



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 2, 2022

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 22/World Communion Sunday

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! *For more than 170 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

ADAGIO, FROM ORGAN SYMPHONY NO. 5
ARIA FOR ORGAN

C.M. Widor
F. Peeters

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Dr. Scott Graham

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 as you are able.*

L: How shall we sing the Lord's song in a land of suffering?

P: Shall we sing of courage and the strength of the Lord?

L: How shall we sing the Lord's song when we feel so lonely?

P: We shall sing of unity and faithfulness, or reconciliation and hope.

L: Come, let us sing the Lord's song this day.

P: Let us praise God in all our ways forever. Amen.

1. All who hun - ger gath - er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
 2. All who hun - ger, nev - er stran - gers, seek - er, be a wel - come guest.
 3. All who hun - ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
 Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy we keep the feast.
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been fed.

You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mun - ion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything becomes new. That we may put behind us all that is past, let us confess our sin to almighty God.

P: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

L: Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

A time of silence follows.

* Kyrie eleison, Hymn S155

Lord, Have Mercy

Healey Willan

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Ahrens

L: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sin, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

P: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A LITANY FOR RETURNING FROM SABBATICAL

Rev. Ahrens and Rev. Samuelson

Today we give thanks to God for the ministry that we all share, here, at First Church and for the faithful leadership that Mr. Mark Williams has been providing among us for over fifteen years.

We ask for God's blessing on Mr. Williams, his family, and our congregation as he returns from his sabbatical time.

We give thanks to God for using this intentional time away for Mr. Williams to seek rest and renewal for his body, mind and spirit.

We praise God for bringing Mr. Williams back into our community, and we look forward to what God will continue to do through all of us, together, as we seek to glorify God with our gifts to serve all people.

We rejoice that God has brought you back into our presence, Mark, and we welcome you with open arms!

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. 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

Mr. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 (O.T. p. 871-872)

Dr. Graham

A reading from the book of Habakkuk, chapter 1-2.

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw. O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrong-doing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous -- therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint. Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE

2 Timothy 1:1-14 (N.T. p. 211)

Dr. Graham

A reading from 2 Timothy, chapter 1.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I am grateful to God--whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did--when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Knelt at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their
 2 Neigh-bors are rich and poor, var - ied in col - or and
 3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, show - ing our faith by our
 5 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

feet, Je - su, you act - ed as ser - vant to them.
 race, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
 deeds, serv - ing the neigh-bors we have from you.
 feet, this is the way we should live with you.

A reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 17.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. "Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

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

P: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

"Seized by Tenderness"

Rev. Ahrens

Part four of the sermon series, "Revive Us Again: A Return to Jesus' Original Program"

A period of silence follows.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Samuelson

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 **Neighbors in Need**. Neighbors In Need expresses the United Church of Christ's commitment to ministries of justice and compassion in the United States and Puerto Rico, as we speak prophetically to those in power and advocate for the voiceless. In the spirit of Christ, we seek to confront evil in the world and to alleviate suffering through justice advocacy and direct service. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

DRAW US IN THE SPIRIT'S TETHER

Harold W. Friedell

1905-1958

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether; For when humbly, in thy name, Two or three are met together,
Thou art in the midst of them: Alleluya: Touch we now thy garment's hem.
As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father Bread the bread and bless the cup, Alleluya!
So knit thou our friendship up. All our meals and all our living Make as sacraments of thee,
That by caring, helping, giving, We may true disciples be. Alleluya! We will serve thee faithfully.*

* OFFERTORY HYMN

BE KNOWN TO US IN BREAKING BREAD

1. Be known to us in break-ing bread, But do not then de - part;
 2. There sup with us in love di - vine; Thy bod - y and Thy blood,

Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread Thy ta - ble in our heart.
 That liv - ing bread, that heav-en-ly wine, Be our im - mor - tal food.

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 *People*
 The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Leader *People*
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Leader *People*
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Ahrens and Rev. Samuelson

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

Holy, Holy, Holy

Richard Proulx

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heaven and earth are

full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

the
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the
high-est,

high-est, 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.

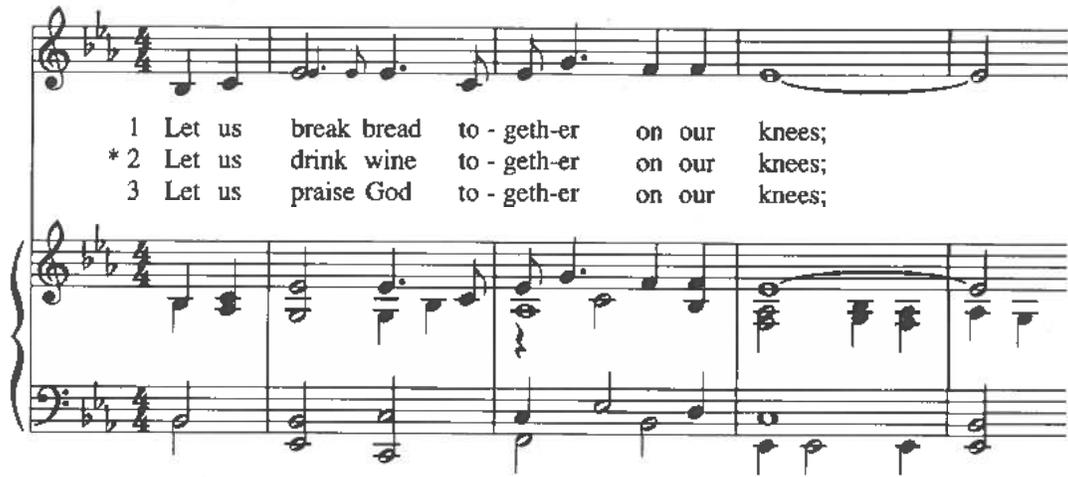
Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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 hold the elements until you are directed to partake together. Sealed and separated gluten-free elements are available in the center of the trays.



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 * 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



My God, have mer - cy on me.

L: Let us pray.

P: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have brought us from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from death to rebirth. Transform our lives with this heavenly food, that we may shine with your love and take to the world the risen life of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONING AND AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRY Dr. Gregory Halbe, Moderator-Elect
Friends, today we recognize the covenantal ministry of Mr. Jim Gallagher, Mr. Barry Moenter, and Rev. Joanna Samuelson as we commission them in their specific roles in service to Jesus Christ and our congregation during this transitional time at First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.

- Rev. Joanna Samuelson as Interim Associate Minister
- Mr. Jim Gallagher as Interim Choral Director
- Mr. Barry Moenter as Interim Organist

Friends in Christ, the role of interim church leadership, in all its forms, provides continuity and stability of congregational ministries and church programming during transitional times within the life of the congregation. Interim ministry also prepares the congregation to welcome and accept those who eventually will be called to serve in the respective settled positions.

Rev. Samuelson, Mr. Gallagher, and Mr. Moenter have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us during this transitional time. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your respective ministries, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Response of Interim Church Leaders

I am.

Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Response of Interim Church Leaders

I do, relying on God's grace.

Members and friends of First Church, you have heard the promises of our friends in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us now affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Please rise in body and/or in spirit, as you are able, and witness the covenant that we now make as a congregation.

*Congregation

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

*Prayer

Rev. Ahrens

Eternal God, you have called these individuals to serve you in this household of faith which you have entrusted to our care. Send your Holy Spirit upon them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name.

* Congregation

Amen.

Closing

Dr. Halbe

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce: You are recognized, affirmed, and installed in your respective interim positions.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

Unison

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will

free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that
 stay, And go with joy to love the world and

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.
 live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

Please be seated for the Postlude

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by Shoemaker Flower Fund.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street

Rev. Samuelson – North Door

Mr. Williams – Education Wing breezeway

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *liturgist and celebrant*

Mark S. Williams, *liturgist*

Alyssia Palmer, *crucifer*

Dr. Scott Graham, *liturgist*

Barry Moenter, *organist*

James Gallagher, *choral director*

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

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Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

October 2, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 10/2**
9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. Faith Formation for All Ages
(Various Classrooms)
Coffee Sales (Education Wing)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12 Noon Acolyte Training (Narthex & Sanctuary)
2 p.m. Testament in Tapestry Lecture Series 3
(Columbus Museum of Art)
6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)
- 10/3**
12 Noon Congregational Care Ministry Mtg
(Family Parish Rm)
6:30 p.m. House and Grounds Mtg (Virtual)
- 10/4**
6 p.m. Personnel Committee Mtg (Virtual)
6:30 p.m. Christian Education Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Justice and Mercy Mtg (Virtual)
- 10/5**
9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution Day
(Virtual)
7 p.m. Book Club (Virtual)
Unsheltered Discussion Group (Virtual)
- 10/6**
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)
- 10/9**
9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. Faith Formation for All Ages
(Various Classrooms)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12:30 p.m. BREAD House Mtg
(Classroom C & Virtual)
4 p.m. Congregational Concert (Sanctuary)

Liturgical Banner Exhibit Opens Today

First Church will celebrate the fabric artwork of one of our members, Deb Anderson, with an exhibit of her work from October 2 – November 20, 2022. The exhibit will be on display in the Gladden Chapel. We hope you will visit this exhibit and learn more about this artist and her special contribution to our church through the legacy of her banners.

Faith Formation for Adults This Week Sunday, October 2 10-10:50 in Classroom C

Inspired by Dr. Scott Graham's presentation on "Transitions" last month, our Faith Formation class continues to explore this theme further as we consider the various transitions that we all move through in our personal lives as well as in our life together as First Church. This coming Sunday, we will reflect on the significant endings and new beginnings that we find in the Old Testament story of Ruth and Naomi. Rev. Joanna will facilitate our conversation this week. You need not prepare in advance – just come as you are. All are welcome!

First Church Book Club

All are invited to the First Church Book Club. The next meeting is on October 5 at 7 p.m. by Zoom and the selection is Harlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead. For more information and the Zoom link, contact Elaine Warren at melainewarren232@gmail.com.

Fun Friday Bowling Night

Friday, October 14, 2022, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Columbus Square Bowling Palace

5707 Forest Hills Blvd, Columbus, OH 43231

Is bowling right up your alley? If yes, bring your family and friends and let's get the ball rolling!

Meet us at the Bowling Palace, a family-owned and operated business since 1983. It's only 10 minutes from Polaris, Westerville, Easton, or Gahanna. Feel free to grab dinner from the Palazzo Restaurant inside and check out the amazing arcade while you're there! We look forward to seeing you at this unforgetta-bowl night!

The cost to bowl is \$15 per person and includes rental shoes and 2 hours of bowling. This will be paid directly to the bowling lanes.

Please register on Realm by October 12 and be sure to list all family members so we can reserve the right number of spots for you.

Time Out Tuesday

October 20, 6-7 p.m.

Valter's at the Maennerchor,

976 S. High Street, Columbus, OH 43206

Please join us for dinner at a German Village landmark! Valters, located at the Columbus Männerchor, serves German food and beers along with some new American twists, in this beautiful and historic place. The Männerchor was founded over 168 years ago and has become the nation's largest and longest continually active German singing society and social club. Let's share a meal and enjoy the history, culture, and community. Please register on Realm by October 17. Prost!

Lunch Bunch

October 27, 12-1 p.m.

Can't Believe It's Vegan

584 W. Schrock Rd, Westerville, OH 43081

Let's embrace plant-based nutrition that only Chef Clayton can provide! He is known for his natural talent of combining flavors and perfect seasonings into dishes that are delectable and satisfy even the most ardent omnivores. We look forward sharing this time of church fellowship with you. Please register on Realm by October 24.

BREAD House Meetings

BREAD held its first two House Meetings at the end of September. Five more are scheduled for October and hopefully you will be able to find a date that works for you. Each meeting is open to anyone who is interested in finding out more about BREAD and the campaigns we are sponsoring this year. So please look at the schedule below and contact the person who will be leading these groups if you need more information or would like to attend.

In addition, there will be opportunities to get involved with our Research process as we are looking to make recommendations for proven ways to improve solutions to our problems.

October 4: 7:00 p.m. House meeting (Zoom), at Jim Lowe's home (614-397-7512)

October 5: 7:00 p.m. House Meeting (In Person), at Steve Sterrett's home (614-935-1183)

October 9: 12:30 House Meeting (In Person) at Church (Rm C, Ed Wing); Bill Catus leading (614-271-9479)

October 17: 12:30 p.m. House Meeting; Rev. Tim Ahrens leading (614-228-1741) Place and type of meeting TBD.

October 23: 12:30 p.m. House Meeting (In Person); at the Church (Parish Family Room); Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen leading (240-557-9770)

**Concerts at First Church presents
Congregational Concert
ISABELLE DEMERS, Organist
Sunday, October 9, 2022, 4 p.m.**

A native of Québec and a doctoral graduate of the Juilliard School, Dr. Demers is Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University (Montréal, Québec). She has appeared in recital throughout Europe, Oman, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Canada with reviews describing her playing as “bracing virtuosity...fearless and extraordinary.”

Dr. Demers is in continual high demand by her colleagues as witnessed by performances for numerous regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the Institute of Organ Builders and International Society of Organbuilders, the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and the Organ Historical Society.

She has released three CD recordings on the Acis and Pro Organo labels.

Isabelle Demers will perform on both of our organs at First Church, the first concert of the 2022-2023 season.

There are few churches in the country that boast two world-class, independent pipe organs under one roof. Our CHANCEL ORGAN, a 1931 W.W. Kimball out of Chicago Il, has four manuals (keyboards), 66 stops (different sounds like flutes, oboe, harp, trumpet piccolo, clarinet, celeste, cello, tuba, English horn, bourdon, diapason, trombone, viola, mixtures and many more), 66 ranks (sets of pipes, one pipe for each note of the keyboard in each set of pipes, a total of 4,407 pipes). Our GALLERY ORGAN, a 1972 Rudolf von Beckerath instrument from Hamburg, Germany, has three manuals, 47 stops, 73 ranks of pipes, with 3,719 pipes. The stops include principals, flutes, mixtures, trumpet, Spanish Trumpet, viola, cornet, oboe, cromorne, gedeckt, posaune, and mixtures, among others. The pipes range in size from that of a slim pencil to 32' in length.

Organists from all over the country are thrilled to be invited to perform on our extraordinary organs and many have done so in our fifty-one years of offering concerts at First Church.

Plan to attend this concert by Dr. Isabelle Demers. Invite your family, music-loving friends, and neighbors to come and experience an exciting performance on our truly magnificent instruments.

**Coming Soon
Coffee Hour returns on October 30!**

Coffee Hour returns on October 30! Let's celebrate our church fellowship and reconnect with one another in the Parish Hall after the 11 a.m. service. We look forward to seeing you there!

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 **Neighbors in Need**. Neighbors In Need expresses the United Church of Christ’s commitment to ministries of justice and compassion in the United States and Puerto Rico, as we speak prophetically to those in power and advocate for the voiceless. In the spirit of Christ, we seek to confront evil in the world and to alleviate suffering through justice advocacy and direct service. Thank you for your generosity.

Global Mission Partner

Anne Gregory, Thailand

Anne Gregory serves with the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT), an association of Protestant Christian churches and ministries. Originally mainly Presbyterian, CCT churches are now about half Baptist, due to demographic shift. Some of the ministries of the member churches are development and support of hospitals, clinics, schools, colleges, and seminaries throughout the country. They have also worked to alleviate the effects of human trafficking and to develop cash crops to replace poppy growing. CCT played an active part in disaster response to the Tsunami at Christmastime in 2004.

Ms. Gregory works at the national offices of the CCT, helping the branches to communicate with each other and with partners in other countries. This includes helping to obtain visas for workers and visitors, gathering and disseminating information to supporters around the world, and helping visiting groups of Christians to tour the country. She promotes building support for the CCT’s ministries of justice, economic development, education, healthcare, social work, and spiritual development.

Keep in Prayer

Members Katie Kutschbach; Mark Williams and Tim Carsey; 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 Pat Patterson’s son, Jay Patterson; Charlie Weaver’s daughter and family, Stefanie and Chris Bonhert and twins Malcolm and Madeline; 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 Tom Kiesel on the death of his father, Harvey Kiesel; and Gretchen Weller-Cooks on the death of her grandmother, Olive Weller.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Peru. We pray for Global Ministries Anne Gregory in Thailand.

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.
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. Joanna Samuelson, M.Div.
Director of Christian Education: Mark S. Williams, M.Ed.
Interim Organist: Barry Moenter
Interim Choral Director: Jim Gallagher
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, Shelly Gies, Courtney Palmer

Senior Deacon: Martha Wilson
Deacons: Scott Graham, Tom Kiesel, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, Nan Kreimer, Gail Lowe, James Lowe, Allison Lowery Palmer, Dayna McCrary, Lynn Wallich, Hank Wilson, Marty Worth

Church Council Leadership
Moderator: Christine Farquhar
Moderator-elect: Greg Halbe
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: Chris Glaros
Administration-elect:
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:
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



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