



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
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.*

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. Joanna Samuelson

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. Samuelson

L: O God, open our lips.

P: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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

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

* OPENING SONG - PSALM 95

O COME AND SING UNTO THE LORD

Irish

1. O come and sing un - to the Lord, To God our voic - es raise; Let
 2. Be - fore God's pres - ence let us come, With praise and thank - ful voice; Let

us in our most joy - ful songs, The Lord, our Sav - ior, praise.
 us sing psalms to God with grace, With grate - ful hearts re - joice.

L: Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.

P: The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.

L: They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one.

P: Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon the LORD?

L: There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous.

P: You would confound the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge.

L: That deliverance for Israel would come from Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Samuelson

THE FIRST READING

Exodus 32:7-14

Rev. Samuelson

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.

1. Sure - ly it is God who saves me; trust-ing you, I shall not fear. For the
 2. Make God's deeds known to the peo - ples; tell out God's ex - alt - ed Name. Praise the
 Lord de-fends and shields me and God's sav - ing help is near. So re -
 Lord, who has done great things; make it known in all the world. Zi - on,
 joice as you draw wa - ter from sal - va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the
 lift your voice in sing - ing; for with you has come to dwell, in your
 day of your de - liv - erance thank the Lord, God's mer - cies sing.
 ve - ry midst, the great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

THE SECOND READING

Luke 15:1-10

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 15.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. 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.

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

“All Involved – In Need of Healing and Forgiveness”
Part one of the sermon series, “Revive Us Again: A Return to Jesus’ Original Plan”

Rev. Ahrens

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Samuelson

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

Christ, have mer - cy.

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 **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.

OFFERTORY HYMN

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.

**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

Randolph

God be with you till we meet a-gain; lov - ing coun - sels guide, up - hold you,
with a shep - herd's care en - fold you; God be with you till we meet a-gain.

* BLESSING

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

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)

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=a042K3RmRDZTWXBQY1VWYXQ5bUxhBQT09>

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!

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!

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.

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.

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.

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
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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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