



ISSUE 7087—FEBRUARY 2025

The Herald

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

United Church of Christ

“Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living”

Over the past several years, we’ve been learning new terms/phrases, haven’t we? For instance, take the phrase “alternate facts.” Okay, let’s not go down that rabbit hole! But what about “polar vortex”? I don’t remember that term from my growing up years. It got cold, but I don’t remember ever hearing that term until a couple of years ago. While I probably didn’t pay as much attention to things such as this in my early years, I still feel that weather patterns have been changing over the last decade or so.

We have terms and phrases in the church that can seem just as unfamiliar. In the bible studies I’ve led over several years, I’ve tried to teach each new term. For instance, I have tried to share the finer points of eschatology, apocalypticism and about the parousia.* Weird and unfamiliar terms, right? But there are a host of terms that we are quite familiar with. Grace, mercy, justice, faith, and hope are just a few of the terms we deal with on a fairly regular basis.

On February 2, the lectionary cycle includes a reading about one of our most often used terms – love! The famous Chapter 13 of the first letter to the Corinthians is all about love and is most often only heard at weddings. What a shame that we only hear “and now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love” when two people stand before an altar to be joined in matrimony. Paul didn’t write these words as a wedding sermon. He was calling a body of believers to their true vocation. They were to love one another. He was telling them that their love – like Christ’s love – could bear all things, it could believe all things and that it would never end.

I like to think this comes in February, the month we focus on “love,” for a reason. Greeting card companies (and certain ones with movie studios attached to them) are counting on us to focus on love this month. They want us to celebrate romantic love. That is not a bad thing! According to legend, it was matrimonial type of love that was associated with St. Valentine. Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform

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marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine’s actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. So, celebrating that type of love has been associated with the “holiday” ever since.

I’m not sure Paul had all of this in mind when he wrote his letter to the Corinthians. He did, however, want them to share a bond of mutual love that would sustain their fledgling community. It is that same kind of bond that has cemented the First Congregational Church these past two hundred-plus years and, God willing, will be more than enough to sustain us in the coming two hundred years.

** Eschatology is the study of the “end times,” apocalypticism is a religious belief in an apocalypse (which simply means something that is hidden), and the parousia is the second coming of Christ.*

Grace for the Journey,

Daniel Doty



What are the Sacred Necessities of life? In this year’s Epiphany Season Sermon Series, Rev. Dan will explore these themes. This series is prompted by Terry Hershey’s book, “Sacred Necessities: Gifts for Living With Passion, Purpose And Grace.”

From the book description:

“What is it that makes life worth living? What makes the everyday, ordinary world extraordinary—even sacred? If we want to be truly alive, there are few things we really need, a few sacred necessities: Amazement, Sanctuary, Stillness, Grace, Simplicity, Resilience, and Friendship. Unfortunately, we can’t buy these things, nor can we force them to become a part of our lives. But if we are willing to accept, rather than grasp at them, they will come to us as well-chosen gifts waiting to be experienced and practiced. This is not simply a prescription for the good life; it is a gentle nudge to live with an open heart and a willing spirit.”

Join your FCC family in worship each Sunday as we explore these very important topics!

WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

Jan 26 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Scripture: Exodus 3:1-6, Psalm 46, Mark 4:35-41
Message: “Sacred Necessities: Stillness”

FEB 2 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Scripture: Psalm 124, John 1:14-18
Message: “Sacred Necessities: Grace”

FEB 9 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Scripture: Psalm 19, Proverbs 1:20-33
Message: “Sacred Necessities: Simplicity”

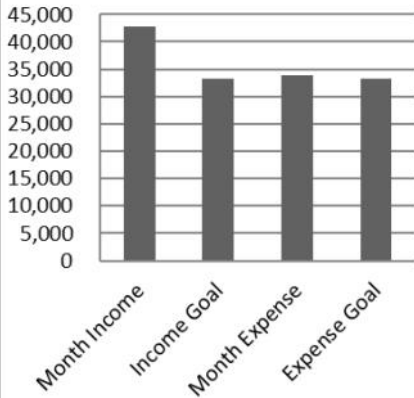
FEB 16 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Scripture: Isaiah 40:27-31, Romans 8:31-39
Message: “Sacred Necessities: Resilience”

FEB 23 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Scripture: Isaiah 41:6-10, Luke 11:5-8
Message: “Sacred Necessities: Friendship”

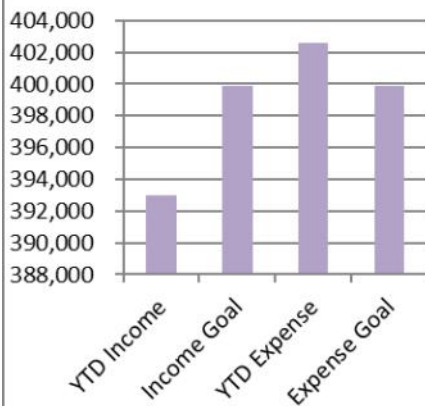
MAR 2 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY
Scripture: Exodus 34:29-36, Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)
Message: “God’s Glory”

MONTHLY FINANCIALS

December 2024



Dec. 2024 YTD



December 2024 operating income of \$42,752 was \$9,430 above the monthly income need. Operating expenses for the month were \$33,982 resulting in a **surplus** of \$8,770 in December, and a YTD **deficit** of (\$9,607). We look forward with great anticipation to the New Year and the energy with which we will advance our ministries and

missions. And we look forward in prayer to a theology of generosity and the ability to strengthen the growth of our ministries as we move into 2025. Contact the Church office to find out how to sign up for automatic monthly giving. Offerings may also be made online through a link on our website, mailed to the Church or sent from your bank's online system.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 | 9:00 AM

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

As we continue to pray for and respond to those who have experienced unimaginable loss, please consider a gift to the UCC California Recovery Wildfires Appeal.



Your gifts matter.



Bring Hope to California Fire Survivors

When disaster strikes, the United Church of Christ responds. Together, we can show God's love in action. Thank you for standing with California's communities during this time of unreal hardship. Your generosity will make a difference as 100% of your donation will go directly to disaster relief efforts.



Christ's Closet is a ministry of the Eastwood Church of the Brethren on Darrow Road just south of Eastwood. They provide clean, gently used clothing to those in need. They currently need coats, jackets, hats, and gloves for men, women, and children. During December, their closet was opened twice. On Dec. 21st, there were 69 in attendance plus an additional 40 shopped for. Dec. 7th had 68 in attendance and an additional 102 shopped for. They typically give away approximately 1200 -1500 pieces of clothing. Their closet is now open one day a month. A box will be set up in the Atrium for folks to provide donations.

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for the individuals listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723.

Brad, Noreen, and Tim Ashley
The Birch Family
Jim Brown (Sandy Pressler's son-in-law)
Steve Burr
Jim Caplinger
Scott & Connie Carter (relatives of Rev. Ed and Carol Carter)
Diane Drummond
Debbie Fickes
Eleanor Hall
Angela Hammelman (daughter of Wally and Donna Atwood)
Sandi Hughes
Alleen Hilbish
John James
George Kunzin (friend of Sandy Haydu)
Zell Lambert
Roberta Lewis
Michael Liggett (brother of Terri Poff)
Julian Mendes (classmate of Lt. Spear)
Linda Moreland (Mike Cammel's cousin)
Lynn Norton
David and Jackie Parker
Anne Pertick
Marie O'Neil
LTJG John Norton (Connie Stone's grandson)
Heather Read (Ronda's daughter)
Roger (friend of Wally Atwood)
Eddie Showalter (Linda Kester's cousin)
Lt. Maxwell Spear (Connie Stone's grandson)
Sunny Speegle (friend of Linda Kester)
Jeff Sullivan
Mikey Tonsky
John Triola (friend of Joe Labay)
Richard Thomason
Anne Varian (friend of Barb Dolensky)
Kaitlyn Wetter (Kesters' granddaughter)
Don Woerz
Alzheimer's Care Giver Support Group

*Bless be God who did not refuse
me the kindness I sought in
prayer. Psalm 66:20*

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SPAGHETTI DINNER



4:30-7:00 PM

3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

**TO-GO ORDERS CALL
330-630-0704**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

February 20 will be our next Spaghetti Dinner. We are happy to announce that because our organization is in a much better place financially, we will be able to offer a free dinner to our wonderful volunteers! If you are able to offer your services as a volunteer, please sign up at the table in the atrium. Our success depends on many.

Also, to all the ladies in the congregation, member or not, you are part of the Women's Fellowship in this church. We welcome you to any and all events. We also welcome your help and your ideas for future WF programs! Our next program will be Potluck and Bingo in the Fellowship Hall on February 6th at 12pm.

Let's Eat Donuts

Check out the new sign-up sheet in the Atrium kitchen for providing donuts on Sunday mornings. This opportunity to serve a "sweet something" to all the members of our church family will be greatly appreciated, especially by our kids and, of course, all of our "kids-at-heart." This opportunity is open to any of our church groups or individuals. Duties:

- Buy, cut, wrap (unwaxed pastry paper provided) two dozen mixed varieties of donuts and two dozen donut holes (about \$28) or provide an equivalent of homemade "sweet somethings." Use the platters from under the counter.
- Make one pot of coffee and one pot of decaf and put them on the warming plate. Turn on warming plate. Set out some cups, napkins, sugar, cream and stir sticks (in cupboards).
- After church, clean up, and turn off warming plate. Take home any leftovers or place them in the fridge for the staff the following morning.

For any further assistance or questions, contact: Sandy Haydu, 330-760-5811

Can You Spare Some "Eggstra" Change?

Please join the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Sunday School class in helping needy families through the World Vision Organization. We will be collecting your "EGGSTRA" change from now until May 2025 in an egg carton in the atrium. We will use this change to help purchase chickens for needy families.



Four chickens cost \$50 and will go a long way in helping a family. Chickens and their eggs are a beautiful gift for a family in need. They provide nutritious protein to help kids develop well. And chickens are easy to breed — so your gift can grow and multiply to create income, be shared with neighbors, and ultimately make life better for a whole community.



**BINGO
POTLUCK
& BINGO**

**FCC Women's Fellowship
FEBRUARY
LUNCHEON**

**Thursday,
February 6TH
12 PM
FELLOWSHIP
HALL**

SIGN UP IN THE ATRIUM

7 GREAT PRIZES!

Stay and Play: Feb. 16

It's cold outside, so let's plan on staying at church and having a game day. Pack a lunch and bring your favorite games— board or cards— on Feb. 16. Before you go into worship, bring your games and packed lunch into the Fellowship Hall. You are more than welcome to invite others who enjoy game playing as well. Can't wait to see what you bring!



Faith In Action

Our Faith in Action groups are in full swing.

Our topics this year are:

Jan. 12– Feb. 16: Rest and Revive

Mar. 2– Apr. 13: Lent

On Sunday mornings, these groups will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays:

Pre-k through 2nd with Roberta Nehrenz in room 207

2nd—5th grade with Dianne Drummond in room 205

6th–12th grade with Kyle and George Herron in the youth room (102)

Women's book discussion in David Bacon Room

During the week we have

Ladies Video Study, Mondays at 1:00 pm in the movie theater

Bible Study, Wednesdays at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Book Study, Wednesdays at 12:00 pm in David Bacon Room



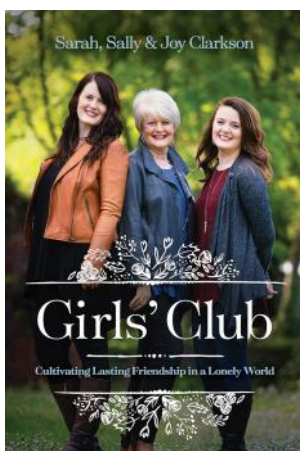
Grade 3-4-5 Lock-In

January 24

6-10 pm

Open to all FCC children in grades 3-5. Bring up to three respectful friends. Games, food, and fellowship! Cost \$5.

Women's Book Club



We will gather on Feb. 2 and 16 at 9 am in David Bacon Room to start our book discussion on Girls' Club by Sarah, Sally and Joy Clarkson. Discover the gift of friendship! In an era when many women struggle with feelings of isolation and loneliness, *Girls' Club* calls us to embrace the delight and joy that

can be found in the life-giving female friendships—relationships that not only offer emotional affirmation and acceptance but also inspire, educate and stretch us to live our God-given potential. *Girls' Club* is a book of stories and encouragement based on experiences of authors: a middle-aged mom, her newly married oldest daughter and her youngest daughter, a single woman in graduate school. While there are many books on women's friendships with the message of "meeting each other in the mess." *Girls' Club* will encourage women to take the initiative to seek out other women with whom to share life and to be blessed with the gift of deep friendships. **Discussion will be Feb. 2 on chapters 1-3 and Feb. 16 on chapter 4-6.**

Treehouse Preschool

Open House and Registration 2025-2026

It is time to start thinking about preschool for the fall of 2025. We have open house and registration scheduled for Feb. 6 @ 6-7 pm. As a church member, you can pre-register a day prior to that, Feb. 5 from 10 am-2 pm. If you would like to know more about Treehouse, you can talk with Wendy and even schedule a tour. You can also go to the website for more information, www.treehousepreschool.com.

Registration costs \$50. We would need a copy of your child's birth certificate to complete the registration and hold a spot for the fall of 2025.

Growing Together



Treehouse
Preschool

Planting Seeds of Hope, UCC Art Contest

United Church of Christ is conducting a Climate Hope Art Contest. This year the theme is "Planting Seeds of Hope." We invite children and youth to participate. There will be winners in each age group and one conference winner will win a trip to Washington, DC as a UCC advocate to meet with Congress members. Please see Wendy for an official art contest paper and be creative. Read Matthew 13:31-32 to get inspired. Entries are due by March 2nd.



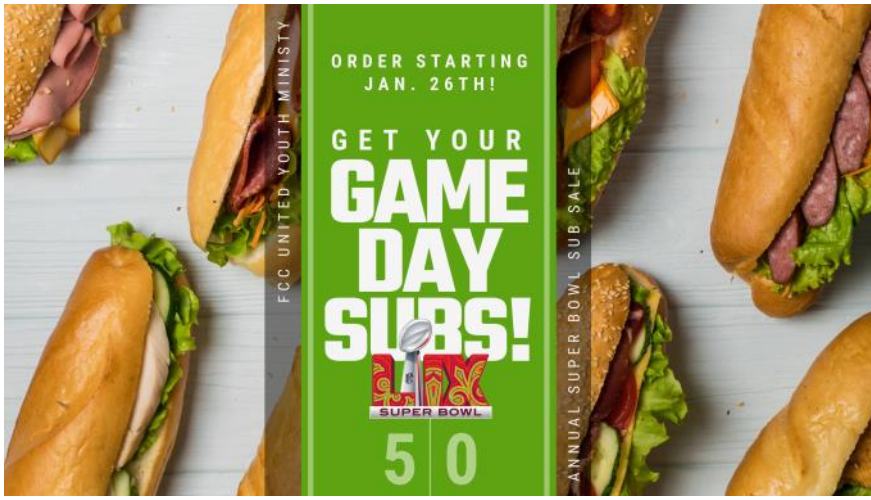
All-Church Retreat 2025

We had a wonderful church retreat on Saturday, January 11, 2025. During our day, our 25 attendees learned how to exercise Sabbath rest and how important it is for our physical, spiritual and mental well-being.

Rest and revival was present in our worship, learning sessions, discussions, through creative art outlets, meditation and unplugging in complete silence. We came in unity to ignite this sacred rest importance for our lives, which has become a lost practice in today's demanding society.



All Church Retreat



SUPER BOWL SUBS

On January 26 and February 2, the Board of Christian Education and the youth group will be selling subs for you to enjoy during the Super Bowl game. We hope you will take part in supporting youth activities by purchasing a sub for yourself or someone else. This year, subs are \$8.00. You can order regular or veggie. If you choose to order one for someone else, it will be delivered to one of our local missions. To order, you can stop

in the Atrium on Jan. 26 or Feb. 2 or fill out the form below and return it by Feb. 2. Please plan on picking up your subs on February 9 by 11:30 AM.

Super Bowl Sub Order Form (return to Anne Pertick)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

All subs will be dressing-free this year, so you can put on your dressing of choice. Please put the number of subs you wish to order on the line below:

Regular Sub _____ x \$8.00 = \$ _____

Veggie Sub _____ x \$8.00 = \$ _____

Donated Sub _____ x \$8.00 = \$ _____

Total _____

I prefer not to order subs, but I would like to donate to the experience. \$ _____

FEB 2025 calendar

SUN
2

FAITH IN ACTION @ 9AM

Class with Kyle and George

📍 Youth Room

SUN
9

SUPER BOWL SUBS @ 9AM

Assemble Sub Orders

📍 Kitchen

SUN
9

SUNDAY IN SERVICE @ 11AM

"Take What you Need Wall"

Lunch will be provided

📍 David Bacon Room

SUN
16

FAITH IN ACTION @ 9AM

Class with Kyle and George

📍 Youth Room

SUN
23

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Snow Tubing

*TBD on location and time. Look for updates from Ms. Anne

UNITED MINISTRY

December Sunday in Service



Cards and Cocoa for Danbury

BIBLE & BREWS

FEBRUARY 19, 2025 | 7:00PM

WEST AVENUE TAVERN

JOIN REV. DAN TO DISCUSS BIBLE & FAITH

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, United Church of Christ

ROOTED in FAITH and JUSTICE

Christian Calls to
Conscience & Cries for
PEACE IN PALESTINE

WINTER 2025 BOOK STUDY

Wednesdays
@ 12 pm

Come to discuss the
complexities and injustices
in Israel and Palestine.

BRING A LUNCH & BRING A FRIEND!

Winter 2025

The book of
Genesis
BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays
@ 1 pm
Fellowship Hall

Six Themes
Everyone Should Know

Genesis

W. Eugene March

A WORD OF THANKS!

Thank you for your continued support of our unit! We appreciate your assistance. In 2024, we helped 1,155 individuals with food and 746 individuals with clothing.

We had 59 families for Christmas. Each child received a \$50 gift card and families of 1-2 received a \$50 gift card for groceries. Families of 3-4 received \$75, and families of 5 and up received \$100.

God Bless,

Candy Lorkowski, Tallmadge Good Neighbors

Thank you so much for my gifts that I received over Christmas. Means so much to me.

- Teresa

I really enjoy watching church—the wonderful sermons, beautiful music. Also the letters sent from the office and the children—Thank you! Thank you! Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas!

Love—Jo Berry

Dear FCC Prayer Chain,

Thank you so much for all the support you provided throughout Bud's illness and for the week of his passing, both to us and to Bud and Dee. We all appreciate what you've done so much—words seem inadequate. Your prayers, your gifts and cards, your presence at the services—you all went above and beyond for our family. We are grateful for you and this meaningful ministry you provide.

With love and blessings—

Scott, Missy, Jacob, Gabriel, and Natalie Newcomer

Worship Attendance

Dec 22	183	Jan 5	75
Dec 24	293	Jan 12	100
Dec 29	68	Jan 19	



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Greeters

Jan 26	Jack and Helen McKee
Feb 2	
Feb 9	
Feb 16	
Feb 23	

Altar Flowers

Jan 26
Feb 2
Feb 9
Feb 16
Feb 23

Sign up in
the hallway
\$28 per
arrangement

Ushers



Jan 26	Larry Robinson, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Don Simmons
Feb 2	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Al Lytle, Ken Caldwell
Feb 9	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Fulton, Jane Charles
Feb 16	Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
Feb 23	Larry Robinson, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Don Simmons

SAVE THE DATE

Our Annual
Meeting
will be held on
Sunday, Jan. 26,
2025.

Christmas Eve 2024



FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
2 9:00 AM—Faith in Action 9:00 AM—Women's Book Club 10:00 AM—Worship/ Communion Sub sale	3 1:00 PM—Video Study 5:30 PM—Social Action Meeting 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:00 PM—Trustees Meeting	4 6:00 PM—Naranon	5 9:00 AM—Quilters 12/1 PM—Book/Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	6 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Yoga 6:00 PM—WW 7:00 PM—Choir	7	8 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
9 9:00 AM—EC Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship	10 1:00 PM—Video Study 6:00 PM—Heritage	11 6:00 PM—Naranon	12 9:00 AM—Quilters 12/1 PM—Book/Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	13 HERALD DEADLINE 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Yoga 6:00 PM—WW 7:00 PM—Choir	14	15 7:30/9:00 AM— WW 9:00 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast
16 9:00 AM—Faith in Action 9:00 AM—Women's Book Club 10:00 AM—Worship 11:00 AM—Game Day	17 1:00 PM—Video Study 6:00 PM—Heritage	18 6:00 PM—Naranon 6:00 PM—Cards	19 9:00 AM—Quilters 10:00 AM—Herald Angels 12/1 PM—Book/Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts 7:00 PM—Bible and Brews	20 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Yoga 4:30-7PM Spaghetti Dinner 6:00 PM—WW 7:00 PM—Choir	21	22 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
23 10:00 AM—Worship 11:30 AM—Scouts Blue and Gold Banquet 6:00 PM—WJHM	24 1:00 PM—Video Study 6:00 PM—Heritage	25 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon	26 9:00 AM—Quilters 12/1 PM—Book/Bible Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	27 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Yoga 6:00 PM—WW 7:00 PM—Choir	28	

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
PO BOX 420
TALLMADGE OH 44278
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TALLMADGE OH
PERMIT NO. 30

DATE: January 22, 2024

Spiritual and Pastoral Care Ministry Contacts

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group and Elders Ministry	Roberta Nehrenz	330.634.0713	rgnehrenz@att.net
Hearts in Service	Janet McCaulley Barbara Rowles	330.633.3775	34babs@sbcglobal.net
Prayer Chain	Diana Caldwell	330.265.5723	scdcg@icloud.com
Yarning for Peace	Elaine Engle	330.633.0896	elengle@aol.com

Staff E-Mail Addresses

Rev. Daniel Doty	Senior Minister	seniorminister@fcctallmadge.org
Cathy Cotter	Administrative Coordinator	info@fcctallmadge.org
Wendy Brown	Director of Family Ministries	wbrownfcc@sbcglobal.net
Nancy Lynn Robinson	Choir Director / Organist	nrbgp@aol.com
Anne Pertick	Digital Minister/ Youth Ministries Coordinator	digitalministry@fcctallmadge.org unitedministry@fcctallmadge.org
Bill Hoover	Finance Administrator	bhooverfcc@sbcglobal.net
Teresa Snyder	Head Custodian	budrose42@yahoo.com
Gary Marlow	Sunday Custodian	