



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 6, 2022

The Fifth 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 *Andante espressivo* (Sonata in G Major) Edward Elgar

WELCOME The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

ENTER TO WORSHIP Gregory Halbe

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

* *Then all stand.*

L: In this year of our Lord, on this Sabbath morning, in this Holy moment we come seeking God's presence with hope, with wonder, and with joy. And we pray:

P: Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might, the whole world is filled with your glory!

L: Yet, this beloved world is riddled with sadness. For need encounters greed, and war is a constant.

We listen for the call:

P: Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?

L: We come longing to be consoled, strengthened, and changed so that in hope, in wonder, and in joy we may answer:

P: Here I am! Send me!

L: Let us worship our God in this year of our Lord, on this Sabbath morning, in this Holy Moment!

1. Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow be - fore you; All on earth your scep - ter
 2. Hark, the glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a -
 3. All a - pos - tles join the strain As your sa - cred name they hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re -
 4. Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it: Three we name you, While in es - sence on - ly

claim, All in heaven a - bove a - dore you. In - fi -
 phim, In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the
 frain, And the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low, And from
 One; Un - di - vid - ed God we claim you, And a -

nite your vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 heavens with sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.
 morn to set of sun, Through the church the song goes on.
 dor - ing bend the knee While we own the mys - ter - y.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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

Mark S. Williams

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 6.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.” The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” And he said, “Go and say to this people: ‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.’ Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed.” Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said: “Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; until the LORD sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land. Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled.” The holy seed is its stump.

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 15.

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

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

P: Thanks be to God.



1. You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing neith - er the wise nor the
 2. You know full well my pos - ses - sions. Neith - er treas - ure nor weap - ons for
 3. You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing love for the rest of the
 4. You now have fished oth - er wat - ers; you, the long - ing of souls that are



wealth - y, but on - ly ask - ing for me to fol - low.
 con - quest, just these my fish - nets and will for work - ing.
 wear - y— A love that's will - ing to go on lov - ing.
 yearn - ing; as lov - ing Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain

O Je - sus, you have looked in - to my eyes;



kind - ly smil - ing, you've called out my name.



On the sand I have a - ban - doned my small boat;



now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 5:1–11

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 5.

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

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 **Star House**. Star House is a welcoming drop-in center for transitional youth, ages 14 through 24, who are experiencing homelessness. Star House serves as a safe and accepting place where they can connect with a concerned community. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

‘Twas in the year that King Uzziah died

G.R. Woodward

‘Twas in the year that King Uzziah died
A vision by Isaiah was aspied:
A lofty throne—The Lord was set thereon;
And with His glory all the temple shone.

With twain did he now hither, thither fly:
And thus aloud did one to other cry:
‘Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth...
Full of His glory are earth and heaven both.’

Bright Seraphim were standing round about.
Six wings had every of that choir devout.
With twain he awesome veiled his face, and so
with twain he dreadful veiled his feet below,

And at their cry the lintels moved apace,
And clouds of incense filled the Holy Place.
—from Isaiah 6:1–4

* PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord’s table.

* INVITATION

Rev. Corzine

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. This table is for all people who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God’s people.

Leader The Lord be with you. *People* And also with you.
Leader Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.
Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless. We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory. Because, O God, you have manifested yourself in Jesus the Christ, begotten from the heart of your love, Word of Truth, Light of Light, we give you thanks and praise. We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

* SANCTUS

William Mathias

organ Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord. God of power and
 might, Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
organ Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The congregation may be seated.

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.

Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

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.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

The bread is broken and the wine is poured as visible and audible reminders of the sacrificial self-giving of Jesus Christ. These actions call to mind the cost as well as the joy of Christian discipleship.

Rev. Ahrens: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen!**

Rev. Corzine: The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. **Amen!**

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

ANTHEM

There is a Balm in Gilead

African American Spiritual
arr. Marie Pooler

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sinsick soul.

Some times I feel discouraged, And think my work in vain, But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain.*

Don't ever feel discouraged, Our Father is our friend; And if you lack the knowledge, He'll not refuse to lend. *Refrain.*

You may not preach like Peter, You may not pray like Paul, But you can tell the story of him who died for all. *Refrain.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Ahrens

L: Let us pray.

P: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

* CLOSING HYMN

Take up your cross, the Savior said

Bourbon

1. Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, If
 2. Take up your cross, let not its weight Fill
 3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame, And
 4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, And

you would my dis - ci - ple be; Take up your cross with
 your weak spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength shall bear your
 let your fool - ish heart be still; The Lord for you ac -
 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave; It guides you to a -

will - ing heart, And hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
 spir - it up And brace your heart and nerve your arm.
 cept - ed death Up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
 bun - dant life And leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Allegro assai vivace (Sonata in F Major, Op. 65)

Felix Mendelssohn

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the Rev. Glen A. Halbe by Gregory Halbe.

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *liturgist*

Mark S. Williams, *liturgist*

Gregory Halbe, *liturgist*

The First Church Chamber Choir

Kevin Jones, *organist*

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

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Sanctus by William Mathias. Music: © 1976, Oxford University Press.

“There is a balm in Gilead” - Music: arr. Marie C. Pooler. Broude Brothers.

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

February 6, 2022

This Week at First Church

2/6

- 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)

2/7

- 12 Noon Congregational Care Mtg (Virtual)
6:30 p.m. House & Grounds Mtg (Virtual)

2/8

- 6 p.m. Personnel Committee Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Virtual)

2/10

- 7 p.m. Security Team Mtg (Virtual)
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)
-

CRIS is Seeking New Volunteers

The three much-needed positions are:

- Weekly Transportation Volunteer
- Moving Assistant
- Pantry Connector

Learn more and apply at <https://www.crisohio.org/>
volunteer or email CRIS at volunteer@cris-ohio.org for
more info!

Justice and Mercy Commission Collects Items for Overnight Warming Center

Justice and Mercy Commission supports the overnight warming center at The Church for All People (UMC) on Parsons Avenue in February.

The Church for All People has an overnight warming center every night from 7 p.m.-7 a.m. They are in need of supplies and volunteers.

First Church is collecting new or clean winter hats, gloves, and hand/foot warmers for adults and children now through February 27.

A drop box will be available inside the Ninth Street door during church office hours Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. A drop-off Sunday location in the Education Wing will be available when we return to in-person worship (watch for more details).

You may also make a purchase on Amazon.com (https://www.amazon.com/s?k=bulk+winter+hats+and+gloves+-for+homeless&crd=1UHU33KD3FECS&srefix=-bulk+winter+hats+and+gloves%2Caps%2C94&ref=nb_sb_ss_ts-doa-p_1_27) and send the items directly to First Congregational Church, UCC 444 East Broad Street, Columbus Ohio 43215.

Contact Rev. Emily Corzine, ecorzine@first-church.org if you are available to volunteer for the warming center.

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.

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.

Concerts at First Church: Kevin Jones Organ Recital

Please join us on Sunday, February 13, at 4 pm when Minister of Music Kevin Jones plays his annual organ recital in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Beckerath organ. In 1972, the organ was dedicated in three different recitals. Mr. Jones will offer two pieces that were played on these recitals in addition to music by Bach, Distler, Heiller, Messiaen, and Sweelinck. Come celebrate the birthday of this wonderful musical machine that has led many musical moments of joy and faith over the past 50 years. Vaccinations and boosters are highly recommended, medical-grade masks are required for entry, and socially distanced seating protocols will be observed.

For more information visit <http://concertsatfirstchurch.org/home/congconcerts/kevin-jones-organ-recital-feb-13/>

First Church Choir to Host Curbside Pasta Dinner and Online Auction

In anticipation of its pilgrimage to Winchester Cathedral, UK, in August, the First Church Choir will host its final major fundraising event. The ever-popular pasta dinner and auction are back and both have a new look.

Dinners will be carry-out only and available on Sunday, February 27, between 4 and 6 p.m. Pre-orders begin Monday, February 7, and are accepted through Friday, February 25. There are no “at the door” sales. Dinner includes baked ziti (with meat, vegetarian, or gluten-free); tossed salad; and Italian bread. Ticket prices start at \$15 for one meal and vary according to your meal choice. Once registered you will be assigned a 30-minute window, between 4 and 6 p.m., on Sunday, February 27, to pick up your order at the church.

Visit <https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/t/first-church-choir-carry-out-pasta-dinner-8bfe0ed368> for more details and to place your order. Only online payments will be accepted.

Auction items will be offered online. Bidding will open on Sunday, February 20, and close Saturday, February 26. Watch this space in upcoming communications for more information.

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 **Star House**. Star House is a welcoming drop-in center for transitional youth, ages 14 through 24, who are experiencing homelessness. Star House serves as a safe and accepting place where they can connect with a concerned community. Thank you for your generosity.

Visit <https://www.starhouse.us> for more information.

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.

Global Mission Partner Erinn Miller, United Kingdom

Erinn Miller is a global mission intern serving with Time for God (UK), Winchester, England. Time for God is a long-established ecumenical Christian volunteering organization in the UK. It provides quality volunteering opportunities by working in partnership with Churches and Christian organizations for all traditions across the world. Each year Time for God hosts 100+ volunteers, who are placed into local communities where they will live and serve for a year.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Following 9 a.m. Service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81281921601?pwd=b3YxcGhjd1RQakRIK0tNMUYyN2d0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 812 8192 1601

Passcode: 765775

Following 11 a.m. Service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86230570295?pwd=VjMwTURJdWljeHU5MGpRc1B5NWQ3UT09>

Meeting ID: 862 3057 0295

Passcode: 298540

Keep in Prayer

Members Janice White; Judy Smith; Lou Flocken; Martha Huey; Barbara Knox; Betsy Zahn; and John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter.

Family and friends Mark Dahnke; 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 Melissa Kulwicki on the death of her friend, Brad Taylor; 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.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain and the Vatican City. We pray for Global Ministries worker Erinn Miller in the United Kingdom.

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.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

February 2 Star House
February 13 Faith Mission
February 20 BREAD
February 27 Deep Griha Scholarships

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 Gregory Halbe
Deacons Alec Deitz, Chris Gelpi, Scott Graham, Tom Kiesel, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, Nancy Kreimer, Gail Lowe, James Lowe, Allison Lowery Palmer, Dayna McCrary, Lynn Wallich, Hank Wilson, Martha Wilson, Marty Worth
Church Council Leadership
Moderator Christine Farquhar
Moderator-elect Allison Lowery Palmer
Treasurer Andy Bensing
Treasurer-elect James Velo
Secretary Nicole Moss
Secretary-elect Gretchen Atkinson
Board of Trustees
Chairperson Sue Cook
Trustees Allen Baker, Cindy Conn (Treasurer), Kevin Cubick, Elizabeth Iannarino, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Jim Kyle, Judy Smith, Christopher Washington
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 & Grounds Mark Brown
House & Grounds-elect Mike Kennedy
Justice & Mercy Kris Brant
Justice & Mercy-elect Heather Giffen
Music, Arts & Heritage Sandra Mathias
Music, Arts & Heritage-elect Melissa Kulwicki
Members-at-Large Dayna McCrary and Alyssia Palmer
Nominating Committee Chair Alec Deitz

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

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