Participants will: Learn and put in practice techniques to increase personal happiness, discover and develop strengths to achieve important goals, learn to savor the moment and express gratitude.

For more information OR to register,

please call 330-425-7111



Organist, Daniel Barber, will be playing with the Akron Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, May 1 at 8:00 p.m. They will be performing Carmin Burama by Carl Orff.

Meet the New Members!

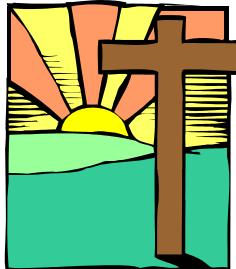
Lynn and Larry Schmidt moved to Ohio in 1996 with their son, Loren. They are transferring their membership from St. Johns, United Church of Christ of Palatine, Illinois. They both enjoy the out-of-doors and have chosen to stay here in NE Ohio during their retirement because of the beauty and the extensive hiking offered along with the world class bird watching, plus the benefit of late 18th / early 19th century history. They both share their enjoyment of travel, concerts, dining, movies and have provided leadership to the Boy Scouts. Lynn's leisure time activities include volunteering as a leader in conversation with English as a Second Language students, decorative craft projects, stamp collecting, cooking and golf. Larry's enjoyments include collecting / research of coins, medieval & Renaissance art, antiques, and volunteering via NE Ohio Economic Development to a software firm.

Stacy Koller, Ashley and Brianna Pratt moved here almost eight years ago from Chicago. Stacy is the Operational Supervisor at the OfficeMax in Stow. Stacy's husband, Ray, is self employed in construction. Ashley is 15 years old and Brianna is 10 years old. They were first brought to the church by friends and loved the welcoming atmosphere here. Stacy loves helping out with VBS and youth group. The family loves to camp and are big Cavalier fans.

Youth Group Holy Week Activities

The Youth Group will be hosting its annual Prayer Vigil on Good Friday, April 2, 2010 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 their annual Easter Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010 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.



There will be a Souper Supper on Wednesday, April 21 at 6:00 p.m. The supper will be hosted by the Women's Fellowship. Council will begin at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to join us for the wonderful soup selections and good fellowship. You are welcome to remain for the Council meeting.



Women's Fellowship News . . .

Women's Fellowship Luncheon
and meeting

Thursday, April 8, 2010

12:00 Noon Pot Luck Luncheon

Bring food to share and table service

Please note the date change
due to the Easter Season

NEWS from CHRISTIAN ED

Thank You!!

VOLUME 56
ISSUE 4
THE TOWER

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 6. 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.

Knitwitter Update

First Quarter Report

To Metro Health - NICU:

Blankets - 55 March

Blankets - 126 Year to Date

Hats - 60 March

Hats - 92 Year to Date

Pairs of Booties - 33 March

Pairs of Booties - 58 Year to Date

Sweaters - 9 Year to Date

To Hospice of Western Reserve:

Lap Robes - 26 March

Bed Socks - 23 March

A big **Thank You** to everyone for their prayers, cards food, phone calls, flowers visits, etc. They all made things easier not only for me but for Geo and the rest of my family. A special thank you to Rev. Kay for your prayers and support.

Marjorie Richner

Thank you to everyone for all of the cards, calls, notes, and prayers during my hospital stays. They mean so very much.

Elsie Peel

Lockup Trustee for the month of April - Gail Herrilko



Scrap Booking Friday

April 16, 2010

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

ATTENDANCE

	Sunday School	Worship Service
Feb. 28 th	28	85
Mar. 7 th	39	103
Mar. 14 th	N/A	102
Mar. 21 st	41	104
Mar. 28	32	111

The Stewardship Committee is presenting a new mission to our entire congregation on things we can do or recognize in our everyday lives by using monthly themes with theological reflection and activities. Being a part of the Church also means being a Steward in our everyday lives. With these articles, we look to bring to you different ways you can be a steward in God's world.

For the month of April we are looking at being stewards to our environment.

God created the earth and all that is in it and declared it good. God's creation is marked by wondrous complexity, interdependence and beauty. Human beings are called by God to care for the earth respectfully for its own sake and so that present and future generations may live on it and enjoy its fruits. The gifts of creation and the responsibility of stewardship were given to all of humanity, so that all might have enough and no one would have more than is needed and God's justice would prevail.

We may ask ourselves as stewards, what can we do to help respect the earth God created for us. Maybe it is to start recycling? Maybe we try to conserve water? There are always ways to make our homes more energy efficient. Perhaps we use energy efficient bulbs in our homes or offices? Maybe take a day to plant a flower or a tree in a park or at our homes? Or maybe we just take a moment to be thankful for the earth God has given us? Maybe we join a cause from www.earthday.org? There are many ways to respect the gift of earth we have been given if we think creatively. These are just a few examples of what we can do.

As we go out into the world everyday, there are things we can do on a daily basis to improve our earth. As we work toward this goal of being stewards to our environment, let the light within reflect outward from you and lead by example.

Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies. - Mother Teresa

Submitted by Kevin Artl
For the Stewardship Committee

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

INSTALLATION OF REV. GEOFFREY BLACK as General Minister and President of the UCC Installation will be Saturday, April 17 at 2:00pm at Federated Church in Chagrin Falls.

DINNER FOR GEOFFREY BLACK: Fund raising and installation dinner on Friday evening, April 16th at Renaissance in downtown Cleveland. The cost of the tickets is high as it is a fund raising event as well as a celebratory dinner. However, EOA and WRA have purchased two tables which will seat 20 individuals. Cost: \$80.00. Due to a very generous gift, we are able to offer discounted tickets to a small number of individuals. Contact Margaret Mills at mmills@wraucc.org if interested.

Happy Birthday to:

Marge Roberts

04/03/10

Judy Eisenberger

04/06/10

Mary Lou Sheller

04/07/10

Jonathan Murphy

04/08/10

Fred Bissell

04/10/10

Campbell Hooper

04/10/10

Evelyn Hooper

04/10/10

Don Bissell

04/11/10

Jim Mansfield

04/13/10

Ariel Bissell

04/14/10

Mike Muir

04/14/10

Nicholas Latonia

04/15/10

Emily Hoy

04/17/10

Denise Link

04/18/10

Ashley Bissell

04/22/10

Nicole Clark

04/24/10

Louisa Anderson

04/25/10

Thelma Valentine

04/25/10

Marianne Davet

04/26/10

Allison Williams

04/26/10

Lacy Logan

04/26/10

Jerry Corbett

04/27/10

Gail Reihl

04/30/10

Art Prentice

04/30/10



Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

Scott & Jeanette Hoyt 4/13/1985

Ken & Giz Roddie 04/19/1969

Kevin & C. C. Artl 04/25/2009

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

PICTURE DIRECTORIES

The Church Council has approved the making of a new picture directory. The directory will be prepared by Olan Mills. They will be handling all family photo sessions directly with each family. The make up date for photo sessions will be Tuesday, April 13 from 3:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. There is a sign up sheet available in Fellowship Hall. Please note this date on your calendar.

Olan Mills representative, Bill Robison, will also be coming by the church photographing various activities as well as Sunday School classes, children and adult choir, coffee hour, etc. He will be here sometime during the month of May. If you have an activity that you would like to be included in the directory, please leave a message with the office.

In Remembrance:

Raymond C. McFall, 77, of Boston Heights, brother of Mabel Price, passed away on Friday, March 12, 2010

Joseph Arthur Dory, 60, of Twinsburg, brother of Michael Dory, passed away on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 .

Servers—April 2010

Russ Griffin Diane Powell
Ken Prentice Bonnie Williams
Rick Herrilko
Lynn Schmidt - Bread

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

Acolyte Schedule - April 2010

April 4— **Todd Downer**
& Sophie Keith

April 11—**Jason Powell**
& Kyla Sokolowski

April 18—**Kala Mansfield**
& Melissa Schilling

April 25— **Andrew Prentice**
& Will Sheehan

Lay Reader's Schedule

April 2010

April 4— Gayle Davet
April 11—Tom Holzwarth
April 18—Gwen Richner
April 25—Kayla Bensie

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

April 2010

April 4— Will Adams
April 11—Change Sunday
April 18—Terri Bissell
April 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!***

Coffee Hour Schedule - April 2010

April 4—Easter Sunday
April 11—
April 18—
April 25—

Flower Schedule - April 2010

April 4— Louise Jackson
April 11— Dave & Liz Murch
April 18— Judy Eisenberger
April 25— Donna Kopchak

Welcomers Schedule - April 2010

April 4 - Steve & Carol Doe April 18 - Rick & Denice Sheehan
April 11 - Dave & Diane Powell April 25 - Bonnie Williams & Rich Bissell

When you reading what I have written, we should be heading into April and approaching Easter, but as I sit and type this, I still have the music of the Music Sunday on my mind. It is a perfect time to thank all our music makers-Chrissy, Lori, Dan, and Kathy for all they do to add to our worship week after week. I can't imagine worshipping without the music they bring, with the help of the adult, children and chime choirs.

"Music is God's gift to man, the only art of Heaven given to earth, the only art of earth we take to Heaven." (Walter Savage Landor)

During the service full of music, I started thinking how good music really parallels a strong church. There are all different styles, but all still praise God with similar messages. There is strength in working or singing in unison, but it can be beautiful and powerful too when we each carry our own part and work in harmony. If someone doesn't do their part, the result just isn't as rich. It all does come together with better synchrony when everyone listens to each other and stays on the same beat.

"Music is what life sounds like." (Eric Olson)

April brings another new month and more signs of spring. Right around the corner is Easter, with all its renewed hope and promises of salvation. In the words of St. Augustine of Hippo "we are an Easter people, and alleluia is our song." My prayer for you, and our church, is that you find much to sing alleluia about in your lives and may we all make beautiful music together as we work in harmony to make our church home the best it can be.

Faithfully yours,
Terri

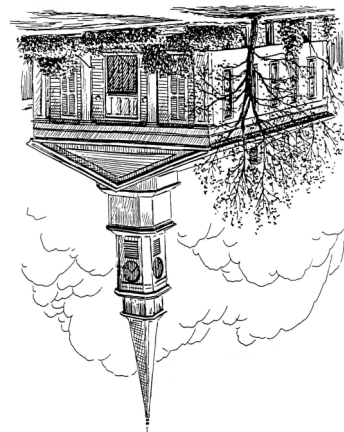
DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

A CELEBRATION OF CURT ACKLEY'S MINISTRY IN WRA will be held on Sunday, April 11th at 3:30 p.m. at Lakewood Congregational UCC, 1375 W. Clifton Blvd., Lakewood, OH 44107. Come and share with friends and colleagues a worship celebration of Curt's ministry and a liturgy of closure of this ministry with a rockin' party to follow.

SPRING CONVOCATION: May 15, 2010 at First Congregational, Hudson. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Otis Moss III, Senior Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, IL.

OHIO CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING: Friday June 11 - Saturday, June 12 at Heidelberg University in Tiffin. Martha Grace Reese, author of *Unbinding the Gospel*, will be our leader for that event. She has one requirement for participants: **READ THE BOOK** in advance! *Unbinding the Gospel* helps congregations move deeper into spirituality, equipping them for more effective evangelism. Online registration available soon.

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.