



OCTOBER 2022 • Number 8

Chronicle

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF AKRON

Rooted in Christ • Fostering Justice • Celebrating Diversity



Dear Beloved,

This fall has marked the beginning of the second academic year with Steven teaching at a liberal arts college on the border of Illinois and Missouri. We thought we were well prepared for the long absences after his studies at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN, where he'd spend a couple of weeks away at a time. However, these past months have given us new perspective on what we cherish and just how blessed we each feel to have a life partner we really do want to live with (in the same house, let alone the same state!).

After many years of marriage and with a great foundation of trust, we calculated that we were able to make this arrangement work for a couple of years, given the dearth of positions available during the pandemic, and we have. But I find myself wondering now if, when we first made the decision, we weren't also taking for granted exactly how much our presence meant to each other each and every day.

I've thought about this more in a broader sense too. How easy it is for us to take others and the blessing of

relationship for granted or for them to do the same to us. A number of First Church members have spoken to me about recent shifts and changes in their friendships and intimate partner relationships, sometimes amplified by the pandemic. We're living through an unprecedented time of societal shift; a time of new patterns of both isolation and connection. A time when we're even coining new terms like "cancel culture."

As we embrace our theme of Tending Spirit and Soul in the upcoming season, it is important that we are mindful about the true value of people and places that have and continue to be dependable and present, like First Church, in our lives. People and places that we might easily otherwise take for granted. Their constancy and faithfulness should never diminish how precious they are but only lead us to treasure them more as we build lives of true connection and authentic relationship here at First Church and beyond.

In faith and love,

Nanette



Latest Updates

Coming Out Christian Update

Our Coming Out Christian LGBTQIA+ support and care group is changing. The group will now be called:

LGBT+ Community Night

This group will meet once per month on the second Sunday beginning with a bible study, focused on Colossians and Philemon, at 5pm followed by a meal and fun activity at 6pm. Attendees are invited to attend either or both segments of each gathering.

The meetings will take place at the home of facilitator Tevin Tietje (84 Burton Ave Apt 3, Akron) with Tevin and Brenda Waddell continuing to facilitate. If you have questions, contact Brenda and Tevin at lgbt@akronfcc.org.

OCTOBER 9 – Colossian 1:1-14

Bible Study followed by soup, salad, and pumpkin carving (food provided, bring carving tools if you have them)

NOVEMBER 13 – Colossians 1:15-29

Bible Study (still at Tevin’s apartment) followed by a bonfire at Pastor Nanette’s home (s’mores provided)

DECEMBER 11 – Colossians 2:1-7

Bible Study followed by a lasagna dinner and board games (food provided, bring a game to share)

JANUARY 8 – Colossians 2:8-3:4

Bible Study followed by a baked potato bar (potatoes and toppings provided, bring desserts and drinks to share)

FEBRUARY 12 – Colossians 3:5-17

Bible Study followed by a dinner of chili and cornbread and an outing to Quarter Up (food provided, bring quarters for the outing)

Second Hearing Loop Installed

An additional hearing loop has been installed in the Upper Room to enable those with hearing loss to enjoy events that occur in that space. This project comes after our Meetinghouse was outfitted with a hearing loop earlier this year. If you have any questions about how this hearing loop can benefit yourself, your family, or your friends, contact Congregational Life Coordinator and Lead AV Technician Alex Morris, alex.morris@akronfcc.org.

Press Conferences

On September 6 and September 22, the Governing Board made First Church made available for two press conferences in support of social justice events in Akron.

Pastor Nanette is part of the coalition that proposed a Citizens’ Police Oversight Board charter amendment. The amendment, Issue 10, was announced and discussed on September 6. Local press attended the event, sponsored by the Akron Chapter of the NAACP, as well as many leaders from the political and spiritual communities.

A smaller press conference was held on September 22 by a local advocacy group looking to have the charges dropped for 75+ individuals who have been arrested and charged in relation to peaceful protests downtown.



Above: Press conferences took place on September 6 & 22 in the First Church Meetinghouse.

Below: Brown Audio Service, LLC installs the hearing loop for the Upper Room via the Fellowship Hall ceiling.



Worship & Events

All Saints Sunday

NOVEMBER 6, 9AM & 11AM

Join us on November 6 for a special celebration of all the saints and loved ones who have come and gone from our personal lives, church life, and Christian tradition. Anyone who attends the service is welcome to bring photos of special people in their life whom they would like to commemorate and honor. These photos will be added to the display on the chancel (you will be able to retrieve them before you leave). These services will be a memorable and meaningful experience for all who attend. The 11am Festival Service will include the singing of a hymn beloved by many longtime members: Sunset of the Year.

First Church Member Tiffani Akers offers the reading at our Community Celebration Sunday service on September 11.



Social Justice Panel

OCTOBER 5, 1:30PM - 2:45PM, IN PERSON ONLY

Come to learn more and support our Senior Minister, Nanette, as she joins panelists Dr. David Burkons and Professor Jonathan Entin for a panel titled *Getting Religious about Reproductive Rights in America?* This Temple Israel Yom Kippur Social Justice Panel will be moderated by Rabbi Emeritus David Horowitz. Join at Temple Israel: 91 Springside Dr, Fairlawn, 44333

Dr. David Burkons is an experienced OB-GYN at the NE Ohio Women's Center. Professor Jonathan Entin, the David L. Brennan Professor Emeritus of Law and Adjunct Professor of Political Science, taught Constitutional Law, the Supreme Court Seminar along with a variety of law courses during more than three decades on the faculty at Case Western Reserve Law School.

Honesty for Ohio Education

VIRTUAL FORUM – OCTOBER 13, 7PM

Join for a Zoom forum on what is happening in Ohio education that silences diversity and to learn what we can do about it. This forum will feature guest speakers Cynthia Peeples, Founding Director of Honesty for Ohio Education, and Meryl Johnson, State Board of Education.

This event is sponsored by the Akron Interfaith Social Justice Group. Learn more at <https://www.honestyforohioeducation.org/>

Silver Lining Luncheon

OCTOBER 26, 12PM

On Wednesday, October 26, from 12pm to 2pm, First Church will be hosting our inaugural Silver Lining Luncheon! Senior members will be invited to attend the luncheon, held in Fellowship Hall, which will include a hot lunch provided by our own Food Service Coordinator,

Debbie Riley. Each social will feature a short program following the meal, and our October program will be a musical performance. This is a great opportunity to visit with familiar friends and take time to catch up with each other. Look for the invitations that we will be sending out in early October.

Trunk-or-Treat

OCTOBER 22, 2PM - 3:30PM

On Saturday, October 22, we will be supporting our neighbor, First United Methodist Church, as they host their yearly Trunk-or-Treat event. Families from First Church are welcome to register for and attend the event (keep an eye out for future communications on how to register). There will be trick-or-treating for the kids and a light dinner if you would like to partake after. This annual event usually sees about 200 Trick-or-Treaters over the course of an hour and a half. Fun is always the main priority!

First UMC has asked that we support the Trunk-or-Treat event through the donations of candy. Any and all candy donations can be given to Bobby Burtt dropped off at the church office.

If you have any questions, contact Associate Minister Bobby Burtt, bobby.burtt@akronfcc.org, 330.253.5109 x101.





Prayer Blanket Update

It has been 12 years since the Prayer Blanket Ministry was established in memory of my father who was called Pop Pop by his grandchildren. During that time, we have made over 2,000 blankets and 8,000 prayer patches! They have been given to anyone and everyone who asks for one. Many of them have gone to the patients on the Oncology floor at Cleveland Clinic Akron General Hospital giving them warmth and comfort. Recently, I came upon a letter written by the past Director of Nursing on the Oncology floor, Claire Wilson. Her powerful message conveys what these blankets provide to their patients:

“These patients spend long days and nights in the hospital. They are in pain and are often dealing with end of life issues. They spend countless hours worrying about their families, their finances, and their mortality....How is it, then, that the gift of a prayer blanket effects them so strongly? These blankets are beautiful and well made. The colors are bright and cheerful. These reasons, however, are not what move the patients to tears. It is the human touch. It is the fact that we all need to be recognized and cared for. To imagine that individuals that you have not even met are praying for you, caring about you, sending you a healing message, this is what the blankets are all about.”

This fall we will also begin to distribute prayer blankets to the patients staying at Grace House, a caring environment for individuals with terminal illness who are without caregivers and are housing insecure.

While you, our fellow members, granted us a budget for this ministry, the cost of fabric has increased by 20% which will leave us with a deficit in our budget. If you would like to make a donation to this important ministry, please make your check payable to First Church with Prayer Blanket Ministry written on the memo line, or online at akronfcc.org/donate. Every donation will be greatly appreciated so that we may provide comfort and prayers to those in need. If you would like to receive a prayer blanket, for yourself or to give to a loved one, please contact Alex in the church office, alex.morris@akronfcc.org, 330.253.5109 x112.

Submitted by Deborah Anderson, Prayer Blanket Ministry Facilitator

Rice-A-Roni Drive for Open M

First Church has partnered with Open M since 1968. As you know, Open M feeds the hungry and treats the mind, body, and spirit. This includes helping empower people so they can be productive workers at good jobs, providing dignity in their lives.

During the past two plus years, churches were unable to assist Open M with a vital mission. Open M provides more than 200 food baskets to make the Christmas holidays more enjoyable for families. This year, First Church has been asked to collect 200 boxes of Rice-A-Roni. We will have a collection box in the church office from October 9 through November 27 for donations.

If you have questions, please contact Chris and Sue Godard, 330.699.0509. Open M thanks you and so do we!

Submitted by Chris and Sue Godard

LGBT+ Community Night

OCTOBER 9, 5PM

The first gathering of our LGBT+ Community Night (formerly Coming Out Christian) will be on October 9 at 5pm. There will be an hour-long bible study followed by pumpkin carving! Food will be provided, please bring any carving tools you may have. This gathering will take place at 84 Burton Ave Apt 3 here in Akron. See page two for more. The next gathering will be on November 13. More information to follow in the next edition of the Chronicle!

If you have any questions about these gatherings, contact Facilitators Brenda and Tevin, lgbt@akronfcc.org.





Faith Enrichment

Morning Faith Enrichment

WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER, 10:45AM - 12PM

Join Bobby starting on October 5 as we kick off our Wednesday morning Faith Enrichment with a deep dive into the book of Mark which is widely accepted as the first Gospel to be written down. It's understood to be a direct transcription of the oral tradition used by early Christians. Reading Mark from start to finish takes about an hour and a half, so we will be using our time to both read and discuss the Gospel of Mark.

Did you know that the ending of Mark is suspected to be an add-on from a later era of the church? Come learn about this and many other important and interesting facts about the Gospel of Mark!



Evening Faith Enrichment

WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER, 6:30PM - 8PM

Join Nanette on Wednesday evenings starting on October 5 for an uplifting and experiential 7-week series: *Meditations of the Heart*. Named for the beautiful collection of meditations and prayers by one of our greatest spiritual leaders, Howard Thurman. He was Dr. Martin Luther King's favorite theologian and a modern-day mystic, renowned for the quiet beauty of his reflections on humanity and our relationship with God. No advance reading is required but participants may choose to purchase *Meditations of the Heart* from their favorite bookseller. 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. Within this series are words that sustain, elevate, and inspire. Thurman addresses those moments of trial and uncertainty and offers a message of hope and endurance for all people. Everyone is welcome and can attend some or all sessions, as you are able.



Children's Ministries

Children's Faith Adventures

We have officially kicked off our Sunday morning Children's Faith Adventures for children aged 4 to 12. Sundays, during worship, your children will be invited to go with Bobby and the Faith Adventure Guides up to the second floor. Your children will get to make crafts, learn memory verses, and play games, all while exploring the life and teachings of Christ Jesus. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

For children aged 6 months to 4 years, we also have childcare available during both our 9am and 11am services. If you have any questions, contact Associate Minister for Young Adults and Families with Children, Bobby Burt, bobby.burt@akronfcc.org, 330.253.5109 x101.

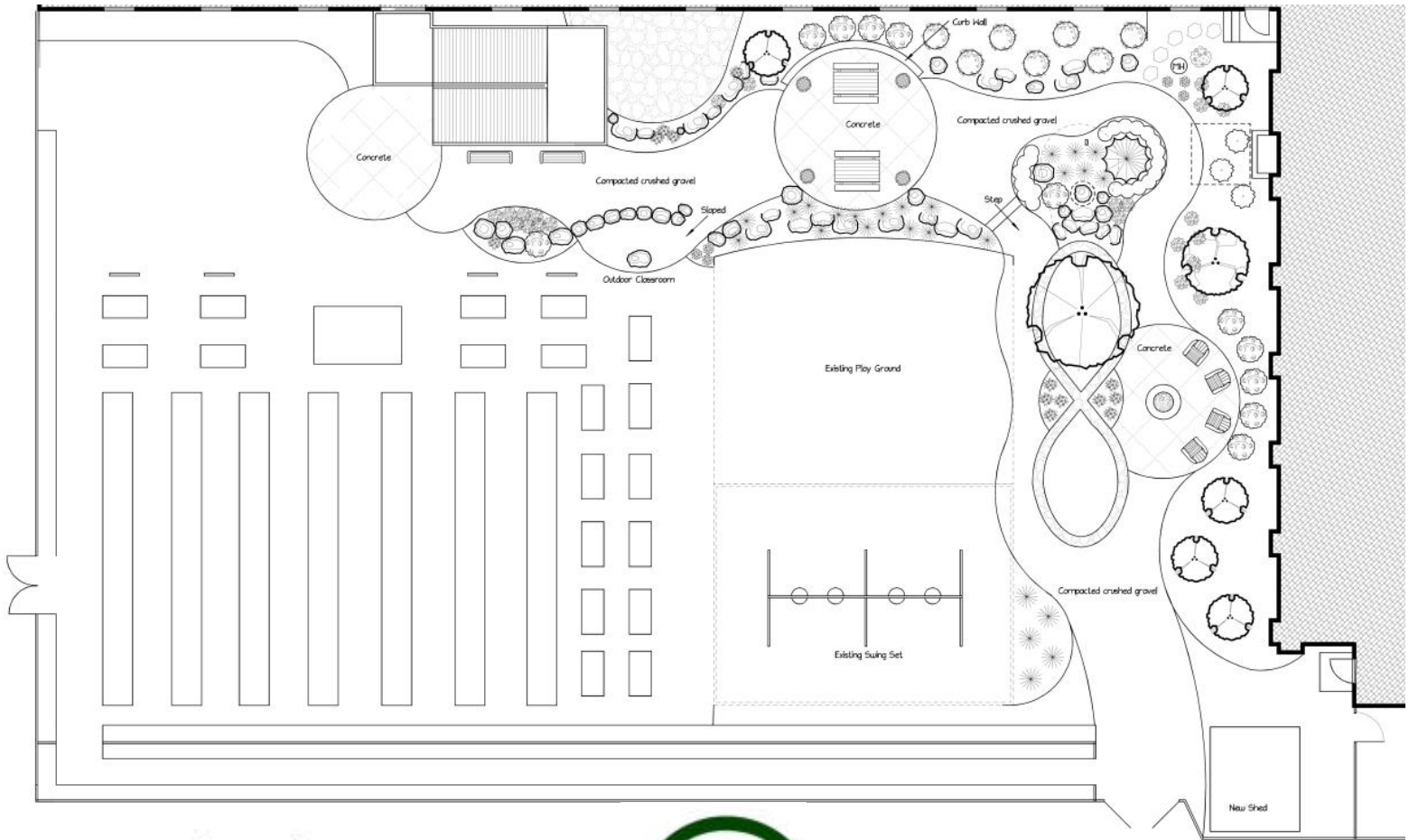
Learn more and register your children for these opportunities at <https://www.akronfcc.org/youth-faith-formation/>.



Youth Programming

Planning events and activities that are both exciting and engaging for youth can be a difficult task. Even more difficult can be finding a time that works for everyone. So, while Bobby is well underway planning such events, he is also interested in hearing from you and your youth about what activities might be especially interesting and when would work best. One great way to have this conversation would be over dinner! Bobby is happy to bring the food and you could bring your ideas and wishes for the coming year.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a time to talk on the phone or over dinner, contact Associate Minister for Young Adults and Families with Children, Bobby Burt, Bobby, bobby.burt@akronfcc.org, 330.253.5109 x101.



Landscape Conceptual Design



Brothers Grimm
LANDSCAPE & DESIGN CO.



I offer my Garden Improvement Support of:

- \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$_____

Frequency

- Weekly Bi-Weekly Monthly
 Quarterly One-time Gift

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Donations may also be made online at akronfcc.org/donate



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF AKRON

Check (made out to First Congregational Church of Akron)

Bank Transfer

Routing No: _____

Account Number: _____

Credit Card

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: ____/____/____ CVC Code: ____

Please tear off this card and return to
First Congregational Church of Akron
292 E Market St
Akron, OH 44308

Garden Improvement Project

LEARN HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT

In June of 2021, a beautiful hand-cut stone Memorial Wall was installed in the First Church garden. This Memorial Wall is a place where ashes can be buried affordably, and loved ones honored. We are grateful to Pastor Nanette for her vision and to the Memorial Wall Committee, Julie & Bill Brandy, Todd Brown, Terri & Jake Cook, Jay Hershey, Judy Nicely, and Sarah Vradenburg, for making this a reality.

After the Memorial Wall was completed, members of the committee proposed that the area surrounding the wall be beautified and the garden integrated and landscaped to enhance the Memorial Wall's setting. Seed money was donated and a professional landscape designer was consulted.

Prior to the addition of the Memorial Wall, the garden was also used as a food garden to support the food pantry, as a play area to support youth, and as an open area to support outdoor worship and larger church events. A key, ongoing concern with the garden area was that it was not handicapped accessible, excluding people, young and old, with mobility issues from the activities.

After much conversation concerning the garden's lack of overall functionality, a design was drafted that will integrate its four primary areas - vegetable beds, playground, open green space, and Memorial Wall - and create new opportunities for groups to use the space with an ADA accessible ramp, compacted gravel pathways, a stone seating area for an outdoor classroom or worship space, paved areas for tables and chairs, and a fire pit.

In the fall of 2021, the garden committee, with the support of the B&G Board, approved the overall garden improvement design that was created by Jacob Grimm, of Brothers Grimm Landscape & Design, and a down payment was made.

To show further support of this important project, the Governing Board selected the Garden Improvement Project as the 2021 First Church Christmas Offering. A letter with a sketch of the new garden plan was sent to all First Church members and supporters encouraging donations to help fulfill this vision. Bringing new life, accessibility, and functionality to the First Church Garden was considered a priority in order to provide opportunities for greater use of the space by the church membership as well as the many community groups that use our facility.

In the spring of 2022, in anticipation of the garden improvements, the rubberized flooring under the large playset in the garden, was extended to include the swing set, replacing the mulch base. The existing rubberized flooring, now over ten years old, was repaired and sealed.

Work is anticipated to begin this month. As we all know, the supply chain setbacks and price increases have affected this project as well, and our projected overall cost has increased. Through the Christmas Offering efforts, First Church has raised nearly 50% of the project costs but we need your help to reach our goal. Please support this worthwhile effort through a financial gift. Pledges are accepted if you would prefer to make your donation payable over a 2-year period. Donations can be made for the garden project online at akronfcc.org/donate or mailed to 292 E Market St, Akron, OH 44308. If you have any questions, please contact Finance and Operations Manager Janis Worley, janis.worley@akronfcc.org, 330.253.5109 x111. No gift is too small - together we can make this Garden Improvement Project a reality!



Proposed Improvements

The proposed improvements provide opportunities for greater use of the space by the church and community groups while enhancing the garden as an oasis and green space in downtown Akron. The draft conceptual design features:

- An even, rubberized base which will run under the large playset and swing set.
- Compacted, crushed gravel walkways, similar to the base of the Towpath Trail, will enable wheelchair and walker access to all who wish to enjoy the space.
- The current water cistern area will be leveled and mounted with permeable pavers to provide more space for gatherings and make the garden safer.
- Plantings will be placed along the perimeter, including edible species when possible to further benefit the food pantry.
- Pollinators will be placed to benefit our bees.
- A larger shed will be placed, the old shed removed, and outdoor workspaces reconfigured to benefit our garden crew.
- A fire pit area will be added for youth and family events and even outdoor services such as Ash Wednesday.
- Large stones will provide seating space for a small outdoor classroom or worship space.

Feed My Sheep Garden Gates

Approximately 10 years ago, the decorative gates for the Feed My Sheep Garden were created and installed, providing all those that pass by on Market Street a glimpse of the work we accomplish there each summer. The wear and tear of constant exposure to sun, wind, rain, and snow has taken a toll on these gates, and they were showing it with peeling paint and loose decorative tiles. John Comunale, of Sculptural Concepts, the original artist involved in the installation of the gates, spent several days scraping down and repainting the gates, and adding new mortar to hold the decorative tilework in place.

Lights, Camera, Action!

This spring, the Building and Grounds Board had some much-needed tuckpointing done to the exterior of the building. In particular, several windows along the western wall of the church (facing the garden) had some openings along the lintels that were allowing moisture into the building and causing some interior wall damage, especially in the theater room. Now that the moisture source has been addressed, we are able to fix the wall damage, and are taking the opportunity to refresh the theater room with a new coat of paint and fresh, light-blocking window treatments.



It's Getting Hot In Here

This fall, the Building and Grounds Board was responsible for a major renovation project for First Church. Both boilers, each many decades old, needed to be replaced. After a thorough examination of our heating systems, Wilson Plumbing made a recommendation to the Board which went beyond a simple swap out of equipment.

Our entire heating system was analyzed to determine the appropriate equipment and installation methods to make our systems highly energy-efficient, replacing many patchwork configurations that had been added throughout the years. One change involved taking the Fellowship Hall off of the main boiler's heating path and installing a separate, third unit to heat that area specifically. This way, Fellowship Hall can be heated comfortably for all the various events that occur there during the week without the added cost and burden of bringing the main boiler online.

This work is now complete, and just in time for the colder season! Many thanks to the B&G Board chair Todd Brown and board members JoAnne Dawson, Eric Roberts, Matt Kalgreen, Kathy Johnson, Ellsworth Poole, and ex-officio members Moderator Sue Yoder, Senior Minister Nanette Pitt, and staff members Russ Gaippe, Facility Maintenance Coordinator and Janis Worley, Finance and Operations Manager, for their time and devotion to this large project.

Preparing Your Yard for Winter

Here are a few simple things you can do to prepare your yard for the winter and jumpstart any landscaping and gardening you'll do in the spring!

When To Rake and When Not To

Leaves can smother your grass if it's still trying to grow, so in the early fall, pick them up or mulch them into smaller pieces. Then, leave them once the ground actually freezes. Insects and other small mammals and birds will thank you for leaving them on the ground!

Start a Compost Pile

Those leaves you picked up in the early fall can be added to a compost pile along with green kitchen scraps to give you mulch for your garden or flower beds in the spring. The combination of brown and green compostable items will help to speed up the process.

Use Your Compost Pile

If you already had a compost pile, chances are that what you added in the early spring and summer are ready to use and should be used! Turn your compost pile and use the new, rich soil to top off your garden beds and bolster deficient areas of your lawn.

Aerate Your Yard and Garden

You can use something as simple as a garden fork to poke holes directly into the ground, especially where you notice water gathering, allowing water to easily penetrate the ground.

Fall Garden Update

On Thursday, September 8, the Feed My Sheep Garden crew participated in a community garden build at nearby Jewett Park. We helped to assemble and paint five new raised garden beds alongside students from Cuyahoga Falls High School's urban agriculture class. The new community garden is just one aspect of a larger project by the Akron Parks Collaborative to rebuild and beautify Jewett Park in partnership with the City of Akron, L.I.N.K.S. Community & Family Services, Summit County Public Health, Habitat for Humanity Neighborhood Network, KGK Gardening & Landscape Design, and Let's Grow Akron. Other projects included a new playground, pavilions with seating, and pollinator-friendly landscaping. We enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside students and neighbors to promote community gardening in the Middlebury neighborhood!

As we begin to wrap up the 2022 growing season, we will be rebuilding and painting some of our own garden beds that have served us for going on ten years. We appreciate this opportunity to reflect on the past ten years of the Feed My Sheep Garden - all of the volunteers, the hours spent planning and building and planting and weeding, thousands of gallons of rainwater used to irrigate crops, the support and love from the congregation and the community - resulting in well over 10,000 pounds of fresh produce distributed to our neighbors. Thank you for your continued support of this project! Volunteers are always needed to sustain the Feed My Sheep Garden - please reach out if you are interested in being involved.

Submitted by Sam Phillips, Feed My Sheep Garden Manager, sam@letsgrowakron.org

Left: Beekeeper Sarah Smithers tends to a hive. Center: Two of our honey bees enjoying the Memorial Wall fountain. Below: Bees begin "bearding" at the hive entrance.



October Birthdays

- 1 Wes Lemmon
- 2 Steven Savides
- 3 Gina Ramirez
- 6 Natalie Altizer
- 6 Amanda Cole
- 6 Karen Foley
- 6 Linda Sayre
- 6 Paula Speight
- 8 Terri Cook
- 8 Julianne Kennedy
- 10 Michael Chaney
- 10 Patricia McKay
- 11 Bud Marston
- 12 Deborah Anderson
- 12 Katherine Johnson
- 13 Laura Bishop
- 14 Alauna Redfern
- 15 Leah Forcey
- 20 Tonia Burford
- 21 Dorena Boike
- 22 Jessica Fox
- 22 Amber Keaton
- 25 Don Lastocy
- 27 Steve King
- 29 Marian Carlson

Stewardship & Finance Report

UNAUDITED – YTD ACTUAL THROUGH AUGUST 2022

		<u>August</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>% to</u>
	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
INCOME				
Pledge Income	\$6,997	\$21,643	\$25,950	83.4%
Non-pledge Income	\$15,423	\$28,897	\$33,000	87.6%
Grant Income	\$0	\$800	\$6,092	13.1%
Special Ministries	\$71,314	\$197,891	\$16,911	1170.2%
Endowment, Sprowls Trust, Pollock	\$39,302	\$145,226	\$161,383	90.0%
Other Income	-\$13,635	-\$9,996	\$10,288	-97.2%
TOTAL	\$119,401	\$384,462	\$253,624	151.6%
EXPENSES				
Membership Board	\$319	\$303	\$2,015	15.1%
Governing Board	\$643	\$678	\$873	77.6%
Cong. & Community Care Ministry	\$3,489	\$6,164	\$14,921	41.3%
Worship & Music	\$437	\$2,314	\$4,592	50.4%
Christian Education	\$0	\$0	\$2,620	0.0%
Food Service Expense	\$187	\$1,131	\$2,751	41.1%
Personnel	\$35,295	\$115,534	\$145,222	79.6%
Other Admin Expense	\$4,665	\$7,751	\$8,886	87.2%
Media Relations/Marketing	\$1,332	\$2,974	\$4,290	69.3%
Maintenance & Supplies	\$105,005	\$239,197	\$102,159	234.1%
Real Estate	\$4,232	\$14,025	\$20,080	69.8%
Utilities	\$3,127	\$10,528	\$10,646	98.9%
TOTAL	\$158,732	\$400,599	\$319,055	125.6%
Net Income/Loss	-\$39,331	-\$16,137	-\$65,431	24.7%



How You Can Use a Bear Market to Your Advantage

It is fairly common knowledge that the stock market has been having a tough time this past year. Most investments are down, and investors are looking over their portfolios in an effort to pivot into better performing equities. But before you sell that stock, stop and consider this – even in a down market, if your stock has appreciated for more than one year, your gift of stock can be the equivalent to giving 20% more than if you sold the stock and simply gave a cash donation!! Currently, the maximum federal capital gains tax rate is 20% on long-term holdings, so by donating stock you are avoiding that tax while supporting the causes that are important to you.

According to a 2016 study by Fidelity Charitable, 80% of charitable donors own appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds or mutual funds, but only 21% of those donors have contributed those types of assets to charity. Donating stock isn't difficult and can be accomplished from any brokerage with one or two steps. Perhaps now more than ever would be a good time to consider it! Contact Finance and Operations Manager Janis Worley for more information on contributing stock to First Church at janis.worley@akronfcc.org or 330.253.5109 x111.

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.

Sour Cream Coffee Cake

Submitted by Barbara Hansford

Ingredients:

- 1/2 C flour
- Pinch of salt
- 1.5 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 C brown sugar
- 1.5 Tbsp cinnamon
- 1.5 to 2 C walnuts, chopped
- 1.5 C butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 C sugar
- 1 C sour cream
- 1 tsp vanilla

Directions:

Combine flour, salt, baking powder, and baking soda; mix. Mix brown sugar, cinnamon, and nuts. Mix butter, eggs, sugar, and vanilla. Grease bundt pan and then flour it. To egg batter, add flour batter and beat until thoroughly mixed. Spread almost 2/3 of batter evenly around pan, then add 2/3 of nut mixture on top of batter as evenly as possible. Add rest of batter on top. Then, finally, rest of nut mixture. Take a knife and swirl top layer of nuts with layer of batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes or until toothpick comes out dry. After baked, edge around pan with knife and flip over twice.



Congratulations

James and Joanna Gartner are pleased to announce that their daughter, Kathleen Joyce Gartner married Joseph Painter on July 17, 2022 at The Oaks at Lakeside in Chippewa Lake.

In Gratitude

Dear Church Family,

Words cannot adequately express my gratitude for the love and support I have received from Rev. Nanette Pitt and First Congregational Church. From the letter of recommendation to the Living Water Association that I be considered for ministry, to the support team which met with me and sent cards throughout my journey, to the opportunities to preach and learn, to the friendships gained along the way, and finally to my ordination service. Walking with each of you has changed me (not to mention spoiled me!). Thank you so much for the gifts of a new robe and the prayer blanket! They are perfect representations of being covered by my faith community. May God continue to bless the ministry of the First Congregational Church of Akron.

*With love and gratitude,
Rev. Brenda Waddell*

Dear First Church,

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 that they are both in God's hands now. Thank you again for thinking of us!

*Love,
The family of Betty Stalnaker*

In Sympathy

Our deepest condolences to the family of Betty Stalnaker who passed away on September 7. A memorial service was held in Tallmadge on September 14 with Nanette present to represent First Church.

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., Betty S., Bill F., Callahan H., Karen F., and Mildred A.

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.



Rooted in Christ · Fostering Justice · Celebrating Diversity



K L N V K K M L E S D U L D A V J H Z L A V Q M F
 J B X T D I E U I V A I C F Z S T I P B S G N J E
 S D J L A Q M V E W P N H C L L M N T L W Z O B L
 F T E C C E B J J B H O L E T V B C N O U Z T F L
 D W H R C R E Q U J P B T O W L B L Y V I D H X O
 S E P L P Q R X S U O S R V I V P U C O A I N U W
 D L R A L J S W T F P R U Q Z J M S H S P V T L S
 T C L P S H H H I W L Y X A V K I I O T T E V A H
 J O T I A T I V C Z A B H G B Q S O I G W R M M I
 J M J A V C P W E O D M J T O J S N R U T S D F P
 F E R R G S C C O M M U N I T Y I K L M T I H L C
 S I X Y K Q I E I R L W H R K M O O I U P T P P H
 Q D R M A W W S P E S E R S S I N U G S F Y U H R
 E T V S U P O X Z T J H U V A N T Z B I X Z C M O
 Y N I S T P O U G B A M I R S D I D Q C U R S J N
 E D R K U C V U Q H O N V P E L D I K X K R J M I
 A R Y G I P H F Z S O V C L G M A S O N C L C H C
 B E D L P M P U P Z M U O E L K H X P J A U K A L
 H I D I X M M E R R S T E W A R D S H I P P W N E
 E X S X X S U H R C R V E A P V C O R O R Y Z D L
 F N M Y C N D J O R H Y H Q O R Z W F S P V F B Y
 A M Q H U M I O R F O I F L H J B Y Z N R Q F E I
 S Z W Y B V R L S K I O L I Y H R Z G C I Y P L G
 A A Z L M R F Q M J S I M Y K U P H V Y D J J L D
 E W J Z P I F M Y T F O O D P A N T R Y E B A S A

A First Church Word Search

- FIRSTCHURCH
- COMMUNITY
- WELCOME
- FELLOWSHIP
- FOODPANTRY
- APIARY
- INCLUSION
- PRIDE
- DIVERSITY
- MUSIC
- HANDBELLS
- CHOIR
- MASONCLC
- UPPERROOM
- CHRONICLE
- WORSHIP
- MISSION
- ACCEPTANCE
- JUSTICE
- STEWARDSHIP
- MEMBERSHIP

