



Message from the Pastor:

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Here we are beginning the season of Lent. Fifty-three of us gathered for Ash Wednesday. And after weeks of snow, cold and ice, this past Sunday we experienced the sun, some warming, some melting and some returning to community worship- over one hundred of us. Ashes remind us of our own mortality, of our own temptations to answer to other voices than God's, of trying to live on our own terms and discovering the misery of life without God. Yet, last Sunday, we felt renewed hope in our life together. It's not that numbers alone are to be celebrated. But if those numbers reflect a desire to reconnect with God and one another in listening to and responding to God's call for each of us and as a church, then we have much to be thankful for.

Because we are grateful to be joined together in God's household, we are seeking to be faithful in discovering God's vision and mission for us here. The Vision-Mission Task Force has been meeting. The purpose is two-fold:

- 1- to engage a large percentage of the congregation in discerning this vision for now and the future and the mission that flows from that vision; and
- 2- to address the need to reimburse the funds drawn on to paint the church.

One purpose of naming and sharing a vision is to guide our committees and Church Council in establishing goals and plans which consistently support the mission of this church and the "leadings" of its members.

A critical way in which we all can support this work is through our individual and corporate prayer. Please include First Congregational Church of Twinsburg, UCC in your daily prayer, especially during Lent.

- 1) Pray that you and we will be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Pray for wisdom and insight in discerning our mission.
- 3) Pray that we will listen to one another trusting that Jesus Christ is at our center and each person is a valued part of this body. In time, members will be invited to share their wisdom and insight in this process.

One opportunity to participate in prayer supporting this vision work is to come to the PRAYER and SCRIPTURE Group meeting Sunday mornings during Lent. Come to the sanctuary from 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. You will be guided in reading a passage from scripture, naming what you heard or saw in this scripture, and then offer prayer.

MEMBERS OF VISION-MISSION TASK FORCE – Will Adams, Rich Bissell, Gail Herrilko, Tom Holzwarth, Ken Prentice and Moderator-Terri Bissell and Assistant Moderator-Joel Pietrantozzi and Kay Krejci.

Blessings,

Kay Krejci

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONFIRMATION – At First Congregational Church, ninth grade youth are invited to participate in this instruction and experience. The first meeting includes parents and youth, Sunday, February 28, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Thereafter, youth will meet 5:00-6:00 p.m. Sundays. There will be no confirmation class on Sunday, April 4 or Sunday, April 11.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER SCRIPTURE – **February 24, March 10, and March 24** – Come at 6:00 p.m. for the soup supper. Let's get together thankful for God's love and the church family that gathers around the table for meal and fellowship, and a taste of the visioning process for all ages (6:45- 7:00 p.m.). **COME AND SEE!**

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
– begins **March 14**

NEW MEMBERS – March 7, 14, and 21 – Those who would like to know more about this church and the United Church of Christ will meet in the lower level Library after worship. A light lunch is served and a 45 minute meeting is planned. New members will be received in worship on March 28, Palm Sunday.

Evening Women's Fellowship
will meet on
Monday, March 1, 2010
at 7:00 p.m.
Everyone is welcome to join us!

NEWS from CHRISTIAN ED

Christian Ed would like to see who may be interested in discussing/forming a social group for **Families with Young Children**. The format and schedule of the group is flexible but they could meet as a family at individual homes or in Fellowship Hall with simple refreshments and activities/games. If you are interested or have questions, sign up on the list in fellowship hall or see Lisa Mayer. Adding your name to the list shows interest and is not a commitment.

NEWS from YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group would like to thank everyone for supporting the Sub sale. Again it was another huge success. \$369 profit was made. The Youth group decided to stay at the church for activities prior to making the subs. We had fun playing games and squirrel. Our marshmallow shooters sure were a lot of fun, maybe leaving things a little sticky, but everyone pitched in and helped clean up. Sorry if we may have messed one or two, although this will make the church mouse happy. We have a great group of kids in our church.

Can you use ??--- Free for the asking -----

With a recent change in a home furnace, the following brand new filters are available to whom ever can use them. There are two sizes available 20 X 25 X 1 and 16 X 25 X 1. If your furnace takes either of these sizes call Larry and Lynn Schmidt. (330-650-9021) and they'll gladly bring them to church for you to pick up there.

Haiti earthquake relief – Thank you congregation for the tremendous support following the special request for Haiti Earthquake relief funds. \$1125 was sent to Haiti through Global Ministries as a result of your generosity.

At the time of this article, there were still a few copies left of the Lenten devotional, *Where In the World Is God?* which was selected by the Benevolence Committee in conjunction with their suggestion that those who are able, fast one meal a week during Lent, spend the fasted time in prayer and meditation, and use the money saved from that meal to buy non-perishable food items for the Emergency Center.

Thank you to the dedicated Knitwitters and Prayer Shawl Ministries for displaying their handiwork of lap robes and prayer shawls on Blanket Sunday, February 21.

The Benevolence Committee will be sponsoring the March soup supper prior to Council meeting.

From the Church Library. . .

Lent, a time of reflection and prayer is an opportune time to visit the church library and pick up a book on prayer for times of meditation and reflection during Lent. Books on prayer will be featured on the library book cart during March. Included in the church library collection are the following books:



RULES FOR PRAYER, compiled by William O. Paulsell, draws on written works by Christian teachers throughout history and is designed to help persons develop a foundation of prayer for their daily lives.

ANSWERED PRAYERS, a Guideposts publication, is an inspirational collection of answered prayers from Guidepost readers and visitors to the Guidepost Web site.

THE POWER OF A PRAYING PARENT written by singer, songwriter, and parent Stormie Omartian shares how a parent can pray through every age and stage of a child's life.

PRAYER, FAITH, AND HEALING by Kenneth Winston Gaine and Brian Paul Kaufman offers more than 500 tips for handling anger, addiction, depression, divorce, grief, stress, infidelity, financial problems, and over 40 other conditions with advice from more than 160 of America's top religious leaders, counselors, doctors, and scientists.

LORD TEACH ME TO PRAY IN 28 DAYS by author Kay Arthur is a 28-day study with practical insights to help one know *how* to pray, *what* to pray, and *what* to expect when one prays.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – MARCH 4

POT LUCK LUNCHEON AT NOON

PROGRAM – “AND THEN THERE IS MARCH”

PRESIDENT – Mary Lou Sheller

HOSTESSES – Dorothy Bascombe and Peggy Davis-Griffith

All are invited; bring a dish to share.

Annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast



The Softball Team will be hosting their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday March 28. 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. Pro-

ceeds 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.




**Don't forget to
"spring
forward"
March 14th.**

**When we help our
neighbors, we help
ourselves.** Franklin Thomas



... and help decorate the Church Sanctuary

Plants are 6 1/2" single stem. They may be taken home after the service on Easter Sunday. Orders are due by March 21st. Same price as last year.

Number of plants: _____ x \$7.50 = _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Presented By: _____

*Order your
Easter
Lilies
In memory of
or
honor of
someone you
love*

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

Servers—March 2010

Rich Bissell Aaron Mayer
 Lynn Schmidt Rick Herrilko
 Russ Griffin
 Marge Heston - Bread

**Communion will be
 Sunday, March 7th this month
 Communion will be served in the
 Sanctuary and the library**

Acolyte Schedule - March 2010

March 7— **Andrew Prentice**
 & Brooke Dolfi

March 14—**Jared Verbic**
 & David Schilling

March 21—**Seth Richner**
 & Will Sheehan

March 28— **Madelyn Sokolowski**
 & Peter Weiss

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.

Lay Reader's Schedule

March 2010

March 7— Melissa Schilling
 March 14—Phil Weiss
 March 21—Will Adams
 March 28—Joel Pietrantozzi

***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!***

Children's Sermon Schedule

March 2010

March 7— Tom Holzwarth
 March 14—Change Sunday
 March 21—Terri Bissell
 March 28—Rick Herrilko

Coffee Hour Schedule

March 2010

March 7—
 March 14—
 March 21—
 March 28— Pancake Breakfast

Flower Schedule

March 2010

March 7—
 March 14— Louise Jackson
 March 21—
 March 28—

Welcomers Schedule - March 2010

March 7 - Rick & Denice Sheehan March 21 - Betty McKnight & Doris Turnbull
 March 14 - Ken Prentice & Rich Bissell March 28 - Joyce Harney & Bev Hegedish

Member News

Happy Birthday to:

Tom Adams
03/04/10

Olivia Dolfi
03/05/10

Eleanor Holzwarth
03/09/10

Debbie Dolfi 03/11/10

Luvette Irvin 03/11/10

Jan Cook 03/13/10

Bess Ficken 03/17/10

Bruce Krejci 03/17/10

Alicia Van Gilder 03/17/10

Jonathan Williams 03/19/10

Robert K. Davet 03/20/10

Mark Holzwarth 03/20/10

Sharon Beck 03/20/10

Sarah Muir 03/20/10

Cayla Van Gilder 03/22/10

Bryan Bensie 03/27/10

Natalie Nichols 03/28/10

Kevin Murphey, Sr. 03/30/10

Seth Richner 03/30/10



Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

George & Bess Ficken 03/17/1962

All & Corrine McCann 03/30/1963

Rich & Terri Bissell 3/22/1980

Bob & Bonnie Mayfield 3/21/1981

The Muellers 3/17/1989

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

ATTENDANCE

Sunday School Worship Service

Jan 31st	30	75
Feb. 7th	35	88
Feb. 14th	33	74
Feb 21st	34	105

**Lockup Trustee for the
month of March - Dave Murch**



As we look to March, we see the first glimmers of hope that spring may be coming, but then we know it is Ohio and that March can still bring plenty of snow too. Even though we may not see the signs of spring we yearn for, we can still have faith that spring will come. I think Lent is a lot like spring. We can get through all the darker days of getting ready knowing that the Son will shine in the end. When the Son (or sun?) does shine, new life and warmth does follow.

By the time you read this, I will have completed my first month as your new moderator. One of my goals for growth in this church, and for myself, is to enhance communication. I see the need for this on multiple levels, with the ultimate goals of increasing active participation of individual members and collaboration between committees. I believe the best way to get people to support a plan is to help them feel a part of that plan. I feel this is best done by good two-way communication that includes seeking input and active listening.

Throughout the Bible are examples that God values relationships, and that the most effective relationships are based on good communication. The Bible itself is the symbol and vehicle of God's communication. If you search the word "communication," you will find no verses. However, you can find "the tongue has the power of life and death (Prov 18:21)." Communication either built or undermined relationships in many situations in the Bible. I believe it has the power to do that in our church as well.

We're all in this together. With God's help, we can build on our communication with each other and between groups. I welcome your ideas on how to best make this happen. With your prayers, and a little Sonshine, new life can come. Just as even in northern Ohio, spring will come, even if we can't be sure just when it will happen.

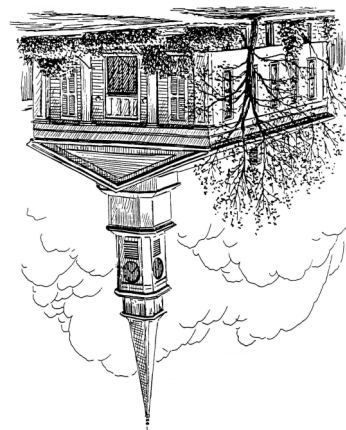
Faithfully yours,
Terri B

**Kathy Lessman's
Piano Student Recital
Saturday, March 27th,
1:30 p.m.
in the Church Sanctuary**

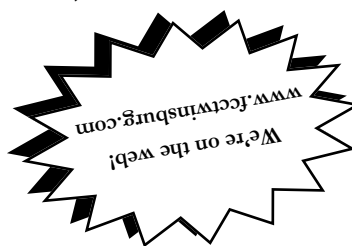
Refreshments in Fellowship Hall following the performances.
Everyone is invited to attend.

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Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A Publication of the First Congregational Church

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

Tower Submissions

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

Tower deadlines are posted on the monthly calendar and in the Sunday worship bulletin. For questions, or to be added to or taken off the mailing list, please send an e-mail or call the church office at 330-425-2181.