



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 27, 2022

The First Sunday in Advent

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

“Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stimme”
 (“Sleepers Wake! A Voice is Calling”)
Todd Cunningham, Trombone

Paul Manz/Johann Sebastian Bach

ENTER TO WORSHIP

David Nassau

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: I was glad when they said to me,

P: let us go to the house of the Lord!

L: In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains.

P: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord!

1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make here Your home.
 2. From the God-head forth You came, And re - turn un - to the same,
 3. You, the cho - sen Ho - ly One, Have o'er sin the vic - tory won.
 4. Bright-ly does Your man - ger shine, Glo - rious is its light di - vine.

Mar - vel - now, O heaven and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Cap - tive lead - ing death and hell, High the song of tri - umph swell!
 Bound - less shall Your king - dom be; When shall we its glo - ries see?
 Let not sin o'er - cloud this light; Ev - er be our faith thus bright.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: God be with you.

P. And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility. To you be all honor and glory, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* CONFESSION OF SIN

Rev. Ahrens

L: It is time to wake from sleep. Salvation is near! Let us make our confession to God.

P: Faithful God, we confess that in thought, word, and deed we have turned away from you. We have not eagerly expected your coming. We have been slow to serve you and our neighbor. Restore us, God of might. Let your face shine upon us. And we shall be saved. Amen.

Silence may be observed for reflection and prayer.

* KYRIE ELEISON

Healey Willan

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Ahrens

L: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sin, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

P: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Samuelson

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.

**Please find the attendance pad at the end of the pew,
sign it and pass it on to your neighbor so you may greet them by name.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Mark S. Williams

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Andy and Carol Bensing

Light the Light, the Fire of Life *vs. 1*

Il Est Ne

Refrain

Light the light, the fire of life, let the can-dle re-veal his glo-ry. *Fine*

Je-sus Christ has come to earth and for us shall come a-gain.

1. Light the can-dle of his hope, light the light of proph-et's sto-ry, *D.C.*

light the can-dle of his hope, light the light we all must hold.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics. The third staff begins with a first ending bracket and contains the melody for the first line of the first ending. The fourth staff continues the melody for the second line of the first ending. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across bar lines. The word 'Fine' is written below the end of the second staff, and 'D.C.' is written below the end of the third staff.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 2.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans, chapter 13.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

1 Watch-er, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.
2 Watch-er, tell us of the night, high-er yet that star as-cends.
3 Watch-er, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

Trav - eler, O a won-drous sight! See that glo-ry - beam-ing star!
Trav - eler, bless-ed - ness and light, peace and truth its course por - tends.
Trav - eler, shad-ows take their flight, doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.

Watch-er, does its beau - teous ray news of joy or hope fore - tell?
Watch-er, will its beams a - lone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Watch-er, you may go your way; has - ten to your qui - et home.

Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el!
Trav-eler, a - ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth!
Trav-eler, I re - joice to-day, for Em - man - u - el has come!

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 24.

Jesus said, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Let Us Walk in the Light of God"

Rev. Ahrens

Part one of the sermon series, "Walking Together in the Light of God"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Samuelson

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.

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 Equitas Health whose mission is to be a gateway to good health for those at risk of or affected by HIV/AIDS, and for the LGBTQ community, and for anyone seeking a welcoming healthcare home. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from Him Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood That we might saved be.
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come, Sing Holy, Holy, Lord*

*Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, For Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their All!*

* PRESENTATION HYMN Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

sung to *Tallis' Canon*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

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.

* CLOSING HYMN

“Keep Awake, Be Always Ready”

Wachet Auf

1 Keep a-wake, be al - ways rea - dy, God's time ap - proach-es
2 Rise and shine for One is com - ing whose love will quench all

sure and stea - dy, God's strength will keep your heart from blame.
na - ture's thirst - ing to be made whole for - ev - er more.

Clouds, the Spir - it's light con - ceal - ing, dis - perse, God's pur - est
On that day to end all weep - ing, death's swords trans - formed to

light re - veal - ing; cre - a - tion will its Sov-ereign name. Dry
tools of reap - ing, the God of might will mer - cy pour. In -

branch - es burst forth green, God's ad - vent signs are seen: Hal - le - lu - jah!
 car - nate, God ap - pears em - brac - ing all our tears: Hal - le - lu - jah!

Christ's judg - ment won, God's will be done; God's new do - min - ion thus be - gun.
 God's maj - es - ty e - ter - nal - ly re - vealed to set the cos - mos free.

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

“WACHET AUF, RUFT UNS DIE STIMME”
Please be seated for the Postlude

Paul Manz

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Marty and Gerry Worth.

† We welcome Andy and Carol Bensing to light the first Advent candle.

† 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*

David Nassau, *liturgist*

Alyssia Palmer, *crucifer*

Xavier Dean, *acolyte*

Barry Moenter, *interim organist*

Jim Gallagher, *interim choir director*

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

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This Week at First Church

11/27

9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)

10 a.m. First Serves (Education Wing)
Children's Play Rehearsal
(Parish Hall Stage)

11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)

12 Noon Coffee Hour (Narthex)

12:15 p.m. Connection Circle (Parish Family Rm)

12:30 p.m. Advent in a Bag Drive-by
(North Parking Lot)

2 p.m. Sunday Stroll (Highbanks Metro Park)

6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)

11/28

12 Noon Grief Support Group (Virtual)

1:30 p.m. Spectrum Interviews (Sanctuary)

7 p.m. Connection Circle (Parish Family Rm)

11/29

6 p.m. Laundry Love (Wash Land)

7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Virtual)

11/30

12:15 p.m. Organ Meditations (Sanctuary)

12/1

7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)

12/2

10 a.m. Connection Circle (Parish Family Rm)

12/3

10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg (Adult Library)

12:30 p.m. Hallelujah Tour of Churches
(Sanctuary)

12/4

9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer
(Parish Hall & Virtual)

10 a.m. Faith Formation for All Ages
(Various Classrooms)
Children's Play Rehearsal
(Parish Hall Stage)

11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary & Virtual)

12 Noon Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales
(Parish Hall)

6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)

Advent in a Bag Today 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

First Serves for November gathers today 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 and 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.

Connection Circles

During the past couple of weeks, a number of you have participated in one of the “Connection Circles,” here at church. These small group gatherings are intended to offer a sacred and confidential space for you to share your thoughts, feelings, concerns, hopes, and prayers as we move through this time of significant change and transition within our life together as First Church. The Connection Circles are co-facilitated by Rev. Joanna Samuelson 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 p.m.

Monday, November 28, 7-8:30 p.m.

Friday, December 2, 10-11:30 a.m.

If you're able to make one of these gatherings, please let Rev. Joanna know in advance at jsamuelson@first-church.org. And if these times don't work for you, additional Connection Circles can be scheduled as needed. Just let Joanna know of your scheduling needs. Light refreshments will be provided.

Children's Christmas Play Sunday, Dec. 11 After the 11 a.m. Service

Mark your calendar for the live return of the Children's Christmas Play and Mistletoe Marchers on December 11 after the 11 a.m. service in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend this wonderful presentation that the children have been working on for over a month. Light refreshments will be provided.

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.

Hallelujah, It's Back!

First Church is excited to once again be a part of the Hallelujah Tour of Churches, Saturday, Dec. 3, starting at 12:30 p.m.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. For more information and to purchase tickets visit <https://columbuslandmarks.salsalabs.org/2022hallelujahtour/index.html>

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/>

Giving Tree

Thank you to all those who took a child's name from the Giving Tree! Just a reminder that the gifts need to be returned to the church office by Friday, December 11.

Faith Formation for Adults in December

Faith Formation for Adults will return December 4-18 with First Church member Rev. Sarah Reed leading us through “Meditations for Advent.” This is a wonderful time to focus on the meaning of Advent in this time of transition and being so busy. Join us in Room C or online at 10 a.m. each week.

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=NWRlM2RkZjUtYTJhNC00MwVm-LWJmZTAAtYWY0OTAwZGYwODll>

Advent Music Mediations
Amy Guitry, Baroque Flutist
Wednesday, November 30
12:15-12:45 p.m.

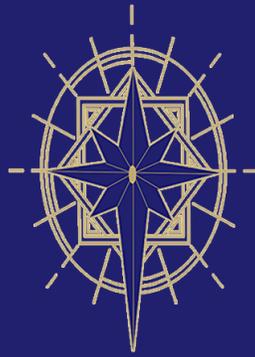
The first of the Advent Music Mediations will be heard on Wednesday, November 30, 12:15-12:45 p.m. Baroque flutist **Amy Guitry** will play unaccompanied works by George Philipp Telemann, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Johann Baptist Wanhal. Please join us to hear a unique sound and program in our acoustically lovely space.

Dr. Guitry holds multiple degrees in historical and modern flute, and was a recipient of a Fulbright Graduate Award to the United Kingdom. She is an avid teacher, and especially enjoys introducing modern flute players to the baroque flute. As a result of her doctoral work, she has been published in the Dutch Journal of Music Theory and inspired several composers to write new music which she has premiered, using techniques she has pioneered for the baroque flute as a contemporary instrument.

Dr. Guitry enjoys chamber music and has performed with a range of musical groups in the United Kingdom, United States, Poland, Holland and has performed with the Mercury Orchestra, The Columbus Symphony, Promusica Chamber Orchestra, The English Haydn Festival, the Purcell Singers and Orchestra, and the Pepys Ensemble; and under the auspices of the University of Pittsburgh, she took part in the modern world premiere performance of C.P.E. Bach's St. Matthew Passion.

Dr. Guitry enjoys bringing more unusual and less often played music and flutes to her performances whenever possible. She currently serves as principal flute of The Washington National Cathedral Baroque Orchestra and second flute with Apollo's Fire, the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra.

The Wednesday Music Mediations will continue with organist Jeremy Bankson on December 7 and organist Thomas Fielding on December 14.



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 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 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 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 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 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 **Equitas Health** whose mission is to be a gateway to good health for those at risk of or affected by HIV/AIDS, and for the LGBTQ community, and for anyone seeking a welcoming healthcare home. Thank you for your generosity.

Global Mission Partners

Michael Joseph and Yasmin Novelo Mexico

Ms. Novelo and Mr. Joseph co-direct the Nojolo'on Community Peace Center in the Mayan community of Peto, Yucatán. Rooted in the principles of nonviolence and restorative justice, Nojolo'on works for indigenous rights, peacebuilding, and community organizing alongside the Mayan people of southern Yucatan.

Liturgical Banner Display Extended

First Church will celebrate the fabric artwork of one of our members, Deb Anderson. The exhibit is on view in the Chapel through December 4.

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; and Gretchen Atkinson's cousin, Linda Lambeth.

Those who mourn loved ones Christine Farquhar, her sister and family on the death of her sister's husband, Tom Horton.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches in Myanmar and Thailand. We pray for Global Ministries workers Sarah Driver in Egypt and Michael Joseph and Yasmin Novelo in Mexico.

We pray for the transgender and nonbinary individuals who have lost their lives to hatred.

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,

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