



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 8, 2023

The Baptism of Christ/First Sunday after the Epiphany

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 48:9)*

PRELUDE

Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich, BuxWV 182
("This Day, so full of Joy")

Dietrich Buxtehude

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Martha Worth

Leader: Blessed be God, Light of the world, bright Morning Star, and Spirit of love.

** Then all stand.*

L: Welcome to worship this day!

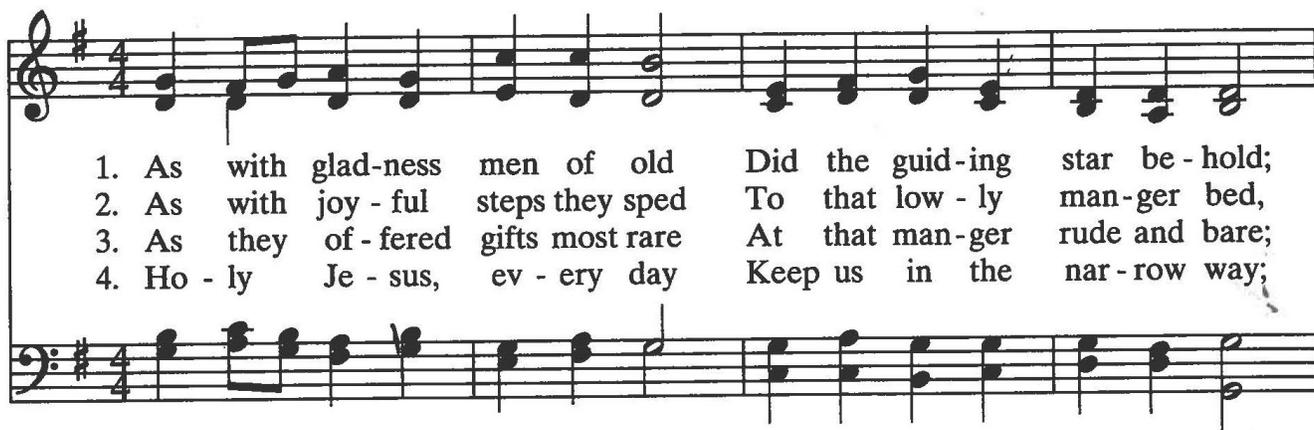
P: We have come seeking God's blessings and love.

L: They shall be given to you.

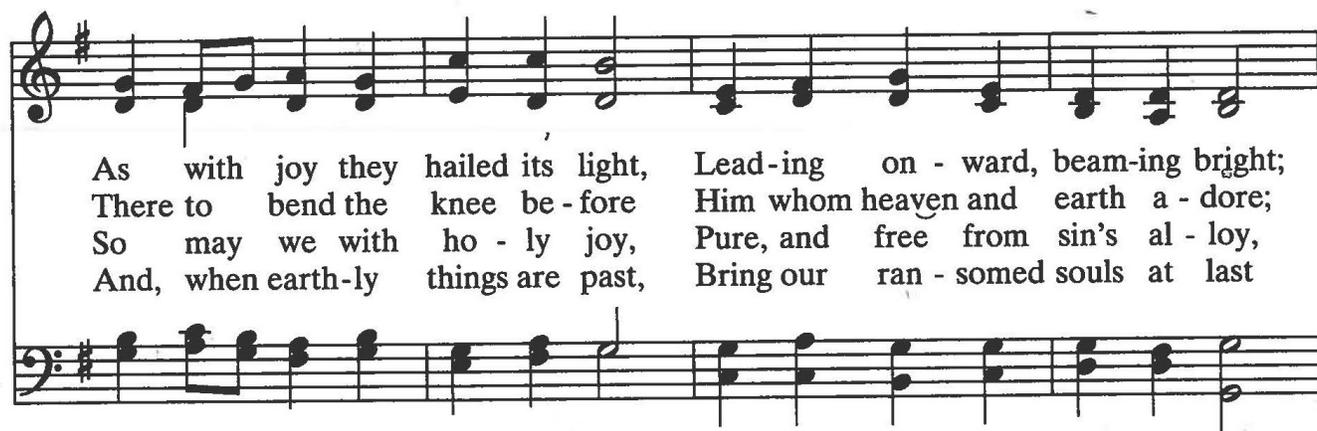
P: We have come seeking forgiveness and healing.

L: These will be offered to you. Let us open our hearts to receive God's Good News.

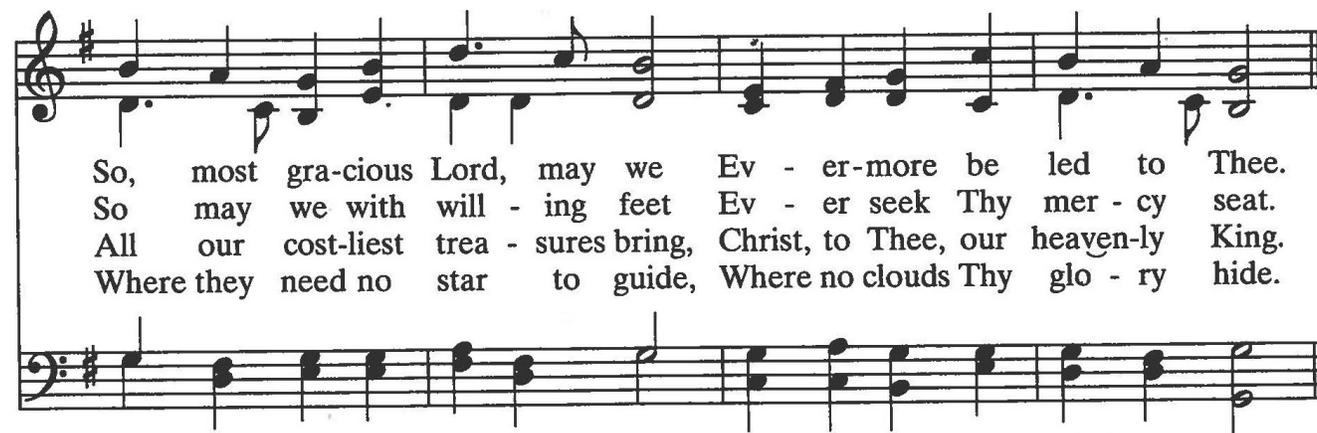
P: We open our hearts to all of God's words and ways for us. Amen.



1. As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be - hold;
 2. As with joy - ful steps they sped To that low - ly man-ger bed,
 3. As they of - fered gifts most rare At that man-ger rude and bare;
 4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day Keep us in the nar - row way;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
 There to bend the knee be - fore Him whom heaven and earth a - dore;
 So may we with ho - ly joy, Pure, and free from sin's al - loy,
 And, when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran - somed souls at last



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev - er-more be led to Thee.
 So may we with will - ing feet Ev - er seek Thy mer - cy seat.
 All our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav-en-ly King.
 Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives 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.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

LITANY OF BAPTISMAL AFFIRMATION

Rev. Ahrens, Rev. Samuelson

L: Lord and life-giving Spirit, who brooded over the waters when first the world began:

All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.

L: Who led your people out of slavery through the waters of the Red Sea and into freedom through the waters of the Jordan: who overshadowed Mary of Nazareth and caused her to be the mother of Jesus.

All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.

L: Who anointed Jesus as Messiah as he was baptized by John in the Jordan: Who raised Jesus Christ from the grave and proclaimed Christ "Son of God" in all power over the living and the dead.

All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.

L: Who appeared in tongues of flame on Pentecost: Who charges the waters of baptism through and through with power to give new life.

All: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.

L: Lord, hear our prayer.

All: Let our cry come to You.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER OF BAPTISM

Rev. Samuelson

Please stand

* RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

Rev. Ahrens

As we sing, Rev. Ahrens will share the water of baptism with all using these words:

L: Remember your baptism and keep it holy.

P: Amen.

We have put on Christ this day, sing al-le-lu-ia and re-joice. We have been bap-
 tized in Him; sing al-le-lu-ia and re-joice. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia,
 sing al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, sing al-le-lu-ia!

* CLOSING BAPTISMAL PRAYER

Rev. Samuelson

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who out of pure mercy decreed both the creation and the renewal of the world, be present and active in the sacraments which you have instituted for our salvation. Send forth the Spirit of adoption in full measure that those who are born of water and the Spirit may live under the power of the same Spirit all the days of their life and so arrive safely in their heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 42.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

L: May light break forth on God's Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Epiphany Alleluias
Cynthia Adcock, organ

John Weaver

Alleluia. We have seen His star in the East,
And are come to worship Him.
Arise shine. For thy light is come
And the glory of the Lord is ris'n upon thee.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 10:34-43

Mrs. Worth

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 10.

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

L: May light break forth on God's Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

1 When Je-sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by
 2 He came to share temp-ta - tion, our ut-most woe and
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we

4
 John, he did not come for par - don, but
 loss, for us and our sal - va - tion to
 make, this ver - y day in - vade us, and

7
 as his Fa-ther's Son. He came to share re -
 die up - on the cross. So when the Dove de -
 ev - ery bond-age break. Come, give our lives di -

10
 pent - ance with all who mourn their sins, to
 scend - ed on him, the Son of Man, the
 rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most: to

13
 speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
 hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
 share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 3.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

L: May light break forth on God's Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God.

BAPTISMAL MEDITATION

"Grace Flowing from Water and Spirit"

Rev. Ahrens

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Samuelson

THE 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

Amy Wagner

Designated gifts go to support **Laundry Love**. Laundry Love is an initiative in partnership with individuals, groups and local laundromats throughout the country to wash the clothes and bedding of individuals and/or families living in poverty. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

The Three Kings

Healey Willan

"Who knocks tonight so late?" The weary porter said.
 Three Kings stood at the gate, Each with a crown on head.
 The serving man bowed down, The inn was full, he knew.
 Said he, "In all this town__Is no fit place for you!"
 A light the manger lit: There lay the Mother meek.
 Said they, "This place is fit: Here is the rest we seek!"
 They loosed their latched strings; So stood they all unshod.
 Come in, Come in, ye Kings! And kiss the Feet of God.

Baptised in water,
sealed by the Spirit
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
heirs of salvation,
trusting his promise -
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Samuelson

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Rev. Ahrens

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

* CLOSING HYMN

“O God Beyond All Praising”

Thaxted

1. O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
 2. The flower of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
 3. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
 its fra-gile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on-ly won-der at ev-ery gift you send,
 but hid-den from all na-ture the'e-ter-nal seed is sown—
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end.
 though small in mor-tal sta-ture, to hea-ven's gar-den grown:
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:

We lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your Word,
 for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
 to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,
 we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
 and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
 and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING AND RELEASING

Rev. Ahrens: Today we say farewell to one who is leaving our community of faith. In 2007, this congregation welcomed Mark S. Williams to serve with us as Director of Christian Education. Today we gather to celebrate and give thanks to God for the ways we have been nourished and inspired by his ministry among us.

Mr. Williams: I thank First Congregational Church, its members and friends for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last 15 1/2 years. I ask forgiveness for the work begun but not completed, for expectations not met, for wounds not healed, for gifts not shared and promises not kept and for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here. Your kindness and support, your caring and love have sustained me, and I shall remember you with gratitude to God.

People: We receive your thankfulness and ask forgiveness for our mistakes. We accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We give thanks for our journey together in this place. We express our gratitude for your time among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Mr. Williams: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

**(the congregation may stand)*

Mrs. Christine Farquhar: Do we, the members and friends of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, release Mark Williams from service as our Director of Christian Education?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Mrs. Farquhar: Do we offer our encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Mrs. Farquhar: Do you, Mark, recognize and accept the completion of your ministry in this role with this congregation?

Mr. Williams: I do, with the help of God.

Mrs. Farquhar: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry of Faith Formation here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

Mr. Williams: I do, with the help of God.

Mrs. Farquhar: On behalf of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. The members and friends of our congregation hold you in prayer and pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service. Thanks be to God.

Rev. Ahrens: Loving God, Alpha and Omega, you are both beginning and end. Our endings and our beginnings are rooted in your love. Whether near or far, we are held close by your love, and kept safe from any lasting loss. Let our time together end with your blessing. Touch all memories with your grace and peace. Help us to live with courage and gladness in the future you present us. In every time and place, may we offer you our highest and our best, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

All: The Lord watch between us while we are absent one from another – in the Name of the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich, BWV 605

J.S. Bach

Please be seated for the Postlude.

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

† FOLLOWING THE POSTLUDE, please join us in Parish Hall for a reception honoring Mark Williams' ministry.

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the service and ministry of Mark Williams, with love and gratitude, by Mary Lightbody.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens – Broad Street

Rev. Samuelson – Education Wing breezeway

Mr. Williams – Parish Hall

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *liturgist*

Mark S. Williams, *liturgist*

Martha Worth, *liturgist*

Maddy Provenzano, *crucifer*

Aubrey Schmitt and Finley Hein, *acoltyes*

Barry Moenter, *interim organist*

Jim Gallagher, *interim choir director*

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

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

January 8, 2023

This Week at First Church

1/8
9 a.m. Service of Morning
Prayer & Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
(Classroom C & Virtual)
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12:15 p.m. Reception for Mark Williams
(Parish Hall)

1/9
12 Noon Congregational Care Ministry Mtg
(Fanning Rm)
6:30 p.m. House and Grounds Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Virtual)

1/10
5:30 p.m. Budget and Finance Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Virtual)

1/11
12 Noon Lunch Bunch (Agape, Polaris Pkwy)

1/12
12:30 p.m. Church Vitality Mtg (Virtual)
7 p.m. Security Team Mtg (Virtual)
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)

1/14
9 a.m. House and Grounds Work Day
(Church)

1/15
9 a.m. Service of Morning
Prayer & Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
(Classroom C & Virtual)
Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)
6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)

This Week in Faith Formation

Sunday, January 8, 10 a.m.

“She Has a Name”

Our Adult Faith Formation class will begin this new year by focusing on human trafficking. This Sunday, Courtney Schmackers, the Executive Director of the “She Has a Name” organization, will educate us about the extent of human trafficking within our community. We also will learn how “She Has a Name” responds to human trafficking through education, advocacy, and care for those who are directly impacted.

Please join us for what will surely be an eye-opening look at what is seldom discussed openly and is often misunderstood throughout our society. If you are unable to attend this class in person, you may join us via Zoom by using the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82717081754?pwd=c1BjTmhaUUtPRmlYdm-MyZmtoR2hBZz09>. The passcode is 058882.

We are also delighted that Ms. Schmackers and her family will join us for worship at the 11 a.m. service! Please contact Rev. Joanna Samuelson if you need additional information. Hope you can join us.

The 2023 Annual Campaign

Thank you to those who have submitted their pledge to the 2023 Annual Campaign “Together in Mission. Sharing God’s Love.” Your commitment supports the mission and ministry of First Congregational Church and allows the Budget and Finance committee to plan a sustainable operating budget.

If you have not submitted your pledge yet, there is still time. Visit www.first-church.org/annual-campaign or Realm to pledge online. Pledge forms can also be found in the church office and in each week’s Depart to Serve newsletter.

Time Out Friday

January 20

5:30-7 p.m., Jazz starts at 6 p.m.

Northstar Café at Easton

4015 Townsfair Way

Columbus OH, 43219

614-532-5444

If you like hearing free live jazz music and eating good food, then we have the perfect event for you! Join us for dinner on Friday, January 20 at 5:30pm at the Northstar Café (at Easton) where they offer live jazz music at 6pm! It will be a lovely time to connect and enjoy the talents of local musicians. It's important that everyone register by January 18 so we can be sure to save you a seat. We hope to see you there!

To register visit <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MjY5OTg3NjctMjViNS00NTUzLTkzMzgtYWY3MjAx-MTUxMzEz>

Book Lovers Alert!

At last! A book to accompany your morning cup of equal exchange coffee! What's more, you can get them both at the same time. The Adult Library is being reimaged with TLC, and some books will look for a new home. Books that are duplicate copies or not an asset to the collection will be available to you starting in January. During coffee sales on the first and third Sundays of the month, there will be a cart of orphan books located near the coffee cart. You are welcome to browse through the books and take whatever you like.

Donations will be accepted. Money from any contribution will be used for environmental-related needs of the church. Each Sunday you may find a different set of titles, so come often, browse, and enjoy!

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, January 11, 12-1 p.m.

Agape

405 Polaris Parkway Suite 101,

Westerville OH 43082

614-948-2025

Looking for a way to meet and connect with new church friends? Let's do lunch! Agapé in Westerville offers full flavor, quick-serve Mediterranean-style food in a bowl, salad, or pita made with all fresh ingredients. We hope to see you there for the food and friendly conversation! Please register by January 10 at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NzU5MzhiNjktOWQ5NS00M-I1LTgwZTYtYWY3OTAwZjBkZWZMz>

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 **Laundry Love**. Laundry Love is an initiative in partnership with individuals, groups and local laundromats throughout the country to wash the clothes and bedding of individuals and/or families living in poverty. Thank you for your generosity.

Global Mission Partner Korea: Abigail Reed

Abigail Reed is a global mission intern serving with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK). PROK is a close partner with Global Ministries and is very active in clergy and mission exchanges with many Disciples and UCC congregations and seminaries. PROK is a progressive denomination, bearing witness to a number of peace and justice concerns within the Church, in Korean society, and globally.

In Haenam, Yangmuri Church works through the Reading Star program, teaching English through reading books. The English program focuses on faith practices and character building. Ms. Reed currently teaches in the English Education ministry at Yangmuri Church while also offering support to the PROK Ecumenical office in Seoul.

Keep in Prayer

Members Rick Sayre; Gretchen Atkinson; Chris Farquhar; Leslie Boltz; Wendy Reber; Annette McCormick; 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 Gail and Jim Lowe’s great niece, Ani; Margaret Cipriani’s sister and brother-in-law, Sara and Terry Godwin; Barb Clapham’s friends Bruce and Pat DeLong; Nancy Loy’s friend, Maxey; Tim Ahrens’ friends Janis and Jerome Cripe; Paula Terry-Locke; Margaret Cipriani’s friend, Marilyn Niethammer; Kathy Reed’s friend, Sue Pinkerton; Bev Cook and Lynn Wallich’s friend, Jeanie Schultz; Victor John’s parents, Charles and Mary Jane John; Tom Gies’ sister, Monica Depinet; Nancy Mayle; Martha Huey’s sister, Stephanie Childs; Melissa Kulwicki’s friends and neighbors, John and Carrie Mosley; and Bev and Bert Cook’s sister-in-law, Sue Jones.

Those who mourn loved ones Carl, Beth, and Jude Gelfius, on the death of Carl’s father; Phil Armbruster, on the death of his father; the family and friends of the Rev. Carol Joyce who, as an officer of the UCC, was the first woman elected to national leadership in a mainline Protestant denomination.

We pray for the Catholic Church on the death of Pope Benedict the 16th, and a blessing for Pope Francis the 1st as he presides at his funeral and continues his care for the church.

We pray for Damar Hamlin and his family, and all athletes who suffer serious injuries.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches in Iran, Iraq, and Syria. We pray for Global Ministries worker Abigail Reed in Korea.

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, Alexis Wayne
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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