



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 17, 2021

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 168 years our Covenant has been: We covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ and one another, and bind ourselves in the presence of God to live together in all God's ways as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and holy scripture. The church acknowledges that all members have the right of individual interpretation of the principles of the Christian faith and respects them in their honest convictions. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord, the church recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.*

*Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve. Please use this time for quiet preparation for worship.
'We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.'
(Psalm 48:8)*

PRELUDE

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

arr. Eugene Hancock

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

ENTER TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

Leader: Blessed be God, Light of the world, bright Morning Star, and Spirit of love.

** Then all stand.*

L: Beautiful are the works of God!

P: Beautiful also are the skins of God's people!

L: Beautiful is the mind of God!

P: Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!

L: Beautiful is the heart of God!

P: Beautiful also are the souls of God's people!

L: God made the heavens and the earth!

P: To God be the glory for the things God has done.

Adapted: Trinity UCC, Chicago, Ill.

1. Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and Heav - en ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chast-ening rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 3. God of our wear - y years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening skies; Let it re-sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 Yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet Come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 Thou Who hast by Thy might led us in - to the light; Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered; We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, Our God, where we met Thee; Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for -

brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
 slaugh - tered, Out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 get Thee; Shad-owed be - neath Thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, Let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 last Where the pure gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

* INVOCATION

Rev. Corzine

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your Church, following the example of your prophet Martin Luther King, Jr., may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ahrens

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Corzine

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 3:1–10

Jacquelyn Dean

A reading from the first book of Samuel, chapter 3.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if God calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

L: May light break forth on God's Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Go Tell It On the Mountain

arr. Andrew Carter

Lynn Eustis, *soloist*

(*pre-recorded*)

THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 6:12–20

Ms. Dean

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, chapter 6.

Just because something is technically legal doesn't mean that it's spiritually appropriate. If I went around doing whatever I thought I could get by with, I'd be a slave to my whims. You know the old saying, "First you eat to live, and then you live to eat"? Well, it may be true that the body is only a temporary thing, but that's no excuse for stuffing your body with food, or indulging it with sex. Since the Master honors you with a body, honor him with your body! God honored the Master's body by raising it from the grave. He'll treat yours with the same resurrection power. Until that time, remember that your bodies are created with the same dignity as the Master's body. You wouldn't take the Master's body off to a whorehouse, would you? I should hope not. There's more to sex than mere skin on skin. Sex is as much spiritual mystery as physical fact. As written in Scripture, "The two become one." Since we want to become spiritually one with the Master, we must not pursue the kind of sex that avoids commitment and intimacy, leaving us more lonely than ever—the kind of sex that can never "become one." There is a sense in which sexual sins are different from all others. In sexual sin we violate the sacredness of our own bodies, these bodies that were made for God-given and God-modeled love, for "becoming one" with another. Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body. (*from The Message, © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson*)

L: May light break forth on God's Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, help me stand; I am
2. When my way grows drear, Pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near; When my

tired, I am weak, I am worn; Through the storm, through the night, Lead me
life is al - most gone, Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my

on to the light; Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.
hand lest I fall; Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

THE GOSPEL

John 1:43–51

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 1.

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Anointed One.”

L: May light break forth on God’s Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“A Single Garment of Destiny”

Rev. Ahrens

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

To give online, please scan this QR code link, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Designated gifts go to **B.R.E.A.D.** We are all members of the BREAD organization ~ Building Responsibility Equality And Dignity. Your gifts are needed to help us build a strong justice ministry in Columbus. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

Prayer of the Children

Kurt Bestor, arr. Andrea Klause

(pre-recorded)

Can you hear the prayer of the children
on bended knee, in the shadow of an unknown room?
Empty eyes with no more tears to cry
turning heavenward toward the light.
Cryin' Jesus help me to see the mornin' light of one more day,
but if I should die before I wake, I pray my soul to take.

Can you hear the voice of the children
softly pleading for silence in their shattered world?
Angry guns preach a gospel full of hate,
blood of the innocent on their hands.
Cryin' Jesus, help me to feel the sun again upon my face?
For when darkness clears, I know you're near, bringing peace
again.

Can you feel the hearts of the children
aching for home, for something of their very own?
Reaching hands with nothing to hold onto
but hope for a better day, a better day.
Cryin' Jesus help me to feel the love again in my own land,
but if unknown roads lead away from home, give me loving
arms, 'way from harm.

Can you hear the prayer of the children?

* PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

sung to *Duke Street*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Christ, all creatures here below.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Corzine

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Rev. Corzine

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.
P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN

Live Into Hope

Truro



1. Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, Of sight re - gained, the end of greed.
 2. Live in - to hope the blind shall see With in - sight and with clar - i - ty,
 3. Live in - to hope of li - ber - ty, The right to speak, the right to be.
 4. Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed From chains of fear or want or greed.



Th'op - pressed shall be the first to see The
 Re - mov - ing shades of pride and fear — A
 The right to have one's dai - ly bread, To
 God now pro - claims our full re - lease To



year of God's own ju - bi - lee!
 vi - sion of our God brought near.
 hear God's word and thus be fed.
 faith and hope and joy and peace.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Great Day"

Adolphus Hailstork

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *preacher*

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *liturgist*

Mark S. Williams, *liturgist*

Jacquelyn Dean, *reader*

Jamie Blair, *soloist*

Kevin Jones, *organist*

Demmer Audio Video Solutions, *livestream engineers*

Please join us on ZOOM for a virtual coffee hour immediately following this service.

[Click HERE to be taken to this meeting.](#)

ZOOM meeting ID: 884 9421 6574

Password: 693317

2021 Nominations Slate

Officers

Moderator: Alec Deitz

Vice Moderator: Chris Farquhar

Treasurer: Dennis Secor

Assistant Treasurer: Andy Bensing

Secretary: Peter Murray

Assistant Secretary: Nicole Moss

Commissioners

Administration Commissioner: Brad West

Administration Commissioner - Elect: Dayna McCrary

Church Growth Commissioner: Elisha Hardekopf

Church Growth Commissioner - Elect: Geoff Smith-VerHage

Church Vitality Commissioner: Lee Kiesel

Church Vitality Commissioner - Elect: Kosby Carrico

Education Commissioner: Margaret Graham

Education Commissioner - Elect: Linda Slocum

House & Grounds Commissioner: Eric Klintworth

House & Grounds Commissioner - Elect: Mark Brown

Music, Arts, & Heritage Commissioner: Scott Jones

Music, Arts, & Heritage Commissioner - Elect: Sandy Mathias

Justice & Mercy Commissioner: Lauren Muscott

Justice & Mercy Commissioner - Elect: Kris Brant

At-Large Members

Adult Member-at-Large: Jonathan Miller

Youth Member-at-Large: Finn Miller

Nominating Chair

Lynn Wallich

Trustees

Beth Iannarino

Elaine Warren

Christopher Washington

Deacons

Senior Deacon: Al Waddell

Nancy Kreimer

Allison Lowery Palmer

Hank Wilson

Martha Wilson

Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

January 17, 2021

This Week at First Church

1/17	
9 a.m.	Worship
9:45 a.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour
11 a.m.	Worship
12 Noon	Virtual Coffee Hour
12:30 p.m.	Confirmation
4 p.m.	Choral Evensong
6:30 p.m.	Middle School
	Youth Connections
7 p.m.	High School
	Youth Connections
1/18	
9 a.m.	Church and Church Office
Closed	
6 p.m.	Budget & Finance Mtg
1/19	
7 p.m.	Church Council Mtg
1/20	
9:30 a.m.	Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery
1/21	
8 a.m.	Warming Center
7:30 p.m.	First Church Choir ZOOM Rehearsal
1/22	
8 a.m.	Warming Center
1/23	
11:30 a.m.	Scholar in Virtual Residence

Join us for Choral Evensong

Choral Evensong returns this afternoon at 4 p.m.

The event is livestreamed only at

www.concertsatfirstchurch.org/webcasts

Join the First Church Choir, officiant the Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston, and organist Tyler W. Robertson for music by Sumsion, Andrew Carter, Jane Marshall, and others.

We look forward to having you with us this Sunday.

CONCERTS AT FIRST CHURCH 2020 – 2021

First Congregational Church • United Church of Christ
444 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.concertsatfirstchurch.org

Choral Evensong - livestreamed
on www.concertsatfirstchurch.org/webcasts/

Jan
17
4 pm



The First Church Choir sings Choral Evensong
with organist Tyler W. Robertson
Responses: Herbert Sumsion
Psalm 115, chant by Gerald Knight
Canticles: Sumsion in A Major
Anthems: Carter "Go Tell It on the Mountain"
Marshall "He Comes to Us"



Adult Faith Formation *STAMPED: Racism, Antiracism, and You* Book Study

Faith Formation for Adults is joining the Columbus Metropolitan Library and eight other library systems in central Ohio's largest book club starting in January. We are encouraging families, friends, and neighbors to read *STAMPED: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. Through the reading of a singular book, the community can reflect together upon the instructional and systemic inequalities that have impacted our community and nation for far too long.

Rev. Tim Ahrens will lead the book study during his Wednesday morning book study as well as an additional Monday evening session starting in January 2021.

Monday Dates:

Monday, January 4, 7 p.m.

Monday, January 25, 7 p.m.

Monday, February 1, 7 p.m.

Topic: Stamped on Mondays

Time: 7 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82072541164?pwd=Zz-dEZERwNlVuLzJlQk43ZnJHUkZldz09>

Meeting ID: 820 7254 1164

Passcode: 704803

Wednesday Dates:

Wednesday, January 6, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 27, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 3, 10:30 a.m.

Topic: Stamped on Wednesdays

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88187855765?pwd=Rys-rc0FKUDQ5RFVhSVVjWFVWMDVrdz09>

Meeting ID: 881 8785 5765

Passcode: 506979

Let's Talk About Race with Jason Reynolds Virtual Author Talk Sunday, January 24 4-5 p.m.

Join the Columbus Metropolitan Library for a free community event featuring Jason Reynolds, author of the #centralohioreads book pick, *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*.

To register, visit

www.crowdcast.io/e/centralohioreads/register

Walk (Socially Distanced) with First Church Friends

The Metro Parks Winter Hike Program has been in effect for a number of years. Every week, folks gather at a designated Metro Park and walk 1, 3, or sometimes up to 5 miles. It's a great way to get out into Nature, exercise a little, and see other people and animals enjoying the day. This year, there are no organized walks, but the Metro Parks staff encourages folks to go to the parks and hike when they can.

A small group of First Church folks did an experimental Winter Hike last Sunday at Inniswood Gardens near Westerville. It was easy walking, and SO much fun to see a few masked members of the congregation for about an hour! We decided to try again this Sunday, January 17 at Sharon Woods Metro Park, and invite others to participate. Sharon Woods is located at 6911 Cleveland Ave, Westerville, OH 43081. This is just north of Schrock Rd. Use the I-270 exit to Cleveland Ave. North to get there.

All are welcome to participate, but there are a few simple rules. Everyone must wear a mask. Walking groups should include no more than 6 people. Bring your own water. Dress for the weather, and wear hiking shoes.

Interested friends should plan to meet in the parking lot at Sharon Woods between 1:30 - 1:45 p.m. Sharon Woods is an "easy navigation" park....no cliffs or excessively steep hills. If you have questions, you may send me an email to franpan2000@yahoo.com. I will do my best to get back to you, but you are welcome to just show up at Sharon Woods.

Fran Panek

Scholar In Residence 2021

Seeing Our Faith Through Others' Eyes: Jewish And Christian Scripture In Dialogue

With great joy, First Congregational Church is partnering with Congregation Tifereth Israel to welcome the 2021 Scholar in Residence, Dr. Marc Brettler.

Dr. Brettler is one of the leading experts in Christian Biblical texts in all of Judaism. Along with Dr. Amy Jill Levine, he has co-edited and written the Jewish Study Bible and The Jewish Annotated New Testament. He is a great teacher as well as a great scholar.

Marc Brettler, Ph.D., is the Bernice and Morton Lerner Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies in the Department of Religious Studies at Duke University. The Dora Golding Professor of Biblical Studies Emeritus and former chair of the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. He has also taught at Yale University, Brown University, Wellesley College, and Middlebury College.

A graduate of Brandeis University, he has published and lectured widely on metaphor and the Bible, the nature of biblical historical texts, and gender issues, and the Bible. The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently, and more.

Jews and Christians will join together in worship and study of scripture. Please don't miss it. Spread the word. All are welcome. Everything is on Zoom or Livestream. All can join from anywhere in the world.

We will see you Saturday, January 23, and Sunday, January 24, for two wonderful days of worship and study.

Love and blessings,

Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

For more information and to register visit www.tiferethisrael.org/learn/scholar-in-residence-2021/

Health Care Workers Notes of Appreciation

We are partnering with OhioHealth to give words of encouragement to Grant Medical Center staff during this challenging time. Offer words of kindness, wish them patience or courage, thank them for their sacrifice during this difficult time, or draw a picture.

Address your note:
Health Care Worker
c/o First Congregational Church, UCC
444 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Rev. Emily has more information if you need; contact her at ecorzine@first-church.org. There is no deadline, as we will be collecting these on an ongoing basis through the winter months!



Join the Virtual Coffee Hour!

Immediately following each Worship Livestream.

9 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527907526?pwd=L-014R1dIdmE4UzIUNdlnZkZ4ZURldz09>

Meeting ID: 865 2790 7526

Password: 601438

11 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88494216574?pwd=cDN-VS0dKaEdvTGhMcVozc0twU2pyZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 9421 6574

Password: 693317

Emergency Pastoral Care Line

If you need to be in touch with Rev. Ahrens or Rev. Corzine, for emergency pastoral care or name a prayer request, please call **614-733-4547** and leave a message. Someone will return your call as needed.

Should you need to reach either pastor directly for a time to chat, discuss pastoral concerns or have prayer, Rev. Tim can be reached by church voicemail at (614) 228-1741 ext. 13, or email at tahrens@first-church.org.

Rev. Emily has virtual office hours at 10 a.m. on Thursdays. These are 20 minute blocks beginning at 10 a.m. Contact Rev. Emily for a time slot at ecorzine@first-church.org.

Keep In Prayer

Mark Williams; Barbara Sterrett; Tom Bishop; Dana Navin Schultz; Lindy Miller; and Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz. Our members diagnosed and recovering from Covid-19 Matty and Jennifer Provenzano; Lesley and Karl Schaab; and Trish Bishop.

Virginia Bethke, mother of Jonathan Bethke; Olive Weller, grandmother of Gretchen Weller; Jonathan and Will Nirote, son and grandson of Bill and Arevena Nirote; Bob Prickett, friend of Steve Ferris; Michael Swift, son of Jilda Swift; Tom and Susan Murrell, friends of Joe Bellissimo; Erna Temple, mother of David Temple; Dwight and Elaine Holt, parents of David Holt; and Jane Mead, mother of Cindy Deliman.

Those who are affected by Covid-19 in our nation and our world, including Rev. Mark Diemer and son Joshua, friend and colleague of Rev. Tim Ahrens; Gary Stevens, father of Matt Stevens; Ada Mae Holt, mother of Lanier Holt; Saphira Shuttlesworth, friend of Rev. Tim Ahrens; Ellen and Paul Poppleton, sister and brother-in-law of Mary Anne Jacobson; and those who mourn the loss of loved ones due to Covid-19 David and Rose Kandel on the death of his brother-in-law Douglas Haas, Minister of Music at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kitchener, Ontario; and Jenny Middendorf and family Andy, Abby and Ava, and her mother, Susie Sturbaum, on the death of her father Robert Sturbaum.

These Days Devotionals

These Days for January, February and March 2021 have arrived. If you would like a copy, please email Pat Patterson at ppatterson@first-church.org or phone her at 614-313-9506.

Give

At First Church, our financial resources enable us to “Enter to worship, depart to serve.” You can support the mission and ministry of First Church now by scanning the QR Code presented below, using either EasyTithe or PayPal, by visiting www.first-church.org/give.aspx, or by sending your offering directly to First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information, please contact Annette McCormick at amccormick@first-church.org.



Designated gifts go to **BREAD**. We are all members of the BREAD organization ~ Building Responsibility Equality And Dignity. Your gifts are needed to help us build a strong justice ministry in Columbus. Thank you for your generosity.

For more information about **BREAD**, visit www.breadcolumbus.com

Upcoming Mission Offerings

January 24 Kaleidoscope
January 31 Trustees Endowment Knight-Perry

Church Leadership

Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, M.Div., D. Min.
Associate Minister Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, M.Div.
Minister of Music Kevin Jones, M.M., M.S.E.
Director of Christian Education Mark S. Williams, M.Ed.
Administrative Manager Amy Wagner
Office Assistant Pat Patterson
Communications Consultant Melissa Kulwicki
Business Administrator Annette McCormick
Building and Grounds Superintendent Mark Dahnke
Building and Grounds Assistant Darrell Cross
Custodian Jimmy Sibrian

Wedding Coordinators Amy Wagner, Janet Newcity, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani, Katie Wagner
Nursery Staff Miranda Brooks, Norma Secor, Blessing Weekly, Miranda Gumbita

Senior Deacon James Velo
Deacons Carol Ernst-King, Shelly Gies, Sarah Giffen, Scott Graham, Greg Halbe, Lanier Holt, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, James Lowe, Dayna McCrary, Allison Lowery Palmer, Mark Sholl, Andrew Smith-VerHage, Al Waddell, Marty Worth

Church Council Leadership

Moderator Lynn Wallich; **Moderator-elect** Alec Deitz;
Treasurer Dennis Secor; **Treasurer-elect** Matt Myers; **Secretary** Jim Griffin; **Secretary-elect** Peter Murray

Board of Trustees

Chairperson Brian Cave **Trustees** Allen Baker, Sue Cook, Cindy Conn, Kevin Cubick, Christine Farquhar, Tom Hadley, Jim Kyle, Elaine Warren

Commissioners

Administration Andy Bensing; **Administration-elect** Brad West; **Church Growth** Cheryl Hoskinson; **Church Growth-elect** Elisha Hardekopf; **Church Vitality** Fran Panek; **Church Vitality-elect** Lee Kiesel; **Education** Stacie Sholl; **Education-elect** Margaret Graham; **House & Grounds** Victor John; **House & Grounds-elect** Eric Klintworth; **Justice & Mercy** Lauren Muscott; **Justice & Mercy-elect** Kaye Martin; **Music, Arts & Heritage** David Mailer; **Music, Arts & Heritage-elect** Scott Jones; **Members-at-Large** Mel Prendergast & Mia Provenzano; **Nominating Committee Chair** Joe Baszynski

Welcome Statement

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God. Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

First Church is a Faith Community

- † Called together by God, the Creator and Sustainer of life, to worship, pray and serve;
- † Led by Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, to learn the faith and welcome all God's children;
- † Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to God's love and justice between ourselves, and throughout the world.

Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

—Adopted September 8, 2002 by the congregation

Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

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www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885
PHONE: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741

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