



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 20, 2022

Reign of Christ

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

Chorale, Hymn, and Trumpet Tune

“Now All the Woods are Sleeping” (Bach); “Faith of Our Fathers” (H. F. Hemy/ arr. D. Harris); “A Festive Trumpet Tune” (G. M. Martin)

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Frank Cook

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: Christ shall be called the Peaceful One,

P: whose reign shall be established forever, Alleluia.

L: The reign of Christ is an everlasting reign

P: and all dominions shall serve and obey God, Alleluia.

L: Here is the one named the Branch, who will be enthroned and will govern,

P: and will speak peace to all, Alleluia.

L: God has given Christ dominion and power and glory,

P: that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve the Savior, Alleluia.

L: Christ shall be great even to the ends of the earth,

P: and all shall know everlasting peace, Alleluia.



1. Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home;
 2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to God's praise to yield;
 3. For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take the har - vest home;
 4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To Thy fi - nal har - vest home;



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
 Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown;
 From each field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin;



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied;
 First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear;
 Give the an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
 There for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy pres - ence to a - bide;



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.
 But the fruit - ful ears to store In God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all Thine an - gels, come, Raise thje glo - rious har - vest home.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

Blessed God, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

We Gather Together

Mark S. Williams

Kremser

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Whose kingdom calls all to the love which endures.
So from the beginning the fight we were winning:
You, Lord, were at our side; all glory be yours!

We all do extol you, our leader triumphant,
And pray that you still our defender will be.
Let your congregation escape tribulation:
Your name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

(Please bring food donations forward during the singing of the hymn.)

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Mr. Cook

A reading from the Book of the prophet Jeremiah, chapter 23.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

*Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms, Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.*

*All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.*

THE EPISTLE

Colossians 1:11–20

Mr. Cook

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians, chapter 1.

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 A - dorn, O mar - tyred saints of old, the cor - o - na - tion hall;
 3 All heirs of Is - rael's chos - en race, now ran - sored from the fall,
 4 Be - fore the cross, with heav - en's throng, we on our knees shall fall;

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown Christ ser - vant of all.
 Ex - tol the wound - ed One fore - told, and crown Christ bear - er of all.
 Pro - claim the won - ders of God's grace, and crown Christ heal - er of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown Christ sav - ior of all.

At - tend the Sav - ior's sov - ereign claim, and crown Christ ser - vant of all.
 Ex - tol the wound - ed One fore - told, and crown Christ bear - er of all.
 Pro - claim the won - ders of God's grace, and crown Christ heal - er of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown Christ sav - ior of all.

** Please remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.*

THE GOSPEL

Luke 23:33–43

Rev. Ahrens

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 23.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“A Vow of Kindness”

Rev. Ahrens

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.

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 Gladden Community House Food Pantry. In a February 2018 study published by OSU, Downtown and Franklinton were in the top five neighborhoods experiencing “very low food security.” Individuals who are food insecure have much higher levels of mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. Thank you for your generosity.

*Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the Head and Cornerstone;
Chosen of the Lord, and precious, binding all the Church in one,
Holy Zion's help forever, And her confidence along.*

*To this temple, where we call Thee, come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with Thy wonted loving kindness hear Thy servants as they pray,
and Thy fullest benediction shed within its walls away.*

*Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One,
One in might, and One in glory, while unending ages run.*

* PRESENTATION HYMN

We Praise You, O God *vs.1 and 3**Kremser*

1. We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

3. With voices united our praises we offer,
and gladly our song of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing;
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

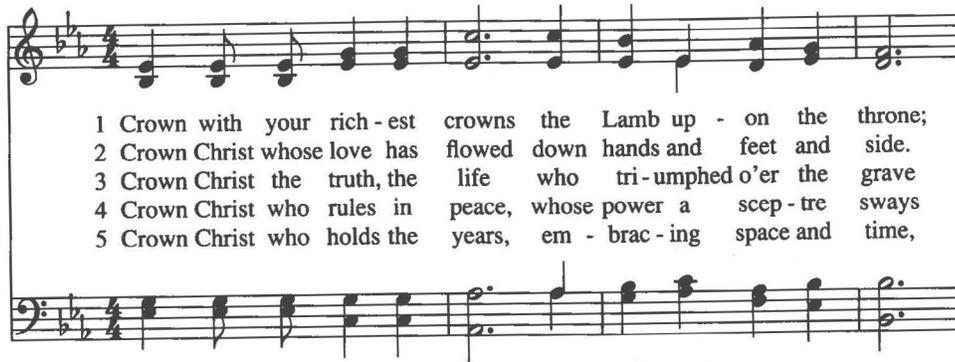
Rev. Ahrens

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

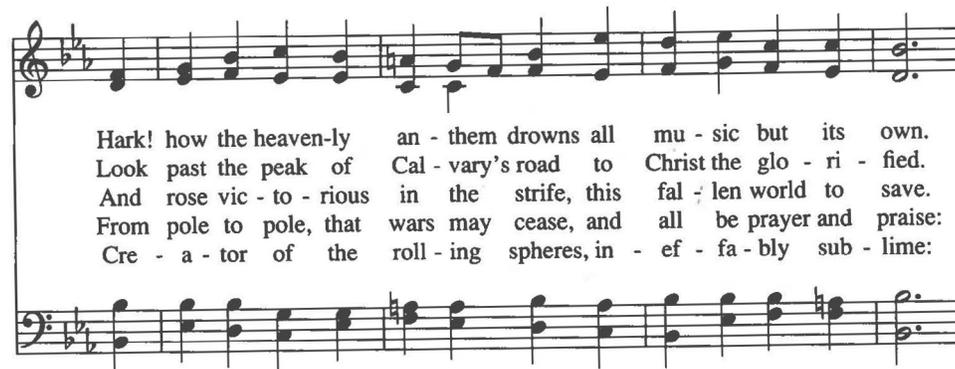
Mr. Williams

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

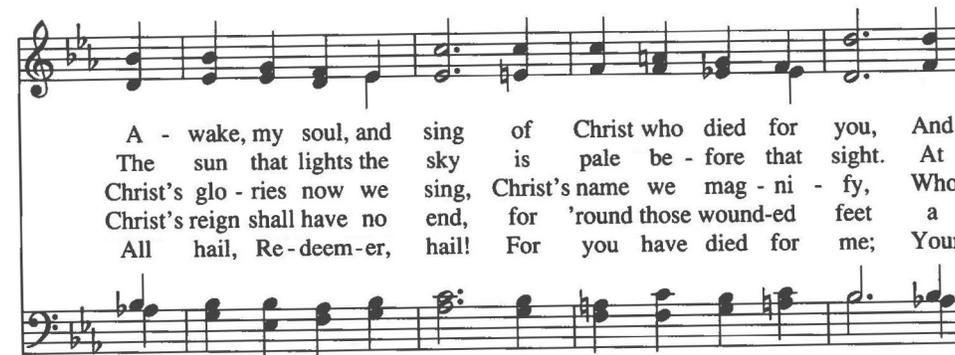
P: Thanks be to God.



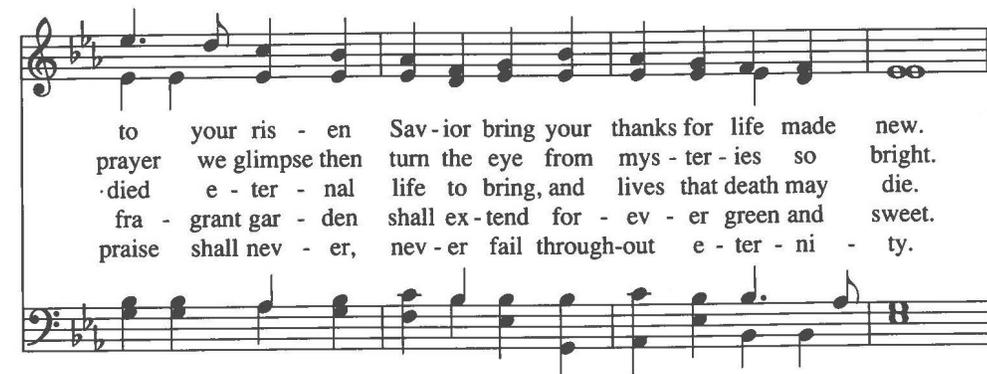
1 Crown with your rich - est crowns the Lamb up - on the throne;
 2 Crown Christ whose love has flowed down hands and feet and side.
 3 Crown Christ the truth, the life who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 4 Crown Christ who rules in peace, whose power a scep - tre sways
 5 Crown Christ who holds the years, em - brac - ing space and time,



Hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 Look past the peak of Cal - vary's road to Christ the glo - ri - fied.
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife, this fal - len world to save.
 From pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise:
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:



A - wake, my soul, and sing of Christ who died for you, And
 The sun that lights the sky is pale be - fore that sight. At
 Christ's glo - ries now we sing, Christ's name we mag - ni - fy, Who
 Christ's reign shall have no end, for 'round those wound-ed feet a
 All hail, Re-deem-er, hail! For you have died for me; Your



to your ris - en Sav - ior bring your thanks for life made new.
 prayer we glimpse then turn the eye from mys - ter - ies so bright.
 died e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 fra - grant gar - den shall ex - tend for - ev - er green and sweet.
 praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Theme and Three Variations from Partita in D Minor

Bernardo Pasquini
arr. G. Moschetti

Please be seated for the Postlude

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by Gail and Jim Lowe in thanks to God for their 51 years together.

† 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*

Frank Cook, *liturgist*

Will Haslett, *crucifer*

Emma Dean and Xavier Dean, *acolytes*

Dr. Ed Duling, *guest 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.

This Week at First Church

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)
11/21	
7 p.m.	Governance Task Force Mtg (Virtual)
11/24	
	Church Office Closed in observance of Thanksgiving
11/25	
	Church Office Closed in observance of Thanksgiving
11:30 a.m.	Faith Mission Meal Prep (Kitchen)
11/27	
9 a.m.	Service of Morning Prayer (Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m.	Faith Formation for All Ages (Various Classrooms) First Serves (Education Wing)
11 a.m.	Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12 Noon	Coffee Hour (Narthex)
12:15 p.m.	Connection Circle (Parish Family Rm)
2 p.m.	Sunday Stroll (Highbanks Metro Park)
6 p.m.	Youth Connections (Parish Hall)

Social Justice Park Event

An event recognizing the World Day of Remembrance for Traffic Victims will be held at the Washington Gladden Social Justice Park on Sunday, November 20, at 1 p.m. All are invited.

“Transitions: Crucial Conversations” Adult Faith Formation Class Today, November 20 10-10:50 a.m., Classroom C

All are welcome to participate in the second session of our current class on “Crucial Conversations” led by First Church member Dr. Scott Graham who is a leadership faculty member at The Ohio State University where he teaches in the health science colleges.

Dr. Graham describes conversations as “crucial” when three elements are present:

- opposing opinions (If we all agree, it’s not crucial.)
- high stakes (Something you care about is at risk.)
- strong emotions (You feel defensive, frustrated, attacked, unheard, etc.)

“Crucial conversations” are a type of crossroads in that things could get better – or worse – depending on how they are handled. This class will provide all of us with the opportunity to share our stories as well as learn new strategies and tools to begin using immediately in conversation with relatives, co-workers, acquaintances, or at church.

Youth Silent Auction Ends Today!

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 auction ends Sunday, November 20.

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

Connection Circles

During the past couple of weeks, some of you have participated in a “Connection Circle,” here at church. These small group gatherings were created to be a sacred and confidential space for you to share your thoughts, feelings, concerns, hopes, and prayers as we move forward through this time of significant change and transition within our life together as First Church.

The Connection Circles are co-facilitated by Rev. Joanna and either Jackie Dean, our Commissioned Minister of Spiritual Direction and Faith Formation, or Jan Hamilton, First Church member and retired Congregational Care nurse.

Three additional Connection Circles have been scheduled for the following dates:

Sunday, November 27, 12:15-1:45 pm

Monday, November 28, 7-8:30 pm

Friday, December 2, 10-11:30 am

If you're able to make one of these gatherings, please let me know in advance. And if these times don't work for you, let me know that, too, and we can schedule additional Connection Circles as needed. Light refreshments will be provided.

Hope you can make it. Thank you.

Rev. Samuelson jsamuelson@first-church.org

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/>

Hanging of the Greens

All are invited to stay after the 11 a.m. worship service today for fun, food, and festivities as we decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Immediately following worship, we will head down to Parish Hall where the Justice and Mercy Commission will host lunch – Donato's Pizza and cookies – yum!

Then, we divide into teams according to tasks. There are jobs for everyone – of every age and ability!

Advent in a Bag Sunday, November 27 12:30-1 p.m.

Christian Education Commission is bringing Advent in a Bag back again this year! We will have bags available for those attending worship and a drive-by on Sunday, November 27 from 12:30-1 p.m in the North Parking lot for those who cannot attend. These are wonderful resources for all ages. There are only 100 bags available.

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

First Serves for November will be on November 27 during the 10 a.m. hour. Please help us make Homeless Hygiene Kits. Each kit will include hygiene supplies, socks, a hat, gloves, wipes, and hand & foot warmers. We encourage each family to take a kit and put it in their car to give to a person asking for help along the road. We need donations to purchase the items.

Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, December 6
12-1 p.m.

Brassica Sandwiches & Salads
1442 W. Lane Avenue
Upper Arlington, OH, 43221

Please join us for our December Lunch Bunch at Brassica in Upper Arlington! This casual counter service restaurant provides a delicious variety of made-from-scratch sandwiches, salads and hummus, among many other things. They use local, organic and artesian sourced ingredients and you won't want to miss trying their tahini chocolate chip cookie! Come hungry and invite a new church friend. We look forward to connecting with you! Please register by Dec. 5.

<https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NTg5MzJjMmY-tOWE4YS00MTZjLWFmZWYtYWY0OTAwZGRiM-jM3>

Time Out Wednesday
December 14
6-7 p.m.
Nostalgia Brewing
81 Mill Street, Suite 150
Gahanna, OH, 43230

Let's enjoy dinner and church fellowship together in the beautiful Creekside District of Gahanna! Meet us at Nostalgia Brewing and enjoy one of their delicious wraps, salads, fancy grilled cheeses, or even a skillet mac and cheese dish—comfort food at its finest! We hope to see you there! Please register by December 13.

<https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NWRIM2RkZjUtYTJhNC00MWVm-LWJmZTAAtYWY0OTAwZGYwODI>

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/>

Search Committees

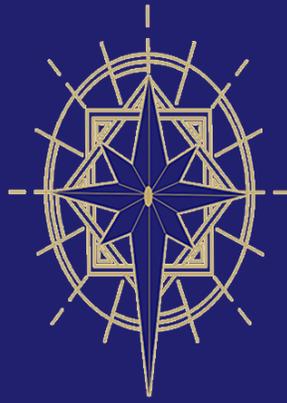
Search committees for the positions of Director of Music (Music Minister) and Building and Grounds Superintendent have been formed and approved by the church council. The Director of Music position is currently vacant. Mark Dahnke, our current Building and Grounds Superintendent plans to retire in July, 2023. The Committees are as follows:

Director of Music (Music Minister) Search Committee: Sandy Mathias, Chair; Nancy Braverman; Rev. Marti Baumer, Scribe; Sebby Kulwicki; Allison Lowery Palmer; Jim Gallagher; Gregory Duncan; Barry Moenter. Ex officio – Rev. Ahrens; Marti Rideout; Moderator; Administration Commissioner

Building and Grounds Superintendent Search Committee: Eric Klintworth, Chair; Mark Brown; Fran Panek; Mike Kennedy. Ex officio – Rev. Ahrens; Moderator; Administration Commissioner

Annual Campaign

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.



WALKING TOGETHER IN THE LIGHT OF GOD

2022 Advent & Christmas Sermon Series
First Congregational Church, UCC

November 27, The First Sunday of Advent
The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching
“Let Us Walk in the Light of God”
Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.
In-Person & Streaming Online

December 11, The Third Sunday of Advent
The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching
“The Light of Jubilee”
Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.
In-Person & Streaming Online
12:30 p.m. The Children’s Christmas Play

December 24, Christmas Eve
Family Worship Service 3 p.m.
7:30 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching
“A Flashlight in the Manger”
followed by the Drama of the Nativity
11 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching
“Bright Light in the Darkest Night”

December 4, The Second Sunday of Advent
The Rev. Joanna Samuelson Preaching
“A New Way”
Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.
In-Person & Streaming Online

December 18, The Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching
“Comfort in the Darkness”
Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.
In-Person & Streaming Online
4 p.m. Festival of Lessons and Carols
(Doors open at 3:15 p.m. Prelude begins at 3:40 p.m.)

December 25 Christmas Day
The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching
“You are the Light of God!”
Worship 10 a.m.
In-Person & Streaming Online

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 **Gladden Community House Food Pantry**. In a February 2018 study published by OSU, Downtown and Franklinton were in the top five neighborhoods experiencing “very low food security.” Individuals who are food insecure have much higher levels of mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. Thank you for your generosity.

Global Mission Partner Lydia Hill Johnson, New Zealand

Professor Hill Johnson is connected to Pacific Theological College in Fiji and Otago University in New Zealand. She works with Pacific Islander PhD students at PTC and at Otago as a supervisor, thesis editor, and examiner. She is actively involved in the largest Pacific Islanders Presbyterian Church in Wellington (Samoans and Cook Islanders), helping to empower women and youth.

Laundry Love

Our Laundry Love outreach ministry will resume on Tuesday, November 29 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Wash Land Laundromat, 1469 W. Broad Street. At this time, the number of people allowed in the laundromat is limited to 10. There will be 3 employees and 3 volunteers from First Church on site. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Education Wing hallway each month for volunteers to sign up. If you need more information, please contact Kris Brant or Rev. Joanna.

Keep in Prayer

Members Annette McCormick; Melva Fisher; 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 Jan Hamilton’s son, Brett Hamilton; Shane Gillies’ mother, Marie Gillies; 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; 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 East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, and the Philippines. We pray for Global Ministries worker Lydia Hill Johnson in New Zealand.

We pray for the communities of the University of Virginia and the University of Idaho and their murdered students, their families, and friends.

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, 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, Hugh Schultz, 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 and livestreamed under OneLicense.net #A-717661.
All rights reserved.



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

