



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 20, 2022

The Third 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.*

*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

Sonata in F Minor, Op. 65, No. 1

Felix Mendelssohn

ii. Adagio

Sonata in B-flat Major, Op. 65, No. 4

ii. Andante Religioso

Daniel Maimone, *organist*

CHORAL INTROIT

Call to Remembrance

Richard Farrant

Call to remembrance, O Lord, Thy tender mercies: and Thy loving kindness, which hath been ever of old,
O remember not the sins and offences of my youth: but according to Thy mercy think Thou on me, O Lord, for Thy goodness.
—Psalm 25:5–6

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Jonathan Miller

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

** Then all stand.*

L: Lord, you are our God.

P: We will praise you with joyful lips.

L: Lord, you are our God.

P: Our souls thirst for you.

L: Lord, you are our God.

P: We behold your power and majesty.

L: Lord, you are our God.

P: We will bless you all of the days of our lives.

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, for - giv - en, loved, and free,
 2. I come with Chris - tians far and near To find, as all are fed,
 3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, Each proud di - vi - sion ends.
 4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His pres - ence, al - ways near,
 5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, We'll go our dif - ferent ways,

In awe and won - der to re - call His life laid down for me.
 The new com - mu - ni - ty of love In Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 The love that made us, makes us one, And stran - gers now are friends.
 Is in such friend - ship bet - ter known: We see and praise Him here.
 And as His peo - ple in the world, We'll live and speak His praise.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: We are called to examine our faithfulness to God's covenant with us. God, in whose presence we gather, promises us grace and pardon when we acknowledge our weakness and brokenness. Let us confess our sin to almighty God.

All: Eternal God, whose Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, we recognize and confess that we have failed to respond faithfully to your gracious presence in our lives. Through Jesus Christ you have offered us new life, fulfillment, and the freedom to serve you. We confess that we are captive to sin, that our sin binds us with false pride, and that the wrong we do is made worse by the good we leave undone. Reconcile us to you and to all people. God of mercy, forgive all our sin and strengthen us anew for life as you intend it; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Silence may be observed for reflection and prayer.

* KYRIE ELEISON S153

William Mathias

(organ)

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Corzine

L: Almighty God, who is great in mercy and promises forgiveness of sin to all who truly repent and are sincere in faith, have mercy on us, pardon and deliver us from all sin, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life.

P: Amen. Thanks be to God.

* WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMAND MAGGIE MYERS

Rev. Ahrens

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Ms. Myers

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR ADRIAN DAVID BLANKS

We welcome Adrian, parents Trai and Kristen Blanks, brother Dominick Blanks, godparents Daniel Maimone and Kathryn Hennessey, and Senior Deacon Gregory Halbe.

WELCOME

Leader: . . . But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

ADDRESS

L: . . . the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

P: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

* CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

The congregation is invited to stand.

L: . . . Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as Adrian lives and grows in Christ?

P: We promise our love, support, and care.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

P: I believe in God.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

P: I believe in Jesus Christ.

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

P: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

L: Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

ACT OF BAPTISM

NAMING OF THE CHILD

L: Adrian David Blanks, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Rise from the waters of baptism and give glory to God all the days of your life.

P: Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

L: Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this newest member of the body of Christ.

P: Give to Adrian strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:1–9 (O.T., p. 685)

Mr. Miller

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 55.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 10.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL HYMN

There's a wideness in God's mercy

St. Helena

Interlude

1. There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy like the wide - ness of the sea;
2. There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven;
3. For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of the mind;

there's a kind - ness in his jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the
There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been
If our love were but more faith - ful, we should rest up - on God's

good; there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his
shed; there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the
word; and our lives would be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the

Interlude

blood.
Head.
Lord.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 13.

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

P: Thanks be to God.

BAPTISMAL MEDITATION

“Thy Will Be Done on Earth as It Is in Heaven”
Fourth in the Lenten sermon series, “The Lord’s Prayer”

Rev. Corzine

A period of silence follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ahrens

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 **Church World Service-Ukraine Crisis Response Fund**, which offers humanitarian assistance to people displaced as a result of the violence, and bolsters partners in Europe to serve the most vulnerable. CWS responds to the emerging needs of the crisis and partners with teams in the region, the Balkans, and international coalitions that work with migrants and refugees. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

Jesu, the very thought of Thee

St. Botolph, arr. Paul Halley

1. Jesu, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills the breast;
But sweeter far thy face to see
And in thy presence rest.

3. O hope of every contrite heart,
O joy of all the meek,
To those who ask, how kind thou art,
How good to those who seek!

5. Jesu, our only joy be thou,
As thou our prize wilt be;
In thee be all our glory now,
And through eternity. Amen.

2. No voice can sing, nor heart can frame,
Nor can the memory find
A sweeter sound than Jesus’ name,
The Savior of our kind!

4. But what to those who find? Ah! this
Nor tongue nor pen can show;
The love of Jesus, what it is
None but his loved ones know.

—attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux
(c. 1091–1153), transl. Edward Caswall
(1814–1878)

* 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.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Ahrens

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN 339

Be Thou my vision

Slane



1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise, Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word; I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;



Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart, Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall, Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Prelude in B Minor, BWV 544

J.S. Bach

Please be seated for the Postlude

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in honor of the first birthday of Elise and Alice Farquhar, our beloved granddaughters, by Chris and Tom Farquhar.

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *preacher*

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

Mark S. Williams, *liturgist*

Jonathan Miller, *liturgist*

Gregory Halbe, *Senior Deacon*

Will Haslett, *crucifer*

Daniel Maimone, *prelude organist*

The First Church Choir

Kevin Jones, *organist*

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

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

March 20, 2022

This Week at First Church

3/20

- 9 a.m. Worship (Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. Labyrinth Walk Open (Parish Hall)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
(Classroom C & Zoom)
6 p.m. Youth Connections (Virtual)
"Contemplative Practices"
Lenten Small Group (Virtual)

3/21

- 6 p.m. Budget and Finance Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Teach Us to Pray (Virtual)

3/22

- 7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Virtual)

3/23

- 12:15 p.m. Organ Meditations (Sanctuary)

3/24

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

First Church is Hiring

First Congregational Church seeks to hire a full-time communications manager. For full job description and details visit <https://www.first-church.org/now-hiring/>

Coffee Sales

The coffee cart will open on March 20 at 10 a.m. in the Education Wing. Coffee, tea, and cocoa will be available for sale. The sales benefit small farmers and the UCC Justice Mission.

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."

New COVID-19 Guidelines on March 20

Throughout the pandemic, we have followed the recommendations of public health officials. With recent changes to the CDC, Franklin County, and City of Columbus guidelines, we at First Church will work to keep all in our community safe. With “low or moderate” risk levels, we will begin to move to mask-optional for the 11 a.m. service, concerts in the sanctuary, and weekday events at First Church.

The Task Force, Deacons, and Council still recommend mask wearing for those who are not vaccinated, or in a high-risk group. Again, if you are experiencing symptoms, coughing, sneezing, fever, or not feeling well, please do not come to church and instead join us for online worship.

Sunday Worship

9 a.m. Worship

No change to mask-wearing guidelines. Mask wearing will continue for this service, due to the size of space and number of young children not able to be vaccinated yet. We will continue to observe social distancing.

11 a.m. Worship

Beginning on March 20, First Church will have mask-optional for this worship service. We will remove the reserved pew ropes and allow individuals to spread out more. We ask that you observe social distancing as best you can and make use of the “reserve seat cards” if you still need more distance and space in the pew.

During the week at First Church:

Masking optional in the building.

Still call for an appointment.

Sign in and practice good hand hygiene.

Meetings may return to in-person with advanced notice to the office. At the discretion of the convener, groups may meet at the church. All meetings must be made in advance with the church office and be on the church calendar.

We understand that this decision will be met with a variety of emotions, including celebration, grief, relief, and anxiety. We want to be clear that it is OK to keep wearing masks. In fact, for some, it is the safest and best decision to continue to mask at church. You will see many staff and lay leaders and choir members continuing to wear masks! We encourage you to do what you need to do in order to feel safe and comfortable as we gather to worship God.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

The Covid Task Force, Deacons, Council, and Staff of First Church

First Church Gardeners

It's time to get this garden growing! I propose that we meet up after 11 a.m. service on Sunday, March 20. We can walk the grounds, get to know each other, make plans, and perhaps have a coffee or bite to eat at the Art Museum. I know Fran Panek has agreed to take the lead on filling flower pots for Holy Week. Fran needs our help!! We will put this on the Church calendar and continue to post notices in Connections, so keep your eyes open for opportunities to help and invite others! This will be the beginning of something grand!

Happy Gardening,
Chris Farquar



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](#).

Upcoming Mission Offerings

March 20	Church World Service- Ukraine Crisis Response Fund
March 27	Crossroad Family & Child Services
April 3	Amethyst House
April 10	Good Samaritan
April 17	One Great Hour of Sharing
April 24	Sacred Earth

“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

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>

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>

Global Mission Partner John Campbell-Nelson, Indonesia

John Campbell-Nelson serves the Evangelical Christian Church of West Timor. He is on the faculty of Artha Wacana Christian University which serves the largely rural population of Timor and surrounding islands. Most of the students are the first generation in their families to attend college. The theological faculty trains 90% of the pastors of the partner church in Timor. Artha Wacana is dedicated to improving the quality of life and ministry in one of the poorest regions of Indonesia. John teaches preaching and pastoral care on the theological faculty and congregational development at the graduate level as well as doing workshops and leadership training for many churches in Eastern Indonesia.

Visit <https://www.globalministries.org/> for more information about Global Ministries.

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 **Church World Service-Ukraine Crisis Response Fund**, which offers humanitarian assistance to people displaced as a result of the violence, and bolsters partners in Europe to serve the most vulnerable. CWS responds to the emerging needs of the crisis and partners with teams in the region, the Balkans, and international coalitions that work with migrants and refugees. Thank you for your generosity.

Learn more by visiting <https://cwsglobal.org/appeals/ukraine-crisis-response-fund/>

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 ours 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>

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

Family and friends Stephanie Koscher's mother Judy Young; 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; and the family of Ruth Allred.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. We pray for Global Ministries worker John Campbell-Nelson in Indonesia.

Livestream Team Seeking Volunteers

A few weeks ago, Rev. Ahrens was naming the people assisting with the service and ended with "Livestream Minister Janet Newcity." I laughed out loud at the title but it got me thinking. I don't consider myself a minister by any means but this volunteer position is much more than pushing buttons. It actually has a lot in common with the role of a deacon. We show up regularly and are responsible for many operational details (that, yes, does include a lot of button pushing) that makes the worship service possible for many people to experience. I may not consider myself a "minister" but livestreaming is a true, meaningful ministry of welcome and spreading the good news.

On a personal note, I feel very connected to the service while livestreaming. I have the best views of our beautiful sanctuary and the best audio of our amazing choir and ministers. My tasks keep me meaningfully engaged in the service and I enjoy thinking about which camera angle will best convey the meaning of the moment. So please consider joining our team. If you can take a selfie you can do it! And you won't be asked to fly solo until you are ready. To all of you watching online, keep the comments up! I really feel connected to you through them. -Janet Newcity

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, 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

Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

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