



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 21, 2020

The Third Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 7

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.*

*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

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing
In Christ There is No East or West

Flor Peeters
Peeters

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Mark S. Williams

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: The Lord listens to us in times of trouble and joy.

P: We call to the Lord in our anxiety and fear.

L: God will not turn away from us.

P: God will heal us and restore us.

L: Let the Lord of life enter into your spirits.

P: Lord, come to us and heal our brokenness and sorrow. Amen.

1. God of our life, through all the cir - cling years, We trust in Thee;
 2. God of the past, our times are in Thy hand; With us a - bide.
 3. God of the com - ing years, through paths un - known We fol - low Thee;

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.
 Lead us by faith to hope's true prom - ised land; Be Thou our guide.
 When we are strong, Lord leave us not a - lone; Our ref - uge be.

With each new day, when each morn - ing lifts the veil,
 With Thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,
 Be Thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,

We own Thy mer - - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
 And faith's fair vi - - sion chan - ges in - to sight.
 Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, may we have perpetual love and reverence for your holy name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Mr. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Genesis 21:8–21

Mia Provenzano

A reading from the book of Genesis, chapter 21.

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

P: Thanks be to God.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, chapter 6.

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling-Place (Requiem)
(pre-recorded)

Johannes Brahms

How lovely is Thy dwelling-place, O Lord of Hosts!

For my soul, it longeth, yea, fainteth for the courts of the Lord; my soul and body crieth out, yea, for the living God.

Blest are they that dwell within Thy house; they praise Thy name evermore.

— Psalm 84:1, 2, 4

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 10:24–39

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 10.

Jesus said, “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. “Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“God Hears”

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

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



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Corzine

Cash and designated checks go to **Faith in Public Life - Ohio**. Faith in Public Life is a strategy center for the interfaith community and has played an important role in changing the narrative about the role of faith in policy discourse, winning major progressive policy victories, and empowerment. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold W. Friedell

(pre-recorded)

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; For when humbly, in thy name, Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them: Alleluya! Touch we now thy garment's hem.
As the brethren used to gather In the name of Christ to sup, Then with thanks to God the Father Break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up.
All our meals and all our living Make as sacraments of thee, That by caring, helping, giving, We may true disciples be. Alleluya! We will serve thee faithfully.
—Percy Dearmer

* 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.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Corzine

Please be seated for the Notices.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

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

1. Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, If
 2. Take up your cross, let not its weight Fill
 3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame, And
 4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, And

you would my dis - ci - ple be; Take up your cross with
 your weak spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength shall bear your
 let your fool - ish heart be still; The Lord for you ac -
 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave; It guides you to a -

will - ing heart, And hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
 spir - it up And brace your heart and nerve your arm.
 cept - ed death Up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
 bun - dant life And leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Roulade

Gerald Near

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

This Week at First Church

- 6/21**
9 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Zoom Chat
11 a.m. Worship
12 Noon Virtual Coffee Hour
- 6/22**
10 a.m. 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge
7 p.m. 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge
- 6/23**
7 p.m. Deacons Mtg
- 6/24**
10:30 a.m. Acts Comes Alive Bible Study -
Theme: "Healing"
2:30 p.m. Live Stream Task Force Mtg
- "Acts Comes Alive!"**
 Extended

Wednesdays in June, July and August at 10:30 a.m.
 The second Wednesday, the fourth Wednesday, and the fifth Wednesday when that happens. The dates, which account for Rev. Tim's vacation in early July will take us through the end of our study in "Acts Comes Alive."
 We will meet at 10:30 a.m. on these days:
 June 10 – Worship
 June 24 – Healing
 July 22 – Learning and Teaching
 July 29 – Evangelism
 August 12 – 12 keys together

Zoom Meeting Information:
<https://files.constantcontact.com/5728e215501/0977004a-87bf-4ddb-b264-e2d67a5737c7.pdf>

Class Materials
<https://www.first-church.org/protected/ArticleView.aspx?id=63AYGYY&cdasi=4G3AI>

Join us in a Church-Wide Program

Everyone is invited to participate in the 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge. It is sponsored by the Christian Education and Justice and Mercy Commissions. The 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge is where you do one action to further your understanding of power, privilege, supremacy, oppression, and equity. The Plan includes suggestions for readings, podcasts, videos, observations, and ways to form and deepen community connections. The suggested categories are: Read, Listen, Watch, Notice, Connect, Engage, Act, Reflect and Stay inspired.

We will host a Zoom meeting each Monday, starting June 15th, for us to discuss what we have learned during this challenge in a safe place.

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You will find the link below – so get started now and help make a change in our lives and country.

https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge?fbclid=I-wAR14DWYP7qKFg7j5aokIXhfBeQhy21pV-kbvF-S8HIOccZm-JgQbY_bVAIk

Join Zoom Meeting 10:00 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88054839264?pwd=W-FE3Nm9EdXgrbmNzVW1adHFuWVd6QT09>

Meeting ID: 880 5483 9264

Password: 754146

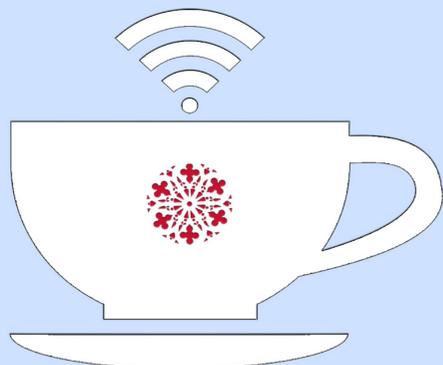
Join Zoom Meeting 7:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83054339411?pwd=bE1R-ZXdTbElkWFZQOU9yMGxXK0R1UT09>

Meeting ID: 830 5433 9411

Password: 361493

Virtual Coffee Hour



Sundays on Zoom
Immediately Following the Service Livestream

Join the Virtual Coffee Hour,
immediately following each
Worship Livestream.

9:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/86527907526?pwd=L014R1dId-
mE4UzlUNDlnZkZ4ZURldz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527907526?pwd=L014R1dIdmE4UzlUNDlnZkZ4ZURldz09)

Meeting ID: 865 2790 7526

Password: 601438

11:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/88494216574?pwd=cDNVS0d-
KaEdvTGhMcVozc0twU2pyZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88494216574?pwd=cDNVS0dKaEdvTGhMcVozc0twU2pyZz09)

Meeting ID: 884 9421 6574

Password: 693317

Keep in Prayer

Fran Panek; Lindy Miller; Paul Flocken;
Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz; and Arlene
Reynolds.

Duan Cannon and her mother Lois Fields; Will
Nirote, grandson of Rev. Bill Nirote; 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; and Michael
Fitzmaurice and his brother, Stephan Mano.

All medical professionals and first responders in
our congregation who are on the front lines, and
those affected by illness.

The Youth of First Church want to thank all
who donated to the Drive-by Food Drive on
June 13th. We collected over 1,500 pounds of
food and over \$650 in donations. All this has
been delivered to the Gladden Food Pantry and
Broad Street Food Pantry. We also collect cat
and dog food and it is being distributed as well.
The Youth have decided to hold another Food
Drive in early August. The need is great!

These Days for July, August and September have
arrived. If you would like a copy please email Pat
Patterson at ppatterson@first-church.org and she
will mail it to you.

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 **Faith in Public Life**. Faith in Public Life is a strategy center for the interfaith community, and has played an important role in changing the narrative about the role of faith in policy discourse, winning major progressive policy victories, and empowering new religious leaders to fight for social justice and the common good. Thank you for your generosity.



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 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 Chris Farquhar; **Trustees** Allen Baker, Brian Cave, Sue Cook, Cindy Conn, Kevin Cubick, 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** Kaye Martin; **Justice & Mercy-elect** Lauren Muscott; **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



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

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Bulletins and audio podcasts of services are available on the website for each week:
www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx



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