



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 15, 2022

The Fifth Sunday of Easter/Confirmation

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

The Strife is O'er

Victory, arr. Wilbur Held

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Henry Wade

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

** Then all stand.*

L: Let praise to God resound in the heavens!

P: Let praise to God fill the earth!

L: Let all God's angels offer praise and rejoicing!

P: Let all God's creatures sing praise and joy!

L: Open your hearts and spirits today.

P: Let us praise the Lord today and always! Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 455

All creatures of our God and King

Lasst uns erfreuen

1. All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing, Al - le -
 2. Thou rush - ing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heaven a - long, O
 3. Thou flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, Make mu - sic for thy Lord to hear, Al - le -
 4. All crea-tures, your Cre - a - tor bless, And wor - ship God in hum-ble - ness. O

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Thou burn-ing sun with gold - en beam, Thou
 sing ye! Al - le - lu - ia! Thou ris - ing morn, in praise re - joice, Ye
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and bright, That
 sing ye! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fath - er, praise the Son, And

sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam,
 lights of eve - ning, find a voice! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 giv - est us both warmth and light,
 praise the Spir - it, Three in One!

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

* INVOCATION

Maddie McWilliams

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, the Mighty One of glory, you have exalted Jesus Christ with great triumph to your dominion in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and bring us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Miss McWilliams

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.

Please be seated.

CONFIRMATION ANTHEM

Inscription of Hope

Z. Randall Stroope

sung by the Confirmands and their families, directed by Sandra Mathias; David Hogrefe, pianist

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining,
And I believe in love even when there's no one there.
And I believe in God even when he is silent,
I believe through any trial there is always a way.

May there someday be sunshine,
May there someday be happiness,
May there someday be love,
May there someday be peace.
—Z. Randall Stroope and from an inscription on cellar walls in
Cologne, Germany

But sometimes in this suffering and hopeless despair,
My heart cries for shelter, to know someone's there.
But a voice rises within me saying hold on my child,
I'll give you strength, I'll give you hope, Just stay a little while.

ORDER OF CONFIRMATION: AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

INVITATION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

* CONFIRMATION HYMN

We come to you

Mentor

As we sing stanzas 1 and 2, parents and mentors join the Confirmands on the Chancel steps.



1. We come to you by wa - ter and by word, Filled with your Spi - rit,
2. O God who made the earth and sky and sea, Sculp - ted in love, di -



seek - ing Christ as Lord, Con - firm in us di - vine and ten - der
verse hu - man - i - ty. Set stars in or - bit through e - ter - ni -



love. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Confirmands	Parents	Mentors
Alexi Jordan Cooks	La Juane and Gretchen Cooks	Sarah Giffen
Aran Patrick Cunningham	Todd and Catherine Cunningham	John Deliman
Grace Kristen Glaros	Chris and Lauren Glaros	Rev. Emily Corzine
Sebastian Maxwell Kulwicki	Keith and Melissa Kulwicki	Scott Jones
Madeline Grace McWilliams	Jamie and Joanna McWilliams	Camille Bendick
Margaret Ruth Myers	Matt Myers and Julia Myers	Jenny Provenzano
Henry Robert Wade	Drew and Lissa Wade	Ryan Jones

PRAYERS OF THE CANDIDATES

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine and Confirmands

PRAYER OF THE CONGREGATION

Jacquelyn Dean

L: Let us pray in silence for these candidates for confirmation.

(silence)

All: Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

Rev. Ahrens

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

Rev. Ahrens

L: We rejoice, O merciful God, with these people in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life. We give you thanks that they have been moved to affirm their baptism. Help them to live not for themselves but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

* WELCOME

Gregory Halbe

Members of the church who are able may stand.

L: Let us, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

* GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

Dr. Halbe

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Rev. Ahrens

L: Almighty and ever living God, may your hand ever be over your servants confirmed today. May your Holy Spirit ever be with them. So lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word that they may serve you in this life and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

* CONFIRMATION HYMN (*stanzas 3–5*)

We come to you

Mentor

As the hymn is sung, Confirmands are given a cross, baptismal cards, and a certificate of church membership. Please be seated at the conclusion of the hymn.

3. O Ho - ly Spi - rit, fall like heav-en's dew, Be born with - in our
 4. Je - sus, who heals us, saves and gives us life, Friend who sus - tains us
 5. God, may your church from age to age en - dure, Bring - ing to Christ all

hearts on fire for you, Set us a - blaze to share Good News a -
 in the midst of strife, O ris - en Lord, em - pow - er us for
 peo - ple, rich and poor, and may our joy - ful song be ev - er

new. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 life.
 sure.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Margaret Myers and Alexi Cooks

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

11:1–18

Aran Cunningham

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 11.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

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

P: Thanks be to God.

A reading from the Revelation to John, chapter 21.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 339

Be Thou my vision

Slane



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



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

THE GOSPEL

John 13:31–35

Sebastian Kulwicki

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

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Love This, Love That”
“The Call to Justice”

Mr. Wade
Mr. Kulwicki

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Miss Myers

THE 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.**



To give online, please scan this QR code link, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet.

MISSION INVITATION

Miss McWilliams and Miss Glaros

Designated gifts today support the work of **Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center** and **Canine Companions for Independence**. Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center is a non-profit, no-kill organization that provides refuge, aid, and care for abandoned, injured, abused, or lost cats and kittens in Central Ohio, while finding them permanent, responsible, and loving homes. Canine Companions for Independence provides service dogs to adults, children and veterans with disabilities and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice, and educational settings. Please give generously.

ANTHEM

May the peace of Christ go with you (premiere)

Stephen Main

This anthem was composed in honor of the 80th birthday of J. Thomas Jones, commissioned by Kathleen M. Jones

May the peace of Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.
May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.
—from the *Celtic Book of Prayer*

* PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Lasst uns erfreuen

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

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Mr. Wade

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Kulwicki

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.
P: **Thanks be to God.**

1. Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of hu - man need,
 2. Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; Still the hun - gry cry for bread;
 3. As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till your love's re - veal - ing light,
 4. Called from wor - ship to your ser - vice, Forth in your dear name we go,

Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed,
 Still the cap - tives long for free - dom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.
 In its height and depth and great - ness, Dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,
 To the child, the youth, the a - ged, Love in liv - ing deeds to show;

We, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart,
 As, O Lord, your deep com - pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul,
 Mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
 Hope and health, good - will and com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,

Con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose Ev - ery gift that you im - part.
 Use the love your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.
 Stir - ring us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.
 That your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May your mer - cy know and live.

* BENEDICTION

Mr. Cunningham

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

Please be seated for the Postlude

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mac Anderson by Deborah Anderson.

† Everyone is invited to a reception outside under the large tent on the playground on the West side of the church building, where you can greet the 2022 Confirmands and their families.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Corzine - Broad Street

Mr. Williams - Education Wing door

Rev. Ahrens - Education Wing breezeway

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, *worship leader*

Mark S. Williams, *worship leader*

Matty Provenzano, *crucifer*

Jacquelyn Dean, Jonathan Miller, and Gregory Halbe, *confirmation presenters*

Members of the 2022 Confirmation Class, *liturgists*

Sandra Mathias, *director of Confirmation Class anthem*

David Hogrefe, *pianist for Confirmation Class anthem*

The First Church Choir

Kevin Jones, *organist*

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

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

May 15, 2022

This Week at First Church

5/15

9 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
10 a.m. Coffee Sales (Education Wing)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)

5/16

5:30 p.m. Budget and Finance Mtg (Virtual)

5/17

6 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Church Council Mtg (Virtual)

5/18

10 a.m. The Largest Table (Education Wing)
10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)
2 p.m. Realm Mtg (Virtual)
6 p.m. Unsheltered Around First Church Mtg (Virtual)

Take Me Out to the Ballgame at Huntington Park

Columbus Clippers vs. Toledo Mud Hens
Wednesday, June 1, 2022, 7:05 p.m.

Join a group from First Church for a Clippers Game. A block of tickets will be ordered.

Reserve your place by **Sunday, May 15**.

COST: \$8/per person

(Cash or Checks to First Congregational Church or online MEMO: Clippers Game)

Contact Rev. Emily Corzine ecorzine@first-church.org for more information!

Register at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MzI1NTY4YTYtMjc0MS00NDQ1LTk3YjktYWU4YjAxMThjNWl2>

Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

If you or a family member is graduating from high school or college this year, please send us information, including the individual's name, the school they are graduating from, and their degree and possible future plans. We will be recognizing our graduates in an upcoming Connections email. Send the information to awagner@first-church.org. You also may include a photo (electronic image only).

Graduates will be recognized during the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 29.

Sunday Stroll Rescheduled!

Come take a Sunday stroll with us at Inniswood Metro Gardens on June 26, 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, June 25!

Register at : <https://conta.cc/3wh9H2c>

What Does “Foster Care” Mean to You?

What are your initial thoughts when you hear the words “foster care”? What are your thoughts about “foster kids”? Have you ever heard - or believed - the following?

- *All foster kids are misbehaved and unpredictable.*
- *Becoming a foster parent is complicated, time-consuming, and expensive.*
- *You can't foster if you are single or rent your home.*
- *When you foster a child you are expected to eventually adopt the child.*
- *Fostering is always more challenging than rewarding.*
(Fortunately, none of these statements are true!)

May is National Foster Care Awareness Month. We invite you to challenge your assumptions, raise your awareness, and get involved!

Join us for [Intro to Fostering w/ Second Nurture & Buckeye Ranch](#) on Tuesday, May 17, from 6-7 p.m. (via Zoom). This will be an informal gathering to learn about the process, provide ways for you to volunteer, and answer your questions. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Register at <https://www.2nurture.org/event-details/columbus-intro-to-fostering-with-buckeye-ranch> to join us. If you have additional questions, please email Courtney at info@2nurture.org. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Mission Offerings

May 15	Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center and Canine Companions for Independence
May 22	Broad Street Presbyterian Church Food Pantry
May 29	Cue Seminars

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 <https://www.first-church.org/give/>, or by sending your offering directly to First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information, please contact Annette McCormick at amccormick@first-church.org.

Designated gifts today support the work of **Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center** and **Canine Companions for Independence**. Cozy Cat Cottage Adoption Center is a non-profit, no-kill organization that provides refuge, aid, and care for abandoned, injured, abused, or lost cats and kittens in Central Ohio, while finding them permanent, responsible, and loving homes. Canine Companions for Independence provides service dogs to adults, children, and veterans with disabilities, and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice, and educational settings. Please give generously.

Global Mission Partner

Sara Makari serves the Diyar Consortium in Israel/Palestine. Diyar Consortium is an ecumenically oriented organization that expresses the outreach ministries of the Christmas Lutheran Church of Bethlehem. Diyar is the plural of the Arabic word “dar” that means “home,” “house,” “household,” and “homeland.” It is the equivalent of the Greek word “oikos,” that suggests “community,” and “ecumenical.”

Diyar serves the whole Palestinian community with emphasis on children, youth, and women. Its programs include education; leadership development; civic engagement; identity reinforcement through art, culture, music, theater, dance, and sports; authentic tourism; book publishing and media productions. Diyar launched Dar Al-Kalima University College for Arts and Culture in 2006 and regularly holds regional and international conferences.

It serves several thousand members and reaches more than 60,000 persons annually. Ms. Makari serves as Editor of English Language Publications for Diyar Publishing and engages in ministries of hospitality in her home. Learn more about Global Ministries by visiting <https://www.globalministries.org/>

Keep in Prayer

Members Mitchell Dean; 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 Annette McCormick's father, Charles McCormick; Steven Ferris's brother, Doug Ferris; Bob Quinichett's daughter, Susan Webster; Jane Carter's grandson-in-law, Michael Kessler and family; Stephanie Koscher's mother, Judy Young; Colleen Merrill; Amy Wagner's friend, Ken Burke.

Those who mourn loved ones Alec Deitz and family on the death of his grandfather, the Rev. James Deitz; 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 Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. We pray for Global Ministries worker Sara Makari in Palestine.

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.

Virtual Coffee Hour

The next Virtual Coffee Hour is Sunday June 5, at 10 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 821 6050 6973

Passcode: 115473

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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