



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 16, 2022

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 24

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.*

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

Ann Eliot, *pianist*

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me,

People: and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

** 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.

* PSALM OF THE DAY
(read responsively by verse)

PSALM 121

Rev. Samuelson

L: I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?

P: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

L: The Lord will not let your foot be moved; the Lord who keeps you will not slumber.

P: The Lord, who keeps Israel, will neither slumber nor sleep.

L: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

P: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

L: The Lord will keep you from all evil; the Lord will keep your life.

P: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: The peace of God be always with you.

P: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Mr. Mark S. Williams

THE FIRST READING

GENESIS 32:22-31

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the book of Genesis, chapter 32.

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

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 18:1-8

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 18.

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

“Here and Now”

Rev. Ahrens

Part six of the sermon series, “Revive Us Again: A Return to Jesus’ Original Program”

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Sanuelson
Jones

Be still, be still. Be still and know that I am God.
repeat ad lib.
Be still, be still. Be still and know that I am God.

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: Christ, have mercy

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.**

INVITATION TO ANNUAL CAMPAIGN GIVING

Dr. Gregory Halbe

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. Samuelson

Designated gifts go to support **Columbus Humane**. Since 1883, Columbus Humane has been fighting animal cruelty, helping animals in need and advocating for their well-being. They provide a variety of services to more than 9,000 pets and their people annually. It takes all of us to Make Columbus Humane! Their mission is made possible by generous supporters to help animals in need. Thank you for your generosity.

1. Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness with a lib - er - at - ing light.
 2. Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong, yet gen - tle word.
 3. Praise the one true love in - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered in our place.

Praise the One who frees the pris - oners turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 Praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the Gos - pel, cur - ing ev - ery dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms, and feed - ing thou - sands with the ve - ry bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter, quench - ing thirst in ev - ery land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry. Praise the One who makes us one.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Eat This Bread

Jacques Berthier

**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

Mr. Williams

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

October 16, 2022

This Week at First Church

10/16

- 9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Faith Formation for All Ages
(Various Classrooms)
Coffee Sales (Ed Wing)
- 11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)
- 6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)

10/17

- 12:30 p.m. BREAD House Mtg (Virtual)
- 7 p.m. New Members Class
(Classroom C & Virtual)

10/18

- 6 p.m. Music Committee (Virtual)
- 7 p.m. Church Council Mtg
(Classroom C & Virtual)

10/19

- 10 a.m. Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery
(Education Wing)
- 10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)

10/20

- 6 p.m. Time Out Thursday
(Valters at the Maennerchor)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)

10/23

- 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
(Parish Family Rm)
- 6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)

Faith Formation for Adults

This Week

Sunday, October 16

10-10:50

Classroom C

“On Caring and Healing”

You are invited to participate in a group conversation facilitated by First Church member Jan Hamilton. Jan will draw upon her experience as a congregational nurse to speak to the ways that we show our care for those within our community and the resultant healing work that we do together as we move through the various transitions in our lives and our life together as a congregation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Rev. Joanna.

If you plan to join this conversation by Zoom, please use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85931053764?pwd=a042K3RmRDZTWXBQY1VWYXQ5bUx-BQT09>

New Members Class

A new members class is forming! The two-session class will meet in person at the church and on Zoom on Monday, October 17, and on Monday, October 24. Each session will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude by about 8:15 p.m. New members will join the church on Sunday, October 30, during the 11 a.m. service.

If you are interested in learning more about First Church and being part of our community of faith, contact Rev. Tim Ahrens (tahrens@first-church.org), one of our Deacons, or Pat Patterson (ppatterson@first-church.org).

Register at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=OGYyZTI0YWYtY-WI0Mi00OGY5LWFiY2UtYWYyNTAxMmQ2M-WFk>

Plan to Donate a Basket

This year, the youth Silent Auction will be online. The youth will be auctioning themed baskets during the second and third weeks of November. Please consider donating a themed basket from your committee or family. Here are some ideas: an Italian Dinner Basket, OSU Basket, Gardening Basket, Blue Jacket Basket, Chocolate Lover's Basket, Kitchen Tools Basket, Children's Summer Fun Basket, Music Lovers Basket, Family Emergency Weather Basket, Crew Basket, Children's Books Basket, Snack-Attack Basket, and Cookout Basket. We know there are many more great ideas out there for a gift basket. Be creative and join the fun! We hope that all baskets will have a value around \$50 or more. We would need your basket by October 31 to include in the online auction. Please contact Mark Williams (mwilliams@firstchurch.org) if you choose a theme and are willing to donate.

Liturgical Banner Exhibit

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 Chapel.

The exhibit will be open after 11 a.m. services on Sundays from October 2 - November 20. Other viewing times may be arranged by appointment by contacting Commissioner of Music, Arts, and Heritage Sandra Mathias via email at sjmath5659@gmail.com. Guided tours of the exhibit given by Textile Artist, Deb Anderson will be: October 2, 9, 30, and November 1 (1 p.m.), 11 (1 p.m.)13, and 20. Self-guided tours of the exhibit will be: October 16 and 23, and November 6.

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

October 23:12:30 PM House Meeting (In Person); at the Church; Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen leading (240-557-9770)

Annual Campaign



The 2023 Annual Campaign, “Together in Mission. Sharing God’s Love,” has begun. Information is coming to your mailbox and an online pledge form can be found at www.first-church.org/annual-campaign.

**German Village
Historic Walking Tour
Sunday, November 6, 2022
2 p.m. - 3 p.m.**

Join us for a walking tour of historic German Village offered by the German Village Society! This private, guided tour will start with a 10-minute award-winning video at the Meeting Haus followed by an approximately one hour, 1 mile, narrated neighborhood walk.

The tour will provide an overview of the history and renewal of German Village including the influential people, the architectural elements, and the personal stories of the community. Your guide will take you through brick streets lined with quaint homes, gardens, shops, galleries, and restaurants. Come enjoy the fall air and learn all about this lovely, internationally recognized historic district just blocks from downtown Columbus!

Please register through REALM (this allows us to know who's attending) and then please pay via the link provided below (this goes directly to the German Village Association).

You must use this link to pay: (please select guided tour)

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/GVSTourPayment>

The cost is \$10/Student \$15/adult, \$12/senior (60 and over)

Register at:

<https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MDk5NjRiNTEtNDg-1Zi00ODcyLTlmZmItYWYxOTAxMGM1NTA2>

October First Serves

The October First Serves will support the Gladden Community House Halloween Party. We are asking for bags of candy and monetary donations. We will compile the bags on October 23 during the 10 a.m. hour. Also, they are asking for volunteers to help with their party on October 31. Please contact Kris Brant (kbrant2408@gmail.com) if you wish to help.

**Time Out Thursday
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! Valter's, 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 at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YzVkYTc0MzktYWQ5OC00YTE0LTk1NmMtYWYxOTAxMGYyYjc4> 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 at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NzZhMDM3ODItODA1NS-00MzNjLWl0ZmQtYWYxOTAxMTRjZWFi> by October 24.

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 **Columbus Humane**. Since 1883, Columbus Humane has been fighting animal cruelty, helping animals in need and advocating for their well-being. They provide a variety of services to more than 9,000 pets and their people annually. It takes all of us to Make Columbus Humane! Their mission is made possible by generous supporters to help animals in need. Thank you for your generosity.

Global Mission Partner Lydia Yang, Korea

Ms. Yang is a Global Mission Intern with The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) which works to promote peace and justice not only within the Korean peninsula but also abroad, accepting “that all social problems are issues of faith.” PROK is active in working for peace and reunification of the two Koreas and is committed to training and educating church leaders through Hanshin Graduate School of Theology.

Lydia’s time is divided among three placements: the general office of PROK, the general office of the National Church Women’s Association of PROK, and Durebang (“My Sister’s Place”). Within the general offices of PROK and PROK Women’s Association, she provides administrative support, assists in translating documents and newsletters, and participates in gatherings and events. Her role with Durebang is to work with the staff to support Korean and migrant women who have been forced or deceived into working in red-light districts near U.S. military bases.

Keep in Prayer

Members Rick and Lourdes Henderson; Kay Neffenger; Katie Kutschbach; Mark Williams and Tim Carsey; Larry Dixon; Martha Huey; Sarah Ahrens Stadie; Bob Davis; Twink Starr; Lola Edwards; Rick Brant; Betsy Zahn; Janice White; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter.

Family and friends Carol Gallagher’s cousin’s husband, Fred Schell; Nanette Maciejunes’ husband, George Maciejunes; Tom Gies’ sister, Monica Depinet; Annette McCormick’s father, Charles McCormick, and friend, Vicki Sherman; Nancy Mayle; 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 Tim Ahrens’ friend Karla Rothan on the loss of her wife, Linda Schuler; and the family and friends of Barbara Knox on her death.

For the families, staff, the wider community, and all who are devastated by the loss of life, as a result of the mass shooting at a childcare center in Thailand this past week.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. We pray for Global Ministries worker Lydia Yang in Korea.

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

Coming Soon Coffee Hour returns on October 30!

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
Senior Deacon-elect: Lynn Wallich
Deacons: Scott Graham, Greg Halbe, Tom Kiesel, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, Nan Kreimer, Gail Lowe, James Lowe, Allison Lowery Palmer, Dayna McCrary, 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:
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

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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