



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
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.*

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

David Hogrefe, *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

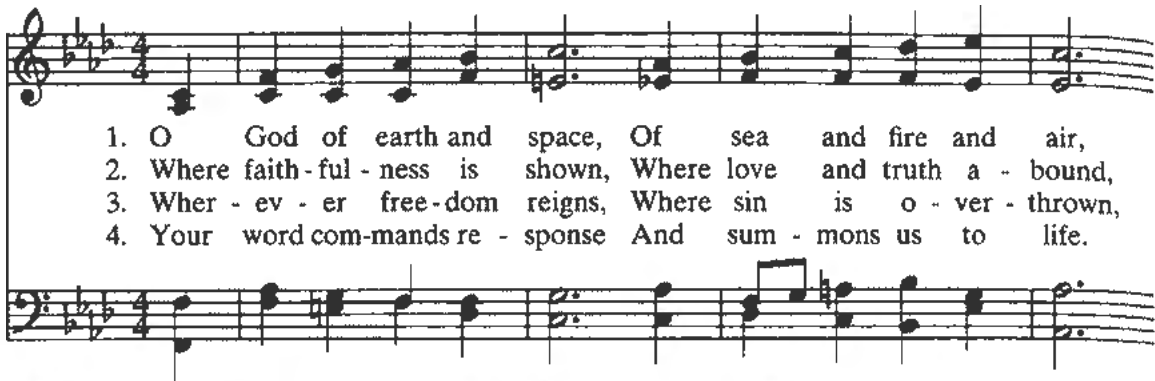
Rev. Ahrens

L: O God, open our lips.

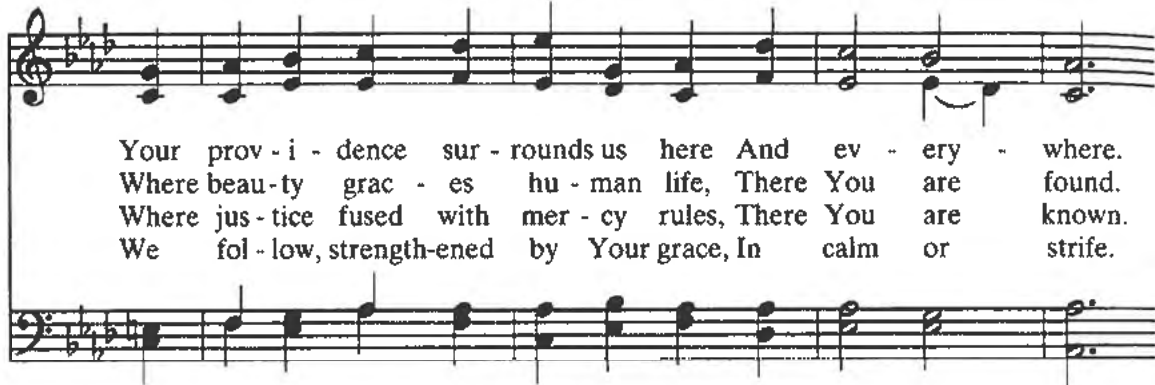
P: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

L: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

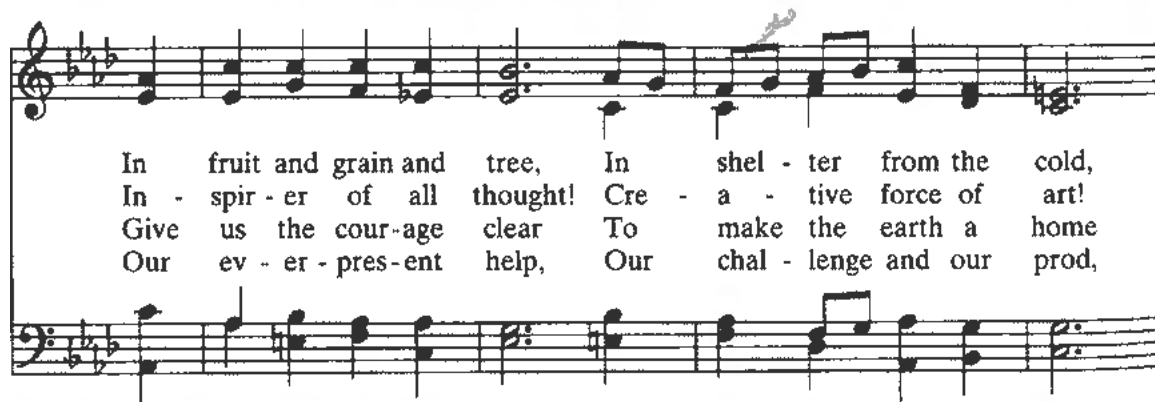
P: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.



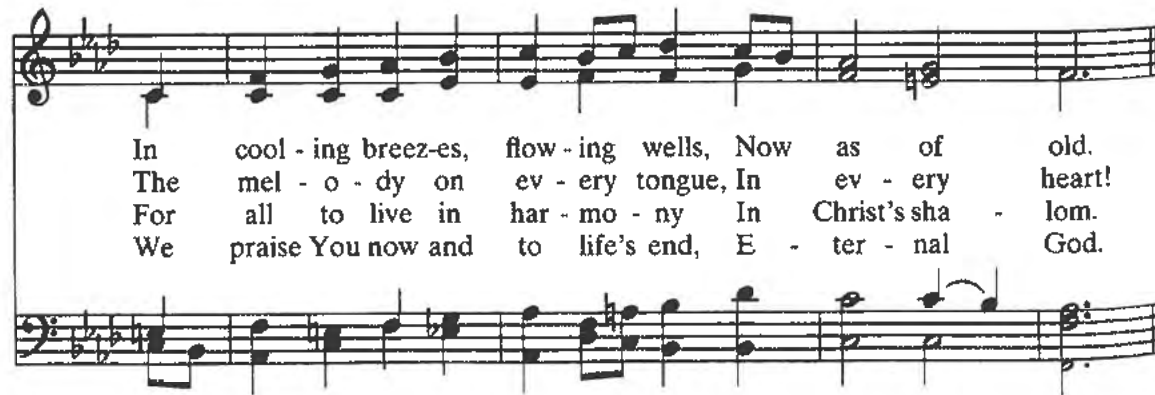
1. O God of earth and space, Of sea and fire and air,
 2. Where faith-ful-ness is shown, Where love and truth a-bound,
 3. Wher-ev-er free-dom reigns, Where sin is o-ver-thrown,
 4. Your word com-mands re-sponse And sum-mons us to life.



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.

(read responsively by verse)

L: Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

P: I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.

L: But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.

P: So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.

L: O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!

P: Then I would quickly subdue their enemies, and turn my hand against their foes.

L: Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, and their doom would last forever.

P: I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy 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. Ahrens

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 2:4–13

Rev. Ahrens

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.



1. Blest be the God of Is - ra - el, The ev - er - liv - ing Lord.
 2. Through ho - ly proph - ets did You speak Your word in days of old,
 3. Of old You gave Your sol - emn oath To fa - ther A - bra - ham:
 4. O ti - ny child, Your name shall be The proph - et of the Lord;
 5. The ris - ing sun shall shine on us To bring the light of day

You come in power to save Your own, Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
 That You would save us from our foes And all who bear us ill.
 Whose seed a might - y race should be And blest for - ev - er - more.
 The way of God You will pre - pare To make God's com - ing known.
 To all who sit in dark - est night And shad - ow of the grave.

For Is - ra - el You now raise up Sal - va - tion's tower on high
 On Si - nai You gave to us Your cov - e - nant of love;
 You vowed to set Your peo - ple free From fear of ev - ery foe,
 You shall pro - claim to Is - ra - el Sal - va - tion's dawn - ing day,
 Our foot - steps God shall safe - ly guide To walk the ways of peace,

In Da - vid's house, who reigned as king And ser - vant of the Lord.
 So with us now You keep Your word In love that knows no end.
 That we might serve You all our days In good - ness, love, and peace.
 When God shall wipe a - way all sins With mer - cy and with love.
 Whose name for - ev - er - more be blest, Who lives and loves and saves.

THE SECOND READING

Luke 14:1, 7–14

Rev. Samuelson

A reading from the Gospel according to 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.**

* CANTICLE: A SONG OF WISDOM

Brewer

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

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

Rev. Samuelson

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Ahrens

Litany from *God’s Good Earth* (page 18, edited by Ann 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)

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

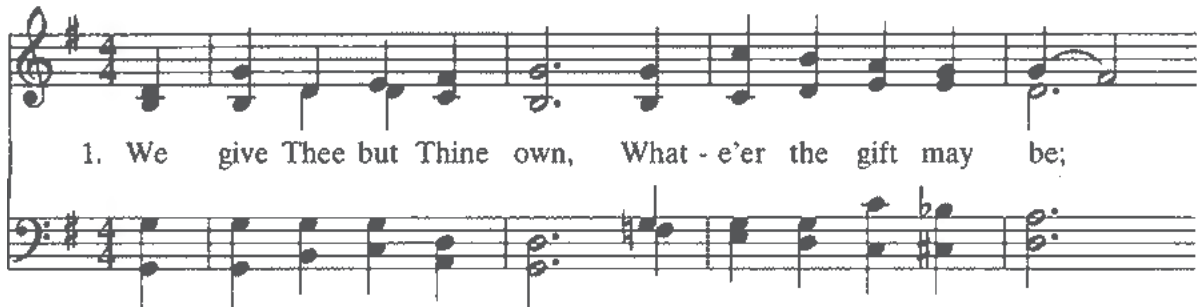
Rev. Ahrens

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!

OFFERTORY HYMN 27

We Give You but Our Own

Hebrew melody



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.

**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. Ahrens

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

Randoulf

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. Samuelson

POSTLUDE



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=MzYwNDc5MzgtYjI-jNi00MWZhLTgxN2UtYWVINTAxMWRhYThm>

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 Bertollette; 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

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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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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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