

**Worship  
With Us  
Sundays  
10AM**

# **The Courier**

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worship

**First Congregational Church, Elyria,  
Ohio. May, 2019** [courier@firstcongelyria.org](mailto:courier@firstcongelyria.org)

## **The Easter Season**

The Easter season begins with the Easter vigil and continues for 50 days, concluding on Pentecost Sunday. The Easter season is the longest season of the Church year. During the Easter season, the Christ candle or Pascal candle is placed next to the pulpit, rather than next to the baptismal fount. This signifies the presence of the Risen Christ in the living word of God. The readings during the Easter season are different than those during the rest of the year.

The first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles and the second from the Book of Revelation. The Gospels during the Easter season are all from the John Gospel. These specific readings emphasize the beginning of the Church, the reconciling power of the Resurrection, and the boundless Love of God. The Alleluia is also emphasized during The Gospel acclamation and sung both before the Gospel reading and at the conclusion of the Gospel. These changes in the Worship during the Easter season are to give emphasis to the Great Joy of the Resurrection.

## **Ahh, May**

The merry month of May gives us many reasons to celebrate. This year the entire month of May is part of the Easter season. We also celebrate Mother's Day and of course the weather is warmer, the flowers begin blooming, and Spring is in full force. The Spring showers of April give way to the flowers of May. The sounds and aromas of May bring delight to one and all. The children play exuberantly and talk centers around the end of the school year or for some graduation milestones. The wonderful aromas of the flowers blooming delight the senses. The warmth of the sun and the gentle Spring breeze brings a smile to one and all.

As each of us enjoy the delights of May, perhaps we could take a moment and thank the all loving God for the incredible beauty of creation. Indeed, each season has its own wonders and delights, but May in particular should remind us of God's wonders, creative power, and the beauty of creation. Take a moment and think that not long ago, the ground was cold and appeared lifeless. The trees were barren, leafless. In May it is as if miraculously, the entire world has come alive once again. God truly is good and God's creation magnificent! Thank you God for the beauty of creation and especially the beauty of May.

-Pastor Patrick

# ***What's Happening***

## **Community Breakfast**

Our Community Breakfast for May will be  
on  
**Sunday, May 5, 2019**  
in the Great Hall,  
following the  
**10:00 am Worship service.**

Once again, The God Squad will  
demonstrate their culinary talents  
with delicious and delectable  
breakfast treats.

**All are invited to share in these  
tantalizing treats and wonderful  
conversation.**

*A free will offering offsets the cost and  
proceeds go to subsidize youth  
programming.*

## **The God Squad**

The God Squad will meet on  
Thursday, **May 2 and 16**  
The group gathers beginning at **6:00 pm**  
and finishes around **8:00 pm.**  
All youths grades 7 and above are  
welcome.  
Come and have some Jesus Time and a  
lot of fun.

## **Salvation Army Hot Meals**

We are still looking for cooks/helpers for  
the 6:00 p.m. Hot Meal the **3rd Sunday in  
September**

There's a sign-up sheet at the foot of the  
stairs before you go up to the Great Hall, or  
you could call Mary Haskins at 322-4905 to  
volunteer.

The Food Pantry is still looking for a few  
willing helpers... Contact Mary Haskins

**Let's keep these  
worthwhile projects  
going!!**

-Mary Haskins

## **Easter season lasts for 50 days.**

It is a time for renewal, rejuvenation,  
replanting .

A time to remember the sacrifice that was  
made for our sake.

Be nice to others  
Show kindness and sow love

***And remember: Even Jesus took three  
days off!***

## The Mayflower Guild

Meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

**The May meeting will be held  
in the parlor  
on May 14,  
at 1:00 PM.**

Dessert Will Be Served

Program details to be announced.

## Kentucky

**The Lotts Creek Kentucky  
mission immersion trip will be**

**Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> through Friday, June 28th.**

Registration forms are now available.

Contact Pastor Patrick for information and  
registration.

All participant should be registered no later than  
**Monday, June 3, 2019.**

The mission trip is open to all adults and kids in  
grades 6 and above.

The cost of the trip is **\$150.00** for youth 18 and  
younger.

**Register and join us for this  
life changing mission experience.**

We are thankful to everyone who was a part of the  
beautiful, meaningful Easter service  
at First Church.

Many visiting family members and new guests  
worshipped with us and were uplifted by this  
service. This church is blessed with an abundance  
of dedicated, talented members who give our  
service their hearts and their love every Sunday,  
and Easter 2019, was no exception.

## The First Church Craft Group

is meeting on  
**May 8 and 22 in the Gates Room.**

You can come and iron or cut fabrics,  
sew, plan, assemble, or bind quilts.  
We are making quilts for Blessing House  
children and other charity causes.

We have a wonderful assortment of fabrics  
to work with, and if you have fabrics you'll  
never use, consider donating to the church's  
stash.

All the quilts will be used by LOCAL  
charities.

***By the way... we are still taking T-shirts  
for food pantry tote bags!***

## From the Faith Team

At our last meeting, Pastor Patrick suggested the  
Faith Team making 1,000 origami cranes to  
grace the Sanctuary.

The story which accompanies the origami cranes  
is that the person who makes 1,000 cranes will  
enjoy peace within their life. The Faith team  
thought the idea was good and we as a  
congregation, along with members of all the  
groups that call First Church their home, will  
create the cranes.

When all 1,000 cranes have been created, they  
will be hung in the Sanctuary. The Faith team  
will provide the necessary instructions to make  
each crane.

Look for more information and instructions in the  
near future.

## Communion

During the Easter season we will share Communion every Sunday.

Communion is a central part of the Christian traditions and is our way of sharing as a faith family at Christ's table.

## Elyria High School Testing

First Church will welcome Elyria High School (EHS) students for Advanced Placement testing in early May. Each year we offer space to EHS so that students in their Advanced Placement program can have a safe, quiet place free of distractions for testing. At school there are bells, class changes and the possibility of fire alarms and other distractions that would make this important testing even more challenging.

Students and faculty members are generally here 4 hours a day for testing, over the course of several days. This testing typically brings in over one hundred students a year, and over the years we have hosted several hundred students to First Church.

In welcoming the faculty and students, we offer snacks and beverages during their breaks and as they are leaving. If you would like to donate snacks for this program, please contact Tracy at 440-323-5454 ext 15 or by email at [tblcher@firstcongeleyria.oeg](mailto:tblcher@firstcongeleyria.oeg).

## SAVE THESE DATES FOR FELLOWSHIP!

July 21 @ 4pm -Pizza/Pool Party  
Our summertime social at the Yosts

August 18 @ 1pm -All UCC Church Picnic  
It's our turn to host this uniting event.

October 20 @ 10am -Laity Sunday!  
After Worship we will have a special Fellowship Celebration Reception

Questions?

Suggestions?

Offers of help?

Please call Ken Smith: (440)453-9177 or email [y2kensit@gmail.com](mailto:y2kensit@gmail.com)

## New Group

First Church will have a new non-profit group making First Church their home.

The group's name is **Leaders of Tomorrow**.

The group was created by Marselles from Save our Children.

**Leaders of Tomorrow** will work with teens in Elyria.

We welcome this new group to First Church and look forward to hearing about their successes.

## **First Church Book Club May 8, 2019**

**Please feel free to join us any time  
you like.**

We have a brief discussion and snacks  
in the Gathering Room at 7:00 pm on  
the second Wednesday of each month.

Our May Book is:

### ***Beach House***

by Mary Alice Monroe

## **C.Y.A.T.C.**

**The Young adult group meets each  
Wednesday in May: the 15, 22, and 29**

This group is open to all Young Adults ages  
18 and above.

**All are welcome.**

The group begins each Wednesday at 6:00  
p.m. And ends at 9:00 p.m. Come and  
make some new friends reconnect with old  
ones or just come and have a great  
discussion and fun.

## **Confirmation**

The Confirmation class will meet on  
**Sunday, May 5, 2019,**  
following our community breakfast.

The confirmands and their sponsors should  
bring their Statements of Faith and  
documentation of service hours to this meeting.

The meeting should be completed no later than  
1:30 p.m.

**Confirmation will occur on Pentecost  
Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> during the Worship  
service.**

## **First Church Women Meeting- May 1, 2019**

First Church Women will hold their annual  
May luncheon on  
**Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at the Elyria  
Country Club.**

The meeting will begin at noon with a  
delectable lunch and lots of conversation.

Following lunch and dessert, we will take a  
stroll down memory lane and enjoy  
wonderful music from the 40's and 50's.  
One or two of us could probably sing along,  
but we will leave that to our accomplished  
guest, Debra Rose.

**Debra Rose is a vocalist, writer, actor and  
speaker. We are sure you will enjoy her  
vocal renditions of many old standards.**

This will be the last meeting of First Church  
Women until fall, and we hope you will plan  
to attend.

Please sign up on one of the sheets placed  
around the church: the Narthex, the table  
outside the Great Hall, or in the church  
office.

**You can also call the church office at  
440-323-5454.**

**The cost of the luncheon is \$20, payable  
at the door on the day of the meeting.**

**ALL reservations must be made by Monday,  
April 29th, by 9 AM.**

The Courier is published monthly. All interested parties are encouraged to contribute articles.  
Please send articles and announcements via email to: [courier@firstcongelyria.org](mailto:courier@firstcongelyria.org)  
**Deadline for June, 2019 articles is May 15, 2019**

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## **8:45 am Worship added to the summer schedule**

**Beginning on Sunday, June 16, 2019 and continuing through the summer, there will be an additional worship each Sunday at 8:45 am. This worship service will consist of prayers, scripture readings, and communion. It is designed to last approximately 30 minutes. The service will also have time for quiet reflection.**

### **First Church Staff**

Reverend Patrick Nicolino, Pastor. Bette Lou Higgins, Administrative Assistant, ext. 10. Andrew Page, Business Manager. Tracy Belcher, Education and Outreach Coordinator. Dylan Sanzenbacher, Organist and Choir Director. Ross Kingman, Campanella Ringers Director. Genny Dangerfield, Courier Editor.( [courier@firstcongelyria.org](mailto:courier@firstcongelyria.org) ), Candice Dangerfield, Artist in Residence. Rick Lawrence, Sexton. Taquala and Rex, Assistant Sextons.