



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 11, 2022

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 19

## 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

Nun Bitte Wir, Herr Jesu Christ  
Toccata and Fugue in F

Dieterich Buxtehude

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Ms. Matty Provenzano

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: O God, all powerful, true and incomparable, present in all things, yet limited by none,

**P: Untouched by place, unaged by time,**

L: Unhurried by the years, undecieved by words,

**P: Not subject to birth, nor in need of protection,**

L: You are above all corruption, you are beyond all change,

**P: You are by nature immutable,**

L: Living in light that none can approach,

**P: Invisible, yet you make yourself known to me**

L: And you are found by all who seek you with their whole heart;

**P: You are the God of Israel, and of all the hope in Christ,**

L: You are our God,

**P: We adore you.** (The Joint Liturgical Commission, New Century Hymnal, 830. ©1995 The Pilgrim Press.)

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

\* INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: God be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**P: Come, Holy Spirit, renew the whole creation. Send the wind and the flame of your transforming life to lift up the church this day. Give wisdom and faith that we may know the great hope to which we are called.**

**Come, Holy Spirit, renew the whole creation. Amen.** (The Joint Liturgical Commission, New Century Hymnal, 857. ©1995 The Pilgrim Press.)

\* 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

Exodus 32:7-14 (O.T. p. 78)

Ms. Provenzano

*A reading from the book of Exodus, chapter 32.*

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

*A reading from I Timothy, chapter 1.*

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,  
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,  
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,  
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,  
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?  
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?  
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.  
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.  
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

*Refrain*  
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea - gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

*A reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 15.*

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“All Involved – In Need of Healing and Forgiveness”

Rev. Ahrens

*Part one of the sermon series, “Revive Us Again: A Return to Jesus’ Original Plan”*

*A period of silence follows.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Samuelson

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 **Equal Justice Initiative**, whose mission includes ending the mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the US. They challenge racial and economic injustice for the most vulnerable people in society. They established the Legacy Museum in 2018 which explores the history of racial inequality. Thank you for your generosity.

\* PRESENTATION HYMN 428

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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: '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.'

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Rev. Samuelson

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

1 If you but trust in God to guide you, with hope-ful heart through  
 2 On - ly be still, and wait God's plea - sure in cheer-ful hope, with  
 3 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv-ing; of - fer your ser - vice

all your ways, you will find strength, with God be - side you,  
 heart con - tent, trust-ing that grace which knows no mea - sure  
 faith - ful - ly, and trust God's word, though un - de - serv-ing,

to bear the worst of e - vil days; For those who trust God's  
 will by un - bound - ed Love be sent; Nor doubt our in - most  
 there find the truth to set you free; God will not fail to

change-less love build on the rock that will not move.  
 wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways near.  
 guide and bless those who em - brace God's faith - ful - ness.

*Please be seated for the Postlude*

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At the close of worship we invite all members to stay for a Special Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary. There will be a brief time before the meeting for everyone to move forward. Rev. Samuelson and our new interim organist, Barry Moenter, will greet guests and friends as they exit the Sanctuary.

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given in thanksgiving for the service of the staff of First Congregational Church by the First Church Flower Fund.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Samuelson – Broad Street

Mr. Moenter – Education Wing breezeway

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *worship leader*

Will Haslett, *crucifer*

Ethan Murry, *banner carrier*

Matty Provenzano, *liturgist*

Erin and Emma Dean, *acolytes*

Barry Moenter, *organist*

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

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We Give Thee But Thine Own. Public Domain.

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# Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

September 11, 2022

## This Week at First Church

**9/11**

- 9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer  
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Sunday School (Classrooms & Zoom)
- 11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12 Noon Congregational Meeting  
(Sanctuary & Virtual)

**9/12**

- 12 Noon Congregational Care Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Virtual)

**9/13**

- 7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Virtual)

**9/14**

- 12 Noon Lunch Bunch  
(La Chatelaine, Lane Ave.)

**9/18**

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

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## Adult Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School resumes today at 10 a.m. It will take place in Classroom C on the first floor of the Education Wing and will be available by Zoom as well: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85931053764?pwd=a042K3RmRDZTWXBQY1VWYXQ5bUxBQT09>

First Church member and professor, Dr. Scott Graham, will lead our first two sessions of this series: **“Navigating the Swirling Whitewater of Change.”**

Hope you can make it. All are welcome!

## Transitions and Reconnections

**Faith Formation 2022-2023**

**Today at 10 a.m.**

We are delighted to offer Sunday School for all ages, from preschool through classes for adults. Most of our classrooms are located in the Education Wing. Below please find the list of our classes including the floor/room and the assigned teacher/s.

### Nursery Care

Classroom A (First Floor)  
Miranda Brooks, Shelly Gies, and Courtney Palmer

### Preschool

Classroom F (Second Floor)  
Todd Cunningham

### Kindergarten/First Grade

Classroom E (Second Floor)  
Melissa Kulwicki and Jen Provenzano

### Second/Third Grade

Classroom G (Second Floor)  
Stacie and Mark Sholl

### Fourth/Fifth Grade

Classroom B (First Floor)  
Shane Gillies (Rev. Joanna's spouse)

### Middle School Room

Classroom near Parish Hall (at Bottom of Steps)  
Bill and Susan Rhoads

### High School

Youth Room off Parish Hall  
Matt Myers

### Adult Class

Classroom C (First Floor)  
Dr. Scott Graham

Hope to see you there! All are welcome!

# Fall Into Fun with Church Vitality

## Upcoming Events

### 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=OWRiYWE1MmYtNWY4OC00MzFmLW-JmMzItYWVlYjAwZTI4YmRj> to sign-up by **September 12!**

We look forward to seeing you there!

### Time Out Tuesday

September 27

6-7 p.m.

Brew Dog DogTap Columbus  
96 Gender Rd  
Canal Winchester, Ohio, 43110

Let's get together for another Time Out Tuesday! We will meet at Brew Dogs "DogTap Columbus" in Canal Winchester where they offer burgers, pizzas, salads, tacos, sharing boards, 20+ taps of fresh craft beer, a beer museum, and a game area with pinball and tabletop shuffleboard!

Feel free to stay after our gathering and enjoy Trivia Night at 7 p.m. Dogs are welcome in their outdoor seating areas. Register at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/> by **September 26!**

We look forward to seeing you there! Cheers!

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## 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](mailto:home@first-church.org).

We look forward to celebrating your champions along with you!

## First Church Youth Returns

It's that time again ... time for our First Church Youth Group to get together for their first gathering in this new school year! It will be a time to connect and reconnect after the summer break and Mr. Mark Williams' sabbatical. As usual, the youth group will meet in Parish Hall for a time of activities, meaningful conversation and, of course, food! The first Youth Group meeting of this new calendar year will take place on **Sunday, September 18, from 6-7:30 p.m.** Stay tuned for more details from Mr. Mark!

## 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](mailto:amccormick@firstchurch.org).

Designated gifts go to support **Equal Justice Initiative**, whose mission includes ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the US. They challenge racial and economic injustice for the most vulnerable people in society. They established the Legacy Museum in 2018 which explores the history of racial inequality. Thank you for your generosity.

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## Food Pantry Donations

Justice and Mercy is accepting canned and boxed foods. On the first Monday of each month, the food will be donated on a rotating schedule to either Broad Street Presbyterian Church Food Pantry (even months) or Gladden House (odd months). Both organizations are in need of canned fruits, vegetables, and meats. There will be baskets by the church office, by the entrance to the Education Wing, and inside the front entrance of the church.

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## Global Mission Partner : Xiomara Cintron-Garcia, Colombia

Xiomara Cintron-Garcia serves with the Christian Centre for Justice, Peace, and Nonviolent Action (Justapaz), in Bogota, Colombia. Justapaz is an organization of the Mennonite Christian Church of Colombia, which seeks to follow Jesus Christ from the Anabaptist perspective. Four principles provide guidance: (1) congruence with the Gospel of Peace by living out concern for the poor and victims (2) respecting others through good treatment, nonviolence, and justice (3) seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their being and doing as an organization (4) practicing shalom spiritually, economically, politically, culturally, and environmentally. Ms. Cintron-Garcia serves in Justapaz’s area of Women and Peace to promote the inclusion of women from churches, communities, and socio-ecclesial organizations in the peace-building efforts so necessary in Colombia. Women and Peace also provide support for women’s political advocacy in rural territories and promote dialogues for reconciliation between diverse women victims of Colombia’s armed conflict. Among the many challenges facing Colombia, she notes corruption, economic instability, lack of opportunity, and a very strong patriarchal structure.

## Keep in Prayer

**Members** Mitchell Dean; 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** Martha Huey’s sister, Stephanie Childs; 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** Andy Thomas on the death of his father, Eldon Thomas; Lynn Wallich on the death of her friend, Harry Worniak.

We pray for Mr. Mark Williams and family.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Ghana and Nigeria. We pray for Global Ministries worker Xiomara Cintron-Garcia in Colombia.

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

# Church Leadership

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

Associate Minister

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 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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