



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 31, 2022

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 13

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

Soliloquy
His Eye Is On the Sparrow

David Conte
arr. Carl Haywood

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Sebastian Kulwicki

Leader: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

** Then all stand.*

L: Give thanks and praise to the Lord!

P: For God has dealt mercifully with us!

L: Even when we turned our backs on God,

P: God forgave us and restored us to life.

L: Rejoice in God's abundant love.

P: We will continually praise God who heals and loves us. Amen.

1. Ye ser - vants of God, your Sav - ior pro - claim,
 2. God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save;
 3. "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne,"
 4. Then let us a - dore, and give Him His right,

And pub - lish a - broad God's won - der - ful name;
 And still He is nigh— His pres - ence we have;
 Let all cry a - loud, and hon - or the Son;
 All glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

The name all - vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol;
 The great con - gre - ga - tion His tri - umph shall sing,
 The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 All hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

His realm is all glo - rious, He rules o - ver all.
 As - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
 Fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 And thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fi - nite love.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Let your continual mercy, O God, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Savior, 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Samuelson

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–32

Mr. Kulwicki

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes, chapter 1.

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me —and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE

Colossians 3:1–11

Mr. Kulwicki

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians, chapter 3.

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

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

P: Thanks be to God.

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing out your faith with cheer - ful voice; de -
 2. Know that there is one God, in - deed, who fash - ions us with - out our aid, who
 3. En - ter the sa - cred gates with praise; with joy ap - proach the tem - ple walls. Ex -
 4. Pro - claim a - gain that God is good, whose mer - cy is for - ev - er sure, whose

light in God whose praise you tell, whose pres - ence calls you to re - jice.
 claims us, gives us all we need, whose ten - der care will nev - er fade.
 tol and bless our God al - ways as peo - ple whom the Spir - it calls.
 truth at all times firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 12.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"In the Beginning..."

Rev. Ahrens

Part one of the six-part sermon series, "God's Good Earth."

A period of silence follows.

A Prayer for Air:

We thank you, God, for the gift of air –
 for cool breezes and brisk winds that refresh us,
 for blue skies and crystal-clear nights,
 for the smells of every season—summer and winter, spring and fall.
 Most of all, we thank you for the air that gives us life.

You offer your Spirit to us with every breath we take.

May we protect this gift that gives us life.

A Prayer for Water:

Thanks be for water
 that sustains the life of animals, fish, and plants,
 that cleans our bodies and blesses our souls.
 For the water of tears that wash away our grief,
 for the water of slides, pools, and oceans where we can play and have fun. Thanks be for water.

Your water gives us new life.

May we treasure this gift and share it with others.

A Prayer for fire:

Thank you for fire and the many ways we use it,
 to cook our food,
 to sterilize and purify,
 to smelt ore and form metal,
 to warm our homes, and
 to light our dark nights.

You light our way and enlighten our minds.

May we be open to the fire of your Spirit.

A Prayer for Earth:

Thank you for the ground beneath our feet,
 your good earth that gives life to all.

In a memory we don't understand, green plants spring forth from your darkness. Canyons and mountains, plains and deserts show us your infinite imagination. We thank you for this firm foundation on which to build our homes and our lives.

May we always love this land as you love it.

May we care for this good earth that gives us such good life. *(Talitha Arnold)*

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 **Church for All People**. CD4AP has the mission of improving the quality of life for persons on the South Side of Columbus. CD4AP affirms a whole, healthy, and engaged community where All People are empowered to pursue their hopes, dreams, and aspirations. The Free Store provides gently used clothing and household items to individuals and families in a hospitable atmosphere that affirms the self-worth of each individual. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

arr. David Cherwien

* PRESENTATION HYMN 428

We give Thee but Thine own, v. 1

Schumann

We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;

All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Ahrens

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Rev. Samuelson

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

1. Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your strength and Christ your right;
 2. Run the just race through God's good grace, Lift up your eyes, and seek Christ's face;
 3. Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; God's bound-less mer - cy will pro - vide;
 4. Faint not nor fear, God's arms are near; God chang - es not, and you are dear;

Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 Life with its way be - fore us lies, Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
 Lean, and the trust - ing soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
 On - ly be - lieve, and you will see That Christ is Lord e - ter - nal - ly.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Toccatà

John Weaver

Please be seated for the Postlude

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by Barbara Clapham in loving memory of Jeff Clapham.

† A RECEPTION HONORING TWINK STARR'S 100th birthday will be held in Parish Hall following worship today.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street

Rev. Samuelson – Education Wing breezeway

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *worship leader*

Sebastian Kulwicki, *liturgist*

Collin Richardson, *organist*

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

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"All people that on earth do dwell" - Text: William Kethe (d. 1594) Public Domain. Tune: *Old Hundredth*. Public Domain.

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"We give then but thine own" - Text: William Walsham How (1823–1897) Public Domain. Tune: Robert Schumann (1810–1856) Public Domain.

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

July 31, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 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)
12 Noon Birthday Reception for Twink Starr
(Parish Hall)
- 8/1**
12 Noon Congregational Care Ministry Mtg
(Fanning Rm)
6:30 p.m. House and Grounds Mtg (Virtual)
- 8/2**
9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution (Virtual)
6 p.m. Personnel Committee Mtg (Virtual)
6:30 p.m. Christian Education Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Justice and Mercy Mtg (Virtual)
- 8/3**
10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)
7 p.m. Book Club (Virtual)
7 p.m. Unsheltered Discussion (Virtual)
- 8/6**
10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg (Off Site)
- 8/7**
9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour (Virtual)
Coffee Sales (Education Wing)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)

Happy Birthday Twink!

We will celebrate Twink Starr's 100th Birthday during a special Coffee Hour, today, July 31, following the 11 a.m. worship service.

Champions of Justice

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!

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.

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=NDE2NTI4NzQtZmM0ZS00Y2IyLTk0MDMtYWVhNjAwZTg1MwYw>

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, 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.

First Church Governance Task Force Explores Ideas from Vision 2027 Plan

The Vision 2027 long-range plan adopted at the annual congregational meeting last January called for the immediate establishment of a task force to review the church constitution and to suggest ways “to streamline, clarify, and modernize church governance, and church staff support.”

Church Council responded in February by creating the First Church Governance Task Force, which has been meeting monthly since March. Serving on the task force are Duan Cannon, Jackie Dean, Alec Deitz, Melody Leidheiser, Kent Shimeall, and Tom Worley. Steve Sterrett is the task force chair. Chris Farquhar, moderator, and Allison Lowery Palmer, moderator-elect, are ex officio members of the task force. The Rev. Emily Corzine is the staff liaison on the task force.

The task force is reviewing the church constitution to clarify the language where necessary and to consider amendments that strengthen the church’s administrative structure and operations. The task force also is studying the many recommendations in the Vision 2027 plan that affect commissions, committees, and congregational care.

Over the course of the spring and early summer, task force members have interviewed lay leaders and staff to obtain their ideas on improving church governance and operations. In addition, task force members are in the process of interviewing the leaders of four United Church of Christ congregations around the country for their insights on church governance. The Heartland Conference minister suggested these congregations because their size and missions are comparable to First Church.

Church Council created the task force prior to the resignations of Kevin Jones and Rev. Corzine. Their departure is a personnel matter being considered by the church’s Personnel Committee and Church Council, rather than the task force, which is focused on structural issues.

The task force hopes to develop a draft report to share with lay leaders, staff, and church members this fall for further deliberation and comment. The goal is to produce a final report with recommendations that could be considered at the annual congregational meeting next January.

If anyone has comments, suggestions or questions about the task force, please share them with Steve Sterrett, task force chair, at sterrett.1@osu.edu.

Mask Update

A mask advisory was issued after Franklin County was moved to the high level of the CDC’s data tracker for COVID-19 transmission. To protect yourself and others we encourage those attending in-person worship and events to follow the following guidance:

- . Wear a mask indoors and in crowded areas.
- . Stay up-to-date on all COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters.
- . Get tested if you have symptoms and before you gather.
- . Talk to your healthcare provider about additional precautions if you are at a high risk for severe illness.

The Covid Taskforce is following the guidance of the Columbus Public Health Department’s latest Mask Advisory. We strongly encourage you to mask in indoor spaces. Medical grade masks will continue to be available at each entrance for all services. Thank you!

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>

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

First Church Choir Pilgrimage to Chichester and Winchester Cathedrals July 31 through August 7

You are invited to be present with the Choir virtually while they sing in the United Kingdom.

The July 31 service of Choral Eucharist from Chichester Cathedral will be livestreamed at:

<https://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/worship/livestreamed-services>

- This service will stream at 6 am, EDT, July 31, 2022.

All services August 1 through August 7 from Winchester Cathedral are livestreamed, and subsequently archived, on Winchester's YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/WinchesterCathedralTV>

- † Evensongs on August 1, 2, 3, and 5 will stream at 12:30 p.m., EDT

† Choral Eucharist for the Feast of the Transfiguration, Aug. 6, will stream at 12:30 p.m., EDT

† Choral Eucharist for Sunday, August 7, will stream at 6 a.m., EDT

† Choral Evensong for Sunday, August 7, will stream at 10:30 a.m., EDT 10

Follow our Blog on the Pilgrimage!

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston will be writing blog posts as a sort of Pilgrimage diary while we travel. Her poignant reflections on events and places we visit allow you to participate and be a part of the trip. Please follow the blog at:

<https://winchesterchoirtrip2022.wordpress.com>

First Church Book Club

All are invited to the First Church Book Club, Wednesday, August 3, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The book being discussed is Cloud Cuckoo Land, by Anthony Doerr. For more information or the Zoom link, email Elaine Warren at melainewarren232@gmail.com.

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.

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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

Members Tom Gies; Sarah Ahrens Stadie; 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 Tim Ahren’s colleague, Rev Dr. Sue Bertollette, recently retired from St. Johns UCC in Lansdale, PA; Jim Lowe’s brother, Greg Lowe; and Amy Wagner’s friend, Ken Burke.

Those who mourn loved ones Nancy Braverman and family on the death of her mother-in-law, Irene Braverman; Keith, Melissa, and Sebyy 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 Krokoko, 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 the Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome, and Principe. We pray for Global Ministries worker Erinn Miller in the United Kingdom.

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

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), 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 Margaret Graham
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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