



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 9, 2022

The First Sunday after Epiphany/Baptism of Christ

## WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 169 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

*Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam, BWV 684*  
(Christ our Lord to the Jordan came)

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Andrew VerHage

Leader: Blessed be God, Light of the world, bright Morning Star, and Spirit of love.

*\* Then all stand.*

L: Our God is a God of power and strength!

**P: God has created each of us with tender care.**

L: Our God is a God of majesty and awe!

**P: God walks with each of us every step of the way.**

L: Our God is a God of glory and wonder!

**P: God loves each of us with tenderness and passion.**

L: Our God calls us each by name.

**P: God calls each of us to unite in worship together!**

\* OPENING HYMN

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning

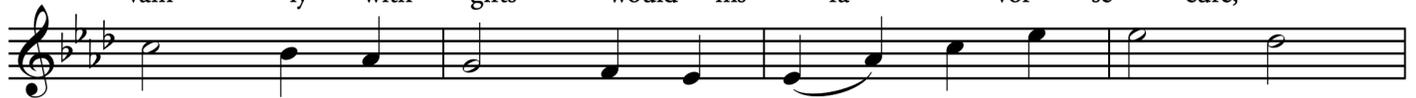
*Morning Star*



1. Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
 2. Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,  
 3. Shall we not of - fer our cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
 4. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,



Light - en our dark - ness, and lend us your aid.  
 Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall.  
 fra - grance of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,  
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;



Star of the East the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 An - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
 Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
 Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,



guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
 Ma - ker and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.  
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?  
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.

\* INVOCATION

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**P: O God, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

\* 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

Mark S. Williams

L: Lord and life-giving Spirit, who brooded over the waters when first the world began:

**All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.**

L: Who led your people out of slavery through the waters of the Red Sea and into freedom through the waters of the Jordan: who overshadowed Mary of Nazareth and caused her to be the mother of Jesus.

**All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.**

L: Who anointed Jesus as Messiah as he was baptized by John in the Jordan: Who raised Jesus Christ from the grave and proclaimed Christ "Son of God" in all power over the living and the dead.

**All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.**

L: Who appeared in tongues of flame on Pentecost: Who charges the waters of baptism through and through with power to give new life.

**All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.**

L: Lord, hear our prayer.

**All: Let our cry come to You.**

### PRAYER OVER THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

*Please stand.*

#### \* THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Rev. Ahrens

*As we sing, Rev. Ahrens will share the water of baptism with all using these words:*

Leader: Remember your baptism and keep it holy.

**All: Amen.**

We have put on Christ this day, sing al - le - lu - ia and re - joice.

We have been bap - tized in Him; sing al - le - lu - ia and re - joice.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia!

#### \* CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Corzine

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everlasting God, who out of pure mercy decreed both the creation and the renewal of the world, be present and active in the sacraments which you have instituted for our salvation. Send forth the Spirit of adoption in full measure that those who are born of water and the Spirit may live under the power of the same Spirit all the days of their life and so arrive safely in their heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated for the readings.*

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 43.*

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

L: May light break forth on God's Holy Word.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL HYMN

O Thou who camest from above

*Hereford*

1. O thou who cam - est from a - bove  
 2. There let it for thy glo - ry burn  
 3. Je - sus, con - firm my heart's de - sire

the fire ce - les - tial to im - part,  
 with ev - er bright, un - dy - ing blaze,  
 to work, and speak, and think for thee;

kin - dle a flame of sa - cred love  
 and trem - bling to its source re - turn  
 still let me guard the ho - ly fire

up - on the al - tar of my heart,  
 in hum - ble prayer and fer - vent praise,  
 and still stir up the gift in me.

*A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 3.*

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

L: May light break forth on God’s Holy Word.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

## BAPTISMAL MEDITATION

“Richly Beloved”

Rev. Ahrens

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Corzine

## OUR 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. Corzine

Designated gifts go to support **UCC Disaster Ministries**. UCC Disaster Ministries directs support to victims of the recent Kentucky and Midwest tornados that caused widespread devastation across a multi-state area. One of the 34 confirmed tornados left an approximate 227-mile-long-path of destruction spanning four states, with 200 miles of destruction in Kentucky alone. Thank you for your generosity.

## ANTHEM

There shall a star (Christus)

Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a sceptre from Israel rise up. And dash in pieces princes and nations.

As bright the star of morning gleams,

So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams

Of light and consolation!

Thy Word, O Lord,

Radiance darting, Truth imparting, Gives salvation;

Thine be praise and adoration!

—Numbers 24:17; Psalm 2:9

Bring we the frank-in-cense of our love To the feet of the ho - ly Child,  
 Ev - er re - mem-ber-ing God's great gift Of a love that is un - de - filed.  
 Ho - ly the In-fant and ho - ly the moth-er And ho - ly and pre-cious the gifts that we bring;  
 Praise to Cre - a - tor and praise to the Spir-it And praise to Christ Je - sus our King.

## \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Corzine

## COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

## \* CLOSING HYMN

## How firm a foundation

*Foundation*

1. How firm a foun - da - tion for you has been laid,  
 2. "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,  
 4. "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 5. "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,  
 by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!  
 for I am your God, I will still give you aid;  
 the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;  
 my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;  
 What more can God say than to you has been said,  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand  
 For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed  
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,  
 to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."  
 de - liv - 'ring you from your deep - est dis - tress."  
 your soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."  
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

\* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Prelude in C, BWV 547

Bach

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LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *liturgist*

Mark S. Williams, *liturgist*

Andrew VerHage, *liturgist*

The First Church Chamber Choir

Kevin Jones, *organist*

Peter Murray, Mike Kennedy, Janet Newcity, *livestream ministry*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given by the Flower Fund to the glory of God and, as we celebrate the Baptism of Christ, are dedicated to all the babies, infants, children, teens, and adults who have been baptized into Christian faith here at 444 East Broad Street since we opened our doors in December 1931. Thanks be to God!

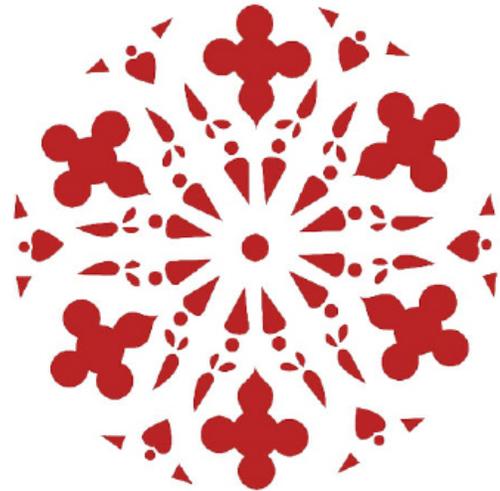
*Enter to Worship*  
**Depart to Serve**

January 9, 2022

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## This Week at First Church

- 1/9  
9 a.m. Worship (Virtual)  
11 a.m. Worship (Virtual)  
2 p.m. 2025 VISION Session (Virtual)
- 1/10  
7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Virtual)
- 1/11  
7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Virtual)
- 1/12  
4:30 p.m. Deadline for Annual Reports  
from Council and Staff
- 1/13  
7 p.m. Security Team Mtg (Virtual)



**Online Worship Only**  
**During the Month of January**  
Services Streaming 9 & 11 a.m.  
YouTube & Facebook Live

Click on the link below to read the letter from First Church leaders about pausing in-person worship in January.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/5728e215501/47349ca6-d2bc-411f-859d-a1163549bc94.pdf>

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## Upcoming Missions

- January 9 **UCC Disaster Ministries**  
January 16 King Art Complex- Youth Programs  
January 23 Good Samaritan  
January 30 Knight-Perry Fund

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## Cancellation Notice

The Choral Evensong on January 16, 2022 has been cancelled.

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## Global Mission Partner

**Ricardo Mayol, Guatemala**

Ricardo Mayol serves with the Ecumenical Christian Council of Guatemala (CECG). The CECG provides a space for meeting, discussing and planning of common actions by the main churches of Guatemala, to promote the common good, Christian values, and advocacy. It has support and cooperation from Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Evangelical churches. The CECG works to unite Christians as they stand against poverty, racism, violence, and the many other problems faced by Guatemalans.

Learn more about Global Ministries by visiting <https://www.globalministries.org/>.

## Keep in Prayer

**Members** Lisa Morris; Steven Anderson; Maddie Helmer; Sharon and Glenn Bardus; Pat Groseck; Twink Starr; Martha Huey; Traci Shaw; Carol Woodard; Barbara Knox; Betsy Zahn; and John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter.

**Family and friends** Julia Myers' mother, Sara Stevens; Tim Ahrens' grandson, Ethan Stadie, and his cousin, Rebecca Kellermeyer; Pat Patterson's nephew, Arnall Page; Mary Day Fewlass' friend, Sandy Holley; Kate Erickson's friends, Jay Elliott and Kelly Blankenship; Lee Wetmore's sister-in-law, Rhonda Logue and children, and brother-in-law Matthew Logue; Phillip Smith; Rick Brant; Barbara Clapham's friend, Martha Moore; Joe Provenzano's step-father, Harve Senter; Craig Clay's friend, Tom; Sarah Lange's sister and brother-in-law, Melissa and Dan Clayton; Kathryn Bamberger's brother, Jim Bamberger; Melva Fisher's son, Stephen Fisher; Joe Bellissimo's parents, Joe and Nancy Bellissimo; Kathy Reed's friend, JD Mace.

**Those who mourn loved ones** John Deliman on the death of his uncle, Tony Zichi; Rev. Amanda Conley on the death of her maternal grandfather Robert William Wright, Sr.; David Nassau on the death of his grandmother, Harriet Conklin; Bob and Diana Kutschbach on the death of their sister-in-law, Vicky Kutschbach; and Mark Williams on the death of his cousin, Tom Norris.

Prayers for justice for Imam Mohamed Hassan Adam and for the Somali community in our community.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Iran, Iraq, and Syria. We pray for Global Ministries worker Ricardo Mayol in Guatemala.

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](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).



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Learn more about the mission of the week by visiting <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/disaster/>

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## Emergency Pastoral Care Line

If you need to be in touch with Rev. Corzine or Rev. Ahrens for emergency pastoral care or to name a prayer request, please call **614-733-4547** and leave a message. Someone will return your call as needed.

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## Nursery Workers Needed

First Church is looking to hire two adult nursery workers. Positions are immediately available. Please contact Mark Williams at [mwilliams@first-church.org](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org) for more information.

# 2025 VISION Information and Listening Sessions

Information and listening sessions about 2025 VISION, the proposed long-range plan for First Church, which will be submitted for adoption to Church Council on January 18, 2022, and, if approved, to a Congregational vote at the Church's annual meeting on January 30, 2022.

**PURPOSE:** To raise questions and to discuss the proposed 2025 VISION, please attend any one of three ZOOM sessions with Alec Dietz, Lynn Wallich, Dennis Secor, Allison Lowery Palmer, and Christine Farquhar.

**DATES AND TIMES:** To register, click on the desired date and time.

[Sunday, January 9, at 2:00 p.m.](#)

[Sunday, January 16, at 10 a.m.](#)

[Wednesday, January 19 at 7 p.m.](#)

**DISCUSSION DOCUMENTS** (Click to Download):

[Long-Range Plan 2022-2025: The 2025 Vision of Growth and Sustainability](#)

[Goettler & Associates Pre-Campaign Discussion Documents](#)

[Long-Range Plan 2016-2020: The 20/20 Vision](#)

**ZOOM MEETING INVITATION:**

Topic: Moderator Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89779310062?pwd=bkx0d-mR0MzNXMGcrWVcrUEJ5aVdWUT09>

-  
Meeting ID: 897 7931 0062

Passcode: 576684

## 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.  
**Commissioned Minister for Social Justice** Tom Brownfield  
**Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction** Jacquelyn Dean  
**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  
**Wedding Coordinators** Amy Wagner, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani  
**Nursery Staff** Miranda Brooks, Norma Secor, 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 (1948-2021), 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, Sue Cook, Cindy Conn (Treasurer), Kevin Cubick, Elizabeth Iannarino, Jim Kyle, Elaine Warren (Secretary), Christopher Washington  
**Commissioners**  
**Administration** Brad West  
**Administration-Elect** Dennis Secor  
**Church Growth** Geoff Smith-VerHage  
**Church Growth-elect**  
**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](http://www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx)



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