

GABRIEL'S HORN

First Congregational United Church of Christ

March 2019



Recipe for Lent – Courage, Compassion, and Community

The season of Lent is a 40-day journey to prepare us for Easter. For Christians, it is the most sacred time of year. It is also thought of as a time of withdrawal and reflection.

Withdrawal often gets mistaken for “what do we give up for Lent”? (I always get teased at home for giving up lasagna which is easy as I don’t really care for ricotta cheese ☺). But instead of withdrawal, the focus for Lent is truly on re-committing ourselves to following God in our lives. This self-examination means identifying those parts of our lives that may need more attention – crucial relationships, self-care, important discussions or decisions that we’ve been putting off. It may often mean letting go of those frivolous things that might be fun, but are getting in the way of answering God’s call. This process is not a series of simple decisions but instead it is a journey. And during this journey, as we navigate what we need to commit to, what we need to let go of, the hope is we feel more connected to God.

This journey also leads us to the Cross. The theology of the cross is fundamental to our Christian faith but very difficult for many of us to discuss or comprehend. As we examine the cross, we examine how Jesus committed his life to ministry, teaching, healing, and kin-dom building. We recognize that he followed God even when he knew it meant he would end up as a victim of the Roman empire, on the cross like a common terrorist. The huge contrast between what Jesus taught us and how he died and where he died should give us pause. It should force us to re-evaluate our priorities, to examine our privileges, and to think more clearly about how we lead our lives. We are forced to reflect upon the meaning of Jesus’ resurrection. Jesus’ resurrection shows us that God’s redemptive love is steadfast despite the brokenness in our lives, despite the pain and suffering in the world. This is God’s promise to us! This is the embodied hope that helps us move forward on our journey.

The theme we chose for Lent is a “Recipe for Lent – Courage, Compassion and Community.” Soup seemed like a perfect companion for a long journey. It provides both sustenance and comfort.

During this Lenten series, we will have three nurtures for sustenance and sharing:

March 10 – Growing in Community

March 17 – Growing in Compassion

April 14 – Growing in Courage

We hope you will join us!

In love and peace,

Rev. Sam

Ash Wednesday Service, March 6 at 7:00 PM

We hope you will join us for a simple, yet meaningful, Ash Wednesday Service. We have also invited the members of People’s Congregational UCC to join us. May the evening draw us together to God through prayer, song, silence and reflection.

Report from the Interim Search Committee

Your Interim Search Committee is actively seeking a qualified interim minister to prepare us for our next settled minister. We have interviewed two candidates, and have several more under consideration. Our hope is to present a recommended candidate to Council in the next few weeks.

To attract applicants, we've used the rich stories, concerns and hopes that you shared in the January small group meetings. We're working closely with our Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Marvin Silver, who has recommended some applicants; we're also reaching out creatively to stimulate interest in First Church among ministers outside of our conference. Some of this activity we believe is planting seeds for our eventual search for a settled pastor.

The time between settled ministers gives us a special opportunity to sort out issues, study our current situation, reflect on and affirm our common mission and purposes, assess how our governance and policies serve those purposes, and determine if any need reform. We can clear the way so when our new settled minister is called, we are in the best position to begin our shared ministry together. Engaging seriously with the interim reflection is one way to enhance our attractiveness to those who might consider applying to be our settled minister.

We're mindful of your desire for a senior interim minister, even as Rev. Sam has pastored us so gracefully. Please let us hear your questions. We'll keep you informed.

Chris Barr, Karen Byrne, Kim Darling, John Marsh, Lynaya Morris

Church Council

Church Council Capsule Feb. 12, 2019

News

- Clerk Gail Sonnemann will submit content to the Horn monthly: the Council Capsule and an update paragraph from each commission
- Office Manager Cindy Dobbs will maintain new content on the church website
- Drop-In Center for Homeless Youth: J.D. is the point person for Council
- Anti-Racism Seminar. Eight attending for First Church, March 1-3, Camp Wabanna
- Young Adults (20s and 30s) met February 10 and have decided to meet monthly after church for brunch and to participate in a Facebook group.
- Spring Congregational Meeting will be held on May 19, 2019
- Council Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday evening of each month
- **Need Help:** Facilities, Worship and other commissions need additional volunteers. Council asks commissions in need to prepare a list of tasks for which help is needed

Six Priorities for the Year

1) **Hire Interim Pastor:** Ongoing task

2) **Called Search Committee:** Council appointed a team (Kim Darling, lead, Lucille Dickinson, and Gail Sonnemann) to kick start and guide the preparation for the search, elicit recommendations from the congregation for the search committee, and communicate with the congregation throughout the preparation for the search.

- 3) **Reduce 2019 Budget Deficit:** Finance Commission will recommend 2019 budget adjustments to bring to the Spring Meeting for congregational vote.
- 4) **Sustainability Task group:** Council named four members Nora Marsh, Lucille Dickinson, David Greer, and John Smeltzer (chair) to estimate the church's financial resources over the next few years and what it would cost to carry out First Church aspirations, and report at the Fall 2019 meeting.
- 5) **Personnel Committee** will bring recommendations for benefits for part time staff to Council, and for vote at the spring meeting. Confirmed Personnel Committee with: Lucille Dickenson, Priscilla Waters, Ellen Bushmiller, Janneke Ratcliffe, and JD Okorie Dunn as members. JD was appointed chair of the Committee
- 6) **Facilitator for Listening Conversations:** Council will interview potential facilitator at the March council meeting to develop with council a plan for healing conversations

2019 Church Leadership

Council: Nan McConnell (Moderator), Kim Darling (Assistant Moderator), Gail Sonneman (Clerk), Nora Marsh (Treasurer), Dwight Davis and James (JD) Okorie-Dunn (At Large) and representatives from Commissions below:

Worship Commission, Meetings TBD
 Nick McConnell, Chair
 Dianne Brenneman, Representative to Council

Facilities Commission, Meetings TBD
 Anisa Heming, Chair
 Jamie Moore, Representative to Council

Social Action Commission, Meetings TBD
 Priscilla Waters, Chair
 John Smeltzer, Representative to Council

Finance Commission, Meetings First Sunday 11:45 AM
 Polly Gordon, Chair
 David Greer, Representative to Council

Christian Education Commission, Meetings second Sunday 9:15 AM
 Mark Jensen, Chair
 Joey Meyer, Representative to Council

Care of the Parish Commission, Meetings TBD
 Susan Anderson, Chair
 Mike Zawada, Representative to Council

Outreach and Membership Commission, Meetings TBD
 Ann Bushmiller, Chair
 Lucille Dickinson, Representative to Council

Three Renowned Choral Groups at First Church in March



The Heritage Signature Chorale Saturday, March 16 at 6:00 pm

[The Heritage Signature Chorale](#) will present *By Special Request!* Featuring some of your favorite songs such as *Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel*, *Precious Lord*, *Steal Away*, and others. The Heritage Signature Chorale is committed to preserving, at the highest possible level, the performance tradition of African-American choral music, especially the Negro Spiritual; to elevating the African-American singer and composer in all musical genres; and to bringing a unique interpretation of classical music from America, Europe and other regions of the world. [Purchase tickets here for \\$28 per person.](#)



Morehouse College Glee Club Friday, March 22 at Noon

The [Morehouse College Glee Club](#), one of the longest-standing, all-male collegiate choral groups, will perform a free concert of repertoire ranging from African-American heritage compositions to arrangements of modern popular music. For over 40 years, this exceptional choral group has been performing at the MLK Jr. Memorial Library, inviting Morehouse alumni and the Washington, D.C., community at large to attend. During the MLK Library modernization, this annual concert takes place at First Church. Be sure to arrive early on Friday, March 22, for an enjoyable afternoon of musical excellence. The event is **free** and open to the public, and seating is first-come, first-served.



The Thirteen Saturday, March 30 at 7:30 pm

[The Thirteen](#) and [REBEL Baroque Orchestra](#) revisit their annual *Bach Reflections* theme featuring Bach's vibrant and energetic *Lobet den Herrn*, Handel's dramatic *Dixit Dominus*, and little-known composer-spy-priest-diplomat Agostino Steffani's *Stabat Mater*. "A state of the art early music ensemble" (*The Boston Globe*), the New York-based, all-star period instrument ensemble REBEL Baroque Orchestra is known for "astonishingly vital music-making" and "utterly fearless" artistry (*Los Angeles Times*). [Purchase tickets here for \\$35/30/15 per person.](#)

The Importance of an Ongoing Vital Church Choir

In the words of Brian Hehn, Executive Director of the Center for Congregational Singing, "Traditionally a church choir's four key functions are:

- To lead and enliven the congregation's song
- To sing music that the congregation cannot
- To serve as a small group within the church for faith formation
- To sing music that glorifies God and edifies the congregation."

At First Church the sanctuary choir is all the above, but much more. The First Church Choir is first and foremost a group of people committed to meeting on a weekly basis to "plow" through new music, revisit older music and finesse hymns and responses. They labor over musical scores which they have known in the past but need to revitalize before singing them anew. They bravely encounter new choral material which stretches their ears and jars their musical senses.

Our choir is a group which enjoys learning about other faiths, other belief systems, and diverse global worship practices. They freely question the "what's" and "why's" involved in sacred singing today. How has the singing church evolved and become the kind of singing community it is today? What language shall we incorporate to fully include the worshipping congregation at First Church? How do we fit into the general scheme of things worship-wise in the world today?

Our choir is willing to struggle with other languages – not just foreign tongues, but other musical languages – the syncopated beat of a Jamaican hymn, the asymmetric rhythms of new contemporary styles, the free rhythms of Gregorian chant. They struggle to make the "unfamiliar" sound easy and accessible to the congregation on Sunday morning. It is their task to make the unfamiliar both understandable and accessible.

Our choir is a patient group which represents varying degrees of musical expertise. Those with long choir experience remember when they were novices and assist in the nurture of new incoming talent. Recognizing that singing comes more easily to some than others, seasoned singers encourage and support newer members as they become acclimated and settle into the rewards of the choral experience.

Our choir is a group of caring church members who share the life burdens of other members. Friendships develop quickly and care is taken to include newer members in activities and prayer. Fellowship over lunches and after-choir pizza times helps keep the choir in touch beyond the weekly rehearsal times. The choir looks out for one another.

There are two terms in music which are heard frequently. One is "unison" and the other is "harmony." Unison refers to "different voice parts singing the same melody or tune together." Harmony refers to a chordal structure in which different pitches are stacked to form a solid sound or series of solid sound. This stacked harmonic structure often requires tones within varying voice ranges to blend in support of a single melodic line carrying the text of an anthem or song.

With unison the message of a single melodic line is of primary importance. With harmony the feeling of conjoined tones is more important than any single pitch. The musical score often indicates which is more important. Sometimes harmony backs off to allow melody to soar. Sometimes rich harmonies dominate the

(continued on page 6)

music to carry us emotionally beyond the simple meaning of the text. And then there are those times when both unison and harmony are present and share importance.

So it is with our choir at First Church. As its director, I also sense a oneness in purpose when they sing. Singers realize that there are times when a unison effort is necessary to carry a poignant message with great strength and resolve. No one stands out – no one grandstands – it is a focused musical oneness dependent on each member agreeing musically to join all the other singers in one accord.

When harmony is prominent in a musical score, there is required cooperation and adjustment to insure that individual parts don't rob the spotlight from others. Harmony requires alignment and adjustment for the good of the whole. Harmony achieves its "oneness" through cooperation and mutual respect. Harmony achieves its beauty through consciously adjusting the sounds in each word for unanimity and of course... breathing together.

I think you see where I'm going with all this. Churches attain purpose and vitality through much the same process as a choir. Through scientific testing we know that when a choir sings well together, heart rates are in sync and breathing lines up. And in my experience working in churches, I have found the same kind of phenomenon occurs in the larger church community as it works together for the continuance of the common good.

Breathing together...caring for individuals...working as one body...focusing on covenant...being aware of needs...being guided by the same spirit...breathing together...all are choir goals. And all are also congregational goals.

Brian Hehn states that there are two choirs in every congregation. The smaller choir is the church choir. The larger choir is the congregation. Each of these choirs influences the other. The vitality of each of these singing groups is contingent on the other. They need each other to survive and strive and make God's music together.

I love hearing the congregation sing hymns on Sunday morning; it's when I truly worship as an individual. I love directing your wonderful church choir, but that's when I'm working (I hope you smiled at that). Please consider joining the First Church Choir. It's a rewarding experience and enlivens the larger worship experience every Sunday morning. We'd love to see you there! (Thursday nights at 7:30; Sunday mornings at 9:30).

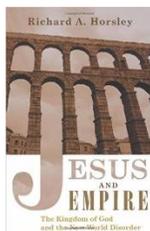
"If I cannot fly... let me sing!" Stephen Sondheim

Blessings,

John Horman
Director of Music



Christian Education Commission



Theology Reading Group: March 5 at 6:30 PM

The Theology Reading Group next meets on Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30 PM to discuss Richard Horsley's *Jesus and Empire*, a study of Jesus's ministry in the context of the power politics of Rome and the Near East.

Sharing Our Identity and Building Community: The Second of Two Valuable Conversations on March 10

Please join us for the second of these important nurtures where we will explore how sharing our own stories can help us become a stronger community. We will employ useful tools, like the Identity Wheel and a hidden bias worksheet that encourage both personal reflection and story sharing.

We are so fortunate that Lynaya Morris will help lead this nurture with Sam McFerran. In addition to being a member of our church community and a Masters in Divinity candidate at Wesley Seminary, she is an expert at helping others learn more about their identities, as well as explore their talents and their strengths. She currently serves as a Career Exploration Coach at The George Washington University. She is certified in using a number of assessments to help students learn more about themselves – including Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and the Strong Interest Inventory – and she is a Strengthquest Facilitator. Lynaya also has a Master's in Education & Human Development from George Washington University.



The first conversation focused on reflection of our identity, while the second will focus on hidden bias. Together, we hope to grow and learn so we can become a stronger community. If you have any questions, please feel reach out to Lynaya at lynaya.morris@gmail.com or Sam at mcferran.sam@gmail.com



March 17: Immigration Justice Sunday

First Church is very excited to welcome Rev. Noel Andersen to preach about the current Sanctuary Movement and the role churches play to bring justice to our immigrant brothers and sisters.

Rev. Noel Andersen has served as the CWS Grassroots Coordinator for seven years, helping develop a national network of faith communities acting in solidarity with immigrants' and refugees. He was also instrumental in creating a Leadership Development for Social Change project at CWS helping train hundreds of refugees in community organizing. He has worked for a number of non-profit organizations in Central America and on the border focusing on community development, education and community organizing.

Noel is ordained in the United Church of Christ (UCC) and helps coordinate the National Sanctuary Movement. Noel will be accompanied by his wife, Nina Marie Fernando, a gifted musician. If you want to get more involved with the Sanctuary Movement at First Church, please email Susan Saudek [at saudeksusan@gmail.com](mailto:saudeksusan@gmail.com).

YOUNG adults

Young Adults at First Church
 Sunday, March 10

Young Adults (in theory this means 20- and 30-somethings, but we welcome all!) are invited to join for a casual brunch out in DC on Sunday, March 10 following worship and nurture! We hope you can make it! We are planning to meet at least once a month, so stay tuned for future events. Feel free to reach out to Laura Johnson (johnson.laurad@gmail.com) or Brendan Taylor (brendan.k.taylor@gmail.com) for any questions and if you'd like to join our email list and Facebook group!

Outreach and Membership Commission

Inquirers' Gathering Sunday, March 31 Following Worship Getting to Know You... Getting to Know Us...

Please join us for a wonderful time of fellowship where you can learn more about the First Church community and the United Church of Christ. This is a time for guests, visitors, curiosity seekers, and a group of great new folks to get to know each other and the church a bit better. Bring your questions, your hopes, and your own story. Please contact Ann Bushmiller at abushmiller@yahoo.com or Rev. Sam McFerran at mcferran.sam@gmail.com.



Care of Parish Commission



Mardi Gras Potluck: March 3 following Worship

Care of Parish invites everyone to a Mardi Gras Potluck on March 3 following worship. This upholds the longstanding tradition of First Church to have Congregational Potluck events once a month. Please do consider what you would like to bring to this Potluck. We hope to see you there!

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

You have been invited to sign up for "Coffee Hour." It is customary at First Church to volunteer for sign-ups twice per year. Please click on the button below to view the online sign-up sheet. You can then choose a date that works for you! As you can see, we still need hosts for the month of March.



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b45a5a92ca3f94-coffee>

Coffee Hour Hosts

March 3				
March 10	Anisa Heming	Bob Dinkelmeyer		
March 17	Lucille Dickinson	Carol Malone		
March 24	Moira Jones			
March 31	Fredda Sparks	Karen Pence	Sandy Sorensen	Peter Tracey



Second Sunday Offering on March 10 One Great Hour of Sharing

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are literally changed daily. Your support provides clean water, food, medicine, shelter, healthcare, education and so much more. In 2017, the OGHS offering was over \$2 million. An additional \$3 million was given to the United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries in support of specific disaster relief efforts.

You can find OGHS on the web: www.ucc.org/oghs, and on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

What is One Great Hour of Sharing®?

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

Who participates in One Great Hour of Sharing?

Several Christian denominations – *American Baptist Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, the United Church of Christ* – and Church World Service work together to develop common promotional materials thereby sharing ideas, costs, and a commitment to faithful service. Each denomination receives and manages its respective OGHS offering.

How is the United Church of Christ's offering used?

Sixty percent of the UCC's offering supports international development initiatives, including annual support for missionaries. Currently, there are two OGHS supported missionaries and one Global Mission Intern working in disaster relief, health care, education, sustainable agricultural development, and refugee support. The offering also funds disaster preparedness and response, and disaster-related volunteer initiatives in the U.S.

Where and how are OGHS funds shared?

The United Church of Christ responds to humanitarian and development needs in the world. Specifically, we support sustainable development and refugee needs internationally and provide disaster relief and immigration assistance in the United States.

The United Church of Christ responds as a member of organizations such as Church World Service and the ACT Alliance. We also support the direct mission efforts of churches and church-based organizations that the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have direct partnerships with through Global Ministries. Nearly one-fifth of the UCC's OGHS offering is shared through Church World Service to support refugee, and disaster programs worldwide.

(continued on page 10)

How many dollars are given to the UCC's OGHS offering?

In 2017, the OGHS offering received over \$2 million. Nearly sixty-five percent of UCC congregations participate annually.

What percentage of OGHS donations are used directly for the mission?

On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 95 cents is used directly for mission programming; and 5 cents for interpretation materials. The associated administrative costs are paid by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support.

How are decisions made to fund the various projects?

Most of the expenditures are put into the budget to support long-term sustainable development. All funding is reviewed and monitored by a leadership committee that also reviews grant requests for long-term disaster rehabilitation initiatives.

How can I contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing?

The OGHS special mission offering will be collected at First Congregational United Church of Christ, as the Second Sunday Offering, on March 10, 2019.

Facilities Commission



Meeting space at First Church

Are you having a meeting or an event in the building? Is it on the building calendar? The calendar can be found at <http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/calendar.aspx?ci=G11313F0J4L6O9L6I3>. If your event is not listed, you need to check with Building Manager Byron Adams (badams@firstuccdc.org) first to see if space is available and to have him enter it on the calendar. The scheduling of heat and air conditioning is based on this calendar. So is special building access. If your commission or group has

determined its regular meeting schedule (second Wednesday at 7 pm, etc.), this time can be entered into the calendar on a recurring schedule.

Please note that requests for specific rooms will be accommodated as available. The building manager assigns meeting space according to what's available and you might get bumped to a different spot if your regular spot happens to get rented out that evening.



Still Seeking Volunteers for Church Commissions

The ministry of the church is carried out in large part through our volunteer time. At the congregational meeting in January the congregation approved a slate of nominees for commissions in 2019. Some of those commissions could use more members or informal volunteers, especially for discrete projects. Please let the commission chair or other contact know if you are interested/willing/able to become part of their pool of volunteers (or “friends”).

Care of the Parish - Susan Anderson, chair. Ssba92@gmail.com. Care of Parish has four formal members (one fewer than in 2018) and two active friends who help on a regular basis. COP has a particularly heavy workload. They support fellowship times, monthly potlucks, and special and seasonal events. They also coordinate, with Sam McFerran, pastoral care visits.

Christian Education - Mark Jensen, chair. marquitosj@gmail.com. Christian Ed has six formal members and two friends. CE designs/develops Sunday School, intergenerational, and adult programming.

Outreach and Membership - Outreach and Membership especially needs friends to be greeters on a Sunday morning. If you can do it a few times through the year, please contact Garnell Yarbrough, garnellyarbrough@gmail.com.

Social Action and Awareness – Priscilla Waters, chair. Priscilla.waters3@gmail.com. As in 2018, SAAC has five members. They recommend priorities for the church’s advocacy and involvement in social justice concerns, and promote the Second Sunday offerings.

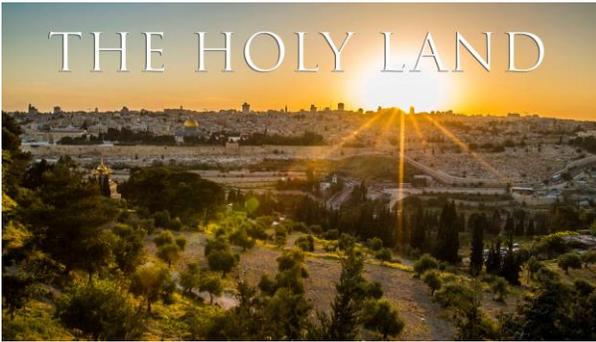
Worship – Nick McConnell, chair. nicholasmcconnell@msn.com. Worship has six formal members. They recruit volunteers for ushers through a regular email entitled “First Church Ushers Invite.” In addition, they would especially appreciate volunteers to participate in worship-planning discussions, by video or conference calling if that would work; and to help set up the sanctuary on a Sunday morning, including for communion once a month.

Finance – Polly Gordon, chair. pandigordon@comcast.net. As in 2018, Finance has just four members plus the Treasurer as an ex officio member. They monitor actual-to-budget comparisons, recommend necessary adjustments, and manage the annual budget development process and pledge campaign.

Facilities – Anisa Heming, chair. anisaheming@gmail.com. Facilities has just four members, one fewer than in 2018. They develop and implement policies on the use of the church facilities, and help serve as sound, light, and/or media tech.

Thanks so much for your help.

Lucille Dickinson for the Nominating Committee
lucilledickinson@aol.com



2019 Holy Land Pilgrimage Information Meeting
Sunday, March 3 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM
Lower level of St. Mark's Church (Adams Room)
3rd and A Streets SE, Capitol Hill

Is travel to the Holy Land on your bucket list? Come to hear about the next multi-narrative pilgrimage with Tom and Karen Getman and MEJDI Tours.

The trip consists of 11 days in Israel and the West Bank (including a visit to the Cannan Olive Oil Cooperative (November 25 – December 6, 2019). Additionally, you can include a 5 day pre-trip extension to Jordan (November 19-25).

This is a unique contextual journey during which we visit the holy sites and meet people whose stories introduce us to a deeper perspective on the political and social context of Israel and Palestine. Look at some of the itinerary, ask questions, hear from others who have made the journey in the past.

Can't make the meeting but interested in the trip? Contact: karen.getman@gmail.com. Note: the Getmans are friends of Karen and Peter Byrne, and assisted with First Church's advent olive oil ministry.

Calendar

Sunday, March 3

- 9:15 am Bible Workbench
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 10:15 am Child Care provided, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Sunday School, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Morning Worship, *Sanctuary*
Karen Tramontano,
Katherine Antos preaching
- 11:30 am Potluck Luncheon, *Community Hall*
- 12:00 pm Cake Walk, *Chapel*
- 12:00 pm Finance Commission, *Living Room*

Monday, March 4

- 6:00 pm Downtown Drop-In Center
for Homeless Youth
- 6:30 pm Sanctuary Task Force, *Comm. Hall*

Tuesday, March 5

- 6:00 pm Church Council, *Comm. Hall*
- 6:30 pm Theology Reading Group,
Living Room

Wednesday, March 6

- 12:15 pm Break Away Meditation, *Chapel*
- 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship, *Sanctuary*

Thursday, March 7

- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Sunday, March 10

- 9:15 am Bible Workbench
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 9:45 am Christian Ed. Commission, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:15 am Child Care provided, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Sunday School, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Morning Worship, *Sanctuary*
- 11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*
- 12:00 pm Adult Nurture, *Comm. Hall*

Monday, March 11

- 6:00 pm Downtown Drop-In Center
for Homeless Youth

Wednesday, March 13

- 12:15 pm Break Away Meditation, *Chapel*

Thursday, March 14

- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Saturday, March 16

- 6:00 pm Heritage Chorale Concert,
Sanctuary

Sunday, March 17

- 9:15 am Bible Workbench
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 10:15 am Child Care provided, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Sunday School, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Morning Worship, *Sanctuary*
Rev. Noel Anderson preaching
- 11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*
- 12:00 pm Adult Nurture, *Comm. Hall*

Monday, March 18

- 6:00 pm Downtown Drop-In Center
for Homeless Youth

Wednesday, March 20

- 12:15 pm Break Away Meditation, *Chapel*

Thursday, March 21

- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Friday, March 22

- 12:00 pm Morehouse Glee Club Concert,
Sanctuary

Sunday, March 24

- 9:15 am Bible Workbench
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 10:15 am Child Care provided, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Sunday School, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Morning Worship, *Sanctuary*
- 11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*

Monday, March 25

- 6:00 pm Downtown Drop-In Center
for Homeless Youth

Wednesday, March 27

- 12:15 pm Break Away Meditation, *Chapel*

Thursday, March 28

- 6:30 pm Facilities Commission, *Chapel*
- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

Sunday, March 31

- 9:15 am Bible Workbench
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
- 10:15 am Child Care provided, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Sunday School, *Ed. Suite*
- 10:30 am Morning Worship, *Sanctuary*
- 11:30 am Coffee & Fellowship, *Narthex*

“More Than You Can Imagine...”

We sometimes think that “imagination” means something escapist or illusory. Yet, imagination is not something unreal or fake. No, it is **essential** to God’s hope for creation. Hear how the Apostle Paul put it: **“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine..”** (Ephesians 3:20-21). And God imagines a world where all are safe, all are loved, all are fed.

You see, when we use our imaginations in the way that God does, we can begin to envision – and work for! – a world

- where no child goes unfed, un-housed, or unloved;
- where no one ever fears abuse or violence;
- where clean water is not a dream but a reality for all;
- where small farmers do their work with dignity and are paid a fair wage for their labors;
- where agricultural practices enrich and renew the land rather than deplete it;
- where survivors of natural disasters have the resources they need, now and for years to come;
- where vulnerable immigrants are welcomed in Christ’s name.

Can **YOU** imagine these things? Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing what we can imagine becomes ever more a reality for more and more people.

Please give generously!

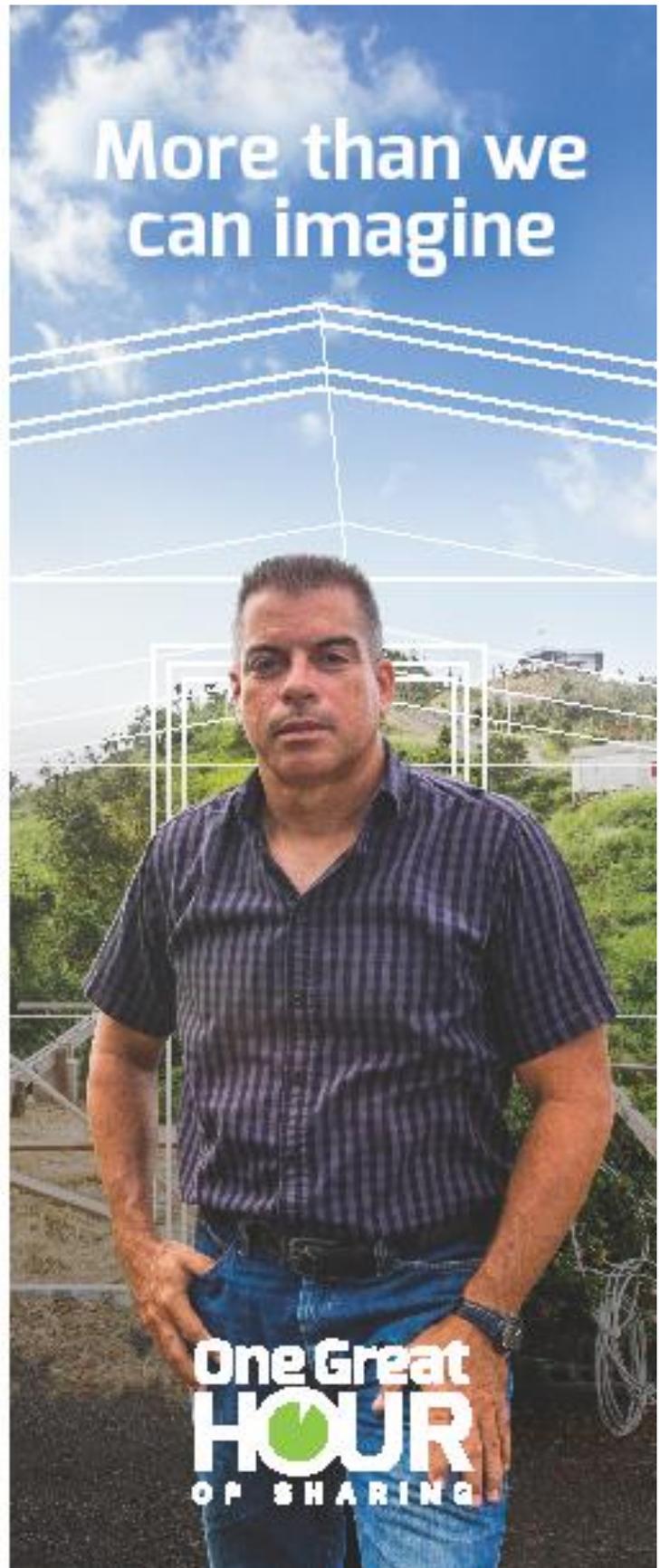


www.onegreathourofsharing.org

www.ucc.org/oghs

SCS108

Photo: Craig Thompson



More than we can imagine

Hurricane Maria caused unimaginable damage in Puerto Rico. Who would believe that so much infrastructure, electricity and housing were destroyed? People's lives and families were disrupted.

For Edda, a woman who lives in a house once belonging to her parents, the thought of losing her childhood home to the storm was unimaginable. Hurricane Maria left the roof of her house in such bad shape that water was leaking



through her home every time it rained. To make matters worse, Edda's husband had recently undergone knee surgery. She had to put towels and buckets around the inside of the house so he didn't slip or fall on the wet floors.

Edda couldn't fix her roof by herself and because of the surgery, her husband couldn't either. They could not imagine how the repairs on their home would happen. They could not imagine that strangers would come and help them with a good roof that could weather the next storm.

Thanks to the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico (IEUPR), and help from four amazing volunteers, their roof was fixed in four days. Edda was grateful for the help because it wasn't possible for her to do it alone.

Lydia Rosaly, with IEUPR shared Edda's story, and like Edda, Lydia is thankful for our support, and walking with them towards a holistic long-term recovery.

Your support provides more than we can imagine. Thank you!



700 Prospect Avenue | Cleveland, OH 44115
216-736-3215 | Email: oghs@ucc.org
www.ucc.org/oghs



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church
Minister of Faith Formation – Rev. Sam McFerran
Director of Music – Mr. John Horman
Building Manager – Mr. Byron Adams
Administrative Assistant – Ms. Cindy Dobbs
Members in Discernment – Dwight Davis, Lynaya Morris
Nursery & Childcare Staff – Luis Murillo, Timur Murillo, Ziyah Holman, Mia Young

945 G Street NW, Washington DC 20001
Phone: 202.628.4317 • Fax: 202.347.4911
www.firstuccdc.org