



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

March 6, 2022

The First Sunday in Lent

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

Ann Eliot, *pianist*

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

Leader: Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth.

People: Come, let us worship.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: God calls us in our lives to be like the grain of wheat which dies, which lets go of one form in order to be transformed into new, and fuller life. And yet we often fear the risk and change which new growth involves. Let us ponder for a moment the places where we may be resisting God moving in our lives.

A brief period of silence follows

L: When we resist your call to change our hearts and allow a deepening of relationship:

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: When we nurse our wounded hearts and withhold forgiveness which may transform relationship:

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: When fear for our own security leads us to close our hearts from those who are in need:

P: Lord, have mercy.

All: The One who makes a covenant on our hearts is faithful, and forgives us our sins and failures. In Christ, God offers forgiving grace and welcome into a community of trust, abundance, and hope. Let us give thanks, for the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.

Please stand as you are able

* 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.

1. O come and sing un - to the Lord, To God our
2. Be - fore God's pres - ence let us come With praise and

voice - es - ful raise; Let us in our most
thank - ful voice; Let us sing psalms to

joy - ful songs The Lord, our Sav - ior, praise.
God with grace, With grate - ful hearts re - joice.

* PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (*read responsively by verse*)

Rev. Corzine

L: They who dwell in the shelter of the Most High abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

P: They shall say to God, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust."

L: Because you have made God your refuge and the Most High your habitation,

P: There shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

L: For God shall give the angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

P: They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

L: You shall tread upon the lion and adder; you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

P: Because you are bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver you; I will protect you, because you know my Name.

L: You shall call upon me, and I will answer you; I am with you in trouble;
I will rescue you and bring you honor.

P: With long life will I satisfy you and show you my salvation.

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.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy, chapter 26.

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

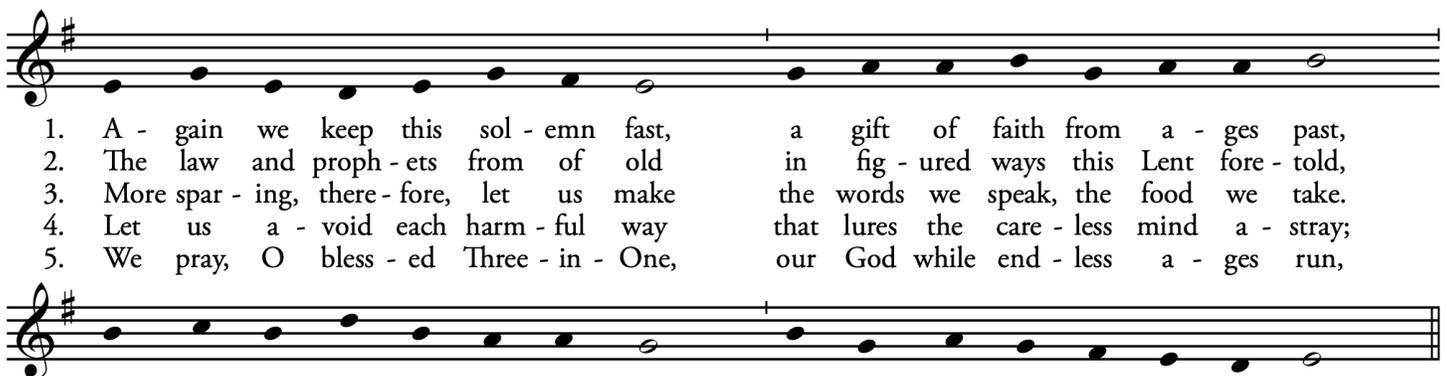
L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CANTICLE: A SONG OF LENT

Ex more docti mystico

Today we sing stanzas 1 and 2.



1. A - gain we keep this sol - emn fast, a gift of faith from a - ges past,
 2. The law and proph - ets from of old in fig - ured ways this Lent fore - told,
 3. More spar - ing, there - fore, let us make the words we speak, the food we take.
 4. Let us a - void each harm - ful way that lures the care - less mind a - stray;
 5. We pray, O bless - ed Three - in - One, our God while end - less a - ges run,

This Lent which binds us lov - ing - ly to faith and hope and char - i - ty.
 Which Christ, all a - ges' Sov - ereign Guide, in these last days has sanc - ti - fied.
 Our sleep, our laugh - ter, ev - ery sense, learn peace through ho - ly pen - i - tence.
 By watch - ful prayers our spir - its free from schem - ing of the En - e - my.
 That this, our Lent of for - ty days, may bring us growth and give you praise.

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

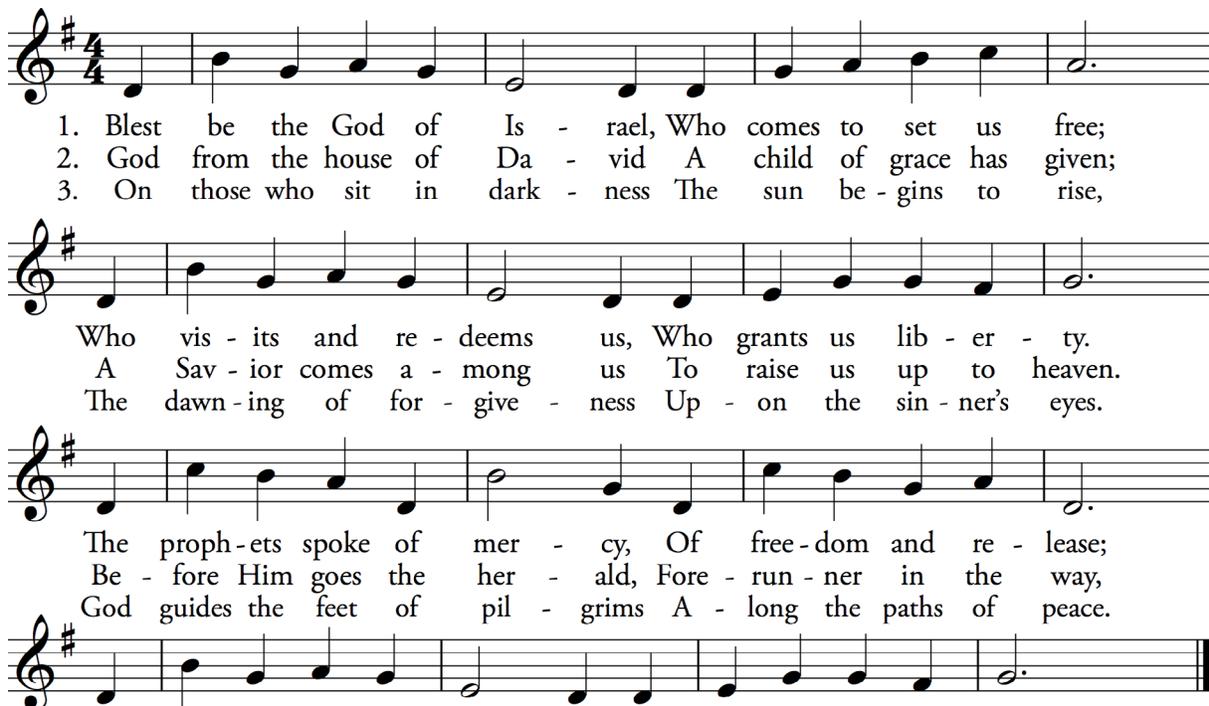
Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CANTICLE: THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH

Merle's Tune



1. Blest be the God of Is - rael, Who comes to set us free;
 2. God from the house of Da - vid A child of grace has given;
 3. On those who sit in dark - ness The sun be - gins to rise,

Who vis - its and re - deems us, Who grants us lib - er - ty.
 A Sav - ior comes a - mong us To raise us up to heaven.
 The dawn - ing of for - give - ness Up - on the sin - ner's eyes.

The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, Of free - dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore Him goes the her - ald, Fore - run - ner in the way,
 God guides the feet of pil - grims A - long the paths of peace.

God shall ful - fill that prom - ise And bring the peo - ple peace.
 The proph - et of sal - va - tion, The har - bin - ger of day.
 O bless our God and Sav - ior With songs that nev - er cease!

HOMILY

“Our Father, Who Art in Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name”
Second in the Lenten sermon series, “The Lord’s Prayer”

Rev. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray. Beloved friends, in this season of repentance and healing, we accept God's invitation to be ever-mindful of the needs of others, offering our prayers on behalf of God's community in the church and the world.

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

L: God of deliverance and freedom, you taught the people of Israel to acknowledge that all things come from your bountiful hand. Deepen our faith so that we may resist temptation and, in the midst of trial, proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, now and for ever.

P: Amen.

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, you create us by your power and redeem us by your love. Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves in love and service to one another and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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. Corzine

Designated gifts go to support the **Riverview International Center (RIC)**, which assists newly-arrived immigrants through welcoming, empowering, and providing cultural education to become self-sufficient in the United States, many of whom live on Riverview Drive in the University City area in Columbus. Support for Welcome Starter Services will equip immigrants with tools such as English classes and digital literacy, assist with transportation, healthcare, and utilities, and provide basic furniture and household supplies. Help finding job opportunities is also provided. Thank you for your generosity.

1. With joy and by the Spir - it led The Church of Christ seeks de - sert paths,
 2. There si - lence shall set free the will, The heart to one de - sire re - store;
 3. There bread from heav - en shall sus - tain And wa - ter from the rock be struck;
 4. All praise to God who calls the Church To make her ex - o - dus from sin,
 All else for - got - ten, God a - lone To wor - ship and to fol - low there.
 There each re - straint shall pu - ri - fy And strength-en those who seek the Lord.
 There shall God's peo - ple hear the word, The liv - ing God en - coun - ter there.
 That test - ed, fast - ing and pre - pared, She may go up to keep the feast.

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Ahrens

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Eat This Bread

Jacques Berthier

**Eat this bread. Drink this cup. Come to me and never be hungry.
 Eat this bread. Drink this cup. Trust in me and you will not thirst.**

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Ahrens

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

* CLOSING HYMN

What wondrous love is this

Wondrous Love

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
 What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
 To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
 To bear the heavy cross for my soul!**

POSTLUDE

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“Again we keep this solemn fast” - Text: *Ex more docti mystico*; ascr. to St. Gregory the Great, c.540–604; tr. by Peter J. Scagnelli, b.1949, after John M. Neale, 1818–1866, ©1975, Peter J. Scagnelli. Published by World Library Publications, a division of GIA Publications, Inc. Music: *Ex more docti mystico*, setting by Kevin Jones.

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

March 6, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 3/6
9 a.m. Worship (Parish Hall & Virtual)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Virtual)
6 p.m. Youth Connections (Virtual)
Lenten Small Group (Virtual)
- 3/7
12 Noon Congregational Care Ministry (Virtual)
6:30 p.m. House and Grounds Mtg (Virtual)
- 3/8
7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Virtual)
- 3/9
12:15 p.m. Organ Meditations (Sanctuary)
7 p.m. Book Club (Virtual)
- 3/10
10 p.m. Lenten Small Group (Virtual)
7 p.m. Security Team Mtg (Virtual)
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)

Coffee Sales with Justice in its Heart

Profits aid small farmers and UCC Justice Mission.
Sales resume March 6 from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the
Education Wing.

First Church Book Club

All are invited to the First Church Book Club. The next meeting is on March 9 at 7 p.m. by Zoom and the selection is *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. For more information and the Zoom link, contact Elaine Warren at melainewarren232@gmail.com.

The Lord's Prayer 2022 Lenten Sermon Series

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching
"Teach Us to Pray the Lord's Prayer"

First Sunday in Lent

March 6, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching
"Our Father Who Art in Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name"

Second Sunday in Lent

March 13, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching
"Thy Kingdom Come"

Third Sunday in Lent

March 20, 2022

The Rev. Emily Corzine Preaching
"Thy Will Be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven"

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching
"Give Us This Day our Daily Bread"

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 3, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching
"And Forgive Us Our Debts, as We Forgive Our Debtors"

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 10, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching
"Lead Us Not into Temptation but Deliver Us from Evil"

Easter

April 17, 2022

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching
"The Kingdom, Power and Glory are Yours Forever."

Lenten Studies with Rev. Ahrens

“Breath of Life: God as Spirit in Judaism”

Rev. Ahrens continues the Wednesday Book Study with a whole new book – beginning March 16 at 10:30 a.m. During his 2021 Sabbatical, Rev. Ahrens spent time with Rabbi Rachel Timoner. She is one the “Geniuses of Justice” in his new book. Here in Rabbi Timoner’s book, she explores the Hebrew Bible, Midrash, and other rabbinic writing to uncover surprising insights about how God as spirit influences Jewish ideas of creation, revelation, and redemption. Written with an accessible and engaging voice, full of stories and relevant teachings, *Breath of Life* speaks to lay readers and scholars alike, as it pursues a new perspective on Judaism’s sacred texts. This book promises Christian readers meaningful insights on their own notions of God as Holy Spirit while giving Jewish readers a new look at their own tradition.

If you are reading this and have never been with us before, you are invited to get the book through Amazon and join us for this study. We meet the first and third Wednesday mornings each month from 10:30-11:45 a.m. In March, we will meet March 16 and March 30 (a slight change) but return to April 6 and 20 in the following month. Share with your friends – Jewish, Christian, and others interested in the movement of God’s spirit in this world. Call Rev. Ahrens if you have questions – 614-228-1741, ext. 13.

To register for the study, visit <https://conta.cc/3JJerTe>
Books can be purchased on Amazon at https://www.amazon.com/Breath-Life-Spirit-Judaism-Paraclete/dp/1557257043/ref=sr_1_1?crd=1Y1SLQ7G8V75U&keywords=Breath+of+Life%3A+God+as+Spirit+in+Judaism&qid=1645628393&prefix=breath+of+life+god+as+spirit+in+judaism+%2Caps%2C117&sr=8-1

“Teach Us to Pray”

Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Leads Zoom Lenten Small Group

Four Mondays in Lent: March 7, 21, 28, and April 4 at 7- 8:15 p.m.

In Matthew 6, the people around Jesus don’t know how to pray. They come to him and ask him for his guidance in prayer. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus gives good lessons in approaches to prayer, when to pray, and how to pray.

On four Monday nights in Lent, we will share with one another our approaches and experiences with prayer. Rev. Ahrens will open each evening with a brief lesson and then discussion will follow. Please sign up and join us and let all learn and grow in our life of prayer – together. Call Rev. Ahrens if you have questions . 614-228-1741, ext. 13.

Visit <https://conta.cc/3haKSy0> to register.

Location and Time for a Labyrinth Walk

The labyrinth is located in the Parish Hall. The labyrinth will open after each service during the season of Lent and will remain open the rest of Holy Week during regular church office hours (7:30 a.m.- 3 p.m.). It will also be open before and after the Maundy Thursday Service, the Good Friday Service, and on Holy Saturday from 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. If you are unable to walk the labyrinth, the Gladden Chapel will be open for meditation during the same hours. Please enter the Parish Hall from the 9th street door area.

Please enter this space in a meditative and quiet spirit as people walk the labyrinth.

Lenten Small Group Studies with Rev. Corzine

Tea for the Soul:

Reflections on Sufficiency

Thursday 10-10:45 a.m. ZOOM (5 sessions)

Join Rev. Corzine in a small group for tea and reflection on the Lenten theme of Sufficiency. You are welcome here; come and bring your favorite cup of tea and join in. Created in God's image, we are enough. How do we see God in all the imperfections of our lives? Share our honest struggles through our challenging times. For more information, contact Rev. Corzine at ecorzine@first-church.org.

Tea for the Soul: Reflections on Sufficiency
Every week on Thursday until April 7, 2022

March 3, 2022 10 a.m.

March 17, 2022 10 a.m.
March 24, 2022 10 a.m.
April 7, 2022 10 a.m.

Register at <https://conta.cc/3C5ogIK>

Lenten

Contemplative Practices

Sundays 6 p.m. Zoom

Join your heart in a contemplative group that will meet on Sunday evenings in Lent. No previous experience needed. Come, reflect, engage, and learn. For more information contact, Rev. Corzine at ecorzine@first-church.org

Lenten Small Group: Contemplative Practice
Every week on Sunday until April 3, 2022

March 6, 2022 6 p.m.
March 13, 2022 6 p.m.
March 20, 2022 6 p.m.
April 3, 2022 6 p.m.

Register at <https://conta.cc/3hwSkU2>

CONCERTS
AT FIRST CHURCH
2021-2022

First Congregational Church • United Church of Christ
444 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.concertsatfirstchurch.org

Lenten Musical Meditation
Bach's Birthday

Mar 9 12:15 pm

Harpichordist Kevin Jones plays the Ben Bechtel harpichord in this homage to J.S. Bach's birthday month.



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 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 support the **Riverview International Center** (RIC), which assists newly-arrived immigrants through welcoming, empowering, and providing cultural education to become self-sufficient in the United States, many of whom live on Riverview Drive in the University City area in Columbus. Support for Welcome Starter Services will equip immigrants with tools such as English classes and digital literacy, assist with transportation, healthcare, and utilities, and provide basic furniture and household supplies. Help finding job opportunities is also provided. Thank you for your generosity.

For more information visit <https://www.riverviewinternationalcenter.org>.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Please note that going forward we will be hosting our Virtual Coffee Hour only on the first Sunday of the month at 10 a.m. The Zoom link can be found below. We hope you can join us during this wonderful time of fellowship!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82160506973?pwd=d-F14dGlac1NCZW5UbzE4WE5STHR1dz09>

Meeting ID: 821 6050 6973

Passcode: 115473

Global Mission Partner

Brigitte Eale serves with the Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) in Kenya. The OAIC works to bring African Instituted Churches together in fellowship and equip them to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed. Its visions are based on the values and resourcefulness of African grassroots communities (ubuntu) and are expressed in their songs, sermons, prayer, and dancing. These visions are rooted in an African philosophy of life in which care, reciprocity, acceptance, openness, and equality are core values.

Ms. Eale states that the world of healthcare is a real Mission field as it deals with human tragedies, challenges, and spiritual quests that the church cannot overlook. Her Bachelor's degree in Theology with a focus on counseling and her Master's degree in Organization Leadership with a focus on health care enables her to be fully involved in the health program at OAIC.

Learn More about Global Ministries by clicking below.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

March 6	Riverview International Center
March 13	Sisters of Empowerment
March 20	CUE Seminaries
March 27	Crossroad Family & Child Services

Keep in Prayer

Members Gretchen Atkinson; Janice White; Martha Huey; Barbara Knox; Betsy Zahn; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter; and Pauline Fritz.

Family and friends Colleen Merrill; David Hogrefe's mother Linda Hogrefe; Cali Mitchell's parents, James and Juanita; Amy Wagner's friend, Ken Burke; Susan Brooks' son, John Kampmeier; Claudia Glenn's mother, Mary Booth; Melva Fisher's son, Stephen Fisher; and Kathy Reed's friend, JD Mace.

Those who mourn loved ones Pat Patterson, her niece Christine Page and family, on the death of Arnall Page; Scott Jones on the death of his aunt, Paula Taylor; Joe Bellissimo and Kevin Jones, Joe's mother, Nancy Bellissimo, sisters Cherie and Tina, and brother-in-law, Scott Garver, on the death of Joseph Bellissimo, Sr.; Leigh Briggs, his niece and her husband, Carrie and Alex Heiden, on the death of their infant daughter, Lola Collette Heiden; Steven Ferris on the death of his friend, Ralph LeRue; Association Minister Rev. Patricia Battle on the death of her mother, Hattie Holland; Nick Bruckelmeyer on the death of his grandmother, Joanne Severance; and Sheri Moreen on the death of her mother, Dorothy Van Cleef.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Ireland, the United Kingdom's England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. We pray for Global Ministries worker Brigitte Eale in Kenya.

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

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.

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
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Moderator-elect Allison Lowery Palmer
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Treasurer-elect James Velo
Secretary Nicole Moss
Secretary-elect Gretchen Atkinson
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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

Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

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