



# September News

From First Congregational Church



## Wednesday, September 8

6:30 pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Sunday, September 12

8:30 am

**KICK OFF SUNDAY** (additional details to follow)

10:30 am

Chapel Service

10:30 am

Sanctuary Service

Youth Programming Resumes

## Sunday, September 19

11:30 am

Congregational Meeting

## Sunday, September 26

8:30 am

Chapel Service

10:30 am

Hemlock Trails Worship Service/"Jon Hall Day"

## A NOTE FROM BRAD

If just one person believes in you  
Deep enough and strong enough  
Believes in you hard enough and long enough  
Before you knew it, someone else would think  
"If he can do it, I can do it"  
Making it two. Two whole people who believe in you.  
And maybe even you can believe in you too.

*-Robin (Kermit the Frog's nephew) and the Muppet Gang*

"Gather in my name (at least two of y'all!) believe in me and one another, and I will be in their midst." -A Brad Bunn translation of Matthew 18:20

The 29<sup>th</sup> of August will forever be an indelible date for me and my family. That day was the day that you, First Congregational Church, recognized my gifts for ministry and acknowledged God's calling in my life. I truly can't express in words the depth of gratitude and joy I feel. It is my hope and prayer that my ministry at First Congregational Church will be fruitful and long-lasting. I want to thank all those sacred souls who prayed me through to this point in my life, and those wonderful people who took the time to participate in my ordination and installation service.

Many blessings from your associate minister,

-Brad

## NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Please email Sarah at [sarah@mansfieldfcc.com](mailto:sarah@mansfieldfcc.com) if you are interested in being part of the monthly nursery rotation. We are still in need 2 vaccinated adults. Thank you!

## 2021 VBS HARMONY HOUSE MISSION PROJECT

Even though we did not have our VBS, we will be collecting items for our mission to give to Harmony House. All church members are invited to bring donations. Collection baskets are set-up in or near the sanctuary and chapel. These are the items needed:

- Juices/Beverages (juice boxes, kool aid, etc.)
- Canned Fruit
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Large Trash Bags
- Any & All Cleaning Items

We will be collecting these items on Sundays, August 29 and September 5 & 12.

**OFFICIAL NOTICE:  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021**

Immediately following the 10:30 Worship Service, the First Congregational Church will hold a Congregational Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2022 Proposed Church Operating Budget. The meeting will take place in the Sanctuary. For those with small children, babysitting will be provide.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The contractors continue to make progress on the projects for the Capital Campaign. By the time you read this the air conditioning of the offices, library, and parlor should be completed. The beams in Blymyer have been enclosed with wood and should be stained soon. The lights in the soffits have been installed and are awaiting inspection so the ceiling tiles can be installed. The new doors for the offices have been hung and work on the cloakroom/janitor's closet has begun. The contractor tells me that they are hoping to have all the work done by the end of October, with Blymyer being done before the hallway.

**HEMLOCK TRAILS WORSHIP - "JON HALL DAY"**

As we look forward to fall, one of our big events is the annual service/lunch at Hemlock Trails. It is scheduled for Sunday, September 26, at 10:30 am. The setting and time of year makes this outdoor service very special. We will also be honoring Jon Hall for his may years of service as our Maintenance Supervisor. Don't miss this chance to greet Jon and thank him for his years of service to FCC. Church Life will provide grab and go snacks. Those of you who wish to picnic are free to bring a sack lunch. You may also want to bring a lawn chair. The chapel service will be held as usual at 8:30 here at the church.

**IN CASE OF RAIN, THE SERVICE/LUNCH WILL BE HELD AT THE CHURCH**

**WORLD COMMUNION**

Over these past months we have experienced a World Pandemic. Now it's time for World Communion. The first Sunday in October, the 3rd is always set aside as World Communion Sunday. This year we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper, but safely. The elements will be presented in sealed containers, and we will be able to take communion in the pews OR take it home to celebrate there. Stay tuned, but plan on the Lord's Supper happening on October 3rd.

**Fall Church Office Hours**

**Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm; Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**CHURCH SURVEY**

To: First Congregational Church Members and Friends  
From: Board of Trustees  
Re: New Columbarium Study

As you may know or not, FCC has a beautiful columbarium inaugurated in 1997 inside the Chapel. It was built with 172 individual niches to cover 20 years. Currently 17 niches remain. If you are interested in reserving one, please call Dee at the church office (419.756.3046).

Once filled, we are considering building a new columbarium. We talked with both Snyder and Wappner funeral homes and it was confirmed 50% of people are choosing cremation over burial these days.

Our endowment fund shows that FCC has +/- \$ 200k available for a new columbarium. This amount comes from the families who have reserved a niche and the interest on that invested money. The Board of Trustees, responsible for the spending at FCC, would like to know what our members think about this.

Right now, we don't have an estimated price because of the variety of options to build one. To help us decide what to do, please answer the 2 questions at the bottom of this page. Thank you so much for your valuable input.

*Marcel Bovet (Trustee) and Judy Bemiller*

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Would you support FCC spending money for a new columbarium	Yes	No
Subsidiary question:		
Would you consider reserving a niche using a new columbarium	Yes	No

**Please return this form to the church by mail or directly at the office before September 30<sup>th</sup>.**