

ISSUE 7101—APRIL 2026

# The Herald

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF  
TALLMADGE

*United Church of Christ*

“Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living”

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). In the sweeping vision of the Gospel of Matthew, this is not a sentimental blessing, it is a dangerous one.

Peacemakers are not peacekeepers. They do not simply maintain order; they disrupt the false peace that is built on domination. In our world, that since Saturday has baptized violence with the language of necessity, security, or even righteousness, Jesus does not say, “Blessed are those who wage just wars.” He does not carve out exemptions for empire. He does not footnote his blessing with conditions. He simply blesses the peacemakers.

For centuries, Christians have wrestled with the idea of “just war,” attempting to set moral boundaries around organized violence. Yet on the mountain, Jesus sets a different horizon. The Sermon moves quickly from blessing peacemakers to commanding love of enemies and prayer for persecutors. The logic is consistent and uncompromising: if we are to love those who threaten us, how can we justify killing them? If we are to pray for those who harm us, how can we sanctify systems that train us to destroy them?

To say there is no just war is not to deny the reality of evil. It is to take evil so seriously that we refuse to mirror it. Violence always promises clarity: us and them, good and bad, righteous and wicked. But the cross reveals something more unsettling—that sin runs through every heart and every nation. War depends on the myth of moral purity and our supposed notion of moral superiority. Jesus dismantles these myths by standing unarmed before the machinery of state violence and absorbing it rather than



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replicating it. This month, we bear witness to the power of a war-mongering empire to hang Jesus on a cross of torture and shame because he refused to settle for anything less than loving his enemies and advocating for peacemakers.

Peacemaking, then, is not passive. It is fierce and costly. It means confronting injustice without becoming what we oppose. It means building economies that do not depend on weapons production, telling the truth about the bodies broken in “our” name, and resisting narratives that equate national interest with God’s will. It means listening to the grief of mothers on each side of a border and recognizing that their tears are indistinguishable.

To be called children of God is to resemble our Parent. And the God revealed in Jesus does not conquer through force but reconciles through self-giving love. In a culture that often wraps the flag around the cross, peacemakers gently but firmly unwrap it. They refuse to let Christ be conscripted.

“Blessed are the peacemakers” is not naïve idealism. It is a declaration that the only future worth having is one not built on graves. If we take Jesus at his word, then our discipleship must move beyond managing violence toward abolishing it. There is no just war because there is no just way to destroy the image of God in another human being.

Let our prayer be for the courage to live as if Jesus meant what he said.

Grace for the journey,




## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### MAR 22 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

*Scripture:* Psalm 130, John 13:1-5, 13-17

*Message:* “What’s The Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: Example: What Brings Fulfillment?”

### MAR 29 PALM SUNDAY

*Scripture:* Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Matthew 27:27-31

*Message:* “What’s The Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: Death: What about Suffering?”

### APR 5 EASTER SUNDAY

*Scripture:* Matthew 28:1-10

*Message:* “What’s The Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: Resurrection: Is There Hope?”

### APR 12 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Scripture:* John 20:19-31

*Message:* “Building Blocks: Becoming a Believer”

### APR 19 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Scripture:* Psalm 46:1-7, Luke 12:22-31

*Message:* “What—Me Worry?”

### APR 26 YOUTH SUNDAY

### MAY 3 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Scripture:* John 14:1-14

*Message:* “Building Blocks: Asking Questions”

## THE PRAYER CHAIN CONNECTION

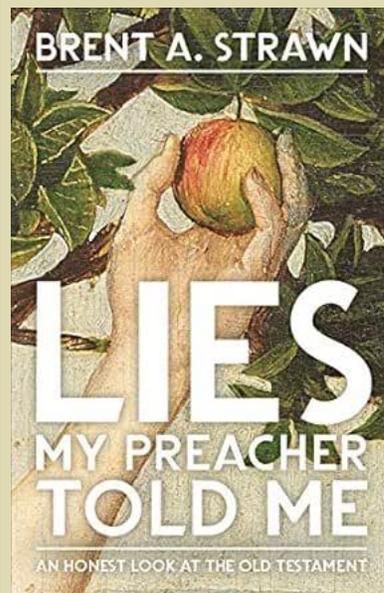
We pray for the names listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723.

*Please remember in prayer:*

The Ashley Family  
Debbie B.  
The Becking Family  
Katie Ann Bickett  
Joyce Bojarski  
Margarete Boschert  
Jim Brown  
John Calvarese  
Patti Calvarese  
Sue Canavan  
Jim Caplinger  
Mark Clark  
Patty Conely  
Rylin Davis and family  
Sean and Sara Doty  
Mark Downey  
Elaine Engle  
Ron Evans  
Debbie Fickes  
Bonnie Fordham  
Darrell Goodson  
Eleanor Hall  
Sue Hamilton  
Alleen Hilbish  
Jim Jackson  
Gene Jarjabka  
Nancy Johnson  
Anita Kelly-Lahrmer  
Zell Lambert  
Yvonne Larson  
Roberta Lewis  
Bob McPherson  
Melba Moor  
Gary Miller  
Ron Mitchell  
George Nehrenz  
Bob Poff

David and Jackie Parker  
LTJG John Norton  
Heather Read  
Richard Reynolds  
Alice Sheeler  
Eddie Showalter  
Ensign 5 Kaylie Spear  
Lt. Maxwell Spear  
Richard & Karen Thomason  
Kim and Noel Walters  
Ensign 3 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*



The book for the spring 2026 Book/Bible Study has arrived. We have copies in the office for \$16 each. Remember, there will only be one 12 noon class for the spring study in the David Bacon Room. That study will begin on Wednesday, April 29 and run through May 27.

*First Congregational*  
**BIBLE & BREWS**

DATE: **15 APRIL** TIME: **07 PM**

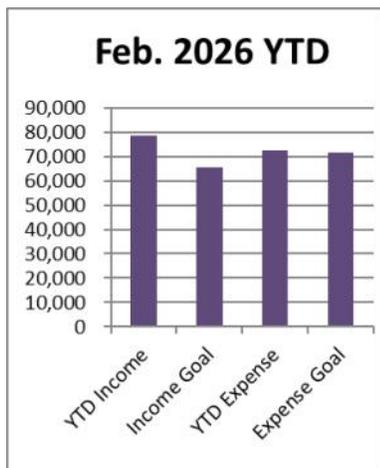
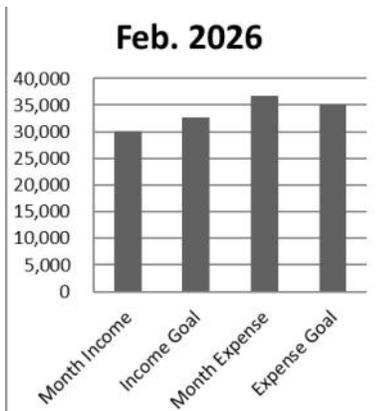
HOPPIN' FROG BREWERY  
1680 EAST WATERLOO RD | AKRON

////////// FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE //////////

**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST**

Saturday, Mar. 21 @ 9:00 AM  
No breakfast in April

# MONTHLY FINANCIALS



February 2026 operating income of \$30,056 was \$2,700 **below** the monthly income need. Operating expenses for the month were \$36,720 resulting in a **deficit** of \$6,660 in February. We had a strong January, but our February deficit cut it about in half year-to-date, for a surplus of \$6,229 through February. We continue to hope for a strong 2026 with new and growing ministries, and 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.



Tallmadge Good Neighbors will give gift cards to families in need of assistance at this time of 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 March 30th.

### Social Action:



### Support for Our Neighbors through Faithful Servants

We are collecting donations for Faithful Servants, a mission dedicated to providing free medical care to those in our community without insurance.

They are in need of small size bottles of acetaminophen (Tylenol) and ibuprofen (Advil).

You can drop your donations off in the Church office during regular hours or on Sunday mornings.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Sunday school class will be touring the Ronald McDonald House on April 19th. Please bring your pop tabs in by then so we can donate them that day.

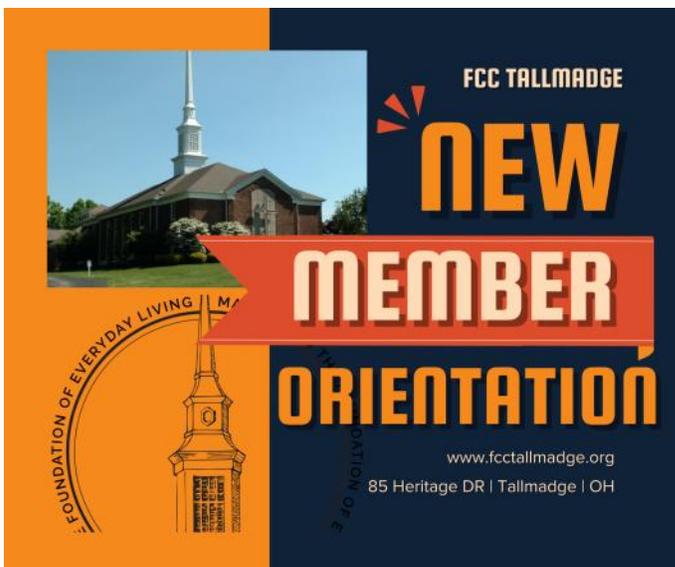
Questions: Dianne Drummond 330-701-8231.



**HOLY WEEK 2026:** Join the FCC family this Holy Week (March 29 – April 5) as we journey with Jesus through his final week. We will gather on Sunday, March 29, for our traditional Palm Procession at the beginning of the service. We will continue with our Lenten-themed sermons on “What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still be a Christian.” That day, we will focus on “Jesus’ Death: What about Suffering?”

On Thursday, April 2, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for our Maundy Thursday service. This service will feature the story of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples feet during their last evening together. While we will consider the story there will be no foot washing during this service.

Our Good Friday service will take place on Friday, April 3, in the sanctuary of FCC. This service is based on a traditional Tenebrae service and it’s dwindling light (extinguishing of candles). As the darkness closes in, we will seek to “survive the shadows” during this moving service.



### NEW MEMBER CLASSES

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge will offer two membership orientation classes this spring. These classes are designed to give you an introduction into the FCC family. These classes will be offered on Sundays, May 24 and 31, at the 9:00am hour before worship. If participants are led to join FCC in membership, the New Member Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Please let the church office know if you are interested. You can email Cathy Cotter, the church’s Office Administrator, at [info@fcctallmadge.org](mailto:info@fcctallmadge.org)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

# SPAGHETTI DINNER



**4:30-7:00 PM**

**3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH**

**TO-GO ORDERS CALL  
330-630-0704**

**MARCH 19 AND APRIL 16**

**Our Spaghetti dinners are back for  
March and April. Make plans to join  
your church friends for dinner!**

## Choir NOTES

Join us for a concert on Monday, May 11, at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. The "Summit Bells," directed by Chuck Kobb, will perform hymn arrangements, original handbell music, and a transcription of a Bach organ work and a Scott Joplin rag.

Summit Bells, a community handbell ensemble from the Akron area, was founded by its director, Charles Kobb, 40 years ago. Its purpose is to explore and perform challenging literature, especially transcriptions, to further the relatively new art of handbell ringing and to foster an appreciation for the musical capabilities of the art. The ensemble is made up of ringers who are recruited and chosen based on experience and audition. The ensemble has performed at many area and civic events, worship services and concerts. The group has appeared on television twice, gone on four summer tours, and released a CD, *As the Page Turns*. In 1999, they gave the World Premier of *Te Duem*, a work written for the group by H. Dean Wagner. They ring six octaves of Schulmerich bells and six octaves of chimes.

Don't miss this fantastic show on Monday, May 11th!

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP APRIL ACTIVITY

Women's Fellowship invites EVERYONE to a fun evening of music and fellowship! Yes, men, you too! Please bring a covered dish to share and join us as Derek Read from *Big D's Records* spins tunes for a lively "Name That Tune" style event. Come enjoy a potluck dinner, test your music knowledge, enjoy some laughs, and spend time together with friends from church. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 7, at 6:00 PM.

**Please sign up in advance** so we can plan the room setup and seating. We hope to see you there!

### BIG D'S RECORDS





### Treehouse Preschool

Registration is now open for the 26-27 school year. We have only four spots left in our preschool classes and five left in our Me and My Parent class (2.5 yr-olds and a parent or grandparent). If you know anyone with a toddler or preschooler looking for a preschool this fall, please spread the word.



We have some Sundays to celebrate in the next few months. Mark your calendars so we can celebrate together.

April 19 - Last Faith in Action for 6-12 grade

April 26 – Youth Sunday

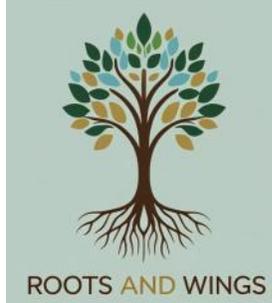
May 3 - Confirmation Sunday

May 10 – Appreciation Sunday

May 17 – Graduation Sunday and last Faith in Action for grades 2-5

### 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.**



**April 12 -Summer vision boards— with kids being off all summer, let’s great summer vision boards so they can check off activities on their list**

### Vacation Bible School

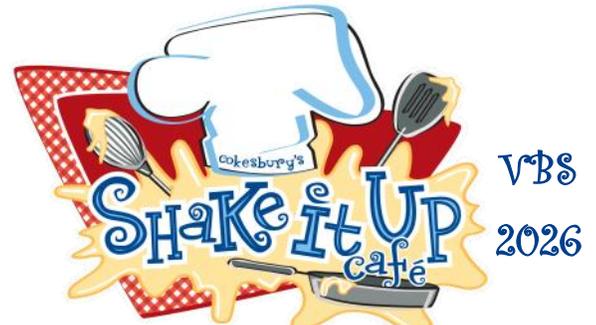
#### Volunteers

**needed June 22– 25.**

Check your calendars and let Wendy know if you can help a few nights. We need crafters, story tellers, chefs, scientists, photographers, and musically talented people.

We also need youth helpers in grades 6th– 12th.

**SAVE the DATE**



## Shake It Up Café; God’s Recipe for Life

When: 6/22-25

Time: 6-8 pm

Who can attend: anyone age 4-grade 5

# UNITED MINISTRIES YOUTH UPDATE

## RETURNING TO OUR ROOTS GIVING WALL FUNDRAISER

Our confirmands and their leaders are heading to Boston to explore the roots of our ancestors. While in Boston, our confirmands will learn about our Congregationalist heritage by visiting the Congregational Library & Archives, walking the historic Freedom Trail to see important sites, and visiting Salem. The group will worship at Old South Church before traveling to Litchfield, Connecticut, to visit the church that the Rev. David Bacon used as a blueprint upon which the Historic Tallmadge First Congregational Church was modeled.

We invite you to support our trip via our **Returning to Our Roots Giving Wall**. Simply choose an envelope and donate the amount listed. Envelopes can be placed in the offering plate, in the designated collection box or returned to Anne Pertick in the church office. You are also encouraged to leave a note of encouragement for our youth travelers.



Thank you for supporting our confirmands as they take part in this important journey of faith and discovery.

## UPCOMING UM ACTIVITIES

**Sunday in Service:** All youth are invited to join us this April as we begin to wrap up our ministry activities for the school year. Be part of preparing for our Youth Sunday service and join us for lunch during our second planning session on April 12 from 11:15 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

**Faith in Action:** We also invite you to come out on April 19 for our final Faith in Action class of the year with Ms. Kyle and Mr. George. It's a great opportunity to connect, reflect, and finish the year together!

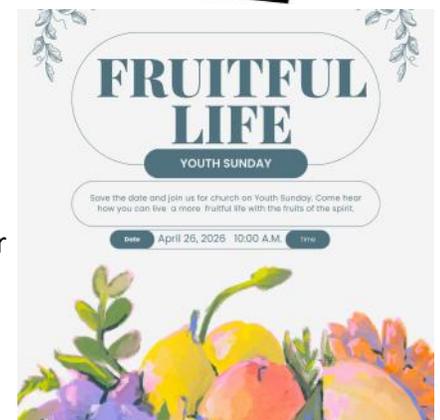
**Youth Sunday:** The youth invite you to mark your calendars and join them on Sunday, April 26, at 10 a.m. for their Youth Sunday Service! They will share their message, **"Fruitful Life,"** reflecting on the Fruit of the Spirit and how these qualities grow in our lives through faith. Come support and be encouraged and "gather some fruit for your soul!" After the service, we invite you to stay and join us for a reception as we celebrate and honor our youth and their ministry.

Grades 6-12

## UM APR. 2026 SCHEDULE

SUN 5	EASTER NO FIA CLASS
SUN 12	SUNDAY IN SERVICE YOUTH SUNDAY PLANNING WITH LUNCH 🕒 11:15am-1pm 📍 YOUTH ROOM
FRI-MON 17-20	CONFIRMATION BOSTON TRIP
SUN 19	FAITH IN ACTION LAST CLASS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 🕒 9AM 📍 Youth Room
SUN 26	YOUTH SUNDAY SERVICE & RECEPTION 🕒 10AM 📍 FCC Sanctuary

UNITED IN CHRIST





### SNOW TUBING AND HUMANS VS. ZOMBIES

United Ministry had double the fun last month. We made a trip to the slopes for some winter excitement during our **tubing event at Boston Mills/Brandywine Ski Resort**. Everyone had a great time, during what is becoming our annual tradition, racing down the fast, icy slopes and enjoying a night of winter fun together! Our second event is always one of the youth's favorites of the year—**Humans vs. Zombies**. This live-action survival game of tag uses Nerf blasters, teamwork, and strategy. The **youth** came together for an evening full of action and laughter. The night also included **themed snacks** and a special **“Wake Up and Come Alive” HvZ lesson**, where the youth verse mapped and connected elements of the game to the meaning of the **Lenten season**.

### GRADUATING SENIORS

Please plan on celebrating with us May 17. Here is a form for you to fill out to help us share your accomplishments;

<https://forms.gle/TuTDeVbNRSEzpDXf9>

If you can send 3-4 pictures to Wendy Brown, that would be wonderful too.

**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 2nd at 3:00 pm.**

## A WORD OF THANKS!

*I would like to say thank you for all the beautiful cards and gifts I have received from the passing of my dad. This meant more to me than you could ever know. This is why I love cleaning God's house for this congregation.*

*Thank you—Teresa*

*Dear Women's Fellowship,*

*Deepest thanks to you for hosting a “Grandpa” shower for me. It was a total surprise and greatly appreciated. You are all so wonderful, and I am blessed to serve among you.*

*With gratitude and love, Dan*

## Worship Attendance

Feb. 22 112  
Mar. 1 106

Mar. 8 136  
Mar. 15 129



## UPCOMING SUNDAYS

### Greeters

Mar. 22  
Mar. 29 Bill Westfall  
Apr. 5 The Sullivan Family  
Apr. 12 Joe and Tom Labay  
Apr. 19 Mark Clark and Parker Labay  
Apr. 26 Kathy and Jim Harris  
May 3

### Altar Flowers

Mar. 22  
Mar. 29  
Apr. 5 Easter Flowers  
Apr. 12 Donna Marlow and Jim Taylor  
Apr. 19 Marie Zimmer  
Apr. 26 United Ministry  
May 3

Sign up in  
the hallway  
\$28 per  
arrangement

### Ushers



Mar. 22 Joe Labay, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Larry Robinson  
Mar. 29 Larry Robinson, Joe Labay, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell  
Apr. 5 Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell  
Apr. 12 Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Darkow, Jane Charles  
Apr. 19 Dave Marconi, Jane Charles, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers  
Apr. 26 Joe Labay, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Larry Robinson  
May 3 Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell

**CHURCH  
DIRECTORY**

**DIRECTORY UPDATE:** We have completed the approval process and picture collection for our online directory. You can now access the directory via your Realm account. Because this directory is digital, pictures can be added and contact information can be changed at any time. If you need assistance accessing your Realm account or uploading a family photo, please scan the QR code and fill out the form.



We prefer that you use the online version of our directory, but if you would like a printed copy, you can request one by emailing Cathy Cotter, [info@fcctallmadge.org](mailto:info@fcctallmadge.org). Please consider a \$5 donation if requesting a paper version to help defer the cost of printing.

# APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:00 AM—Quilters 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	2 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Staff Meeting 6:00 PM—WW 7:00 PM—Maundy Thursday Service	3 7:00 PM—Good Friday Service	4 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
5 6:30 AM—"Son"rise Service 10:00 AM—Easter Worship	6 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF EASTER	7 6:00 PM—Naranon 6:00 PM—WF Name that Tune and Potluck	8 9:00 AM—Quilters 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	9 HERALD DEADLINE 10:00 AM—WW 6:00 PM—WW 7:00 PM—Choir	10	11 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
12 9:00 AM—EC Meeting 9:00 AM—CE Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship 11:00 AM—Youth Sunday in Service 4:00 PM—Roots and Wings	13 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 2:30 PM—WF Meeting 6:00 PM—Heritage	14 6:00 PM—Naranon 6:30 PM—Treehouse Parent Meeting	15 9:00 AM—Quilters 10:00 AM—Herald Angels 12:00 PM—Book Study 7:00 PM—Bible and Brews	16 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Staff Meeting 4:30 PM—Spaghetti Dinner 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—Bells 7:00 PM—Choir	17 Confirmation Boston Trip	18 Confirmation Boston Trip 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
19 Confirmation Boston Trip 9:00 AM—Faith in Action 10:00 AM—Worship	20 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage	21 6:00 PM—Naranon 6:00 PM—Card Making	22 9:00 AM—Quilters 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	23 10:00 AM—WW 6:00 PM—WW 7:00 PM—Choir	24	25 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
26 10:00 AM—Worship/ Youth Sunday 6:00 PM—WJHM	27 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage	28 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon	29 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book/Bible Study 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	30 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Staff Meeting 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—Bells 7:00 PM—Choir		

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
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PERMIT NO. 30

**DATE: March 18, 2026**

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### Spiritual and Pastoral Care Ministry Contacts

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group and Elders Ministry	Roberta Nehrenz	330.634.0713	<a href="mailto:rgnehrenz@att.net">rgnehrenz@att.net</a>
Hearts in Service	Janet McCaulley Barbara Rowles	330.633.3775	<a href="mailto:34babs@sbcglobal.net">34babs@sbcglobal.net</a>
Prayer Chain	Diana Caldwell	330.265.5723	<a href="mailto:scdcg@icloud.com">scdcg@icloud.com</a>
Yarning for Peace	Elaine Engle	330.633.0896	<a href="mailto:elengle@aol.com">elengle@aol.com</a>

### Staff E-Mail Addresses

Rev. Daniel Doty	Senior Minister	<a href="mailto:seniorminister@fcctallmadge.org">seniorminister@fcctallmadge.org</a>
Cathy Cotter	Administrative Coordinator	<a href="mailto:info@fcctallmadge.org">info@fcctallmadge.org</a>
Wendy Brown	Director of Family Ministries	<a href="mailto:wbrownfcc@sbcglobal.net">wbrownfcc@sbcglobal.net</a>
Nancy Lynn Robinson	Choir Director / Organist	<a href="mailto:nrbgp@aol.com">nrbgp@aol.com</a>
Anne Pertick	Digital Minister/ Youth Ministries Coordinator	<a href="mailto:digitalministry@fcctallmadge.org">digitalministry@fcctallmadge.org</a> <a href="mailto:unitedministry@fcctallmadge.org">unitedministry@fcctallmadge.org</a>
Bill Hoover	Finance Administrator	<a href="mailto:bhooverfcc@sbcglobal.net">bhooverfcc@sbcglobal.net</a>
Teresa Snyder	Head Custodian	<a href="mailto:budrose42@yahoo.com">budrose42@yahoo.com</a>
Gary Marlow	Sunday Custodian	