

ISSUE 7096-NOVEMBER 2025

The Herald

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

United Church of Christ

"Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living"

I am very thankful this year!!! I know it sounds like a cliché, but it's true! In a month where we tend to focus more on being thankful (though we should be thankful all year long!), I've been remembering all the good things and people in my life who have made it such a blessed experience.

I am deeply thankful for my home community of Columbus Grove, Ohio. This small village of around 2,500 was a nurturing home to me as I grew up. I was baptized and confirmed in the Columbus Grove United Church of Christ. Whether it was my parents who took me faithfully each week, my Sunday School teachers or the minister who preached each week, I am thankful for their witness of faith as I was growing up.



I went to Bowling Green State University and during my time there was involved in a number of congregations. As a singer, I was on "scholarship" to sing in different church choirs. This weekly stipend helped pay the bills (and I was extremely thankful for that!) but it also kept me in church to hear the Word and continually form me in the community of believers.

While others in my early life intimated that I would enter ministry, it was never a serious consideration that I can remember, at least not early on. I'm deeply thankful that the pulling of the Spirit never gave up on me, and I eventually answered the call to ministry.

The first church I was appointed to was the Ashkum United Methodist Church in Ashkum, Illinois (pictured above). This small community of 650 people was a loving crucible that nurtured my early days in ministry. I am deeply thankful to the many saints of that church who loved me into ministry.

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85 Heritage Dr. Tallmadge, OH 44278 Phone: 330.633.4931

In discerning my vocational future, it became apparent to me that I had very different views of church than the official polity of the United Methodist Church. I am deeply grateful for the loving welcome of the UCC to allow me Privilege of Call and to begin serving my first UCC congregation in Wadsworth.

While there are many more "faith stops" along the way, I am thankful in this moment for the First Congregational Church. I've felt such a warm and welcoming spirit in all of you these past four years and am extremely thankful to God for this opportunity to explore new paths in ministry with you. We journey forth into God's future thankful for one another and our common call to welcome all to God's family, "no matter where they are on life's journey!"

2026 STEWARDSHIP: CAN ONE SMALL GIFT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE AT ALL?



All the Gospels tell the story of Jesus feeding 5,000 people (John 6:1-14) with only five loaves and two fish. But the Gospel of John focuses our attention on the role of a little boy. Faced with a crowd of hungry people, Jesus looked for help feeding them. The little boy stepped forward with a modest gift, improbably small when set against the size of the crowd.

Jesus blessed the small gift and distributed it to the crowd. It may have looked comical to see such a tiny amount of food in such a large basket. But then something interesting happened. As he passed the basket to his disciples, suddenly more baskets appeared. Surprisingly, there was food in those baskets as well!

We dream big in church. The Gospel moves us to imagine addressing poverty, stopping conflicts, reconciling enemies, and building the kin-dom of God. Our gifts may seem small next to the big dreams of our congregation, but like the Feeding of the 5,000, God's amazing work begins with our small gifts.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

OCT 19 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: Luke 18:9-14

Message: "We Gather Together"

OCT 26 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture:

Message: LAITY SUNDAY

NOV 2 21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: Luke 19:1-19

Message: "Beside Us to Guide Us"

NOV 9 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture:

Message: GUEST PREACHER

NOV 16 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: Luke 20:27-28

Message: "We All Do Extol Thee"

NOV 23 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: John 6:25-35

Message: "All Glory Be Thine"

NOV 30 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Scripture:

Message: "Upon a Midnight Clear: Peace"

DEC 7 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Scripture:

Message: "Upon a Midnight Clear: Still"

THE PRAYER CHAIN **CONNECTION**

We pray for the names 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. Please remember in prayer:

Brad, Noreen, and Tim Ashley

Sharon Bible

Katie Ann Bickett

Margarete Boschert

Zander Boyd

Jim Brown (Sandy Pressler's son-in-law)

Patti Calvarese

Jim Caplinger

Jim Collinson (friend of Connie Mason)

Sean and Sara Doty

Lyn Fendenheim (friend of Joe Labay)

Debbie Fickes

Eleanor Hall

Angela Hammelman (daughter of Wally & Donna Atwood)

Alleen Hilbish

Jim Jackson (Bonnie Fordham's son-in-law)

John James

Zell Lambert

Roberta Lewis

Ellen McKee

Ron Mitchell

Linda Moreland (Mike Cammel's cousin)

Lynn Norton

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)

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 and Karen Thomason

Kim and Noel Walters

Ensign 2 Kaitlyn Wetter (Kester's granddaughter)

Don Woerz

Alzheimer's Care Giver Support Group

Blessed be God who did not refuse me the kindness I sought in prayer.

Psalm 66:20



9:00 AM

GIVE ONLINE HERE

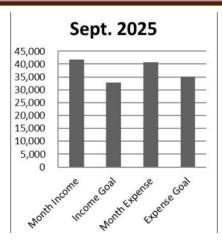


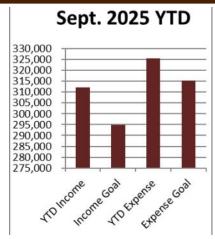


WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

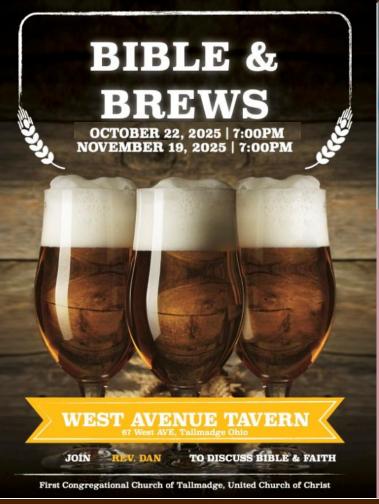
We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Mary Alice Schluep, mother of Rev. Dr. John Schluep, who died on September 14, 2025.

MONTHLY FINANCIALS





September 2025 operating income of \$41,695 was \$9,055 **above** the monthly income need. Operating expenses for the month were \$40,732 resulting in a **surplus** of \$963 in September and a YTD **deficit** of (\$13,224). Faith Offerings in September saw a rebound, and we continue to hope for a strong kickoff for the fall church year. Expenses were above budget in September but should decline in October. 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.





Register to Ring!

Please sign up to ring the bells for the Salvation Army at the Tallmadge Acme on Saturday, December 6th.

We will have two-hour shifts:

10 am -12 pm

12-2 pm

2-4 pm

4-6 pm

Sign up in the atrium at the Welcome Center.



We will be using the theme "Upon a Midnight Clear" for the Advent season this year at FCC. Edmund H. Sears, a Unitarian minister at Wayland, Massachusetts, wrote the hymn "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" in 1849. It was published that year a few days after Christmas in the Boston *Christian Register*. While obviously a Christmas hymn due to its theme of the angels' song, there is no mention at all of Christ or His birth about which the angels sang; it is a social gospel hymn.

The first and second stanzas ("It came upon the midnight clear" and "Still through the cloven skies they come") describe the coming of the angels and their song. The third condemns war, and the fourth commiserates with those in bondage and trial. The fifth stanza ("For lo! the days are hastening on") describes a future time of peace.

An overarching theme of this hymn is the contrast between the message "peace on earth, good will toward all" proclaimed by the host of angels at Christ's birth (Luke 2:14) and the war and oppression that dominate the Earth. While this hymn was originally written as the Civil War loomed for the US, we need to hear this message of peace now more than ever. Plan on joining your church family this Advent to consider what it means to be a people who follow the Prince of Peace!

Hanging of the Greens/Advent Workshop

Join your First Congregational family as we decorate our home for the holy seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany! The Christian Education Board will also be sponsoring the Advent Workshop. Both events will take place following worship on November 30. The workshop is a holiday crafting event for our young ones. They will be able to make something to take home and give to a loved one. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy some lunch together and then "deck the halls" and make our crafts!!! The Christian Education Board will be providing lunch so be sure to sign up (sign up coming soon) so we have an accurate count for lunch. Kick off the holiday season in style with your church family on the First Sunday of Advent!





GLOBAL MISSION CHURCH

GLOBAL MISSION MEETING

NOVEMBER 2ND @ 9 AM | NOVEMBER 19 @ 5:30 PM

Come find out what it means to be a Global Mission Church. FCC is

holding two informational meetings about the process to become a Global Mission Church. Meetings will be held on Sunday, November 2 at 9:00 AM and Wednesday, November 19, 5:30 PM. Both meetings will take place in the Fellowship Hall. Watch the bulletins for more information!



Spaghetti Dinner Update

We have some menu changes for our Spaghetti Dinner starting in October. We will no longer have chicken on the menu but are adding a new item, a meatball sub, for \$11. Also, note that service now ends at 6:30 pm.



Tallmadge Good Neighbors Christmas Giving

Tallmadge Good Neighbors will give gift cards to needy families this year. Gift cards from grocery stores and department stores like Walmart, Target, and Meijer would be appreciated.

In order to support these families, please bring gift cards to church and put them in the offering plate or give them to Cathy in the office by November 30th.



Meet Our New Choir Members

We welcome to our soprano section, Rebecca **Kulmala**. She is married to Jeff and they have two grown children: Brenda, a music teacher, and Brandon, an engineer employed by Davey Tree. Rebecca is employed at Walmart Co. In addition to her family and work, Rebecca enjoys crocheting, learning to play the piano, and times spent with her beautiful golden retriever, Wendy. It is a delight to have Rebecca in our choir family.

Becky Rapini is one of our newest members of the Chancel Choir. She is a graduate of Ellet High School and Akron University. She and her husband, Ken, have been married for 28 years and have raised two grown sons. She recently moved from Tallmadge to Norton. Although Becky retired from United Disabilities Services in May of 2023, she continues to volunteer there weekly. In her leisure time, Becky enjoys camping, walking, playing bells, and now singing in the choir. She also enjoys her very spoiled cocker spaniel named Buddy. Becky is grateful for the welcoming atmosphere found at First Congregational Church of Tallmadge.

Fred Cotton, a tenor, is married to Paula, and they have a 12-year-old son Will. They round out our family with four miniature schnauzers. Fred is employed at Summit Racing and enjoys working on cars, taking road trips and fixing things.

Fred grew up surrounded by music. He enjoyed listening to his Mom and Dad sing on Sunday evenings. He especially enjoys listening to old Gospel hymns. Hopefully, Fred will be able to share that love with the choir here at FCC. He thinks music is a good way to express love of/to God.

UM UNITED MINISTRY



Youth Fellowship October Update

There's been a change in plans for Youth Fellowship on Sunday, October 26th! The youth are planning a fun trip to Cedar Point for Halloweekend, combining fellowship and fall thrills. This outing will be weather dependent and will take place only if there's enough interest from youth and parent volunteers. Stay tuned for communication from Ms. Anne regarding this event.

A Month of Gratitude with United Ministry!

As we enter this special season of thanksgiving, United Ministry is filled with gratitude for all that God is doing in and through us. This month, we give thanks for: the blessings of being together, the joy of fellowship that strengthens our spirits, for the privilege of serving one another, church family and neighbors and most of all, for our growing relations with our God, who remains faithful in every season. We look forward to walking this month united in purpose, prayer, praise and fun!

Faith In Action Class

FIA will take place with Ms. Kyle and Mr. George on Sundays, November 2nd and 16th in the youth room at 9am.

Sunday in Service

As part of our month of giving thanks, United Ministry will host *Rake N' Run* service day on **Sunday**, **November 9th**. After service, we'll gather at **11:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall for a **potluck lunch** before heading out to help members of our congregation with **fall leaf cleanup**. This event is led by our youth and open to all — we invite anyone who would like to join us in serving! Please bring a **side dish to share** and any **tools** you can contribute (rakes, gloves, etc.). If you or someone you know needs assistance, contact **Anne Pertick** at anne.pertick@fcctallmadge.org or the church office by November 2nd.

United in Thanks Meal

A seat at the table is open for you! For our November youth fellowship, we will be coming together for a meal of thanks and some fun! Our fellowship will be from 5:30-8pm at FCC on Sunday, November 23rd in the Fellowship Hall.



Ways to Support our United Ministry Youth

Acme receipts: United Youth Ministries is collecting Acme receipts to help raise money for Youth activities and missions. Turn in your receipts to the box in the atrium from now until February 15th.



Election Day Bake Sale: We are once again holding our Election Day Bake Sale. The CE board is



seeking donations of baked goods, as well as volunteers to help throughout the day. Please drop **IT SALE** off baked goods at the church by Saturday, November 2nd. Please mark the baked good item. If you're available to help, please contact Anne Pertick at anne.pertick@fcctallmadge.org. Thank you for supporting our youth through this sweet fundraiser!

Capture the Spirit Christmas Photo Fundraiser: Are you looking for a family photo for the holidays? Get into the holiday spirit and support a great cause with our Christmas Photo Shoot Fundraiser! Gather your loved ones for a festive photo session—complete with two holiday backdrops to choose from. All proceeds go toward supporting our United Youth Ministry program experiences and mission trips. We are also looking for a volunteer photographer to help make this event a success. If you're interested in sharing your talent, we'd love to hear from you! Contact Anne Pertick if interested. Spots will be limited, so mark those calendars for November 7th and 8th. Sign up online today: https://forms.gle/4hCLBv9cQPSaJo7N7 . The cost is \$50 for a family of 4 and \$70 up to 6 people.

Holiday Pecan Sale: Our annual Pecan Sale is here! It's time to start planning that holiday baking—our United Youth Ministry are selling fresh pecans to help fund our mission trip and ministry experiences!



Golden Pecan Halves – perfect for pies, cookies, and all your holiday treats

NEW! Candied Pecans – a variety of sweet flavors to choose from! Make great holiday gifts! Order deadline is October 19th. To place an order, see one of our youth, visit the table in the atrium on Sunday mornings or order online: https://fcctallmadge.org/2025/10/04/pecan-sale/ Thank you for supporting our youth and helping make these opportunities possible.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PRACTICE

We are going to have a Christmas Pageant on December 14. We invite all children who are in 5th grade or younger to participate. We do ask that those who want speaking parts (actors) be in 2nd—5th grade. We will be practicing with our actors on Oct. 29 @ 4:30 pm. Those who want to be in the pageant with non-speaking parts (1st grade and younger) will be added to practice in December.

Treehouse Preschool



Our school year has begun and we are eager to play and learn. Our first fundraiser, Metropolis Popcorn, begins October 8-21. Here is a link and a QR code to make orders if you are interested;

https://thepopcornfundraiser.com/organization/treehouse-preschool/

Orders will be collected Oct. 8-21

Orders can be picked up at Treehouse on Nov. 12 or shipped to your home if you would like to pay for shipping.

All proceeds support capital improvements for Treehouse Preschool.



FAITH IN ACTION

We are ready to start the fall session. We will meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Rm 207 Roberta Nehrenz for ages 4 to 2nd grade

Rm 204 Dianne Drummond for grades 3rd-5th

Rm 102 Kyle & George Herron for grades 6th–12th

Confirmation will be also be meeting this year after worship. This is for students 8th grade and older who would like to learn more about our church, our history, the traditions and the foundations of our faith.



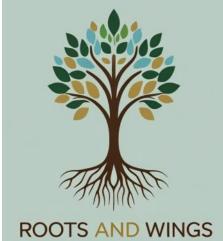
WORSHIP ART MINISTRY (WAM)

We have started meeting weekly for WAM, where children 5th grade and younger will discover the weekly scripture through art and activities. We will head to the Fellowship Hall most Sundays following the Children's Message.

We would love for your child to bring his or her bible to WAM if they have received it.



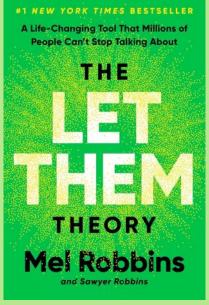
ROOT AND WINGS



Roots and Wings is a new fellowship group for grandparents and grandchildren to grow in faith and friendship together. Inspired by Colossians 2:6–7, we seek to be "rooted and built up in Him" as we share activities, stories, and time that strengthen family bonds and create lasting memories. This is open to all children, but our activities will be geared for elementary-aged grandchildren. If your child wants to come and doesn't have a local grandparent, we can find an adoptive grandparent that would like to participate. Our next meeting will be

Nov. 9 @ 4:30

Edible Thanksgiving crafts/snacks



WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY

Women's bible discussion will be reading <u>The Let Them Theory</u> by Mel Robbins. The Let Them Theory will forever change the way you think about relationships, control, and personal power. Whether you want to advance your career, motivate others to change, take creative risks, find deeper connections, build better habits, start a new chapter, or simply create more happiness in your life and relationships, this book gives you the mindset and tools to unlock your full potential. Here is our discussion schedule:

Oct. 19 Chapters 3-8 Nov. 2 Chapters 9-13 Nov. 16 Chapters 14-17

Dec. 7 Chapters 18-the end

Worship Attendance

 Sep 21
 126
 Oct 5
 116

 Sep 28
 123
 Oct 12
 108



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Greeters		Altar Flowers	
Oct 19 Nan Nagel and Sue Canavan	Oct 19	Bonnie Fordham	
Oct 26 Dan and Dianne Drummond	Oct 26	Cliff and Sue Yeager	
Nov 2 Bobby Higham	Nov 2		
Nov 9 Tom and Joe Labay	Nov 9		Sign up in
Nov 16 Mark and Cathleen Clark	Nov 16	Joe and Tom Labay	the hallway
Nov 23 Carol Kroah and Janet McCaulley	Nov 23	Bob Haydu	\$28 per
Nov 30 Jack and Helen McKee	Nov 30		arrangement

Ushers



Oct 19	Dave Marconi, Jane Charles, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
Oct 26	Joe Labay, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Larry Robinson
Nov 2	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell
Nov 9	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Darkow, Jane Charles
Nov 16	Dave Marconi, Jane Charles, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
Nov 23	Joe Labay, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Larry Robinson
Nov 30	Larry Robinson, Joe Labay, Tom Labay, Gary Myers

2025 POINSETTIA ORDERS

Help decorate FCC for Christmas. *Please place all orders by Wednesday, November 12th. Plants cost \$10.*Please mail in or drop off your order form with your money to the church office. Names of those honored will be listed in the bulletin on December 24, 2025. Christmas Special Music Donation forms will be the Herald next month.

Name	Phone
Email	
Total number of plants	Total amount enclosed (\$10.00 per plant)
Message	

NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
9:00 AM—Faith in Action 9:00 AM—Women's Book Study 9:00 AM—Global Mission Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship/All Saints Day	3 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 5:00 PM—Social Action Meeting 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:30 PM—Trustees	4 Election Day- Bake Sale 6:00 PM—Naranon	5 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	6 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Staff Meeting 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA 6:00 PM—Bells 7:00 PM—Choir	7 Christmas Photo Fundraiser	8 Christmas Photo Fundraiser 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
9 9:00 AM—EC Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship 11:00 AM—Rake and Run 4:30 PM - Roots and Wings	10 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage	11 6:00 PM—Naranon	9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	13 HERALD DEADLINE 10:00 AM—WW 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA 6:00 PM—Bells 7:00 PM—Choir	14	15 7:30/9:00 AM— WW 9:00 PM—Men's Prayer Breakfast
16 8:45 AM—Prayer Chain Meeting 9:00 AM—Faith in Action 9:00 AM—Women's Book Study 10:00 AM—Worship 11:30 AM— Confirmation Meeting	17 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 2:30 PM—WF Meeting 6:00 PM—Heritage	18 6:00 PM—Naranon	19 9:00 AM—Quilters 10:00 AM—Herald Angels 10:00 AM—Spaghetti Dinner Prep 12:00/1:00 PM—Book Study/Bible Study 5:30 PM—Global Mission Meeting 7:00 PM—Bible and Brews	20 10:00 AM—WW 12:00 PM—WF 1:00 PM—Staff Meeting 4:30—6:30 PM— Spaghetti Dinner 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA 6:00 PM—Bells 7:00 PM—Choir	21	22 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
23 9:00 AM—CE Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship/ Consecration Sunday 5:30 PM—Youth Fellowship	24 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage	25 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon	26 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study	27 THANKSGIVING, OFFICE CLOSED	28 THANKSGIVING, OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 10:00 AM—Worship/ Advent Begins 11:30 AM—Hanging of the Greens/Workshop 6:00 PM—WJHM						

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DATE: October 15, 2025

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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

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