

ISSUE 7102—MAY 2026

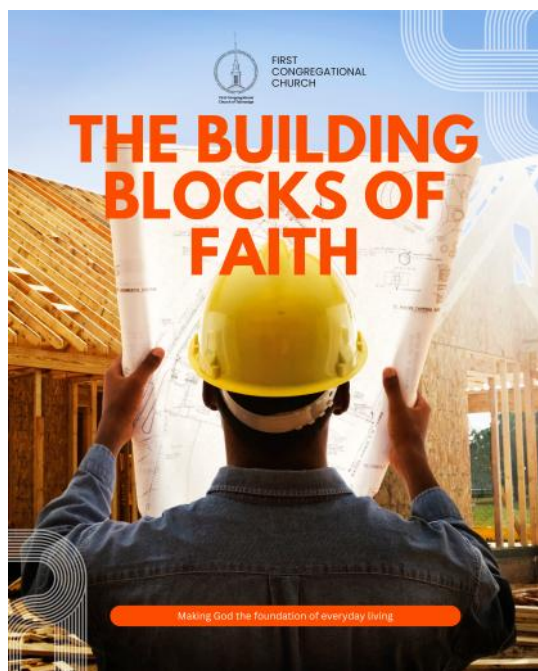
The Herald

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF
TALLMADGE

United Church of Christ

“Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living”

In every life of faith, there is a quiet question beneath the surface: How does belief actually grow? Not in theory, but in real life—amid doubt, injustice, hope, and daily struggle. Our Eastertide Sermon Series theme of Building Blocks reminds us that faith is not something we either have or don't have. It is something we construct over time, piece by piece, often in ways we do not immediately recognize.



In the Gospel of John, the risen Jesus appears to disciples who are hiding behind locked doors. They are afraid, uncertain, and unsure what comes next. Hardly the picture of confident believers. And yet, this is where faith begins—not with clarity, but with presence. Jesus meets them as they are and says, “Peace be with you.”

That moment reveals the first building block of faith: God meets us where we are. We do not have to have everything figured out to belong. In a world that often demands certainty and perfection, the gospel offers something radically different—grace in the midst of incompleteness.

Another essential building block is honesty. Thomas, often labeled “doubting,” refuses to pretend belief he does not feel. Instead of rejecting him, Jesus invites him deeper: “Put your finger here.” This tells us something vital—questions are not barriers to faith; they are part of its foundation. A living faith is not afraid of inquiry. In fact, it depends on it.

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Tallmadge, OH 44278
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As we reflect on building faith in today's world, we cannot ignore the realities around us. We are surrounded by systems that create inequality, by communities wrestling with division, and by individuals carrying deep wounds. For me, an honest Christian faith insists that belief is not only personal, it is transformational. Another building block, then, is justice.

To believe in Christ is to participate in his work: feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, dismantling systems of oppression, and embodying peace in a fractured world. Faith is not simply what we affirm on Sunday; it is what we practice every day.

And yet, building faith can feel slow. Some days it feels like nothing is happening at all. But construction is often like that—quiet, steady, sometimes invisible. A conversation that deepens understanding. A moment of courage in speaking truth. An act of compassion when it would be easier to turn away. These are the bricks and mortar of a life shaped by Christ.

Finally, we remember that we do not build alone. The true gift of FCC is that we are a community of builders—each person bringing their questions, their gifts, their experiences. Together, we create a space where faith can grow, where doubt is welcomed, and where hope is nurtured.

So wherever you find yourself today—certain or questioning, energized or weary—you are part of the work. Faith is still being built in you.

One block at a time.

Grace for the journey,



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

MAY 10 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Scripture: Acts 17:22-31

Message: "Building Blocks: Sharing our Faith"

MAY 17 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Guest Preacher

MAY 24 PENTECOST

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Message: "Building Blocks: Being Moved"

MAY 31 TRINITY SUNDAY

Scripture: John 14:1-14

Message: "Building Blocks: Asking Questions"

JUNE 7 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Scripture: Acts 1:6-14

Message: "Building Blocks: Seeking Guidance Together"

THE PRAYER CHAIN CONNECTION

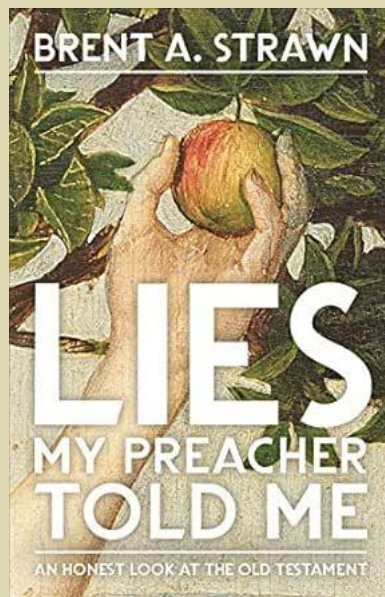
We pray for the names listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723.

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
The Klingensmith Family
Zell Lambert
Yvonne Larson
Roberta Lewis
Bob McPherson
Melba Moor
Gary Miller
Ron Mitchell
George Nehrenz
Lynn Norton
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 and 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 **20 MAY** TIME **06 PM**

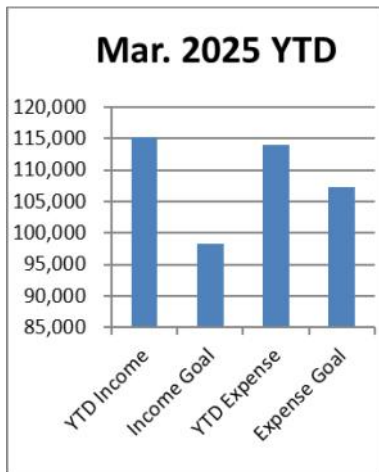
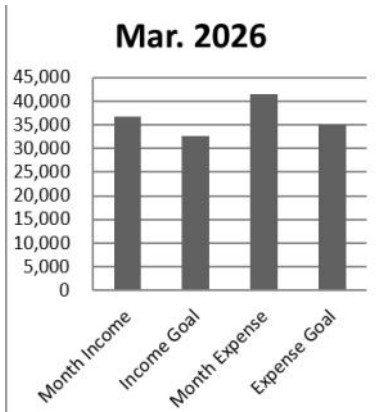
WES AVENUE TAVERN
67 WEST AVE | TALLMADGE

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, May 16 @ 9:00 AM
No breakfast in April

MONTHLY FINANCIALS



March 2026 operating income of \$36,657 was \$3,900 **above** the monthly income need. Operating expenses for the month were \$41,505 resulting in a **deficit** of \$4,849 in March, and a YTD surplus of \$1,380. Property repairs and quarterly insurance expenses contributed to the deficit. 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.



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

SENT FORTH IN LOVE



A Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ supporting new church, leadership, and youth cultivation through our Conferences and National Ministries.



UCC.ORG/STC

Support our Strengthen the Church Special Offering

The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided with 50% staying regionally within your conference and 50% supporting the National Ministries.



WITH SYMPATHY

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Mike Shuman on April 1, 2026.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

SPAGHETTI DINNER



4:30-6:30 PM

3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

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

APRIL 16 and MAY 21

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

Choir NOTES

Thank you for supporting our music ministry. Due to your generosity, we were able to have Kierstin Silverman play French horn with "Coronation," our Easter anthem. On May 10, Dan Hild, our Christmas cellist, will accompany the choir anthem. We are also hoping to invite one or two guest musicians for special music during the summer months.

"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" Psalm 95:1

-Nancy Lynn Robinson

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

Summit Bells Concert

Director: Charles Kobb

**Monday, May 11
7:00 PM**

In the Sanctuary



Women's Fellowship Mother's Day Brunch and Tea

All ladies are invited to join us for a Mother's Day Brunch and Tea on Thursday, May 14, at 12:00 PM. Please bring your favorite brunch dish to share as we enjoy fellowship together. Sign-ups will be available on Sundays - April 26, May 3, and May 10 - at our table in the atrium. We will also be hosting a fun baby picture contest! Be sure to submit your baby photo by May 10 at the Women's Fellowship table. We look forward to celebrating with you!





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 raised just over \$2,100 at our basket raffle this year. We are going to put it toward a play-ground upgrade. This will be an ongoing project, so thank you for the help in filling that bucket.



God's Recipe for Life

When: 6/22-25

Time: 6-8 pm

Who can attend: anyone age 4-grade 5 (on May 1, 2026)

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/GQxJhEbWK1iwhYt7A>

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 grade 6th– 2th. Please use the link above to register them as well.

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 and last Faith in Action for grades 2-5

May 10—Appreciation Sunday

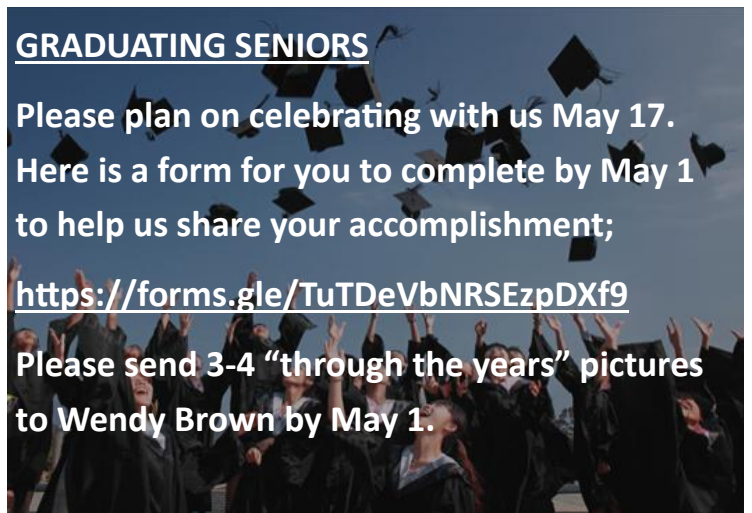


GRADUATING SENIORS

Please plan on celebrating with us May 17. Here is a form for you to complete by May 1 to help us share your accomplishment;

<https://forms.gle/TuTDeVbNRSEzpDXf9>

Please send 3-4 “through the years” pictures to Wendy Brown by May 1.



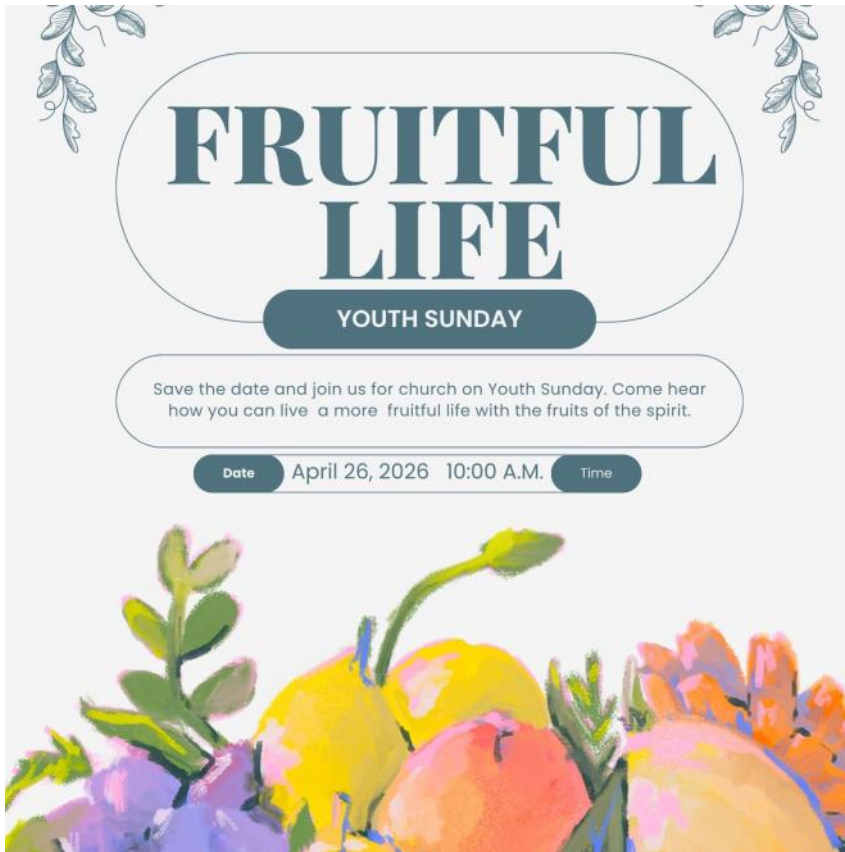
The Board of Christian Education has decided to offer **WAM during the summer months**. If you have children age 4–5th grade, they are welcome to join us Sunday morning during worship. If you would like to help a week or two during the summer, please see Wendy. You can be creative or she can help give you some direction. You won't have to do a Children's Message, just Worship Art Ministry (WAM) time with the children.



UNITED MINISTRIES YOUTH UPDATE

As we come to the close of our United Ministry program year, we give thanks for a season rich in fellowship, service, and faith formation. Throughout the year, our youth have grown in their faith, formed meaningful friendships, and shared many memorable moments. As we reflect, we are reminded in Hebrews 10:24: “Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.”

The youth ministry warmly invites you to join in a special time of celebration as we honor and uplift our young people throughout the end of April and May.



We begin on **Sunday, April 26, at 10:00 a.m.** with our **Youth Sunday Service**. During this special service, our youth will lead and share a meaningful message titled *“Fruitful Life,”* reflecting on the Fruit of the Spirit and how these qualities take root and grow in our lives through faith. Come ready to be inspired, encouraged, and to “gather some fruit for your soul!” Following the service, please stay for a reception where we will celebrate and recognize our youth and their vibrant ministry.

On **May 3**, we will celebrate **Confirmation Sunday, a special and meaningful milestone**. Our confirmands have been on a dedicated journey of spiritual growth, and on this day, they will affirm their faith and commitment. It’s a joyful moment in their journey—your presence and support will mean so much to them.

Then on **May 17**, we will celebrate our **graduates**, giving thanks for their accomplishments and lifting them up in prayer as they step into new beginnings.

We hope you’ll join us for each of these meaningful occasions as we celebrate the faith, growth, and accomplishments of our youth!

Grades 6-12	
UM	APR-MAY, 2026
SCHEDULE	
APRIL	
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
MAY	
SUN 3	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY SERVICE 🕒 10AM 📍 FCC Sanctuary
SUN 17	GRADUATION SUNDAY SERVICE 🕒 10AM 📍 FCC Sanctuary
SUN 17	THS SENIOR PARADE & ICE CREAM 🕒 6-7:30 PM
UNITED IN CHRIST	

RETURNING TO OUR ROOTS GIVING WALL FUNDRAISER

Our confirmands and their leaders are heading to Boston this week for a special journey exploring our roots. They'll visit the Congregational Library & Archives, walk the Freedom Trail, explore Salem, worship at Old South Church, and travel to Litchfield, Connecticut, to see the church that inspired our own.

You can still support this meaningful experience through the Returning to Our Roots Giving Wall. Just pick an envelope and donate the listed amount. Envelopes may be placed in the offering plate, collection box or returned to Anne Pertick in the church office.

Notes of encouragement for our confirmands are also welcome! Thank you for the tremendous support already given to make this special and meaningful journey possible for our confirmands. Follow along with us on our social media platforms as we are Boston bound to trace our roots!



FINAL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP OF THE YEAR—SCENE 75

For our final youth fellowship event of the year, we headed to Scene75 for a night of fun with our UM family and friends! It was a joyful evening filled with bumper cars, laser tag, glow in the dark miniature golf and arcade games, along with plenty of laughter and time to connect. We're grateful for the memories made together as we wrapped up another wonderful year of UM fellowship!



A WORD OF THANKS!

Dear Members,

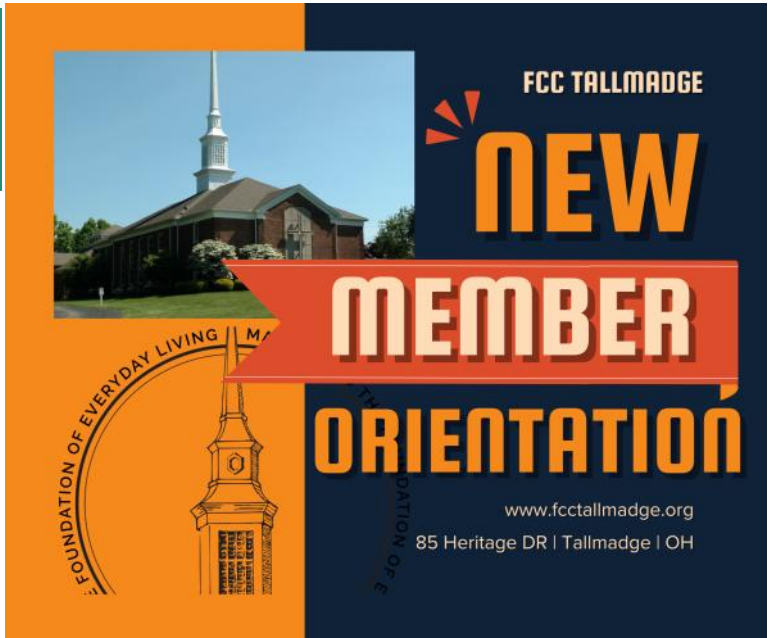
Thank you very much for the gift cards for our Easter give out! We have 60 families registered. With food costs, utility costs and all costs rising, we are seeing more families and elderly in need. We appreciate your continued support in feeding our community.

Sincerely, Candy Lorkowski,

Tallmadge Good Neighbors

Thank you to the Prayer Chain Committee and all those who have said prayers and sent cards. Thanks for Rev. Dan and Diana's phone calls and well wishes during my recovery time during the last three months. It has been a blessing to me to have friends who do this. Prayer is a powerful thing and through prayer, all things are possible. I am moving forward with renewed strength that only prayer can give you. I am grateful for all that you have done for me.

Love, Elaine Engle



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 7th. Please let the church office know if you are interested. You can email Cathy Cotter, the church's Office Administrator, at info@fcctallmadge.org

VOTING BAKE SALE

May 5 is voting day and the Board of Christian Education will be hosting a bake sale. We would love to have some volunteers offer to make some items for the bake sale. Things that went well last year: Homemade bread, Muffins, Chocolate covered items- peanuts, pretzels, etc., Homemade Cookies, and Savory pastries.

We will take anything you are willing to provide, but we would like them to be single servings or ½ dozen portions (things that you would buy for \$7 or less). We are happy to make smaller portions if that is helpful to you. The funds raised will support our youth programming.

Please bring all items the church on Sunday, May 3 or Monday, May 4, before 3 pm. We also could use a few helpers willing to sit at the table to sell items; you can contact Wendy or Anne to fill a two hour time slot.



Worship Attendance

Mar 22	114	Apr. 5	196
Mar 29	149	Apr. 12	100



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Greeters

Apr 19	Mark Clark and Parker Labay
Apr 26	Kathy and Jim Harris
May 3	
May 10	
May 17	
May 24	
May 31	

Altar Flowers

Apr 19	Marie Zimmer
Apr 26	United Ministry
May 3	
May 10	
May 17	
May 24	
May 31	

Sign up in
the hallway
\$28 per
arrangement

Ushers



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
May 10	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Darkow, Jane Charles
May 17	Dave Marconi, Jane Charles, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
May 24	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell
May 31	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Darkow, Jane Charles

Please plan to join us for the these special worship services!

April 26—Youth Sunday

May 3—Confirmation Sunday

May 10—Appreciation Sunday

May 17—Graduation and Scholarship Sunday

May 24—Pentecost

June 7—New Member Sunday



MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 7:30/9:00 AM—WW 5:00 PM— Confirmation Rehearsal 6:00 PM— Confirmation Dinner
3 9:00 AM—CE Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship/ Confirmation	4 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:30 PM—Trustees Meeting	5 6:00 PM—Naranon	6 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book/Bible Study 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	7 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Staff Meeting 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—Bell Choir 7:00 PM—Choir	8	9 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
10 10:00 AM—Worship/ Appreciation Sunday	11 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage 7:00 PM—Summit Bells Concert	12 6:00 PM—Naranon	13 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Book/Bible Study 7:00 PM—Cub Scouts	14 HERALD DEADLINE 10:00 AM—WW 12:00 PM—WF Luncheon 1:00 PM—Staff Meeting 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—Bells 7:00 PM—Choir	15	16 7:30/9:00 AM—WW 9:00 AM—Men's Prayer Breakfast
17 9:00 AM—EC Meeting 9:00 AM—Faith in Action 10:00 AM—Worship/ Graduation and Scholar- ship Sunday	18 12:30 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 Making	20 9:00 AM—Quilters 10:00 AM— Spaghetti Dinner Prep 10:00 AM—Herald Angels 12:00 PM—Book/Bible Study 7:00 PM—Bible and Brews	21 STAFF PLANING RETREAT, OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 AM—WW 4:30 PM—Spaghetti Dinner 6:00 PM—WW 7:00 PM—Choir	22	23 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
24 9:00 AM—New Member class 10:00 AM—Worship	25 12:30 PM—Ladies Study 2:15 PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage	26 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon	27 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM— Book/Bible Study	28 10:00 AM—WW 1:00 PM—Staff Meeting 6:00 PM—WW 7:00 PM—Choir	29	30 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
31 9:00 AM—New Member Class 10:00 AM—Worship 6:00 PM—WJHM						

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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DATE: April 15, 2026

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

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Cathy Cotter	Administrative Coordinator	info@fcctallmadge.org
Wendy Brown	Director of Family Ministries	wendy.brown@fcctallmadge.org
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	