



ISSUE 7099—FEBRUARY 2026

The Herald

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF
TALLMADGE

United Church of Christ

"Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living"

The Love of Winter

Yes, I love Winter! I love to watch the snow fall silently down and put a white covering over the drab, brown grass of fall. I love to curl up on a long winter's night with a good book. I love to make the hearty comfort food associated with the season. Even with all this love of the winter season, I am yearning for some spring.

When I walked out to get the mail recently, it was a little above 20 degrees. I noticed the buds on the trees. Thank goodness these buds are still wrapped pretty well against the cold and thank goodness that we haven't had the feigned warmup that brings the buds out only to have them killed by another strong frost.

I couldn't help thinking that the buds were also yearning for some spring. You can plainly see the buds on each stem of the branch and they are just waiting for warmer weather.

In the midst of all this waiting, we enter the season of Lent. While the season of Lent isn't necessarily characterized by waiting, we are preparing for the Easter event and that comes after 40 days of waiting. We yearn for the joy of resurrection, yet we have to wait through the days of Christ's sorrow, pain and death.

This Lent, our congregation will embark on an exciting seven-week journey. Our



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Lenten series will be based on an engaging book about mainline and moderate Christianity titled “What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?”

During this series, we’ll discuss several things Christians don’t need to believe. For example, we don’t need to believe that good Christians don’t doubt or that it’s okay for Christians to be judgmental and obnoxious. However, we’ll spend most of our time studying what Christians do need to believe. In short, Christians need to believe in

Jesus—his life, teachings, example, death, and resurrection.

Through the series, we will see that a great benefit of these beliefs is that they provide promising answers to life’s most profound questions, including, What matters most? Am I accepted? Where is God? What brings fulfillment? What about suffering? And is there hope?

And aren’t these all things we yearn for?

Grace for the journey,



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Jan 25 3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY/ANNUAL

Scripture: Matthew 4:12-23

Message: “Gifts That Keep on Giving: The Gift of Bold Action”

FEB 1 4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY/CANDLEMAS

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

Message: “Gifts That Keep on Giving: The Gift of Poetic Action”

FEB 8 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-20

Message: “Gifts That Keep on Giving: The Gift of Public Witness”

Feb 15 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9

Message: “Gifts That Keep on Giving: The Gift of The Unpredictable Jesus”

Feb 22 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

Scripture: Psalm 32, Matthew 19:3-9, 9:16-17

Message: “What’s The Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: (Don’t) Give Me That Old

MAR 1 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

Scripture: Psalm 121, Mark 12:28-34

Message: “What’s The Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: Jesus’ Priority: What

MAR 8 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

Scripture: Psalm 95, John 8:1-11

Message: “What’s The Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: Jesus’ Grace: Am I

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 Ashley
Noreen Ashley
Tim Ashley
The Becking Family
Katie Ann Bickett
Margarete Boschert
Jim Brown
Patti Calvarese
Jim Caplinger
Patty Conely
Rylin Davis and family
Sean and Sara Doty
Debbie Fickes
Karen Ford
Eleanor Hall
Angela Hammelman
Alleen Hilbish
Jim Jackson
John James
Nancy Johnson
Anita Kelly-Lahrmer
Zell Lambert
Roberta Lewis
Ron Mitchell
Bob Poff
David and Jackie Parker
LTJG John Norton
Heather Read
Richard Reynolds
Alice Sheeler
Eddie Showalter
Lt. Maxwell Spear
Richard and Karen Thomason
Kim and Noel Walters
Ensign 2 Kaitlyn Wetter
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*

To Our Church Family and Friends,

As we enter the Lenten Season, we pray God's abiding presence will be with you, and we offer this prayer as one we might all pray together during this time of reflection.

Lord, you are the healer of my soul.

Take the blindness from my eyes

the deafness from my ears

the darkness from my mind

and the hardness from my heart.

***Fill me with the grace, wisdom,
and courage***

to do Your Will in all things.

My Lord and My God,

draw me close to you,

nearer than ever before. Amen

"Abide in Me and I will abide in you."

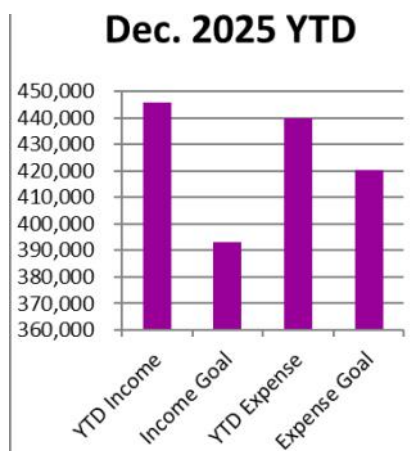
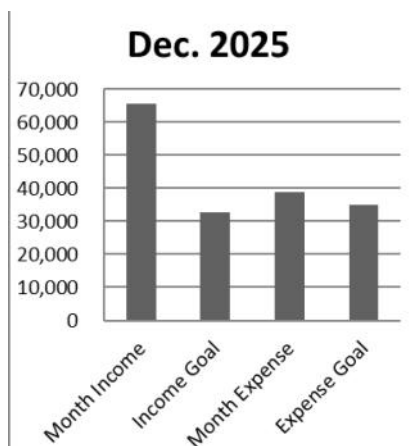
(John 15:4)

- From your prayer chain family.

WITH SYMPATHY

With sympathy, we announce the death of John Huffman, husband of Jane Huffman, on December 19, 2025.

MONTHLY FINANCIALS



December 2025 operating income of \$65,606 was \$33,095 **above** the monthly income need. Operating expenses for the month were \$38,834 resulting in a **surplus** of \$26,772 in December. Faith Offerings in December were close to the budgeted amount but were buoyed by contributions from our Endowment Fund and a grant that was greater than anticipated. We continue to hope for a strong 2026 and a reduced need for “outside” funds. 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.

Women's Fellowship Valentine's Luncheon



Thursday, February 5th
12:00 PM
@ Danny Boy's

Women's Fellowship Spaghetti Dinner Update

We will not have a Spaghetti Dinner in January or February in 2026. Please plan to join us on March 19th for our next dinner.

**MEN'S
PRAYER
BREAKFAST**



SAT. FEB. 28 @ 9:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS @ 12 PM | BEGINNING JANUARY 14TH

WINTER 2026 BOOK STUDY

We are discussing the book:
"Second Thoughts
about Hell:
Understanding
What We Believe"
By Ronald Allen

Books can be purchased in the church office for \$14

WEDNESDAYS @ 1 PM | BEGINNING JANUARY 14TH

We are studying Christian
Scriptures in
Chronological order:
2 Corinthians
James
Colossians

Get a reading list from
the office!

Winter
2026
Bible
Study

FCC Tallmadge

A WORD OF THANKS!

Dear Members, Thank you very much for the gift cards for Christmas. We appreciate your help feeding our community. This year we assisted 1,228 individuals with food and 887 with clothing.

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

Thanks is such a small word when it comes to expressing our appreciation to all the kitchen help that was provided for John's memorial dinner. Many of you have served together on committees, boards, or just being his friend meant so much to Scott and I. A special thanks to Janet and Bob for their leadership in making everything run smoothly. And, not to be forgotten, is the cleanup crew – you are indispensable.

Thanks – Jane and Scott



Honoring Dorothy Taylor

- a choir member for 68 years!

When asked why she goes to choir, Dorothy said, "I enjoy it! Everybody has fun, is happy and the music is wonderful!" Dorothy began singing in church when she was three, with her sister, Helen, who was five. Music has been a huge part of her life. She played the violin growing up and some piano. She has been a part of choir since she was a little girl. As an adult, she has continued singing in the choir, as well as being a long-time member of the adult bell choir and participating in bell festivals.

One of her fondest memories in choir was when the choir performed the "Pop Concert," which included show tunes and other fun "pop" music, under the direction of LaVerne Belcher.

She said she loves all the music throughout the year, especially the selections for Advent and Christmas.

Choir is and always has been her way of showing her faith!



Christmas Cookies & Hot Cocoa Bar

Christmas Eve Services

On Christmas Eve, we returned to the night that quietly changed the world. In our new interactive service, the story of Christmas unfolded as we followed the footsteps of Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem—moving through busy streets and into the warmth of the marketplace.



There, we paused to gather in fellowship and service, preparing our hearts for the newborn King. Over shared cups of hot chocolate and unhurried conversation, hands were put to meaningful work. Baby blankets were carefully made, wooden rattles colored, sheep crafted, and diapers offered as gifts of love. Through these faithful acts, we

were able to donate five handmade baby blankets and more than 20 boxes and packs of diapers to support Shelter Care in Tallmadge.

In our traditional Christmas Eve service, we welcomed the Light of the World through Scripture, familiar carols, and the beauty of music shared by our choirs, soloists, harpist, and cellist.

May the season of Christmastide and the light we welcomed that night remain with us—guiding our steps, softening our hearts, and shining through our lives all year long.



UNITED MINISTRIES YOUTH UPDATE

UM Christmas Party

What a fun-filled time our United Ministry family had at our Christmas party! We showed up cozy in our Christmas PJs, flipped up some yummy goodness at our make-your-own pancake bar, and dove into our annual stocking gift exchange. There was plenty of laughter, lots of silliness during games, and meaningful moments in our lesson as we “Unwrapped” Christmas through Mary’s obedience, Joseph’s courage, the shepherds’ joy, and the journey of the wise men.

The leaders and youth of United Ministry wish everyone many blessings and joy in the new year!



UM Sunday in Service Project



In December, the youth of United Ministry shared the warmth—and the powerful love and light of the world—with senior shut-ins in our community through our Sunday in Service project. Guided by the loving hands, leadership and work of Debra Kinzel from our Quilting Ministry, our combined ministries completed 26 handmade fleece lap blankets. The youth also crafted homemade cards to spread joy during the holiday season.

We made a visit to Mulberry Gardens Senior Living in Munroe Falls, Ohio, where the youth personally delivered the blankets and cards to residents, including members of our own church family. The visit was a meaningful reminder of how service, compassion, and connection can bring comfort and light to others.



Super Bowl Sub Sale

On January 25th and February 1st, the Board of Christian Education and the youth of United Ministry will be selling subs for you to enjoy during the Super Bowl. Please consider supporting the work and outreach of our youth mission by purchasing a sub for yourself—or for someone else!

Cost: \$8.00 per sub

Sub Options: Regular or Veggie

Regular Sub: cheese, lettuce, tomato, salami, ham and turkey

Veggie Sub: cheese, lettuce, tomato, mild peppers, green peppers, red onions, cucumbers

If you choose to purchase a sub for someone else, it will be donated to one of our local missions.

How to Order:

Stop by the Atrium on **January 25** or **February 1**, complete the order form below and return or place your order online using the link below: <https://fcctallmadge.org/2026/01/14/super-bowl-sub-sale/>

All orders need to be placed by Monday, February 2, 2026.

Pickup: Sub pick up will be on Sunday, February 8th from 11-11:30am in the atrium.



Super Bowl Sub Order Form

(return to Anne Pertick)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

**All subs will be dressing free so you can add the dressing of your 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 would like to make a monetary donation to the youth mission trip.

\$ _____

Grades 6-12	
UM	FEB. 2026
SCHEDULE	
SUN 1	FAITH IN ACTION ⌚ 9AM 📍 Youth Room
SUN 8	SUNDAY IN SERVICE SUPER BOWL SUBS ⌚ 9AM 📍 Kitchen
SUN 15	FAITH IN ACTION ⌚ 9AM 📍 Youth Room
SUN 15	CONFIRMATION ⌚ 11:30AM - 1PM 📍 David Bacon
SUN 22	YOUTH FELLOWSHIP ⌚ 6:30PM - 8PM 📍 FCC
UNITED IN CHRIST	



Treehouse Preschool

Treehouse 2026 Open House and Registration will be Feb. 5 @ 6-7 pm. If you know anyone looking, please spread the word. We do have registration for church members on Feb. 4 @ 10–2 pm. Registration requires a \$50 registration fee and a copy of the child's birth certificate.

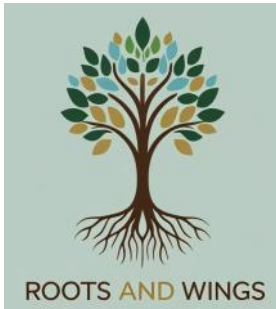
We are also collecting baskets for our March basket raffle. If you are interested in providing a basket of gifts, treats, gift cards, books, etc., we would gladly take your donation. Please have the baskets to Wendy by March 1.

THANK YOU!

Just a quick “thank you” to everyone who supported the new Christmas Eve 4:30 worship. We had many people come create, decorate, participate and take down the Fellowship Hall. So much energy went into this new experience we offered. Thank you to all those who helped make it happen.



Root and Wings



Roots and Wings is a 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 toward 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. If you have grandchildren

that don't normally attend FCC, they are welcome too. **See you at 4 PM.**

February 15 – Let's share the love with others (service project)

March 8 – Games, Games and more games

April 12 – Summer vision boards

Faith in Action

We had a little scheduling issue this month so we have a few changes for Faith in Action. All classes take place Sunday mornings at 9 AM.

Feb. 1 and 15th for the **high school and middle school group** with Kyle and George.

Feb. 1 and 8th for the **3rd, 4th and 5th graders** with Ms. Dianne.



We'd like to introduce Maddy Dolezal. Maddy graduated from Tallmadge in 2021 and is currently attending Kent State University studying Early Childhood Education. She loves going to concerts, traveling and hanging out with friends and family.

She is going to work in our nursery on Sunday mornings. Maddy is excited to meet our little members. If you see her, welcome her to our church.

Welcome, Maddy!

Worship Attendance

Dec. 21	158	Dec. 28	85	Jan. 11	108
Dec. 24	246	Jan. 4	107	Jan. 18	115



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Greeters

Jan. 25
Feb. 1
Feb. 8
Feb. 15
Feb. 22
Mar. 1
Mar. 8

Altar Flowers

Jan. 25
Feb. 1
Feb. 8 Carol Kroah
Feb. 15
Feb. 22
Mar. 1
Mar. 8

Sign up in
the hallway
\$28 per
arrangement

Ushers



Jan. 25	Joe Labay, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Larry Robinson
Feb. 1	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell
Feb. 8	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Darkow, Jane Charles
Feb. 15	Larry Robinson, Jane Charles, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
Feb. 22	Joe Labay, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Larry Robinson
Mar. 1	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell
Mar. 8	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Darkow, Jane Charles

SAVE THE DATE

Our Annual Meeting
will be held on
Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026,
during worship.



Journey to Bethlehem
4:30 PM Service Christmas Eve

FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Sub Sale 9:00 AM—Faith in Action 10:00 AM—Worship/Communion	2 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 5:00 PM—Social Action Meeting 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:30 PM—Trustees	3 6:00 PM—Naranon	4 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	5 10:00 AM—WW 12:00 PM—WF Lunch (Danny Boy's) 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—Bells 7:00 PM—Choir	6	7 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
8 9:00 AM—Sub Making 9:00 AM—EC Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship/Scout Sunday 11:00 AM—Sub pick up 11:30 AM—Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet	9 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage	10 6:00 PM—Naranon	11 9:00 AM—Quilters 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	12 HERALD DEADLINE 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Staff meeting 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—Bells 7:00 PM—Choir	13	14 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
15 9:00 AM—Faith in Action 10:00 AM—Worship 11:30 AM—Confirmation Meeting 4:00 PM—Roots and Wings	16 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 2:30 PM—WF Meeting 6:00 PM—Heritage	17 6:00 PM—Naranon	18 9:00 AM—Quilters 10:00 AM—Herald Angels 12:00 PM—Book Study 1:00 PM—Bible Study 7:00 PM—Ash Wednesday Service	19 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Staff Meeting 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—Bells 7:00 PM—Choir	20	21 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
22 9:00 AM—CE Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship 6:00 PM—WJHM 6:30 PM—Youth Fellowship	23 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage	24 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon	25 9:00 AM—Quilters 1:00 PM—Bible Study 7:00 PM—Bible and Brews 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	26 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Staff meeting 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—Bells 7:00 PM—Choir	27	28 7:30/9:00 AM—WW 9:00 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast

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 21, 2026

Spiritual and Pastoral Care Ministry Contacts

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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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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	