



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 6, 2022

All Saints 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

Behold the Host / Shall We Gather at the River

Dale Wood

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Allison Lowery Palmer

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: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

P: Each day God brings to us new opportunities to learn and grow.

L: God is near to all of us.

P: We will not fear to call upon the Lord.

L: Come, let us praise God who walks with us daily.

P: Let us open our hearts and spirits to God who loves and lives with us. Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 526

For all the saints

Sine Nomine

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who
 2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
 3. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
 4. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, Through

Thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, Thy
 Thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
 We fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; Yet
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,

name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest. Al -
 Thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
 Sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

- le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, who sent Jesus into the world to destroy the powers of evil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may grow in holiness of life; and that, when Christ comes with power and great majesty, we may share in the glory of all the redeemed; this we pray in the name of the Trinity, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

* 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

Job 19:23-27a

Mrs. Palmer

A reading from the Book of Job, chapter 19.

O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! For I know that my vindicator lives and that in the end he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Mrs. Palmer

A reading from the second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, chapter 2.

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way, for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

C Am G C Am

1. I sing a song of the saints of God, Pa - tient and
 2. They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, And God's love
 3. They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, There are hun - dreds of

C G C G Am Em F G7 C

brave and true, Who toiled and fought and lived and died
 made them strong; And they fol - lowed the right, for Je - sus' sake,
 thou - sands still; The world is bright with the joy - ous saints

G D7 G C

For the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a
 The whole of their good lives long. And one was a
 Who love to do Je - sus' will. You can meet them in

F Dm G C Am

doc - tor, and one was a queen, And one was a shep - herd - ess
 sol - dier, and one was a priest, And one was slain by a
 school, or in lanes, or at sea, In church, or in trains, or in

F G7 C Am Em

on the green: They were all of them saints of
 fierce wild beast: And there's not an - y rea - son,
 shops, or at tea; For the saints of God are just

F G7 C Am F Dm C G7 C

God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
 no, not the least, Why I should - n't be one too.
 folk like me, And I mean to be one too.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 20.

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question: “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man[a] shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.”

Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive.”

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

P: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

“An Endless Alleluia”

Rev. Ahrens

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ahrens and Rev. Samuelson

A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES (The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Rowthorn)

L: We give thanks to you, O God, for all your servants and witnesses of time past. For Abraham, the father of believers, and Sarah his wife:

P: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For Moses, the lawgiver, and Aaron, the priest:

P: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For Miriam and Joshua, Deborah and Gideon:

P: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For Samuel with Hannah his mother:

P: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For Isaiah and all the prophets:

P: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For Mary, the mother of our Lord:

P: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For Peter and Paul and all the apostles:

P: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For Mary and Martha, and Mary Magdalene:

P: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For Stephen, the first martyr:

P: We give you thanks, O God.

L: For all the martyrs and saints in every age and in every land:

P: We give you thanks, O God.

L: In your mercy, O God, give us, as you gave to them, the hope of salvation and the promise of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the first-born of many from the dead.

All: Amen.

ANTHEM

THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU

John Rutter

The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

Please stand for the Necrology.

* THE NECROLOGY

Rev. Ahrens and Rev. Samuelson

Rev. Earl Martin Fritz
M. Donice Wooster
Vicky Ellen Kutschbach
Ruth B. Allred
Paul Flocken
Edwin Willard (Ed) Koetz
Tammy Ann Anderson
Barbara D. Knox

July 25, 1927 - November 7, 2021
June 26, 1948 - November 12, 2021
February 15, 1956 - December 24, 2021
March 30, 1935 - March 6, 2022
November 19, 1949 - March 6, 2022
October 5, 1927 - April 23, 2022
April 15, 1969 - May 13, 2022
November 16, 1932 - October 1, 2022

CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Samuelson

THE OFFERTORY

Want to give online? Please scan this QR code link, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Designated gifts go to support **Lutheran Social Services Veteran's Support**. This program helps families obtain stable housing while working with case managers as they provide temporary financial assistance. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

THE EYES OF ALL WAIT UPON THEE

Jean Berger

The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfies the desire of every living thing. The eyes of all wait upon thee.

1 O Sav - ior, for the saints who strove in you to live,
 2 O Sav - ior, for the saints who strove in you to die,
 3 They all in life and death, with you, O Christ, in view,
 4 For this, your name we bless and hum - bly pray a - new

Who fol - lowed you with - out com - plaint, our grate - ful hymn re - ceive.
 Who loved and served with - out re - straint, ac - cept our thank - ful cry.
 Learned from the Ho - ly Spir - it's breath to suf - fer and to do.
 That we, like them, in ho - li - ness may live and die in you.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table.

As directed by the Deacons, please come forward in single file via the center aisle, receive the elements of communion on the side in which you are seated, and then return to your seat via the side aisles. Individual bread and cup will be offered to you by the communion ministers.

Gluten-free wafers are available. Please deposit the plastic cups in the bins by the side aisles.

* 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 Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

* SURSUM CORDA

Plainsong

Leader The Lord be with you. *People* And also with you.
Leader Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.
Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* COMMUNION PRAYER

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. And now we give you thanks for the hope to which you call us in your Son, that following in the faith of all your saints, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and with them receive the unfading crown of glory. We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons, daughters, and all children of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

* SANCTUS

William Mathias

organ

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord. God of power and might, —

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. 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 for ever. 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 come forward as directed by the Deacons to receive the common elements for communion. If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home. Please hold the elements until you are directed to partake together. Sealed and separated gluten-free elements are available in the center basket.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

The bread is broken and the wine is poured as visible and audible reminders of the sacrificial self-giving of Jesus Christ. These actions call to mind the cost as well as the joy of Christian discipleship.

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen!**

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. **Amen!**

1. Now to Your ta - ble spread We come, each one in faith That
 2. Hands of the world stretch out Your mys - ter - y to touch In
 3. Here is our com - mon wealth In shar - ing what is good, As

You a - lone pro - vide the words of life and death: In
 long - ing to be - lieve a truth be - yond our reach, To
 though all hu - man - kind a - round one ta - ble stood, This

wine and bread, In prom - ised food We find Your lov - ing heart, O God.
 sing in joy, To cry in grief, To know Your mean - ing for our life.
 bread to break, This wine to taste: One peo - ple in the name of Christ.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Samuelson

L: Let us pray.

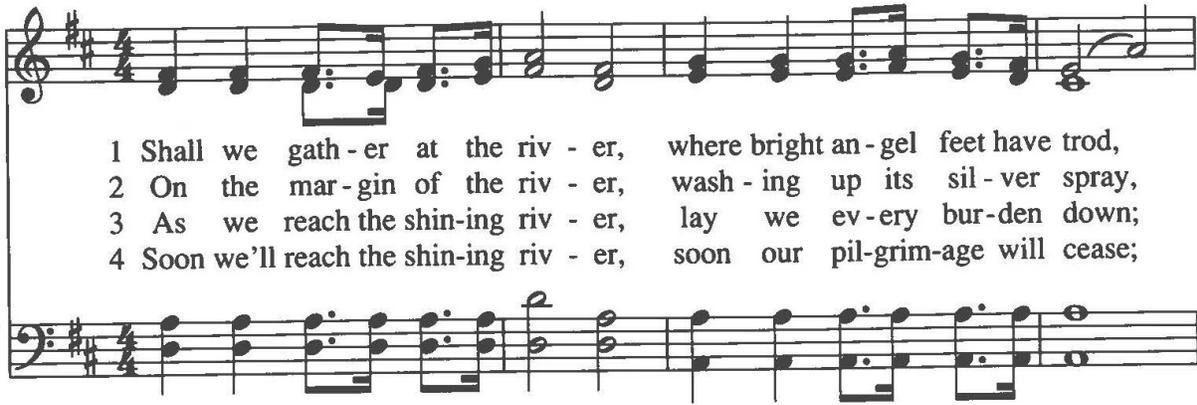
P: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

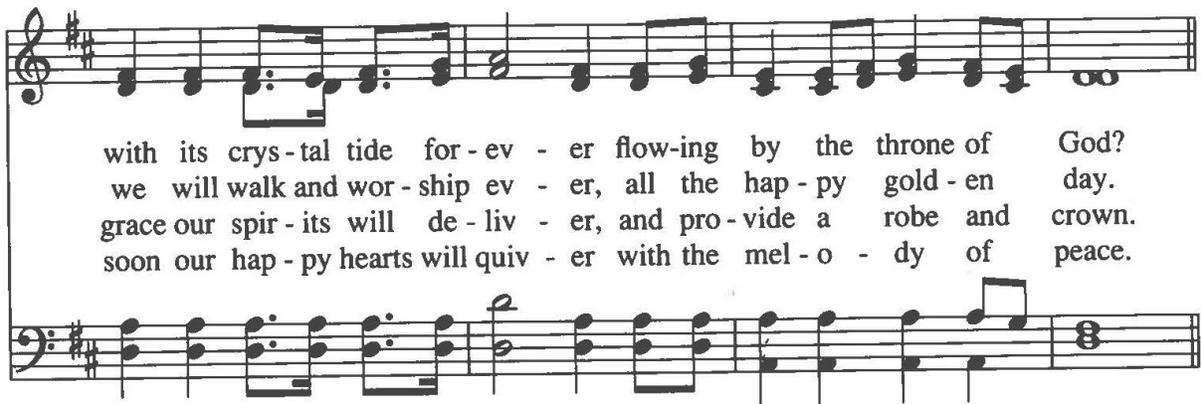
Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

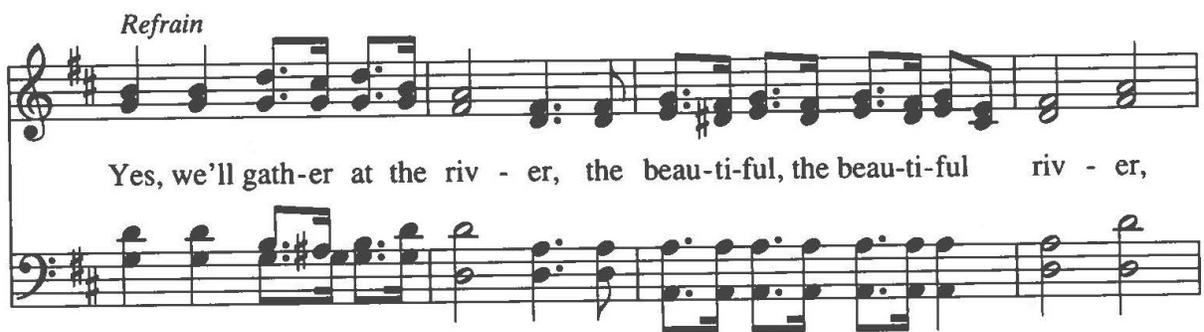


1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

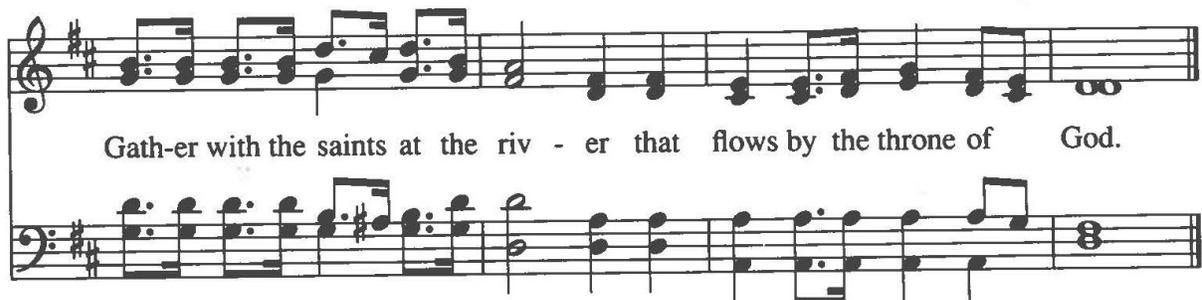


with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,



Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Toccata in E minor
Please be seated for the Postlude.

Johanna Pachelbel

Thank you for attending worship this morning. We hope that you have found peace and grace here and invite you to return often. If you would like more information or have any questions about First Church, please ask anyone wearing a name tag. We'd be delighted to assist you.

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of beloved family and friends by Chris Farquhar.

† GREETING AFTER THE SERVICE TODAY

Rev. Ahrens – On the West Lawn

Rev. Samuelson – On the East Breezeway patio

Mr. Williams – On the West Breezeway

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *liturgist*

Mr. Mark Williams, *liturgist*

Allison Lowery Palmer, *liturgist*

Ethan Murray, *crucifer*

Xavier Dean and Emma Dean, *acoltyes*

Barry Moenter, *interim organist*

Jim Gallagher, *interim choir director*

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

PERMISSIONS AND COPYRIGHTS

All music in the bulletin is reprinted and livestreamed under OneLicense.net #A-717661. All rights reserved.

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

November 6, 2022

This Week at First Church

- 11/6**
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)
12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
(Room C & Virtual)
2 p.m. German Village Walking Tour
(German Village Mtg House)
6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)
- 11/7**
9 a.m. Good Samaritan Virtual Distribution
12 Noon Congregational Care Ministry Mtg
(Parish Family Room)
- 11/8**
4 p.m. Annual Campaign Committee Mtg
(Virtual)
5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Virtual)
- 11/9**
12:30 p.m. Church Vitality Mtg (Virtual)
- 11/10**
7 p.m. Security Team Mtg (Virtual)
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)
- 11/11**
2 p.m. Banner Exhibit Open (Chapel)
- 11/13**
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)
4 p.m. Congregational Concert (Sanctuary)
6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)

Faith Formation Adult Class

“Transitions:

A Contemplative Approach” Sunday, November 6, 10-10:50 a.m. Classroom C/Education Wing

All are welcome to participate in our Faith Formation Adult Class this coming Sunday. First Church member Alejandro Rodriguez will share out of his wisdom and professional experience as a certified spiritual director as we continue to explore our current theme of “transitions.” Alejandro writes:

“All change is loss and must be mourned. Sometimes we plow through changes to ‘get to the other side.’ Sometimes we enter into changes kicking and screaming. How often do we take the time to consider what is ending so that we can embrace what will be? Do we truly honor all we are experiencing and acknowledge what we are feeling? Join us as we explore a contemplative approach to changes big and small.”

If you plan to join this conversation by Zoom, please use the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85931053764?pwd=a042K3RmRDZTWXBQY1VWYXQ5bUxBQT09>.

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 and an online pledge form can be found at www.first-church.org/annual-campaign.

Connection Circles

Connection is the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship.

Brené Brown (best-selling author and professor)

As we navigate our way through these transitional times together as First Church, it is essential to stay connected to offer and receive care and support from one another. We are planning a series of “Connection Circles” in order to create sacred space for facilitated small group conversations as it pertains to your experience of the changes and conflict at church. Each gathering is intended for six participants along with two co-facilitators. They will be led by Rev. Joanna Samuelson, Jackie Dean, our Commissioned Minister of Spiritual Formation and Direction, or Jan Hamilton, First Church member and retired Congregational Care nurse.

We have planned the following “Connection Circles” for the next couple of weeks and will continue to schedule them throughout the fall as needed.

- Friday, November 11, 10-11:30 a.m. in the Parish Family Room
- Saturday, November 12, at 10-11:30 a.m. in the Parish Family Room
- Wednesday, November 16, at 7-8:30 p.m. in the Parish Family Room
- Friday, November 18, at 1-2:30 p.m. in the Parish Family Room

For additional information and/or to register for one of the above “Connection Circles,” please contact Rev. Joanna directly at jsamuelson@first-church.org or by cell: 214-995-3525. Thank you.

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 through 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: November 11 (1 p.m.), 13, and 20. The last self-guided tour of the exhibit is today.

First Serves November Homeless Hygiene Kits for Car Ministry November 27 at 10 a.m.

Help us make Homeless Hygiene Kits. Each kit will include hygiene supplies, socks, hat, gloves, wipes, foot warmers, and hand warmers. We encourage each family to take a kit and put in their car and give to a person asking for help along the road. We need donations to purchase the items.

First Church Fudge

First Church Fudge is back! It’s a “sweet” way to start your holiday gifting and help the First Church Youth at the same time. Proceeds from the fudge go to the Youth Mission Trip Fund. The order deadline is November 30 and pick-up is December 4. Payment is through PayPal, but you do not need a PayPal account. Click the link

below to place your order.

<https://first-congregational-church-youth-fudge-sale.constantcontactsites.com/>

Concerts at First Church

Come and join us on Sunday, November 13 at 4 p.m. and hear Dr. Robert Poovey perform on the Beckerath organ (Gallery) and Kimball organ (Chancel) in a program featuring the music of Nikolaus Bruhns (1665-1697), Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), Anton Heiller (1923-1979), Leo Sowerby (1895-1968) and Cèsar Franck (1822-1890). At First Church we are blessed to have these two magnificent, independent, world-class instruments that organists all over the world want to play. Just this past week we had a request from an organist in Italy who would like to perform on our organs next year. Every organist finds sounds that are historically appropriate and unique to highlight the music they want to perform for us.

In addition to being a concert organist, Dr. Poovey is a consummate church organist, building programs involving all ages, sharing his skills by teaching, and providing ministry through outreach in the community.

Robert Poovey is in his sixteenth season as Director of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Rochester, New York. A native of Greensboro, North Carolina, he holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Organ Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music, and Bachelor's and Master's degrees in organ from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Southern Methodist University, respectively.

From 1995 to 2006, he served as Director of Music Ministries at historic St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Atlanta, where he developed a varied, innovative and active music program involving some seven groups, with an emphasis on intergenerational participation. From 2006 to 2007, he was Project Director for Casavant Frères, one of the leading pipe organ companies in North America.

Dr. Poovey has served on the Liturgical Commissions in the Episcopal Dioceses of North Carolina, Olympia (Western Washington State) and Atlanta, and also has been on the faculty for the Leadership Program for Musicians Serving Small Congregations, a two-year course of study leading to participants' receiving The Presiding Bishop's Diploma in Church Music. Since 2020, he has been a member of the Sacred Music faculty of the Eastman School of Music. In the summer of 2022 Dr. Poovey was Music Director for the Royal School of Church Music Carolina Course for Girls and Adults, held at Duke University.

With appearances in both the United States and Europe to his credit, Poovey is active as a performer as well as a church musician. Last month in Rochester he performed Samuel Barber's Toccata Festiva in the composer's arrangement for piano and organ (with pianists Gordon Porth and Howard Spindler) as a part of "If Music Be the Food," a concert series that benefits Rochester's FOODLINK. In May of 2021 he returned to St. Luke's Atlanta for a recital on the Alston Memorial Organ.

Robert Poovey maintains membership in the Association of Anglican Musicians and the American Guild of Organists.

There will be a reception following the concert and all are invited.

Taking Faith Home

A link for *Taking Faith Home: A Guide for Faith-Filled Conversations* appears each week in Saturday's "Join us for Worship" email. The weekly devotional gives examples of each of the Four Key faith practices (caring conversations, devotions, service, and rituals and traditions). It includes a weekly prayer, Bible verse, mealtime prayer, and blessing. It also offers suggested daily Bible readings and a hymn for the week. We encourage you to download it by clicking the button in the email or by visiting <https://files.constantcontact.com/5728e215501/139c0677-d5e0-446f-b400-610eb69e71b1.pdf> Copy

Unsheltered Group Update

In March of this year, Moderator Chris Farquhar established a working group of staff and church members to review the needs of unsheltered individuals who have stayed on church property overnight, and to learn how our church could better support their transition to shelter programs or permanent housing. In addition, the group was to consider what opportunities to explore and restrictions to impose that would enhance the safety of unsheltered individuals, staff, church members, tenants, and volunteers while protecting church property.

The Unsheltered Group has met weekly for most of the time since March. It has conducted research on the topic with the staff of downtown churches, the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless, the Discovery Special Improvement District, organizations in other cities, and the Insurance Board for the United Church of Christ. Representatives of the Unsheltered Group have consulted with various church committees including Justice and Mercy, House and Grounds, Deacons, Trustees, and Security as well as church staff.

Some interim steps were initiated to deal with immediate issues of need or concern. One initiative was the placement of a portable outdoor restroom located along the alley next to the church. This project was approved by council and funded by designated gifts. Also, two unsheltered individuals have found permanent housing through the partnership involving church volunteers and the staff of the Discovery Special Improvement District. By council action, two other unsheltered individuals have been ordered to leave church property and to not return because of their inappropriate conduct.

The group's research, engagement, and trial projects have led to a report of recommendations for consideration of church council for its meeting of November 15. The report is composed of proposed policies that begin the effort to define our relationship with unsheltered people, their access to church property, and our interaction with the service providers who help them. The goal is to help unsheltered visitors find a path to self-sustainability through established social service agencies.

To learn more about the efforts of this group and its report, you are invited to attend one or both of the group's planned information sessions. The first will be a zoom session scheduled for Wednesday, November 9 at 7 p.m. [<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85657820493?pwd=VCt3QjBSL2R2MGhvZVI3ZkxUNU9vUT09>]. This Zoom link will also be available in Realm's calendar. The second will be an in-person session scheduled for Sunday, November 13 at 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Please contact Jim or Gail Lowe with questions at either lowemail1124@gmail.com or loweg1124@gmail.com.



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 **Lutheran Social Services Veteran’s Support**. This program helps families obtain stable housing while working with case managers as they provide temporary financial assistance. Thank you for your generosity.

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Katzingers Delicatessen

7160 Muirfield Dr, Dublin, OH 43017

Register at <https://onrealm.org/The-FirstCongreg/Registrations/Registrants/b42fed65-24c7-42ac-8de0-af190115d7d2?congregant-View=True>

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 Broad Street Presbyterian Church Food Pantry or Gladden House. 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.

Keep in Prayer

Members Larry and Diane Dixon; Rick and Lourdes Henderson; Kay Neffenger; Martha Huey; Bob Davis; Twink Starr; Lola Edwards; Rick Brant; Betsy Zahn; Janice White; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter.

Family and friends Joe Provenzano’s mother, Mary Jo Senter; Missy Obergefell; Bev Cook and Lynn Wallich’s friend, Jeanie Schultz; Tim Ahrens and Susan Sitler’s granddaughter, Hazel Stadie; 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; Nancy Mayle; 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.

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 Oceania including American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia (Maohi Nui), Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. We pray for Global Ministries worker Cindy Moraga in Mexico.

New Book Study

Please join the Book Study on Wednesday mornings for our discussion of Richard Rohr’s new book *Jesus’ Alternative Plan*. This is a great study. Rohr goes through the teachings of the sermon, explaining the historical and cultural context of each verse and offering guidance for what it means for Christians today. The result is a clear, yet challenging look at the alternative plan laid out by Jesus for all to see.

Please email Pat Patterson at ppatterson@first-church.org to be added to the group. The next meeting of this group will be Wednesday, November 16 at 10:30 a.m. The group meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month via Zoom.

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: 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

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,

Bulletins are printed on recycled paper with a minimum 50% post-consumer content.
All music in the bulletin is reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717661. All rights reserved.
Bulletins and audio podcasts of services are available on the website for each week:
www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885
PHONE: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741
WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG





Together in Mission Sharing God's Love

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

Complete this estimate of giving form and bring it with you to worship Celebration and Pledge Dedication, Sunday, October 30, 2022. You may also complete and submit it electronically or mail to the church in the envelope provided.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I/We pledge \$ _____ for annual amount

Contribute: Weekly Bi-Monthly Monthly Annually

I would like more information from the office on how to give electronically.

I/We not able to pledge at this time but will give as we are able in 2023

Ways to Make a Contribution/Pledge:

- Complete and return this pledge form in the pre-addressed envelope by October 30, 2022
- Online Pledge: www.first-church.org/give to pledge online. Click 2023 Online Giving Form

For Assistance:

Contact Annette McCormick, Business Administrator at amccormick@first-church.org or (614) 228-1741 x11

Mail to:

444 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215