

ISSUE 7088—MARCH 2025

The Herald

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

United Church of Christ

"Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living"

March 2025

To Serve
God's Church

To Serve God's Church

It's always gratifying to read comments on my Facebook/Instagram posts when I get away on vacation. Many of you wish me well and pray I have a nice and restful time away. There are other times, however, when folks can be a little dismayed when I'm away and it seems like it's not vacation. "Why is he away again?" has been a question I have heard that a few have raised. Please know that I prioritize my time to take FCC obligations first. I hope this article explains some of my absences. Should you

have any questions or comments, please never hesitate to ask me. My door is always open to you.

In the baptismal and new member vows we are asked, "Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by participating in Christ's mission in all the world?" So, even with all our faults and failures, we are to bring the presence of Christ into each setting we go.

Much of the same vows are spoken by clergy when they are ordained. We are ordained to Word, Sacrament, and Service. Word is the call to preach the good news and embody the love of Christ. Being ordained to sacrament is "authorization" to preside at the table of communion. Service is the ordained's vow to serve the church in all its settings. While Word and Sacrament are generally lived out within the context of the local church, service is offered to the world. Most of the pastor's call, for sure, is to serve the local church. Pastors, however, are also called to serve the wider church in ways they have been gifted.

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The local church has committees and boards which are served by church members who facilitate the work of the church beyond Sunday morning and beyond the walls of the church. In similar fashion, pastor's serve boards and committees beyond the local congregation to facilitate the work of the association, conference, and the national setting of the denomination.

As some committed to serving the church, it has been my pleasure to serve the wider church in a variety of settings. In 2023, I was elected to the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ at the General Synod in Indianapolis. United Church of Christ Board (UCCB) members are assigned to sub-committees of the board. So, I further serve as a UCCB representative to the Common Global Ministries Board and as a member of the Ministry Committee.

Much as church members offer time from their lives/schedules to facilitate the work of their local congregation, clergy offer their time to the wider church to facilitate its work. This can seem like the pastor is just gone again or on vacation. It is my prayer that this never becomes the case here at FCC. These times away constitute a gift you give to the wider church as you allow your pastor time to serve in these capacities.

When we make the vow as members of a congregation listed above, our response is "I promise with the help of God." So, I too promise to serve you and the wider church "with the help of God!"

Grace for the journey,



palm APR. 13 SUNDAY @10AM

maundy APR. 17 THURSDAY @7:30PM

good APR. 18 FRIDAY @7:30PM

easter APR. 20 SUNDAY

sonrise 6:30 AM

celebration 10 AM

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
at Talmadge UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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"

MAR 9 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Scripture: Psalm 25

Message: "Pause: Paths"

MAR 16 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Scripture: Psalm 27

Message: "Pause: Faces"

MAR 23 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Scripture: Psalm 63

Message: "Pause: Blessing"

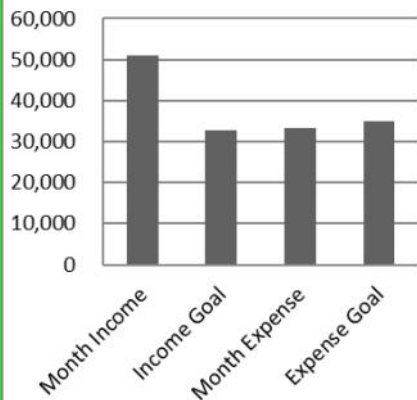
**MAR 30 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT/
5TH SUNDAY IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Scripture: Psalm 23

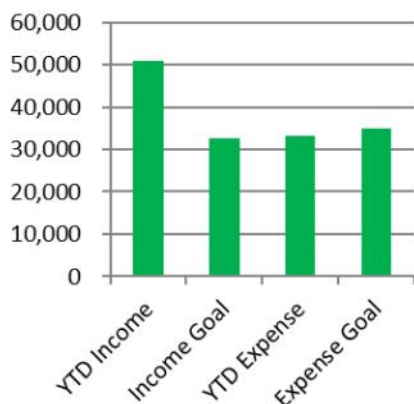
Message: "Pause: Tables"

MONTHLY FINANCIALS

January 2025



Jan. 2025 YTD



January 2025 operating income of \$51,000 was \$18,260 **above** the monthly income need. Operating expenses for the month were \$33,230 resulting in a **surplus** of \$17,780 in January, and a YTD **surplus** of \$17,780. We are thankful for the early fulfillment of 2025 pledges, look forward with great anticipation to the New Year and the energy with which we will

advance our ministries and missions. 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.



One Great Hour of Sharing

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are literally changed daily. Our support provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, education and so much more. We are carrying God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and healthcare, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Over fifty-five percent (55%) of the offering supports international development initiatives. We also fund refugee resettlement, disaster preparedness and response, and disaster-related volunteer initiatives in the U.S. and internationally.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we respond to humanitarian and development needs in the world. Specifically, we support sustainable development and refugee needs internationally and provide disaster relief and immigration assistance in the United States. The United Church of Christ responds as a member of organizations such as Church World Service and the ACT Alliance. We also support the direct mission efforts of churches and church-based organizations that the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have direct partnerships with through Global Ministries. Nearly one-fifth of the UCC's OGHS offering is shared through Church World Service to support refugee and disaster programs worldwide.

On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 95 cents is used directly for mission programming, and 5 cents for interpretation materials.

We will collect donations through Lent and dedicate the offering on March 30th.

SUPPORT OGHS



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)
Alleen Hilbish
John James
Mary Klein (Monna Arch's friend)
Andy Klush (Suzy Klush's brother)
George Kunzin (friend of Sandy Haydu)
Zell Lambert
Roberta Lewis
Michael Liggett (brother of Terri Poff)
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 Riddle (friend of Wally Atwood)
Darlene Ries (Donna Atwood's twin sister)
Eddie Showalter (Linda Kester's cousin)
Lt. Maxwell Spear (Connie Stone's grandson)
Sunny Speegle (friend of Linda Kester)
Jeff Sullivan
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**

Join us for our upcoming Spaghetti Dinners:
February 20th
March 20th



FCC Women's Fellowship
**MARCH
LUNCHEON**

Thursday,
March 6TH
12 PM
FELLOWSHIP
HALL

SIGN UP IN THE ATRIUM

Lent 2025



MAR.
5
7:30
PM

Ash Wednesday Service 2025

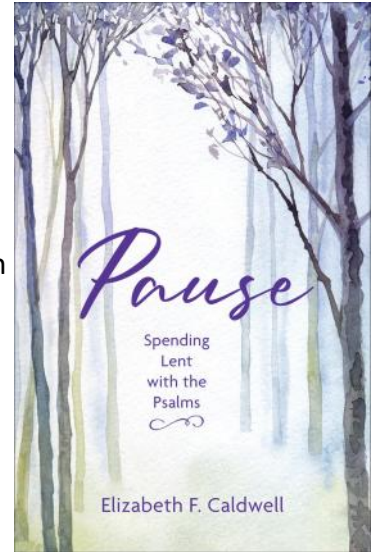
Mar. 5 | 7:30 PM

First Congregational Church will hold an Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, March 5, in the sanctuary. This service of scripture, hymns, and meditation will include the Imposition of Ashes as we begin our Lenten journey. Start a meaningful Lent by attending this special service.

FCC Lenten Book Study

We will combine the Book and Bible Study groups for one study during Lent this year. This group will meet at noon on Wednesdays in the David Bacon Room.

We will be using the book *Pause: Spending Lent with the*



Psalms on which our Lenten Sermon Series is based. The class will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5 with Psalm 51. We will be guided into an exploration of Psalm 51 and the theme of a clean heart. Following that first study, each chapter helps readers to connect an image drawn from that psalm, such as paths, faces, blessing, tables, waiting, thanksgiving, listening, being alone or abandoned, and hands, with their own lives. At the close of each chapter, readers are invited to try a different prayer practice to help them continue to reflect on the theme and psalm each day. Bring a lunch and bring a friend to this Lenten study!



FCC Lenten Journey 2025

This Lenten season we will be experiencing Lent through the lens of selected psalms. The book, *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms* invites us to take up the spiritual practice of encountering, sinking into, and deeply engaging with one psalm each week during Lent and Holy Week.

The season of Lent encourages Christians to consider a different pace—one of slowing down, noticing, pausing—than what our dominant culture values. The invitation to pause with the

Psalms begins on Ash Wednesday, starting with a mark of ashes on our foreheads that reminds us that in spite of our failures—things we have done or failed to do—we belong to God.

It is our hope that this intentional engagement—without feeling burdensome—opens just enough space and time for a creative spiritual practice to flourish, sustaining the life of faith during the Lenten season in ways that can make a difference in God's world.

Faith In Action

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

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

3rd—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 the David Bacon Room.

Girls' Club by Sarah, Sally and Joy Clarkson. March 2 will be chapters 7-9 and March 16 will be chapters 10-12.



MAR 2025 calendar

- SUN 2 FAITH IN ACTION @ 9AM**
Class with Kyle and George
Youth Room
- SUN 2 GERMANY YOUTH EXCHANGE MEET & GREET LUNCH**
Come welcome and meet our German Youth Exchange partners and learn about our USA/Germany exchange trip!
Fellowship Hall
- SUN 9 SUNDAY IN SERVICE @ 11AM**
Lunch will be provided
David Bacon Room
- SUN 16 FAITH IN ACTION @ 9AM**
Class with Kyle and George
Youth Room
- SUN 16 YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**
Homemade Pizza, Movie & Game Night
Fellowship Hall
- SUN 23 NO YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**
Spring Break

UNITED MINISTRY

Children and Lent

During Lent, in WAMM we are going to discuss a time for Pause. This can be difficult for children so we are going to use prayer stations and games to help us learn to experience the gift of taking a pause or breath. **We need help with WAMM March 23 and 30. Is anyone interested in helping?**

March 9: Path– Candyland– what path do you follow, the steady path or shortcuts?

March 16: Faces– Guess Who– what is the face of God? We all picture God differently.

March 23: Blessings– create a blessing tree– what are times you have been blessed?

March 30: Tables– gathering together; celebrate people in your life.



Treehouse Preschool

We had a great registration this year. We registered 34 families, but we still have openings in our 4/5-yr-old class in the afternoon and our Me and My Parent class (2.5-yr-olds with a parent or grandparent).

We also are hiring a new teacher for our 5-yr-old class this fall. If you are interested or know someone who might be, we will be accepting resumes in March. More information about the position will be shared on Treehouse Preschool's Facebook page or you can speak with Wendy.



A WORD OF THANKS!

- * *Hello Everyone, I just had to tell you how much your support was to me and the family. Sometimes it is hard to find the words to say more than that. Thank you, Betty Karenbauer*
- * *Sweet Prayer Group, I would like to thank you so much for your gifts and compassionate messages. Since my diagnosis, I have completed treatments and surgery and felt you all with me along the way. I treasure every one of you for your caring, your spiritual strength and your incredible concern. - Tricia Weyand*
- * *Dear friends, We want to thank you for your prayers and encouraging notes and cards during my bed stay and current rehab. God has shown His amazing love, compassion, peace and incredible power through you. Glory to God! - Mike Liggett*
- * *Dear prayer chain family, Thank you so much for all you have done for me; the prayer shawl, the prayer cards and all your thoughtful prayers were felt very much. I'm on the road to recovery now and all is well. Thank you again. - Janet Dowey*
- * *Dear FCC Family, I am overwhelmed with all the love, prayers and care during my recent surgery and my road of recovery. God's greatest gift of unending love is surely apparent in all of you for your tremendous support during a time of need. I am grateful for each of you for holding me in your heart and prayers. Your spiritual presence has been with me and will continue to hold tight as I walk my healing progression and recovery in the coming days and months.*

My gracious thanks to Rev. Dan and the prayer chain ministry for the loving encompass of pastoral care and uplifting prayers. God's gift of creative hands of the Prayer Shawl Ministry of providing comfort and peace for my surgery through the warmth of beautiful yarn in a shawl to wrap and hold the love of my brothers and sisters in Christ. To my United Youth Ministry, CE Board families and others for keeping my husband and I well fed with the gift of wonderful meals and food gift cards. Kindhearted hands of assistance and support in any way needed through my loving staff colleagues and tech ministry.

To the congregation, youth and children that have outreached your love through your beautiful illustrations and get-well messages in cards. I have enjoyed receiving and reading each one of them!

To this family. Thank you. For your check-ins, prayers, support, and love! I am blessed for you!

My unending arms of love and hugs back to you! - Ms. Anne, Digital Minister | Youth Coordinator

With Sympathy

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of:

Claude Brunot, husband of
Irene Brunot, who passed away
January 19, 2025.

Marjorie Joyner, mother of Guy
Joyner, who passed away
January 29, 2025.

**MEN'S
PRAYER
BREAKFAST**



SATURDAY, MARCH 15 | 9:00 AM

Worship Attendance

Jan 26	87	Feb 9	94
Feb 2	134	Feb 16	109



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Greeters

Feb 23	Marie Lavender and Cathleen Clark
Mar 2	Donna Phillips and Cherie Lebarre
Mar 9	Donna Marlow and Bill Westfall
Mar 16	Joe and Tom Labay
Mar 23	
Mar 30	

Altar Flowers

Feb 23	
Mar 2	The Nagel Family
Mar 9	
Mar 16	
Mar 23	Denise Haynes
Mar 30	

Sign up in
the hallway
\$28 per
arrangement

Ushers



Feb 23	Larry Robinson, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Don Simmons
Mar 2	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Al Lytle, Ken Caldwell
Mar 9	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Fulton, Jane Charles
Mar 16	Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
Mar 23	Larry Robinson, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Don Simmons
Mar 30	Don Simmons, Joe Labay, Tom Labay, Larry Robinson



Lenten Mardi Gras Service 2025

This year, we will gather on Sunday, March 30 at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall for our Mardi Gras-themed worship service. This casual service (jeans are very acceptable) will find us gathering around the abundant table of blessing. We will sing, pray, hear scriptures, explore the Lenten theme in the sermon, and feast as the Body of Christ. Plan on being here and enjoying this special service as we take time out of Lent to celebrate the plentiful gifts of our God!

MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
2 9:00 AM—Faith in Action 10:00 AM—Worship/ Communion/New Member Sunday	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 7:30 PM—BGSU Men's Chorus Concert	5 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:30 PM—Ash Wednesday Service	6 10:00 AM—WW 12:00 PM—WF Luncheon 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 12:00 PM—Book Study 6:00 PM—NA 6:15 PM—Party Like a Preschooler 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 6:15 PM—Party Like a Preschooler 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	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 12:00 PM—Book Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	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/ Baptism	24 1:00 PM—Video Study 6:00 PM—Heritage	25 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon	26 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 6:00 PM—NA	27 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Yoga 6:00 PM—WW 7:00 PM—Choir	28	29 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
30 9:00 AM—CE Meeting 10:00 AM—5th Sun- day Worship/ Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM—WJHM	31 1:00 PM—Video Study 6:00 PM—Heritage					

BIBLE & BREWS

MARCH 19, 2025 | 7:00PM



WEST AVENUE TAVERN

JOIN **REV. DAN** TO DISCUSS BIBLE & FAITH

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, United Church of Christ



SPECIAL GUEST
PETER MAKARI
Global Relations Minister for Europe and the Middle East

ROOTED in FAITH and JUSTICE
Challenging Faith to Conscience & Crisis for PEACE IN PALESTINE
Edited by: Rebekah Choyle, Krista Johnson, Weickel Peter Makari

FEB 26 | 12 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Come hear the complexities and injustices in Gaza, Israel and Palestine

We are excited that Peter Makari, one of the co-authors of our winter book study book, "Rooted in Faith and Justice," will speak in our Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, February 26th at 12 PM. Peter Makari is the Global Relations Minister for Europe and the Middle East for the UCC. Come hear his perspective on this complex region of the world. All are welcome!

EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM 2025

Easter morning, April 20, we will adorn the Chancel with beautiful flowers. We are offering a selection of colorful potted spring flowers along with the traditional Easter lilies. The cost is **\$10.00 per plant**. Please complete this form, then bring it to the church office or place it into the offering plate on Sunday morning. Checks may be made out to First Congregational Church. Names of those honored will be listed in the bulletin. *The last day to order is March 26th.*



Name _____ Phone No. _____

of Easter Lilies _____ # of Tulips _____
 # of Daffodils _____ Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Message _____

Please check one: Pick up flowers _____ Donate your flowers _____

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: February 19, 2025

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	