



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 12, 2020

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 10

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 *Lebhaft* (Sonate II) Paul Hindemith

WELCOME Mark S. Williams

ENTER TO WORSHIP Mr. 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: Come, let us worship the Lord our God,

**P: For the Lord is our God, and we are the Lord's people.**

L: As we wait upon the Lord, let us open our ears,

**P: That we might both hear and heed the word of the Lord.**

L: As we wait upon the Lord, let us open our eyes,

**P: That we might both see and perceive the will of the Lord.**

L: As we wait upon the Lord, let us open our hearts.

**P: That we might understand with our hearts and turn to the Lord for healing.**

1. God, you spin the whirl - ing plan - ets, Fill the seas and spread the plains,  
2. You have called us to be faith - ful In our life and min - is - try.  
3. God, your word is still cre - at - ing, Call - ing us to life made new.

Mold the moun - tains, fash - ion blos - soms, Call forth sun - shine, wind, and rain,  
We re - spond in grate - ful wor - ship Joined in one com - mu - ni - ty.  
Now re - veal to us fresh vis - tas Where there's work to dare and do.

We, cre - at - ed in your im - age, Would a true re - flec - tion be  
When we blur your gra - cious im - age, Fo - cus us and make us whole.  
Keep us clear of all dis - tor - tion. Pol - ish us with lov - ing care.

Of your jus - tice, grace, and mer - cy And the truth that makes us free.  
Healed and strength - ened as your peo - ple, We move on - ward toward your goal.  
Thus, new crea - tures in your im - age, We'll pro - claim Christ ev - ery - where.

\* INVOCATION

The Rev. Amanda Conley

L: God be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**P: O God, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; 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

Mr. Williams

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 25:19–34

Naomi Frush Holt

*A reading from the book of Genesis, chapter 25.*

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

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 8.*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

*A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 13.*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

**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

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



MISSION INVITATION

Mr. Williams

Cash and designated checks go to the **Good Samaritan Fund**. The Good Samaritan Fund provides help every month to those who come to the door of First Church in need. The next Good Sam Day is Monday, July 13. Thank you for your generosity.

VOLUNTARY

*Ruhig bewegt* (Sonate II)

Hindemith

\* 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. Amen.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Conley

*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.**

\* CLOSING HYMN

Immortal, Invisible

St. Denio

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vi - si - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2. Un - res - ting, un - has - ting, and si - lent as light,  
 3. To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor wan - ting, nor wast - ing, thou ru - lest in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bles - sed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,  
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,  
 all praise we would ren - der, O help us to see

al - migh - ty, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and wi - ther and per - ish; but nought chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

\* BENEDICTION

Rev. Conley

POSTLUDE

Fuge (Sonate II)

Hindemith

*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**

July 12, 2020

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**This Week at First Church**

- 7/12  
9 a.m. **Worship**  
9:45 a.m. **Zoom Chat**  
11 a.m. **Worship**  
12 Noon **Virtual Coffee Hour**  
6:30 p.m. **Youth Group**  
7/13  
9 a.m. **Good Samaritan Program**  
10 a.m. **21-Day Racial Equity Challenge**  
7 p.m. **Trustees Mtg**  
**21-Day Racial Equity Challenge**  
7/15  
2:30 p.m. **Live Stream Task Force Mtg**

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**Upcoming Mission Offerings**

- July 19 **CRIS**  
July 26 **Gladden Community House**
- 

**Twink Starr will celebrate his 98th birthday on July 16! During this time of social distancing, we ask that people help celebrate this amazing milestone by sending Twink a birthday card or note!**

**Cards can be mailed to:  
Twink Starr  
Thurber Tower  
645 Neil Avenue, Apt. 603  
Columbus, OH 43215-1650**

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**Join us in a Church-Wide Program**

We will continue the dialogue for the 21-Day Racial Challenge.

Here are the dates:

July 13

July 20

August 10

August 17.

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 on the Mondays listed above for us to discuss what we have learned during this challenge in a safe space.

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

[https://www.eddiemoorej.com/21daychallenge?fbclid=IwAR14DWYP7qKFg7j5aokIXhfBeQhy21pV-kbvF\\_S8HIOCCzmlgQbY\\_bVAIk](https://www.eddiemoorej.com/21daychallenge?fbclid=IwAR14DWYP7qKFg7j5aokIXhfBeQhy21pV-kbvF_S8HIOCCzmlgQbY_bVAIk)

**Join Zoom Meeting 10:00 a.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88054839264?pwd=WFE3Nm9EdXgrbmNxVW1adHFuWVd6QT09>

Meeting ID: 880 5483 9264

Password: 754146

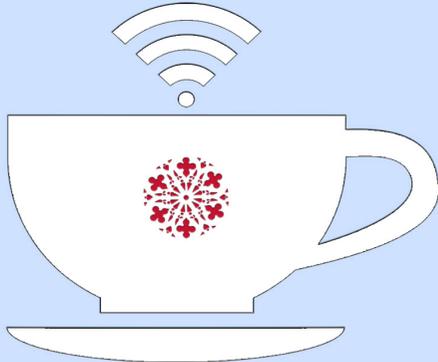
**Join Zoom Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83054339411?pwd=bE1RZXdTbElkWFZQOU9yMGxXK0R1UT09>

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=L014R1dIdmE4U-  
zlUNDlnZkZ4ZURldz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527907526?pwd=L014R1dIdmE4U-zlUNDlnZkZ4ZURldz09)

**Meeting ID: 865 2790 7526**

**Password: 601438**

**11:00 a.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/  
j/88494216574?pwd=cDNVS0dKaEdvT-  
GhMcVozc0twU2pyZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88494216574?pwd=cDNVS0dKaEdvT-GhMcVozc0twU2pyZz09)

**Meeting ID: 884 9421 6574**

**Password: 693317**

## Keep in Prayer

In celebration of the birth of Heather and Dameon Jones' daughter Evelyn. Dana Navin Schultz; Fran Panek; Lindy Miller; and Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz.

Caleb Creech, brother-in-law to Sarah Ahrens Stadie, soon to be deployed to Afghanistan; Jane Mead, mother of Cindy Deliman; Duan Cannon and her mother Lois Fields; Will Nirote, grandson of Rev. Bill and Arevena Nirote; Tito Sanchez, friend of Dayna McCrary; Amy Smith, sister of Sarah Lange; and Calvin Roth, father of Julie Roth.

All medical professionals who are on the front lines, and those affected by illness including Natalie Wojtanowski who is being treated for Covid19 and her parents Denny and Carmen Wojtanowski; and Rev. Mary Kay Beall and John Carter on the death of her cousin Paul who died from COVID-19.

Those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including: the Reynolds/Flocken family and friends on the death of Arlene Reynolds; friends of Natalie Barker on the death of their baby; the Zimmerman family on the death of Doug's father Paul Zimmerman; and the family of Clara Harsh on her death at age 102.

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### Save the Date!

We are making lunches and helping for  
THE LARGEST TABLE at St. JOHN'S on JULY 29 .

9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m . Making Lunches  
10:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Serving at Saint Johns

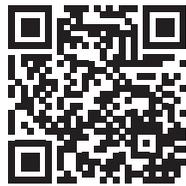
Volunteers are needed. Masks are required. Contact  
Rev. Emily Corzine for information.

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## 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](http://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](mailto:pmantor@first-church.org) or Rev. Emily Corzine at [ecorzine@first-church.org](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org).

This week, cash and designated checks go to the Good Samaritan Fund. The Good Samaritan Fund provides help every month to those who come to the door of First Church in need. The next Good Sam Day is Monday, July 13. Thank you for your generosity



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## 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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[www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx](http://www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx)



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