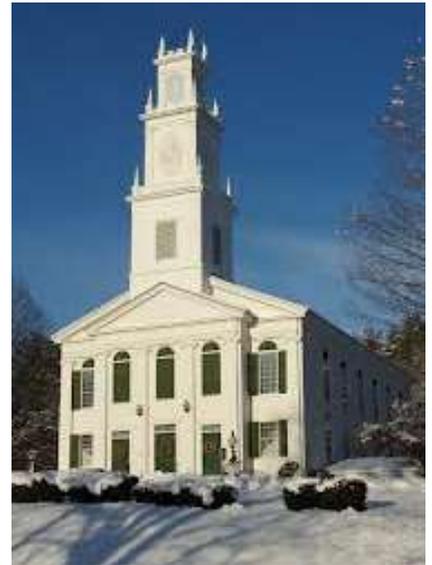


# THE CORNERSTONE

*First Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ*



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

## FEBRUARY 2016 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Join Us!*

Worship Services: 8:30 am in the Chapel,  
10 am in the Sanctuary

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February 7 (10 am service only today)	Last Sunday after Epiphany Uncommon Worship <i>with Holy Communion</i> (Uncommon Worship blends ancient, traditional, and contemporary worship styles into one single worship experience). <i>A Fishing Trip to Remember</i> Luke 5:1-11 Rev. Kevin Weikel
February 14	First Sunday in Lent <i>The Devil's Deceit</i> Luke 4:1-13 Rev. George Harris
February 21	Second Sunday in Lent <i>Mother Hen</i> Luke 13:31-35 Rev. George Harris
February 28	Third Sunday in Lent <i>When Bad Things Happen</i> Luke 13:1-9 Rev. George Harris

In accordance with the By-Laws of First Church, the Annual Financial Meeting to consider and vote upon the proposed 2016 operating budget will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, February 7. All members are urged to attend.



Rev. George Harris  
Senior Minister

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Out of Office  
Tuesdays

## *Pastor Pondering*

The world-weary voice of folk singer Ray LaMontagne cries...

*Trouble... Trouble, trouble, trouble, trouble*

*Trouble been doggin' my soul since the day I was born*

*Worry... Worry, worry, worry, worry*

*Worry just will not seem to leave my mind alone*

**I hear LaMontagne's words and music as a plaintive invitation into Lent.**

Lent is the season of the church year during which we seek to grow closer to God, not through ecstatic experiences of joy, not in response to warm, cozy feelings of love, but by recognizing God's presence in the midst of suffering, in the troubled, world-weary, worry-filled places in our lives. We are assured of God's empathetic presence in times of trouble through God's own suffering as Jesus Christ. There is no dark place humanity can visit that God has not already trod through Christ's persecution, torture and death on the cross. In the forty days preceding Easter (not including Sundays) we accompany Jesus to the cross, and God accompanies us through the trouble and worry that dog our soul.

Those who were in church on Sunday, January 17, know that an old college friend of mine, John Fahsbender, joined us in worship. Later that evening, Lourdes and I sat down to dinner with John, his brother Tom, and sister-in-law Jennifer. As often happens when pastors are present, we got to talking about church. Jennifer observed that church is the one place where everyone is encouraged to share their heartache and pain, maybe the only place where we can count on being loved in response to our troubles. This understanding of church was affirmed for me when I visited the small group Bible study led by Cathie Behrens. One of the women present said, "Each of us here has experienced a crisis or tragedy or two, but we can share it here and know that we will be loved and supported." Caring people are everywhere, at work and school, in our kids' sports leagues or scout troops, in our family and among our friends. But only church specifically invites us to lay our burdens down and commits to love us through the shadowed valleys of our lives.

**Our culture often communicates the message, "Don't worry, be happy!"** Sometimes we hear this as a helpful encouragement. But at other times we need someone to acknowledge our pain and sing the blues with us.

Ray LaMontagne concludes his testimony:

*Well I've been saved by a woman... She won't let me go.*

**Well we've been saved by a God who enters into suffering and death with us through Jesus and won't ever let us go, carrying us beyond the cross to a new life in Christ.**

Come to First Church during Lent (from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday), lay your burden down, know you will be loved and that God will never let you go.

In Christ,

*Pastor George*

## A Message from Rev. Kevin Weikel

### An Experience Like No Other

In recent years, First Church Youth and Young Adults have had the opportunity to repair homes in West Virginia and Tennessee, and to volunteer in soup kitchens and clothing banks in Washington, DC and Chicago. More locally, First Church Young Adults have prepared meals, knitted hats, and tutored in Hartford. Through these experiences, the situations of many individuals and families living in poverty have improved.

Just as importantly, as our young people have had the opportunity to talk face to face with those experiencing poverty, our youth and young adults have had their stereotypes challenged, their understanding of poverty broadened, and their capacity for empathy deepened. Without question, these experiences have made a real difference in the lives of our young people. Some have even chosen to pursue careers in service to others because of these experiences.

At the same time, there is always in the background the knowledge that, for the most part, many of these efforts are temporary fixes to a systemic problem. A soup kitchen may alleviate hunger for a night, for example, but the issue of poverty will remain the next day. Therefore, it has remained a hope of mine that an opportunity to explore issues of poverty more deeply might present itself. Well, last summer, **while attending our denomination's bi-annual meeting, it did.** I came across the folks from an organization called, "Urban Spirit," based in Louisville, KY.



Urban Spirit, as they explained to me, is not a traditional mission trip, but a poverty simulation experience. Instead of serving at soup kitchens or repairing homes, at Urban Spirit, led through a week of poverty. When groups arrive, they are divided into smaller "family" groups, each family with its unique situation. **These families apply for jobs in the community and earn minimum wage, paid in "poverty bucks," Urban Spirit's currency.**

Each day, these family groups decide how to spend their wages: Food, housing, child care, health care, transportation, emergencies? Questions rise to the surface such as, "Will our paycheck be enough? Will we need to borrow "poverty bucks," and if so, how will we pay them back? Can our social worker help? Does the temp. agency have enough jobs? Who will keep the children while we work? What if someone gets sick? **What if the bus doesn't come?**

In the midst of it all, participants are encouraged to keep in mind the following questions: What is God saying to us? Who are our neighbors? What can we do? How can we mend a system that is so big, so overwhelming? Each evening, everyone comes together to debrief, reflect, and worship, and to participate in activities designed to explore more fully the lessons of poverty. And then, as the week closes, groups plan for ways to start changing things at home.

Upon returning from that national meeting last summer, I explained the concept of Urban Spirit to our youth advisor team. After gathering more information and prayerful discussion, we came to the conclusion that it is time for our youth and young adults to participate in such a an experience.

And so, First Church Youth and Young Adults will be spending June 25-July 3, 2016, with Urban Spirit in Louisville, KY. **On the last night of the trip, we will camp out on "Josh's Hill," in Bloomsburg, PA,** where we will enjoy a picnic, whiffle ball, volleyball, a campfire with s'mores, and more as a way to close out the experience.

If you are a youth or young adult and are interested in this experience, please contact me. Or, if you know of a young person who you think would have an interest in this trip, please put them in touch with me as well. This trip will be a challenging experience, but we are very excited to embark upon this new look at poverty, this discovery of character, and this exploration of faith!

Peace to you,

Kevin



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Minister for  
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Out of Office  
Wednesdays

## Musical Notes



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Out of Office  
Tuesdays

I tell you – when you walk into the church these days, there is a palpable energy – the feeling that everything is coming together. Pastor George has only been here for a month, and already it feels like he always should have been here. Working with him musically is inspirational - not only because he comes from a church with a wonderful music program that sets a high standard – but also because he is open to many directions and styles which can be used to integrate music into the service and the life of the church. Great stuff! First Church has always been a terrific place to work, and now, because of him, Kevin, Cindy, all of the staff and YOU, things are even better. I am incredibly lucky to be here. **There's some fantastic music in store.**

Look for some interesting things coming up: Doug Maher, a jazz guitarist with wide recognition, has joined the board and has given new energy to the concert series – an important cultural and spiritual outreach to the congregation and the community. We start with a jazz concert in Palmer Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> (Friday) with the amazing DeChamplains. They have played here before to standing room only events, so we suggest you get tickets from the office as soon as you can – **it's going to be an excellent concert, and great fun. Then in March, we** celebrate the return of Sam Petitti and Bridget Davis. Sam, guitarist extraordinaire, is the very talented son of Erica Nierendorf, and this concert is going to have a cutting-edge aspect to it – the two of them with their band are setting the Brooklyn NY music scene on fire.

**Women's Praise Choir will be performing (that's right – performing)** a concert at First Church in Plainville CT in March, so, in addition to working on Sunday morning offerings, they are learning material for that. The bell choir, after a very successful first half of the year, looks to the coming weeks as an **opportunity to learn, play with others in area "rings", and generally expand their abilities.** **Men's choir (hey – guys! We'd love to have you be a part!)** is getting better and better, and you will definitely be hearing more from them. The Juniors are working on Sunday offerings and will be doing a choir exchange with the Simsbury Methodist Church Junior Choir – this is a chance for them to **sing in a larger group, and it's always a great way to wind up the season.** The Uncommon Worship band is sounding really good these days, with the excellent **voice of Erica Bontatibus, Doug Maher's expert guitar playing, and Mark Scully,** a great drummer who always seems to find the right feel for any song. And the Cherubs are learning Sunday School songs, and will be singing enthusiastically for at least two more services. Then there is the joyful, positive and energetic playing of Jim Martocchio at the 8: 30 service, and the great vocal offerings of Craig White. There are some other surprises in the works, and if anyone has **something that they'd like to do (singing, playing, producing – anything!)** there is a way to do it. **Music ain't just window dressing, you know – it's a direct** highway to the Holy Spirit, and does wonders for the soul.

Come warm up at the concert! See you there!



# Kids @ First

## Grow your heart at First Church



Visit [www.firstchurchsimsbury.com](http://www.firstchurchsimsbury.com) to see the church school schedule, videos, and information about what the kids are doing at First Church. Weekly church school emails are sent to parents on Fridays. If you are not receiving the emails contact [ccole@fccsimsbury.org](mailto:ccole@fccsimsbury.org).

### Children's Ministry News



#### Upcoming events for your Calendar

- Feb 6: Valentines Party/Parents Night Out
- Feb 7: Children attend the Uncommon Worship and participate in Communion
- Feb 28: Teacher Breakfast at 9:30 in the Parlor
- March 4: Potluck dinner & Family Cardboard Creation Night, 5:30 pm in Palmer Hall

#### Valentines Party/Parents Night Out

Sat, Feb 6, 2016

in Palmer Hall ~ 5pm-8:30pm

Please sign up and fill out the registration form



High Energy Activities: indoor basket ball, bowling, Valentine Twister, bounce houses

Group Activities: Valentine Bingo, Valentine tag, Chocolate heart hunt, Indoor Snowball fight

Movie: Veggie Tales Beauty and the Beet

Quiet Activities: play dough, doll house, crafts, Legos

Ages: 3(potty trained) - 6th grade, teen helpers are needed

Cost: free will offering

Dinner: Pizza, fresh fruit and vegetables, decorate your own cupcakes

Please note: there will be no Wii at this event.



Teacher/Shepherd Family Breakfast, Feb 28 in the Parlor at 9:30

## Uncommon Worship

An Intergenerational Worship Service

February 7, 2016

Our church offers Communion for all people, young and old. All are welcome at God's table. Communion is offered the first Sunday of every month.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)



Feb 7, 2016

Church Financial Meeting

to follow with Children's activities in Palmer Hall

High Energy Activities: indoor basket ball, bowling, bounce houses.

Quiet Activities: play dough and doll house

Craft: Lent in a bag Family Devotional

#### Church School Toiletry Kit Mission Project:

Our winter church school offering will go to purchasing toiletry items for children and adults at South Park Inn. We are looking for travel toothpaste, travel shampoo and conditioners, deodorant, hairbrushes, and combs, small tissue pkgs., small shaving cream cans, etc.



#### What is Lent?

Lent is a special season on the Church Calendar. It begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10th this year. On Ash Wednesday, we mark our foreheads with a cross of ashes as a sign of repentance and mortality. Lent lasts for 40 days, and ends just before Easter. Why 40 days? Jesus spend 40 days in the wilderness confronting temptation before beginning his ministry (Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13). Holy week marks the final week of Lent and Easter is on March 27 this year. Look for the color purple in the sanctuary during this season.

#### What do we do during the 40 days of Lent?

It is a time to remember Jesus. It is a time to think about how we can become more like Jesus. It is a time to help others. It is a time to get closer to God.

#### Spring Cleaning?

Save your items in a box to donate to the Church School Tag sale on April 30, 2016.

Items can be dropped off at church on April 28 and 29.

The tag sale is a major source of revenue for children's ministry special events such as the parent night outs.



## Youth and Young Adults

*Junior Fellowship* (JF) is our youth group for 7th and 8th graders. JF gathers approximately once every three weeks, from 2:10-4:30 pm during the school year. At JF, we eat together, play games together, and participate in engaging activities and faith-based discussions together.

Sunday, February 28th — 5:30-7 pm in the Youth Room

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The *Confirmation* year is a concentrated time for 8th graders to explore what it means to be Christian. Through large and small group gatherings, mission/service work, experiencing and reflecting on worship, going on retreat, participating in the events and activities of JF, and much more, our Confirmands build positive and grace-filled relationships with one another, and develop a deeper **understanding of God's love for all people, while exploring what it means to follow Jesus.**

Sunday, February 7th Session 9 in the Youth Room (11am-1pm)

**Bible Reading: "Parables" - Lesson: "Saints"**

Wednesday, February 10th Large Group Meeting (Ash Wednesday and Lent) (6:30-8:30 pm)  
Youth Room (7-7:30 pm for students) followed by the  
Ash Wednesday Service in the sanctuary (7:30-8:30 pm) for students  
and parents

Sunday, February 21st Session 8 in the Youth Room (5-7 pm)

**Bible Readings: "The First Commandment" and "The Widow's Mite" -  
Lesson: "Ministry"**

Monday, February 22nd Small Group (2:10-8 pm)

Soup Kitchen at South Park Inn Shelter

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*Pilgrim Fellowship* (PF) is for all 9th through 12th graders no matter their religious background, or ideas about God. Everyone is welcome. PF is a place to play, discuss, worship, grow, serve, and love. PF is a place for teenagers to journey together in faith. PF meets for fellowship, retreats, mission opportunities, and more.

Sundays, February 7th— no PF (Super Bowl)

Sunday, February 14th— Exploring Islam Part 3 (Youth Hangout at the Islamic Association of Greater Hartford). In this tense environment, youth of all faiths will gather to celebrate their diversity, learn from one another, and just hang out! Depart from First Church at 2 pm, return at 6 pm.

Sunday, February 21st— Exploring Islam Part 4 (Islam Misconceptions and Q&A), with Special Guest Sami Aziz, Imam at the Bloomfield Muslim Community Center.

Sunday, February 28th— **It's Annual Whirlyball Night!** Never heard of Whirlyball? It's what you get when you combine lacrosse with bumper cars ... add in some rules from basketball and hockey ... the world's only mechanized team sport! Please bring \$20 to cover costs. If the cost would prevent you from attending, please contact Rev. Kevin at [kweikel@fccsimsbury.org](mailto:kweikel@fccsimsbury.org) to discuss financial assistance. We never want cost to get in the way of folks attending PF!

Hot Jazz and Love Songs!  
*A Pre-Valentine's Day Concert*  
Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 pm



Already fed up with winter? Warm your bones and your heart with a pre-Valentine's night of first-class jazz performed by some of Connecticut's finest jazz musicians. Noted area performers the DeChamplains – talented pianist Matt DeChamplain and his wife, vocalist Atla—appear in First Church's own backyard in Palmer Hall on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM, along with bassist Matt Dwonszik and First Church's own jazz expert, guitarist Doug Maher.

In a casual, coffee-house setting with beverages and light fare (all included in the ticket price!) you'll be treated to upbeat and approachable jazz and familiar songs, performed by some of the best players you could ever hear, to chase away any winter blues you might have and to get you in a Valentine mood.

Many are familiar with the incredible talents of the DeChamplains, who are currently celebrating the release of their first CD – “Pause”. The amazing vocal stylings of Atla, influenced by great vocalists like the inimitable Ella Fitzgerald, have been honed by having recently studied with her mentor, the great jazz and scat singer John Hendricks, of Lambert, Hendricks and Ross. Pianist Matt is an expert in the stride piano and styles of the great influential pioneers like Earle “Fatha” Hines, Art Tatum, Oscar Peterson, right up to modern jazz artists such as Herbie Hancock and others. They will be joined by bassist Matt Dwonszyk, a name familiar to Simsbury residents, who has transplanted to Brooklyn, NY, and is making a mark in New York City as one of the best bassists around. Also playing will be longtime CT incredible jazz performer, educator and (luckily) First Church member, guitarist Doug Maher. There are not many great musicians in this area who have not benefitted by an education from Doug at some point in their development.

Audience members will be able to experience the music at close range, and the relaxed atmosphere of these brilliant players coming together, should make for an enjoyable, exciting, inspired, unforgettable evening of amazing jazz.

Be sure to mark your calendar. Tickets – \$10.00 for adults and \$8.00 for students and seniors (12 and under – free!) may be purchased in advance at the First Church Office or at the door on the day of the show.



## February 7th Financial Meeting

On February 7th, First Church will hold its annual Financial Meeting after our service. This is an important meeting for our congregation and I am encouraging you to attend. The meeting requires a quorum in order to be an official meeting so please consider this important time to express your support.

**The meeting will review the 2015 year's financial results and the 2016 budget recommendation from the Executive Council and the Board of Finance .** Approval for the 2016 budget will be requested from you, the congregation, after a review of the various elements in the budget. You will be presented material explaining the budget and will have a chance to ask questions.

**Also, we will review the church's endowment performance and the endowment development effort by members of our church.**

**I look forward to seeing you there and discussing how our church family continues to fund God's work through generous pledging of our gifts to First Church.**

*Ron Patterson, Treasurer*

Save the Date!

### **Women's Retreat 2016**

April 22nd—24th

Silver Lake Conference Center, Sharon, CT

nestled in the picturesque foothills of the Berkshires of Litchfield County.

#### *What is a disability?*

**Webster's dictionary describes disability as:** “ *a condition (such as an illness or an injury) that damages or limits a person's physical or mental abilities: the condition of being unable to do things in the normal way : the condition of being disabled*” .

During our lifetime we will all have a disability of sorts that prevents us from doing what we normally have been able to do, and during this time it will be difficult for us to manage. But God made each one of us unique for a reason, we are each incredibly special with our gifts and talents that were bestowed on us. **God doesn't want us to try to be something we are not, he wants us to share who we are with the world.**

**Unfortunately, we often put someone in a “disability category” if they aren't “normal” or “like us”. We often see the “disability” rather than the person's ability and gifts. The public school and the federal law mandate that children with disabilities be educated in the least restrictive environment. Educators call this “inclusion”, but the Bible calls it “hospitality” or “beloved”. As a church we have a responsibility to each and every person who walks through our doors to help them to feel beloved and welcomed.**

When our goal is inclusion, a place at the table for everybody, we can then recognize and utilize each **other's gifts, empowering people with all differing abilities or disabilities, apparent or unapparent.**

Within our congregation there are many voices and people with disabilities. We know that there many adults with disabilities who are not part of any faith community. We as a congregation have some work to do. **First Church has put a committee together to look at our church to help us be more “Accessible to All”. We are reviewing our building, looking at training for staff, educators, members and we will continue to update you with how we are doing and the changes we are making.**

Accessible to All: Welcoming All People To First Church



At First Church, we welcome everyone, with or without a disability. In order to fulfill this goal, the Accessible to All (A2A) Committee is working to assess and meet the needs of the congregation. We need your help. Please take a few minutes to answer our survey.

(larger print versions in church office or online version at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NFPCVSW>)

1. Do you have difficulty accessing First Church? (circle answers)

Finding accessible parking?      Yes or No      Arriving at the church door?      Yes or No  
 Opening the building doors?      Yes or No      Using any of the facilities?      Yes or No

Comments:

2. Do you know where the accessible features are at First Church?

	Yes	No
Elevator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accessible Restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ramps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diaper Changing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



3. Do you (or someone you know who would like to visit us) use a wheelchair, walker, or cane? (mark all that apply)

wheelchair       walker       cane      Other (please specify)

4. Do you (or someone you know who would like to attend First Church) need assistance to participate?

Hearing assistance       Large print materials       Sign Language interpreter       A buddy or aide

Other (please specify)

5. Would you like a copy of the sermon? If so, what format? (mark all that apply)

Print       Video       Audio       Email

Other (please specify)

6. Do you (or someone you know) need transportation to congregational activities?

Yes       Yes and an accessible van is needed       No

Other (please specify)

7. Do you (or someone you know) need assistance or accommodation to participate in any of the following? What would enable participation?      Comments

Children's Ministry Programs	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Youth Programs	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Music Programs	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Adult Programs	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Worship Services	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Mission and Outreach Programs	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Boards and Committees	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

8. How could First Church help support individuals or families with disabilities at church and in the community?

9. Is there anything else that you would like us to consider?

10. May we follow up with you? (if, so please provide us with contact information)

## *First Church of Christ Boards and Committees*

### Information - Involvement - Enrichment

This is to announce and initiate a monthly "Cornerstone" series of articles intended to inform you (and, hopefully, to involve you and enrich your church life) about the various and diverse Boards and Committees that help make up the fabric of First Church. Each month will feature the Boards and/or Committees that will host Fellowship Hour in Palmer Hall following Sunday morning 10 am worship. This will afford a dialogue opportunity for Boards/Committees to present their purposes and activities and for congregants to explore and discover opportunities for personal involvement and faith growth.

#### Memorial Garden Committee (February 14th)

*Wally Musick, Chairperson*

The Memorial Garden Committee is responsible for overseeing the maintenance, enhancement, and use of the Church's Memorial Garden and for maintaining permanent records relating to the Memorial Garden. First Church member Jim Block was involved with the site selection and development of the garden from its inception in 1995 until resigning in 2011 when he was named Chairman Emeritus. The Committee consists of three to five members with the term of one member expiring every two years. The Committee usually meets twice per year. The Memorial Garden is a special place and provides an important ministry for members and friends of First Church.

#### Committee of Deacons (February 21st)

*Craig White, Chairperson*

The Committee of Deacons is a five member committee, each serving a three year term. Working closely with the ordained staff, the Deacons are responsible for dispersing financial assistance to those in need in the Simsbury community. Two funds support the work of the Deacons. The late Reverend Lyman G. Potter in his book "To Settle Ourselves in Gospel Order" tells us that the initial Deacons' Fund was established from bequests in the wills of Antoinette Eno Wood George P McLean and Anson G. Phelps. The purpose of their gifts was to provide a source of funding to help the worthy poor of Simsbury. The second fund is the Hixon-Beals Fund. Established in approximately 1986, the Hixon-Beals Fund is intended to provide for the health, subsistence, shelter, social and aesthetic needs of Simsbury. These dedicated funds are managed by the Board of Finance and are not part of the general budget. Those seeking support are connected with a member of the clergy and given an application form for assistance.

## *President's Message*

I am writing this article on a Sunday evening, reflecting on the wonderful worship service we experienced together again this morning. Pastor George delivered another thought-provoking sermon, which was beautifully integrated with the music selections chosen for the service, and the terrific voices singing from our choirs. Our fellowship hour following this service was packed and vibrant. What a wonderful way to start a new week!

After worship I started thinking about all of the volunteers who make First Church the wonderful **community that it is, often behind the scenes and barely noticed**. I'm sure you noticed the beautiful flowers at the altar. Did you ever wonder who coordinates this, and makes sure they are there week after week? If you walked in through the Palmer Hall entrance, did you notice the nice smooth walkway and lovely new pavers? Did you ever wonder who prioritizes our building and maintenance needs, and insures that the work is done? Or, in the warmer months, who waters the plants that make our entrances and grounds so inviting? Most of us know that the church tithes 10% of its total income to mission and outreach. Did you ever wonder who makes the decisions about what worthy causes we choose to support? Did you ever wonder who was behind all the effort that went into our terrific Christmas Pageant and Christmas Eve services, and those beautiful puppets? These are only a few examples of the many volunteers who serve us so well.

In past years we have on occasion held a Volunteer Fair, where you had the chance to meet some of these volunteers and learn about our various Boards and Committees. These were fun events, well-received and enjoyed, but perhaps a bit overwhelming, because we have so many people who do so much.

This year the Executive Committee has decided on a different approach. Each month one or two Boards or Committees will be highlighted in the Cornerstone. Look for our first such article, written by Dane Woodberry, in this edition. Then, when they host our Fellowship Hour, we have asked these volunteers to set up an information table, where you can meet with them and learn more about how they serve our church. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about our various Boards and Committees, and to take the time to join me in thanking all of these dedicated volunteers for **the service they provide to our church and our community**. I wouldn't be surprised if you find a volunteer role that fits your interests, and gives you a chance to increase your involvement in First Church as well.

Faithfully yours,

*Jim Trimble*



*Our Lost and Found Area is overflowing!*

We have reading glasses, sweaters, sweatshirts, scarves,  
umbrellas, gloves, hats, mittens ....

if you're missing something come and take a look ...

all will be donated after February 15th!

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## FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

February 7 (Financial Meeting)  
February 14 Memorial Garden Committee  
February 21 Committee of Deacons  
February 28

*~ Please notify the Church of any address changes. ~  
Sign up for our emails and check our website.*

First Church of Christ  
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