

The Herald

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF TALLMADGE
United Church of Christ

“Making God the Foundation
of Everyday Living”



During our Stewardship Campaign this year, we have heard Jesus reminding us, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). These words invite us to consider something deeper than our financial contributions. They challenge us to ask whether our hearts are aligned with the heart of God.

God’s heart beats with compassion for the suffering, justice for the oppressed, welcome for the excluded, and hope for a world yearning for peace. When we invest our time, talents, and resources in these sacred purposes, our hearts begin to reflect God’s own.

Our congregation is changing lives. The mission and ministry here stir our hearts—it’s why we belong, why we volunteer, and why we give. Together, we are joining our hearts with God’s own divine hopes and intentions for this community – where love, service, and faith transform the world around us.

On Consecration Sunday, we take the next step in aligning our resources with God’s vision. It’s a time to ask: How can we offer our best to God? What will we bring to serve God and our neighbors in this sacred work?

I ask that you prayerfully consider your commitment to our congregation. While I would love for you to join us on November 15 for Consecration Sunday, I understand if you cannot be there in person. A Stewardship Packet went out to each of you. If you didn’t receive one, please let us know!



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Tallmadge, OH 44278
Phone: 330.633.4931
fcctallmadge.org

The packet contained a narrative (and visual) budget to help you see and read where our faith offerings are being used. There was also a pledge card and a return envelope.

These commitment cards reflect our best intentions based on what we know today, but they can be adjusted at any time if your circumstances change.

We are grateful for your partnership in this vital work. As we commit a portion of our treasure to God through the mission and ministry of this church, we trust that our hearts will be changed along with God's world!

Stewardship is not simply about supporting a church budget. It is about shaping the kind of community we believe God dreams for humanity. Every generous gift becomes an expression of faith. Every act of service becomes a declaration of love. Every investment in our congregation strengthens our ability to embody Christ's extravagant welcome.

As we consider our commitments for the coming year, perhaps the most important question is not, "How much should I give?" but rather, "Where do I want my heart to be?"

Let us invest in compassion, justice, community, and hope. For where we place our treasure, there our hearts will be—and there God's love will flourish.

Grace for the journey,



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

OCT 25 REFORMATION SUNDAY

Scripture: John 14:1-14

Message: "There Our Hearts Will Be: Troubled Hearts"

NOV 1 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Message: "There Our Hearts Will Be: Treasure in Clay Jars"

NOV 8 LAITY SUNDAY

Scripture: various readings

Message: "There Our Hearts Will Be: Awesome God"

NOV 15 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Message: "There Our Hearts Will Be: Trust Your Heart"

NOV 22 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

Scripture: Luke 17:11-19

Message: "But the Other 9?"

NOV 29 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-5, Luke 21:25-33

Message: "Witness to the Light: Reveal"

DEC 6 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Scripture: Isaiah 40:28-31, Mark 1:1-8

Message: "Witness to the Light: Renew"

DEC 13 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | Christmas Concert

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:10-13, Luke 1:46b-55

Message: "Witness to the Light: Rejoice"

DEC 20 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | Christmas Pageant

Scripture: Luke 3:1-6

Message: "Witness to the Light: Return"

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	Lt. Maxwell Spear
Cindie Anderson	Jeff Sullivan
Debbie B.	Richard and Karen
The Becking Family	Thomason
Margarete Boschert	Troy and Kara
Ryan Boylan	Lloyd Troyer
Jim Caplinger	Kim and Noel Walters
Lyn Chapman	PO3 Kaitlyn Wetter
Matthew Chapman	Don Woerz
Jane Charles	Alzheimer's Caregiver
Patty Conely	Support Group
Jeffry Cotton	
Betty Cottrill	
Bob Davis	
Rylin Davis and family	
Sean and Sara Doty	
Ron Drake	
Mark Engel	
Elaine Engle	
Ron Evans	
Darrell Goodson	
Eleanor Hall	
Jim Jackson	
Nancy Johnson	
Anita Kelly-Lahrmer	
The Klinginsmith Family	
Joey and Mark Labay	
Yvonne Larson	
Bill Laymon	
Roberta Lewis	
Carol McFarland	
Jack and Helen McKee	
Donna Phillips	
Bob Poff	
Lt. John Norton	
Gary Rambler	
Becky Rapini	
Daniel Simmons	
Ensign 5 Kaylie Spear	

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

Psalm 66:20

Witness to the Light: A Different Kind of Advent Worship

On the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, we invite everyone to experience worship a little differently! Our Advent theme, "Witness to the Light," will come alive through a casual, creative, intergenerational service

that brings together prayer, fellowship, and hands-on outreach. Rather than following our traditional worship format, we envision an interactive experience where children, youth, and adults can participate together at meaningful Advent stations. Families and individuals will help assemble small Christmas gift bags containing battery-operated candles, sweet treats, Scripture verses, prayers, and handwritten messages of encouragement.

These gifts will be carried beyond our church walls to neighbors, friends, homebound members, and others who might especially appreciate a reminder of God's love.

Through music, reflection, creativity, and shared prayer, we will discover that Advent is not simply about waiting for the Light of Christ, but becoming witnesses who share that light.

Come as you are. All ages welcome!

Order Your Special "Witness to the Light" Sweatshirt

As we prepare for Advent, First Congregational Church will explore the theme "Witness to the Light." Through the voices of biblical prophets and other faithful witnesses, we will reflect on finding hope amid life's challenges and recognizing God's light in times of darkness. Our weekly themes—Reveal, Renew, Rejoice, and Return—will guide us on a journey toward the birth of Jesus and the promise of God's enduring faithfulness.

Celebrate the season with our special Advent sweatshirts and quarter-zip apparel featuring this year's theme logo! Visit our Custom Ink storefront to browse, order, and pay online. Orders must be placed by Friday, November 6, to ensure delivery to the church before Advent begins.

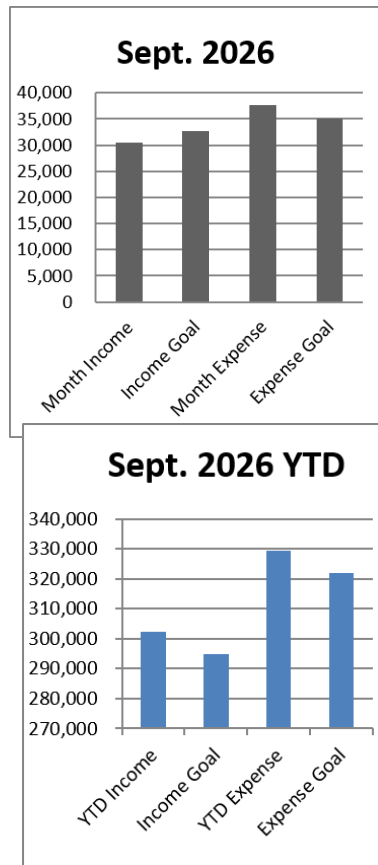
CustomInk.com link:

<https://www.customink.com/g/qts0-00d3-x2sg>

May we journey together toward the light with hope and grace!



MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT



September 2026 operating income of \$30,555 was \$2,205 below the monthly income need. Operating expenses for the month were \$37,599 resulting in a deficit of (\$7,044) in September, and a YTD deficit of (\$27,009). Faith Offerings have run low all summer while we have had extra expenses this year. We are entering a time when IRA RMD charitable contributions are considered, and we pray for generosity at this time of economic difficulty for many. We continue to hope for a strong finish to 2026. 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 end of 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 5th. 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.



CONDOLENCES

It is with great sadness that we announce the deaths of:

Susan Dean, mother of Amy Doty, on September 28, 2026 and

Kathleen "Kitty" Maddox, mother of Anne Pertick, on October 3, 2026.

Help with Our Sunday School Scarf and Blanket Collection

The 3rd-4th grade Sunday School class will be making scarves and small blankets to donate to the Haven of Rest in January. Please consider donating scarves, hats, blankets or gloves for adult men. We will have a box in the Atrium. Or you can donate money to purchase the scarf and blanket materials. Thanks- Dianne Drummond



Tallmadge Good Neighbors Christmas Giving

We are collecting gift cards for Tallmadge Good Neighbors again this Christmas holiday season. Gift cards can be donated during the month of November by putting them in the collection plate or dropping them off at the church office. Thank you in advance for caring about our neighbors who are less fortunate. Your kindness and generosity is appreciated.

Our Newsletter Is Changing

As good stewards of both our financial resources and God's creation, we are making an important change to our church newsletter. Beginning soon, our traditional printed monthly newsletter will transition to a quarterly online publication. We anticipate making this change beginning in the first quarter of 2027.

This change will provide significant savings by reducing postage expenses, paper use, and copier and printer costs. It is also an environmentally responsible step, helping us use fewer resources while continuing to keep our congregation informed and connected. The proposed deadlines for each of the 2027 editions are:

- December 10, 2026 – Winter 2027
(covering January, February, and March)
- March 11, 2027 – Spring 2027
(covering April, May, and June)
- June 10, 2027 – Summer 2027
(covering July, August, and September)
- September 9, 2027 – Fall 2027
(covering October, November, and December)

The quarterly newsletter will be easy to find. Each new edition will be posted on our church website and all our social media feeds, and a link will be included in our weekly Saturday email blast.

We also recognize that not everyone has convenient access to electronic communication. No one will be left out. A limited number of printed copies will remain available, and newsletters can be mailed to those who need them. New format—same church family, staying connected!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPCOMING EVENTS!

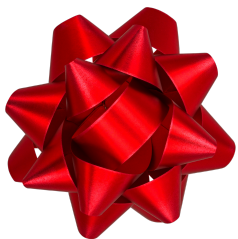
Our Women's Fellowship group has two upcoming events that you do not want to miss!

✉️ NOVEMBER 5 — CARD MAKING FOR THE MILITARY | 6:30 PM

Join us for a fun and meaningful evening of fellowship as we create cards to send to our military members. We will meet at 6:30 PM in the Atrium. Together, we'll share encouragement, kindness, and Christmas cheer with those serving our country. Bring a friend and a dessert to share and enjoy this special opportunity to make a difference!



🎄 DECEMBER 3 — CHRISTMAS PROGRAM | 12:00 PM



Register now to join us at The Venue for our annual Christmas luncheon - a joyful gathering filled with fellowship, holiday cheer, and wonderful memories. We're delighted that our own Dan Doty will sing Christmas music for us! It promises to be a beautiful and festive time together. Cost = \$35 per person. RSVP by November 22nd.

All men and women are warmly invited to both of these events! We hope you'll join us for both of these special Women's Fellowship gatherings

Celebrate the Season with Rev. Dan's Holiday Concerts!

The holiday season is a wonderful time to enjoy beautiful music, share fellowship, and celebrate the joy of the season! Our Senior Minister, Rev. Dan Doty, will be performing in two special holiday concerts this December, and everyone is invited to attend.

Handel's Messiah

Join the Warren Civic Orchestra and Chorus on Sunday, December 6, at 6:30 PM at Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, 3020 Reeves Road NE, Warren, Ohio. Experience the beauty and inspiration of this beloved holiday masterpiece.

Holiday Pops

Enjoy an evening of festive favorites with the Akron Symphony Orchestra and Chorus on Friday, December 11, at 7:30 PM at EJ Thomas Hall in Akron. This joyful concert is a wonderful way to celebrate the season through music.

Ann Hagan will be offering a carpool for those who would like to attend either concert. If you're interested in going, please sign up in the Atrium on Sundays. It's a great opportunity to enjoy an evening of music and fellowship together!

We hope you'll join us in supporting Dan and sharing in the hope, peace, music, and joy of the holiday season.





Trunk or Treat-October 24 @ 10- 11:30 am

If you have children or grandchildren that want to come join the fun, we would love to have them. We will have cider, donuts, coffee, games and, of course, candy.

Pageant Practice-October 28 @ 4:30 PM



Beginning October 28, students in grades 2-5 are invited to learn our Christmas Pageant. We will be sharing the pageant on December 20. Children younger than 2nd grade can join us in December for practices. Our message this year is, Mystery Case # 12.25, The Missing Light. If you can't join us on the 28th but would like a speaking part, please let Wendy know.

Election Day Bake Sale - November 3



The Board of Christian Education is hosting their annual Voting Day Bake Sale. If you are someone who enjoys baking and can donate a few items, that would be great. We ask that you bring in bake goods on Sunday, Nov. 1- Monday, Nov. 2. We will set up the table on Nov. 2. If you can't bake an item but you'd love to sell things that day, we are scheduling people for two-hour shifts.

Link to sign up for baked items or volunteer hours,
<https://forms.gle/WddnShomcUR1gPxZA>

Roots and Wings Pie Making - November 8 @ 4:30 PM



Come make a pie and freeze it for Thanksgiving. Everyone is welcome, but registration is needed for supply purchase. We will gather in the church kitchen, make pie dough, put pies together and prepare to freeze at home. They can bake from frozen. Plan on bringing your own pie pan and four cups of fruit (peach, apple, berry work great).

To register, please use this link prior to Nov. 4; <https://forms.gle/NbZdRy3txKfNZM9u7>

Grades 3-4-5 Lock-In - Nov. 13-14



All children in grades 3-5 are invited to our Lock-In. Come to the church at 7 pm to play games, eat, watch a movie and SPEND THE NIGHT in the church. Pickup is at 9 am on Saturday. It is an evening full of activities they won't want to miss. The cost is \$5/child and each church member can bring two friends who are in the same grades. Please register (share it with your friends) by Nov. 8 using this link:
<https://forms.gle/AKXDb28iNCJ9PVQg6> . Permission forms will be emailed after you complete the registration form.



Meet the Author Night - Nov. 11 @ 7-8 PM

Join us for an inspiring Evening with the Author - featuring Deb L. Brown, Christian fiction author and inspirational speaker. This night will feature her book, *From This Day Forward*. Books will be available for purchase that evening; they will be available online Nov. 2.



Treehouse Preschool Give back November - Oct. 21-Nov. 11

Every year, Treehouse takes November to talk about kindness and caring for others. We have chosen two programs to support this November and invite the congregation to join us. In the Atrium, you will find boxes with the logos on them to collect all donations.



First we have **Bright Star Books**. We are collecting new or used children's (up to age 14) books that can be new or used. Bright Star Books aims to complement and collaborate with existing early childhood development and literacy organizations in the Greater Akron region to build a sustainable community network that brings books into the homes of limited-resource children and gives every family the chance to develop a lasting love of reading and learning. Utilizing the latest developmental research, and embracing a model where community participation, capacity building, and research are critical, they seek to identify and fill gaps in existing programs so that every child — regardless of race, ability, socioeconomic status or cultural capital — has the resources needed to grow up in an environment where developing a love for reading is possible.



Second is **Caring for Kids**. We are collecting NEW toys, gift cards, crafts, games and hygiene items to give as Christmas gifts. Caring for Kids cares about children, youth, families, and communities. They strive to cultivate a diverse and inclusive environment that allows their clients and staff to be their whole authentic selves. They serve children through pregnancy services, fostering and adoption. Their most used requested items are: \$25 gift cards, Legos, puzzles, coloring books, pajamas, Barbie dolls, action figures, diapers, wipes, fidgets, makeup, skincare items, games, and craft kits.

Board of Christian Education - Members and Chairperson

Our chair, Sarah Ickes, has been our dedicated leader. Sarah is taking a step back and so we are searching for a new chairperson. If you are a person dedicated to learning, organized, and willing to try new things, this might be the volunteer position for you. We have a team that is willing to support our mission, we just need a leader to step forward. We also need some new members with new ideas for children, youth and adult education. If you are feeling the call to work with Christian Education, talk with Sarah or Wendy.



UNITED MINISTRIES YOUTH UPDATE



Sunday in Service

As part of our month of giving thanks, United Ministry will host Rake N' Run service day on Sunday, November 8th. 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 1st.



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 6-8pm at FCC on Sunday, November 22nd in the Fellowship Hall.

Holiday Pecan Sale

Our annual Pecan Sale is here! It's time to start planning that holiday baking. Our United Youth Ministry is 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 November 1. To place an order, visit the table in the Atrium on Sunday mornings.

Thank you for supporting our youth and helping make these opportunities possible.



Worship Attendance

September 20	135	October 4	105	October 18	149
September 27	132	October 11	91		



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Greeters

October 25	Dan Thomas
November 1	
November 8	Joe and Tom Labay
November 15	Dan Thomas
November 22	
November 29	
December 6	
December 13	

Altar Flowers

October 25	Margie Popio
November 1	
November 8	Don Simmons
November 15	Joe and Tom Labay
November 22	Terri Poff
November 29	Bob and Sandy Haydu
December 6	Bob and Sandy Haydu
December 13	Cammel Family

Sign up in the
hallway \$28
per
arrangement

Ushers

October 25	Larry Robinson, Patrick Hagan, Tom Labay, Joe Labay
November 1	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Joe Labay
November 8	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Darkow, Dan Thomas
November 15	Dave Marconi, Dan Thomas, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
November 22	Larry Robinson, Patrick Hagan, Ann Hagan, Joe Labay
November 29	Larry Robinson, Dan Thomas, Joe Labay, Gary Myers
December 6	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Dan Thomas
December 13	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Darkow, Dan Thomas



Help Us Deck the Halls for Christmas!

Our annual poinsettia sale is coming soon! Each Christmas, these beautiful flowers adorn the chancel at First Congregational Church, adding warmth and color to our Christmas Eve worship service.

We invite you to help make our sanctuary festive and beautiful by participating in this cherished tradition. Details about pricing and the order deadline will be announced soon. Order forms are typically due in mid-November, so please watch the Sunday bulletins and our church website for information on how to order your poinsettias.

Thank you for helping make FCC beautiful for the Christmas season!



NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 AM - FAITH IN ACTION 10:00 AM - WORSHIP/ALL SAINTS	2 12:30 PM - LADIES VIDEO STUDY 2:00 PM - CHAIR YOGA 5:00 PM - SOCIAL ACTION 6:00 PM - HERITAGE 6:30 PM - TRUSTEES	3 VOTING DAY 6:00 PM - NARANON	4 9:00 AM - QUILTERS 1:00 PM - BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM - CUB SCOUTS	5 10:00 AM - WW 6:30 PM - WF EVENT 6:30 PM - WW 7:00 PM - CHANCEL CHOIR	6	7 7:30 AM/9:00 AM - WW
8 9:00 AM - EC 10:00 AM - WORSHIP/LAITY SUNDAY 11:30 AM - RAKE AND RUN 4:30 PM - ROOTS AND WINGS	9 12:30 PM - LADIES VIDEO STUDY 2:00 PM - CHAIR YOGA 6:00 PM - HERITAGE	10 10:30 AM - ACSG 6:00 PM - NARANON	11 9:00 AM - QUILTERS 1:00 PM - BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM - MEET THE AUTHOR	12 HERALD DEADLINE 10:00 AM - WW 1:00 PM - STAFF MEETING 6:00 PM - BELLS 6:30 PM - WW 7:00 PM - CHANCEL CHOIR	13 7:00 PM - 3RD-5TH GRADE LOCK IN	14 7:30 AM/9:00 AM - WW 9:00 AM - MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
15 9:00 AM - FAITH IN ACTION 10:00 AM - WORSHIP/CONSECRATION SUNDAY	16 12:30 PM - LADIES VIDEO STUDY 2:00 PM - CHAIR YOGA 6:00 PM - HERITAGE	17 6:00 PM - NARANON	18 9:00 AM - QUILTERS 10:00 AM - HERALD ANGELS 7:00 PM - CUB SCOUTS	19 10:00 AM - WW 1:00 PM - STAFF MEETING 6:00 PM - BELLS 6:30 PM - WW 7:00 PM - CHANCEL CHOIR	20 7:00 PM - CUB SCOUTS MOVIE NIGHT	21 7:30 AM/9:00 AM - WW
22 10:00 AM - WORSHIP 6:00 PM - YOUTH FELLOWSHIP	23 12:30 PM - LADIES VIDEO STUDY 2:00 PM - CHAIR YOGA 6:00 PM - HERITAGE	24 10:30 AM - ACSG 6:00 PM - NARANON	25 9:00 AM - QUILTERS	26 THANKSGIVING, OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 7:30 AM/9:00 AM - WW
29 9:00 AM - CE MEETING 10:00 AM - WORSHIP/ADVENT 11:00 AM ADVENT SERVICE PROJECT 6:00 PM - WJHM	30 12:30 PM - LADIES VIDEO STUDY 2:00 PM - CHAIR YOGA 6:00 PM - HERITAGE					

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: OCTOBER 21, 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
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Gary Marlow	Sunday Custodian	