



MARCH 2023 • Number 2

# Chronicle

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF AKRON

*Rooted in Christ • Fostering Justice • Celebrating Diversity*

## Amazing Grace

Invites us in  
to days of longing  
that lead to Life's gift.

Invites us in  
to an Easter moment  
through the door of days  
that acknowledge life's hunger and pain.

Come, let us enter!  
Walking side by side  
along this path of holy days  
to celebrate the gift  
of God's amazing grace!

*Nanette*





# Palm Sunday

**APRIL 2, 9AM & 11AM**

Join the crowd for this joyous and celebratory Sunday that rounds out the season of Lent and ushers in the beginning of Holy Week, as we remember our savior Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and celebrate Communion together.

Palm branches will be available at both the 9am Celebrate Service in the Upper Room and at the 11am Festival Service in the Meetinghouse (which will also stream live on Youtube). We look forward to sharing this day's spirit of hope, love, and renewal with you and to starting our journey towards Easter together.

## **EASTER EGG HUNT CANDY DONATION REQUEST**

Please donate individually wrapped candy for the Easter Egg Hunts we host after each Easter service. Bring them to church by Sunday, April 2. Following our Palm Sunday services, we will be having an Egg Stuffing Party in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers welcome!



# Breakfast with the Bunny

**APRIL 2, 10:00-10:45AM**

Come join us on Palm Sunday, April 2, for a French Toast Bake breakfast between services in the Fellowship Hall. We will be serving from 10-10:45am. A gluten-free and vegan option will also be available for those with dietary restrictions.

Most importantly the Easter Bunny will be here! Enjoy breakfast, then take a picture of your child (and/or yourself) with the bunny, who will give out a cuddly surprise. Come celebrate the beginning of the Easter season this Palm Sunday, on the brink of Holy Week, with your First Church friends and family!

To volunteer, please contact the Membership Board.



# Holy Week

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 6:30PM, IN PERSON**

Join First Church members and friends for a Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner in Fellowship Hall. We will gather to share food and fellowship as we remember the Last Supper and Jesus' new commandment to love one another. This evening is a great way to introduce children to Holy Week and expand their understanding of the message of Easter.

It's a time to come together as a community to share in the spirit of love and service that Jesus embodied. Bring a dish to share, and be ready to experience the warmth and generosity of our community as we break bread together. The evening will include a reenactment of foot washing that attendees can observe or participate in, as they choose. This is an open event, and all are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 9AM-NOON, IN PERSON**

The Chapel will be open for personal prayer and meditation.

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7, NOON, IN PERSON**

Scripture reading and organ music in the Chapel.

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 7:30PM, IN PERSON & ONLINE**

Traditional tenebrae worship in the Meetinghouse. A deeply moving and reverent service that involves the successive dimming of the lights as we contemplate the meaning of Jesus death.

Whether you are a longtime member of the First Church community or a newcomer seeking to explore the meaning of Easter, you are welcome to join us for this special service. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the power and beauty of the journey to Easter.

# Easter Sunrise Service

**APRIL 9, 6:30AM, IN PERSON**

Join us on the front lawn of the church for a brief outdoors service to welcome in the dawn of hope, weather permitting, as we begin the day's celebration. The service starts as the light of Easter morning dawns and in that breaking sunlight, we kindle a fire and bring our candles into the Meetinghouse to light the Christ candle together, remembering the promise that the Light "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). Please dress warmly and bring a lawn chair along.

# Eastertide Season of Joy

In the church, Easter is a whole season! Join us this spring as we continue to celebrate and embrace God's grace.

**JOINING SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 9AM & 11AM**

We will welcome friends into the covenant of membership on April 16, at either of the Celebrate or Festival services.

**EARTH DAY & BAPTISM, APRIL 23, 9AM & 11AM**

This Earth Day Sunday, together with the Ohio Council of Churches, we will remember, raise awareness, and accept a special offering for the East Palestine community. We will also have the joy of baptising baby Avery May, and celebrating with her parent's, Emily and Justin, and grandparents, Cheri and Rick, at the Festival service.



# Easter Sunday Celebration

**APRIL 9, 9AM & 11AM, IN PERSON & ONLINE**

Join us for two joyous Easter celebrations. At 9am, in person only, for our Celebrate Service in the Upper Room and at 11am, in person and on YouTube, for our Festival Service. All featuring special music, readings, and an uplifting message! Each service will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn for our youngest members and friends. The Family Room and Prayground will be available in each worship space for families with young children who need a space apart or some playtime.



# EASTER FLOWERS



Please return this form and **\$15.00** per flower to the church office ASAP in order to have an Easter flower in the church on Easter Sunday, April 9.

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

With this donation, the names of those mentioned will be listed in News and Notes on Easter Sunday, April 9.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be present to claim my flower.

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish my flowers to go to someone who is sick or homebound.

Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_



# UA Property Sale Update

In early December the Governing Board learned about an exciting opportunity: the University of Akron is selling the property adjacent to our garden (250 & 264 E. Market St.) on the west. The property was put on the market on March 9, 2022 and is about two acres in area. The Governing Board met in two special meetings and felt, because it is right next door, that it was in First Church's best interest to investigate the sale. A commercial real estate agent, Nichole Booker, was secured to do research, and the Governing Board authorized her to send a non-binding (which just indicates our interest) Letter of Intent to the seller.



Aerial view with the property in question outlined in red. First Church's existing property, on this side of Union Street, is outlined in green.

As moderator, I appointed an Ad Hoc committee to discuss the logistics (financing, process, etc.) of First Church possibly making a bid and maintaining communications with our agent, Nichole Booker. The committee consists of Kevin Kowalski, Vice-Moderator; Pat McKay, Treasurer; Sarah Vradenburg, Stewardship/Finance Board Chair; Cheri Xeros, Endowment Board Chair; Sid Foster, former Moderator and retired General Counsel staff at the University of Akron; Rev. Nanette Pitt, Senior Minister; and Sue Yoder, Moderator. The Ad Hoc committee has met several times working on behalf of Governing Board and the congregation. The decision to continue to explore the sale needed to come before the congregation, so the first Special Congregational Meeting (consisting of both in-person and virtual attendees) was held on Sunday, February 19, 2023 after a combined 10:00 worship service. The service followed the Mardi Gras breakfast at 9:00 am. Before the meeting on the 19th, two informational sessions were held for members and friends on Sunday, January 29 and Tuesday, February 14. The purpose of these sessions was to provide details about the property sale and answer questions.

*Continued on Page 10*

# Semi-Annual Meeting Notice

**SUNDAY, MAY 7, FOLLOWING ONE 10AM SERVICE**

The First Church 2023 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 7, following one combined 10am worship service in the Meetinghouse. While in person attendance is encouraged, participants will also be able to sign up to attend virtually.

Meeting materials will be loaded to the church website in early April and the Zoom registration link will be advertised. Please contact the church office for any additional questions or information.

The agenda will include breakout workshop discussions about First Church's board structure and, in the meeting, the congregation will vote on:

1. Slate of Board Members and Church Officers
2. Budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal and program year

If you are unable to attend, either in person or virtually, please contact the church office at your convenience and complete an absentee ballot.

## A Future With Hope

Sometimes it's easier to focus on what we don't have, rather than on what we do have. Take a moment to name some of the things you're thankful for today, so you can better see God's Amazing Grace all around. Give gratitude for friends, health, laughter, weekends, music, community... and our church! Join us in giving thanks for all the resources – spiritual, theological, physical, and financial – that support the indispensable work of our church and our ministries. You will have received your annual giving card, and we ask that you prayerfully consider the blessings First Church brings to you and to our community and how you will join in with your financial support. If you have any questions, reach out to our Finance and Operations Manager, Janis Worley, at [janis.worley@akronfcc.org](mailto:janis.worley@akronfcc.org) or call 330.253.5109 x111.



# A FUTURE WITH HOPE





## Children's Faith Adventures

### SUNDAY MORNING OPPORTUNITIES

Children's Faith Adventures happen on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month

#### 9AM CELEBRATE SERVICE

After Life of the Church, during the centering music, children are invited to join Faith Adventure volunteers, and Bobby for faith-centered fun. During worship, our younger participants are invited to share in worship with their family. There is also a playground with toys and crafts available in the rear of the Upper Room worship space.

#### 11AM FESTIVAL SERVICE

Every week children are invited to join the Faith Adventures volunteers and Bobby for faith-centered fun. On Communion Sundays, children are invited to leave during the prelude and on all other Sundays they leave with Bobby after Thoughts for the Young. Children are also always welcome to stay in the Meetinghouse during worship, the Family Room is always available and crafts are provided in the foyer.

#### CHILDCARE

A fully equipped room for children aged 6 months to 4 years old is open on the second floor during each worship service. A note will be made in each week's News & Notes, if professional staff are present or not and parents/guardians need to stay to supervise their child.

#### FAITH FORMATION WORKING GROUP

Faith formation programs can be life-changing for children and youth. Meaningful programs take planning and support. All members of the church are invited to support our program by participating in our Faith Formation Working Group. The group meets infrequently to plan programs and initiatives with Bobby to strengthen First Church's ministry to children and youth.

#### SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

New volunteers Faith Guides are always welcome to help with Sunday morning Children Faith Adventures at both our 9am and 11am services. No prior experience is necessary. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Bobby: [bobby.burtt@akronfcc.org](mailto:bobby.burtt@akronfcc.org) or 330.780.8122 (call/text), 330.253.5109 x101 (office).



The Easter Bunny enthalls a young visitor at a previous Breakfast with the Bunny event at First Church, as their parents get an Easter snapshot and keepsake.

## Summer Camp

Last year we sent five of our youth to MMADD Camp and Just Camp, each having an amazing time growing and deepening their faith, while making new friends and learning about the environment. This year we are hoping to send even more. Financial assistance is available so that everyone can have the chance to experience the thrill of summer camp. Visit the camp descriptions and registrations page. Contact Bobby for more information: [bobby.burtt@akronfcc.org](mailto:bobby.burtt@akronfcc.org) or 330.780.8122 (call/text), 330.253.5109 x101 (church office).

## Amplified Youth

### SATURDAY, APRIL 15

Easter Egg hunts are fun, but there is a lot more to find out there than just colorful plastic eggs. Join us as we gather at First Christian Church in Cuyahoga Falls this month to see just what fun and exciting things we can find together. So come ready to seek and find all joys of spending time with old friends, making new friends, and exploring the world around you. First Christian Church is located at 230 Stow Ave, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

## Breakfast With The Bunny

### SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023, 10-10:45AM

Join the Membership Board on Sunday April 2 at 10AM for a delicious french toast breakfast with special visitor, the Easter Bunny! Come enjoy fellowship with members and their families between worship services. The Easter Bunny will be making an appearance for a meet and greet and available for photos with the family.

## Easter Egg Candy

### DONATIONS REQUESTED

Easter is quickly approaching, and that means Easter Egg hunts! Every Easter after both our 9am and 11am services we host an Easter Egg hunt on our lawn for our youngest attendees to enjoy. Please donate individually wrapped candy for the eggs up until Sunday, April 2.

Bobby is also seeking volunteers to stuff the Easter eggs and to support the hunts on Easter Sunday. On April 2, at noon after the Festival service, we will have an egg stuffing party. If you are interested in helping with egg stuffing, running one of our two egg hunts, or have any questions please reach out to Bobby, [bobby.burtt@akronfcc.org](mailto:bobby.burtt@akronfcc.org) or 330.780.8122 (call/text), 330.253.5109 x101 (church office). Help make Easter Sunday a special day for everyone!



## Silver Lining Love

On February 15, First Church hosted our second Silver Lining Luncheon. After enjoying a delicious chicken pot pie lunch prepared by our own Debbie Riley, the crowd of retirees enjoyed a musical program and sang along to several old favorites with member and folk musician Kathy Johnson. It was a wonderful way to share the love of Valentine's Day with friends new and old. Thanks to all!



Member Kathy Johnson performs some tunes for the attendees at the Silver Lining Luncheon on February 15.



## LGBT+ Community Night

The next LGBT+ Community Night will be on Sunday, April 16, at the same venue as last month. The evening will begin with a bible study at 5pm followed by a spaghetti dinner and board game at 6pm. Please bring sides/desserts and games. All members of the LGBTQIA+ community are invited to attend and can come for one or both sections of the evening. Please email facilitators Brenda Waddell and Tevin Tietje, [lgbt@akronfcc.org](mailto:lgbt@akronfcc.org), with any questions.

## Pub Theology

Our world is ever changing, and at times it can feel hard wrestling with your faith and how to live in the modern world. We will discuss things happening in our lives and the world today and how our faith speaks into these events and happenings. All young adults are welcome to grab a drink and/or a bite to eat with Bobby at the Highland Square Mustard Seed to form connections and discuss life and faith. Contact Bobby Burt for more information: [bobby.burt@akronfcc.org](mailto:bobby.burt@akronfcc.org) or 330.780.8122 (call/text), 330.253.5109 x101 (church office).







## It Is a Blessing!

Have you seen our newly installed Blessing Box on the front lawn facing Union Street? This box has two functions – the first is that it is a “Little Free Library.” Little Free Library book-sharing boxes play an essential role in communities by providing 24/7 access to books in areas where they are scarce, encouraging a love of knowledge and reading. It is a public book exchange – take a book, read it, return it or give a different book. Our Blessing Box is also a “Little Free Pantry,” which provides nonperishable ready-to-eat food (like cereal, ramen noodles, canned soup/pasta, granola bars) as well as hygiene items (including shampoo, bar soap, toothbrushes/toothpaste and toilet paper) to local residents when they need them (this is a great place to donate all your hotel toiletries!). It can also be a place to distribute new socks (a high-demand item in shelters) or cold-weather gear such as hats and gloves.

To make our Blessing Box a success we need your help! In particular we are in need of donations of new or good-condition children’s books, and will also accept donations of young adult and adult books in a variety of topics. We also need items for the pantry side of the box – we are unable to use the food we receive through the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank, so our pantry side of the box all comes from community donations. Thanks to all of the children in the church who painted the flowers and butterflies on our box and to Grace Worley (Janis Worley’s daughter) who brought it all together with her professional expertise. Special thanks to staff member Darren Jones-Baker for his talents in building our Blessing Box.

## Annual Plant Sale & Market

Join us for our Annual Plant Sale and Artisan Market on May 20 from 9am to 3pm. This exciting event will feature a wide variety of plants and handmade goods from First Church’s Feed my Sheep Garden, local artisans, and vendors. Whether you’re looking to stock your garden with vegetables, start a kitchen herb garden, or just find a pretty flower, you’ll find something to suit your taste at the plant sale. You’ll also have the opportunity to shop for one-of-a-kind handmade items from our talented vendors. It’s the perfect opportunity to discover new local artists and take home a unique, handcrafted treasure.

The event will take place outdoors in the Upper Parking Lot. This year we are hoping to have food vendors and live entertainment. Bring your friends and family and enjoy a day of shopping, browsing, and exploring all the wonderful plants and handmade goods at our Plant Sale and Artisan Market. The Plant Sale will also be open on Sunday, May 21, from noon-3pm. We can’t wait to see you there! If you or someone you know are interested in being a vendor for the event please contact Bobby at [bobby.burtt@akronfcc.org](mailto:bobby.burtt@akronfcc.org) or 330-253-5109x101 (office).

## SPRING PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER

ORGANICALLY GROWN FLOWER, HERB & VEGETABLE SEEDLINGS

**SATURDAY MAY 20**  
**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**SUNDAY MAY 21**  
**12:00 - 3:00 PM**

First Congregational Church  
292 E. Market St. Akron, OH 44308

**PREORDER PLANTS MAY 1 - 14**

[lets-grow-akron.square.site](https://lets-grow-akron.square.site) or call 330 745-9700





# Akron Trans Day of Visibility

Friday, March 31, 5pm to 8pm at The Well

647 East Market Street, Akron, OH

Sponsors: Equitas Health, Unity Health Network

Please join us at Akron's second annual Trans Day of Visibility Celebration! Now more than ever, the trans community deserves tangible support and recognition.

On this important day, we:

- Celebrate trans, nonbinary, and gender expansive people.
- emphasize that trans people are a crucial part of the Akron community.
- encourage people who can't be out or who are still figuring it out.

Akron's TDOV Celebration is totally free and family friendly! In addition to the trans community, committed friends, family, and allies are welcome.

There will be lots to do!

Activities include open mic, art projects, a graffiti wall, community awards and performances.

Services include gender affirming clothing, private wellness care and HIV testing, community resource information, and food!

Accessibility - The venue is accessible with all activities on one level. To accommodate sensory issues, we'll provide earplugs and a quiet area.

Security - Photos are restricted to one designated area. Private, trained security guards, who are trusted by the community, will be present. A representative of Akron Fire Department is on the planning team. And professionals are monitoring online chatter.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Support Akron's Trans  
Day of Visibility by  
donating your time!

Friday, March 31st



Contact: [akrontdov@gmail.com](mailto:akrontdov@gmail.com)

## CELEBRATE AKRON'S TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY!

Sponsored by Equitas Health

FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST  
5-8PM

THE WELL CDC  
647 EAST MARKET ST



Join us for a FREE family-friendly event!

- Margie's Closet Clothing Pop-Up
- Open Mic
- HIV Testing
- Awards
- Art Projects
- Sensory Center
- Graffiti Wall
- Swag Bags



Masks Available  
Accessible Entrance  
Earplugs Available



Hosted by:  
Equitas Health, Akron AIDS Collaborative, Margie's Hope, Goodyear Pride Network,  
Plexus LGBT & Allied Chamber of Commerce,  
Akron Children's Hospital, Rappa Beta Kappa, & Akron Fire

### HOW TO HELP

Last year, there were 130 guests of every age at our inaugural event. This year, we expect many more! There are many ways you can help:

1. RSVP to attend at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/601812667984939/>
2. Share our invitation across your social networks!
3. Volunteer that night, individually or with your organization, friends, or family. We need lots of help setting up tables and chairs, organizing gender affirming clothing, helping guests, hanging signs and decorations, overseeing food and art tables, cleaning up, etc.
4. Donate dessert, fruit, or veggie trays. (NO NUTS PLEASE) (Let us know at [akrontdov@gmail.com](mailto:akrontdov@gmail.com))
5. Make a financial donation - every little bit helps! (<https://gofund.me/1057fee2>) or make a check out to Akron AIDS Collaborative with memo Akron TDOV)
6. If you represent an organization that directly serves the trans community and would like your information to be included in our "swag bags," please provide 250 copies/items by March 23. Drop off or mail materials to 579 Ravine View Drive, Akron, OH 44303; or contact [AkronTDOV@gmail.com](mailto:AkronTDOV@gmail.com) for a pick-up.
7. Keep up with our plans at <https://linktr.ee/akrontransdayofvisibility>

The community planning team is working hard and looks forward to hearing from you!





# Food Justice

## Feeding Hope Food Pantry

The young woman arrived at the Pantry in tears. There had been a devastating house fire and she and her differently abled son was struggling. They were in a temporary shelter but had no food, no dishes and little in the way of clothing. She left in tears, but they were tears of joy – with groceries she chose, table service, a variety of personal care items and pots & pans. And a referral for where they could find clothing.

The Feeding Hope Food Pantry at First Church provides more than food – we do indeed provide HOPE. We are a FOR IMPACT operation rather than just a “not for profit.” As our dear readers are no doubt aware, the Pantry returned to a full CHOICE PANTRY model in November 2022 after nearly two (2) years of distributing primarily pre-packed bags of food during the pandemic. The Pantry operates on Monday evening 6:30-7:30 and on Tuesday morning 9:00-12:30. The Choice model provides the families we serve with options – they choose the food that they prefer to eat. They leave with fresh produce and protein – frozen meat or seafood. Good healthy stuff.

A statistical report can be dry, but also instructive. In 2022, the Pantry assisted 896 unduplicated households representing 2,592 individuals. But some families in need return month after month. So the actual numbers are much greater considering total visits – 2254 households and 7048 individuals. 30% of the our clients are children aged 0-17 and 22% are seniors aged 60+. The Pantry served an estimated 84,588 meals in 2022. That’s impact!

What can YOU do to help? Volunteer by contacting Larry Becker at 330.696.6709 or by donating the following:

- Liquid dishwashing detergent
- Empty 16-18 oz. plastic PB jars with a screw tops
- Toothpaste
- Reusable bags for walk-in clients
- Carts/suitcases with wheels (used or new)
- Razors & shaving cream
- Household cleaning products
- Adult & children’s diapers
- Baby wipes
- New socks, gloves, hats
- Manual can openers
- No egg cartons at this time, please

## Feed My Sheep Garden

In collaboration with our our partner Let’s Grow Akron, we are pleased to welcome a new Garden Manager to the Feed My Sheep Garden this spring, Shelley Semelsberger.

Shelley, who has worked with Let’s Grow Akron in the past, is excited to return and has great enthusiasm for urban agriculture. She and the garden crew are already at work nurturing seedlings for this year’s crops. Shelley explains: “We have sown many seeds in the basement, and they are flourishing. We have even had some cold weather crops gathering sun in the greenhouse now, and have direct sown some peas in the garden beds. We continue to prepare for the Annual Spring Plant Sale in May.”



Sam Phillips, our outgoing Garden Manager, has been a regular visitor this season already, supporting and mentoring Shelley into her new role, as Sam transitions on to a new season with Let’s Grow Akron.

Of her first few weeks with us, Shelley says, “Although it has been cold outside, I have received such a warm welcome as the new Feed My Sheep Garden Manager. I appreciate everyone’s assistance and patience as I acclimate to everything here.”

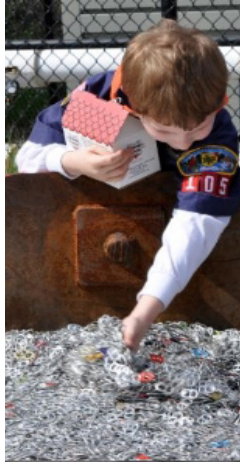
The Feed My Sheep Garden grows almost 2,000 lbs of fresh, organic produce each year that is distributed through the Feed My Sheep Garden and Summit Lake Neighborhood Farmers’ Market. This First Church food justice ministry benefits greatly from volunteer support so reach out to Shelley to find out how you can get your hands in the dirt this year! You can find Shelley in the Parish House basement most weekday mornings or reach her at at [shelley@letsgrowakron.org](mailto:shelley@letsgrowakron.org).



## Pull Tab Palooza!

Tabs will be popping and dropping during the return of Pull Tab Palooza at the Ronald McDonald House of Akron on April 21.

The funds raised from recycling the tabs helps support the families that stay at RMHC NEO by providing meals and items for families, assistance in emergencies, and giving families special moments – like small gifts for children if they have a birthday while at the House.



If you've been collecting tabs, turn them in now to be included in this year's support! If you want to help next year, collect aluminum pull tabs from any container (soda pop, soup, pet food, etc.) and bring them to the church office at any time to be added to our collection. Thank you!

## April Birthdays

- 3 Howard Greene
- 8 Paul Anderson
- 11 Stefan Forcey
- 14 Joan Tousley
- 26 Glenn Baughman
- 26 Katherine Breth
- 29 Barbara Skidmore



## Financial Report Year to Date

### UNAUDITED

	<b>February</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>% to Budget</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Pledge Income	\$11,988	\$74,439	\$83,050	89.6%
Non-pledge Income	\$5,270	\$72,954	\$106,000	68.8%
Grant Income	\$543	\$371,483	\$55,777	666.0%
Special Ministries	\$500	\$11,313	\$13,138	86.1%
Endowment, Sprowls Trust, Pollock	\$53,497	\$476,020	\$484,149	98.3%
Other Income	\$733	\$11,882	\$31,188	38.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$72,532</b>	<b>\$1,018,091</b>	<b>\$773,302</b>	<b>131.7%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Membership Board	\$46	\$1,951	\$2,995	65.1%
Governing Board	\$50	\$37,576	\$8,194	458.6%
Congregational & Community Care Ministry	\$1,090	\$29,471	\$50,106	58.8%
Worship & Music	\$2,392	\$16,236	\$22,091	73.5%
Christian Education	\$38	\$1,812	\$8,325	21.8%
Development	\$0	\$134	\$200	67.0%
Food Service Expense	\$878	\$10,222	\$9,720	105.2%
Personnel	\$38,124	\$378,449	\$435,074	87.0%
Other Admin Expense	\$2,458	\$22,951	\$26,229	87.5%
Media Relations/Marketing	\$477	\$12,187	\$15,030	81.1%
Maintenance & Supplies	\$3,125	\$418,299	\$327,053	127.9%
Real Estate	\$13,298	\$57,625	\$61,860	93.2%
Utilities	\$4,905	\$35,777	\$38,752	92.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$66,881</b>	<b>\$1,022,691</b>	<b>\$1,005,628</b>	<b>101.7%</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>\$5,651</b>	<b>-\$4,599</b>	<b>-\$232,327</b>	<b>2.0%</b>



# In Gratitude

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your generosity in sharing the pipe organ at First Church with us while ours was being refurbished. We are most grateful. A donation was made in your honor to help those affected by the earthquakes in February.

Sincerely in Christ,

Will Bowers & Ruth Anderson

*Deacon Ruth from our neighbor Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and Will, her organ student, used our organ for their classes.*

## Seasonal Recipes from the Archives

Over the years, First Church has published many recipe books. Each month, we'll share a recipe from the archive, celebrating the submissions made by church members.

### Chicken Pot Pie

Submitted by Bet Godard

*Ingredients:*

- 5lb whole chicken and giblets
- 1 lg onion
- 3 celery tops, chopped
- 3 parsley sprigs, chopped
- 2.5 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp black pepper
- 1 bay leaf
- 8 sm carrots
- 12 sm onions, quartered
- 4 lg potatoes, quartered
- 1/2 C flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- 1/2 C milk
- 2 T butter, melted
- Pie crust dough

*Directions:*

Place chicken in large kettle with large onion, celery, parsley, salt, black pepper, and bay leaf. Add enough water to cover the chicken. Bring to a boil, lower heat and simmer for 1.5 hours. Remove from heat and cool. Chop giblets fine, remove chicken from bone in large pieces (5 cups). Strain stock to make 4 cups of broth. Cook carrots, onions, and potatoes 20 minutes in broth. Strain, reserve broth. Blend in a small bowl the flour, 1 tsp salt, 1/8 tsp pepper, and milk. Add to stock in pan. Reduce heat until thickened. Add chicken and vegetables. Turn into casserole. Heat oven to 400° F. Prepare pie crust. Roll out 1/2-inch wider than casserole. Top and seal. Cut vents. Brush with melted butter. Turn down heat to 350° and bake 30 to 40 minutes.



# Our Condolences

We extend heartfelt condolences to Ed Wickline and Kathy Johnson. Ed's mother, Glada Wickline, passed away late on Sunday, March 19. She was 100 years old!

# In Our Prayers

Trusting in God's unfailing love for each and every person, we offer to God expressions of joy and concern in prayer. In our First Church community, we pray for Larry B., Gail W., Logan K., Jerry G., Carolyn D., Karen D., Jim G., Laurel B., Ray Y., Art and Lee W., Barbara S., Bill and Elizabeth F., Karen F., Mildred A., and Ann S.

*If you have any questions about those listed, would like to add a name, or would like to share a celebration or condolence with the First Church community, please email Associate Minister Bobby Burt at [bobby.burt@akronfcc.org](mailto:bobby.burt@akronfcc.org).*

# UA Property Sale Update

*Continued from Page 4*

The motion voted on at the Special Meeting was "The Governing Board offers a committee motion that the congregation authorize the board to continue in its efforts, on behalf of First Church, to explore the purchase of the adjacent property (250 & 264 E. Market St.) being offered for sale by the University of Akron, providing this does not require expenditure of the principal of First Church's Endowment Trust Fund." The motion was unanimously approved. This means that the Ad Hoc committee and the Governing Board will continue to explore the opportunity of the sale and communicate with our agent, Nichole Booker. If making an offer seems to be in First Church's best interests, another special meeting will be called so the decision can be brought before the congregation.

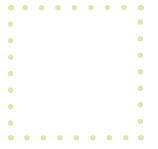
## PROPOSED USE OF THE PROPERTY

If the congregation decides to purchase the property, the church leadership suggests we enter a season of exploration and discernment regarding its long-term use. We believe this is the only way to ensure a transparent, collective and collaborative process for all our members and the wider community. At the same time, in the short term, we propose the congregation consider:

- Entering a lease with the university to allow them to continue using part of the property for parking.
- The Building & Grounds Board is already needing to replace the garden fence and shed. They could consider expanding the garden's footprint and ensuring permanent access.

Please watch for further communications from First Church to stay informed. May God be with us in the coming weeks as we discern what's best for our community.

*Submitted by Sue Yoder, Moderator*



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## Save the Dates

### **April 2, Palm Sunday & Communion**

Worship 9am & 11am

### **April 2, Breakfast with the Bunny**

Hop on in to enjoy a delicious french toast breakfast with our favorite guest – the Easter Bunny! Serving from 10:00-10:45am in Fellowship Hall. Bring your camera!

### **April 5, Maundy Thursday, 6:30pm**

Join us for a potluck dinner in celebration of the Last Supper.

### **April 6, Good Friday**

9am-noon Chapel open for prayer and meditation

Noon Scripture reading and organ music

7:30pm Traditional Tenebrae worship service

### **April 9, Easter Sunday**

6:30am Bring a chair for worship outside as the sun rises.

9am & 11am Joyous Easter worship celebrations

Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt for the youngest attendees on the front lawn after both 9am & 11am worship services

### **May 7, Semi-Annual Meeting**

One worship service at 10am with the Semi-Annual Meeting to follow immediately

