



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 1, 2022

The Third Sunday of Easter

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

Choral (*Symphonie Romane*, Op. 73)

Charles-Marie Widor

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Gregory Halbe

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

** Then all stand.*

L: Christ asked Peter if he loved him.

P: Peter affirmed his love of the Lord three times.

L: Christ asks us if we love him.

P: We affirm our love of the Lord in our worship.

L: Christ calls us to demonstrate our love in service.

P: Lord, help us to witness to your love in the ways in which we care for others. Amen.

1. "Christ the Lord is risen to - day!"
 2. Love's re - deem - ing work is done,
 3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King;
 4. Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven!

Al - - le - lu - ia!

All cre - a - tion, join to say;
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won;
 Where, O death, is now your sting?
 Praise to You by both be given;

Al - - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high;
 Death in vain for - bids Him rise;
 Je - sus died, our souls to save;
 Ev - ery knee to You shall bow,

Al - - le - lu - ia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise.
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?
 Ris - en Christ, tri - um - phant now.

Al - - le - lu - ia!

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, whose blessed One was made known to the disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold the redeeming work of Christ; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

* THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Ms. Glaros

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 ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

9:1-6 (N.T. p. 127)

Dr. Halbe

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 9.

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE REVELATION TO JOHN

5:11-14 (N.T. p. 248)

Dr. Halbe

A reading from the Revelation to John, chapter 5.

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN S65

They cast their nets in Galilee

Georgetown



1. They cast their nets in Gal - i - lee just off the hills of brown;
2. Con - tent - ed, peace - ful fish - er - men, be - fore they ev - er knew
3. Young John who trimmed the flap - ping sail, home - less, in Pat - mos died.
4. The peace of God, it is no peace, but strife closed in the sod.



such hap - py, sim - ple fish - er - folk, be - fore the Lord came down.
the peace of God that filled their hearts brim - ful, and broke them too.
Pe - ter, who hauled the teem - ing net, head - down was cru - ci - fied.
Yet let us pray for but one thing— the mar - velous peace of God.

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 21.

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

"Why Ask?"

Rev. Ahrens

A period of silence follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Corzine

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 support **BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity)**. BREAD is the organization through which our congregation works for social justice. BREAD has a 24-year history of improving the quality of life in Central Ohio by researching serious community problems and gathering the power of people in nearly 40 congregations to press public officials to implement proven solutions to those problems. BREAD rises! Thank you for your generosity.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heaven and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

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

My Master from a garden rose

Eleanor Daley

My Master in a garden lay,
perfumed with spices rare,
for tender hands had laid Him there
to rest amid the roses.

‘Twas on a cross they laid Him bare,
and pierced His hands with nails,
that we poor souls might live again
and be with Him in glory. Alleluia...

My Master from a garden rose
to go for us to heav’n,
and He will come and take us there,
to be with Him forever.

Alleluia, Amen.

—Gordon Ellsworth Young (1919–1998)

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. Corzine: 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. Ahrens

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.

1. New songs of cel - e - bra - tion ren - der To God who has great won - ders done;
 2. Joy - ful - ly, heart - i - ly re - sound - ing, Let ev - ery in - stru - ment and voice
 3. Riv - ers and seas and tor - rents roar - ing, Hon - or the Lord with wild ac - claim;

Love sits en - throned in age - less splen - dor; Come and a - dore the might - y One.
 Peal out the praise of grace a - bound - ing, Call - ing the whole world to re - joice.
 Moun - tains and stones, look up a - dor - ing, And find a voice to praise God's name.

God has made known the great sal - va - tion Which all the saints with joy con - fess.
 Trum - pets and or - gans, set in mo - tion Such sounds as make the heav - ens ring;
 Righ - teous, com - mand - ing, ev - er glo - rious, Prais - es be sung that nev - er cease:

God has re - vealed to ev - ery na - tion Truth and un - end - ing righ - teous - ness.
 All things that live in earth and o - cean, Sound forth the song, your prais - es bring.
 Just is our God, whose truth vic - to - rious Es - tab - lish - es the world in peace.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Final (*Symphonie Romane*, Op. 73)

Charles-Marie Widor

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 by Pam Kallner and Russ Kelm.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens - Broad Street

Rev. Corzine - Education Wing door

Mr. Williams - Education Wing breezeway

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *celebrant*

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

Mark S. Williams, *liturgist*

Gregory Halbe, *liturgist*

Maya Haslett, *crucifer*

The First Church Choir

Kevin Jones, *organist*

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

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Movements from *Symphonie-Romane* - Charles-Marie Widor. Public Domain.

“Christ the Lord is risen today!” - Text: This version of the anonymous Latin hymn, “Surrexit Christus hodie,” is first found in a scarce collection titled:—*Lyra Davidica, or a Collection of Divine Songs and Hymns, partly new composed, partly translated from the High German and Latin Hymns; and set to easy and pleasant tunes*. London: J. Walsh, 1708. Music *Llanfair* is usually attributed to Welsh singer Robert Williams (1781–1821), whose manuscript, dated July 14, 1817, included the tune. Public Domain

“They cast their nets in Galilee” - Text: William Alexander Percy, 1924. Public Domain. Music: *Georgetown*, David McKinley Williams, 1943, ©Church Pension Fund.

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“My Master from a garden rose” - Text: Gordon Ellsworth Young, © 1983, Shawnee Press. Music: Eleanor Daley (b. 1955), All rights reserved.

“New songs of celebration render” - Text: Erik Routley, 1972, ©1974 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Music: *Rendez à Dieu*, from *The Genevan Psalter*, 1551. Tune by Claude Goudimel, 1565, Public Domain

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

May 1, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 5/1**
9 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
10 a.m. Faith Formation
(Playground or Classroom B)
Safety Training Session (Parish Hall)
11 a.m. Worship
(Sanctuary & Virtual)
12:15 p.m. Safety Training Session (Parish Hall)
12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
(Virtual and Classroom C)
4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)
6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)
- 5/2**
9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution (Virtual)
12 Noon Congregational Care Ministry Mtg
(Fanning Rm)
6:30 p.m. House and Grounds Mtg (Virtual)
- 5/3**
5 p.m. Covid Task Force Mtg (Virtual)
6 p.m. Personnel Committee Mtg (Virtual)
6:30 p.m. Christian Education Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Justice and Mercy Mtg (Virtual) —
- 5/4**
10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)
2 p.m. Realm Mtg (Virtual)
6 p.m. Unsheltered Around First Church Mtg
(Virtual)
7 p.m. Book Club (Virtual)
- 5/5**
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)
- 5/7**
9 a.m. Flower Pick up from Youth
(North Parking Lot)
10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg (Virtual)

The Safety and Security Training Today After Both Services

The Safety and Security Committee will host a Safety Training session on May 1, after each service. The members of the congregation will participate in a severe weather drill after a short presentation along with instructions about fire and interruption of worship. This is a very important training for all members. We hope that all will stay and learn ways to keep us all safe during an uncertain time.

Concerts at First Church Choral Evensong Today, May 1 at 4 p.m.

The First Church Choir sings its final Choral Evensong of the regular season today at 4 p.m. Responses are by Welsh-composer Kenneth Leighton with the Latin-American Canticles by Bryan Kelly. Charles Wood's ever-popular evening anthem "Hail Gladdening Light" will be presented as the anthem. The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston officiates, Kevin Jones conducts the choir, and Tyler W. Robertson serves as organist.

First Church Book Club

All are invited to the First Church Book Club. The next meeting is on May 4 at 7 p.m. by Zoom. The selection for the month of May is "One of Ours" by Wil- la Cather. The book won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 100 years ago. For more information and the Zoom link, contact Elaine Warren at melainewarren232@gmail.com.

Cultivating Generous Congregations Seminar

The Cultivating Generous Congregations Seminar returns with great resources for First Church. A small cohort from First Church is forming. The program takes place over 12 weeks (6 sessions of 90 minutes each plus readings/work in-between). It provides tools, ideas, and insights into congregational fundraising. It is a 5 hour a month commitment and all on Zoom.

There are two seminars starting this summer. Classes will be on June 2, 16, 30, July 14, 28, and August 11, via Zoom.

Contact Rev. Emily Krause Corzine for more information. Deadline for registration is May 11. Register at <https://web.cvent.com/event/8840a37f-c0a7-4ecc-bf22-a56413174531/summary>

Virtual Coffee Hour

Virtual Coffee Hour is today at 10 a.m.

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81281921601?pwd=b3Yxc-Ghjd1RQakRIK0tNMUYyN2d0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 812 8192 1601

Passcode: 765775

Sunday Stroll

Come take a Sunday stroll with us at Inniswood Metro Gardens on May 22 2-4 p.m. We will meander through this beautiful park while enjoying good company and all that nature has to offer. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. There are multiple trails and all are classified as easy and less than one mile long. We will walk multiple trails so feel free to join us for all of them or just one. In the event of heavy rain or storms, the event will be rescheduled for a future date. Please be sure to register so you will receive any necessary email communication. Meet us at the garden's entrance area. We look forward to seeing you!

Please register by Saturday, May 21!

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?ll-r=vta6sivab&oeidk=a07ej63539u145a7170>

About Inniswood Metro Gardens:

Situated on 123 acres, Inniswood Metro Gardens is a continual source of inspiration for central Ohioans of all ages. A natural woodland is home to native wildflowers, wildlife and waterways and provides a majestic backdrop to the beautifully landscaped gardens and lawns.

Dedicated to the enjoyment, cultivation, and preservation of nature's treasures, Inniswood boasts more than 2,000 species of plants, specialty collections, and themed gardens, including a children's garden, as well as the Rose, Herb, Conifer, and Woodland Rock Gardens.

Link to Trail Maps : <https://www.inniswood.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Inniswood-map.pdf>

Link to Park Brochure:: https://www.inniswood.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/INN_brochure_2017-lr.pdf

Directions:

From I-270, take exit 29, the State Route 3/Westerville exit. Drive south on State Route 3 to Dempsey Road and turn left. Continue on Dempsey to Hempstead Road (second traffic light) and turn left. Continue on Hempstead approximately one-quarter mile—stay on Hempstead Road as it turns right just past the Blendon Township Community Complex. The entrance is approximately one-tenth mile on the right-hand side.

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@firstchurch.org.

Designated gifts go to support **BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity)**. BREAD is the organization through which our congregation works for social justice. BREAD has a 25-year history of improving the quality of life in Central Ohio by researching serious community problems and gathering the power of people in nearly 40 congregations to press public officials to implement proven solutions to those problems. BREAD rises! Thank you for your generosity.

To learn more about BREAD visit <https://www.bread-columbus.com/>

Global Mission Partner Eleazar Fernandez, Philippines

Eleazar Fernandez serves with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. He is president and academic dean of Union Theological Seminary, the oldest Protestant seminary in the Philippines. For more than a hundred years, it has educated Filipino pastors and other church workers. The seminary currently has over two hundred students in its degree programs, representing six countries: Philippines, Myanmar, East Timor, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Nepal. As president, Mr. Fernandez exercises fiduciary, strategic, and generative leadership. As academic dean, he leads the institution toward academic excellence. He states that one of the major challenges is helping various stakeholders to move beyond narrow self-interest to work together toward shared vision.

Learn more about Global Ministries by visting <https://www.globalministries.org/>

BREAD Sunday

Sunday May 1 is BREAD Sunday, and all BREAD Network members will be recognized in both the 9 and the 11 a.m. service. Please join us if you can!

This year the Nehemiah Action will be standing for several justice issues in addition to Environmental Issues. Included in this year’s action is also the problem of gun violence; and the issue of affordable housing.

In case you are not sure about the way BREAD is conducting the Action:

Please know that the officials know ahead of time what we will ask. God calls us to confront unjust systems, and we can do that best face-to-face with large numbers of people to press a decision maker/public official to implement a well-researched, proven solution to the problem.

Yes, it might be tense, but what makes us more uncomfortable is that members of our community face housing or food problems because **available funds are directed towards more affluent neighborhoods and more profitable ventures.**

We are working to get the entire congregation involved in doing justice and would like to invite you and your family/household to join us for the **Nehemiah Action on Tuesday May 10 at 6:45 p.m. at the Celeste Center at the Fair Grounds.**

Please see Antoinette Beynen (240-557-9770 or antoinettekbr79@gmail.com) for tickets or additional information.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

May 1	BREAD
May 8	Freedom a la cart
May 15	Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center and Canine Companions for Independence
May 22	Broad Street Presbyterian Church
	Food Pantry
May 29	Cue Seminaries

Keep in Prayer

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

Family and friends Steven Ferris's brother, Doug Ferris; Bob Quinichett's daughter, Susan Webster; Jane Carter's grandson-in law, Michael Kessler and family; Bev and Bert Cook's friends, Terry Burns and Herb Smith; 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 Kris and Richard Brandt, Deb Kelly and Larry Thorne, John and Libby Koetz, and Lee and Jarod Kiesel and their children Wesley and Spencer, on the death of their father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Ed Koetz.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. We pray for Global Ministries worker Eleazar Fernandez in the Philippines.

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

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, Shelly Gies, Miranda Gumbita, Courtney Palmer
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 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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