



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

August 7, 2022

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 14

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

Ann Eliot, *pianist*

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

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. Ahrens

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.

L: Happy is the nation that worships you, O Most High; happy the people you have chosen to be your own!

P: You look down from heaven and behold all the people in the world.

L: From where you sit enthroned you turn your gaze on all who dwell on the earth.

P: You fashion all the hearts of them and understand all their works.

L: There is no ruler that can be saved by a mighty army; the strong are not delivered by their great strength.

P: The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; for all its strength it cannot save.

L: But your eye, O God, is upon those who fear you, on those who wait upon your love,

P: To pluck their lives from death and to feed them in time of famine.

L: Our soul waits for you; you are our help and our shield.

P: Indeed, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy Name we put our trust.

L: Let your loving-kindness, O God, be upon us,

P: as we have put our trust in you.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ahrens

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Samuelson

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 1:1, 10–20

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 1.

The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls or of lambs or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more! Bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation—I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove your evil deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: If your sins are like scarlet, will they become like snow? If they are red like crimson, will they become like wool? If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land, but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

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

John 4: 7-15

The Rev. Heather Giffen

A reading from the Gospel of John, chapter 4.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

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

“Water is Life”

Rev. Giffen

Part two of the six-part sermon series, “God’s Good Earth.”

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Ahrens

Good’s Good Earth Litany

L: Creator God of the Universe, have mercy,

P: Creator, have mercy.

L: On your waters, that they may be clear and sustain a diverse community of life,

P: Creator, have mercy.

L: On coral reefs, on the animals, plants, and fish that inhabit them,

P: Creator, have mercy.

L: On oceans deep teeming with life, on the open seas and all that travel upon them,

P: Creator, have mercy.

L: On rivers, bringing water to thirsty places,

P: Creator, have mercy.

L: On lakes and streams, hove to a diversity of life,

P: Creator, have mercy.

L: On ponds and marshes, cradles of life,

P: Creator, have mercy.

L: On your wetlands and estuaries, on rocky coasts and beaches,

P: Creator, have mercy.

L: On islands and atolls, on oases and all outposts of life,

P: Creator, have mercy.

L: On glaciers and ice fields, holding the delicate balances of water,

P: Creator, have mercy.

L: On storms, floods, and tempests, and all fearsome forces of weather,

P: Creator, have mercy.

L: On snow and hail, sleet and winter cold, and the dormant things that wait for spring,

P: Creator, have mercy.

L: On mists and fog silently watering the ground,

P: Creator, have mercy. (The Episcopal Church)

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



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

Designated gifts go to support **Honor the Earth**, which provides help to Native Americans and surrounding communities to help them live sustainable lives without damaging the environment. As a unique national Native initiative, Honor the Earth supports utilizing wind and solar power and planting gardens, as well as advocates for policies against pipelines and deforestations. Their mission is to create awareness and support for Native environmental issues and to develop needed financial and political resources for the survival of sustainable Native communities. Honor the Earth develops these resources by using music, the arts, the media, and Indigenous wisdom to ask people to recognize our joint dependency on the Earth and be a voice for those not heard. Thank you for your generosity.

Rev. Giffen

Cm Fm Eb Ab Db Eb Fm Cm Fm

1. The thirs - ty cry for wa - ter Lord: the
 2. The cup of wa - ter poured in love the
 3. But help us al - so hear the cry of
 4. And come to us, O ris - en Christ, our

Db Eb7 Ab Bbm Ab Ab Db Eb Ab

hun - gry plead for bread. And ma - ny long to
 pangs of thirst will still. The bread of earth you
 hun - gering, thirs - ting hearts for liv - ing wa - ter,
 rest - less souls re - lieve, and sat - is - fy our

Eb7 Bbm Ab Db Eb Bbm Eb Fm

rise a - gain, where hope, cast down, lies dead.
 bid us share the fam - ished child can fill.
 bread of life your grace a - lone im - parts.
 star - ving hearts that we may rise and live.

♩=88-96

Text: God's Good Earth Tune: Morning Song
 Music: Harmonization © 1943, 1961, 1985 Church Pension Fund. Used by permission.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Eat This Bread

Jacques Berthier

**Eat this bread. Drink this cup. Come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread. Drink this cup. Trust in me and you will not thirst.**

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Giffen

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

Randolph

God be with you till we meet a-gain; lov - ing coun - sels guide, up - hold you,

with a shep - herd's care en - fold you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.

* BLESSING

Rev. Giffen

POSTLUDE





Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

August 7, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 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)
- 8/8**
7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Virtual)
- 8/9**
5:30 p.m. Budget and Finance Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Virtual)
- 8/10**
2 p.m. Realm Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Unsheltered Discussion (Virtual)
- 8/11**
7 p.m. Security Team Mtg (Virtual)
- 8/13**
12 Noon Ice Cream Social
(Topiary Park, 480 E. Town St.)

Thank You!

This year, First Church was able to provide 150 backpacks (including school supplies) to the children and youth of Gladden Community House. Thank you for your generous spirits and giving hearts! There are additional backpacks available for the families and friends of First Church with a need. For additional information, please contact Rev. Joanna Samuelson at jsamuelson@first-church.org.

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!

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!

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 Camryn, 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, 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

First Church’s current sermon is 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 opened 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>

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

Time Out Tuesday

Creekside Barrel & Boar

Tuesday, Aug 23

6 - 7 p.m.

121 Mill Street, Gahanna, OH, 43230

The next Time Out Tuesday is August 23, 6-7 p.m. at Creekside Barrel & Boar, 121 Mill Street, Gahanna, OH. Mark your calendars and feel free to reach out to other church friends/family and encourage them to join us! Register at <https://tinyurl.com/fcctimeouttuesdayaug>

Global Ministries Rachel Pellett, Jamaica

Rachel Pellett serves with the United Church in Jamaica and Cayman Islands (UCJCI). UCJCI's vision is to touch lives, nurture disciples, and seek transformation through Jesus Christ. One of the many ways it lives out this calling is through the ministry of Pringle Home for Children.

Almost one hundred years old, Pringle Home continues to provide a loving and nurturing home for girls between the ages of eight and 18. Its mission is to provide safety and care in a family-oriented residential atmosphere where past hurts are healed and hope is restored. This enables the girls in their care to maximize their potential and fulfill their purpose. The home provides a physically safe, emotionally secure, and healthy home environment.

Ms. Pellett serves as Assistant Director, providing practical assistance and day-to-day support to the Director for the overall functioning of the home. Her three primary functions are: providing basic counseling to the girls; working closely with the House Mothers to ensure the physical, social, emotional, educational, medical, and spiritual well-being of the girls; and supporting the development of programs for the girls' care, protection, rehabilitation, and development.

Learn more at <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@firstchurch.org.

Designated gifts go to support **Honor the Earth**, which provides help to Native Americans and surrounding communities to help them live sustainable lives without damaging the environment. As a unique national Native initiative, Honor the Earth supports utilizing wind and solar power and planting gardens, as well as advocates for policies against pipelines and deforestation. Its mission is to create awareness and support for Native environmental issues and to develop needed financial and political resources for the survival of sustainable Native communities. Honor the Earth develops these resources by using music, the arts, the media, and Indigenous wisdom to ask people to recognize our joint dependency on the Earth and be a voice for those not heard. Thank you for your generosity.

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 Larry Dixon; Martha Huey; Tom Gies; Sarah Ahrens Stadie; Bob Davis; Marti Rideout; Twink Starr; Lola Edwards; Pat Liebchen; Rick Brant; Betsy Zahn; Janice White; Barbara Knox; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter.

Family and friends Gretchen Atkinson’s cousin, Linda Lambeth; and Amy Wagner’s friend, Ken Burke.

Those who mourn loved ones the family of Margaret Browne; the family of Rev Dr. Sue Bertollette; Nancy Braverman and family on the death of her mother-in-law, Irene Braverman; 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 Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Equatorial Guinea. We pray for Global Ministries worker Rachel Pellett in Jamaica.

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

Virtual Coffee Hour is Today Sunday, August 7, at 10 a.m.

Join 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.
(*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
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Moderator-elect Allison Lowery Palmer
Treasurer Andy Bensing
Treasurer-elect James Velo
Secretary Nicole Moss
Secretary-elect Gretchen Atkinson
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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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