Parish Visitor
Web Edition
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First Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Ecumenical Congregation in the Congregational Tradition
200 NORTH MAIN STREET • MOUNT VERNON, OHIO • 43050
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October 2026

Contact Us

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Hours

Monday — Thursday
9:00 am to 12:00 noon
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Friday
9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Making the Implicit Explicit

I believe the Word of God, the Bible, has endless truths for us and we need to know it better. So I include scriptural references in the bulletin.

I believe that worship is the work of the people. So I have you participate in things, perhaps more than you have in the past, like the Communion prayer and sometimes in reading the Psalms responsively.

I believe that God invites us to partner with God in helping God's kingdom to come on earth, as the Lord's Prayer says. So my language tries to focus on kin rather than king, on including rather than excluding.

For those of you who didn't hear my explanation on Sept. 13, I wear a mask because I am immune-compromised, and so in close situations I try to avoid either giving you germs or getting them myself. I remove my mask in the pulpit so that those who depend on mouth movement and facial expressions for hearing can do so.

I believe that God is still-speaking and still guiding First Congregational to be a witness to love, mercy, and justice in Mt. Vernon and Knox County and beyond. So I encourage you to persevere and let God continue to do that good work in you.

Rev. Dr. Robin Knowles Wallace

What's Happening

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Regular Worship Service	Sundays 9:30 am	Sanctuary
Social Time	Sundays Following the morning service	Social Hall
Adult Forum	Sundays 11:00 am Beginning September 13th	Chapel
Youth Group	Wednesdays 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Youth Room
Youth Choir Rehearsal	Sundays 11:00 am to 11:20 am	Youth Choir Room
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Thursdays 7:00 pm	Choir Room
Council Meeting	October 25th 11:50 AM	Front Parlor

Adult Forum

We have something special planned for Adult Forum! We are having a series of speakers from various community organizations. The speakers will talk about their organizations and how they help the community. We will also have discussions about ways that we can be involved with these organizations. The series allows us to bring the goals of Christian Education and Mission & Service together. Adult Forum is Sundays from 11-11:45 am in the chapel.

Here is our current schedule (subject to change)

The Freedom Center

October 4: The Freedom Center

Lil' Pantry Mount Vernon, Ohio

October 11: Lil' Free Pantry

Habitat for Humanity® of Knox County, Ohio

October 18: Habitat for Humanity

October 25: Pride Alliance

Knox County Pride Alliance

We hope to see you at Adult Forum!

Volunteer Opportunity

Christian Education is looking to expand its list of volunteers. Youth and Children's programming needs volunteers to lead children's classes, help with youth choir, provide child care during service and other times, lead youth group — basically all programming with children.

A short synopsis of FCUCC's policy is that we need two adults with background checks supervising children during church activities. While we would like to offer more age specific programming, it's not possible without more background checked volunteers.

Getting a background check is at your convenience. The paperwork to complete is available in the Document Center outside of the church office. You then call the number on the forms to arrange a time at the Sheriff's Department. The cost is $32 and you can either bring a receipt for reimbursement to Jennifer or Becky to submit or you can arrange with Jennifer or Becky to have a check written for you to take. The results will be sent directly to the church. Or if you hold a professional license that requires a background check, you can submit a copy of that certificate.

The times volunteers are needed are both during and after services, so choir members, liturgists, ushers, etc. can still be a part of children's ministries.

If you have further questions, please reach out to Jennifer or Becky.

Lost and Found

Several weeks ago, a very new 11 inch (diagonal) Samsung tablet was found in the Front Parlor. Despite making inquiries, I have not been able to locate its owner. If you or someone you know has lost such a device, please call or email the Church Office. Someone must be at their wit's end trying to figure out where they lost it!

Christmas Cantata

Do you love music? Do you love praising God? Do you have an hour to spare on Sunday mornings after church? If you said yes to at least one of these things, please consider joining our Christmas Eve Cantata, entitled *Candles and Carols*: A service of hope, peace, joy, and love. Rehearsals will be held every Sunday from November 1st through December 20th from 11:00 am-12:00 pm. There will be a final dress rehearsal on Wednesday, December 23rd at 7:00 pm. You do not have to be a choir member to participate. All are welcome, regardless of musical ability. Please direct any questions to Christa B., Director of Music.

From HopeNow

HopeNow Furniture Bank of Knox County

Community Night

HopeNow Furniture Bank had a great Community Event on September 12. We were holding our breath and praying the rain wouldn't impede our day and it did not. Good start.

First of all, a big thank you to all of the UCC parishioners who attended. It is wonderful to see so much support. It was well attended by all ages. Guests enjoyed the tours, snacks, Tabouli Food Truck, live music by our own Steve Frye and company, lots of fellowship and opportunities to learn more about the Mission of **HopeNow**.

Mayor Matt Starr attended, got a tour asking many questions, visited with the attendees. He formally issued a proclamation recognizing **HopeNow** for its contribution to Knox County, and deemed September 12, 2026 ***HopeNow Furniture Bank Day***. WOW! We also had a 50/50 raffle which one of our volunteers won donating the winnings back to the HopeNow. Overall, we raised $900 which was a wonderful surprise.

It takes a village to pull off such a successful event and we could have not done it without our dedicated volunteers, Board members, the Outreach Coordinator, Kale Oswalt, and Director of Operations, Steve Frye. It is such an honor and a blessing to be a part of such an incredible nonprofit organization serving Knox County. Onward and upward!

Raine O.— President

From the Building Committee

Our Revamped Courtyard Is Finished!

The two year remake of our courtyard is now finished and ready to be enjoyed! The ground ivy is (hopefully) contained, landscape stones are in place, ground holes filled in, new grass seed sown, and the picnic table and both benches are ready to use; we also cleaned up and gated the space next to the Chapel wall. It is a nice peaceful, sunny and shady area that can be enjoyed personally or with a group. Please feel free to enjoy this space and admire its beauty.

Building Committee

From Church & Ministry

Ushers Needed

Ushering is an opportunity to be the welcoming face of the church on Sunday mornings. You have the chance to greet everyone who walks through the door and a unique vantage point from which to view the congregation during the service.

Ushers do have a variety of tasks, but training is available, and you will receive a detailed letter a few days before. See Ann L. or sign up in the So-cial Hall.

on the lighter side...

Naming this boat must have been done before launching her!