



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 4, 2022

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 18

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

Chorale-prelude on "Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness"

J.S. Bach

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Mrs. Dayna McCrary

Leader: Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good.

People: Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

** Then all stand.*

L: Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

P: Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

L: Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

P: Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

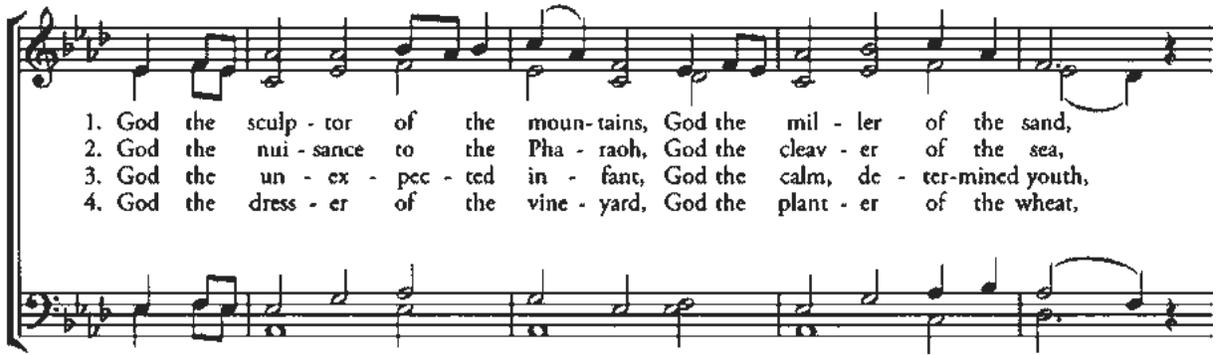
L: Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

P: Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.

L: Do not claim to be wiser than you are.

P: Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

L: If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.



1. God the sculp - tor of the moun - tains, God the mil - ler of the sand,
2. God the nui - sance to the Pha - raoh, God the cleav - er of the sea,
3. God the un - ex - pec - ted in - fant, God the calm, de - ter - mined youth,
4. God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the plant - er of the wheat,



God the jewel - er of the heav - ens, God the pot - ter of the land:
God the pil - lar of the dark - ness, God the bea - con of the free:
God the ta - ble turn - ing pro - phet, God the res - ur - rect - ed Truth:
God the reap - er of the har - vest, God the source of all we eat:



you are womb of all cre - a - tion, we are form - less; shape us now.
you are gate of all de - liv' - rance, we are sight - less; lead us now.
you are pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment, we are search - ing; meet us now.
you are host at ev - ery ta - ble, we are hun - gry; feed us now.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Creating God, your divine melodies fill the world. Every creature has a song. The wolf cries in the night, the songbird trills in the morning. You give voice to crickets and frogs, to coyotes, to large cats of the forest and cats of the hearth, to barking dogs and neighing horses, to the sweet song of the lark. You inspire human speech – voices of warning and wisdom, voices of justice, voices of comfort, hope and joy; voices that say, “I love you” when the night is dark and the morning far off. Even the trees clap their hands in praise and the winds echo a rich refrain. We thank you for the language of love that unites us with all of creation in one unending song of praise to you. 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

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (O.T. p. 185)

Mrs. McCrary

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy, chapter 30.

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE

I Corinthians 13: 1-7, 13 (N.T. p. 175)

Mrs. McCrary

A reading from 1 Corinthians, chapter 13.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these if love.

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL HYMN

Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Till all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.

Till all the world a - dore His sa - cred name. *Fine*

1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied
3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Repeat Refrain

The Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
Your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
Praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

A reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 14.

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

“The Eighth Day of Creation”

Rev. Ahrens

A period of silence follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Samuelson

Litany from *God’s Good Earth* (page 198, edited by Anne and Jeffery Rowthorn)

When long before time and the worlds were begun, when there was no earth and no sky and no sun, and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream . . .

. . . the silence was broken when God sang the Song, and love pierced the darkness and rhythm began, and with its first birth cries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord, their love-songs sweetly befitting the Word; the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the choir of creatures re-echoed it long.

Though, down through the ages, the Song disappeared – its harmonies broken and almost unheard – the Singer comes to us to sing it again . . .
Our God is singing of love without end.

The language of love has returned as it came once before, the Song of the Lord is our own song once more . . .
. . . so let us sing with one heart and one voice the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice. To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise, to you, Love Incarnate, we give your our praise. (*Peter W.A. Davison*)

THE OFFERTORY

To give online, please scan this QR code link, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Samuelson

Designated gifts go to support **Mid-Ohio Workers Association**, whose mission has been to create a self-help organization to address day-to-day critical survival needs while building long-term solutions to poverty conditions. Thank you for your generosity.

VOLUNTARY

Prelude on *St. Columba*

Sir Charles Stanford

* PRESENTATION HYMN 266

Thank You, God, for Water, Soil, and Air

Amstein

1. Thank you, God, for wa - ter, soil, and air, Large gifts sup- port - ing
 ev - ery - thing that lives. For - give our spoil - ing and a - buse of
 them. Help us re - new the face of the earth.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table.

* INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. This table is for all people who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

* SURSUM CORDA

Plainsong

Leader The Lord be with you. *People* And also with you.
Leader Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.
Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless. We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory. Baptized by your Spirit into one body, we testify to your faithfulness toward those of every time, nation, people, and language, and we give you thanks. We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

* SANCTUS S167

Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The congregation may be seated.

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

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.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Please come forward as directed by the Deacons to receive the common elements for communion. If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home. Please hold the elements until you are directed to partake together. Sealed and separated gluten-free elements are available in the center basket.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

The bread is broken and the wine is poured as visible and audible reminders of the sacrificial self-giving of Jesus Christ. These actions call to mind the cost as well as the joy of Christian discipleship.

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen!**

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. **Amen!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Ahrens

L: Let us pray.

P: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Rev. Samuelson

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.



1. How pre - cious is God's gift of speech, en - riched by time and place
2. So in - fants lisp and po - ets mold their an - cient mo - ther tongue.
3. Yet all these brid - ges to your grace are bar - riers, Lord, to me.
4. Es - tranged, our world with fear is rife, its wars will nev - er cease
5. Earth's thou - sand tongues, Lord, are your gift to bind, not keep a - part,
6. Help us to prac - tice dai - ly, Lord, till flu - ent in love's ways,



a thou - sand tongues that we may each re - hearse and share what life will teach
 In it a peo - ple's dreams are clothed, the ex - ploits of their past re - told
 If un - known words al - low no space to look be - yond my neigh - bor's face,
 un - til we learn the words of life, with all our di - a - lects of strife
 and so you came to heal the rift and taught us all, a world a - drift
 our hearts in - ter - pret ev - ery word, and all our thou - sand tongues ac - cord



in syl - la - bles of grace, in syl - la - bles of grace.
 their joys and sor - rows sung, their joys and sor - rows sung.
 a stran - ger's all I see, a stran - ger's all I see.
 trans - la - ted in - to peace, trans - la - ted in - to peace.
 one lan - guage of the heart, one lan - guage of the heart.
 in grate - ful hymns of praise, in grate - ful hymns of praise.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

FANFARE

John Cook

Please be seated for the Postlude

Please place the used communion cup in the designated containers at each exit as you leave worship.

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Gary David Thomas by Allison Lowery Palmer.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street

Rev. Samuelson – Education Wing breezeway

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *worship leader*

Mrs Dayna McCrary, *liturgist*

Jefferson McConnaughey, *organist*

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

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Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

September 4, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 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)
- 9/5**
Labor Day Observed – Office Closed
- 9/6**
6 p.m. Personnel Committee Mtg (Virtual)
6:30 p.m. Christian Education Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Justice and Mercy Mtg (Virtual)
- 9/7**
9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution Day
(Virtual)
10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)
7 p.m. Book Club (Virtual)
- 9/8**
7 p.m. Security Task Force Mtg (Virtual)
- 9/10**
10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth (Coffee Shop)
- 9/11**
9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12 Noon Congregational Meeting
(Sanctuary & Virtual)

Fair Trade Coffee Sales Today 10-11 a.m. in the Education Wing

Profits from sales go to small farmers and to UCC Justice Missions. In 2021, \$2270 was given to small farmers by UCC participating churches. Sacred Earth sells coffee on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

First Serves... Extended: Staying Connected with Our Young Adults

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, September 4, 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!

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!

Sunday School Kickoff

Come one, come all – it's that time of year again! First Church members, friends and families are welcome to participate in our Sunday School classes for all ages. Our kickoff for the new church calendar year is coming up soon: Sunday, September 11, at 10:00 am.

Our classrooms for our preschool through fifth grade classes are located on the first and second floors of the Education Wing. Our Adult Education class will take place in Classroom C (there is additional information below). And, once again, our middle and high school classes will meet on the ground floor in their respective classrooms off of Parish Hall.

If you need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact Rev. Joanna Samuelson at jsamuelson@first-church.org. Hope to see you then – all are welcome!

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, September 14
12-1 p.m.

La Chatelaine French Bakery and Bistro
in Upper Arlington
1550 W. Lane Ave, Columbus, OH 43221

Bonjour! Let's pretend we are in Paris for our next Lunch Bunch on September 14, 12-1 p.m.! Meet us at La Chatelaine French Bakery and Bistro at 1550 West Lane Avenue in Upper Arlington where we will enjoy lunch and the smell of fresh baked croissants at a lovely family-owned business. Register at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?link-String=OWRiYWE1MmYtNWY4OC00MzFmLWJm-MzItYWVlYjAwZTI4YmRj> to sign-up by September 12! We look forward to seeing you there!

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!

Coming Soon:

Adult Faith Formation

September 11 & 18 at 10 a.m.

In-Person Room C and On Zoom

*Navigating the Swirling
Whitewater of Change*

Change is all around us...at church, at work, at home, in life. It can feel overwhelming. So what can we do about it? Focus on what we have control and influence over, with one of the main things being proven tools and tips to navigate that whitewater of uncertainty and fear.

Learn evidence-based knowledge of what helps - What helps the Self; What helps Others. In these two weeks, we will focus on how to transition from where we are to where we want to, or need to, be. Proven tools and lively discussions for all of those attending will help make the knowledge real. Come learn from an expert in managing transitions...Scott Graham, PhD...your whitewater river guide.

Zoom links coming soon!

First Church Book Club

All are invited to the First Church Book Club, Wednesday, September 7, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

The book being discussed is *Barnstorming Ohio to Understand America* by David Giffels.

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.

Designated gifts go to support **Mid-Ohio Workers Association**, whose mission has been to create a self-help organization to address day-to-day critical survival needs while building long-term solutions to poverty conditions. Thank you for your generosity.

Special Congregational Meeting

September 11, 2022

Immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. The full notice of the meeting can be read by visiting <https://conta.cc/3q3OBBE>

Keep in Prayer

Members Mitchell and Lisa Dean; Bill Catus; Amy Wagner; Larry Dixon; 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 Melissa Kulwicki’s friends and neighbors, John and Carrie Mosley; Heather Jones’ father, Sam Gray; 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; and Dr. Andy Thomas and his family on the death of his father, Eldon Thomas

We pray for teachers, students and families as they begin a new school year.

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 Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, and Togo. We pray for Global Ministries worker Paul Chimhungwe in Botswana.

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

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

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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 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

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