



# Chronicle

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF AKRON

*Rooted in Christ • Fostering Justice • Celebrating Diversity*

## Autumn Reflection

BY JOAN TOUSLEY

As I gazed out through my window,  
At a world so cool and bright,  
I saw that leaves, once cool and green,  
Had changed their colors overnight.  
Now, clothed in shades of red and gold,  
Against a sky of brilliant blue,  
They seemed to tell me to “come out”,  
I love this time of year, don't you?

So, I went for a walk,  
Along a winding, shady lane,  
A light breeze whispering overhead,  
Played a soft and sweet refrain.  
And though I know this time can't last,  
It will fade too soon it's true,  
I'll cherish it while yet I may,  
I love this time of year, don't you?



# Faith Enrichment

## Wednesday Morn Bible Study

**CONTINUING IN MARK AND PRACTICES OF THANKFULNESS  
WEDNESDAY MORNINGS, 10:45AM-NOON**

The study and conversation around the Gospel of Mark with Bobby has been fruitful these last four weeks, and the book of Mark still has lots to offer as we continue our deep-dive study into this text and how it influenced the other Synoptic Gospels (Matthew and Luke).

As we enter into November, the Wednesday morning bible study group will also be discussing different practices related to thankfulness, gearing conversation towards gratitude in a world that seems full of angst and despair. Come out Wednesday mornings from 10:45am-12pm to enjoy a time of scholarship and fellowship.

Please note the group will not meet on Wednesday, November 23, and will resume the following week.

## Wednesday Eve Exploration

**MEDITATIONS OF THE HEART  
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, 6:30PM - 8PM**

The Wednesday evening uplifting and experiential series, focused on the meditations and prayers by Howard Thurman, continues. Join the group at 6:30pm for soup and conversation in Fellowship Hall, followed by a time of centering thought and quiet devotion in the Chapel. No advance reading is required.

Please note the group will not meet on Wednesday, November 23, and will resume the following week.

## Investing in Your Faith

How do you nurture your faith each week? Do you have times and spaces where you can have conversation with other Christians about challenges and questions?

Wednesday Faith Enrichment offerings at First Church provide a space for that exploration. Guided by a pastor, engaging in this experience over time can strengthen your faith and nurture trusting relationships as the group reflects on the wisdom of our tradition and scripture.

Whether you're passionate about your faith or feel you've only been considering Christ your whole life, investing time in your questions can be a blessing to you and others.

## Advent of the Savior

**WEDNESDAYS, 10:45AM-NOON OR 6:45PM - 8PM**

Enrich your experience of Christmas by joining a three-week Advent study looking at the unfolding story of Christmas from the perspective of ancient figures. This Advent bible study works backwards through the story of the birth of Jesus, looking at key passages from various characters' points of view. From November 30 through December 14, join Bobby in the library on Wednesday mornings from 10:45am-12pm or Nanette from 6:45pm-8pm for soup and conversation in the Conference Room.



## Free Online Courses for Seniors

The Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging is committed to transforming the experience of aging, so wherever you choose to make your home, you have an opportunity to live abundantly. Thanks to donations from generous supporters and a grant from the United Church of Christ Heartland Conference, the Center offers free online Enliven programs at no charge to participants.

Enliven is a series of Zoom courses designed to create community and conversation around spiritual life, encouraging older adults to learn, grow, and share together. Every season there is a new set of Enliven courses. Visit [www.unitedchurchhomes.org/parker-center/](http://www.unitedchurchhomes.org/parker-center/) to learn more or email [KMoeller@uchinc.org](mailto:KMoeller@uchinc.org).

## Anti-Semitism Series

**HOSTED BY THE AKRON AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL**

The final evening in this informative series will be held on Thursday, November 17, 7pm-8:30pm. Join the interfaith community for a panel discussion, "Strength in Numbers: What Our Interfaith Community Can Do." The panel will include Sr. Joanne Caniglia, a Catholic Dominican Sister of Peace; Pastor Daren Brake from the House of the Lord; Daniel Blain, CEO and Director of the Akron Jewish Community Board, and our own Pastor Nanette. The event will be held at St. Hilary's Catholic Church, 2750 W. Market, Fairlawn and livestreamed at <https://bit.ly/akron-aaic-youtube>.

# November Worship

## Thanksgiving & Joining Sunday

Join with your First Church friends on November 20 to celebrate all that there is to be thankful for, including one another!

### WORSHIP, 9AM & 11AM

We gather for worship, in person and online, to welcome the newest members into the congregation, thankfully celebrating their arrival. Our worship will be accompanied by music suited to the occasion and a sermon full of the hope and heartfelt gratitude of another year of thanksgiving.

Just a taste of what the Advent season brings to our Meetinghouse. Help us make it happen once again at the Hanging of the Greens on November 20!

### THANKSGIVING DINNER, ~12PM

Thanksgiving is a joyous time for family and friends to come together. On November 20, the church will gather for the return of our annual Thanksgiving dinner following our 11am service, right around 12pm. Kindly RSVP by emailing [church@akronfcc.org](mailto:church@akronfcc.org) or texting 'RSVP' to 877.957.1834.

This dinner is volunteer-driven. Please let Alex in the

church office know if you are able to volunteer, [alex.morris@akronfcc.org](mailto:alex.morris@akronfcc.org). Volunteers will be needed from 8am to 9am to help Debbie in the kitchen, at 11:45am to help set up the buffet, and from 1pm onwards to assist Debbie and Courtland with clean up. Thank you!

### HANGING OF THE GREENS

Thanksgiving marks the end of the Season of Common Time in the church and ushers in the beginning of Advent. One way we ready our hearts and church for the beauty and miracle of Jesus' birth is through the Hanging of the Greens.

This year, following our Thanksgiving dinner, all are invited to celebrate the Hanging of the Greens with a short liturgy while we prepare the church for the Advent season.



# Advent Worship

## Advent Sundays

Advent anticipates the arrival of Christ – Jesus born in Bethlehem long ago, also the one who comes to walk beside us each day, and the Christ whose return we long for. Join us this Advent season as we celebrate together...

### NOVEMBER 27, 9AM & 11AM

First Sunday in Advent, a celebration to kick off the season

### DECEMBER 4, 9AM & 11AM

Communion Sunday & Cookie Decorating Workshop, following each worship service

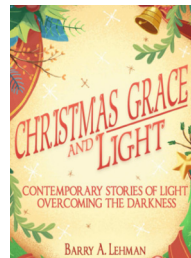
### DECEMBER 11, 9AM & 11AM

Enjoy worship with the scent of holiday filling the air and enjoy a cup of traditional Wassail after worship

### DECEMBER 18, 9AM & 11AM

Round out the Advent season with the return of our Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant at the 11am service

## Advent Devotional



This year, we are recommending *Christmas Grace and Light*, by Barry Lehman, as a devotional resource for the 2022 Advent season.

By Christmas Eve are you worn out, anxious, or just plain done? Learn to discover God in unlikely places, in everyday events, and in regular people! *Christmas Grace and Light* is a collection of short stories and reflections on the promise of Christmas. These stories imagine a world where Christmas is new every year, telling of people caught in the world's worries, running away from hope, perplexed by their own lives, and discovering unexplainable events.

Pick up a copy from the office for a suggested donation of \$15 or order from your favorite bookseller.

# Christmas Worship

## Save the Dates

Put these dates in your calendar today! We encourage you to join us in person this Christmas – there’s something special about celebrating the spirit of the season together.

Fill out the form below to book your Christmas Poinsettia and honor or celebrate a loved one who will be close in thought during the holiday season.

### HOLLY JOLLY DRIVE-THRU

December 9, 7pm

A community outreach Christmas Trunk-o-Treat with holiday happiness, games, and giveaways galore.

### SERVICE OF HOPE AND HEALING

December 21, 7:30pm

A time and space for those who experience the nostalgia of the holiday season or who are grieving or longing.

### CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATE SERVICE

December 24, 5pm

This early worship service is ideal for families with young children and all who want to celebrate the holiday’s start.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CANDLES

December 24, 8pm

A traditional service of readings and carols to inspire.

### CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS, CANDLES, & COMMUNION

December 24, 11pm

In the depth of the night, usher in the hope of the new day in a tender service of reflective music and sacrament.

### CHRISTMAS MORNING

December 25, one combined service at 10am

This year offers us the unique opportunity to gather on Christmas morning to give thanks and celebrate.

### NEW YEAR’S DAY

January 1, 2023, one combined service at 10am

### FESTIVAL OF EPIPHANY

January 8, 2023, 9am and 11am



## Christmas Poinsettias 2022

**Please return your completed form with payment to the church office by December 11.**

**Cost per plant: \$15**

**Total number of plants:**

**Total amount enclosed: \$**

**In memory of:**

**In honor of:**

The bulletins on December 21 and 24 will list the names of those being remembered and honored.

Please be sure to pick up your poinsettias after Christmas Eve Services on December 24, after worship on December 25, or on December 27 when the church reopens.

**Ordered by:**

**Phone:**

*\* Pay by cash, online at [akronfcc.org/donate](http://akronfcc.org/donate) (select ‘Miscellaneous’ and wrote “Christmas Poinsettias” in the comments), or by check (make checks payable to First Church with “Christmas Poinsettias” on the memo line).*

# Children's Ministries

## Youth Sundays

### HELP LEAD SUNDAY WORSHIP

First Church youth are invited to help lead Sunday worship services in a number of ways:

- Offer the scripture readings
- Perform a solo or ensemble piece of music
- Light the worship candles
- Offer a prayer
- Greet attendees and hand out bulletins
- Other ways as we discover them!

The first Youth Sunday is the 5pm Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24. Other dates include MLK Sunday on January 15, Mardi Gras worship on February 19, and Maundy Thursday worship on April 6.

Contact Bobby Burtt, Associate Minister for Young Adults and Families with Children, [bobby.burtt@akronfcc.org](mailto:bobby.burtt@akronfcc.org), to learn more and volunteer to lead!



## Family Nights Are Coming Up

### TWO OPPORTUNITIES EACH MONTH

Beginning in December, we will be holding two family nights per month; one on the first Sunday and another on the first Wednesday. Each gathering will begin with dinner followed by activities, games, and other fun and enriching experiences for the whole family.

We'll gather in person at the church each night. All types of families are invited and encouraged to attend as we continue to build relationships with one another.

## Hear Me Roar

### CHILDREN'S FAITH ADVENTURES, SUNDAY MORNINGS

There's a reason lions are symbols of courage — even their roars (which can be heard up to five miles away) tell us how strong they are! Because of God's promises, we can be as strong and bold as lions, too.

In this five-week series, kids will learn important truths from the life of Daniel. They'll want to shout (or roar!) that we don't have to give up or feel alone. Instead, we can keep learning and not be afraid, even when we don't know the future. Why? Because God is with us!



## Amplified Youth

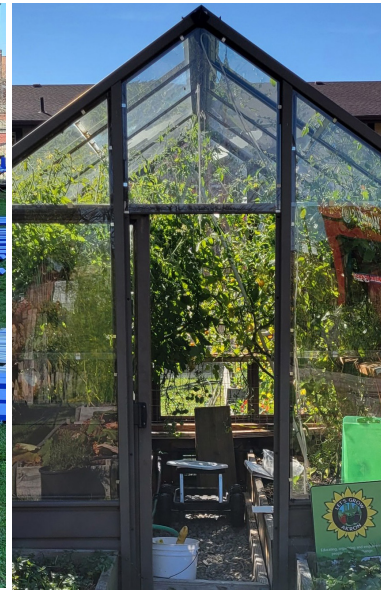
### THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 5PM

Amplified Youth aims to bring young people from First Church and other Akron-area churches together in hopes of building a strong and vibrant youth program that can impact both the lives of our youth and the community of Akron. The gathering of Amplified Youth is November 19. Then, we gather on December 17, January 21, and February 18. Dates for later gatherings will be available soon.

### KICKOFF PARTY – NOVEMBER 19, 2022, 5PM - 7PM

Youth ages 12-18 are invited to attend the Amplified Youth kickoff party on Saturday, November 19, from 5pm-7pm. We will have food, games, crafts, and time for creating new friendships. We can't wait to see you all there!





Garden workday volunteers left to right. Top row: Matt Kalgreen, Duane Husted, Jamie Mutnansky, Liza Salchak, Marian Carlson, Eric Roberts. Bottom row: Paula Speight, Sam Phillips (Garden Manager), Sarah Vradenburg.

Steelpan Band member Kevin Speight on provides the bass for the the band's arrangements offered at the 11am Festival service on Sunday, November 6.



Choir Director and Organist Julie Lehman, alongside husband Dave Lehman and Tim Smith, provide entertainment for our first Silver Lining Luncheon on October 26, for senior members.



**Save the Date for the next Silver Lining Luncheon  
February 15, 2023, 12pm**

# FOOD JUSTICE

## Return to Full Choice Pantry

**BEGINNING NOV. 1 (TUESDAYS) & NOV. 7 (MONDAYS)**

The Feeding Hope Food Pantry returned to a full choice distribution model on Tuesday morning, November 1, and on Monday evening, November 7.

There is another reason for celebrating – our Food Pantry ministry is 40 years old! First Church signed a partner agreement with the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank in 1982. That means we've been a part of tens of thousands of peoples lives these 40 years. What a blessing!

A full choice pantry means that clients, accompanied by a Shopping Assistant, will be able to choose products from different categories based on family size. They haven't been able to do this since the pandemic started.

Our clients and volunteers prefer the full choice model because it provides a truer grocery shopping experience, promotes dignity, and offers a much better opportunity to develop relationships. The pantry will be open:

- Tuesday mornings from 9am to 12:30pm with two shifts of volunteers: 9am-11am and 11am-12:30pm. There will be a limit of 80 clients (families).
- Monday evenings from 6:30pm to 7:30pm with a limit of 15 clients. The numbers for both days may change. This is new territory as we come out of the pandemic.

Volunteer, Pam Bof, helps a client find items they need during a distribution day in August of 2018. We are excited to return to the full choice model!

- Safety is important. We are COVID aware – masks will be mandatory for all clients and volunteers, sanitizing stations will be available and we will have a five client limit in the pantry to maintain some social distancing.

The pantry has been blessed with a dedicated group of volunteers throughout the pandemic (we NEVER shut down!) but more volunteers are welcome. Orientation and on-the-job training opportunities are available each week for new volunteers.

Not sure if you want to volunteer? Contact us at [food.pantry@akronfcc.org](mailto:food.pantry@akronfcc.org) for more information – no obligation. Volunteers are not required to help every week and can set their own schedule.

*Submitted by Sue Yoder and Larry Becker*

## Garden Update

With the 2022 growing season behind us already, we reflect on the successes and growth points of the summer.

The Feed My Sheep Garden Crew and volunteers harvested over 1,500 pounds of fresh, organically grown produce in 2022. These fruits and vegetables are distributed weekly throughout the summer to our neighbors at the Feeding Hope Food Pantry and the Summit Lake Neighborhood Farmers' Market. We shared a significant portion of our garden yield with the resident rabbits in the garden and have been getting more creative with protecting our crops. Through a trial and error process supported by generous donations, we have begun growing and harvesting fresh, nutritious microgreens grown indoors under lights. These tasty treats are protected from pests and can be grown year round indoors.

The fourth annual Plant Sale Fundraiser in May was a success, raising over \$5,600 for First Church's Food Justice Ministry and Let's Grow Akron. For the first time, the Plant Sale was enhanced by a Makers' Market which featured artisans from our community and made for a very fun event for all.

The Garden Crew and Let's Grow Akron staff joined neighbors and community stakeholders in building a new raised bed community garden at nearby Jewett Park. We worked alongside students from the Cuyahoga Falls High School urban agriculture class and enjoyed supporting the next generation of urban agriculture professionals. We may have the opportunity to host these students for a tour of the Feed My Sheep Garden in the future.

We had the opportunity to beautify the Feed My Sheep Garden by replacing three deteriorating raised beds with new lumber and bright colors. Thanks to all who joined us for Painting, Planting, and a Potluck on October 22!

Last but not least, I would like to thank the volunteers whose efforts and energy created the success of the season! First Church members, Let's Grow Akron volunteers, and United Disabilities Services BraVo! volunteers have been essential in seeding, weeding, harvesting, cleaning, and all of the many tasks that keep our garden operation going. Our gratitude also goes out to the wonderful staff members at First Church who support the garden operations. The Feed My Sheep Garden Crew is grateful for the support of our community and we look forward to next season!

# 'Till' Now On the Big Screen

## CHURCHES URGED 'FACE THE PAST TO CHANGE THE PRESENT'

*The lynching of my son has shown me that what happens to any of us anywhere in the world had better be the business of us all.*  
Mamie Till-Mobley

### TRUTH-TELLING IS "THE BUSINESS OF US ALL"

Those, the words of Mamie Till-Mobley after the brutal murder of her 14-year-old son, Emmett Till.

In August 1955, she sent her child from Chicago to Mississippi to spend a vacation with his cousins and his battered body returned home to her in a box. Emmett was taken from his family, beaten and shot by two white men who were acquitted of the crime.

The true story of Emmett Louis Till's horrific murder and his mother's relentless pursuit of justice for her son can now be seen on the big screen. "Till," a movie released across the country on Friday, October 28, shares the story through Mamie Till-Mobley's eyes.

The United Church of Christ's Join the Movement toward Racial Justice initiative is encouraging churches and congregants to "continue the sacred work of Mamie Till-Mobley" by "leaning into this story in new ways."

### 'INVITATION INTO OUR TRUTH'

"As I watched the story of the 1955 lynching in Mississippi of Emmett Till, my eyes filled with tears as I reflected upon the story of this 14-year-old male child filled with joy and wonder, and the stories of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Florida, 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland, 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, and so many more too numerous to name, all killed with no accountability for their deaths," said the Rev. Traci Blackmon, UCC associate general minister.



## Free Orchestra Concert

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 7:30PM**

We are pleased to continue the tradition of hosting the the University of Akron Symphony Orchestra performances. Under the direction of conductor Dr. Guy Victor Bordo, students will be performing the orchestra's concert of the season on Thursday, December 1, at 7:30pm here at First Church. This concert is free and open to the public.

"It only took the all-white male jury 67 minutes to acquit Emmett's murderers, but it took 67 years from his death for this nation to gain the courage to sign into law the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act making lynching a federal hate crime," she said. "There have been more than 200 attempts to pass anti-lynching legislation, dating back to the presidency of William McKinley. A nation ignorant or impervious to its past condemns its own future. I pray that our church will courageously confront our shared history so authentic healing can begin. 'Till' is an invitation into our truth."

"There was pain in this movie, but Emmett and Mamie's love was bigger than their pain," said Joshua DuBois, CEO of Values Partnerships, the country's largest Black-owned social impact agency. "There was hatred in this movie — but hate did not define their story. This was a movie about courage, about love, about strategy and organizing, and about how this beautiful boy was worth fighting for."

"Then and now, honest engagement and storytelling of the Emmett Till murder and the courage of his mother, Mamie Till, is a testimonial call to the soul of a nation," said the Rev. Iva Carruthers, General secretary of the Samuel Dewitt Procter Conference. "With eyes to see, ears to hear and the heart to act, the church can guide and convict this nation to live into its claims of justice for all. Let us each step up to the call."

*Excerpted from an article by Connie Larkman published on November 1, 2022 on ucc.org*

## Open to the Spirit: Church in 2023

While the church has been a constant for thousands of years, it has also always been changing. The steadily increasing rate of change all around us was jolted into high gear by the sudden and unexpected shift the COVID-19 pandemic brought our way. With all of this instability and change, we can look to our local church home as a place of solidity and constancy. First Church is no exception. That said, we have and are seeing our own share of changes. The pandemic provided the opportunity for some ministries to change and others to sunset. Will it perhaps birth others?

The season we're now living into provides us an opportunity to dream anew. Are you missing a ministry offering? What would you like to see happen in and through First Church? And how do we dream and talk together? How do we form new ministry groups or hand older ones off to new facilitators and keep the blessings going? I'd love to talk with you and hear your ideas. Please be in touch.

*Submitted by Rev. Nanette Pitt, Senior Minister*



# Ministry Focus

## Mason CLC Coat Drive Wrap Up

We have officially wrapped up the annual coat drive for the families of Mason CLC. First Church donated over 300 winter coats and accessories to the school! Because of your generosity, every student received a brand-new winter coat, hat, gloves, and a fleece blanket. Thank you!

The coats were passed out to very excited students at Mason CLC on October 14. We are so grateful for all who donated and volunteered their time to make this year's drive possible. The weather changed quickly this year so we are especially grateful you supported an earlier drive to make sure the Mason kiddos were warm and bundled on their walks to school.

In wanting to meet this need and also offer you the opportunity to purchase coats on sale, we are planning to open a Mason Coat Closet at First Church. We plan to hold a drive each year through the late winter and then distribute those coats the next fall at Mason CLC.

*Submitted by the First Church Mason CLC Ministry Team*



## LGBT+ Community Night

**NOVEMBER 13, 5PM**

The next LGBT+ Community Night will be November 13. The evening will begin with a bible study (Colossians 1:15-29) at facilitator Tevin's home (84 Burton Ave Apt 3, Akron) at 5pm followed by a bonfire and s'mores in Pastor Nanette's backyard at 6pm. Nanette's home is only a stone's throw away from Tevin's, and s'mores will be provided!

All members of the LGBTQIA+ community are invited to attend and can come for one or both parts of the evening.

Please email facilitators Brenda Waddell and Tevin Tietje, [lgbt@akronfcc.org](mailto:lgbt@akronfcc.org), with any questions. The group meets on the second Sunday evening of every month.

## Rice-A-Roni Drive for OPEN M

First Church has supported OPEN M each year for well over fifty years. OPEN M was formed in 1968 to address injustices of inner city life. Volunteer doctors provide medical and dental care as well as medication through their free clinic. Feeding the hungry is also a near-daily ministry provided to families through OPEN M's Food Pantry. Learn how OPEN M is fighting food insecurity in Akron at [openm.org/food](http://openm.org/food).

We all value the holidays with respect to our own traditions. We eat, we shop, and we decorate in many households. At this time, OPEN M needs our help to feed our neighbors. Every year they ask for one food item to help fill up part of 200 Christmas Food Baskets. This year, we are providing 200 boxes of Rice-A-Roni. An OPEN M donation box is in our church office to fill up from now until Sunday, November 27. The families thank you and so do we.

*Submitted by Chris and Sue Godard*



## Sunday Bakers

As you may have noticed, our Sunday Bakers are volunteering to provide treats after Sunday Services once again. We are so happy to be serving the congregation again!

Every first and third Sunday of the month, we will be providing eats, both savory and sweet, after both services. The food will be served in the foyer after the 9am service, and in the Fellowship Hall after the 11am (unless church dinners, special receptions, etc. are already planned that day).

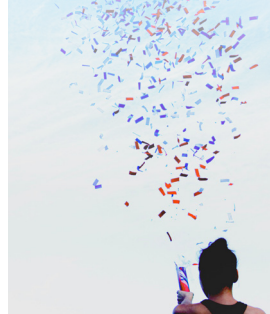
We encourage everyone to please join us after services to enjoy some coffee and goodies. It's a great time to catch up with your long-time church friends and also to make some new ones! Take some time to strengthen your church relationships and welcome guests. You'll be glad you did!

*Submitted by Chris Becker*



# MONTH Birthdays

- 1 Sue Kruder
- 4 Hermine Meyer
- 5 Elizabeth Fesler
- 6 Greg Zimmerman
- 7 Bill Brandy
- 10 Susan Dudas
- 11 Chuck Scholl
- 13 Pam Bof
- 13 Bette Jenkins
- 13 D'Angelo McKee
- 14 Mike Jones
- 18 Jessica Kenepf
- 18 Elizabeth Wilson
- 19 Matt Kalgreen
- 20 Judy Young
- 20 Dan McCarthy
- 24 Doris Logan
- 24 Emily Mosconi
- 25 Tana Alexander
- 27 Corinne Zinader
- 30 Richard Wilson



# Stewardship & Finance Report

UNAUDITED

		<u>September</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>% to</u> <u>Budget</u>	
	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	Pledge Income	\$6,738	\$28,381	\$34,600	82.0%
	Non-pledge Income	\$8,540	\$37,437	\$44,000	85.1%
	Grant Income	\$0	\$800	\$8,123	9.8%
	Special Ministries	\$57,672	\$255,563	\$22,532	1134.2%
	Endowment, Sprowls Trust, Pollock	\$52,962	\$198,189	\$214,344	92.5%
	Other Income	\$3,098	-\$6,898	\$12,075	-57.1%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$129,010</b>	<b>\$513,472</b>	<b>\$335,674</b>	<b>153.0%</b>
	<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>				
	Membership Board	\$285	\$589	\$2,115	27.8%
	Governing Board	\$500	\$1,178	\$1,164	101.2%
	Cong. & Comm. Care Ministry	\$5,777	\$11,941	\$20,884	57.2%
	Worship & Music	\$1,239	\$3,553	\$6,797	52.3%
	Christian Education	\$68	\$68	\$3,960	1.7%
	Food Service Expense	\$2,738	\$3,869	\$3,912	98.9%
	Personnel	\$60,307	\$175,841	\$193,531	90.9%
	Other Admin Expense	\$2,720	\$10,470	\$11,776	88.9%
	Media Relations/Marketing	\$2,099	\$5,073	\$6,080	83.4%
	Maintenance & Supplies	\$64,247	\$303,445	\$148,808	203.9%
	Real Estate	\$6,678	\$20,703	\$26,727	77.5%
	Utilities	\$3,780	\$14,308	\$13,955	102.5%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$150,437</b>	<b>\$551,036</b>	<b>\$439,710</b>	<b>125.3%</b>
	Net Income/Loss	-\$21,427	-\$37,564	-\$104,036	36.1%

## Charitable Giving

There are many ways to make a gift to support First Church, and each has a different financial impact on the giver. The first, and easiest, gift to make is a cash donation. First Church is able to immediately put the funds to work, and the giver has the opportunity to deduct 100% of the gift for federal tax purposes. Next, a gift of appreciated securities can be made. It allows the giver to support First Church by donating appreciated stocks, bonds, and mutual funds without depleting cash reserves while also avoiding capital gains taxes. If you hold an IRA, you may make an IRA Charitable Rollover Gift. This provides funding to First Church while you avoid the income tax liability from the mandatory annual income distribution.

If your goal is to retain control of your assets during your lifetime and to provide a way to reduce estate and death taxes, a Charitable Bequest is the way to go. This future gift can be given as unrestricted, to be used where needed most, or you can plan with First Church to create a fund to support a specific need. Another post-death option is to specify First Church as the beneficiary of a new or existing life insurance policy. This also allows for a tax deduction for ongoing premium payments during your lifetime. First Church can also be named as the beneficiary of your retirement or IRA account as well, to maximize a tax-free gift of retirement assets. If you have any questions, or would like to set up plans for future donations, please contact Finance and Operations Manager Janis Worley at [janis.worley@akronfcc.org](mailto:janis.worley@akronfcc.org) or 330.253.5109 x111 for more information.

## 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.

### Cincinnati Chili

Submitted by Chris Becker

#### Ingredients:

- 3lb ground beef/chuck
- 1 C chopped onion
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 3 tsp salt
- 2 T cinnamon
- 2 lg cans tomato sauce/puree
- 2 T Kitchen Bouquet
- Oregano to taste
- Cumin to taste
- Chili powder to taste
- Red pepper flakes to taste
- 2 cans kidney beans

#### Directions:

Brown beef and saute onion together. Drain fat. Put meat and all remaining ingredients in large pot. Cook over low to medium heat, stirring occasionally, until flavors are blended (at least one hour). Serve with chopped onions, grated cheddar cheese, and cooked spaghetti or macaroni, as desired.



## Review First Church on Google!

Do you have a 5-star outlook on your First Church community? We would love the world to know the positive impact our teams, ministries, and other projects have had on your life, our church community, and the wider Akron community. Nowadays, most church visitors find us on Google and read the reviews before visiting in person.

A great way to share the good news is through a Google review. Login to your Google account and go to <https://bit.ly/ReviewFirstChurch>. Make sure to give us 5 stars and leave a few comments about what you enjoy about being a part of this church community!

If you don't have a Google account, you can still leave us a review. Go to [google.com](https://google.com), click 'sign in' at the top right corner of the screen and then 'create account'. Select the option to 'use my current email address' and follow the prompts on the screen.

Contact the church office, [church@akronfcc.org](mailto:church@akronfcc.org), if you need assistance.

## In Gratitude

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Garden Workday and the Trunk-or-Treat on October 22 and to the Silver Lining Luncheon on October 26! As we continue to show up for one another in these acts of service and times of fellowship, First Church will continue thrive!

*Blessings, the First Church ministers & staff*

Dear Church Volunteers for Al's Celebration Service. Our family is most grateful for all who participated in Al's service. The church family expressed comfort, hope, and unconditional love.

*Many Thanks, the Nicely Family*

We want to express our thanks to our church family and staff. Your support and kindnesses helped us through mom's [Nina Roberts] journey with hospice at home, her Celebration of Life, and even now as we are adjusting. We so appreciated seeing many of you at mom's service, the lovely flowers in the Meetinghouse, as well as the baked goods for the reception. Thanks as well to the staff for being there to help us through the process of planning and implementing the Celebration of Life service. Most of all, we appreciate your calls, cards, and words of compassion and understanding.

*Eric, Elaine, and Rachel Roberts*

We want to thank you for the beautiful flowers you sent when we lost our wonderful mother, Betty Stalnaker. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness at this sad time. We know she is now in heaven with our dad, Gene, and they are both in God's hands now. Thank you again for thinking of us!

*Love, The family of Betty Stalnaker*



## In Sympathy

We offer our sincerest condolences to Judy Nicely and the family of Al Nicely, who passed away on October 15. A memorial service was held at First Church on October 29.

Please keep staff member Debbie Riley and her family in your prayer as they mourn her mother's passing recently.

## 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 Karen D., Jim G., Laurel B., Ray Y., Pam R., Ron B., Andrew C., Art and Lee W., Barbara S., Bill F., Callahan H., Karen F., and Mildred A.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF AKRON

292 East Market St.  
Akron, OH 44308



*Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity*



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF AKRON

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44 Google reviews

Church in Akron, Ohio

First Congregational Church is a historic church at 292 E. Market Street in Akron, Ohio. The current building was built in 1910 and added to the National Register in 2004. The congregation was chartered in 1835, making it Akron's oldest. It is a part of the United Church of Christ. [Wikipedia](#)

**Located in:** Akron

**Address:** 292 E Market St, Akron, OH 44308

**Hours:** Open · Closes 5PM ▾

**Phone:** (330) 253-5109

**Opened:** 1910

**Architectural style:** Romanesque architecture



**Elizabeth Hottes**

Local Guide · 70 reviews · 4 photos

★★★★★ a month ago

The staff is exceptional as they work hard to feed the hungry. They serve you with respect and dignity! God bless everyone there who helps to make sure the hungry are given sustainable food, fresh fruit, milk, eggs, cheese and so much more. Kudos to all the staff at First Congregational Church of Akron!!!



**john mielke**

Local Guide · 33 reviews · 102 photos

★★★★★ 9 months ago

My first time in many years attending church, I felt the holy spirit here at this church. Definitely I calling.. I found myself at home.



Like

**Response from the owner** 9 months ago

Thank you - we are so happy to have you join us!



**Bambi Henry**

Local Guide · 60 reviews · 1 photo

★★★★★ 4 years ago

I went to this church for the very first time today and used their food pantry services. I will be honest with you, I have never met a nicer group of people. Each and every person was just lovely to me, taking me by the hand and showing me how everything worked. They made me feel right at home. They were all just so helpful, kind and well, just plain wonderful. The generosity of spirit in the people I encountered today at their food pantry was just beyond amazing. I was so thankful. Thank you to all of the fantastic people volunteering at their food pantry for your kindnesses.

