

CONGREGATIONAL CLARION

2150 FOOTHILL DRIVE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
801-487-1357

February 2015



"A life without love is like a year without summer."

-Swedish Proverb

WORSHIP PLANNING – FEBRUARY 2015

FEB 1 – 4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY & COMMUNION

SERMON – “Caring for the Weak”

SCRIPTURE – I Corinthians 8:1-13

HYMNS – 595 – They’ll Know We Are Christians

696 – Come, Share The Lord

708 – Go Forth For God (vv. 1,2,4)

FEB 8 – GUEST PREACHER – Rev. Dr. Peter Asiamah

MICHAEL ON VACATION

FEB 15 – TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

SERMON – “Transfiguration”

SCRIPTURE – 2 Kings 2:1-12 & Mark 9:2-9

HYMNS – 106 – All Hail The Power

101 – Name Of All Majesty

83 – Children Of The Heavenly Father

FEB 18 – ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT 7:00 PM

FEB 22 – 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

SERMON – “Born of Water”

SCRIPTURE – Genesis 9:8-17 & Mark 1:9-15

HYMNS – 128 – Spirit, Working In Creation

446 – O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

252 – Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days



First Congregational Church
2150 S. Foothill Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84109
Phone: (801) 487-1357

Email: firstcongo@qwestoffice.net

Website: www.firstcongregationalslc.org

Find us on Facebook: First Congregational Church, Salt Lake City

Office Hours:

Tuesday – Thursday: 8:30am – 3:00pm

Friday: 8:00am – Noon

Worship Hour: Worship Hour at 11:00am

Nursery Provided

Minister:	Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum
Moderator:	Carol Price
1st Assoc. Moderator:	Ron Sawdey
2nd Assoc. Moderator:	Ted Stephenson III
Treasurer:	Paul Kelley
Financial Secretary:	Sandra Shipman
Asst. Fin. Secretary:	Pam Dropek
Church Clerk:	Ken Rockwell
Board of Trustees:	Mike McIntire
Board of Deacons:	Phil LeHoux
Outreach Board:	Robin Smith
Christian Education:	Emily Weibel
Membership:	Kathy Souba
Parish Nurses:	Diane Forster-Burke, Marge Kimes
Camp Fellowship:	Christine Madsen and Shaun McIntire
Garden of Grace:	Scott & Jeanne Hansen
Choir Director:	Devon Bettolo
Organist:	Bob Dobson
Church Secretary:	Kristi Hanson

REFLECTIONS FROM THE REV.....

Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum

MOVING INTO LENT

From Thanksgiving until Easter, the church seasons come so fast as to blend into one another. Thanksgiving leads into Advent, during which our focus quickly turns to Christmas. Soon after Christmas comes Epiphany, which then quickly transforms into Ash Wednesday and Lent. Despite the rapid transition from one to another, we should slow down, at least now, and resolve to observe a holy Lent.

As a way to help you pause and reflect, I share this poem I came across, which is written by a Native American, Adrienne Trevathan, who serves as a Director of Christian Education in a Presbyterian Church in Illinois. I invite you to use this poem/prayer as part of your spiritual reflection during this season.

Changer: A Prayer Poem for Ash Wednesday

Cover me with ashes,
the thick-smoke soot of the earth.
Make my breathing like the journey
from death into life -- second by second,
prayer by prayer.

Cover me with a cloak -- bring me low to the earth,
your justice whispering to me like the gleam of red rocks,
the colors dancing in the darkness.
Let me know the power of sage and cedar in my bones,
not that I may trap them there,
but bring them forth in words.

Cover me with darkness --
with the presence of my elders, their tears falling around me,
reminding me of why we are here --
sighing, groaning with our singing, longing to hear us into being,
stretching us beyond breathing and praying and weeping.

Cover me with mercy--
let the bones you have crushed rejoice,
like the woman who channeled every ounce of courage and
dignity
to touch your cloak and find new life.
Breathe unto me life anew,

of possibility,
of beauty,
of balance,
of grace.

Cover me with mud --
bring me to my lowest state, so that in my weaknesses
I see your strength --
the reflection of your eyes in the brokenness around me,
the fullness of your love in the depths of our hearts.

Cover me with ashes --
the ashes of my grandmother,
who in living her days knew no strangers,
worked tirelessly with worn hands
and lifted grandchildren high into the air.

Cover me with mercy --
let my cheek come to rest on the cold earth,
its faithful presence a call to walk humbly

beyond myself
beyond my fears
and ever on to the red road that leads to your love.

χάγας -- Changer
Cover me.
Cover me with ashes.
Change me.

Grace and Peace, Michael

LENTEN POTLUCK AND STUDY

You are invited to participate in this part of our Lenten journey. We will gather on Wednesday evenings, February 25, March 11, and March 25, in the Fireside Room. Our meal will be potluck, with all the uncertainty that might mean. We will gather for the meal, starting at 5:30 pm. If you cannot be at church by then, do not despair. Come when you can; there will be ample food for you.

Our study will begin around 6:30 pm and, this year, will be based on the original 1950s radio program hosted by Edward R. Murrow, *This I Believe*, and its contemporary version by the same name. We will use the essays for this program as a way to explore our own beliefs.

CLARION DEADLINE



March Clarion Deadline will be Feb. 11th. You can email your articles or leave them in the church office.

firstcongo@qwestoffice.net

FLOWERS/CANDLES

A new sign up is posted on the bulletin board outside the board room. Please take a look. Flowers are \$15 and Candles are \$20

CALENDAR

The Calendars in this issue give information about church activities as well as building use by community groups. While any building use should be co-coordinated through the office, this should help you make appropriate plans if you need to use the church.

SOUPERBOWL



MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.” Since that day, more than \$98 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving. Through this mission, young people learn what it’s like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need. Be part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need.

During the month of February Pilgrim Fellowship, with the help of the Outreach Board, will be collecting your loose change after each service. Check you pockets, car cup holders, couch or wherever you store your loose change and bring it to any service in February. A helpful PF member will gladly collect your change as you leave the sanctuary, and you can make a difference for Utah’s hungry. All money collected will go directly to the Utah Food Bank. Thank you so much for supporting this cause.

FEBRUARY OUTREACH

The Outreach Board financial recipient for the month of February will be Volunteers of America (VOA). VOA serves homeless youth in Salt Lake City through their Homeless Youth Resource Center. They offer both a street outreach component and a daytime drop-in center for homeless young people ages 15-22. The goal is a life of self-sufficiency off of the streets.

Some important facts about homeless teens:

1. 39% of the homeless population is young people under 18.
2. A US Department of Health and Human Services study found that 46% of homeless youth left their home because of physical abuse. 17% left because of sexual abuse.
3. Approximately 40% of homeless teens identify as LGBT.
4. Over 50% of young people in shelters and on the streets report that their parents told them to leave or knew they were leaving and didn't care.
5. The average age a teen becomes homeless is 14.7 years.
6. 5,000 young people die every year because of assault, illness, or suicide while on the street.

Volunteers of American can be a very valuable resource for these homeless teens. In addition to their outreach component and daytime drop-in center, VOA also has transition homes for young men and women to provide a supportive path from the street to self-sufficiency; so young people experiencing homelessness don't become homeless adults. The homes serve young people who are struggling with homelessness--often because they have been turned away from their families or have aged out of foster care.

The program fills a critical gap in our society today by providing the encouragement, love, respect and expectations these homeless young people need to succeed. By helping them finish their education, find employment and develop critical life skills, youth are helped along the path toward self-sufficiency. The Transition

Home opens a doorway to hope. Young people are expected to log 40 hours of productive work each week, help run the home, and learn daily living skills that enable them to take care of themselves and become self-supporting adults.

PREPARING FOR EASTER

It seems like it was only yesterday we took down the Christmas decorations and tree from the Sanctuary, and now, we are already looking towards Easter. The Easter season comes quite early this year, starting with an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm on the 18th of February. Once again, a pancake dinner will be served up the preceding night, our own small-scale “Mardi Gras.” The following week, on the 25th, will begin our Lenten Series Potluck, which will be held every other Wednesday through to the 25th of March. This year’s theme during the short message and lesson following the dinner is being detailed in Michael’s article. Details on the Maundy Thursday Service plans will be covered in next month’s Clarion.

The Easter symbols and decorations will be pulled out of storage at the beginning of Lent, which brings up a brief reminder: a significant effort has been made to relocate non-worship items from the Deacons’ Closet, the small room on the west side at the front of the sanctuary. To facilitate access to the storage cabinets as well as the ladder to the roof area, we ask that the room not be used for general storage.

The deacons would like to recognize and thank all those who have come forward to volunteer as liturgists recently. A signup sheet will continue to be posted in the Narthex, which currently takes in the period to the end of April. Open slots are highlighted in yellow. If you have a request for a specific Sunday beyond the posted schedule, please write it on the bottom of the sheet and it will be added at the next update.

Health Tips from Parish Nursing **Vaccines beyond Childhood**

There are new vaccines that have come out in the past 10 years for adults. All preventive vaccines are covered by the Affordable Care Act. Medicare Part B covers the influenza vaccine along with 1 pneumonia vaccine and the Hepatitis B series.

Influenza is for seasonal flu and should be taken every year. Those over 65 and those with other chronic illness should be very sure to get this vaccine.

Tdap is tetanus with diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). There is concern that the pertussis vaccine that our children received has decreased in its protective immunity by their early 20s and they can be the source of infection to babies who have not received their full series.

Td is just tetanus and diphtheria, and is a booster for Tdap. This is given every 10 years unless you are severely wounded or burned and it has been somewhat less than 10 years since you last Tdap or Td.

Zoster is the shingles vaccine meant for adults age 60 and older who have had chicken pox, which means the virus is in our bodies. This is a single dose vaccine.

Hepatitis A is recommended for all ages and is a series of 2 shots. We tend to have a lot of Hep A in the Salt Lake area. Hepatitis B is a series of 3 shots and protects against Hep B which can cause liver disease or cancer. This is especially recommended for those under 60 years who have diabetes.

PCV13 is the pneumonia vaccine and protects against 13 strains that cause about 1/2 of the pneumonia infections in adults. It is recommended for those with weak immune systems or age 65. It is given as 1 dose and is followed by PPSV23.

PPSV23 is another pneumonia vaccine protecting against bacterial pneumonia, and meningitis. This vaccine should follow

PCV13 by 6 to 12 months. It is normally given as 1 dose but may be boosted by a 2nd dose in 5 years if needed.

Meningococcal is recommended for those young adults who are going off to live in a dorm or other “close” housing situation.

Varicella is the chicken pox vaccine and is a series of 2 shots given to any age.

As you have questions about what you should get, please consult your primary care provider.

(AARP, Jan-Feb 2015 & CDC.gov).

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

Kick off the Easter season this year with a Pancake Dinner on February 17th from 5:30-7pm in the Fireside Room. Donations will go to the Outreach Project for February.

FEBRUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting shall be held on Sunday, February 22, 2015, to elect the Moderator, Associate Moderators, and the Nominating Committee. It is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to secure qualified candidates for the various offices to be filled at the Annual Meeting in June.

At this Meeting, we will also vote on a proposal to authorize up to \$20,000 for extensive renovations in the Parlor to be paid from the FCC Trust. There is a handout detailing the proposed work and the costs associated with the items available in the narthex.

Valentine's Social - Avoid the crowded restaurants on Valentines. Come join with friends to celebrate the day. On Saturday February 14th at 6 p.m. we will be having a Valentine's Social for all members of the church, all ages. Come alone, bring a friend, or bring your sweetie. All are welcome. We will have a potluck

dinner . . . one stipulation . . . we are requesting all food contain the color red (think tomatoes, chili, apples). We are testing your foodie creativity. If you don't cook – don't worry, come anyway. There will be enough food (there always is). If you have questions contact Wendy Haupt, Bettie Clark or Kathy Souba. RSVP to Kathy Souba at (801) 828 0684 or ksouba@gmail.com by Feb. 12.

Celebrate Our Tradition of Supporting Public Education

Every month during our 150th Anniversary Year we will provide new books to Edison Elementary School. Orders must be submitted by the first of the month. You can order books that will be sent directly to the school by following these steps:

1. Log onto: www.scholastic.com/readingclub
2. Choose the box labeled: First Time Here?
PARENTS

Connect to your teacher
3. Enter the Class Activation code: LKMCL and connect
4. This page has flyers for several grades and should say "Welcome to Mrs. Synan's Class."
5. There is a bar across the top of the page listing several grades. Select a grade and choose the book(s) you want to donate. You are welcome to choose books for different grade levels on the same order.
6. After choosing the books, click on the icon that looks like a basket (it is in the upper right hand corner) and go to checkout.
7. You will be asked to create a user account requiring your email address and a password that you create. You may be asked to log in again (your book choices have been saved).
8. Review your order. Under the column "Child's name" choose "Add a Child" from the pull down menu. Connect to the teacher. Type in FCC for the child's first and last name. Choose grade as "Not Available." You do not need to choose gender or birthdate.
9. If your order is correct, continue to checkout
10. Enter your payment information.
11. Submit your order to Teacher.

Thanks for helping Edison Elementary. Save these instructions. You can donate books throughout the year by placing a new order by the first of every month. If you have any questions about ordering, please contact Cissy Wolff at 801-582-2820.

Outreach – Volunteers of America

~ February 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday Youth will be collecting change in soup pots throughout the month.	2 AA Meeting 6:30pm	3 Deacons Meeting 7pm Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym	4 Men's Breakfast 7am	5	6	7
8 CE Meeting before worship Outreach Meeting Following worship	9 AA Meeting 6:30pm	10 Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym Trustees Meeting 7pm	11 Council Meeting 7pm Clarion Deadline	12	13	14 Valentine Social Potluck 6-9 Fireside Room/Kitchen
15	16 AA Meeting 6:30pm Eastern Star 5-9pm	17 Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30-7pm	18 Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm	19	20	21
22 First Sunday in Lent Congregational Meeting Following Worship	23 AA Meeting 6:30pm	24 Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym	25 Lenten Potluck And Study 6pm	26	27	28

Outreach – Wounded Warrior Project

~ March 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 2 nd Sunday in Lent Communion	2 AA Meeting 6:30pm	3 Deacons Meeting 7pm Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym	4 Men's Breakfast 7am	5	6	7 Food bank Workday 10am - Noon
8 3 rd Sunday in Lent CE Meeting before worship Outreach Meeting following worship	9 AA Meeting 6:30pm	10 Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym Trustees Meeting 7pm	11 PEO 11am (Alice Stephenson) Fireside/Kitchen Lenten Study & Potluck 6pm	12	13	14
15 4 th Sunday in Lent	16 AA Meeting 6:30pm	17 Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym	18 Council Meeting 7pm Clarion Deadline	19	20	21
22 5 th Sunday in Lent Budget Meeting Following Worship	23 AA Meeting 6:30pm	24 Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym	25 Lenten Study & Potluck 6pm	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday Sandwich Making Following Worship	30 AA Meeting 6:30pm	31 Basketball Group 7-8:30pm Gym	Notes:			

TREASURER'S REPORT

For Period Ending December 31, 2014

CHURCH GENERAL FUND	December	Fiscal Year-to- Date
Unrestricted Contributions	\$25,373.86	\$94,223.81
+ Other Unrestricted Revenue	\$4,173.71	\$24,440.31
+ Transferred to General Fund from Designated Accounts, Memorial Fund & FCC Trust	\$1,327.78	\$4,945.53
= Total Income	\$30,875.35	\$123,609.65
Total Expenses	-\$20,464.27	-\$115,198.76
= <i>Net General Fund Surplus (-Deficit)</i>	\$10,411.08	\$8,410.89

Data for comparison

YTD Budgeted Unrestricted Contributions	\$98,366.00
YTD Budgeted Total Income	\$129,071.00
YTD Budgeted Total Expenses	-\$122,897.38
Amt YTD Surplus is ahead of (+) or behind (-) Budget	\$2,237.27

DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS

	December	Fiscal Year-to- Date
Designated Contributions		
All Outreach Contributions	\$815.66	\$6,157.83
Other Designated Contributions	\$55.00	\$447.00
= <i>Total Designated Contributions</i>	\$870.66	\$6,604.83

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2150 S. Foothill Drive

SLC, Utah 84109

February 2015

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED