



ISSUE 7103—JUNE 2026

The Herald

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF
TALLMADGE

United Church of Christ

“Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living”

“The Gospel in Disney”

Where do we encounter the gospel? Many of us were taught to look for it only in scripture, sermons, or sacred spaces. But the truth is, the good news of love, justice, and transformation often shows up in unexpected places—even in popular Disney movies.

This summer we will embark on a six-part sermon series entitled “The Gospel in Disney.” Whether it’s “The Lion King,” “Pocahontas,” “The Hunchback of Notre Dame,” or a number of other Disney movies, we will seek to find the deep meanings each holds for people of faith.



At their best, these stories echo the deep truths at the heart of our faith. Take “Moana,” where a young woman crosses boundaries to restore what has been broken. Her journey reflects a calling beyond fear, a willingness to challenge tradition, and a commitment to healing both her people and the natural world. In that story, we glimpse a gospel of courage and ecological justice.

Or consider “Encanto,” where the healing of a family begins not with perfection, but with honesty. The pressure to perform, the wounds passed through generations, and the quiet strength of

those overlooked all resonate with the biblical call to truth-telling and restoration. The miracle returns not through power, but through reconciliation—something deeply aligned with the work of grace.

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Even “Frozen” offers a powerful image of love that saves. Not romantic rescue, but sacrificial, relational love—Anna’s willingness to give herself for her sister. It reminds us that the deepest form of love is not possession or control, but self-giving care that breaks cycles of fear and isolation.

As a follower of Jesus, these stories matter because they expand our imagination. They help us see that the gospel is not confined to religious language—it is alive wherever love overcomes fear, where justice challenges oppression, and where communities are restored.

Jesus often taught through stories drawn from everyday life—seeds, fields, families, and feasts. In the same way, we can find glimpses of sacred truth in the stories that shape our culture today. Disney films, for all their simplicity, often point toward deeper realities: the dignity of every person, the importance of community, and the transformative power of love.

Of course, no movie is a perfect reflection of the gospel. These stories are shaped by human perspectives and cultural limitations. But when we engage them thoughtfully, they can become conversation partners—inviting us to reflect on what we believe, what we value, and how we live.

So the next time you watch a Disney movie, pay attention. Where do you see courage in the face of injustice? Where do you see compassion breaking through fear? Where do you see restoration taking root?

You just might find that the gospel has been there all along—waiting to be recognized in the stories we share.

Grace for the Journey,



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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”

JUNE 14 3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: Genesis 49:9-10, Revelation 5:5

Message: “The Gospel of Disney: The Lion King, Remember Who You Are.”

JUNE 21 4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:26-28, Philippians 2:3-9

Message: “The Gospel of Disney: Aladdin, Diamond in the Rough.”

JUNE 28 5TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: Jeremiah 6:16, Isaiah 43:5a, Matthew 5:43-44

Message: “The Gospel of Disney: Pocahontas, Do Not Fear.”

JULY 5 6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: Proverbs 31:8-9, Luke 18:9-14

Message: “The Gospel of Disney: Hunchback of Notre Dame, She Gave Me Water”

JULY 12 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: Romans 7:15-25, Romans 6:11-14

Message: “The Gospel of Disney: Tangled, I’ve Got A Dream”

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:*

Brian Allman	Arlene Luna Pena
Debbie B.	Bob Poff
The Becking Family	Lt. John Norton
Katie Ann Bickett	Richard Reynolds
Joyce Bojarski	Ensign 5 Kaylie Spear
Margarete Boschert	Lt. Maxwell Spear
John Calvarese	Richard and Karen
Patti Calvarese	Thomason
Sue Canavan	Kim and Noel Walters
Jim Caplinger	PO3 Kaitlyn Wetter
Mark Clark	Don Woerz
Patty Conely	Alzheimer's Care Giver
Betty Cottrill	Support Group
Rylin Davis and family	
Jim Divoky	
Sean and Sara Doty	
Ron Drake	
Elaine Engle	
Ron Evans	
Bonnie Fordham	
Darrell Goodson	
Eleanor Hall	
Sue Hamilton	
Jim Jackson	
Gene Jarjabka	
Nancy Johnson	
Anita Kelly-Lahrmer	
The Klingensmith Family	
Yvonne Larson	
Roberta Lewis	
Kitty Maddox	
Jack and Helen McKee	
Gary Miller	
Ron Mitchell	
Spenser Moreno	
Lynn Norton	

**Blessed be
God who
did not
refuse me
the
kindness
I sought in
prayer.
Psalm 66:20**



"IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL"

Horatio G. Stafford lost a fortune in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. About the same time, his only son, aged four, succumbed to scarlet fever. Horatio assuaged his grief in rebuilding the city. In November of 1873, he decided to take his wife and daughters to Europe.

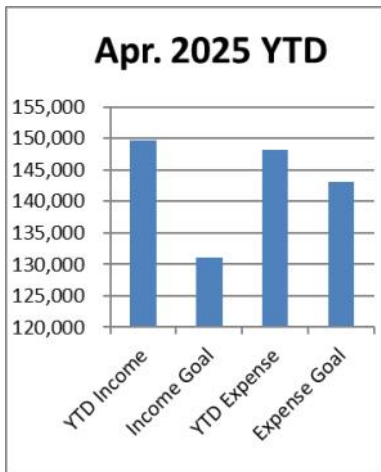
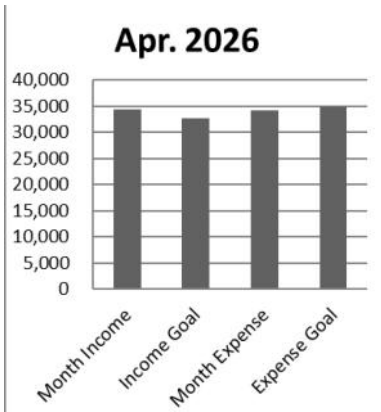
When an urgent matter detained Horatio in New York, he decided to send his wife, Anna, and their four daughters, Maggie, Tanetta, Annie, and Bessie on ahead. He was uneasy as he settled them in a cabin on the ship *Ville du Havre*. During the early hours of Nov. 22, 1873, the ship collided with an iron sailing vessel. As the *Ville du Havre* tilted dangerously, loved ones tried to protect one another, but all were swept away by powerful currents of the icy ocean. Within two hours, the ship vanished beneath the waters. The 226 fatalities included Maggie, Tanetta, Annie, and Bessie. Mrs. Stafford was found nearly unconscious, clinging to a piece of the wreckage. When the 47 survivors landed in Cardiff, Wales, she cabled her husband "Saved Alone."

Horatio immediately booked passage to join his wife. En route, on a cold December night, the captain told him, "I believe we are now passing over the place where the *Ville du Havre* went down. Stafford went to his cabin but could not sleep. He said to himself, "It is well; the will of God be done." He later wrote his famous hymn, "It Is Well with My Soul," based on those words.

The melody for "It Is Well," titled *Ville du Havre*, was written by Philip Bliss who was soon to perish, along with his wife, in a terrible train wreck in Ohio.

From the book "Then Sings My Soul" by Robert J. Morgan

MONTHLY FINANCIALS



April 2026 operating income of \$34,323 was \$1,575 **above** the monthly income need. Operating expenses for the month were \$34,234 resulting in a **surplus** of \$88 in April, and a YTD surplus of \$1,468. An annual contribution for Church operations from Treehouse Preschool allowed us to essentially “breakeven” in April. 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



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.



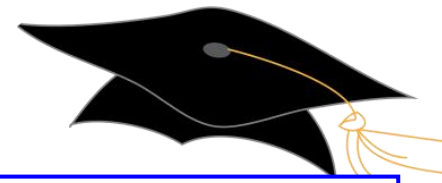
UCC.ORG/STC



Congratulations, Confirmands!

We celebrate and congratulate our confirmands, Katie Higham, Marcus Hoffman and Lauren Scovern, on their Confirmation on May 3rd! May the Holy Spirit continue to guide, strengthen, and inspire each of you as you grow in faith and walk with Christ. We are so proud of your dedication, commitment, and the meaningful step you have taken in your spiritual journey!

Congratulations



Madison Birch is the daughter of Pam and the sister to Aidan and Logan. She is also the granddaughter of Bob and Terri Poff. Madison is graduating from Schnee Learning Center this year. She has been enjoying her time as a mentor and working in the pre-school room. She has played softball for many years and loved being on the field. Some of Madison's favorite memories are the youth lock-in and Confirmation Sunday when her parents walked up with her. Madison feels that her grandmother, Terri Poff, was her most influential mentor here at the church. Madison is thoughtfully exploring her options and looking forward to deciding what path to take next.



Andrew Byron is graduating from Tallmadge High School. He is the son of John and Karen and the brother of Allison. Andrew has worked hard throughout high school, earning numerous honors. He was active in the Business and Sports Management Program and a member of Business Professionals of America, where he earned the title of Podcast Winner for BPA Region 10. In athletics, Andrew was a dedicated member of the golf team, serving as captain, earning three varsity letters, and receiving Suburban League Honorable Mention recognition. He was also inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Outside of school, Andrew was involved in the church youth group and worked as a ranger at Roses Run Country Club, while also participating in the NEO Futures Tour. One of Andrew's favorite experiences at church was the Boston Confirmation Trip — with the highlight of the week possibly being when Pastor Dan accidentally nudged a parked car! His parents especially cherish memories of Andrew participating in the Cherub and Youth Choirs when he was younger.



Bobby Higham, son of Bob and Christine and brother to Katie, is graduating from Tallmadge High School. During his time at Tallmadge, Bobby was a member of both the bowling and track teams. He excelled in bowling, earning the opportunity to compete at the district level twice. He was also involved in Challenger Baseball, a program that partners individuals with physical or intellectual challenges with buddies so they can enjoy the game of baseball together. One of Bobby's favorite memories at church was the Boston Confirmation Trip, where he enjoyed exploring the city and creating special memories with his fellow confirmands. This fall, Bobby will continue his education at Stark State College.

Congratulations



Ian Hoffman will be graduating from Stow–Munroe Falls High School. Todd and Erin Hoffman are the proud parents of Ian, and Marcus is his brother. During high school, Ian has been very active in the marching band, dedicating countless hours to rehearsals, performances, and school spirit events. His commitment and teamwork have been a meaningful part of his high school experience. Outside of school, Ian works at Pet Supplies Plus, a job he truly enjoys. His love for animals also extends to pet sitting, where he has built trusted relationships caring for pets in his community. One of Ian’s favorite family activities is camping, where he enjoys spending time outdoors and making lasting memories together.

At First Congregational Church, Ian especially enjoyed the Confirmation Trip and the fun tradition of welcoming the new pastor with silly string. His parents treasure memories from his younger years as well such as his baptism, attending Vacation Bible School, and participating in Breakfast with Santa activities.



Cadence Ickes, a graduate of Tallmadge High School, will be attending Youngstown State University this fall, where she plans to major in Journalism and Content Creation. She is the daughter of Nate and Sarah Ickes and a loving sister to Camryn and Colin.

Cadence’s parents have had the joy of watching her grow up in the church — from being dedicated as a baby, to being baptized as a youth, and later confirmed in her faith. She has spent many meaningful hours participating in Faith in Action and youth group, where strong mentors helped shape and strengthen her faith. Cadence is confident in standing up for what she believes. One of her most memorable moments was the day she and her siblings were baptized together. She also cherishes becoming a VBS leader (and celebrating with ice cream

afterward!) after six years as a participant. Cadence is deeply thankful for the many youth activities — from FIA to mission trips — and especially for the people who made those experiences so meaningful. She appreciates her parents for teaching her the importance of faith in her life.

At school, Cadence was highly involved in a variety of activities. She served as Vice President of Photography Club, Editor-in-Chief of the yearbook, a mentor, an officer in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and a member of the Class Executive Board. She was also inducted into the National Honor Society and participated in basketball, golf, and flag football.

Some pictures when they were younger—can you guess who is who?



Congratulations



Lily Scherer is graduating from Tallmadge and looking forward to Ohio University next fall. She will be majoring in history. Lily is the sister to Laini and the daughter of Donald and Melissa Scherer. While in school, she was busy running track and playing tennis as a captain. She also was inducted into the National Honor Society and was a Distinguished Scholar.

When she wasn't in school or playing sports, she was working at Troy Grille, a Turkish street food restaurant.

Her parents have fun memories of Lily at the Faith and Family dances. Their family enjoyed these special dates together. Meanwhile, Lily's favorite memory is going to Boston with the confirmation class, especially because Cadence was there with her to enjoy the fun. She also fondly remembers her parents buying her first bible.



Meredith Treen, the daughter of Alana, graduates from Tallmadge High School. She loved her time at Tallmadge and was quite active in extracurricular activities. She was on both the golf and track teams as well as an active participant of the Robotics Club. Meredith was also part of the Photography Club, stage crew and school musicals. While not in school or the extracurricular programs, she was active with the church helping with VBS, attending mission trips and children's messages.



Jocelyn Tully is graduating from Tallmadge High School. She is blessed to be supported by her families, Amy and Larry Whetsell, and Chad and MJ Tully, and is a loving sister to Trey, Aidan, and Alexa.

Jocelyn first visited FCC after being invited to youth group by friends and quickly found her church home there. One of her favorite memories is a trip to Cedar Point with the youth group, where everyone simply enjoyed being together and sharing in the joy of the day. Another special memory is worshipping around the bonfire at youth group. Moments like these are comforting and always make her feel deeply connected to God and her faithful friends.

During high school, Jocelyn completed two years of College Credit Plus (CCP) coursework. She was active in Leaders in Action and the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy. She participated in Photography Club and served on the yearbook staff, holding the position of Editor-in-Chief. Jocelyn was also inducted into the National Honor Society.



All children are invited to join in these activities.



The Board of Christian Education and Treehouse Preschool is bringing Mr. Jeff to First Congregational Church this summer. Mr. Jeff is a super fun musician and teacher, sharing his talents on musical instruments, writing songs and inspiring young children to get up, sing and move. We hope you bring your children/ grandchildren to join in the festivities on **June 9 @ 10 AM** in the Fellowship Hall.

Treehouse Preschool will be hosting a Movin' and Grovin' Day with Miss Abby. She will be bringing her love of children and movement to First Congregational Church this summer. We invite you to bring your children or grandchildren to join in this fun day. Miss Abby will be coming on **June 30 @ 10 AM** in our Fellowship Hall.



Summer Children's Programming

We are going to host Children's Worship and Art Ministry this summer EVERY WEEK. We would love to introduce these wonderful children to more of you. If you are interested in teaching the children one week, contact Wendy. She is setting up a schedule.

Vacation Bible School
Shake it Up Cafe;
carrying out God's
recipe



June 22- 25
@ 6-8 pm

VBS 2026

Registration: <https://forms.gle/RyhaTy4jvgGNBeww6>

Thank
YOU

As Faith in Action comes to a close for the year, please take time to appreciate your child's teacher. Maddy (nursery), Dianne (grades 2-5), George and Kyle (grades 6-12) certainly donate a lot of time to our children's and youth program.

Vacation Bible School Work Day

June 16 @ 9 AM

We will be gathering craft items, making name tags, creating the stage, prepping crafts, game items, etc.

Vacation Bible School Donations

We could not run a successful program without this congregation and their generosity. If you would like to pick up items, please let Wendy know so we don't purchase too many of the same item.

Snack items

Plastic knives (50)
Plastic spoons (50)
Paper bowls (100)
Paper napkins (500)
5 or 8 oz plastic or paper cups (500)
Snack size plastic bags (2 boxes)
Sliced black olives (2 cans)
Green olives (1 jar)
Soft taco shells (50)
Dried cranberries (2 bags)
Raisins (2 bags)
Corn Chex (2 lg boxes)
Cinnamon Toast Crunch (3 lg boxes)
Mini marshmallows (2 bags)
Milk chocolate chips (2 bags)
Plain yogurt (four 32 oz containers)
Whipped topping (4 cans)

Baking/Craft items

Bag of flour
Bag of sugar
2 bags of chocolate chips
2 lbs. of butter
1 dozen eggs



Congratulations to our 2026 Memorial Scholarship Winners!

Cailey Bozic

Cailey is the daughter of Amy Floran. She currently attends graduate school at Penn State College of Medicine and is pursuing a Doctorate of Medicine degree. Cailey is the 2026 recipient of the **Geneva Wright Atwood, Uli Boschert, and Dr. Richard Neitz** scholarships.

Andrew Byron

Andrew is the son of John and Karen Byron. He will be attending Kent State University as a Finance major and will be a freshman in the fall. Andrew is the 2026 recipient of the **Pat Holcomb, Melvin and Margaret Wilgoths, and Heritage** scholarships.

Bobby Higham

Bobby is the son of Robert and Christine Higham. He will be attending Stark State University as a Business major and will be a freshman this fall. He is the 2026 recipient of the **Anne Schwendeman, Margaret Starkey, and Stanley and Daisy Watts** scholarships.

Cadence Ickes

Cadence is the daughter of Nate and Sarah Ickes. She will be attending Youngstown State University as a Journalism and Content Creation major and will be a freshman this fall. She is the 2026 recipient of the **Melvin and Margaret Wilgoths** scholarship.

Amelia Ross

Amelia is the daughter of Jen and Ethan Ross. She attends Bowling Green State University as a Nursing major and will be a sophomore this fall. Amelia is the 2026 recipient of the **Kenneth and Ann Gilbert** and **Heritage** scholarships.

Meredith Treen

Meredith is the daughter of Alana Treen. She will be a freshman at Kent State University this fall. Her major is currently Undecided. She is the 2026 recipient of the **Richard and JoAnn Wood** scholarship.

Worship Attendance

Apr 19	108	May 3	94	May 17	125
Apr 26	124	May 10	115		



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Greeters

May 24	Janet McCaulley and Carol Kroah
May 31	
June 7	
June 14	
June 21	
June 28	
July 5	

Altar Flowers

May 24	
May 31	
June 7	
June 14	Terri Poff
June 21	Marie Zimmer
June 28	Jim Chapman
July 5	

Sign up in
the hallway
\$28 per
arrangement

Ushers



May 24	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell
May 31	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Darkow, Jane Charles
June 7	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell
June 14	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Darkow, Jane Charles
June 21	Dave Marconi, Jane Charles, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
June 28	Joe Labay, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Larry Robinson
July 5	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell

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.

JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 5:00 PM—Social Action 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:30 PM—Trustees Meeting	2 6:00 PM—Naranon	3 Rev. Dan's Birthday! 9:00 AM—Quilters	4 10:00 AM—WW 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 6:00 PM—WW	5	6 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
7 10:00 AM—Worship/ Communion/New Member Sunday	8 6:00 PM—Heritage	9 10:00 AM—Mr. Jeff's Children's Concert (Treehouse) 6:00 PM—Naranon	10 9:00 AM—Quilters	11 10:00 AM—WW 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 6:00 PM—WW	12	13 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
14 9:00 AM—EC Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship	15 6:00 PM—Heritage	16 9:00 AM—VBS Work Day 6:00 PM—Naranon 6:00 PM—Cards	17 9:00 AM—Quilters	18 HERALD DEADLINE 10:00 AM—WW 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 6:00 PM—WW	19	20 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
21 FATHER'S DAY 10:00 AM—Worship	22 6:00 PM—Heritage 6-8 PM—VBS	23 6:00 PM—Naranon 6-8 PM—VBS	24 9:00 AM—Quilters 10:00 AM—Herald Angels 6-8 PM—VBS	25 10:00 AM—WW 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 6:00 PM—WW 6-8 PM—VBS	26	27 7:30/9:00 AM—WW
28 10:00 AM—Worship 6:00 PM—WJHM	29 6:00 PM—Heritage	30 10:00 AM—Movin' and Grovin' With Miss Abby (Treehouse) 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon	31 9:00 AM—Quilters			

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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DATE: May 20, 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

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Wendy Brown	Director of Family Ministries	wendy.brown@fcctallmadge.org
Nancy Lynn Robinson	Choir Director / Organist	nrbgp@aol.com
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Gary Marlow	Sunday Custodian	