



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

March 13, 2022

The Second 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

David Hogrefe, *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 unto the Lord, To God our
2. Be - fore God's pres - ence let us come With praise and
voic - es 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.

L: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

P: When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.

L: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

P: One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in God's temple.

L: For in the day of trouble you shall keep me safe in your shelter; you shall hide me in the secrecy of your dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

P: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in God's tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

L: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

P: "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.

L: Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

P: If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.

L: Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

P: Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

L: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

P: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

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.

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Mark S. Williams

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18

Rev. Corzine

A reading from the book of Genesis, chapter 15.

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

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 3.



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 13.

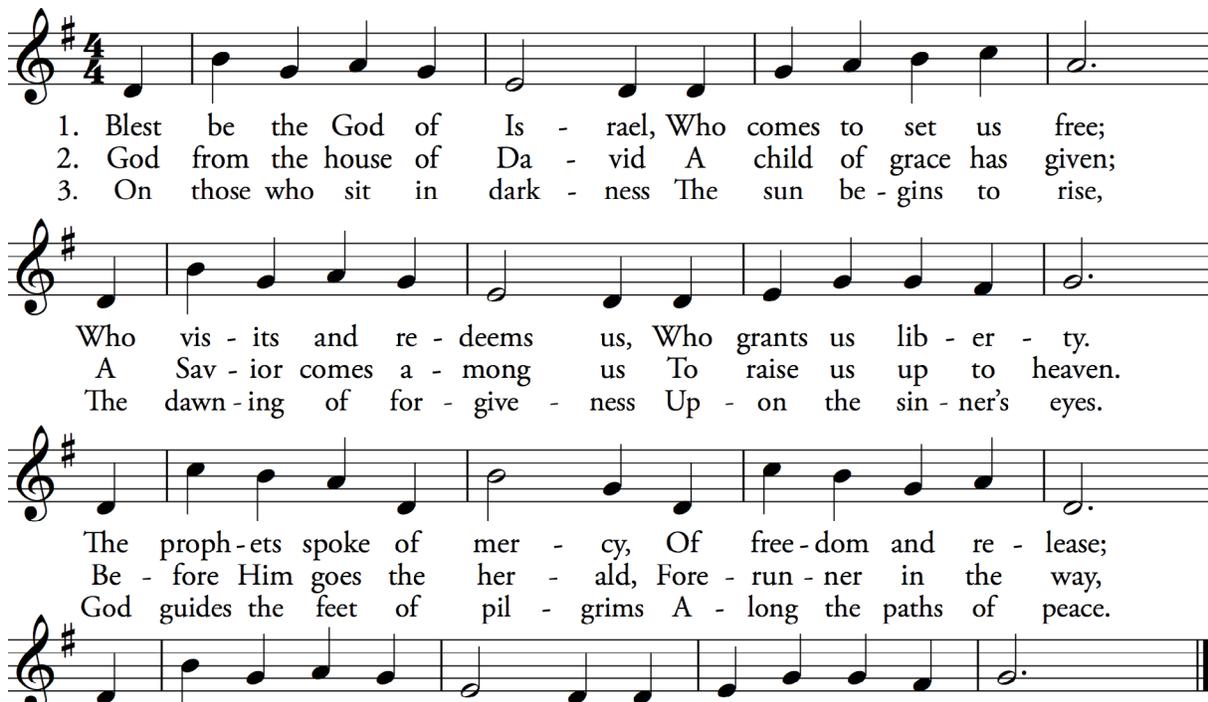
At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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

“Thy Kingdom Come”

Rev. Ahrens

Third in the Lenten sermon series, “The Lord’s Prayer”

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Corzine

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 evermindful 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 **Sisters of Empowerment**, a faith based non-profit which provides education and training in job readiness, financial literacy, productive life skills, and home ownership. This program seeks to develop confident, respectful, and self-sufficient individuals. Thank you for your generosity.

1. The God of A - braham praise, Who reigns en - throned a - bove;
 2. Your spir - it still flows free, High surg - ing where it will;
 3. You have e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;

The an - cient of e - ter - nal days, The God of love!
 In proph - et's word you spoke of old And you speak still.
 Your love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.

The Lord, the great I AM, By earth and heaven con - fessed,
 Es - tab - lished is your law, And change - less it shall stand,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name;

We bow be - fore your ho - ly name, For - ev - er blest.
 Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.
 The first, the last, be - yond all thought, And still the same!

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Corzine

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.

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!**

* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

March 13, 2022

This Week at First Church

3/13

9 a.m. Worship (Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. Labyrinth Walk Open (Parish Hall)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
4 p.m. Congregational Concert (Sanctuary)
6 p.m. Youth Connections (Virtual)
"Contemplative Practices"
Lenten Small Group (Virtual)

3/14

7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Virtual)

3/15

7 p.m. Church Council Mtg (Virtual)

3/16

10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)
12:15 p.m. Organ Meditations (Sanctuary)
7 p.m. Homeless Concerns Mtg (Virtual)

3/17

10 a.m. "Tea for the Soul: Reflections on Sufficiency" Lenten Small Group (Virtual)
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Parish Hall)

Congregational Concert

Today at 4 p.m.

Chatham Baroque- The Art of the Trio

Visit <http://concertsatfirstchurch.org/home/congconcerts/mass-in-b-minor-mar-13-at-4pm/> to learn more.

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](https://www.amazon.com).

Upcoming Mission Offerings

March 13	Sisters of Empowerment
March 20	Church World Service- Ukraine Crisis Response Fund
March 27	Crossroad Family & Child Services
April 3	Amethyst House

“Teach Us to Pray” Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Leads Zoom Lenten Small Group

Mondays in Lent
March 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.

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 (10:30 a.m.- Noon). 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 ninth 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

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

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

Global Mission Partner Raul Santiago-Rivera, Puerto Rico

Raul Santiago Rivera works with The Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico. The seminary is an ecumenical seminary that has served the Christian community in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean for over a century. Founded by the historical protestant denominations in Puerto Rico and the U. S., its alumni have answered the call to serve in local congregations, denomination leadership roles, and ecumenical organizations within Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

Mr. Santiago-Rivera states that as the seminary is embedded in the daily life of the Puerto Rico society, it faces the same difficulties and struggles as the rest of the society. One of the major difficulties currently affecting the seminary is its finances. His academic preparation and professional experiences are in business administration, especially in accounting and taxes (BA and MBA). He served for 25 years in the US Army as a Logistic Manager, responsible for property, contracting, and service support. This background has prepared him for his work as the seminary's Finance Director. His main duty is to manage the seminary's limited financial resources to achieve its goals.

Tea for the Soul: Reflections on Sufficiency Thursday 10-10:45 a.m. ZOOM

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

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

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 **Sisters of Empowerment**, a faith-based non-profit which provides education and training individuals in job readiness, financial literacy, productive life skills, and home ownership. This program seeks to develop confident, respectful, and self-sufficient individuals. Thank you for your generosity.

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/SOEOHIO/>

Return of Spring Retreat Saturday, April 23, 2022 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m

Please join us for a day-long event at Temple Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio, for our Spring Retreat. This is a wonderful time to be outside and reconnect with our friends at First Church. This event is for all ages! There will be time for devotion, crafts, games, and fishing. We will also take walks through the hills of the 148-acre camp during the day. Bring a lawn chair and an openness to the fellowship of nature and our faith community.

Don't forget, all children and youth attend free!

We begin with breakfast at 9 a.m. and the day will include lunch and dinner. We will end the day with a bonfire and communion.

To register visit
<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=vta-6sivab&oeidk=a07ej2v02gweee798f9>

Questions? Contact Mark Williams at
mwilliams@first-church.org

Second Nurture is Coming to First Church!

Have you ever considered becoming a foster or adoptive parent? Second Nurture partners with communities like yours to prioritize fostering and adoption.

Please join them for an informational meeting on Sunday, March 27 at 10 a.m. to learn more about the process and to meet other interested members at First Church.

Fostering not for you? Learn how to volunteer in support of foster families within your community.

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWb6MqZw-BWQ> to watch a quick video to learn more about what Second Nurture does.

We hope to see you there!

Summer Church Camp Scholarship & Registration Information

If the Outdoor Ministries Summer Camp info has arrived, can spring be far behind? Everyone is ready to plan some fun in the sun and that's just what camp is. The campers enjoy swimming, hiking, crafts, games, singing, and worship. They have campfires, vespers, rest time, and make friends that last a lifetime. There are camps for Kindergarten and First Graders with a grandparent. Weeklong camps are for children who have completed the second grade and older. There are camps for teens and camps with themes. There are camps for adults and even one for families.

Registration has now begun!! Camp weeks fill up fast!!! Don't wait too long!!!

Camp schedule and descriptions are available online at: <https://heartlanducc.org/temple-hills/?fbclid=I-wAR2hVap8Jbm3EWxARbr6AOcZM0uOxh-q431i5i3HMvMgxRJDkA-V3AfcR0Sc>

First Congregational Church has always been a strong supporter of the Outdoor Ministries Summer Camp Program by encouraging participation and by offering scholarships for campers. Thanks to the generosity of longtime member Alma Keeler, we are able to offer a 50% camp scholarship on the registration fee (after the \$75 deposit) to any First Church child or youth who wants to go to camp. A request for these funds must be made by the parent /guardian. This is not automatic as in the past. Download the form at <https://files.constantcontact.com/5728e215501/4a22ce8f-25bc-480c-bde6-dd6aee88a7ad.doc?rdr=true>

For more information visit
<https://files.constantcontact.com/5728e215501/b7a7e0af-86d4-4631-987d-025ba54a5c07.doc?rdr=true>

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; Amy Wagner's friend, Ken Burke; Susan Brooks' son, John Kampmeier; Melva Fisher's son, Stephen Fisher; and Kathy Reed's friend, JD Mace.

Those who mourn loved ones Cali Mitchell and her father James on the death of her mother, Juanita; Kosby Carrico, on the death of her sister, Nicole Winne; Lou Flocken and Annette Salser on the death of their brother, Paul Flocken; the family of Ruth Allred; Pat Patterson, her niece Christine Page and family, on the death of Arnall Page; and Scott Jones on the death of his aunt, Paula Taylor.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. We pray for Global Ministries worker Raul Santiago-Rivera in Puerto Rico.

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
Moderator Christine Farquhar
Moderator-elect Allison Lowery Palmer
Treasurer Andy Bensing
Treasurer-elect James Velo
Secretary Nicole Moss
Secretary-elect Gretchen Atkinson
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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

Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

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