



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 24, 2022

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 12

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

Kevin Jones, *pianist*

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: This is the day which God has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

** Please stand as you are able*

* THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Rev. Samuelson

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.

* OPENING SONG - PSALM 95

O come and sing unto the Lord

Irish

1. O come and sing un - to the Lord, To God our voic - es raise; Let
 2. Be - fore God's pres - ence let us come With praise and thank - ful voice; Let

us in our most joy - ful songs The Lord, our Sav - ior, praise.
 us sing psalms to God with grace, With grate - ful hearts re - joice.

* PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 138 (*read responsively by verse*)

Rev. Samuelson

L: I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

P: I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

L: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

P: All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

L: They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the Lord.

P: For though the LORD is high, God cares for the lowly and perceives the haughty from afar.

L: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

P: You will make good your purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.

Do not forsake the work of your hands.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Emioy Krause Corzine

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Samuelson

THE FIRST READING

Colossians 2:6–15

Mr. Jones

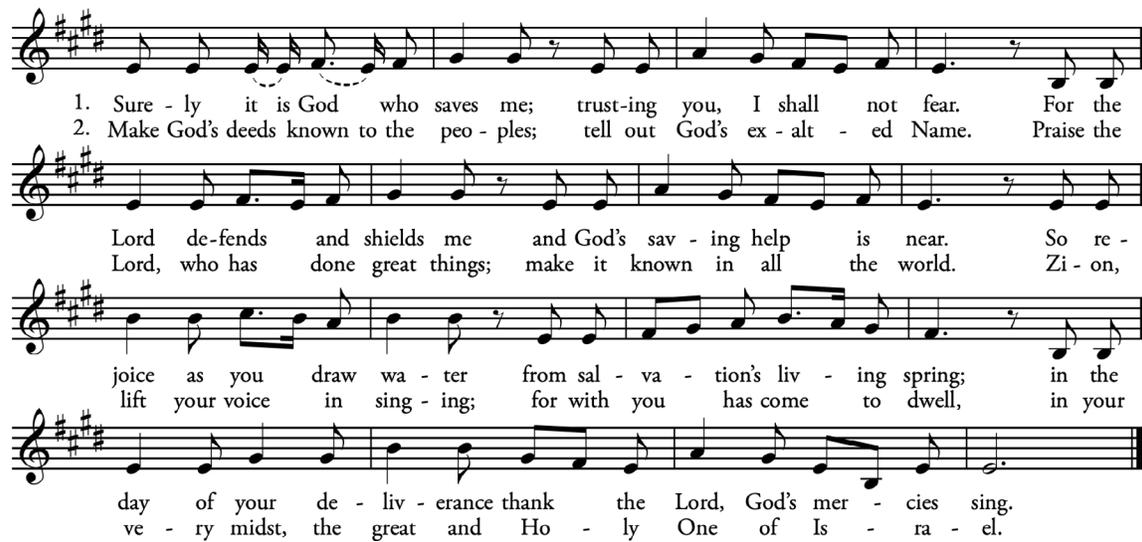
A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians, chapter 2.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

P: Thanks be to God.



1. Sure - ly it is God who saves me; trust - ing you, I shall not fear. For the
 2. Make God's deeds known to the peo - ples; tell out God's ex - alt - ed Name. Praise the

Lord de - fends and shields me and God's sav - ing help is near. So re -
 Lord, who has done great things; make it known in all the world. Zi - on,

joice as you draw wa - ter from sal - va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the
 lift your voice in sing - ing; for with you has come to dwell, in your

day of your de - liv - erance thank the Lord, God's mer - cies sing.
 ve - ry midst, the great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

THE SECOND READING

Luke 11:1-13

Rev. Corzine

A reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 11.

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial." And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

1. Wis - dom freed a ho - ly peo - ple, blame-less from op - pres-sor's sword,
 2. Through the Red Sea safe - ly brought them, led a - long the wa - ters steep,
 and with-stood, with signs and won - ders, rul - ers dread to serve the Lord.
 but their en - e - mies she swallowed, o - ver-whelmed them in the deep.
 Giv - ing them re - ward of la - bors, led the saints a - long her way,
 For sal - va - tion, Lord, the right-eous praised your name with one ac - cord:
 she was blaze of stars in dark-ness and a shel - ter through the day.
 song - filled tongues of new-born peo - ple ut - tered Wis-dom's might-y word.

HOMILY

“Rooted in Faith”

Rev. Corzine

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Samuelson

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: That there may be purpose and fulfillment, O God, in all that we do,

P: sung, each time

Christ, have mer - cy.

L: That we may show others this day the love that you have taught us,

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: That the church throughout the world may respond to your call for peace and justice,

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: That those who are in need be helped and comforted,

P: Christ, have mercy.

(We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, the members, family, and friends who are listed in the Depart to Serve and whom 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: That we may be strengthened by your grace for the tasks of this day,

P: Christ, have mercy.

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. Corzine

Designated gifts go to support the **Suicide Prevention Hotline**. The Suicide Prevention Hotline is a program of North Central Mental Health Services, a comprehensive community mental health program serving the people of Franklin County. More than 100 highly trained volunteers staff the 24-hour crisis intervention phone services, especially for teens. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Christ is made the sure foundation

Westminster Abbey



1. Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner - stone,
2. All that ded - i - ca - ted ci - ty, dear - ly loved of God on high,
3. To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of Hosts, to - day;
4. Here vouch - safe to all thy ser - vants what they ask of thee to gain;



cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious, bind - ing all the Church in one;
in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy;
with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness hear thy serv - ants as they pray,
what they gain from thee, for ev - er with the bless - ed to re - tain,



ho - ly Zi - on's help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.
God the One in Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.
and thy full - est ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
and here - af - ter, in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Corzine

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Bless the Lord, my soul

Jacques Berthier



Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.



Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Corzine

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Rev. Samuelson

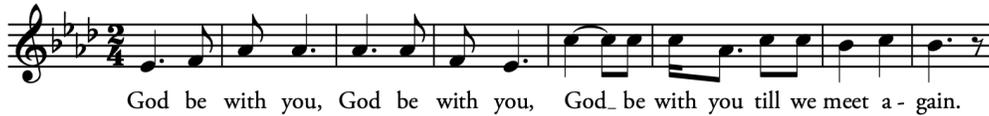
L: Let us sing the closing hymn as we depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN

God be with you

God Be With You



* LITANY OF FAREWELL AND THANKSGIVING

Rev. Corzine

Rev. Corzine: Today we say farewell to one who is leaving our community of faith. On January 1, 2013, this congregation welcomed Kevin Jones to serve with us as Minister of Music. Today we gather to celebrate and give thanks to God for the ways we have been nourished and inspired by his ministry among us.

Mr. Jones: Members and friends of First Church, thank you all. Your kindness and support, your caring and love have sustained me, and I shall remember you with gratitude to God.

Rev. Corzine:

Let us pray for the saving presence of our living Lord:

In your world,

be present, Lord.

In this congregation,

be present, Lord.

In this community,

be present, Lord.

In the whole church,

be present, Lord.

In the homes and hearts of all your people,

be present, Lord.

Mr. Jones:

Let us pray for the mercy of the Lord:

For work begun but not completed,

Lord, have mercy.

For expectations not met,

Lord, have mercy.

For wounds not healed,

Lord, have mercy.

For gifts not shared,

Lord, have mercy.

For promises not kept,

Lord, have mercy.

Rev. Corzine:

Let us give thanks for our journey together in this place: For friendships made, for joys celebrated and for times of nurture and growth,

thanks be to God.

For wounds healed, expectations met, gifts given, and promises kept,

thanks be to God.

For our fellowship in Jesus Christ, and for the love of God, which has sustained us,

thanks be to God.

Rev. Corzine: Do you, the members and friends of First Congregational Church, release Kevin Jones from service as Minister of Music?

Members and Friends of First Church: This day, we release you from all your duties as Minister of Music of The First Congregational United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio. We offer our love and encouragement as new pathways of ministry unfold before you.

Rev. Corzine: Do you, Kevin, recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with this congregation?

Mr. Jones: I do with thanks to God.

Rev. Corzine: Loving God, Alpha and Omega, you are both beginning and end. Our endings and our beginnings are rooted in your love. Whether near or far, we are held close by your love, and kept safe from any lasting loss. Let our time together end with your blessing. Touch all memories with your grace and peace. Help us to live with courage and gladness in the future you present us. In every time and place, may we offer you our highest and our best, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia! Amen.

All: The Lord watch between us while we are absent one from another – in the Name of the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

* BLESSING

Rev. Corzine

POSTLUDE

† THE REV. DR. TIMOTHY C. AHRENS is on vacation this morning and will return Tuesday, July 26.

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

July 24, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 7/24**
9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12 Noon Farewell Reception for Kevin Jones
(Parish Hall)
6 p.m. Youth Gathering (Parish Hall)
- 7/25**
12 Noon Grief Support Group (Virtual)
- 7/26**
5:30 p.m. Budget and Finance Mtg (Virtual)
6 p.m. Time Out Tuesday
(Budd Dairy Food Hall)
7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Virtual)
Deacon's Mtg (Virtual)
- 7/27**
10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)
7 p.m. Unsheltered Discussion (Virtual)
- 7/28**
10 a.m. Church Vitality Mtg (Virtual)
- 7/30**
10:30 a.m. Governance Task Force Mtg
(Rm C & Virtual)
- 7/31**
9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. First Serves (Education Wing)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)

Reception For Kevin Jones

We will honor and celebrate Kevin Jones with a special reception in Parish Hall after the 11 a.m. today, Sunday, July 24.

Time Out Tuesday

July 26 from 6-7p.m.

Budd Dairy Food Hall

1086 N. 4th St, Columbus, OH 43201

Looking for new ways to meet and connect with other church members? Please join us on July 26, at 6 p.m. for Time Out Tuesday! We will meet for a casual meal and conversation on the rooftop patio at the historic Budd Dairy Food Hall. This location has 10 different food kitchens to choose from and some amazing rooftop views! Mark your calendars and sign up via the link below on or before July 25. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

Register at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/Registrations/Registrants/ba66a04a-dac1-49d3-bc53-aec900d9048e?congregantView=True>

Champions of Justices

Who is your social justice champion?

Through September 1, those who make a contribution toward our goal of \$10,000 for the Social Justice Window, will have the opportunity to have the name of their hero placed on the wall by the west entrance.

Download a nomination form by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/championsofjustice>. Forms can be returned by mail to the church (444 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215) or emailed to home@first-church.org.

We look forward to celebrating your champions along with you!

Reception for Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

Please join us on Sunday, August 14, following the 11 a.m. service, to celebrate the Ministry of Rev. Emily Krause Corzine. Rev. Emily has been a warm and generous pastor who has served us for seven and a half years as Associate Minister with her intelligence, deep faith, gentle spirit, sense of humor, creativity, and courage. Whits on Wheels, a local ice cream truck, will serve sweet treats as we gather near the playground to celebrate Rev. Emily, husband Jeff, daughter Cameron, and mother Cindy Krause.

Please register for this fun outdoor reception by visiting <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NDE2NTI4NzQtZmM0ZS00Y2IyLTk0MDMtYWVvNjAwZTg1MwYw>

In the First Church tradition of a “purse” for departing staff, we will receive cash donations as a gift for Rev. Emily. Donations to this purse will be accepted on or before Monday, August 8, 2022. Please make your check payable to First Congregational Church with the memo indicating your gift to Rev. Emily Corzine. Checks may be placed in the Sunday offering plates or mailed to Annette McCormick, Business Administrator, First Congregational Church UCC, 444 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3885.

We are also mindful of the empty shelves at Gladden Food Pantry. We ask all of you to drop off non-perishable food-stuffs and/or personal hygiene items that can be delivered immediately to our neighbors in need. This is a grand way to honor Rev. Emily’s ministry among us and our community.

Thank you for your generosity as we thank one who has been so generous with her time and talent to First Church as we work for issues of justice and mercy in our community and around the world.

“God’s Good Earth” Sermon Series

Beginning on July 31, First Church begins a six-week sermon series entitled “God’s Good Earth.” The series is based on Anne and Jeffrey Rowthorn’s book “God’s Good Earth: Praise and Prayers for Creation,” which contains remarkable prayers, litanies, hymns with old tunes and new words, and more.

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens will “bookend” the series; he will open the series on July 31 and will preach again on the sixth Sunday, September 4. Additional preachers will bring their many gifts to the pulpit of First Church, and we will be blessed by their reflections.

“God’s Good Earth” Sermon Series

July 31 - Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens: “In the Beginning”

August 7 - Rev. Heather Giffen: “Water is Life”

August 14 - Rev. Emily Corzine

August 21 - Dr. Amy Acton

August 28 - Rev. Joanna Samuelson: “Grounded in the Promise”

September 4 - Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens: “The Eighth Day of Creation”

We hope this series will reflect a deep yearning and support for God’s Good Earth.

Ice Cream Social at the PBJ & Jazz Concert

August 13, 12-1 p.m.

Topiary Park

480 E. Town Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Calling all ice cream lovers! Calling all Jazz lovers! We are excited to announce that we are hosting an ice cream social at Topiary Park with live Jazz music! We chose this date for our ice cream social to coordinate with the PBJ & Jazz performance that's being hosted at the park by the Jazz Arts Group of Columbus. While you eat ice cream, you can listen and/or dance to the wonderful music of the late Jeanette Williams, a Columbus vocalist and jazz star, performed by her friends Thomas Carroll on guitar, Bobby Floyd on piano, Mary McClendon on voice, and Jim Rupp on drums. For this event, FCC will provide the ice cream and YOU bring your favorite topping to share. Bring the whole family and let's celebrate summer and church fellowship together!

Register by August 10 by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/fccicecream>

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@firstchurch.org.

Designated gifts go to support the Suicide Prevention Hotline. The Suicide Prevention Hotline is a program of North Central Mental Health Services and is a comprehensive community mental health program serving the people of Franklin County. More than 100 highly trained volunteers staff the 24-hour crisis intervention phone services, especially for teens. Thank you for your generosity.

First Serves Gladden "Back to School" Backpack Project

First Serves, the collaborative ministry of Justice and Mercy and Christian Education commissions, continues its work to help those in our community on Sunday, July 31, at 10 a.m. Education Wing. We are asking the congregation to donate funds to this important need for the children in West Franklinton. Each backpack kit will be age and grade-appropriate. Our goal is 200 kits. The cost for each backpack kit is \$15.

Please make a monetary donation to help purchase the supplies now through July 31. The Church will purchase the backpacks and supply the materials. We need your help with the last touches to prepare the backpacks and distribute them to Gladden.

Please contact Rev. Emily Corzine (ecorzine@first-church.org) or Rev. Joanna Samuelson (jsamuelson@first-church.org) for more information.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game At Huntington Park

Columbus Clippers vs. Iowa Cubs
Friday, September 2
First Pitch at 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 Friday, August 12. The Donatos stand on the Left Field Concourse will offer a slice of pizza and soda for \$5.

COST: \$8/per person. Register and pay at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NTQyZmY2ODUtMDIyNy00ZjdiLThkZDUtYWVkbMTAwZTQzMjVm>

Contact home@first-church.com for more information.

Global Mission Partner Carlos Sediles-Real, Mexico

Carlos Sediles-Real serves the Theological Community of Mexico. CTdeM, by its Spanish acronym, is formed by Christian and ecumenical institutions. Through its ministry, church leaders, lay persons, and pastors are trained to serve churches and contribute to the transformation of the communities in which they serve.

CTdeM has courses for graduate, bachelor of theology, and master's degrees. In addition, CTdeM also includes a library, a publication, and chaplaincy. As a long-term volunteer, Mr. Sediles collaborates with the different seminaries that form the CTdeM, especially with the Theological Institute of Wisdom of traditional Pentecostalism. He also collaborates in establishing programs concerning conflict resolution, well-being of families, and preventive health in local churches and indigenous communities. In the area of preventive health, the emphases are Christian response to HIV/AIDS, early childhood care (0-6 years), hygiene, and first aid. He hopes to contribute to the strengthening of inter-institutional relations within the CTdeM and to learn about ecumenical life and the inter-cultural wealth of Mexico.

To learn more about Global Ministries visit Global Mission Partner visit <https://www.globalministries.org>

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 inside the front entrance of the church.

Keep in Prayer

We celebrate the arrival of Gabriela Kay Orsi, granddaughter of Kate Erickson, born July 19, 2022.

Members Sarah Ahrens Stadie; Tom Gies; Bob Davis; Marti Rideout; Twink Starr; Lola Edwards; Pat Liebchen; Jim Lowe; Jim and Carol Woodard; Rick Brant; Betsy Zahn; Janice White; Barbara Knox; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter.

Family and friends Nancy Braverman's mother-in-law, Irene Braverman; Jim Lowe's brother, Greg Lowe; and Amy Wagner's friend, Ken Burke.

Those who mourn loved ones Keith, Melissa, and Sebbey Kulwicki, on the death of Keith's brother, Ken Kulwicki; Gayle Henderson and the Everett family on the death of her brother, Bill Everett; Melody Leidheiser on the death of her brother, John Busey; the family of Adah Krokono, friend of Todd Cunningham; the family of Bob Jones, friend of Todd Cunningham; and the communities of America continuing to suffer from shootings.

We pray for Mr. Mark Williams and family while he is on sabbatical.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda. We pray for Global Ministries worker Carlos Sediles in Mexico.

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

Upcoming Mission Offerings

July 24
July 31

Suicide Prevention Hotline
Church for All People

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.
(*On sabbatical through September 11, 2022*)
Interim Director of Christian Education Rev. Joanna Samuelson
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
Custodian Jenkins Smith
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 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 Growth-elect
Church Vitality Kosby Carrico
Church Vitality-elect Wendy Kennedy
Education
Education-elect
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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