



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 16, 2021

The Seventh Sunday of Easter/Sunday after Ascension/Confirmation

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

Chant de Mai, Op. 58

Joseph Jongen

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Jake Haslett

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

** Then all stand.*

L: Jesus prayed for his disciples, giving them into God's eternal care.

P: Jesus prays for us, giving us into God's care.

L: Know that you have been blessed with the love of the Savior.

P: We live in that love and seek to serve God.

L: Open your hearts and spirits now to hear God's word.

P: May our lives be open to God's Spirit and reflect God's love. Amen.



1. We come to you by wa - ter and by word, Filled with your Spi - rit,
 2. O God who made the earth and sky and sea, Sculp - ted in love, di -
 3. O Ho - ly Spi - rit, fall like heav-en's dew, Be born with - in our
 4. Je - sus who heals us, saves and gives us life, Friend who sus - tains us
 5. God, may your church from age to age en - dure, Bring - ing to Christ all



seek - ing Christ as Lord, Con - firm in us di - vine and ten - der
 verse hu - man - i - ty. Set stars in or - bit through e - ter - ni -
 hearts on fire for you, Set us a - blaze to share Good News a -
 in the midst of strife, O ris - en Lord, em - pow - er us for
 peo - ple, rich and poor, and may our joy - ful song be ev - er



love. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 ty.
 new.
 life.
 sure.

* INVOCATION

Sam Horne

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, the Mighty One of glory, you have exalted Jesus Christ with great triumph to your dominion in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and bring us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Abby Middendorf

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.

ORDER OF CONFIRMATION: AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

(This portion of the service has been pre-recorded)

INVITATION

Jacquelyn Dean and Rev. Ahrens

Confirmands

Lila Grace Bendick
 Elias Emerson Ewing
 Jacob Christopher Haslett
 Maya Elizabeth Haslett
 Ruby Frush Holt
 Elijah Yarian Horne
 Samuel John Horne
 Abigail Carolyn Middendorf

Parents

Camille and Matthew Bendick
 Christa and Eric Ewing
 Valerie and Chris Haslett
 Valerie and Chris Haslett
 Rachael and Lanier Frush Holt
 Lori and Ben Horne
 Lori and Ben Horne
 Jenny and Andy Middendorf

Mentors

Kristen Blanks
 Joseph Baszynski
 John Deliman
 Jenny Provenzano
 Tracy Ross
 Bill Rhoads
 Ryan Jones
 Linda Slocum

PRAYER ON BEHALF OF THE CONGREGATION

Al Waddell, *Senior Deacon*

L: Let us pray in silence for these candidates for confirmation.

(silence)

All: Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

Rev. Ahrens, The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, Jonathan Miller

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

Rev. Corzine

L: We rejoice, O merciful God, with these people in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life. We give you thanks that they have been moved to affirm their baptism. Help them to live not for themselves but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

WELCOME

Mr. Waddell

L: Let us, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

Mr. Waddell

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Rev. Ahrens

L: Almighty and ever living God, may your hand ever be over your servants confirmed today. May your Holy Spirit ever be with them. So lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word that they may serve you in this life and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Mr. Williams

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 1.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Come to the Water

Cary Ratcliff

Jamie Blair, *soloist*

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.
 And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord.
 Let them come to the Lord without money, without price.
 Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?
 And let all who seek, let them come to the water,
 And let all who have nothing let them come to the Lord.
 Let them come to the Lord, without money without strife.
 Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord?
 And let all who toil, let them come to the water,
 And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord.
 Let them come to the Lord, all who labor without rest.
 How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord?
 And let all the poor, let them come to the water.
 Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord.
 Bring them all to the Lord, bring the children without might.
 Easy the load and light. O come to the Lord.
 — John B. Foley, SJ

THE EPISTLE

1 John 5:9–13

Elijah Horne

A reading from the first letter of John, chapter 5.

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

1 A - maz - ing grace — how sweet the sound —
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me,
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,
 that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost
 and grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did
 his word my hope se - cures; he will my shield
 I have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought
 bright shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days
 but now am found, was blind but now I see.
 that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 and por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

THE GOSPEL

John 17:6–19

Rev. Corzine

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 17.

Jesus said, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

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 today are divided between **Ronald McDonald House** at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, giving love and care to parents from out of town who are in Columbus for their children at the hospital; **Franklinton Farms** community gardens at 867 W. Town St., Suite A, Columbus, Ohio, 43222 (franklintonfarms.org); and **The Trevor Project** that fights to defend LGBTQ youth (thetrevorproject.org). Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

i thank You God for most this amazing day
(pre-recorded)

Elliott Z. Levine

i thank You God for most this amazing
 day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
 and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
 which is natural which is infinite which is yes

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
 breathing any--lifted from the no
 of all nothing--human merely being
 doubt unimaginable You?

(i who have died am alive again today,
 and this is the sun’s birthday; this is the birth
 day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
 great happening illimitably earth)

(now the ears of my ears awake and
 now the eyes of my eyes are opened)
 —e.e.cummings

* PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Lasst uns erfreuen

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

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Elias Ewing

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

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

* CLOSING HYMN

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

Duke Street

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys run,
2. To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And prais - es throng to crown His head;
3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue Dwell on His love with sweet - est song,
4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns; The pris - oners leap to lose their chains,
5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe - cu - liar to our King;

His king - dom stretch from shore to shore, Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
His name, like sweet per - fume, shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
And in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
The wea - ry find e - ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.
An - gels des - cend with songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud A - men!

* BENEDICTION

Maya Haslett

POSTLUDE

Fanfare in D Major

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

Mark S. Williams

Jacquelyn Dean, Jonathan Miller, and Al Waddell, *confirmation presenters*

Members of the 2021 Confirmation Class, *liturgists*

Jamie Blair, *soloist*

Kevin Jones, *organist*

Peter Murray and Mike Kennedy, *livestream ministry*

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

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

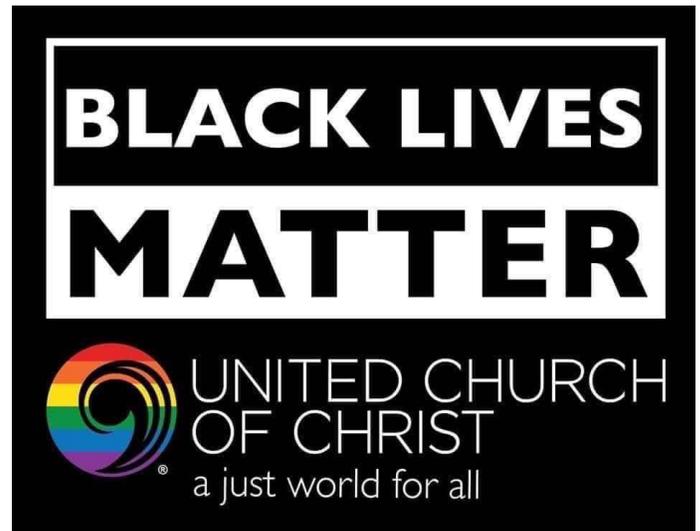
May 16, 2021

This Week at First Church

- 5/16**
9 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour
11 a.m. Worship
12 Noon Virtual Coffee Hour
New Member-Deacon Gathering
- 5/17**
6 p.m. Budget and Finance Committee Mtg
7 p.m. New Members' Class
- 5/18**
7 p.m. Church Council Mtg
- 5/19**
10 a.m. The Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery
10:30 a.m. Book Study

Black Lives Matter Signs

First Church has new UCC Black Lives Matter yard signs for purchase of \$18 each. We only have a limited amount available at this time. Signs can be picked up in the church office. If you want a sign held for you, contact Mark Williams at mwilliams@first-church.org



Calling All Graduates!

If you or a family member is graduating from high school or college this year, please send us information, including the individual's name, the school they are graduating from, and their degree and possible future plans. We will be recognizing our graduates in an upcoming Connections email. Send the information to awagner@first-church.org. You also may include a photo (electronic image only).

Coffee Hour

Immediately following each Worship Livestream, grab a cup of coffee and a cookie, and head to the Virtual Parish Hall for Zoom Coffee Hour!

Click the link below to join in.

9 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527907526?pwd=L014R-1dIdmE4UzlUNDlnZkZ4ZURldz09>

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

Members Penny Casey; Debbi Kelly and Larry Thorne; Trish Bishop; Michael Koscher; Dr. Dick Ward; Kathy Brownfield; Lindy Miller; the Curren-Smith family; Barbara Knox; Betsy Zahn; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter; and Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz.

Family and friends Missy Obergefell's brother, Chris DiSantis; Robert Davis, Jr's brother, Michael and family member, Wendell Dear; Janice Taft's friend, Terry Williams; Pavan Peter's brother, Dr. Sanjeeth Peter; Margaret and Scott Graham's grandson, Miles; Melissa Kulwicki's mother, Judy Blandi; Nancy Burba's friend, John Cooper; Kosby Carrico's father, Ladd Winne; Susan Sitler and Rev. Tim Ahrens' friend, Destiny Stadie; Helen Spears and niece, Sandra Hall; Sarah Lange's sister, Rev. Amy Smith; and Bobby Brown, friend of the church.

Those who mourn loved ones Janice Taft on the death of her friend, Michael Haycock; Jeff Corzine on the death of his aunt, Lael Featherston; Dr. Kaye Martin on the death of her husband, the Honorable John Martin; Cathy and Wayne Redenbarger on the death of their son, Erin Ball; Gerry Worth on the death of his brother, Larry Worth.

Please note that individuals will remain on the prayer list for 3 weeks, unless specified to clergy or staff.

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 today are divided between **Ronald McDonald House at Nationwide Children’s Hospital**, giving love and care to parents from out of town who are in Columbus for their children at the hospital; **Franklinton Farms community gardens** at 867 W. Town St., Suite A, Columbus, Ohio, 43222 (franklintonfarms.org); and **The Trevor Project** that fights to defend LGBTQ youth (thetrevorproject.org). Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

May 23 Strengthen the Church
May 30 Jessie’s World

Church Leadership

Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, D. Min, M.Div.
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 Al Waddell
Deacons Carol Ernst-King, Sarah Giffen, Scott Graham, Greg Halbe, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, Nancy Kreimer, James Lowe, Allison Lowery Palmer, Mark Sholl, Andrew Smith-VerHage, Hank Wilson, Martha Wilson, Donice Wooster, Marty Worth
Church Council Leadership
Moderator Alec Deitz
Moderator-elect Christine Farquhar
Treasurer Dennis Secor
Treasurer-elect Andy Bensing
Secretary Peter Murray
Secretary-elect Nicole Moss
Board of Trustees
Chairperson Brian Cave
Trustees Allen Baker, Alec Deitz, Sue Cook, Cindy Conn (Treasurer), Kevin Cubick (Secretary), Beth Iannarino, Jim Kyle, Elaine Warren, Christopher Washington
Commissioners
Administration Brad West
Administration-elect Dayna McCrary
Church Growth Elisha Hardekopf
Church Growth-elect Geoff Smith-VerHage
Church Vitality Lee Kiesel
Church Vitality-elect Kosby Carrico
Education Margaret Graham
Education-elect Linda Slocum
House & Grounds Eric Klintworth
House & Grounds-elect Mark Brown
Justice & Mercy Lauren Muscott
Justice & Mercy-elect Kris Brant
Music, Arts & Heritage Scott Jones
Music, Arts & Heritage-elect Sandy Mathias
Members-at-Large Jonathan Miller and Finn Miller
Nominating Committee Chair Lynn Wallich

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



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