



# MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 23, 2022

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

## 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.*

*The liturgy of Morning Prayer is a form of daily worship adapted through the ages that has its earliest roots in our Jewish heritage. Its premise is one of praying to God at the beginning of the day—giving thanks for another day ahead. The service falls roughly into three main parts: Opening sentences and singing/reading of the Psalms; readings from Holy Scripture – usually one from the Hebrew texts, and one from the Gospels – interspersed with ancient songs of the church; and prayers. To this we add Holy Communion, bringing further meaning to the totality of the prayers we have already offered. The liturgy presupposes full and hearty congregational involvement in the spoken and sung responses, preparing us to be sent forth from this house of worship into the wider world to live out the Great Commission.*

PRELUDE

Kevin Jones, pianist

WELCOME

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, the life and light of humanity.

People: Great is God's love for us. Alleluia!

*Please stand as you are able  
(\* indicates Congregation standing)*

\* THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

L: O God, open our lips.

P: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

L: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

P: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

\* OPENING SONG

I sing as I arise today

*Seed of Life*

1. I sing as I arise to-day! I call on my Cre-a-tor's might:  
2. The word of God to be my speech, The hand of God to be my stay,  
3. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia,

The will of God to be my guide, The eye of God to be my sight.  
The shield of God to be my strength, The path of God to be my way.  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

\* PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 19 (*read responsively by verse*)

Rev. Ahrens

L: The heavens declare your glory, O God, and the firmament shows your handiwork.

**P: One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

L: Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

**P: Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world.**

L: In the deep you have set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**P: It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

L: Your law, O God, is perfect and revives the soul; your testimony is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

**P: Your statutes are just and rejoice the heart; your commandment is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

L: The fear of you is clean and endures for ever; your judgments are true and righteous altogether.

**P: More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey,  
than honey in the comb.**

L: By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

**P: Who can tell how often one offends? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

L: Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**P: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O God, my strength and my redeemer.**

L: Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit:

**P: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Corzine

L: The peace of God be always with you.

**P: And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mark S. Williams

*Please be seated for the readings.*

THE FIRST READING

1 Corinthians 12:12–31

Rev. Ahrens

*A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12.*

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third

teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

\* CANTICLE: THE THIRD SONG OF ISAIAH

*Das neugeborne Kindelein*

*Today we sing stanzas 1 and 4.*

1. A - rise, shine out, your light has come, un - fold - ing  
 2. A - bove earth's val - leys, thick with night, high on your  
 3. From walls sur - pass - ing time and space un - num - bered  
 4. The sounds of vi - o - lence shall cease as dwell - ings  
 5. The danc - ing air shall glow with light, and sun and

ci - ty of our dreams. On dis - tant hills a  
 walls the dawn ap - pears, and his - to - ry shall from  
 gates, like o - pen hands, shall gath - er gifts  
 of sal - va - tion rise to spar - kle in  
 moon give up their place, when love shines out of

glo - ry gleams: the new cre - a - tion has be - gun.  
 dry its tears, as na - tions stream towards your light.  
 all the lands, and wel - come all the hu - man race.  
 ter - nal skies from a - ve - nues of praise and peace.  
 ev - ery face, our good, our glo - ry, and de - light.

THE SECOND READING

Luke 4:14-21

Rev. Corzine

*A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 4.*

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

1. Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace, Your word is now ful - filled.  
 2. This is the Sav - ior of the world, The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light,

These eyes have seen sal - va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.  
 God's glo - ry dwell - ing in our midst, The joy of Is - - ra - el.

## HOMILY

“A Still More Excellent Way”

Rev. Corzine

## THE PRAYERS

Rev. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**P: Almighty God, you have given us the Word in flesh. Let the Word be the wisdom for all that we do in our lives; through Jesus Christ, this Word, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*(We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, the members, family, and friends who are listed in the Depart to Serve and whom we hold in our hearts in prayer. As directed, you are invited to pray silently or aloud for those needs and concerns you have.)*

## 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.**

## CLOSING PRAYER

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, be our starting point and our haven, and accompany us in this day's journey. Use our hands to do the work of your creation, and use our lives to bring others the new life you give this world in Jesus Christ, redeemer of all. **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. Ahrens

Designated gifts go to support the **Good Samaritan Fund**. The Good Samaritan Fund provides help every month to those who come to the door of First Church in need. Primary support comes in the form of assistance with gas, electric or water bills to prevent disconnection of services. COTA bus passes provide support those with transportation needs and Kroger cards assist with emergency food needs. Thank you for your generosity.

## OFFERTORY HYMN

O radiant Christ, incarnate Word

*Canonbury*

1. O ra - diant Christ, in - car - nate Word, e - ter - nal love re - vealed in time:  
 2. Our bar - tered, bus - y lives burn dim, too tired to care, too numb to feel.  
 3. Your glo - ry shone at Jor - dan's stream, the font where we were born a - new.  
 4. O Light of Na - tions, fill the earth; our faith and hope and love re - new.

come, make your home with - in our hearts, that we may dwell in light sub - lime.  
 Come shine up - on our shad-owed world: your ra - diance bathes with power to heal.  
 At - tune your church to know you near; il - lu - mine all we say and do.  
 Come, lead the peo - ples to your peace, as stars once led the way to you.

## HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Ahrens

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Corzine

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have brought us from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from death to rebirth. Transform our lives with this heavenly food, that we may shine with your love and take to the world the risen life of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

## COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

L: Let us sing the closing hymn as we depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

## \* CLOSING HYMN

Many are the lightbeams

*Lightbeams*

Ma - ny are the light-beams from the one light. Our one light is Je-sus.

Ma - ny are the light-beams from the one light; we are one in Christ.

## \* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Rev. Corzine

## POSTLUDE

† PLEASE NOTE that, due to the Annual Congregational Meeting next Sunday, January 30, there will only be one service held at **11a.m.** with the meeting immediately following on Zoom.

*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: 865 2790 7526  
Password: 601438*

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# 2022 Nominations Slate

## Officers

Moderator	Christine Farquhar
Vice-Moderator	Allison Lowery Palmer
Secretary	Nicole Moss
Secretary- Elect	Gretchen Atkinson
Treasurer	Andy Bensing
Treasurer-Elect	Jim Velo

## Commissioners

Administration	Dennis Secor
Administration-Elect	Chris Glaros
Church Growth	Geoff Smith-VerHage
Church Growth-Elect	Steve Sterrett
Church Vitality	Kosby Carrico
Church Vitality-Elect	Wendy Kennedy
Education	Linda Slocum
Education-Elect	Dameon Jones
House and Grounds	Mark Brown
House and Grounds-Elect	Mike Kennedy
Justice and Mercy	Kris Brant
Justice and Mercy-Elect	Heather Giffen
Music, Arts and Heritage	Sandy Mathias
Music, Arts and Heritage-Elect	Melissa Kulwicki

## Members-at-Large

Member-at-Large	Dayna McCrary
Youth Member-at-Large	Alyssia Palmer

## Nominating Chair

Alec Deitz

## Senior Deacon

Greg Halbe

## Deacons

Alec Deitz, Chris Gelpi, Tom Kiesel, Gail Lowe, Dayna McCrary, Lynn Wallich

## Trustees

Todd Jacobson  
Victor John  
Judy Smith



# *Enter to Worship* Depart to Serve

January 23, 2022

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## This Week at First Church

1/23

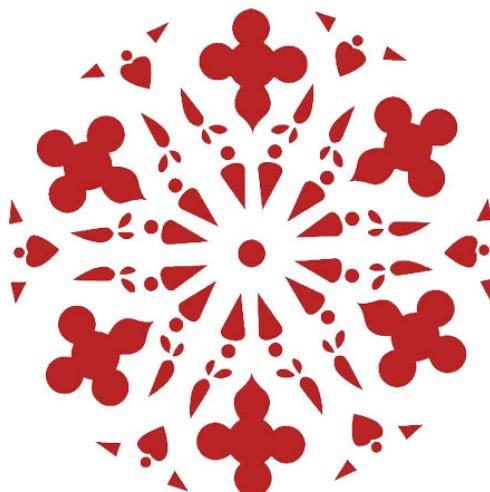
- |            |                              |
|------------|------------------------------|
| 9 a.m.     | Worship (Virtual)            |
| 10 a.m.    | Coffee Hour (Virtual)        |
| 11 a.m.    | Worship (Virtual)            |
| 12 Noon    | Coffee Hour (Virtual)        |
| 12:30 p.m. | Confirmation Class (Virtual) |
| 6 p.m.     | Youth Connections (Virtual)  |

1/25

- |        |                       |
|--------|-----------------------|
| 7 p.m. | Deacons Mtg (Virtual) |
|--------|-----------------------|

1/27

- |        |                              |
|--------|------------------------------|
| 7 p.m. | BREAD Team Meeting (Virtual) |
|--------|------------------------------|



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

## Purchase Kimball Organ CD

Minister of Music Kevin Jones plays music of Herbert Howells and Sir Edward Elgar on the 1931 Kimball organ at First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio. Containing more than 71 minutes of music, this physical CD is available for \$15 each and can be ordered through contacting the main office or by visiting the purchase site,  
<http://concertsatfirstchurch.org/getkimballcd/>

The album will also be available on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon, and many other digital distributions; however, the accompanying 12-page booklet will only be available with the physical CD.

This album was funded and produced through the Barnard Music Fund and is released in celebration of the 90th birthday of the Kimball organ.

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## Virtual Coffee Hour

Following 9 a.m. Service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86527907526pwd=L014R-1dIdmE4UzlUNDlnZkZ4ZURldz09>

Meeting ID: 865 2790 7526

Passcode: 601438

Following 11 a.m. Service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88494216574pwd=cDNVS-0dKaEdvTGhMcVozc0twU2pyZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 9421 6574

Passcode: 693317

## Update from Covid Task Force (January 20, 2022)

As long as our health systems are overwhelmed with hospitalizations, the Task Force recommends First Church continues to **pause our in-person worship services into the month of February**. The Task Force will monitor the evolving situation and will meet again the week of January 31st to assess current trends. In the meantime, First Church is evaluating and developing a plan for further air mitigation strategies to ensure best flow of clean air in our spaces. That date is yet to be determined, so please continue to stay connected with First Church.

We ask that you continue to care for yourself and others. In preparation for a return to in-person worship, we ask that the congregation assist us in the following ways:

- Be fully vaccinated (vaccinated and boosted, if eligible).
- Wear medical grade masks.
- Continue social distancing and good hand/health hygiene.
- Become engaged and signed up for an account with REALM, one of our communication mechanisms.
- Consider being part of our growing Hospitality Ministry to welcome people to First Church. (Contact Rev. Emily Corzine [ecorzine@first-church.org](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org) or Greg Halbe, Senior Deacon-Elect, [grehalbe@gmail.com](mailto:grehalbe@gmail.com)). The Task Force will continue to update you on our plans as they evolve. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

The Covid Task Force

## Livestream Ministry Seeking Volunteers

The Livestream Ministry is seeking volunteers to join the team that is extending our Sunday worship services to online viewers in Central Ohio and beyond. No video production experience is needed. The team provides the training, and the permanently-installed equipment is straightforward to use. Extend your worship by being a part of our congregation's Extravagant Welcome to members and visitors.

Online worshipers are members of our faith community participating from home or while traveling. We also have viewers that are seeking a spiritual resting place or simply enjoying First Church's preaching and music. The current team of three is looking to at least double its size as we aim for a one-Sunday-service-a-month commitment level. The commitment each Sunday is 30 minutes before the start of worship through the end of the service. There is the potential for offering recording and streaming services for weddings, memorial services, and other events in the sanctuary and parish hall as well.

Interested or ready to join? Contact Peter Murray ([peter@pandc.org](mailto:peter@pandc.org)) or Emily Corzine ([ecorzine@first-church.org](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org)). If you have questions, ask any of the livestream ministry team members: Peter Murray, Janet Newcity, and Mike Kennedy.

### First Congregational Church, UCC Annual Meeting

Sunday January 30, 2022  
One Worship Service at 11 a.m.  
Followed by Annual Meeting at Noon

Join us on Zoom to celebrate the  
Church's accomplishments in 2021  
and start the path for 2022!

## 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).



Designated gifts go to support the **Good Samaritan Fund**. The Good Samaritan Fund provides help every month to those who come to the door of First Church in need. Thank you for your generosity.

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## Upcoming Mission Offerings

<b>January 23</b>	Good Samaritan
<b>January 30</b>	Knight-Perry Fund
<b>February 2</b>	Star House
<b>February 13</b>	Faith Mission
<b>February 20</b>	BREAD
<b>February 27</b>	Deep Griha Scholarships

## Global Mission Partner Fritz Gerald Joseph, Morocco

Mr. Joseph serves with the Evangelical Church of Morocco (EEAM). He serves as lead pastor at Oujda, one of the church's locations, and sometimes travels from city to city to do workshops and training for young adults.

One of the greatest challenges of Morocco is the integration of foreigners. There are laws and social structures that deny basic privileges to foreigners. For EEAM the main challenge is to find financial resources to support church leaders and to sustain social programs for the migrants. Another challenge is to keep a good relationship with the government and to have the freedom to acquire or to expand church property. For Mr. Joseph personally, the challenge is to find a common ground and to maintain unity between church members who have various cultural, social, and theological constructs. The congregation has almost 30 nationalities in its membership and 80% are young adults. Keeping unity in this great diversity is one of the most challenging aspects of his work.

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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.

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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.

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

## Keep in Prayer

**Members** Gleva Stephens; Shelly Gies; Victor John; Katie Gies; Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen; 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** Mark Dahnke; Julia Myers' mother, Sara Stevens; Tim Ahrens' grandson, Ethan Stadie; 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** Rev. Marti Baumer on the death of her brother, the Rev. Paul Baumer; Rev. Tim Ahrens on the death of his cousin, Rebecca Kellermeyer; Mary Jo Hudson and mother, Ann Hudson, on the death of her father, Richard Hudson; Betty Conn on the death of her sister, Joyce Marcum; John Deliman on the death of his uncle, Tony Zichi; and Rev. Amanda Conley on the death of her maternal grandfather, Robert William Wright, Sr.

Prayers for Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker, the three hostages, their families and all the members of Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey. We pray for Global Ministries worker Fritz Gerald Joseph in Morocco.

Please note that individuals will remain on the prayer list for 3 weeks, unless specified to clergy or staff.

## 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** Cosby Carrico  
**Education** Margaret Graham  
**Education-elect** Linda Slocum  
**House & Grounds** Eric Clintworth  
**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



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