



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 3, 2022

The Fifth 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

*O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig*, BWV 656  
(O Lamb of God, guiltless)

J.S. Bach

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Alec Deitz

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

*\* Then all stand.*

L: When all we have hoped for and trusted in has let us down;

**P: There is Christ, who reaches out to us.**

L: When the world seems dark, and despairs threatens to close in upon us;

**P: There is Christ reaching out for us.**

L: Come and let us worship the Lord who is always ready to reach out to us.

**P: We humbly come before the Lord in hope and faith. Amen.**

1. Guide me, O thou great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this bar - ren land; I am weak, but  
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain whence the heal - ing stream doth flow; let the fire and  
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side; death of death, and

thou art might - y, hold me with thy pow'r - ful hand: Bread of Heav - en, Bread of Heav - en,  
 cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through: strong de - liv'r - er, strong de - liv'r - er,  
 hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on Ca - naan's side: songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es,

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.  
 be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.  
 I will ev - er give to thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

## \* INVOCATION

The Rev. Amanda J. Conley

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. 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.*

(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. 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

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:16–21 (O.T., p. 672)

Mr. Deitz

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 43.*

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

*A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians, chapter 3.*

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL HYMN 310

Jesus, the very thought of Thee

*St. Agnes*

1. Je - sus, the ver - y thought of Thee With sweet-ness fills my breast;  
 2. Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, Nor can the mind re - call  
 3. O hope of ev - ery con - trite heart, O joy of all the meek,  
 4. But what to those who find? Ah, this Nor tongue nor pen can show;  
 5. Je - sus, our on - ly joy be Thou, As Thou our prize wilt be;

But sweet - er far Thy face to see, And in Thy pres - ence rest.  
 A sweet - er sound than Thy blest name, O Sav - ior of us all.  
 To those who fall, how kind Thou art! How good to those who seek!  
 The love of Je - sus, what it is None but His loved ones know.  
 Je - sus, be Thou our glo - ry now, And through e - ter - ni - ty.

*A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 12.*

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION

"Forgive Us Our Debts, as We Forgive Our Debtors"  
*Sixth in the Lenten sermon series, "The Lord's Prayer"*

Rev. Ahrens

*A period of silence follows.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Conley

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 **Amethyst House**, a long-term, gender-competent addiction and trauma treatment leader for homeless women and their families. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

*Agnus Dei (Messe Solennelle)*

Louis Vierne

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us..  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

\* PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

*Old Hundredth*

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



*The congregation may be seated.*

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

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

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

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

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

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

Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,**

**for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

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

#### SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*Please come forward as directed by the Deacons to receive the common elements for communion. If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home. Please hold the elements until you are directed to partake together. Sealed and separated gluten-free elements are available in the center basket.*

ANTHEM

Let us break bread together

Spiritual, arr. William Lawrence

#### BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

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

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

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

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

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Conley

L: Let us pray.

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* CLOSING HYMN 101

When I survey the wondrous cross

Hamburg

1. When I sur-vey the won-drous cross On which the Prince of glo-ry died,  
 2. For-bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God;  
 3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sor-row and love flow min-gled down;  
 4. Were the whole realm of na-ture mine, That were a pres-ent far too small;

My rich-est gain I count but loss,  
 All the vain things that charm me most,  
 Did e'er such love and sor-row meet,  
 Love so a-maz-ing, so di-vine,

And pour con-tempt on all my pride.  
 I sac-ri-fice them to His blood.  
 Or thorns com-pose so rich a crown?  
 De-mands my soul, my life, my all.

\* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

*Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist, BWV 671*

J.S. Bach

*Please be seated for the Postlude*

*Please place the used communion cup in the designated containers at each exit as you leave worship.*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of La Juane Cooks and Gretchen Weller, which took place here yesterday.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens - Broad Street

Rev. Conley - Education Wing door

Mr. Williams - Education Wing breezeway

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Amanda J. Conley, *liturgist*

Mark S. Williams, *liturgist*

Alec Deitz, *liturgist*

Matty Provenzano, *crucifer*

The First Church Choir

Kevin Jones, *organist*

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

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“Let us break bread together” - Text: Traditional. Music: African American Spiritual, arr. William Lawrence;

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# Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

April 3, 2022

## This Week at First Church

- 4/3**  
9 a.m. Worship (Parish Hall & Virtual)  
10 a.m. Faith Formation  
(Playground or Classroom B)  
Virtual Coffee Hour (Virtual)  
Labyrinth Walk Open (Parish Hall)  
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)  
12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class  
(Classroom C & Virtual)  
6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)  
"Contemplative Practices"  
Lenten Small Group (Virtual)
- 4/4**  
9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution (Virtual)  
12 Noon Congregational Care Ministry Mtg  
(Fanning Rm)  
6:30 p.m. House & Grounds Mtg (Virtual)  
7 p.m. "Teach Us to Pray" Lenten Small Group  
(Virtual)
- 4/5**  
6 p.m. Personnel Committee Mtg (Virtual)  
Music Committee Quarterly Mtg  
(Parlor)  
6:30 p.m. Christian Education Mtg (Virtual)  
7 p.m. Justice & Mercy Mtg (Virtual)
- 4/6**  
10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)  
2 p.m. Realm Mtg (Virtual)  
7 p.m. Book Club (Virtual)  
Unhoused Around First Church  
(Virtual)
- 4/7**  
10 a.m. "Tea for the Soul: Reflections on  
Sufficiency" Lenten Small Group  
(Virtual)  
4 p.m. First Church Gardeners  
(Church Grounds)  
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal  
(Parish Hall)
- 4/9**  
9 a.m. First Church Gardeners  
(Church Grounds)

## The Lord's Prayer

### 2022 Lenten Sermon Series

#### 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."*

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## 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. Please bring your own fishing pole. 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. The cost for adults is \$40. 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](mailto:mwilliams@first-church.org)

## 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](mailto:melainewarren232@gmail.com).

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## 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.

## 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](mailto: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.

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# Holy Week 2022

First Congregational Church, UCC

Palm / Passion Sunday  
April 10



Worship  
9 & 11 a.m.

Choral Evensong  
for Passion Sunday  
4 p.m.

Maundy Thursday  
April 14



7 p.m.  
in  
Parish Hall

Good Friday  
April 15



Noon  
*Via Crucis*

A Devotion for Passiontide  
by Eric Milner-White  
and  
Philip Moore

Easter Sunday  
April 17



7 a.m. in Social Justice Park

8:45 a.m. in Sanctuary

11 a.m. in Sanctuary



**Virtual Coffee Hour**  
**Sunday, April 3**  
**10 a.m.**  
**Zoom**

The first Sunday of each month at 10 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82160506973?pwd=d-Fl4dGlac1NCZW5UbzE4WE5STHR1dz09>

Meeting ID: 821 6050 6973

Passcode: 115473

**Coffee Sales**  
**Sunday, April 3**  
**10 - 11 a.m.**  
**Education Wing**

Profits from sales go to small farmers and to UCC Justice Missions. In 2021, \$2270 was given to small farmers by UCC participating churches.

Sales on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the, excluding Easter Sunday.

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## **The Return of Faith Formation**

Faith Formation (Sunday School) for our children and youth returns today at 10 a.m.. We 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.

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## **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 convener, groups may meet at the church. All meetings must be made in advance with the church office and be on the church calendar.

## **“Breath of Life: God as Spirit in Judaism”**

Rev. Ahrens continues the Wednesday Book Study with a whole new book. The study started 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 join us for this study. We meet the first and third Wednesday mornings each month from 10:30-11:45 a.m. We will meet again on April 6 and April 20. 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>

## **“Teach Us to Pray”**

### **Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Leads Zoom Lenten Small Group**

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.

**Lenten  
Contemplative Practices  
April 3, 2022, 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](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org)

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

**Tea for the Soul:  
Reflections on Sufficiency  
Thursday April 7, 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](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org).

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](http://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](mailto:amccormick@first-church.org).

Designated gifts go to Amethyst House, a long-term, gender-competent addiction and trauma treatment leader for homeless women and their families. Thank you for your generosity.

For more information visit <https://alvis180.org/services/recovery-services/amethyst/>

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## Upcoming Mission Offerings

|                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>April 3</b> | <b>Amethyst House</b>     |
| April 10       | Good Samaritan            |
| April 17       | One Great Hour of Sharing |
| April 24       | Sacred Earth              |

## Global Mission Partner Maria Abigail Hernandez, Japan

Abi Hernandez serves with the Asian Rural Institute (ARI), Japan. The mission of the ARI is to build an environmentally healthy, just, and peaceful world in which all persons can live to their fullest potential. This mission is rooted in the love of Jesus Christ. To carry out this mission, ARI nurtures and trains rural leaders from communities in Asia, Africa and the Pacific. These leaders form a community of learning each year to study the best ways for rural people to share and enhance local resources and abilities for the common good.

Christians in Japan are a stark minority, but at ARI, where all people and faiths and backgrounds are welcome, Abi is able to share her faith and testimony. She is a member of the Admissions and Recruitment team which identifies potential partner organizations that will nominate rural leaders, support their training, and collaborate to carry out the vision upon their reintegration to their communities.

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

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## 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](mailto:ecorzine@first-church.org) to get connected.

## Keep in Prayer

Congratulations to La Juane Cooks and Gretchen Weller who were married here yesterday.

**Members** Rick Brant; Ed Koetz; Betsy Zahn; Rick Sayre; Grace Glaros; Abby Prendergast; 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** Mel Prendergast on the death of her friend, Gerri Allen; the family of George Richardson, friend of Tim Ahrens.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of the Balkans – Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Slovenia. We pray for Global Ministries worker Maria Abigail Hernandez in Japan.

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

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## 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,

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