

THANKSGIVING DINNER IS SET TO LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR

This Thanksgiving, at AkronFCC, we are embracing a new tradition of service and love. Instead of our usual congregation-wide Thanksgiving dinner, we will be extending our hearts and hands to those in our community who are homeless or without family to share a meal with. In the spirit of Christ's love, we will host three Thanksgiving dinners on November 7th, 14th, and 21st for our less fortunate neighbors. We are currently speaking with other area churches to partner with.

We invite you to be part of this mission. At this time we are looking for a few individuals to help coordinate these meals. If you are interested please contact Jen at admin@akronfcc.org or call the church office. In the coming weeks, we will be putting out a call for volunteers to help prepare, serve, and most importantly, stay and share the meal together. This is more than an act of service—it is an opportunity to "break bread" with our guests, offering them not only food but dignity and the love of Christ through fellowship.

We believe this will be an opportunity to make this Thanksgiving a true reflection of Christ's love in action.



FONDLY REMEMBERING

As we reflect on our church's rich history, we are reminded of the many ministers and moments that have shaped our journey. This edition, we feature an excerpt from Lloyd C. Douglas' book, *The Living Faith*. The selection was chosen not only because it is from his final sermon at AkronFCC, but also because it speaks to the spirit of the church. While we honor the past, we remain excited about the present work God is doing among us and the bright future that lies ahead. Our mission continues, not just in remembering where we've been, but in faithfully stepping forward into what God is calling us to do now and in the years to come

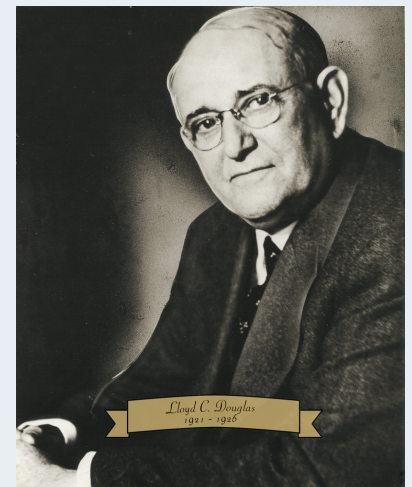
"This is not an average church. It is not customary with churches - when facing a time of stress - to solve their problems of poverty by adding thirty-three and a third percent to their expenses.

Whatever debate I had with myself, over the call you gave me, was settled when I learned how cheerfully you had consented to launch forth on the new and expensive program of action - at a moment when everything else in town was bent on severe retrenchments. I thought I would like to be connected with an institution like that; and came, hopeful of your full co-operation.

I was not disappointment. From the first hour of my ministry, here, there was a consistent and continuous effort, on the part of the church, to make it possible for me to do my work. Naturally, my direct dealing with the church, as an organization, were had through the Boards of Deacons and Trustees. I wish to go on record with my appreciation of the ardent and generous support these Boards have given me, from the first hour of my ministry, on through to this last one.

I have never asked for anything that they refused to give me - or debated with me - or seemed in any way reluctant to offer me. More often, they not only acceded to my wishes, but exceeded them. I could not have wished for any closer cooperation, or any more loyal and liberal support than I have had from all the official bodies which have charge over the business and technique of the church.

And doubtless this fine spirit of co-operation, on their part, was made possible for them because they knew the loyal and generous and sportsmanly heart of the congregation. Aboard cannot promise much to the preacher if it is uncertain about the sort of backing it will have from the membership."



Lloyd C. Douglas

Excerpt from *The Living Faith*
(from his selected sermons)
First Congregational Church
Minister 1921-1926

LOOKING FORWARD

As we move forward in our search for a settled pastor, two themes that have emerged are our desire to become a more collaborative and compassionate congregation. These values are not just guiding our leadership but are shaping the way we approach ministry and engage with our wider community.


It is inspiring to see how collaboration is already making an impact. The support we've received from other congregations and community partners for our upcoming "Trunk or Treat" event on October 27th is a wonderful example of this spirit in action. This event will not only be a fun, family-friendly celebration but also a moment to show our collective care and compassion to the families in our University Park neighborhood. Looking ahead, we have another opportunity to express our gratitude and commitment to our neighbors.

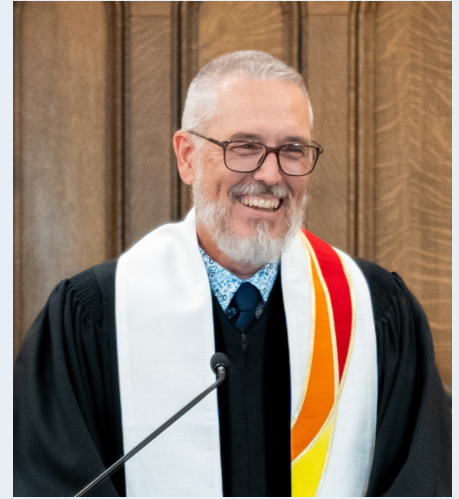
Tentatively planned for the first three Thursday evenings in November, we are preparing for community meals that are about more than just food. These meals are a meaningful expression of our desire to build a stronger sense of community and extend genuine hospitality to our neighbors. By coming together around the table, we create a space where relationships can grow, stories can be shared, and gratitude for one another can be celebrated. This effort is not solely about addressing immediate needs, but about fostering connections, offering warmth and welcome, and embracing the spirit of thanksgiving as we gather with those around us. It's an opportunity to show that we value each person in our neighborhood and cherish the bonds that unite us.

For these meals to come to life, we need volunteer leadership. This is a wonderful chance for individuals in our congregation to step into roles that help organize, lead, and coordinate these evenings of fellowship. Whether it's arranging logistics, managing volunteers, or helping to create a welcoming atmosphere, there is an important role for each of us to play.

I encourage you to consider how you might contribute—whether by helping at the "Trunk or Treat," volunteering for the November meals, or finding other ways to show your care and compassion in the weeks ahead.

With gratitude and hope,


Jeff



Fall & Holiday Schedule

Date	Event	Details
Sunday October 6	OPEN M Jell-o Donations	We are collecting 6oz boxes of <i>any</i> flavor Jell-o for Open M. Our goal is 200 boxes. Donations can be dropped off in the church office from October 6 - November 23.
Sunday October 27	Trunk-or-Treat	2pm in the parking lot of AkronFCC. Bring your trick-or-treater(s), a bag for collecting candy, and come prepared to have fun!
Sunday November 3	All Saints Sunday	A service to remember and celebrate loved ones who have passed. Normal 9am & 11am worship time. Communion Sunday
Thursday November 7, 14, & 21	Community Meals	New AkronFCC tradition. Plan, prepare & serve community dinners. Volunteers working with neighboring churches.
Saturday November 23	Last Day of OPEN M Donations	We are collecting 6oz boxes of <i>any</i> flavor Jell-o for Open M. Donations can be dropped off in the church office from October 6 - November 23.
Sunday November 24	Hanging of the Greens with Potluck Meal	Everyone is invited to meet at the church at 3pm to decorate for the Christmas season and enjoy a potluck meal.
Sunday December 1	Wassail, Craft, Cookie Decorating	After church we will have crafts, cookie decorating stations, wassail and fellowship.
Saturday December 14	Breakfast with Santa	Open to the church family and community. A fun annual tradition for the children and families. Enjoy breakfast and photos with Santa.
Saturday December 21	Blue Christmas	Authentic worship during Advent and Christmas that acknowledges the complex feelings this time of year brings. Service is scheduled for 4:15.
Tuesday December 24	Christmas Eve Service	One Christmas Eve Service scheduled for 7pm
Sunday December 29	5th Sunday Combined Worship Service	One 10am Combined Carol Sing Service



FAITH ENRICHMENT

Faith Enrichment, led by Pastor Jeff, meets every Wednesday morning in the church library at 10:45am. All are welcome to join the group for the weekly discussions. If you'd like to join Faith Enrichment but Wednesday mornings don't work with your schedule, please reach out to Pastor Jeff. We are considering offering a second class at another time, either in person or virtually.

FAITH ADVENTURES

Children's Faith Adventures has resumed at the 11am Meetinghouse worship. Classes focus on stories from the Bible mixed with fun activities and a snack. If you're interested in volunteering to teach, or register your child, please email Julie at childrensministry@akronfcc.org.

9AM CHILDCARE

Childcare is available during the 9am Upper Room worship in the Playground in the back of the Upper Room. Children between 6 months and 5 years are welcome, but respectful older children may join as well.

THANK YOU JUNIOR LEAGUE OF AKRON

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the Junior League of Akron for their continued support of our Feeding Hope Food Pantry. Their commitment to addressing period poverty by running donation drives and delivering much-needed period products to our clients has been invaluable. As a trusted community partner, they share in our mission to combat food insecurity and ensure that those in need have access to healthy, nutritious meals. Together, we are making a difference!

PET TOYS & TREATS DRIVE

AkronFCC celebrated the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi by collecting pet toys and treats that we then donated to our Feeding Hope Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who donated and made this a success!

NEWCHURCH PROFILE

The new church profile is complete and available to view on the UCC website. A big thank you to everyone on the Transition Team for their hard work in making this possible! If you have not seen the profile please contact the church office for the link.

FIRST CHRONICLE

First Congregational Church of Akron
292 East Market St.
Akron, OH 44308



SUNDAY, OCT. 27, 2024

TRUNK or TREAT

**JOIN US AT 2:00PM AT 292 E MARKET STREET, AKRON FOR TRUNK OR TREAT!
WEAR YOUR COSTUME, BRING A BIG BAG FOR CANDY AND BE READY TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
**YOU CAN DECORATE YOUR TRUNK, DONATE CANDY/SMALL TOYS,
HELP WITH GAMES OR FOOD AND SO MANY OTHER WAYS!!
LUNCH PROVIDED AT NOON FOR VOLUNTEERS
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO SIGN UP**



EVENT SPONSORED BY:

