



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

November 13, 2022

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 28

**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. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

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. Ahrens

L: O God, open our lips.  
**P: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**  
 L: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
**P: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

\* OPENING SONG - PSALM 95

O COME AND SING UNTO THE LORD

*Irish*

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

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

L: Sing a new song to God, who has done marvelous things.

**P: With your right hand, O God, and your holy arm, you have won for yourself the victory.**

L: You have made known your victory; your righteousness you have openly shown in the sight of the nations.

**P: You have remembered your mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen your victory.**

L: Shout with joy to God, all you lands; lift up your voices, rejoice, and sing.

**P: With trumpets and the sound of the horn, shout with joy before God who reigns in majesty.**

L: Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.

**P: Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before God, who will come to judge the earth.**

L: God shall judge the world in righteousness

**P: and the peoples with equity.**

\* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: The peace of God be always with you.

**P: And also with you.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Mr. Mark S. Williams

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 65: 17-25

Rev. Ahrens

*A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 65.*

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

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,

joyce 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 21:5-19

Rev. Samuelson

*A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 21.*

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

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-wheled 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

“A Love that Transforms”

Rev. Samuelson

THE PRAYERS

Rev. Ahrens  
 Jones

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

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.**

THE OFFERTORY

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



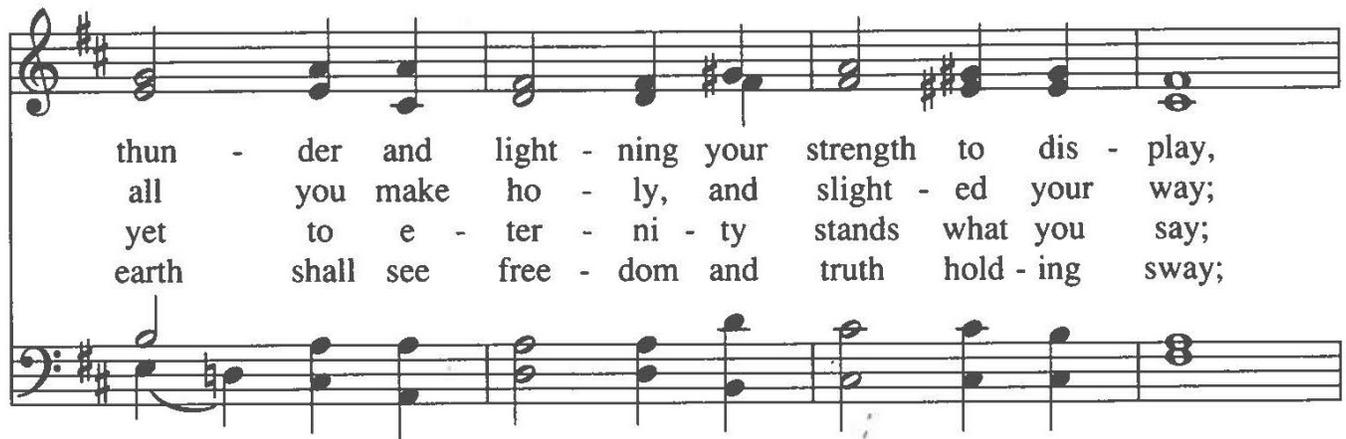
MISSION INVITATION

Designated gifts go to support **Faith Mission**. Each month a team of First Congregational Church volunteers prepares a meal and serves it at Faith Mission. Your donations ensure that the team has the resources to provide a nourishing meal to those whom Faith Mission serves. Thank you for your generosity.

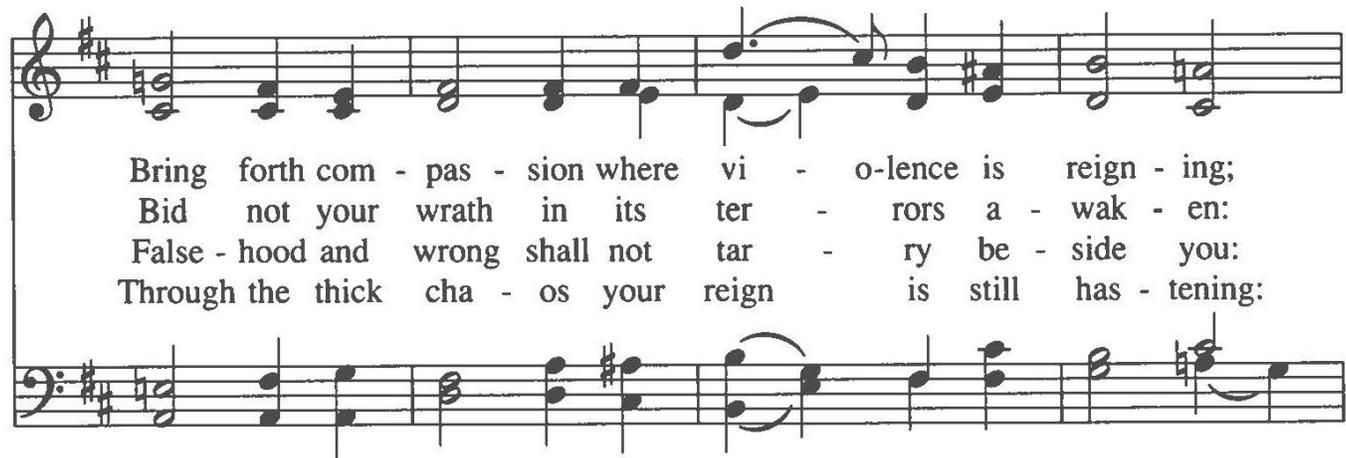
Antoinette Koolesmans-Beynen



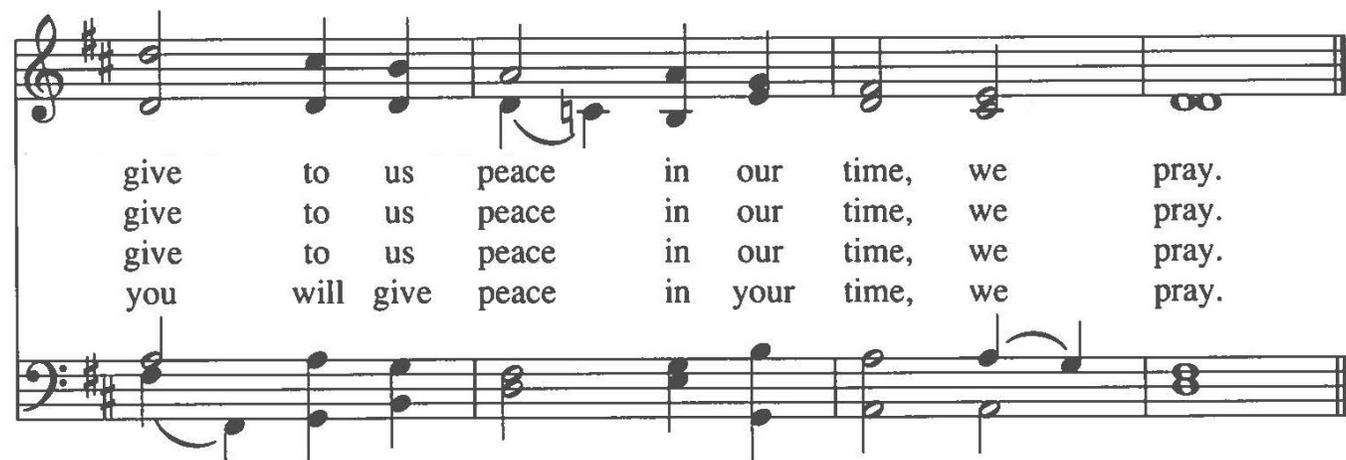
1 God the Om - ni - po - tent! bold - ly or - dain - ing  
 2 God the All - mer - ci - ful! earth has for - sak - en  
 3 God the All - righ - teous One! earth has de - fied you,  
 4 God the All - prov - i - dent! by your great chas - tening



thun - der and light - ning your strength to dis - play,  
 all you make ho - ly, and slight - ed your way;  
 yet to e - ter - ni - ty stands what you say;  
 earth shall see free - dom and truth hold - ing sway;



Bring forth com - pas - sion where vi - o - lence is reign - ing;  
 Bid not your wrath in its ter - rors a - wak - en:  
 False - hood and wrong shall not tar - ry be - side you:  
 Through the thick cha - os your reign is still has - tening:



give to us peace in our time, we pray.  
 give to us peace in our time, we pray.  
 give to us peace in our time, we pray.  
 you will give peace in your time, we pray.

**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. Samuelson

**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. Samuelson

POSTLUDE

Enter to Worship  
**Depart to Serve**

November 13, 2022

## This Week at First Church

- 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)  
12:30 p.m. Unsheltered Information Session  
(Parish Hall)  
4 p.m. Congregational Concert (Sanctuary)  
6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)
- 11/14**  
7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Virtual)
- 11/15**  
5 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Virtual)  
7 p.m. Church Council Mtg (Virtual)
- 11/16**  
10 a.m. Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery  
(Education Wing)  
10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)  
7 p.m. Connection Circle (Parish Family Rm)
- 11/17**  
10 a.m. TV Interview Time (Sanctuary)  
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Parish  
Hall)
- 11/18**  
1 p.m. Connection Circle (Parish Family Rm)
- 11/20**  
9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer  
(Parish Hall & Virtual)  
10 a.m. Faith Formation for All Ages  
(Various Classrooms)  
Coffee Sales (Education Wing)  
11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)  
12 Noon Coffee Hour (Narthex)  
12:30 p.m. Hanging of the Greens (Sanctuary)  
Confirmation Class  
(Classroom C & Virtual)

## “Transitions:

### Crucial Conversations” Adult Faith Formation Class November 13 and November 20, 10-10:50 a.m., Classroom C

All are welcome to participate in a two-week class on “Crucial Conversations” led by First Church member Dr. Scott Graham, a leadership faculty member at The Ohio State University where he coaches leaders and teaches leadership courses across all health science colleges. With over 40 years of leading, teaching, research, and training, Scott will share some lessons learned and facilitate learning from your own experiences.

## Check Out “Connections”

“Connections” is First Church’s e-newsletter, delivered to your in-box every Thursday. In addition to all the great information here, you will find additional and expanded information about worship, concerts, church groups and events, as well as Heartland Conference and UCC updates.

To be added to the electronic mailing list, please send an email to [home@first-church.org](mailto:home@first-church.org)

## 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](http://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 at 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](mailto:jsamuelson@first-church.org) or by cell: 214-995-3525. Thank you.

## Church Coffee Hour is Back!

What a joy it is to return to our coffee hour tradition at First Church! During the month of November, we will gather in the Narthex immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service for coffee, cookies and conversation. This month, our coffee hours are being hosted by the Church Vitality Commission. All are welcome!

## Liturgical Banner Exhibit

First Church is celebrating the fabric artwork of one of our members, Deb Anderson, with an exhibit of her work from October 2 – November 20, 2022. The exhibit is on display in the Chapel. The exhibit will be open after 11 a.m. services today and 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](mailto:sjmath5659@gmail.com). Guided tours of the exhibit given by Textile Artist, Deb Anderson will be today, November 13, and November 20.

## First Serves in 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 a “sweet” way to start your holiday gifting and help the youth. 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/>

## Youth Silent Auction

There are 6 wonderful gift baskets and 7 homemade wreaths that are up for auction. You can view them online or in person in the Ralph Fanning Room at the church. Help support the youth of First Church with your bid or just make a donation. The site goes live on Friday, November 11 at noon and ends Sunday, November 20.

Visit <https://go.charityauctionstoday.com/bid/831>

**Concerts at First Church**  
**Sunday, November 13, 4 p.m.**  
**Dr. Robert Poovey, Organist**

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

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.

**Nature Hike: Highbanks Metro Park**  
**Sunday, November 27 at 2 p.m.**

Let's take a hike together at Highbanks Metro Park! We will meet at the Nature Center, then hike approximately 1.2 miles on the short loop of the Dripping Rock trail.

Please be sure to register by November 25 via the link provided so you will receive any necessary communication in the event of a cancellation. <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YzBlMWVIMTctZjcwYi00NTBmLTkxMTItYWYxOTAxMTc2N2U1>

## 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 the session today, 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](mailto:lowemail1124@gmail.com) or [loweg1124@gmail.com](mailto:loweg1124@gmail.com).

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## Thanksgiving Food Drive

We are challenging each First Church member to bring canned and/or boxed food items to church for two Sundays in a row: November 13 and November 20.

On November 13, you'll find a table for your donations in the first-floor hallway of the Education Wing. And then, on Sunday, November 20, we invite you to bring your food donations into worship with you (at both services) where we will dedicate your gifts of food as well as the feeding ministry that we share with Gladden Community House.

The food that we will donate together meets a deep need for those currently being served by the Gladden Community House Food Pantry. Our goal is to donate 250 items to Gladden on Monday, November 21st in time for Thanksgiving.

If you need additional information, please contact Kris Brant or Rev. Joanna. Thank you for your generous spirits and giving hearts!

## 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](mailto:amccormick@firstchurch.org).

Designated gifts go to support Faith Mission. Each month a team of First Congregational Church volunteers prepares a meal and serves it at Faith Mission. Your donations ensure that the team has the resources to provide a nourishing meal to those whom Faith Mission serves. Thank you for your generosity.

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## 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>

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## Giving Tree

Since last year’s Giving Tree, many have asked if they could help the children at Childcare Wonderland again for Christmas. We have set up a Giving Tree with 34 children’s wish ornament depicting a child’s first name, age, gender, and wished-for gift (typically \$25-\$50). The Giving Tree is in the Education Wing Breezeway. The donor attaches the ornament as the gift tag and returns it to the church office by December 11. The gifts will be delivered by our staff to Childcare Wonderland Center.

## Keep in Prayer

**Members** Lesley Schaab; 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** Shane Samuelson’s mother, Marie Gillies; Jan Hamilton’s son, Brett Hamilton; Chris Farquhar’s brother-in-law, Tom Horton and family; 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; 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.

**In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**, we lift the people and churches in Aotearoa New Zealand, and Australia. We pray for Global Ministries worker Leda Zakarison in Lebanon.

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

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## Global Missin Partner Leda Zakarison, Lebanon

Leda Zakarison serves with the Forum for Development, Culture, and Dialogue (FDCD) in Beirut, Lebanon. The FDCD is an NGO that promotes peace building, equal citizenship, and human rights in the Arab World. FDCD offers workshops and events focused on active citizenship and peacebuilding, as well as some direct humanitarian aid and intervention. FDCD has focused specifically on Lebanon and Syria, working hard to establish trust and build networks which promote a common understanding of citizenship between religious and ethnic groups. Leda serves as the Communications and Program Associate, helping to get its message out to the public and also works to keep FDCD’s volunteers and past participants up to date with their activities.

# 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,

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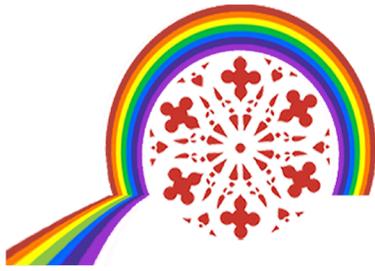


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PHONE: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741  
WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG

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# 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](http://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](mailto:amccormick@first-church.org) or (614) 228-1741 x11

## Mail to:

444 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215