

ISSUE 7093—AUGUST 2025

The Herald

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

United Church of Christ

"Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living"

On the 50th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ, I attended the General Synod in Hartford, Connecticut. In 2013, I was elected to be a General Synod delegate for the first time. As was the case, I served for two synod cycles. I was a delegate to the synods in Long Beach (2013) and Cleveland (2015).

This year, I will be attending synod for the first time as a delegate of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors (UCCB). To say that my experiences of attending and serving as a delegate over the past 12 years have shifted is to make a complete understatement!



While I grew up in the UCC, I had also spent my first eight years in ministry in the United Methodist Church. (I attended two UMC General Conferences: Denver, 1996 and Cleveland, 2000.) I came back to serve in the UCC in 2005. I remember the 2007 synod in Hartford. It was what one might consider the “fire hose” of church meetings. It was all so new to me. As an observer, I wasn’t involved in a resolution committee or privy to the “behind-the-scenes” working of the leadership of such an august gathering.

Fast forward to 2013 and serving as a delegate, it still felt a little “fire hosish.” I’d like to say by 2015 and the Cleveland synod, it was much easier. That year I chaired the Hospitality Committee of the synod, sang at the Sunday worship service and again, had a very different experience.

What will this year be like? What will being a UCCB member/delegate be like? At this point, I can’t say. I am eager to be a UCCB liaison to one of the resolution committees

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and to offer any leadership I can. I will for sure sit at a different table. I will also no longer be a delegate that exclusively represents the Heartland Conference. My task this year will be to represent the breadth of the UCC across all settings. I feel that this may be an even greater synod challenge than I have experienced so far.

Across all of those experiences, I still remember one impactful sermon at the 2007 synod in Hartford. In his sermon commemorating the 50th anniversary of the United Church of Christ, President and General Minister John Thomas used the story of Elijah and the trouble with Jezebel and Ahab to challenge our next fifty years. You know the story – Elijah calls down fire on the prophets of Baal and they are all slaughtered. Queen Jezebel and her puppet king Ahab are enraged and a price is put on Elijah’s head.

When Elijah has been on the lam for some time, Thomas continued, “God speaks: ‘What are you doing here, Elijah?’ Not curiosity, but challenge. There is no divine sympathy, only confrontation.

"What are you doing here, Elijah?" It was a humbling question, and it still is. What are we doing here – what are we doing here in the Heartland Conference, in the Living Water Association, in the boards and committees of synod – in (insert name of your town/city)?

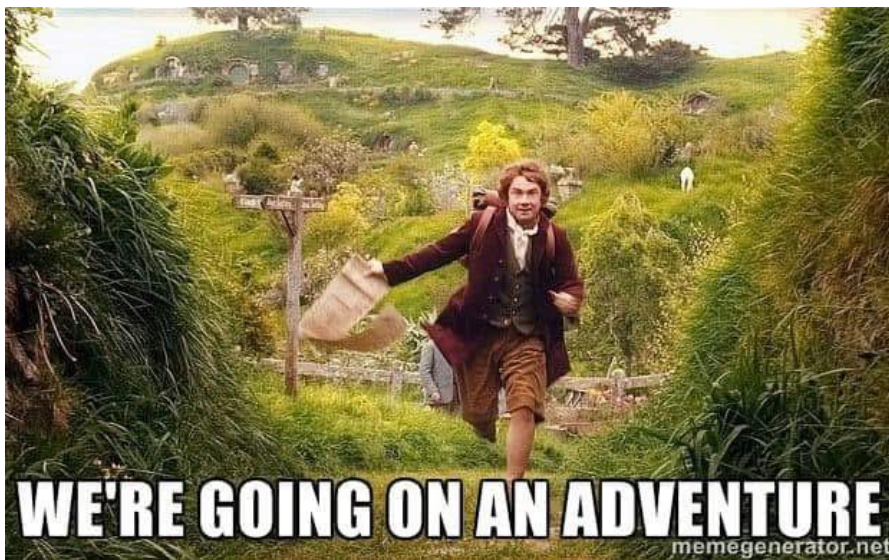
I covet your prayers on behalf of our Heartland Synod delegates, the UCCB members/delegates, and all who will gather this month in Kansas City for General Synod 35. Pray that we all might find some answers to what were doing here!

Grace for the journey,



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JULY 20	MISSION SUNDAY
Scripture:	John 15:12-15, Matthew 18:1-5, Luke 5:29-32, Luke 5:17-19
Message:	<i>"Greatness Isn't What We Think"</i> --United Ministry Mission Team
JULY 27	7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Scripture:	1 Corinthians 12:14-26
Message:	<i>There and Back Again: Spiritual Gleanings from J.R.R. Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings' - Be the Hero</i>
AUG 3	8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Scripture:	Romans 16:1-16
Message:	<i>There and Back Again: Spiritual Gleanings from J.R.R. Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings' - Gender in Middle Earth</i>
AUG 10	9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Scripture:	Parts of Psalm 46 & 95
Message:	<i>There and Back Again: Spiritual Gleanings from J.R.R. Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings' - The Ents Fight Back</i>
AUG 17	10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Scripture:	Revelation 21:1-7
Message:	<i>There and Back Again: Spiritual Gleanings from J.R.R. Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings' - Passing Out of Time</i>
AUG 24	11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Scripture:	Matthew 5:38-42
Message:	<i>There and Back Again: Spiritual Gleanings from J.R.R. Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings' - Violence Doesn't Accomplish Anything</i>



Summer 2025 Sermon Series

"There and Back Again: Spiritual Gleanings from J.R.R. Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings'"

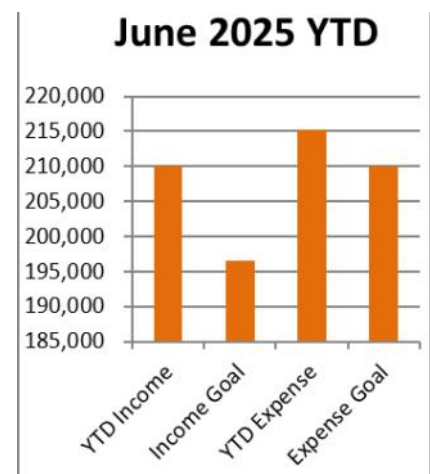
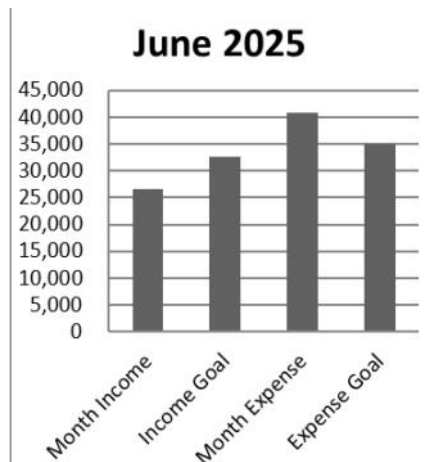
The fantastical world created by JRR Tolkien begins with the phrase, "In a hole in the ground there lived a Hobbit." I was introduced to Middle Earth through the Rankin-Bass animated film 'The Hobbit' and then the books about Middle Earth that Tolkien had penned.

Bilbo was hesitant to be a part of the grand adventure at first. He had all of his creature comforts at Bag End. He didn't want to leave those comforts behind to explore Trolls' lairs or dine with elven lords. We can also be like that. We can respond with an "I can't" do it. While the dwarves are having their discussion about retaking The Lonely Mountain, they can tell by Bilbo's actions that he doesn't believe in himself. Gloom even says, "As soon as I clapped eyes on the little fellow bobbing and puffing on the mat, I had my doubts. He looks more like a grocer than a burglar!" Much like Moses trying to convince God that he can't lead the Israelites out of Egypt (Exodus 4:10-31), we like to see what is before us and treat the outcome of completing the task like an equation. "What I believe I can do" subtract "What I believe it will take to do it" equals "Outcome."

This summer, we will explore these questions through the lens of Tolkien's works. We, like Bilbo, only need to take up the challenge and say with great fervor, "we're going on an adventure!"



MONTHLY FINANCIALS



June 2025 operating income of \$26,700 was \$6,050 **below** the monthly income need. Operating expenses for the month were \$40,800 resulting in a **deficit** of (\$14,100) in June and a YTD **deficit** of (\$5,320). We are starting to see the summer decline in Faith Offerings a little early, while property maintenance and repair expenses were higher than usual in June. 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.

A WORD OF THANKS!

Dear Friends,

Thank you! First, for sending your 14 youth and adults as a mission group to Washington UCC, Cincinnati. They were wonderful with the children in our Summer Youth Program, helping with meals, and doing offsite projects for other nonprofits.

Second, for all the food and hygiene items you sent. The food will help us serve weekday community lunches and fill food bags distributed by our Camp Cupboard free store. The hygiene items will be shared with our needy neighbors, including those who are homeless and the children's families. We are so grateful for all you did for us, and we hope we'll see you again.

On behalf of Rev. Melissa Stephens, and all those you helped, thank you.

Sincerely—Laurel Humes, Church Council, Washington UCC

Thank you for the prayers and cards for my surgery.—Bonnie Fordham

Dear Church Partner,

Thank you for your congregation's gift of \$450— 12 chickens. Churches like yours are empowering kids and families to rise above poverty and build futures once thought unreachable. World Vision is truly blessed to have you as a church partner—and a champion for kids. Thank you for your gift and compassion for others.

In His Name—Anthony Williams, Senior Director, Donor Contact Services

Thank you for all of the prayers, cards, and gift cards during Sharon's surgeries. We really appreciate everything.
- David and Sharon Bible

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the 3rd-5th grade mission project this past year. With your donations of "eggstra" change we raised \$450 over seven months and were able to purchase 36 chickens provided by World Vision Org. to families in need around the world. Thank you for your tremendous support and compassion. And thank you to Kathleen Clark for taking care of all the counting of that change! We are still collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and plan to take a tour and offer our donation next spring.

Thank you to my church family and all your friends and family for keeping me in your prayers these last four years. The cards, hugs, phone calls, texts, etc. were greatly appreciated. I am happy to report that I am currently at six months cancer free thanks to all of those prayers and concern. Our family is grateful for each and every one of our caring friends. — Dianne Drummond and family



A Tip of the Hat!

Congratulations to Scott Bible, son of David and Sharon Bible, for earning his doctorate from CSU!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Women's Fellowship will not have a luncheon in August. Plan to join us in September for a potluck dinner. Sarah Ickes will be demonstrating how to use essential oils.

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
 Sharon Bible
 Margarete Boschert
 Jim Brown (Sandy Pressler's son-in-law)
 Steve Burr
 Patti Calvarese
 Jim Caplinger
 Lyn Fendenheim (friend of Joe Labay)
 Debbie Fickes
 Eleanor Hall
 Angela Hammelman (daughter of Wally and Donna Atwood)
 Alleen Hilbish
 Jim Jackson (Bonnie Fordham's son-in-law)
 John James
 Suzi Klush
 George Kunzin (friend of Sandy Haydu)
 Zell Lambert
 Roberta Lewis
 Ron Mitchell
 Linda Moreland (Mike Cammel's cousin)
 Lynn Norton
 Donna Phillips
 Bob Poff
 David and Jackie Parker
 LTJG John Norton (Connie Stone's grandson)
 Bonnie and Matthew Rains
 Heather Read (Ronda's daughter)
 Roger Riddle (friend of Wally Atwood)
 Darlene Ries (Donna Atwood's twin sister)
 Sara Rooks
 Alice Sheeler
 Eddie Showalter (Linda Kester's cousin)
 Lt. Maxwell Spear (Connie Stone's grandson)
 Jeff Sullivan
 John Triola (friend of Joe Labay)
 Richard Thomason
 Anne Varian (friend of Barb Dolensky)
 Kim and Noel Walters
 Ensign 2 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***



Join us for a
FREE CONCERT!
Stan Hywet
Goodyear
Concert Band
 Monday, July 21st | 7:00PM
 FCC Fellowship Hall

Join the Pick-Up Choir

On July 20th, our service will feature a song by our "Summer Pick-Up Choir." All who would like to sing with the choir should meet at 9:30 AM in the choir room. We will rehearse one song and then sing it in the 10:00 AM service.

Help Support Our Organization!



ACME Fresh Market
Community CASH BACK
SHOP & EARN 5% CASH BACK
IT'S EASY!
 Save your Acme Fresh Market receipts dated August 1, 2025 - February 15, 2026 to help us raise money!
 Shop & Earn 5% Back on Participating Brands!

**Join Us
 for Mission
 Sunday!**

Sunday, July 20th at 10:00 AM



SUMMER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

During the summer, we are planning on having WAMM on the following Sundays:

July 27 Aug 10 Aug 17 Aug 24

We will also have a Children's Message on these dates. Please join us!



August 10 @ 10 AM

Blessing OF THE Backpacks

We invite all children, youth, college students, and teachers to join us in worship. We will give you a blessing to start the year off right! Bring your backpack or bag with you.

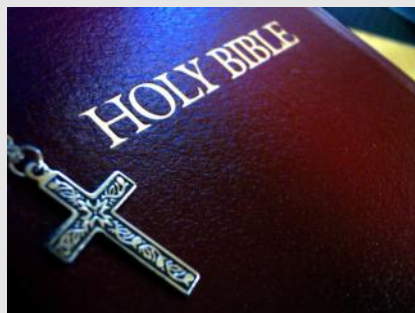


Save the Date!

Confirmation and 3rd Grade Bibles

The Board of Christian Education will be providing bibles to our 3rd graders and Confirmation (grade 8-9) students on Sunday, September 21.

Mark your calendars now.



In September, we will begin our fall programming. Watch for more details in next month's Herald for

Faith in Action

Women's Book Club

Adult Bible Studies

Adult Book Studies

TEXAS FLOODS

As we continue to pray for and respond to those who have experienced unimaginable loss, please consider a gift to the UCC Disaster Response Support.



Your gifts matter.



Christmas in July

Attention all:

Crafters | Decorators | Craft Show Vendors
Something for everyone!

Selling large quantities and varieties of decorating
supplies and gifts

Friday, July 25
9 AM to 5 PM

Saturday, July 26
9 AM to 2 PM

Our Lady of Victory Women's Guild

Finnerty Hall
73 North Avenue
Tallmadge, Ohio 44278



UNITED YOUTH MINISTRIES

🕒 **UM Youth Swim & Picnic Fellowship – Sunday, July 20th!**

We're excited for our upcoming UM July youth fellowship event — a fun day of swimming and fellowship at Baylor Beach Park in Navarre on Sunday, July 20th! Baylor Beach has tons of fun things to do — a water park lake, paddleboats, aquabikes, funyaks, sand volleyball, basketball, mini-golf, and more! For questions, contact youth coordinator Anne Pertick at anne.pertick@fcctallmadge.org or 330-633-4931.

📅 **Schedule: 11am-7pm**

We'll leave after church service and return to FCC at 7pm

💰 **Cost: \$30 per youth**

Includes park entrance and food/drinks for the day.

Optional activity costs:

- Paddleboats & Aquabikes: **\$8.00 per boat**
- Mini-Golf: **\$4.50 per person**

👕 **Dress Code Reminder:**

All youth must wear **modest swimsuits**. (Ladies: one-piece suits or high coverage two-piece suits.) Thank you for respecting this guideline!

🎒 **What to Bring:**

- Swimsuit (modest) & towel
- Sunscreen
- Change of clothes
- Optional: extra money for activities
- Completed release form

📅 **Sign-Up Deadline: Thursday, July 17th** - Sign up link: <https://volunteersignup.org/EFKHF>

Please fill out the **attached release form** and have your youth bring with them on the day of the event.

💵 **Payment:**

Pay by cash or pay electronically at this link: <https://onrealm.org/FirstCongregati57467/-/form/give/UNITED>

🎬 **Youth Outdoor Movie Night – Sunday, August 10th**



All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for our 2nd Annual Outdoor Movie Night on the church lawn! It's going to be a fun and relaxing evening filled with food, friends, and a movie under the stars.

Details:

- 📍 **Location:** Church Lawn
(Rain location: Fellowship Hall)
- 🕒 **Time:** 8-11pm (Movie begins at sunset)
- 🍿 **Snacks:** Popcorn, cotton candy, s'mores, and tasty goodies available at our concession stand

What to Bring: A chair, blanket, or anything comfy to sit on and a snack/candy to share with the group.

Come enjoy a great movie, a warm fire, and a night of fellowship! We can't wait to see you there.



YOU'RE INVITED!

FIRST SERVE ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Join over 500 volunteers to work on transformational projects in the North Hill community of Akron.

DETAILS

8:30 - 9 am

Interfaith Send-Off Service at 915 N. Main, Akron

9:30 am - 3 pm

Volunteer at Project Sites*

Lunch Provided

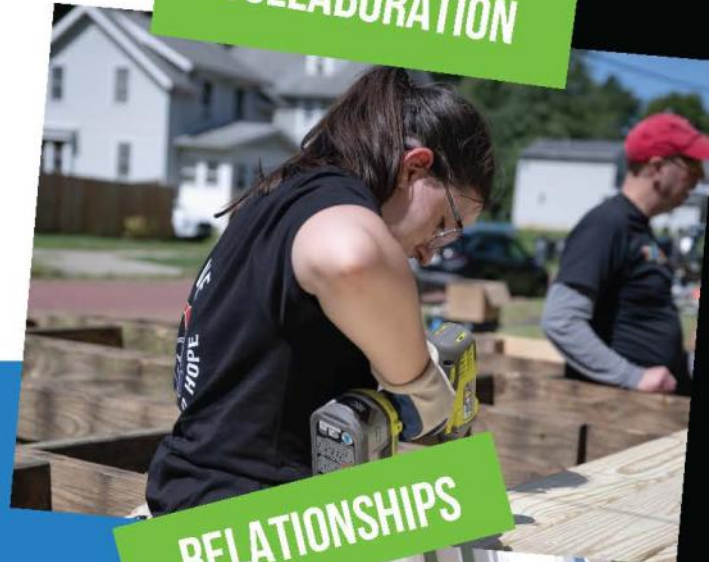
Register at joinfirstserve.org beginning Aug 1

*Choose from half or full-day projects (see below)

PROJECTS FOR ALL AGES & ABILITIES

- Painting sidewalk murals
- Washing pre-school toys
- Making teacher appreciation goodie bags
- Garden clean-up
- Preparing frozen meals
- Organizing closets
- Repairing residential decks
- Weaving sleeping mats
- Patio project
- & more!

COLLABORATION



RELATIONSHIPS



HOPE



Questions?



joinfirstserve.org



swimer@hudsonucc.org



abaldwin@hudsonucc.org

Worship Attendance

June 22nd	112	July 6	120
June 29th	86	July 13	129



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Greeters

July 20	Rev. John and Donna Phillips
July 27	Dan and Dianne Drummond
Aug 3	The Cammel Family
Aug 10	
Aug 17	Joe and Tom Labay
Aug 24	Nan Nagel and Sue Canavan

Altar Flowers

July 20	Rev. John and Donna Phillips
July 27	Carol Dowey
Aug 3	
Aug 10	
Aug 17	Jeff and Edith Sullivan
Aug 24	

Sign up in
the hallway
\$28 per
arrangement

Ushers



July 20	Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
July 27	Don Simmons, Joe Labay, Tom Labay, Larry Robinson
Aug 3	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Al Lytle, Ken Caldwell
Aug 10	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Fulton, Jane Charles
Aug 17	Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
Aug 24	Don Simmons, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Larry Robinson

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

FCC Tallmadge
WORSHIP
Schedule

SUNDAYS
@10:00 AM

ALL YEAR LONG!

**"No matter who you are, or where you are on
life's journey, you are welcome here."**

We are no longer
changing our worship
time during the summer
months. Our worship
service will remain at
10:00 AM all year long!
We will still have reduced
office hours. During
June, July, and August,
our office is open from
9AM—12PM,
Monday—Thursday.

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
3 10:00 AM—Worship/ Communion	4 1:00 PM—Ladies Study 2:125PM—Chair Yoga 5:00 PM—Social Action Meeting 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:30 PM—Trustees	5 6:00 PM—Naranon	6 9:00 AM—Quilters	7 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA	8	9 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
10 9:00 AM—EC Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship/ WAMM—Backpack Blessing 8:00 PM—Youth Movie Night	11 1:00 PM—Ladies Study 2:125PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage	12 6:00 PM—Naranon	13 9:00 AM—Quilters	14 HERALD DEADLINE 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA	15	16 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
17 10:00 AM—Worship	18 1:00 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 2:30 PM—WF Meet- ing 6:00 PM—Heritage	19 6:00 PM—Naranon 6:00 PM—Card Mak- ing	20 9:00 AM—Quilters 10:00 AM—Herald Angels	21 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA	22	23 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
24 10:00 AM—Worship	25 1:00 PM—Ladies Study 2:125PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:00 PM— Treehouse Board Meeting	26 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon 6:30 PM—Treehouse Meet the Teacher	27 9:00 AM—Quilters	28 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA	29	30 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
31 10:00 AM—5th Sunday Worship 6:00 PM—WJHM						

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: July 16, 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	