



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 28, 2022

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 17

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

Toccata in C Major

J.S. Bach

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Duan Cannon

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: This is the place and this is the time;

P: Here and now God waits to break into our experience.

L: To change our minds, to change our lives, to change our ways;


P: To make us see the world and the whole of life in a new light.

L: To fill us with hope, joy, and certainty for the future.

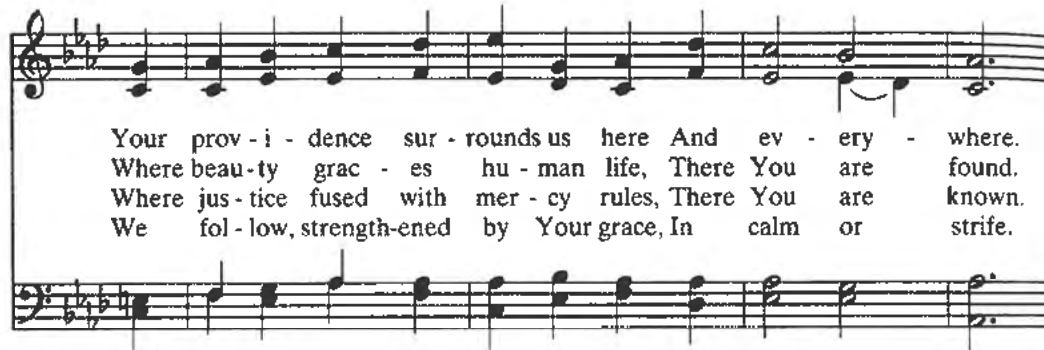
P: This is the place, as are all places;

L: This is the time, as are all times.

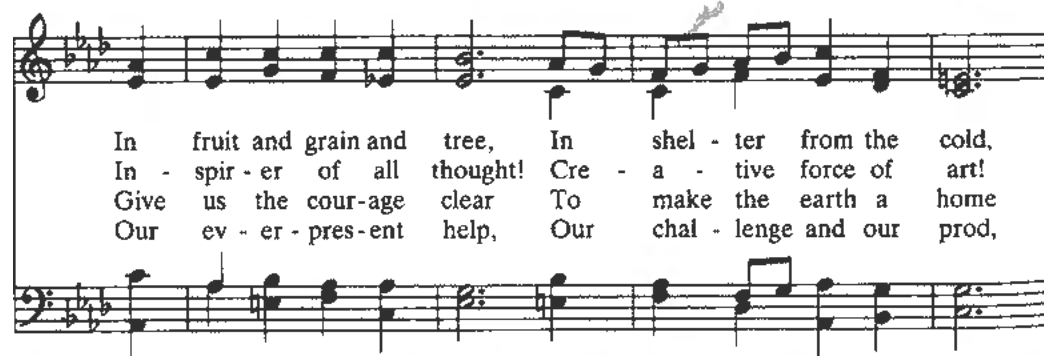
P: Here and now, let us praise God! (Alan Gaunt)



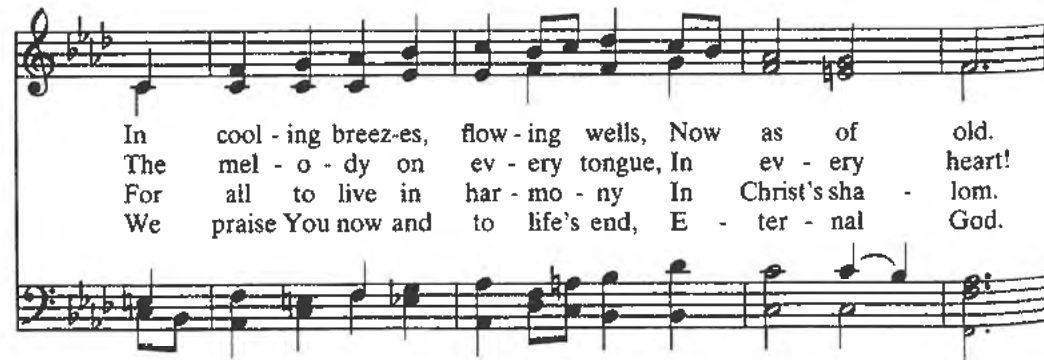
1. O God of earth and space, Of sea and fire and air,
 2. Where faith-ful-ness is shown, Where love and truth a-bound,
 3. Wher-ev-er free-dom reigns, Where sin is o-ver-thrown,
 4. Your word com-mands re-sponse And sum-mons us to life.



Your prov-i-dence sur-rounds us here And ev-ery-where.
 Where beau-ty grac-es hu-man life, There You are found.
 Where jus-tice fused with mer-cy rules, There You are known.
 We fol-low, strength-ened by Your grace, In calm or strife.



In fruit and grain and tree, In shel-ter from the cold,
 In-spir-er of all thought! Cre-a-tive force of art!
 Give us the cour-age clear To make the earth a home
 Our ev-er-pres-ent help, Our chal-lenge and our prod,



In cool-ing breez-es, flow-ing wells, Now as of old.
 The mel-o-dy on ev-ery tongue, In ev-ery heart!
 For all to live in har-mo-ny In Christ's sha-lom.
 We praise You now and to life's end, E-ter-nal God.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Lord, we thank you for our world – for its infinite varieties of peoples, colors, races, and cultures, for the endless opportunities of making new relationships, for the challenge of venturing across new frontiers, creating new things, and discovering new truths, for your call to heal all that is hurt or broken. Forgive our narrowness of vision. Open us to the breadth of your love. Amen. (Women of Guatemala)

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Ms. Cannon

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

JEREMIAH 2:4-13

Ms. Cannon

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, chapter 2.

Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? They did not say, "Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?" I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit. Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD, and I accuse your children's children. Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

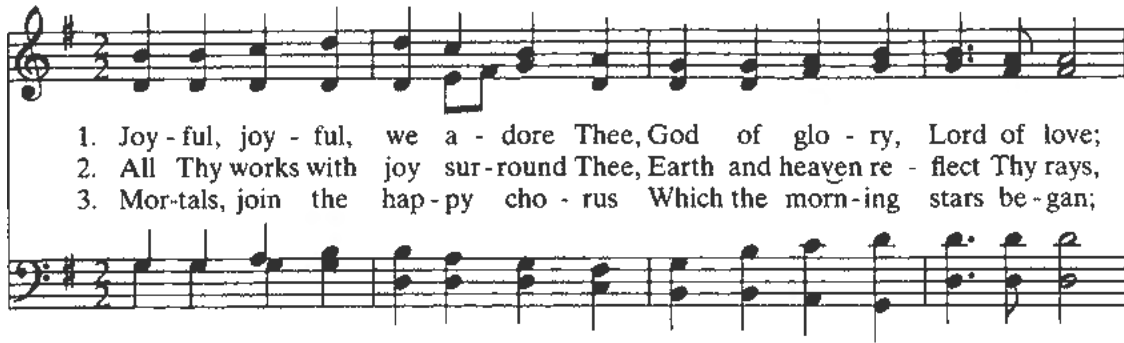
A reading from a letter to the Hebrews, chapter 13.

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

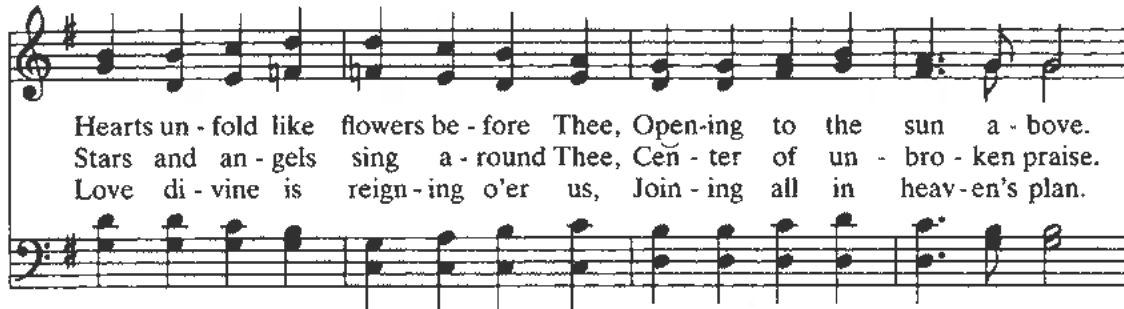
Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

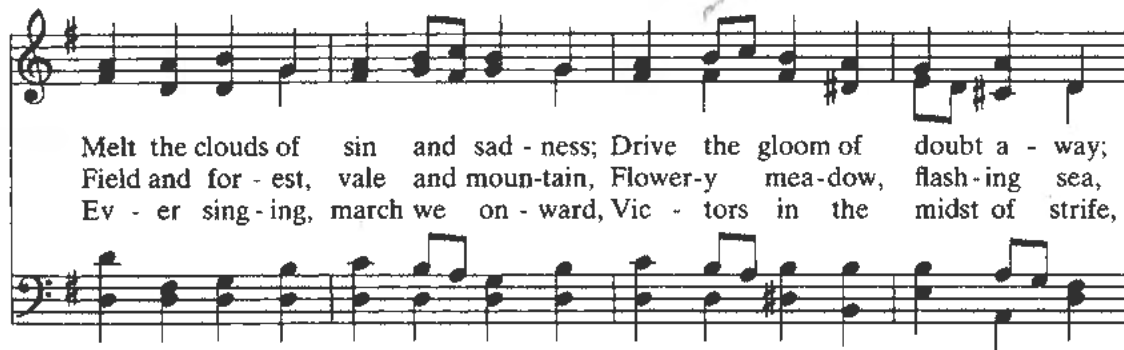
P: Thanks be to God.



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2. All Thy works with joy sur - round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
 3. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, Join - ing all in heav - en's plan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; Drive the gloom of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flower - y mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
 Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.

A reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 14.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Grounded in the Promises of God”

Rev. Samuelson

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

A period of silence follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ahrens

Litany from *God’s Good Earth* (page 18, edited by Anne and Jeffery Rowthorn)

Beloved God, known to your creation by a thousand different names, we thank you for giving us power through your Spirit to reveal your life to the world:

Strengthen, bless, and guide all that we do.

We thank you for your creation and pray for the earth that you have given us to cherish and protect:

Nourish us in your love for all that you have made.

Every part of this earth is sacred; every shining pine needle, every sandy shore.

Every mist in the dark woods; every clearing and every humming insect is holy,

The rocky crest, the juices of the meadow, the beasts and all the people,

All belong to the same family.

Teach your children that earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of earth.

The earth’s voice is the voice of our father’s father.

We are part of the earth and the earth is part of us.

The rivers are our brothers; they quench our thirst.

The perfumed flowers are our sisters.

The air is precious, for we all share the same breath.

The wind that gave our grandparents breath also receives their last sigh,

Give our children the spirit of life..

This we know: all things are connected, like the ties that unite one family,

All things are connected.

Our God is the same God whose compassion is equal for all,

For we did not weave the web of life; we are merely strands of it.

Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

Let us give thanks for the web of life in the circle that connects us.

Thanks be to God, the God of all, the God known by a thousand names.

(Attributed to Chief Seattle)

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 **Green Columbus**. This is a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to promoting sustainable living, environmental education, and community involvement. They gave away over 2,000 three-gallon trees to the community, making our community nurseries some of the most effective in the country.

* PRESENTATION HYMN 428
(one verse only)

We Give Thee but Thine Own

Schumann

1. 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

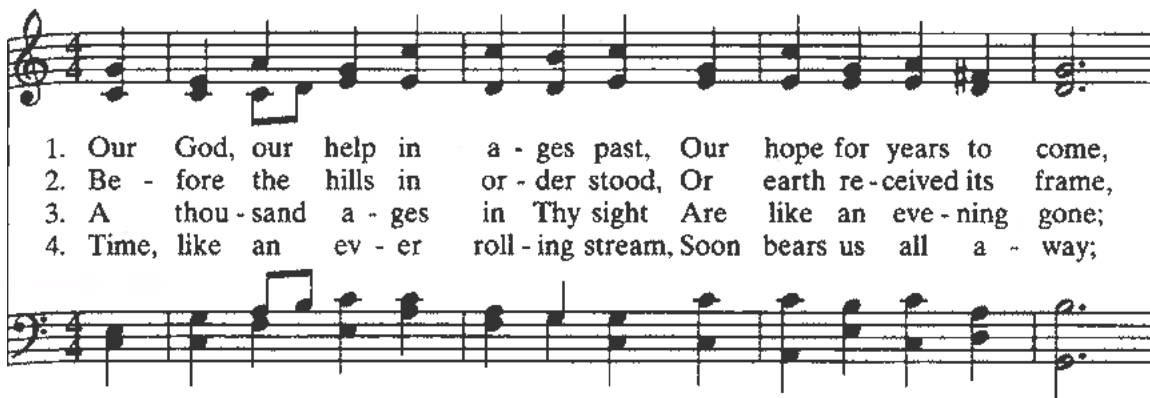
Rev. Ahrens

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

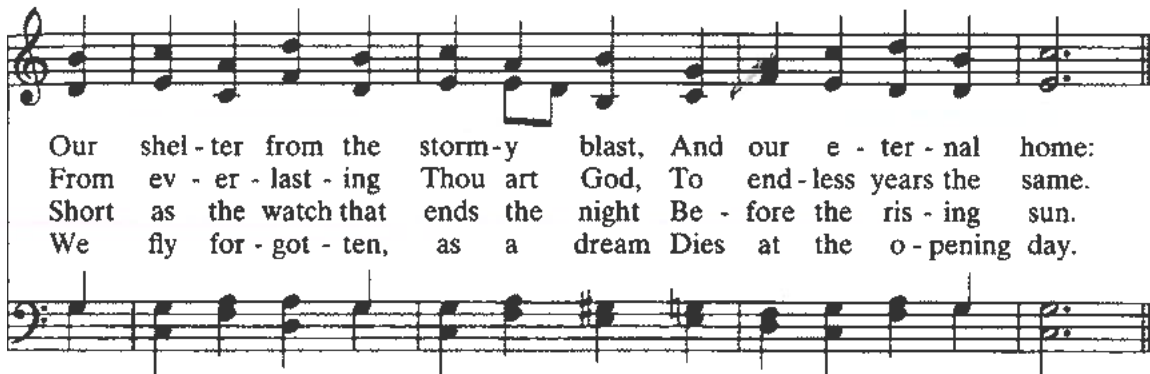
Rev. Samuelson

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
 2. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived its frame,
 3. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
 4. Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, Soon bears us all a - way;



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 We fly for - got - ten, as a dream Dies at the o - pening day.

5. Our God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
 Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
 And our eternal home.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Samuelson

POSTLUDE

Chorale-prelude on "In Thee is Gladness"

J.S. Bach

Please be seated for the Postlude

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and dedicated to all who are truly and sincerely kind by Lynn Wallich.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS TODAY:

Broad Street Door: Rev. Samuelson

Education Wing Door: Rev. Ahrens

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *preacher*

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *worship leader*

Duan Cannon, *liturgist*

Jefferson McConnaughey, *organist*

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

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Chorale-prelude on “In Thee Is Gladness” by J.S. Bach (1695–1750). Public Domain.

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

August 28, 2022

This Week at First Church

8/28

- 9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. First Serves (Education Wing)
- 11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 2 p.m. Testament in Tapestry CMA Program
(Sanctuary)

8/29

- 12 Noon Grief Support Group (Virtual)

8/31

- 12 Noon Lunch Brunch (Condado Tacos)

9/2

- 7 p.m. Take Me Out to the Ballgame
(Huntington Park)

9/3

- 9 a.m. Women's Retreat (Parish Hall)
- 9:30 a.m. House & Grounds Mtg (Virtual)

9/4

- 9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Coffee Sales (Education Wing)
- 11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)

First Serves – Today!

At this time of year, we are especially mindful that many of the young adults among us are heading off to college or beginning a new career. Please be sure to stop by the table in the Education Wing before or after worship this Sunday, August 28, to sign greeting cards for our young people during this time of significant transition in their lives. Let us shower our First Church young adults with words of love, support, and prayer!

“God’s Good Earth” Sermon Series

First Church’s current sermon series is 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.

“God’s Good Earth” Sermon Series

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.

Hello, My Name Is...

We’ve all been there. You instantly recognize someone’s face, remember important details about their life, but can’t recall their name, or even worse call them by the wrong name.

As we enter this time of transition and reconnection, and before you find yourself in the middle of a real-life “Seinfeld” episode, or vow to only address people as “Hey You!” from now on, let’s all return to wearing name tags. It can be the same name tag you wear to work, a volunteer position, one you design yourself, or even the one you wore for your summer job in 11th grade. Talk about a fun conversation starter!

Keeping your name tag in your car or bag is a helpful reminder to wear it. If you find yourself without a name tag or do happen to forget, blank name tags and markers will be placed at each entrance.

Thank you for your participation in this simple and fun way to connect with your First Church friends and guests!

Lunch Bunch

August 31
12-1 p.m.
Condados
1227 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43201

Let's have some tacos for lunch in the Short North! It's time for our next Lunch Bunch gathering and we hope you can join us on August 31, 12-1 p.m. at Condados at 1227 N. High Street in Columbus. Mark your calendars and sign up at by August 30. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

Register at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MzYwNDc5MzgtYjIjNi00MWZhLTgxN2UtYWVINTAxMWRhYThm>

Testament in Tapestry Lecture Series

Rabbi Sharon Mars, Senior Rabbi, Congregation Temple Israel reflecting on the Genesis tapestries at First Church

August 28, 2022 from 2–3 p.m.
First Congregational Church and Online

Join Columbus Museum of Art and First Congregational Church as we bring together religious leaders from around Columbus to reflect on the themes found in CMA's latest exhibition, Raphael—The Power of Renaissance Images: The Dresden Tapestries and their Impact as well as the Brussels Tapestries located at First Church. This series will explore how stories of faith, found in the Dresden and Brussels tapestries, handed down through the centuries connects to our lives today. Come together to gain a deeper understanding of the spiritual context in which the tapestries were created, and how that spirit is still vibrant and relevant.

Tickets are \$10 per person, \$5 for CMA members, and include same-day admission to the Raphael exhibition at Columbus Museum of Art. The virtual option is free and does not include admission.

For more information visit
<https://www.columbusmuseum.org>

Champions of Justice

Who is your social justice champion?

Through September 18, those who make a contribution 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://files.constantcontact.com/5728e215501/cf9a95bf-33cf-45a3-84db-9da8e390242f.pdf?rdr=true>. 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!

Save the Date

Women's Retreat Wisdom Circle

Saturday, September 3, 2022
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Parish Hall

For the past two years, we have been living in “liminal space” - the place between what was and what is yet to be. Today, we find ourselves EMERGING from that space and into something new and perhaps unfamiliar and we are not quite sure how to respond.

Please join us as we gather once again to explore what it means to be EMERGING and transformed and ready to face what is next.

Call the church office to register. Beverages and snacks will be provided. A \$10 free will offering to cover expenses is suggested.

Contact Jackie Dean (614-425-2562) with any questions you may have.

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 **Green Columbus**. Green Columbus is a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to promoting sustainable living, environmental education, and community involvement. They gave away over 2,000 three-gallon trees to the community, making our community nurseries some of the most effective in the country.

Global Ministries

Martha Mensendiek
Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan.

Doshisha University is a Christian university with a history of being in solidarity with the poor and discriminated class in Japanese society as well as in the wider world. It has a School of Theology and a Department of Social Welfare – both of which have a long history in Japan. Many pastors in Japan are graduates of Doshisha, as well as and many pioneers in the field of social welfare. Ms. Mensendiek teaches about social problems and building awareness about the world. She works with minorities and women and seeks to link them to the wider community.

Keep in Prayer

Members Amy Wagner; Larry Dixon; Bill Catus; Martha Huey; Tom Gies; Sarah Ahrens Stadie; Bob Davis; Twink Starr; Lola Edwards; Rick Brant; Betsy Zahn; Janice White; Barbara Knox; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter.

Family and friends Bev and Bert Cook’s sister-in-law, Sue Jones; Gretchen Atkinson’s cousin, Linda Lambeth; and Amy Wagner’s friend, Ken Burke.

Those who mourn loved ones Lynn Wallich on the death of her friend, Harry Worniak; Tim Ahrens on the death of his colleague, Rev. Dr. Sue Bertolette; the family of Margaret Browne.

We pray for Columbus city schools, for teachers and all striking employees in the Columbus City Schools and their families, students and their families, and the Board of Education as the new school year begins.

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 Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal. We pray for Global Ministries worker Martha Mensendiek in Japan.

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

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.

Church Leadership

Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, D.Min., M.Div.

Associate Minister Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, M.Div.

Minister of Music

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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