The Day of Pentecost and Confirmation
May 31, 2020

First Congregational Church † United Church of Christ
Columbus, Ohio

Receiving the Holy Spirit, AnnaSofia Severson, 2020
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Due to the events around the nation during the last several days, this morning's Opening Hymn has been altered to “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

* Opening Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

The service continues on page 4.
Welcome to First Church!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! For more than 167 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.

**Prelude**

Versets on “Come, Holy Ghost”  
Nicolàs de Grigny

**Welcome**

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

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)

**Enter to Worship**

Leader: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

* Then all stand.

L: Come, Holy Spirit! Ignite our hearts with joy and confidence!

P: For God has done wondrous things for us.

L: Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with the power of the rushing wind that we may faithfully serve you in all that we do.

P: For Christ has called each of us and blessed us!

L: Come, Holy Spirit! Be with us today.

Opening Hymn

Hail Thee, Festival Day!

Salva festa dies

Please see page 2 for today’s Opening Hymn, “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Invocation

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Welcome and 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.
Order of Confirmation: Affirmation of Baptism
(This portion of the service has been pre-recorded)

Invitation
Jacqueline Dean and Rev. Ahrens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confirmands</th>
<th>Parents</th>
<th>Mentors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kylie Marie Cooks</td>
<td>LaJuane Cooks, Gretchen Weller and Kendra Bobulski</td>
<td>Nancy Braverman</td>
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<td>Madalyn Jane Dean</td>
<td>Kelly and Mitchell Dean</td>
<td>Allison Lowery Palmer</td>
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<td>Adam Jackson Ghose</td>
<td>Carrie and David Ghose</td>
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<td>Hector James Gonzalez</td>
<td>Andrea and Miguel Gonzalez</td>
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<td>Ethan Andrew Murray</td>
<td>Celeste Feather and Peter Murray</td>
<td>Bill Rhoads</td>
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<td>AnnaSophia Grace Severson</td>
<td>Karen Mozingo and Andréa Severson</td>
<td>Dayna McCrary</td>
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Prayers of the Candidates
Rev. Ahrens

Prayer on Behalf of the Congregation
Dr. James Velo, 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, Rev. 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
Dr. Velo

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
Dr. Velo

* 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.
When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.” But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
P: Thanks be to God.

Anthem
Come to the Water
(pre-recorded by the Exultate Choir)

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
**Please stand for the Gospel.**

*The Gospel*  
John 20:19–23  
Rev. Ahrens

*A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 20.*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.  
P: Thanks be to God.

*Please be seated.*

**Pentecost Meditation**  
“The Super Six”  
Rev. Ahrens

**Prayers of the People**  
Rev. Corzine

(Today, the Lord’s Prayer will be prayed as part of the Communion liturgy.)

**The Offertory**

Want to give online? Please scan this QR code link, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:

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**Mission Invitation**  
Rev. Ahrens

Cash and designated checks go to Youth Mental Health Project. The Youth Mental Health Project is committed to ensuring that families have support to care for and strengthen their children’s mental health during these extremely challenging times. The need for parent support, which is crucial for helping families care for their kids’ mental health, has never been higher. They provide free, direct support to parents and families whose children are struggling with their mental health. Thank you for your generosity.

**Anthem**  
i thank You God for most this amazing day  
Elliott Z. Levine

(pre-recorded)

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)

—e.e.cummings

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**Presentation Hymn**  
Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow  
Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table.

* Invitation
Rev. Corzine

L: Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing. We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets. We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved. We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm. Baptized by your Spirit into one body, we testify to your faithfulness toward those of every time, nation, people, and language, and we give you thanks.

With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name:
P: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

L: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: “This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things. In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer
Rev. Ahrens

L: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.
P: 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.

Eat this, for it is the body of Christ, broken for you.
Drink this, for it is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving
Rev. Ahrens

L: Let us pray.
P: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ’s gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Community Notices - Depart to Serve
Mr. Williams

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

Earth and All Stars

Dexter

1. Earth and all stars, Loud rushing planets Sing to the Lord a new song!
   2. Steel and machines, Loud pounding hammers Sing to the Lord a new song!
   3. Knowledge and truth, Loud sounding wisdom Sing to the Lord a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain, Loud blowing snowstorm Sing to the Lord a new song!
Lime-stone and beams, Loud building workers Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son, Loud praying members Sing to the Lord a new song!

God has done marvelous things. We will sing praises with a new song!

* Benediction

Rev. Ahrens

Postlude

Final (Choral Variations on Veni Creator)

Maurice Duruflé
Introducing Summer 2020 Camp 2.0!

Read all about it and register online here: [https://bit.ly/HeartlandCamp2_0](https://bit.ly/HeartlandCamp2_0)

What's in store?
- Choir
- Sports
- MMADD
- Faith Adventures
- Grands and Pals
- Hanging with the Spirit

A fun online interface with our all new Camp 2.0 web site!
And it's all free (though we are gratefully accepting donations to support the mission of Heartland Conference Outdoor Ministries)!

See you around the virtual campfire this summer!

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Food Drive

The Youth of First Congregational Church will conduct a “Drive By Food Drive” on June 13th from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the West Lot. The food drive will benefit the Gladden Community Food Pantry and the Broad Street Presbyterian Food Pantry. They are collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations. This is a great opportunity for scouting groups, community organizations, neighborhood organizations and companies to join forces to help those in need.

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First Church to be Part of The Big Give

For more information on First Church's participation in The Big Give visit: [https://files.constantcontact.com/5728e215501/d1e-aff61-f5dc-41d5-98f9-200fa5ad1166.png](https://files.constantcontact.com/5728e215501/d1e-aff61-f5dc-41d5-98f9-200fa5ad1166.png)
Acts Comes Alive!

Bible Study with Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Thursday morning from 10:30-11:30 a.m.
June 4 – Mission Unleashed: Getting the Community of Faith Out into the World

You can download the study materials for the class at https://www.first-church.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?iid=63AYGYY&dasi=4G3AI

To Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82768596282?pwd=VTlEaXZveUDYnRmZkV6NGdLWHI4UT09

Meeting ID: 827 6859 6282
Password: 832922

Keep in Prayer

Martha Huey; Fran Panek; Lindy Miller; Paul Flocken; Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz; Arlene Reynolds;
Rebecca, mother of Darrell Cross; Paul Zimmerman, father of Doug Zimmerman; Tito Sanchez, friend of Dayna McCrary; Amy Smith, sister of Sarah Lange; Joyce Marcum, sister of Betty Conn; Ilene Beasley, friend of Steven Ferris;
Calvin Roth, father of Julie Roth; Michael Fitzmaurice and his brother, Stephan Mano;
All medical professionals in our congregation who are on the front lines, and all those affected by illness, especially COVID-19, Susie Loik’s daughter, Kristen Glover; Randy Matlock, coworker of Denise Vogt.

Those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including: Shawn Dingus on the death of his grandmother, Opal Stanley; Jonathan Miller’s father and Finnegan’s grandfather on the death of George J. Miller from COVID-19; Helen and John Cantrell on the death of his son, John; Ella Koscher on the death of her 10-year-old “sister” Maria, and Maria’s family and friends in Madagascar; Mark Williams, on the death of friend, Kelly Harris; Pat Patterson’s daughter-in-law Chelsea Patterson, on the death of her mother, Dorothy Ferguson; Sam Lebold and family on the death of his mother, Joan Lebold; family and friends of Carl Miller; Mike Valinis and family on the death of his brother, Adam Valinis; and Jorge Fernandez, on the death of his mother.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Sundays on Zoom Immediately Following the Service Livestream

Join the Virtual Coffee Hour, immediately following the service livestream.
Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85836080890?pwd=L3B3M1NoBlMcGy4Ky9wbnNTME5RQT09

Meeting ID: 858 3608 0890
Password: 911990
**The 2020 Confirmation Class**

**Kylie Cooks**
Among Kylie’s remarkable qualities is her bold and confident approach to life—impressive in any adult, let alone a teenager. Kylie brings energy, intelligence and thoughtfulness to all she pursues including her great loves: art (especially ceramics), music and literature. She is a violist and a voracious reader. She is curious and thinks deeply about everything, including faith and religion, resulting in her meaningful and most rewarding journey in Confirmation.
—Nancy Braverman

**Madalyn Dean**
I am pleased to introduce Madalyn to the Congregation. Madalyn, a well-rounded young woman, is an enthusiastic learner; multi-sport athlete; and enjoys both visual and performing arts.

Confirmation has deepened Madalyn's faith. Studying other religions has underscored to her the fundamental connectedness of people across the world—profound during such challenging times.

Connections matter to Madalyn: she nurtures her friendships and deeply loves her family, which anchors her. Praying God’s continued blessings to Madalyn at Confirmation!
—Allison Lowery Palmer

**Adam Ghose**
I am pleased to introduce Adam Ghose. No matter the location, we have always had rich, wide-ranging conversations. Adam is a focused, dedicated student with a passion and talent for Mathematics—an interest we share. He also loves playing video games. Adam will be attending the high school from which I recently retired. I hope to provide additional guidance in the future, despite not being there on a daily basis. Blessings to Adam as he is confirmed!
—James Velo

**Hector Gonzales**
Hector Gonzales is an 8th grade student in the Gahanna School district. Hector enjoys sports, including tennis and soccer and is a member on his school tennis team. In addition to sports Hector has been involved in the Boy Scouts of America for many years. I have recently learned that Hector is a “Star Scout” well on his way to becoming an Eagle Scout. He also serves as a den chief and mentors Cub Scouts.

Like many teens Hector thoroughly enjoys fellowship with his friends playing video games and PlayStation. Hector will enter Gahanna Lincoln High School in the fall and hopes to be accepted into the engineering program. He also expresses a strong interest in the Arts and hopes to combine Art and Engineering into a career path.
—Dean Hafey
Ethan Murray
We’ve known him as a sweet attentive little boy who served us communion at 9am, a talented actor in our Christmas plays, a reverent shepherd and king in our Christmas pageants, as a beautiful voice in our youth choir. I have known him for the last three years as a kind, thoughtful, and attentive student in our Sunday school class. Fun and funny yet serious and sincere.

I was flattered and honored when Ethan selected me to be his mentor in the confirmation process. During this time I have learned that he’s a great student, soccer player, friend, and proud Dubliner.

What I want you to know about Ethan now that I’ve had a chance to share with him during this time of decision and discovery is, to coin the Yiddish, a Mensch- A man of integrity, a good dude, a stand up guy, a person with the qualities you would hope for in a trusted friend.

We are honored to have him as an adult member of our church.
—Bill Rhoads

AnnaSofia Severson
AnnaSofia Severson is creative, adventurous, kind and generous. On our first lunch outing together, she anxiously encouraged me try all of her lunch. How people eat says a lot about them; she’s good people! AnnaSofia is quick with a smile and a hug. We’ve never seen each other when we didn’t embrace. I’m proud to know AnnaSofia, a faithful and loving friend. She is a strong, resilient addition to our church family.
—Dayna McCrary
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, 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 Pam Mantor at pmantor@first-church.org or Rev. Emily Corzine at ecorzine@first-church.org.

Cash and designated checks go to Youth Mental Health Project. The Youth Mental Health Project is committed to ensuring that families have support to care for and strengthen their children’s mental health during these extremely challenging times. The need for parent support, which is crucial for helping families care for their kids’ mental health, has never been higher. They provide free, direct support to parents and families whose children are struggling with their mental health. Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming Mission Offerings:
June 7: Coalition of Immokalee Workers
June 14: Knight Perry Fund
June 21: Deep Griha
June 28: Equitas Health

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 this number 614-733-4547 and leave a message. Someone will return your call as needed.

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
Financial Assistant Pam Mantor
Building and Grounds Superintendent Mark Dahnke
Building and Grounds Assistant Darrell Cross
Custodian Jimy 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

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
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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 Kaye Martin; Justice & Mercy-elect Lauren Muskett; Music, Arts & Heritage David Mailer; Music, Arts & Heritage-elect Scott Jones; Members-at-Large Melissa 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