

FIRST CHRONICLE

First Congregational Church of Akron

2024 • Number 4

SACRED SNAPSHOTS

In celebration of FCC's 190th Anniversary, longtime member Chris Godard generously offered to share some of his favorite memories of our church. The following is the final installment of Chris' recollection of times past.



MEMORIES OF MEMBERS

Amongst the throngs of people in church back in the day, a number of them affected my life and the life of my family throughout the years. A few notable folks really stand out when I think of my youth. One member with a big personality was Jimmy (James) Wise. He was a songwriter and playwright who wrote the story "Dames at Sea" into a play. Whenever Jimmy would come back from New York he would often visit our church. Thanks to Jimmy, we now have an upgraded Casavant organ. Another fellow I remember from my youth is Glenn (Speed) Bosworth. Speed would often share his stories about baseball with us kids gathered around in the Narthex. Why did we listen to him? He not only coached for various Akron Youth baseball teams, but was also a scout for the Cleveland Indians. Boy, baseball nuts like me like to pick his brain most Sundays after church on the trades and line-ups. I can probably thank in part, Speed for becoming such a fan of the game. And I found a girl who gets just as excited about baseball as I do – that's my Sue!

There were so many families at First Church who affected my life- Mark (Kookie) Kucheman and his parents, Underwoods who built soap box derby cars, Carl and Marjorie Beecher (Margaret Maurer's parents) who both played in the Akron Symphony Orchestra. Then there were Frank and Barb Leonard. They were active in everything and, along with their children, put on the play *Alice in Blunderland*, which referred to nuclear arms. Harold and June Hibbard were the church. Same goes for the Nowels family. Irv Nowels knew everything about our boilers and was the original wassail maker at Christmas. Betty, Margaret, Sue and parents would join me, Uncle Fred and Aunt Bett Godard to go up to Michigan for several summers. The Lemmons had my two sisters, Laura and Anne, as camp counselors at the Greenberry Day

Camp. Boy did Betty Lemmon run it! Uncle Fred provided the vans from his dealership for transporting the campers. The Babcox's, who were into publishing, joined me on day and night hikes of our local Sierra Club. Bill Williams, Sue's uncle, played a part in my early life. I remember both he and Cathy coming over to Pop's house after my Granny (Kitty Godard) died. They worked their tails off preparing food for people after the funeral. Bill was actively involved in Diaconate with me later on. So many families played a part in my life- the Burroughs, Berrys, Burriges, Nygaards, Clarks, Grants, Nicelys, Rothmans, and a couple of unique Wilsons. The Tolleys (whose son Jim shared church classrooms with me) all became special to me and my family. See me for some individual stories.

MEMORIES OF MINISTERS

I really need to mention a couple of ministers who became friends of mine and my family. John Deuble was there for me when I had a traumatic auto accident years ago. Dr. Charles Hugh Stem gave me my first red Bible in fourth grade. He was also there for my confirmation class and my grandparents' funerals. I asked him toward the end of his life to help celebrate a new life for me. Yes, I asked him and his wife Jean to be a part of my wedding to Sue. I had Dr. Stem use that very red Bible from fourth grade. He shared some verse from that Bible. It really meant the world to me that some things do come full circle.

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENT

The Membership Board will host a Soup, Salad and Breadsticks event with a pumpkin decorating station on October 6 following services. To join the event either make your favorite soup to share in a crockpot or bring a canned good to donate to the food pantry for your "admission". Everyone will vote for their favorite soup and a prize will be awarded. During the event there will be a pumpkin decorating station. Please bring a pumpkin to decorate and you can take it home to enjoy or leave it to be used to decorate the altar and to be used at the Trunk or Treat event on October 20th.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT EVENTS...

PASTOR BOBBY'S ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL



We kicked off our summer by gathering together for Pastor Bobby's Ecclesiastical Council. During the celebratory reception that followed, we were thrilled to find out that Pastor Bobby had been officially approved for Ordination to Ministry in the UCC. This milestone marks a significant moment in our church's journey, and we're excited to continue supporting Pastor Bobby in his new role.



GARDEN PARTY & TEA

Our summer continued with our annual tea, this year themed as a charming garden party. The event was a hit, filled with laughter and fun as we played games, savored Debbie's delicious cooking, and cherished each other's company.



JOYFUL SOUNDS



In June, our fifth-Sunday combined worship service was a special treat as we welcomed a bluegrass band. Their vibrant and soulful music added a unique and joyful touch to our service. We're excited to announce that each of our future fifth-Sunday services will feature different styles of music, offering a diverse range of musical experiences for our congregation.

This summer AkronFCC hosted a concert series, *Walk Spirit, Talk Spirit*, which brought a refreshing blend of jazz to our community. Over the course of three fantastic concerts, we enjoyed performances from various jazz bands in a series that was free and open to all.



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to our annual school supply drive! Because of your support, we were able to collect and fill 49 backpacks for children at Mason School. The backpacks were blessed during both services on August 18, marking a big success of this wonderful outreach.



CHURCH PICNIC

Our annual church picnic was a resounding success, blessed with perfect weather and held in our very own garden. The day was filled with community spirit as everyone pitched in with setup, cleanup, and, most importantly, preparing and sharing delicious dishes. A special thank you goes to the Membership Board for their outstanding organization of the event. It truly turned out to be a Sunday-Funday, full of laughter, great food, and fellowship.



REVEREND BOBBY BURTT

We were thrilled to see over 200 people turn out to support Pastor Bobby at his Ordination into Ministry. The occasion was celebrated with a fabulous reception in our garden, where family, friends and the church community gathered to honor this significant milestone. The event was a heartfelt tribute to Pastor Bobby's dedication and a wonderful example of our church's support and unity.



MINISTRY IN ACTION

There are two viewpoints in understanding the Food Pantry ministry. The human story and the numbers.

The Human Side: A gentleman came to us for the first time. He explained that he had just returned from New York where his sister had been murdered. He had to identify her body and he knew her killer. She had 7 children. Our client brought 4 of them home with him even though he already has a family of 8. We were able to give him some cooking essentials as well as food. Just an example of the need we sometimes see

The Numbers: We took the time a couple of weeks ago to weigh the amounts of food that the Pantry provides to small, medium and large families. Projecting out, the Pantry averages giving out more than 3,000 lbs. of food every week X 52 weeks = 156,000 lbs./year or 78 TONS of food!

Delving a little deeper, we see ... rapidly increasing need ... the Pantry served over 120 families in each of the last two weeks.

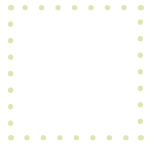
	2023	2024	% Increase
Households	1415	1949	37.70%
Individuals	4332	6184	42.80%
Family Size	3.06	3.17	3.60%

What can you do to help? The Pantry is busy all week long. Volunteer on Monday morning or in the evening, or on Tuesday morning, or perhaps Friday morning or Saturday morning. Contact Larry Becker for specific information at 330-696-6709. The need for help is greatest on Monday evening and Saturday morning. Post the following needs on your social media (and perhaps donate some yourself!). Current needs include: Almost any personal care items (such as bar soap, shampoo, body wash, etc.), household supplies (paper towels, TP, dish detergent, all cleaning products, etc.) The Pantry can also use reusable bags, plastic grocery bags and suitcases with wheels to assist families in taking their groceries home.

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "...do you love me? ... Feed my lambs ... Tend my sheep ... Feed my sheep." John 21: 15-17

ANNUAL MEETING & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On September 15, we will hold one combined worship service at 10am, immediately followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting. A church wide email was sent out on Friday, August 16 which included a letter from Moderator, Kevin Kowalski, and a link to the agenda. You can also go to the church website, akronfcc.org, to view the agenda. If you are not receiving the weekly Friday email, please contact Jen in the church office at admin@akronfcc.org.




Simply Sing

Presented by

Achorus
For A Cause

To Benefit

Simply Give


<p>Sept. 21, 2024 6:30 pm doors open at 6pm St. Mary's Catholic Church 206 Cherry Rd NE Massillon, Ohio</p>	 <p>achorusforacause.org</p>	<p>Sept. 22, 2024 4:00pm doors open at 3:30pm Uniontown UMC 15370 Cleveland Ave NW Uniontown, Ohio</p>
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You're invited and encouraged to join over 500 First Serve volunteers and work on projects located at partner organizations and residential sites in the North Hill Community of Akron. This is a fantastic opportunity to volunteer and make a difference.

Registration Now Open!
2024 Day of Service
Sunday, September 8



Register at joinfirstserve.org.



Second Sunday Salads returns in September.

"Last winter I was led by God, I believe, to start SSS. I have always believed that small groups and fellowship bring a church together. I am grateful for those who help now, but would welcome more donated salads. Just contact me, Christine Allison at cdanotes@gmail.com"