

ISSUE 7089—APRIL 2025

The Herald

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

United Church of Christ

"Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living"

I began to write this article while I was attending the "spring" United Church of Christ Board of Directors (UCCB.) The UCCB is comprised of lay folk, clergy, Conference Ministers, elected officers, and staff. We gather to consider the business of the United Church of Christ, hear reports from our national officers, consider the financial reports, and vote on nominees to various boards, among other things.

We also hear what's going on in Church across all settings of the denomination. We share with one another inspirational stories of the ministries we engage in as the UCC. It's both great to hear these stories and soak in the amazing things our UCC siblings are doing in ministry, but also to hear about the common struggles we all face.

The breadth of the UCC is diverse in its theological understandings, its worship practice, its community engagement, and its missional outreach. We do, however, all center ourselves around the scripture verse that is in the UCC logo, "that they may all be one." This quote from the Gospel of John has been central to our identity since the inception of the UCC in 1957.

In 2016, the UCCB overwhelmingly affirmed the Vision Statement of the UCC, "United in Christ's love, a just world for all." This vision still infuses all levels of the church. But how do we live that out in Tallmadge, Ohio? What does it mean to be united in Christ? In these days of division and rancor, with churches inhabiting various places along the



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

This Issue:

Worship Schedule
PAGE 2

Monthly Financials
PAGE 3

Spaghetti Dinner
PAGE 4

New Members
PAGE 5

Holy Week Schedule
PAGE 6

United Youth Ministry
PAGE 7

Faith & Family
PAGE 8

Bible and Brews
PAGE 9

Upcoming Sundays
PAGE 10

April Calendar
PAGE 11

theological spectrum, how do we work toward being united in Christ? I don't have any answers, but I think the desire to unite is important.

Reflecting on the "just world for all" piece of the vision statement puts me in the mind of the Golden Rule. I believe that we all want to live in a just world. A just world is one in which all are treated in a just way. We treat, affirm, love, care for, put-your-own-verbs-here, others in ways that we want to be treated. As we walk this Lenten path, I invite us to reflect on these psalms and what they teach us about advocating for a just world for all.

Grace for the journey,



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!

Youth Sunday

Mark those calendars! On April 27th, our youth of United Ministry will lead us in worship for Youth Sunday! Plan to join us as we celebrate and honor their message, presence and the gifts they bring to our congregation!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAR 23 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Scripture: Psalm 63

Message: "Pause: Blessing"

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

Scripture: Psalm 23

Message: "Pause: Tables"

APR 6 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Scripture: Psalm 130

Message: "Pause: Waiting"

APR 13 PALM SUNDAY

Scripture: Psalm 118

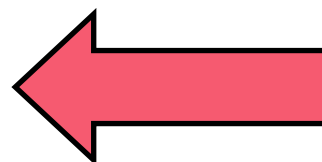
Message: "Pause: Thanksgiving"

APR 20 EASTER

Scripture: Psalm 19

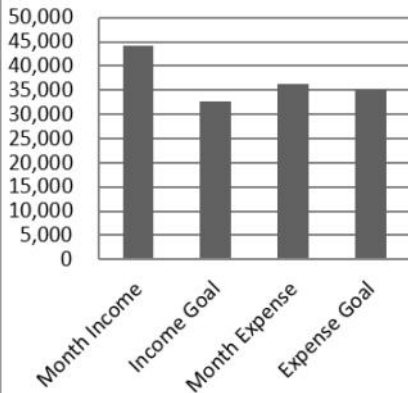
Message: "Pause: Hands"

APR 27 YOUTH SUNDAY

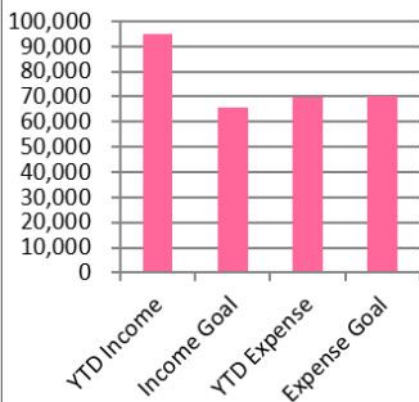


MONTHLY FINANCIALS

February 2025



Feb. 2025 YTD



February 2025 operating income of \$44,140 was \$11,390 above the monthly income need. Operating expenses for the month were \$36,385 resulting in a **surplus** of \$7,755 in February, and a YTD **surplus** of \$25,535. We are thankful for the early fulfillment of 2025 pledges, and are hoping this

bodes well for our ministries in 2025. We look forward in prayer to a theology of generosity and the ability to strengthen the growth of our ministries as we move through the year. 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.

SUPPORT OGHS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: SHINING THE LIGHT ON FOOD SECURITY.

Orfelina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: Checking on local farmers' harvest. Monitoring water projects. Teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Chatting up community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Orfelina doesn't just work with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light. Be the Light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.



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.

Jennifer Arch
 Brad, Noreen, and Tim Ashley
 Sharon Bible
 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
 Lyn Fendenheim (friend of Joe Labay)
 Debbie Fickes
 Eleanor Hall
 Angela Hammelman (daughter of Wally and Donna Atwood)
 Alleen Hilbish
 Sandi Hughes
 John James
 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
 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**

SPAGHETTI DINNER UPDATE

Join us for our upcoming Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday, March 20th. We won't have a dinner in April because it falls on Maundy Thursday.

FCC TALLMADGE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

APRIL LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

12 PM

OLIVE GARDEN





NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

FCC welcomed ten new members to the congregation on Sunday, March 2, 2025. Read more about them below and be sure to welcome them to the congregation!

Becky Michael was previously a member of the Bath Church, where she met Rev. Dan. She says that when she comes to church at FCC Tallmadge, it helps her feel closer to God and brings her joy!

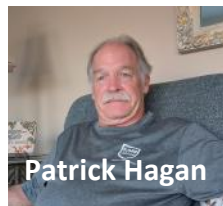


Patti Calvarese was introduced to our church by Linda Mayfield. As she began attending worship more regularly, she brought along her daughter, **Jacqui Calvarese**, and grandsons, **Justin and Devin Devies**. The whole group joined together on New Member Sunday.

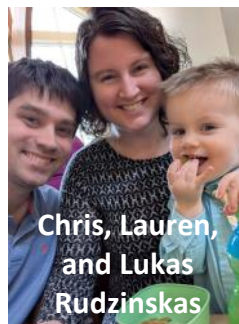
For **Bill Westfall**, the road to membership in this church has been long and winding. After his wife of nearly 68 years passed away in 2019, he realized that he had come to that “Y” in the road!! ‘Over the Hill Bill’ (as he calls himself) concludes by saying “I am convinced I chose the proper path!! So here I am!!”



Patrick Hagan joined the church after marriage to Ann Holt. He’s glad to be part of a church. He was a remodeling contractor for 27 years. He loves to golf, hike, and travel.



Chris, Lauren, and Lukas Rudzinskas recently moved to Tallmadge and are excited to get to know everyone at FCC Tallmadge. Chris is an Advanced Materials Engineer at LyondellBasell and Lauren is a Senior Lecturer in music at the University of Akron, a professional musician, and the General Manager of an arts nonprofit. Lukas is 21 months old and his favorite thing about church is running up and down the aisle. They have a Siberian husky named Sushi and love to cook together as a family.



Connie Stone joins FCC as an associate member. She is also an ordained minister of the Baptist church. Connie is involved with many of the women’s groups and is a member of the Chancel Choir.

SOCIAL ACTION CORNER

Social Action supports several missions and this month we are highlighting Faithful Servants.

Faithful Servants is a Christian-based healthcare organization with a commitment to providing **free** quality urgent healthcare services to the uninsured. All of the staff are volunteer healthcare professionals. It is located at 65 Community Road, Tallmadge, Ohio 44278.

The care center is open to all qualified patients, regardless of religious beliefs. The care center sees patients Monday through Friday, by appointments only, beginning at 5:30 pm. Call 330-221-8485.

If you wish to make a donation, it can be done online or mailed to the above address. They are also looking for the following volunteers: Front desk help, Doctors, Nurses, and Pharmacists.



**The Monday Ladies Study
is taking a break until
April 28th**

Holy Week 2025 @FCC!

Join your church family this year for interactive Holy Week services. On Maundy Thursday we will be “led” through a couple of stations for personal reflection. These stations are to be experienced at your own pace. Each station will lead to another and we will all end up in the Fellowship Hall for a service remembering Jesus’ last meal with his disciples.

On Good Friday we will again have a few interactive stations that will bring us into the sanctuary as we focus on the crucifixion of Jesus. This service will feature readings, brief reflections, a choir anthem, and a time to bring forth items we picked up from the stations prior to the service.

More details will follow but plan now to participate in these special services as we look toward the Easter celebration.



Safe Space Policy

The Executive Council of First Congregational Church has adopted a Safe Space Policy for our church property and the Treehouse Preschool. In January, the incoming administration rescinded an earlier directive, in place for decades, limiting the ability of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection to enter “sensitive locations.” ICE is now able to enter these locations (schools and churches) to make arrests of suspected illegal aliens. Sensitive locations have now been left vulnerable to such searches.

Searches of this nature can be disruptive to a school and church environment. Sensitive locations have been encouraged to form policies around how they handle such encounters. Ultimately, if ICE is conducting a warranted search with proper authorization, a sensitive location may have little recourse. This policy at least assures that these searches will be done to the letter of the law. This will allow our church grounds and Treehouse Preschool to be treated fairly and with as little disruption as possible.

A copy of the policy can be viewed at the church office during normal business hours.

2025 Summer Youth Mission

We are off to Cincinnati to serve with Washington UCC's Summer Mission Immersion Program! Washington UCC has been running this ministry and mission to the city of Cincinnati for over 50 years. We will serve in and alongside Washington UCC in partnership with their neighborhood to create a clean and safe community where there is enough to eat, decent housing, opportunities for education and work and nurturing all families. We will be Jesus' hands as we minister together with their neighbors to improve lives physically, emotionally and spiritually.

During our serving week, we will engage with elementary age children from the urban core in enrichment programming, partake in neighborhood physical mission work of light construction and property management, prepare and serve a community meal and work in projects with other local-global non-profit organizations. We will also enrich in worship, missional education and programming in our mission week with a focus on poverty sensitivity, diversity, equity and inclusion.

Our mission trip will take place June 8-12, 2025. This experience is open to youth in middle and high school. The cost is \$200/youth participant. Cost includes: transportation, housing, meals, project materials, fun day experience and t-shirts. Payments can be made until June 1, 2025. No youth is turned away due to cost. Please contact Anne Pertick if financial assistance is needed.

We are seeking a couple of adults to come along as advisors for our trip. Come serve and have fun with us in a very fulfilling and rewarding week!

Registration with a \$50.00 deposit is due by March 30, 2025. For registration and more information, please visit fcctallmadge.org/2025-summer-youth-mission/. Contact youth coordinator Anne Pertick with any interest inquiries or questions at anne.pertick@fcctallmadge.org.



APR
2025

calendar

SUN
6

FAITH IN ACTION @ 9AM

Class with Kyle and George
Youth Room

SUN
13

**YOUTH SUNDAY WORSHIP
PLANNING @ 11AM**

Lunch will be provided
Youth Room

SUN
20

NO FAITH IN ACTION

Easter Sunday

SUN
27

**YOUTH SUNDAY SERVICE
@ 10 AM**

SUN
27

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP @ 6-8PM

UNITED MINISTRY

A Spiritual Reflection:

Take What You Need

What are you in need of today? Have you stopped in the midst of the busy pace of life to do a check in with yourself and reflect internally on what your spiritual health is needing?

This winter, we have been focusing on our needs of rest and of sacred necessities. As we journey into the Lenten season, we are pushing pause; observing and reflecting on our lives as Christians.

As part of their Sunday in Service project, the United Ministry youth and children of our WAMM program send you an invitation to take a few moments at our reflection table. Stop. Pause. Reflect. Take what your spirit is truly needing today.



**We will not have WAMM
for the children on
March 23rd or 30th.**

Palm Sunday. **April 13** *Hosanna* IN THE HIGHEST

We would love to have the children participate in the palm parade at the beginning of the worship service. We ask them to meet in the Atrium by 9:45 am.

Treehouse Preschool

We 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 can be found on Treehouse Preschool's Facebook page or you can speak with Wendy.



Summer Church Camp

The Board of Christian Education has scholarship funds available for children attending a church camp. If your child is attending a camp that is faith based and you would like to request scholarship funds, please have your child write a letter or email to Miss Wendy to ask for help with the cost of the camp. All names will remain anonymous at the CE meeting when they make a decision.

Please include the following information in your request:

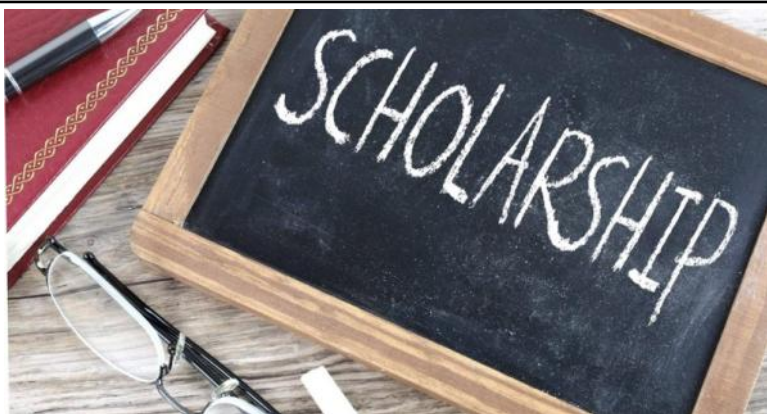
Child's name

Camp they are attending and when

How much the camp costs

Send requests to Wendy Brown: wendy.brown@fcctallmadge.org

85 Heritage Dr.
Tallmadge, OH 44278



Memorial Scholarship applications are now available. Instructions and the application link can be found on our church website. Paper copies of the instructions can be also found at the Welcome Center. **The deadline for completed applications is Thursday, April 3rd at 3:00 pm.**

A WORD OF THANKS!

Dear Prayer Chain Family: Thank you all for your prayers and encouraging words these past few months. I cannot express how much they have meant to me. And Diane, for always remembering the day of every test, (and that's been a lot!), I could count on a text from you with blessed thoughts. Sincerely, Anita Kelly Lahrmer

Don and I would like to say THANK YOU to all who prayed, sent cards, phone calls, and visited since last Nov. after Don's fall. He is still in Summa Home Care but is hoping to return to church soon. His best friend is his walker right now. Trying to use a cane, but still a little wobbly. Thanks again, Don & Judy Woerz



The BGSU Men's Chorus performed at FCC Tallmadge on March 4, 2025. Thanks to Rev. Dan for inviting them to perform and thanks to FCC Women's Fellowship for helping to serve dinner to this hungry crew!

A poster for a "BIBLE & BREWS" event. At the top, the title "BIBLE & BREWS" is in large, white, serif font, flanked by two wheat stalks. Below the title, the date and time "MARCH 19, 2025 | 7:00PM" are displayed. The central image shows three large, dark beer glasses filled with dark beer and topped with thick white foam. At the bottom, a yellow banner reads "BELL TOWER BREWING" with the address "310 Park AVE, Kent Ohio" below it. Further down, it says "JOIN REV. DAN TO DISCUSS BIBLE & FAITH" and at the very bottom, "First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, United Church of Christ".

A graphic for an "EASTER FLOWERS" order form. It features a central purple rectangle with white text. The text reads: "DECORATE THE CHANCEL FOR EASTER", "EASTER FLOWERS", and "ORDER BY MARCH 26TH". Surrounding this central rectangle are several images of different flowers, including white lilies, pink and yellow tulips, and yellow daffodils.

Easter Flower order forms were included in last month's Herald and can now be found on our [website](#). All orders are due Wednesday, March 26th!

Worship Attendance

Feb 23	152	Mar 9	112
Mar 2	158	Mar 16	115



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Greeters

Mar 23
Mar 30
Apr 6
Apr 13
Apr 20
Apr 27

Altar Flowers

Mar 23 Denise Haynes
Mar 30
Apr 6
Apr 13 James Taylor
Apr 20 Easter Flowers
Apr 27 Denise Haynes

Sign up in
the hallway
\$28 per
arrangement

Ushers



Mar 23 Larry Robinson, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Don Simmons
Mar 30 Don Simmons, Joe Labay, Tom Labay, Larry Robinson
Apr 6 Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Al Lytle, Ken Caldwell
Apr 13 Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Fulton, Jane Charles
Apr 20 Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
Apr 27 Larry Robinson, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Don Simmons

Easter Special Music Donation 2025

The 10:00 AM Easter service on April 20 will feature a brass quintet sponsored by our "Special Music Fund." Please consider contributing to this fund as a memorial or honorary gift. Simply fill out this form, then place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office with your check made out to First Congregational Church of Tallmadge. In the memo line at the bottom of your check, please write "Easter Special Music Donation." Names of those honored will be listed in the bulletin.

Forms must be returned to the office by April 6

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

If you are ordering flowers and donating money for music, PLEASE PROVIDE 2 SEPARATE CHECKS

Message _____

APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:00 PM—Naranon	2 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cubs Scouts	3 10:00 AM—WW 12:00 PM—WF Luncheon 1:00 PM—Yoga 6:00 PM—WW 7:00 PM—Choir	4	5 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
6 8:45 AM—Prayer Chain Meeting 9:00 AM—Faith in Action 10:00 AM—Worship	7 5:00 PM—Social Action Meeting 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:30 PM—Trustees Meeting	8 6:00 PM—Naranon	9 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cubs Scouts	10 HERALD DEADLINE 10:00 AM—WW 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 1:00 PM—Yoga 6:00 PM—WW 7:00 PM—Choir	11	12 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
13 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 AM—EC Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship	14 11:00 AM—PEO Meeting 6:00 PM—Heritage	15 6:00 PM—Naranon 6:00 PM—Cards	16 9:00 AM—Quilters 10:00 AM—Herald Angels 12:00 PM—Book Study 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	17 MAUNDY THUR. 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Yoga 6:00 PM—WW 7:30 PM—Maundy Thursday Service	18 GOOD FRI. 7:30 PM—Good Friday Service	19 7:30/9:00 AM—WW Easter Flower Delivery TBA
20 EASTER SUNDAY 10:00 AM—Worship/ Communion	21 EASTER MONDAY, CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	22 6:00 PM—Naranon	23 9:00 AM—Quilters 6:00 PM—NA 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	24 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Yoga 6:00 PM—WW 7:00 PM—Choir	25	26 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
27 9:00 AM—CE Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship/ Youth Sunday 6:00 PM—WJHM	28 1:00 PM—Video Study 6:00 PM—Heritage	29 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon	30 9:00 AM—Quilters 6:00 PM—NA			

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: March 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	