



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE  
**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.*

*The liturgy of Morning Prayer is a form of daily worship adapted through the ages that has its earliest roots in our Jewish heritage. Its premise is one of praying to God at the beginning of the day—giving thanks for another day ahead. The service falls roughly into three main parts: Opening sentences and singing/reading of the Psalms; readings from Holy Scripture - usually one from the Hebrew texts, and one from the Gospels - interspersed with ancient songs of the church; and prayers. To this we add Holy Communion, bringing further meaning to the totality of the prayers we have already offered. The liturgy presupposes full and hearty congregational involvement in the spoken and sung responses, preparing us to be sent forth from this house of worship into the wider world to live out the Great Commission.*

PRELUDE

David Hogrefe, *pianist*

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

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

**People: Come, let us worship.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

*A brief period of silence follows*

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

**P: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**P: Christ, have mercy.**

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

**P: Lord, have mercy.**

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

*Please stand as you are able*

\* THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

L: O God, open our lips.

**P: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

L: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

**P: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

1. O come and sing un - to the Lord, To God our  
 2. Be - fore God's pres - ence let us come With praise and  
 voic - es raise; Let us in our most  
 thank - ful voice; Let us sing psalms to  
 joy - ful songs The Lord, our Sav - ior, praise.  
 God with grace, With grate - ful hearts re - joice.

\* PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 126 (read responsively by verse)

Rev. Ahrens

L: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**P: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

L: The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

**P: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

L: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**P: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

L: Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit:

**P: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

\* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ahrens

L: The peace of God be always with you.

**P: And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Mark S. Williams

*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.

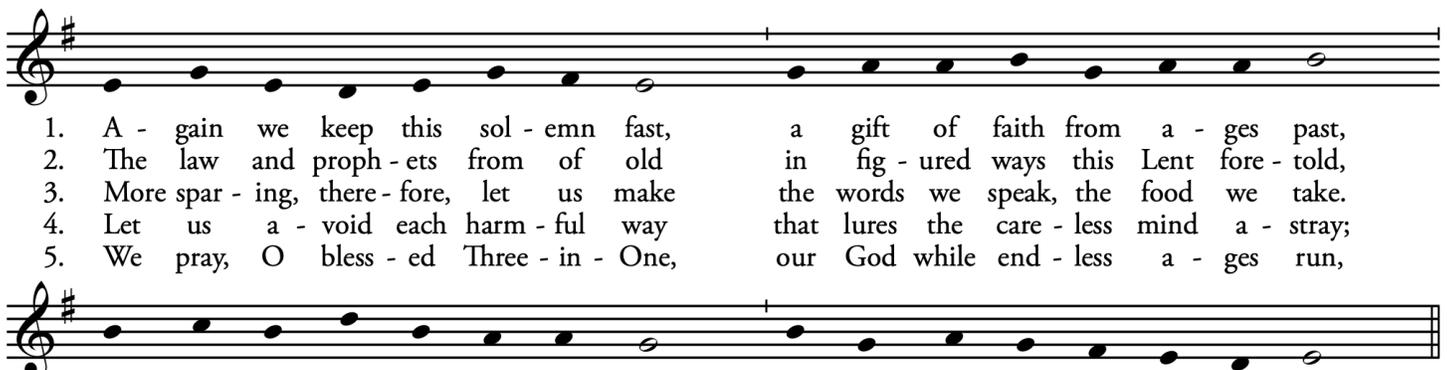
L: The Word of God for the people of God.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* CANTICLE: A SONG OF LENT

*Ex more docti mystico*

*Today we sing stanzas 1, 2 and 5.*



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

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

THE SECOND READING

John 12:1–8

Rev. Ahrens

*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.**



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



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



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



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

HOMILY

“Forgive Us Our Debts, as We Forgive Our Debtors”  
*Sixth in the Lenten sermon series, “The Lord’s Prayer”*

Rev. Ahrens

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

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

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

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

**P: Amen.**

OUR LORD’S PRAYER

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

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

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.**

**Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER

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

THE OFFERTORY

Want to give online? Please scan this QR code link, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. 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.

OFFERTORY HYMN

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Ahrens

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Eat This Bread

Jacques Berthier

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

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Ahrens

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* CLOSING HYMN

What wondrous love is this

*Wondrous Love*

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

\* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

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*Next Sunday, April 10, is Palm Sunday. Please note that Communion will not be served during worship on Palm Sunday.*

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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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