



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 23, 2022

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 25

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

ALL GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH

Johann Sebastian Bach,
Andreas Arnsdorf, Georg Böhm

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Jenny 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.

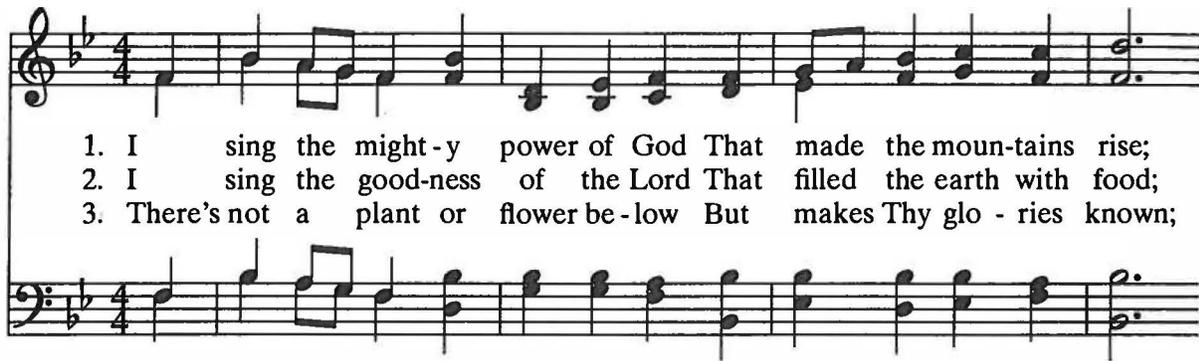
** Then all stand.*

L: All people of God of all ages see God's visions, dream God's dreams.

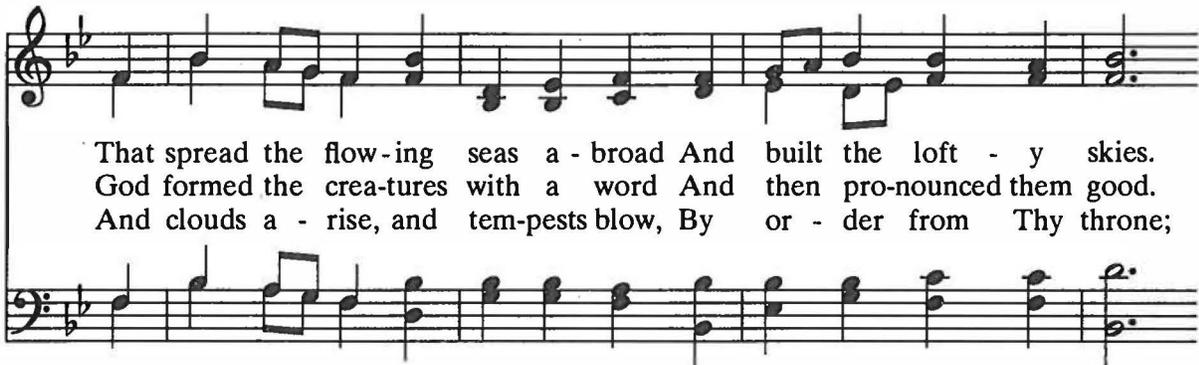
P: All people of God of all ages, feel the Spirit fall like rain.

L: People everywhere on earth, join creation, shout for joy:

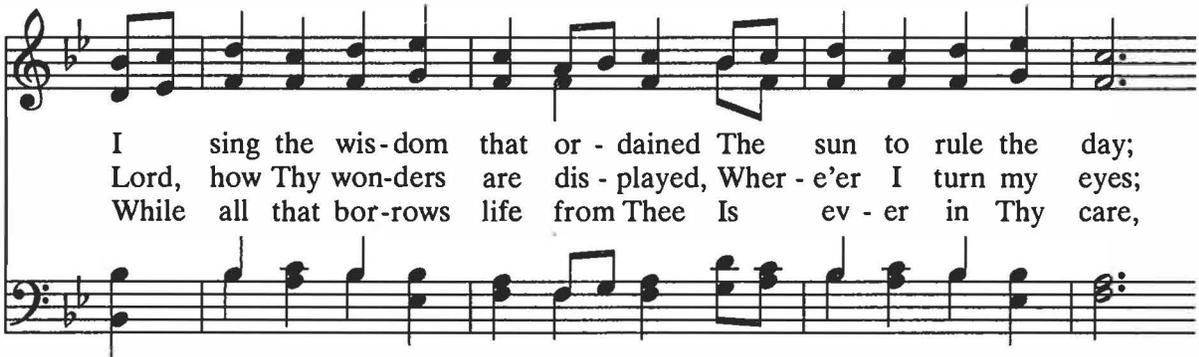
P: Praise is due you, O God, for all that you do, for all that you have done, for all that you promise to do.



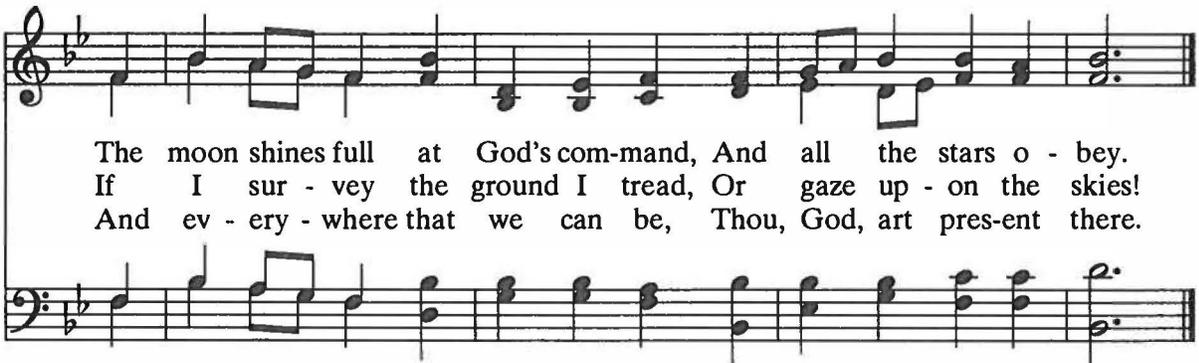
1. I sing the might-y power of God That made the moun-tains rise;
2. I sing the good-ness of the Lord That filled the earth with food;
3. There's not a plant or flower be-low But makes Thy glo - ries known;



That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad And built the loft - y skies.
God formed the crea-tures with a word And then pro-nounced them good.
And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, By or - der from Thy throne;



I sing the wis-dom that or - dained The sun to rule the day;
Lord, how Thy won-ders are dis - played, Wher - e'er I turn my eyes;
While all that bor-rows life from Thee Is ev - er in Thy care,



The moon shines full at God's com-mand, And all the stars o - bey.
If I sur - vey the ground I tread, Or gaze up - on the skies!
And ev - ery - where that we can be, Thou, God, art pres-ent there.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

We welcome into our family of faith Charlise Jane Shimeall-Evans who was baptised at the 9 a.m. service. Please fill out and return a baptism blessing card in today's offering plate or give it to a Deacon. The cards are located in the pew pads.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Mark S. Williams

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

SIRACH 35: 12-17

Mrs. Provenzano

A reading from the book of Sirach, chapter 35.

Give to the Most High as God has given to you, and as generously as you can afford. For the Lord is the one who repays, and will repay you sevenfold. Do not offer God a bribe, for God will not accept it; and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice; for the Lord is the judge, and with the Lord there is no partiality. God will not show partiality to the poor; but will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged. God will not ignore the supplication of the orphan, or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

O HOW AMIABLE

Ralph Vaughan Williams

*O how amiable are they dwellings: thou Lord of hosts!
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord;
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house,
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house:
They will be alway praising Thee.
The glorious Majesty of the Lord our God be upon us:
prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.
O prosper thou our handywork.
O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.*

A reading from the second Letter of Paul to Timothy, chapter 4.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for the Lord's appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for God's heavenly kingdom. To God be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

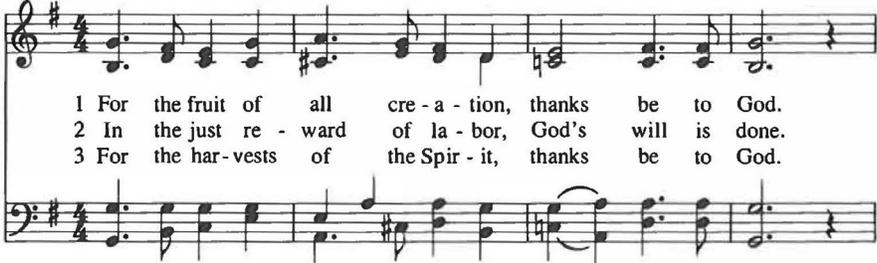
L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

P: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL HYMN 425

For the Fruits of All Creation

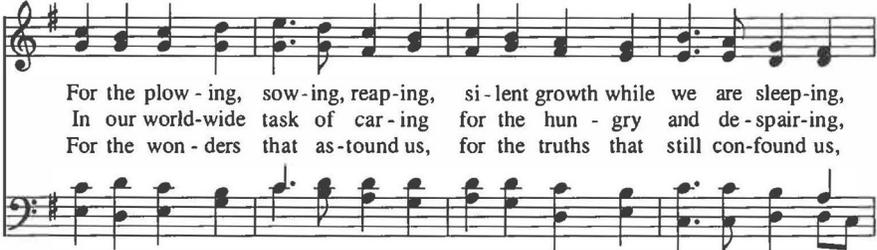
Ar Hyd Nos



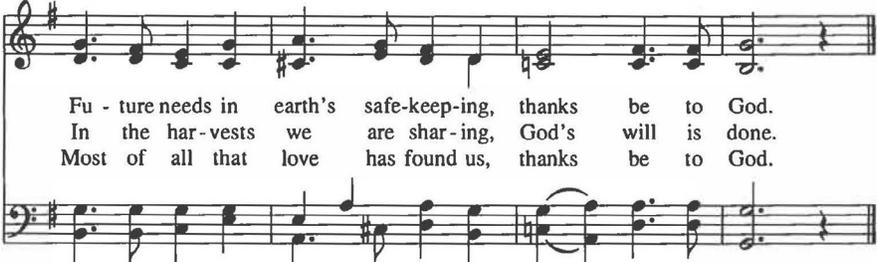
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

A reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 10.

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

P: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

“Endlessly Grateful”

Rev. Ahrens

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Samuelson

OUR LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, they 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.

INVITATION TO ANNUAL CAMPAIGN GIVING

Chris Glaros

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 the **Children’s Defense Fund**. The Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) is a non-profit child advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly for nearly 40 years to ensure a level playing field for all children. They champion policies and programs that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure their access to health care, quality education, and a moral and spiritual foundation. Thank you for your generosity.

Women's Choir

Cindy Adcock, piano

*For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For each perfect gift of thine To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine, Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

* PRESENTATION HYMN

We Give Thee but Thine Own, vs. 1

Schumann

1. We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2. May we Thy boun-ties thus As stew-ards true re - ceive,
3. To com-fort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,
4. The cap - tive to re - lease, To God the lost to bring,

All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first - fruits give.
To tend the lone - ly in dis - tress, Is an - gels' work be - low.
To teach the way of life and peace—It is a Christ-like thing.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

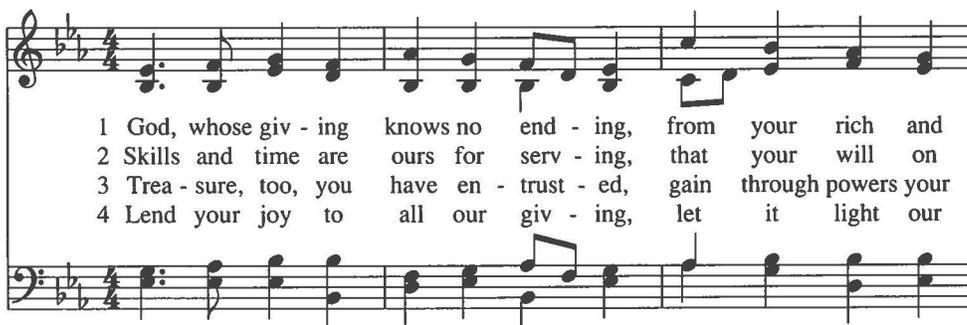
Rev. Samuelson

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

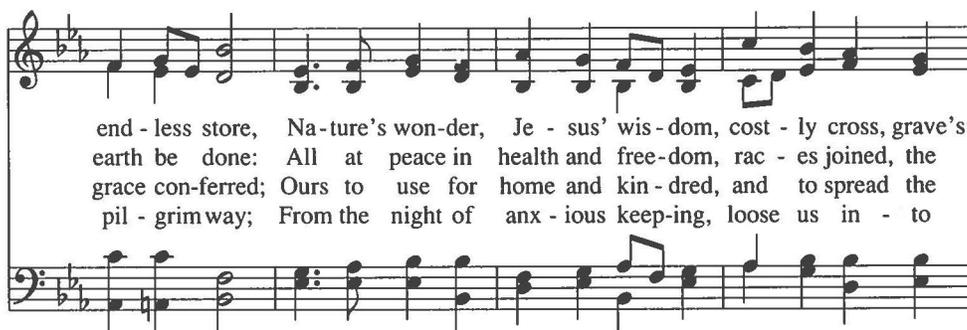
Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

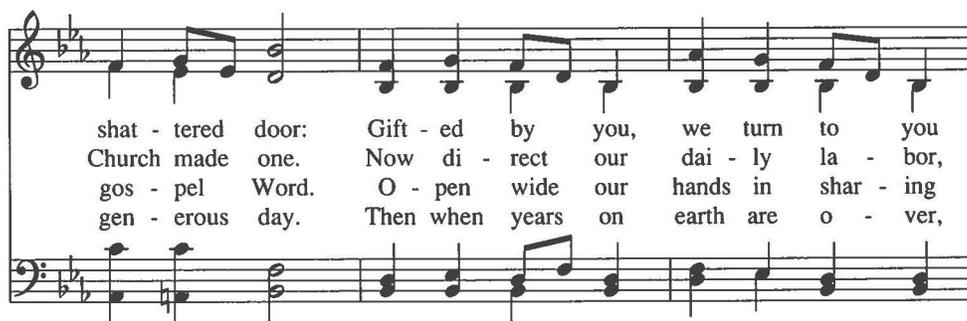
P: Thanks be to God.



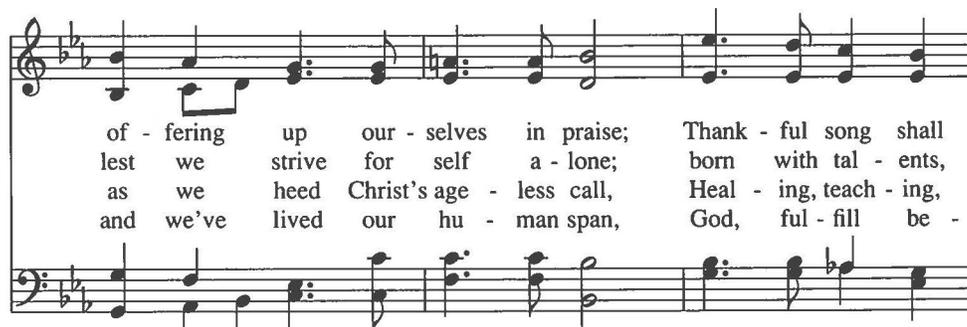
1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for serv - ing, that your will on
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your
 4 Lend your joy to all our giv - ing, let it light our



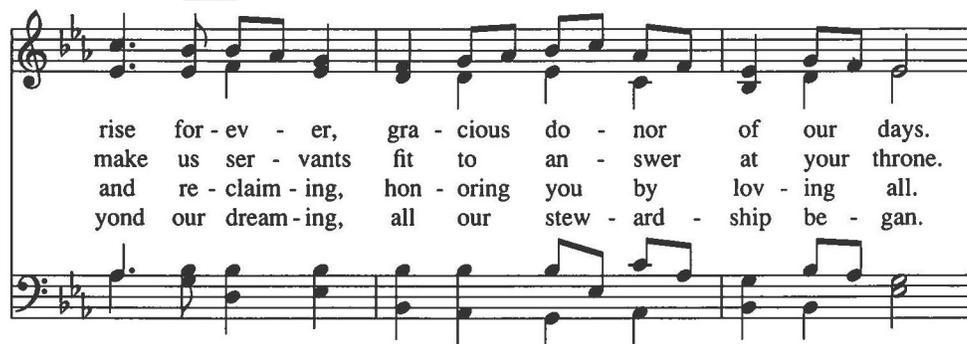
end - less store, Na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's
 earth be done: All at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the
 grace con - ferred; Ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the
 pil - grim way; From the night of anx - ious keep - ing, loose us in - to



shat - tered door: Gift - ed by you, we turn to you
 Church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor,
 gos - pel Word. O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing
 gen - erous day. Then when years on earth are o - ver,



of - fering up our - selves in praise; Thank - ful song shall
 lest we strive for self a - lone; born with tal - ents,
 as we heed Christ's age - less call, Heal - ing, teach - ing,
 and we've lived our hu - man span, God, ful - fill be -



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 and re - claim - ing, hon - oring you by lov - ing all.
 yond our dream - ing, all our stew - ard - ship be - gan.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

PSALM XIX THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD

Benedetto Marcello

Please be seated for the Postlude

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of Otilie Helm, Frank and Carol Hussey by the Hussey, Iannarino, and Trace families.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street

Rev. Samuelson – Education Wing breezeway

Mr. Williams – Education Wing north door

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *liturgist*

Mr. Mark Williams, *liturgist*

Jenny Provenzano, *liturgist*

Erin and Emma Dean, *acoltyes*

Barry Moenter, *organist*

Jim Gallagher, *choir director*

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

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

October 23, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 10/23**
9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. First Serves
(All Ages, Education Wing)
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12:30 p.m. BREAD House Mtg
(Parish Family Rm)
6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)
- 10/24**
7 p.m. New Members Class
(Classroom C & Virtual)
First Church Governance Task Force
(Virtual)
- 10/25**
7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Virtual)
- 10/26**
7 p.m. Unsheltered Discussion (Virtual)
- 10/27**
12 Noon Lunch Bunch (Can't Believe It's Vegan)
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)
- 10/30**
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 Noon Coffee Hour (Narthex)
6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)

Coming Soon

Coffee Hour returns in the Narthex
on October 30!

October First Serves

Today at 10 a.m.

First Floor Education Wing

All ages are invited to join the fun!

We will be compiling bags of candy for the kids who attend the yearly Gladden Community House Halloween Party.

Quality research will be conducted during the event to make sure the candy is of the highest (and yummiest) quality. All ages are invited to join this fun research opportunity.

First Church provided 500 bags last year so let's meet (or beat) that goal this year. Hope to see everyone this Sunday at 10 a.m. to brighten the smiles of the kids of Gladden House.

Gladden is also asking for volunteers to help with their party on October 31. Please contact Kris Brant (kbrant2408@gmail.com) if you wish to help.

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 30, and November 1 (1 p.m.), 11 (1 p.m.), 13, and 20. Self-guided tours of the exhibit will be: October 23, and November 6.

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.

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

Annual Campaign



Together in Mission Sharing God's Love

The 2023 Annual Campaign
First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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.

Laundry Love

Many of you will recall that our congregation participated in "Laundry Love" for the three years leading up to COVID. The mission of Laundry Love is to provide the opportunity for individuals/families of low income to wash their own clothes and bedding, without cost, at a local laundromat. Through this ministry, we're able to brighten the lives of those who are struggling through "love, dignity, and detergent" (<https://laundrylove.org>).

We are currently in conversation about resuming this outreach ministry within the next couple of months but, first, we need to hear from you to ascertain if there are enough volunteers among us to make this ongoing commitment.

What it entails is a team of volunteers (five or more) to be present at the laundromat once a month for one hour in order to assist individuals with operating the washers and dryers. Our hope is to return to the same laundromat (Westland Laundromat) at the same time -- the last Tuesday of the month from 6 -7 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering on a regular basis and/or need additional information, please contact Kris (kbrant2408@gmail.com) or Rev. Joanna (jsamuelson@first-church.org). Thank you for all the ways you serve God by serving our community!

**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>

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.

**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 to sharing this time of church fellowship with you. Please register at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NzZhMDM3ODItODA1NS00MzNjLWI0Z-mQtYWYxOTAxMTRjZWFi> by October 24.

**Packing Party!
Hosted by
Second Nurture & Comfort Cases
Sunday, November 6
3-5 p.m.
Temple Israel on Broad Street**

Did you know most foster kids move from place to place with their belongings in a garbage bag? Second Nurture and Comfort Cases will be hosting a Packing Party, and we invite you to join us! Together we will pack 300 duffel bags and backpacks filled with pjs, blankets, books, art supplies, toiletries, and more. All bags will be donated to The Buckeye Ranch and support local foster youth ages 0-18.

We are looking for 50 volunteers to help with packing, set up, and cleanup. Please register at the link below. Kid helpers are welcome! (Please also register child volunteers.)

Register at <https://www.2nurture.org/event-details/second-nurture-comfort-cases-packing-party>

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 the **Children’s Defense Fund**. The Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) is a non-profit child advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly for nearly 40 years to ensure a level playing field for all children. They champion policies and programs that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure their access to health care, quality education, and a moral and spiritual foundation. Thank you for your generosity.

Global Mission Partner

Bryan Parrish

Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Parrish partners with Kinshasa, the Church of Christ in Congo, which is the ecumenical Christian organization that brings together 60 different denominations working for reconciliation, justice, the struggle against corruption, and respect for human life. His role as a mission coworker is to be of service where the partner needs him, especially in the development area. He hopes to help the Church achieve its goals and to help set priorities in cooperation with the Church leaders. His 20 years of experience serving with the Mission Populaire Evangelique as the director of the Center called the Fraternity in La Rochelle, France, has prepared him for this work.

Keep in Prayer

Members Missy Obergefell; 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 Victor John’s mother, Mary Jane John; 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 Lynn Wallich and MJ Hudson’s friend Karla Rothan on the loss of her wife, Linda Schuler; and the family and friends of Barbara Knox on her death.

We pray for those going through Covid; those still suffering from hurricane aftermath; and we continue to hold all who are in the war in Ukraine in our prayers.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches in the Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Maarten, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad, and Tobago. We pray for Global Ministries worker Bryan Parrish in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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.
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

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: Marty Worth
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
Nominations: Lynn Wallich

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 to 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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