



# Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

November 22, 2020

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## This Week at First Church

11/22	
9 a.m.	Worship
9:45 a.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour
11 a.m.	Worship
12 Noon	Virtual Coffee Hour
6:30 p.m.	Youth Connections
11/23	
7 p.m.	Formative Discussions for Adults
11/24	
7 p.m.	Deacon's Mtg
11/25 – 11/27	Observance of Thanksgiving Church and church office closed

## Faith Formation

Faith Formation is online with great lessons and fun as we grow in our faith. The PreK–5th grades will have a Wednesday Connections video lesson posted each Wednesday for families to view at their convenience.

The Youth Connections (6th–12th) will meet each Sunday night at 6:30 p.m. The link for the youth will be sent out through email.

## Formative Discussions for Adults

A study on the book *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving began on November 2. The book is available at all local bookstores and online resources. The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston will lead the four-session study on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. Click [here](#) for full Zoom meeting information. Click [here](#) to “Learn More” about *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving.

## Children's Christmas Play

Parents of children ages 3–11 should double check their email concerning the Children's Christmas Play from Mr. Mark. If you have not responded, please do ASAP so we can plan accordingly. The play will be performed on Zoom and it will be a great time for all the children. If you did not receive the email, contact Mark Williams at [mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org).

## Advent Drive-By

Mark your calendar to attend the Advent Drive-By on Sunday, November 29 from 1–2:30 p.m. in the west parking lot. Each family will receive “Advent in a Bag” resource kit plus more! We only have 100 bags so plan to get there early. The staff and volunteers will greet you as you drive by the west side of the church. We ask you enter the west parking lot from Cleveland Avenue and follow the arrows. Due to COVID-19 and church protocols, everyone must stay in their car during this event.

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## New Member Class

Monday, November 30 at 7 p.m.

Monday, December 7 at 7 p.m.

Zoom

This year's class will be held remotely. Members will be officially received into membership during the 11 a.m. service on December 13.

Contact [Rev. Emily Corzine](#) or [Pat Patterson](#) for more information.

## Keep In Prayer

Pat Liebchen; Mary Kay and John Carter; Dana Navin Schultz; Lindy Miller; and Rev. Earl Fritz and Pauline Fritz.

David Livingston, brother of Nancy Livingston; Owen Meligan, friend of Melissa and Sebby Kulwicki; Kim O'Neill, friend of Katie Deliman; Strick Stickland, nephew of Pat Patterson; Jonathan and Will Nirote, son and grandson of Bill and Arevena Nirote; Bob Prickett, friend of Steve Ferris; Michael Swift, son of Jilda Swift; William Taylor, friend of Melva Fisher; John Busey, brother of Melody Leidheiser; Tom and Susan Murrell; Erna Temple, mother of David Temple; Dwight Elaine Holt, parents of David Holt; Jane Mead, mother of Cindy Deliman; and all those who mourn the loss of loved ones, including Gretchen Weller, on the death of her grandmother.

Renee and Kyle Bayless, cousin of Mark Williams; Kathy Milia, aunt of Melissa Prendergast, diagnosed with Covid-19/Pneumonia; in the hospital with COVID19; and all our friends and family with COVID19 or those who have lost someone from COVID19.



## 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**

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

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## Pastoral Visits

Rev. Emily Corzine is making Pastoral Care Lawn or Patio visits on Thursday afternoons. If you are interested in a socially distant lawn or patio visit, please contact Office Assistant Pat Patterson at [ppatterson@first-church.org](mailto:ppatterson@first-church.org) to arrange a visit with Rev. Emily.

Rev. Emily has office hours at 10 a.m. on Thursdays. This could be a time to chat, discuss pastoral concerns or have prayer. These are 20 minute blocks beginning at 10 a.m. Contact Rev. Emily for a time slot at [ecorzine@first-church.org](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org).

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## 2021 Annual Stewardship Campaign Update

The Annual Stewardship Campaign committee is pleased to report the total pledge revenue as of 11/18 is \$518,534. We have 136 of 276 known giving units received. So far, 85 have increased their pledges over 2020. We stand at 49% of our Giving Unit Goal. We invite everyone to participate in getting us to 100% participation. We are waiting to hear from 140 giving units who made a pledge last year. If you haven't pledged before and you wish to support the ministry and mission of First Church, we invite you to do so through this link: <https://www.first-church.org/AnnualGivingForm.aspx> If you have not already submitted your intention for 2021, please inform the church office, [Amccormick@first-church.org](mailto:Amccormick@first-church.org), by November 30, 2021. We invite you to participate in the mission and ministry of First Church.

**“Home for Christmas”**  
**An Advent/Christmas Sermon Series**  
By Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

“I’ll Be Home for Christmas” is one of our season’s favorite Christmas songs. Kim Gannon wrote the lyrics, and Walter Kent composed the music that Elvis Presley, Bing Crosby, Reba McIntyre, and so many others have sung. The final verse offers this: “My darling, Christmas Eve will find me, where the love light gleams, I’ll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams.”

We are fully aware that 2020 has delivered us to an Advent and Christmas at home. Through many ways, your staff at First Church will be bringing Christmas to your home this December. Advent begins Sunday, November 29th. We want you to engage with us throughout the season. Here is a taste of “Home for Christmas” An Advent/Christmas Sermon Series that Rev. Corzine and I will deliver throughout the season. More is coming. But we always begin with worship.

May “the love light” of God gleam in your hearts. Love and blessings to you always.

# *Home for Christmas*

## An Advent/Christmas Sermon Series

November 29	Advent I	Rev. Corzine	“It’s Sufficient”
December 6	Advent II	Rev. Ahrens	“Comfort Found at Home”
December 13	Advent III	Rev. Ahrens	“Candlelight from our Windows”
December 20	Advent IV	Rev. Corzine	“Rich Promises”
December 24	Christmas Eve		
	3 p.m.		
	7:30 p.m.	Rev. Ahrens	“Returning Home”
	11 p.m.	Rev. Ahrens	“Opening the Doors to our Hearts”

## Emergency for the Next 28 Days

11/19/20-12/19/20

### Our Renewed Commitment to Stay Safe and Stay Home

By Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Issued on Thursday, November 18th by  
Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther and Columbus  
Public Health Commissioner Dr. Mysheika Roberts:  
**“To help stop the spread of COVID-19, Co-  
lumbus and Franklin County leaders are asking  
residents to stay at home for the next four weeks,  
except for work, school or essential needs.”**

Coupled with Gov. Mike DeWine’s daily increasing  
calls for tighter stay at home orders, we ask you all to  
do the following:

**For everyone:** Stay home and stay safe.

**Individually:** Stay home as much as possible. If you  
are in contact with other people, wear a mask that  
covers your nose and mouth outside and inside, keep  
social distance (6’-20’), wash your hands with soap  
and water regularly.

**As a member and friend of First Church:** Do not  
come to the building unless you have urgent and/or  
absolutely necessary business. If that is the case,  
contact us in advance, and one of us will meet you  
at the 9th street door, and we will guide you through  
the appropriate steps to take upon entering our  
building. These steps include:

- **Checking your temperature**
- **Washing your hands**
- **Wearing a mask.**

Please, no stopping by for visits and social interac-  
tion for the next four weeks. Call us, and we will  
happily talk and visit by phone – 614-228-1741,  
extensions listed on the phone message or pastoral  
care emergencies – 614-733-4547

Thank you for understanding. Please, stay safe and  
stay healthy as the winter arrives and we are more  
inside and separate from one another.

## BREAD Update

We have exciting news from our BREAD network: last  
month we held 11 house meetings (up from 9 last year)  
and a total of 73 attendees committed to be BREAD net-  
work member. Being a network member means attend-  
ing four organizational meetings: the Annual Assembly  
which took place last week; the Rally on April 12; the  
Nehemiah Action on May 4, when we press politicians  
to commit to the various proven solutions we have  
been researching this year; and the Celebration of our  
successes in June when we also launch our investment  
drive.

Having 73 network members makes the realization  
possible of our long-term dream, of bringing the same  
number of people that attend our weekly worship ser-  
vice, to the Nehemiah Action. So stay tuned for spring  
when our network members will be inviting all to join  
us for this year’s Action, in whatever form that may be.

Closer to today’s date, on December 7, BREAD will hold  
our Annual Research Kick-off, starting the process of  
setting goals and parameters for our research and the  
launching of a new campaign: to study possible chang-  
es to current policing practices. Ongoing campaigns  
include the effort to implement a program for reducing  
Gun Violence incidents and our as of yet unsuccessful  
attempts of convince city officials to adopt a Municipal  
identity card. We also continue our efforts to imple-  
ment Restorative Practices in more schools; demand  
more low income housing; expand job opportunities for  
people who have recently been released from prisons  
and those who live in low income neighborhoods; and  
provide better services for seniors (Elder Care).

There is plenty to choose from. A link to the  
December research kick-off will be provided to all who  
are interested. Just let your team member know that you  
want to be part of the work. The (Zoom) meeting will  
start at 7 p.m.

Barb and Antoinette (614-451-9947)

## 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](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 Annette McCormick at [amccormick@first-church.org](mailto:amccormick@first-church.org).



Cash and designated checks go to **Gladden Community House (GCH)** for Christmas food boxes and gift cards. For 112 years children and families in need of essential services and support have come to rely on GCH as a place of welcome and stability – like being at home. Thank you for your generosity

For more information about Gladden Community house visit <http://gladdenhouse.org>

## Upcoming Mission Offerings

- November 29 Church World Service
- December 6 Downtowners
- December 13 Bethlehem on Broad Street (BOBS)
- December 20 Columbus Coalition for the Homeless
- December 27 J. Jireh Development Corp

## 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 Farquar, 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