



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 27, 2022

The Fourth 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 Variations on "Wondrous Love", Op. 34 Samuel Barber

ENTER TO WORSHIP Elaine Warren

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

** Then all stand.*

L: How blessed we are that God forgives us and loves us!

P: For all those times when we have fallen short of what God would have us be, we have been forgiven.

L: God makes us new in God's Spirit!

P: Now is the time to joyfully accept the newness of life which God offers to us.

L: Come, let us worship and be thankful.

P: Let us open our hearts to the peace and joy of God. Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 85 What wondrous love is this *Wondrous Love*

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, What won-drous love is this, O my
 2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, To God and to the Lamb, I will
 3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, And when from death I'm free, I'll sing

soul! _____ What won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss To
 sing; _____ To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am, While
 on; _____ And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, And

bear the heav - y cross for my soul, for my soul, To bear the heav - y cross for my soul!
 mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on, And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Heather Giffen

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Gracious God, whose blessed One, Jesus Christ, came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that Christ may live in us and we in Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

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

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Ahrens

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 PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ahrens

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Mark S. Williams

A reading from the book of the prophet Joshua, chapter 5.

The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Like as the hart

Herbert Howells

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God, when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

—Psalm 42:1–3

THE EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:16–21 (N.T., p. 181)

Ms. Warren

A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 5.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 356

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing

Nettleton



1. Come, Thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
2. Here I raise my E - be - nez - er, Hi - ther by Thy help I'm come;
3. O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!



Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, Call for songs of loud - est praise.
And I hope, by Thy good pleas - ure, Safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, Bind my wand' - ring heart to Thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, Wand' - ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, Mount of God's un - chang - ing love!
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 15.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Give Us This Day our Daily Bread”
Fifth in the Lenten sermon series, “The Lord’s Prayer”

Rev. Ahrens

A period of silence follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Giffen

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. Giffen

Designated gifts go to **Crossroad Family and Child Services**. Crossroad is a residential program offered for children and youth ages six to 21 with severe emotional and behavioral challenges. Community-based programs and a Mental Health Emergency Shelter are also provided. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

None Other Lamb
SallyJane Mathias, *cello*

Jane Marshall

None other Lamb, none other Name,
None other hope in Heav'n or earth or sea,
None other hiding place from guilt and shame,
None beside Thee!

My faith burns low, my hope burns low;
Only my heart's desire cries out in me
By the deep thunder of its want and woe,
Cries out to Thee.

Lord, Thou art Life, though I be dead;
Love's fire Thou art, however cold I be:
Nor Heav'n have I, nor place to lay my head,
Nor home, but Thee.
—Christina Rossetti

* 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. Giffen

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery trou - bled breast!
 3. Come, Al - migh - ty to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy life re - ceive;
 4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less let us be;



Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown!
 Let us all in Thee in - her - it, Let us find the prom - ised rest;
 Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
 Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee;



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pass - ion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove;
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place,



Vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 Pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 Till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Fugue on the Theme of the Carillon at Soissons Cathedral, Op. 12

Maurice Duruflé

Please be seated for the Postlude

† WE WELCOME THE REV. HEATHER GIFFEN to worship leadership this morning as Rev. Corzine is on vacation.

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and with thanks to the members of the COVID Task Force for their leadership and guidance, given by the Flower Fund.

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *preacher*The Rev. Heather Giffen, *liturgist*Mark S. Williams, *liturgist*Elaine Warren, *liturgist*Rabbi Susan Silverman, *liturgist*Maya Haslett, *crucifer*

The First Church Choir

SallyJane Mathias, *cello*Kevin Jones, *organist*Peter Murray, Mike Kennedy, Janet Newcity, *livestream ministry*

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street: Rev. Ahrens

Education Breezeway: Mr. Williams

Education Wing Door: Rev. Giffen

PERMISSIONS AND COPYRIGHTS

Variations on “Wondrous Love” - Samuel Barber (1910–1981). Published by G. Schirmer. All rights reserved.

“What wondrous love is this” - Text: Anonymous, from S. Mead’s *A General Selection*, 1811; American folk hymn, ca. 1835. Public Domain. Music: Anonymous, from *Southern Harmony*. Public Domain.

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

“Like as the hart” - Text: Psalm 42:1–3, Public Domain. Music: Herbert Howells (1892–1938), ©1943, Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

“Come, Thou fount of every blessing” - Text: Robert Robinson, 1758; Public Domain. Music *Nettleton*, first appeared in the *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, Harrisburg, 1813; American melody. Public Domain

“None Other Lamb” - Text: Christina Rossetti, Public Domain. Music: ©1951, Carl Fischer Music, LLC. All rights reserved.

“Love divine, all loves excelling” - Text: Charles Wesley, 1747, Public Domain. Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, Public Domain.

Fugue on the Theme of the Carillon at Soissons Cathedral, Op. 12 - Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986)

All music in the bulletin is reprinted and livestreamed under OneLicense.net #A-717661. All rights reserved.

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

March 27, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 3/27**
9 a.m. Worship (Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. Second Nurture Presentation
(Education Wing Rm C)
Labyrinth Walk Open (Parish Hall)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)
- 3/28**
12 Noon Grief Support Group (Virtual)
7 p.m. "Teach Us to Pray" (Virtual)
- 3/30**
12:15 p.m. Organ Meditations (Sanctuary)
- 3/31**
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)
- 4/2**
10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg (outside)

The Return of Faith Formation

Faith Formation (Sunday School) for our children and youth will return on **Sunday, April 3**. We will have the tents up to meet outside if the weather is nice. If not, we will be inside. Our teachers are ready and have the curriculum and crafts ready. We hope our children and youth will join us.

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."

Current COVID-19 Guidelines

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

11 a.m. Worship: This is a mask-optional worship service. The reserved pew ropes have been removed to 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 is 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 convenor, 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 Book Club

All are invited to the First Church Book Club. The next meeting is on **April 6 at 7 p.m.** by Zoom. The selections are *A Ritchie Boy* and if you have time, *Tasa's Song*. Both are by Linda Kass, owner of Gramercy Books in Bexley. For more information and the Zoom link, contact Elaine Warren at melainewarren232@gmail.com.

First Church Youth Annual Flower Sale

Many varieties of plants and vegetables.

Amazing hanging baskets too!

Print out the form below, fill in your order, and mail or email the form to mwilliams@first-church.org

The deadline for orders is **April 12**.
Pick up will be May 7 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Download the form at <https://files.constantcontact.com/5728e215501/0be08f81-4f84-4b64-b928-fec64bedc117.pdf?rdr=true>

Sacred Earth Tip

Sacred Earth encourages everyone to purchase plants this year at the Youth Flower Sale. Almost all flowers are pollinators and pollination is vital to the production of many food crops and provides a service essential to the survival of many native plants.

CONCERTS AT FIRST CHURCH 2021-2022

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

Lenten Organ Meditation Tyler W. Robertson

Mar
30 12:15 pm



Director of Music at Christ Church Glendale, Cincinnati, Tyler W. Robertson closes the series of Organ Meditations for 21-22.



“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](#).

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
April 3, 2022 6 p.m.

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

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

Mondays in Lent

March 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.

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, April 7, 2022 10 a.m.

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

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 make 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, Livestream Team

Contact Rev. Emily Corzine, ecorzine@first-church.org to get connected.

Global Mission Partner Emmanuela Loccident, Morocco

Emmanuela Loccident serves with the Evangelical Church of Morocco. She says that recognizing our “internationality,” the EEAM sees welcoming the stranger as one of its principal ministries. “We are committed to offering hospitality. Hospitality to those who come to live and worship with us in Morocco and hospitality toward those who are passing through the country as migrants.” Since 2003, the church has been responding to the crisis of migration, assisting those in great need through emergency aid (food, shelter, clothing, and medical care), scholarships for students who lose their support from home, micro-projects for migrants, and professional training programs.

Emmanuela’s experience as a non-native of Morocco has helped her to understand issues facing migrants and others who live in Morocco for a period and then return home. The church is mainly composed of migrants, students, and a minority of professionals, mostly coming from Sub-Saharan Africa, as she does. The congregation wants to receive, train, and release the people who are coming to this church because they know that only a minority decide to stay in Morocco.

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 **Crossroad Family and Child Services**. Crossroad is a residential program offered for children and youth ages six to 21 with severe emotional and behavioral challenges. Community-based programs and a Mental Health Emergency Shelter are also provided. Thank you for your generosity.

For more information about the mission of the week visit <https://www.crossroad-fwch.org>

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

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.

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>

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/>

Keep in Prayer

In celebration of the marriage of Tami Alexander and Julie Roth-Alexander in the Social Justice Park on Saturday, March 18.

Members Rick Sayre; Grace Glaros; Abby Prendergast; Betsy Zahn; Gretchen Atkinson; Janice White; Martha Huey; Barbara Knox; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter; and Pauline Fritz.

Family and friends Bev and Bert Cook's friends Terry Burns and Herb Smith; Annette McCormick's father, Charles McCormick; Stephanie Koscher's mother Judy Young; Colleen Merrill; Amy Wagner's friend, Ken Burke; and Melva Fisher's son, Stephen Fisher.

Those who mourn loved ones the family of George Richardson, friend of Tim Ahrens; 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 of the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia. We pray for Global Ministries worker Emmanuela Loccident, Morocco.

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

Upcoming Mission Offerings

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

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
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,

Bulletins are printed on recycled paper with a minimum 50% post-consumer content.
All music in the bulletin is reprinted and livestreamed under OneLicense.net #A-717661.
All rights reserved.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885
PHONE: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741
WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG

