



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 22, 2022

The Sixth 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

Christ ist erstanden, BWV 627
(Christ is Arisen)

J.S. Bach

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Martha Wilson

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

** Then all stand.*

L: We come together this day, drawn by the light of God's love!

P: In God's eternal kingdom, darkness and despair are vanquished.

L: In God's eternal realm, peace and hope reign!

P: Let all the people praise God with their music and their voices!

L: Let all the people praise God with their deeds of loving-kindness!

P: Praise be to God. Amen!

1. O ho - ly cit - y, seen of John, Where Christ, the Lamb, does reign,
 2. O shame to us who rest con - tent While lust and greed for gain
 3. Give us, O God, the strength to build The cit - y that has stood
 4. Al - read - y in the mind of God That cit - y ris - es fair.

With - in whose four - square walls shall come No night, nor need, nor pain,
 In street and shop and ten - e - ment Wring gold from hu - man pain,
 Too long a dream, whose laws are love, Whose ways are ser - vant - hood,
 Lo, how its splen - dor chal - len - ges The souls that great - ly dare,

And where the tears are wiped from eyes That shall not weep a - gain!
 And bit - ter lips in blind de - spair Cry, "Christ has died in vain!"
 And where the sun that shines be - comes God's grace for hu - man good.
 And bids us seize the whole of life And build its glo - ry there.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Patricia Battle

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. 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.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 16.

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

MOTET

Sicut cervus

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum, ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.
Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks : so longeth my soul after thee, O God.
—Psalm 42:1

THE EPISTLE

I Corinthians 13

Mrs. Wilson

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,
 2. For the won - der of each hour, Of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of hu - man love, Bro - ther, sis - ter, pa - rent, child,
 For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies;
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on Earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild;
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.
 Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 5.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Love and Blessings”

Rev. Ahrens

A period of silence follows.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
 for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Designated gifts go to support the **Broad Street Presbyterian Food Pantry**. For more than 50 years, the Broad Street Presbyterian Church Food Pantry has supported neighbors by putting healthful meals on their tables with respect and dignity for all. In 2021, the BSPC Food Pantry provided meat, milk, eggs, dairy and shelf-stable items for 7,600 families. Pantry volunteers also deliver orders to area seniors and working families unable to visit the pantry. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

Let the people praise Thee, O God

William Mathias

Let the people praise Thee, O God; yea, let all the people praise thee.
 O let the nations rejoice and be glad, for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.
 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.
 God shall bless us, and all the ends of the world shall fear him.
 God be merciful unto us, and bless us: and show us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us.
 That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen
 —Psalm 67

* PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

sung to *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

Rev. Battle

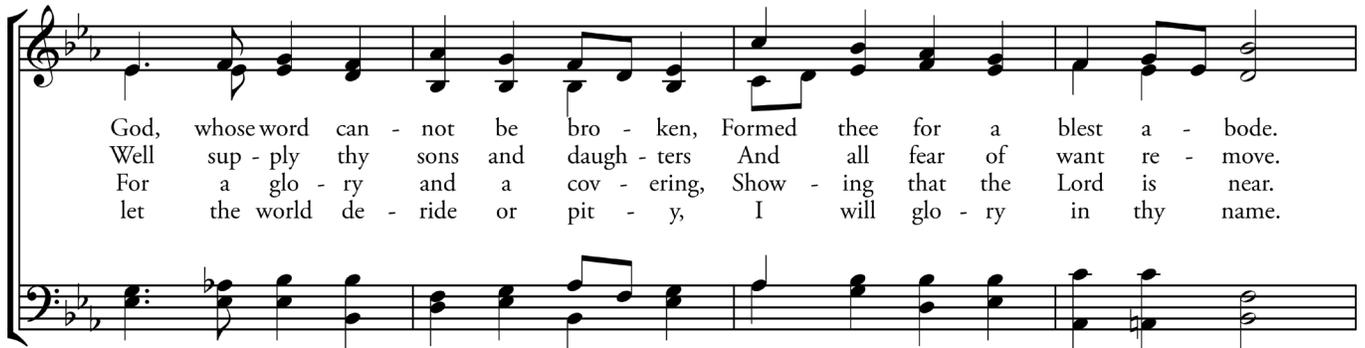
COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Rev. Ahrens

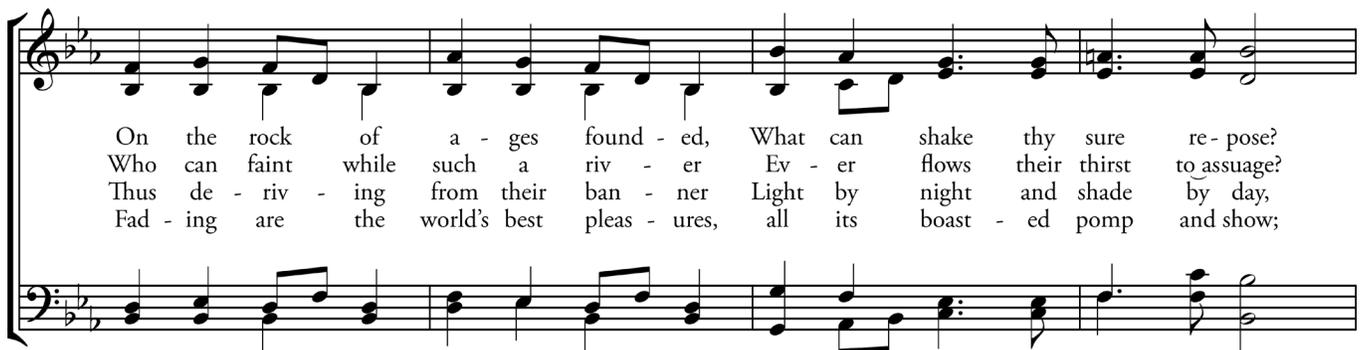
L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.
P: Thanks be to God.



1. Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God;
 2. See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, Spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,
 3. Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, See the cloud and fire ap - pear
 4. Sav - ior, if of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a mem - ber am,



God, whose word can - not be bro - ken, Formed thee for a blest a - bode.
 Well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters And all fear of want re - move.
 For a glo - ry and a cov - ering, Show - ing that the Lord is near.
 let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will glo - ry in thy name.



On the rock of a - ges found - ed, What can shake thy sure re - pose?
 Who can faint while such a riv - er Ev - er flows their thirst to assuage?
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner Light by night and shade by day,
 Fad - ing are the world's best pleas - ures, all its boast - ed pomp and show;



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 Grace, whichlike the Lord the giv - er, Nev - er fails from age to age.
 Safe, they feed up - on the man - na Which God gives them when they pray.
 sol - id joys and last - ing treas - ure, none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Præludium in G

Nikolaus Bruhns

Please be seated for the Postlude

† WE WELCOME THE REV. PATRICIA BATTLE to worship leadership this morning. Rev. Battle is Association Minister for Central Southeast Association of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ. Welcome, Rev. Battle.

† MARK WILLIAMS IS ON vacation this morning. THE REV. EMILY KRAUSE CORZINE is preaching at Broad Street Presbyterian Church this morning, while Pastor/Head of Staff, the Rev. Amy Miracle, is on sabbatical.

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by Lou Flocken and Annette Salser, in memory of their mother, Arlene Reynolds.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street: Rev. Ahrens

Education Breezeway: Gail Lowe

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Patricia Battle, *worship leader*

Martha Wilson, *liturgist*

Ethan Murray, *crucifer*

The First Church Choir

Kevin Jones, *organist and director*

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

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Sicut cervus - Text: Psalm 42:1, Public Domain. Music: G.P. da Palestrina (c. 1525–1594), Public Domain

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This Week at First Church

5/22	
9 a.m.	Worship (Parish Hall & Virtual)
11 a.m.	Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12 Noon	Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary & Virtual)
5/23	
12 Noon	Grief Support Group (Virtual)
5/24	
7 p.m.	Deacons Mtg (Virtual)
5/25	
9 a.m.	Staff Retreat (Office Closed)
7 p.m.	Unsheltered Around First Church Mtg (Virtual)

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>

A Time of Discernment

Church Council has approved Moderator Christine Farquhar's call for a time of discernment and gathering of the Congregation. The gathering will occur immediately following the 11 a.m. service of worship.

Council wishes to emphasize that we will not entertain motions or voting during this gathering. We also wish to emphasize that this time will not be an open forum, but instead will be informational. We also will provide time to gather less formally to give people an opportunity to share feelings, concerns, and visions for the church in small groups. Council members will serve as facilitators, active listeners, and recorders for these breakout sessions. There will be an opportunity to report out from those sessions once they have concluded so that those present can get a sense of what others have said and feel.

If you have any questions or concerns about this gathering, please email them simultaneously to all three of the below members of Council to ensure that we receive your concern; failure to copy all three of the below members of Council may result in Council not being aware of your concern.

Christine Farquhar, Moderator: FARQUHAR128@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Allison Lowery Palmer, Moderator- Elect:
ALLISONLOWERYPALMER@GMAIL.COM

Nicole Moss, Secretary: NSYDNEYM@AOL.COM

Ukraine Quilt Auction

Member Claudia Glenn has contributed a handmade quilt to raise money to support Church World Service for Ukraine Support. Claudia grew up in Yorkshire, England in a creative family and took up quilting a few years ago. She came to Ohio in 2011. She and her husband, Jaime, are new to First Church and we are delighted that she can share her gifts in this way.

The auction is on Charity Auctions and will run from May 19 through June 3. You can see the quilt on display in the Education Wing breezeway.

Send questions to Rev. Emily Corzine at ecorzine@first-church.org

To place a bid and check back, click here:

<https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/ukraine-quilt-32462>

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=dFl4dGiac1NCZW5UbzE4WE5STHR1dz09>

Meeting ID: 821 6050 6973

Passcode: 115473

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). Deadline for submissions is May 22.

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

Global Mission Partner Rene Seidel, El Salvador

Rene Seidel serves with the Salvadorian Lutheran Synod in San Salvador, El Salvador. The synod serves as a spiritual home of Salvadorians through 55 churches and several faith communities (which exist in rural communities without the availability of pastors).

The Synod has special programs about immigration and re-integration, the environment, and youth outreach. It operates two colleges, health and social offices, and a shelter for homeless persons. Mr. Seidel is assigned by the bishop to the administration. He has assisted medical and health education teams from the US with translation into Spanish. He has participated in planning retreats for youth programs and in the “Immigration and Gender” project.

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

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 go to support the **Broad Street Presbyterian Food Pantry**. For more than 50 years, the Broad Street Presbyterian Church Food Pantry has supported neighbors by putting healthful meals on their tables with respect and dignity for all. In 2021, the BSPC Food Pantry provided meat, milk, eggs, dairy, and shelf-stable items for 7,600 families. Pantry volunteers also deliver orders to area seniors and working families unable to visit the pantry. Thank you for your generosity.

Learn more at <https://bspc.org/ministries/food-pantry/>

Food Pantry Donations

Justice and Mercy is accepting canned and boxed foods. On the first Monday of each month, the food will be donated on a rotating schedule to either Broad Street Presbyterian Church Food Pantry (even months) or Gladden House (odd months). Both organizations are in need of canned fruits, vegetables, and meats. There will be baskets by the church office, by the entrance to the education wing, and one inside the front entrance of the church.

Monday, June 6: Donation will go to Broad Street Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

May 22	Broad Street Presbyterian Church Food Pantry
May 29	CUE Seminaries
June 5	Strengthen the Church
June 12	First Serves
June 19	Heartland Conference Outdoor Ministries
June 26	Jessie’s World

Keep in Prayer

Members Allison Lowery Palmer; Jim and Carol Woodard; Tom, Shelly, and Jordan Gies; Mitchell Dean; Barbara Clapham; Jane Weddle; Rick Brant; Betsy Zahn; Rick Sayre; Grace Glaros; 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 family and friends of Richard Mason upon his passing; Eddie Anderson III, Eddie IV, Chutney, and family on the death of wife and mother, Tammy Anderson; and Alec Deitz and family on the death of his grandfather, the Rev. James Deitz.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of the Indian Ocean Islands of Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, and Seychelles. We pray for Global Ministries worker Rene Seidel in El Salvador.

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
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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