



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 30, 2022

The Fourth 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.*

*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 How Brightly Shines the Morningstar Helmut Walcha

WELCOME The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

ENTER TO WORSHIP Al Waddell

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

** Then all stand.*

L: It is good to give thanks to the Lord.

P: God's love endures forever.

L: Alone, God works great marvels.

P: God's love endures forever.

L: God remembered us when we were cast down, and rescued us from our enemies.

P: God's love endures forever.

L: God gives food to all his creatures.

P: God's love endures forever.

L: Give thanks to the God of heaven.

P: God's love endures forever.



1. Great God, Your love has called us here As we, by
 2. We come with self - in - flict - ed pains Of bro - ken
 3. Great God, in Christ You call our name And then re -
 4. Then take the towel, and break the bread, And hum - ble
 5. Great God, in Christ You set us free Your life to



love, for love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 trust and cho - sen wrong, Half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 ceive us as Your own Not through some mer - it, right, or claim
 us, and call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed
 live, Your joy to share. Give us Your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



Though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 By so - cial forc - es swept a - long, By power and sys - tems
 But by Your gra - cious love a - lone, We strain to glimpse Your
 And show how grand - ly love in - tends To work till all cre -
 To turn from guilt and dull de - spair And of - fer all that



heart and mind Your call to hear, Your love to find.
 close con - fined Yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 mer - cy seat And find You kneel - ing at our feet.
 a - tion sings, To fill all worlds, to crown all things.
 faith can do While love is mak - ing all things new.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. 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

Mr. Williams

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah, chapter 1.

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.” Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

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

P: Thanks be to God.

A reading from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

1. O Sav - ior, let me walk with thee in low - ly paths of ser - vice free;
 2. Teach me thy pa - tience, still with thee in clos - er, dear - er com - pa - ny,
 3. In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the fu - ture's broa - dening way,

tell me thy se - cret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
 in peace that on - ly thou canst give, with thee, O Sav - ior, let me live.

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

Then Jesus began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Always Aspiring”

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. Ahrens

Designated gifts go to **Knight Perry Fund**. The Knight Perry Fund, through the Board of Trustees, provides support for persons in the church in financial need. The Senior Minister, in strict confidence, approves all loan requests. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

He Comes to Us

Jane Marshall

He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside; He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: ‘Follow thou me!’ and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience Who He is.

O Morning Star, how fair and bright Thou beamest forth in truth and light! O Sovereign meek and lowly.

Thou Root of Jesse, David’s Son, My Lord and Master, Thou hast won My heart to serve Thee solely!

Thou art holy, Fair and glorious, all victorious, Rich in blessing, Rule and might o’er all possessing.

—Albert Schweitzer (*The Quest for the Historical Jesus*); Nicolai, trans. Catherine Winkworth

* PRESENTATION HYMN

Bring we the frankincense (*stanza 1*)

Epiphany Song

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 clear is our vocation, Lord

Repton

1. How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, When once we heed Your call:
 2. But if, for - get - ful, we should find Your yoke is hard to bear,
 3. We mark Your saints, how they be - came In hin-dranc - es more sure,
 4. In what You give us, Lord, to do, To - geth - er or a - lone,
 To live ac - cor - ing to Your word, And dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
 If world - ly pres - sures fray the mind And love it - self can - not un - wind
 Whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame The ca - usal way we wear Your name,
 In old rou - tines or ven - tures new, May we not cease to look to You—
 That You are Lord of all And will not let us fall.
 Its tan - gled skein of care: Our in - ward life re - pair.
 And by our faults ob - scure Your power to cleanse and cure.
 The cross You hung up - on— All You en - deav - ored done.

There is no Postlude today due to the Annual Meeting, which begins at noon on Zoom following the service.

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *liturgist*

Mark S. Williams, *liturgist*

Al Waddell, *liturgist*

The First Church Chamber Choir

Kevin Jones, *organist*

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

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the wedding anniversary of Joseph Bellissimo and Kevin Jones.

*Please join us on **ZOOM for the Annual Meeting** of the congregation.*

The meeting will begin at approximately noon.

[Click HERE to be taken to this meeting.](#)

ZOOM Webinar ID: 850 6801 4644

Password: 757064

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

January 30, 2022

This Week at First Church

1/30

11 a.m. Worship (Virtual)
12 Noon Annual Meeting (Virtual)

1/31

12 Noon Grief Support Group (Virtual)

2/1

6 p.m. Personnel Committee Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Christian Education Mtg (Virtual)
Justice & Mercy Mtg (Virtual)

2/2

10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)
7 p.m. Book Club (Virtual)

2/3

7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)

2/5

10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth (Virtual)

2022 Annual Campaign News and Celebration

There is much to celebrate at First Church!! We are so grateful and celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit. With your help, the 2022 Annual Campaign exceeded the campaign goal of \$900,000. As of January 26, 2022, the First Church received **\$983,007** in estimated pledged giving. This allows us to achieve our goals for mission and ministry.

We received:

- **253** estimates of giving (pledges)
- **34** new giving commitments
- **107** increased their giving commitments

If you have not yet shared your estimate of giving, there is still time to let the church know. Please check your automatic giving method to ensure that it is set up for your automatic giving for 2022. If you have any questions or need help in establishing your giving method, please contact Business Administrator, Annette McCormick, amccormick@first-church.org or 614-228-1741 x 11.

Thank you for your generous hearts for the mission and ministry here at First Church

The 2022 Annual Campaign Team

**No Virtual Coffee Hour
This Week!**



Due to the annual meeting, there will be no Virtual Coffee Hour this week.

First Church Book Club

Everyone is invited to join the First Church Book Club. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 2, at 7 p.m. and the book is *A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance* by Hanif Abdurraqib. If you would like more information or the link to the zoom meeting email Elaine Warren at melainewarren@aol.com.

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus Ohio
Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 20, 2022, 12 Noon
Zoom Webinar

Zoom Webinar Link

Jan. 30, 2022 12:00 PM
 First Congregational Church Annual Meeting
 Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85068014644?pwd=eHRZU3lBbjRaVUNlcVlnaGRkd1FNdz09>
 Passcode: 757064
 Or One tap mobile :
 US: +16468769923,,85068014644# or
 +13017158592,,85068014644#
 Or Telephone: Dial(for higher quality, dial a number
 based on your current location):
 US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312
 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or
 +1 346 248 7799
 Webinar ID: 850 6801 4644

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

Documents

Click the links below to download documents:

2021 Annual Report:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13f-rxTaWiuiBMreFXy-R35qap7P6UtdKs/view?usp=sharing>

2027 VISION Long Range Plan:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zKB9m-NGtdwEoL-WnAwVOwTeIvzD4mOf6/view?usp=sharing>

2027 Executive Summary:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XEn0gOqlygtLZn0LY-E3hOI2BUR63Dp6/view?usp=sharing>

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

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 or Greg Halbe, Senior Deacon-Elect, greghalbe@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) or Emily Corzine (ecorzine@first-church.org). If you have questions, ask any of the livestream ministry team members: Peter Murray, Janet Newcity, and Mike Kennedy.

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.

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, 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.



Designated gifts go to **Knight Perry Fund**. The Knight Perry Fund, through the Board of Trustees, provides support for persons in the church in financial need. The Senior Minister, in strict confidence, approves all loan requests. Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

January 30 Knight-Perry Fund
February 2 Star House
February 13 Faith Mission
February 20 BREAD
February 27 Deep Griha Scholarships

Global Mission Partner

Karen Campbell-Nelson, Indonesia

Karen Campbell-Nelson serves with the Evangelical Christian Church of West Timor in Indonesia. Artha Wacana Christian University, where she teaches, comprises six faculties, including a theology faculty that offers both an undergraduate program and a graduate program. The university serves mostly Protestant students from several islands in eastern Indonesia including Timor. Many of the students come from relatively remote villages and would not otherwise have access to higher education.

She teaches several courses in both the undergraduate and graduate programs including theological English, gender and theology, and social research methods. She also sits on the editorial board of the graduate program's academic journal, Eureka, and coordinates a cross-regional research program on women, culture, and research. This work is in keeping with the university's goals to equip young people and pastors with knowledge and skills to serve in a rapidly changing, pluralistic society.

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

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 [for more information](#).

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.

Keep in Prayer

Members Judy Smith; Gleva Stephens; Shelly Gies; Victor John; 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 Jeremy Howard and grandmother, Geneva Howard, on the death of his grandfather, Earl Howard, Sr.; 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; Melissa Kulwicki, on the death of her friend, Brad Taylor.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, and Tunisia. We pray for Global Ministries worker Karen Campbell-Nelson in Indonesia.

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 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



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