



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 15, 2023

The Second 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

Pastorale  
Solemn Processional

William B. Cooper  
Robert A. Harris

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Mr. Alexander Palmer

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

*\* All stand as you are able.*

L: Beautiful are the works of God!

**P: Beautiful also are the skins of God's people!**

L: Beautiful is the mind of God!

**P: Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!**

L: Beautiful is the heart of God!

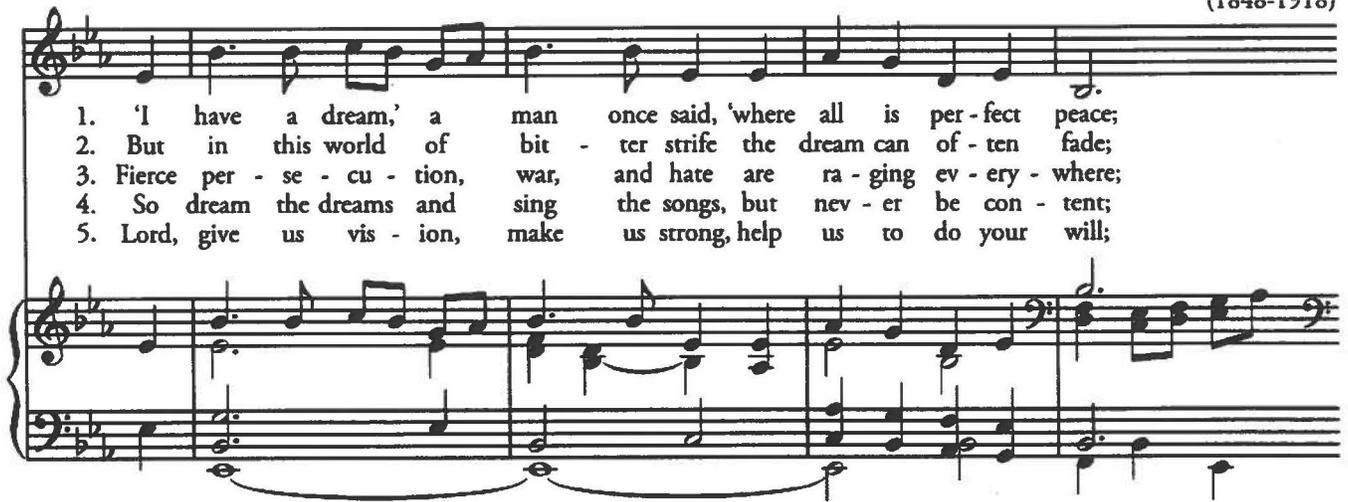
**P: Beautiful also are the souls of God's people!**

L: God made the heavens and the earth!

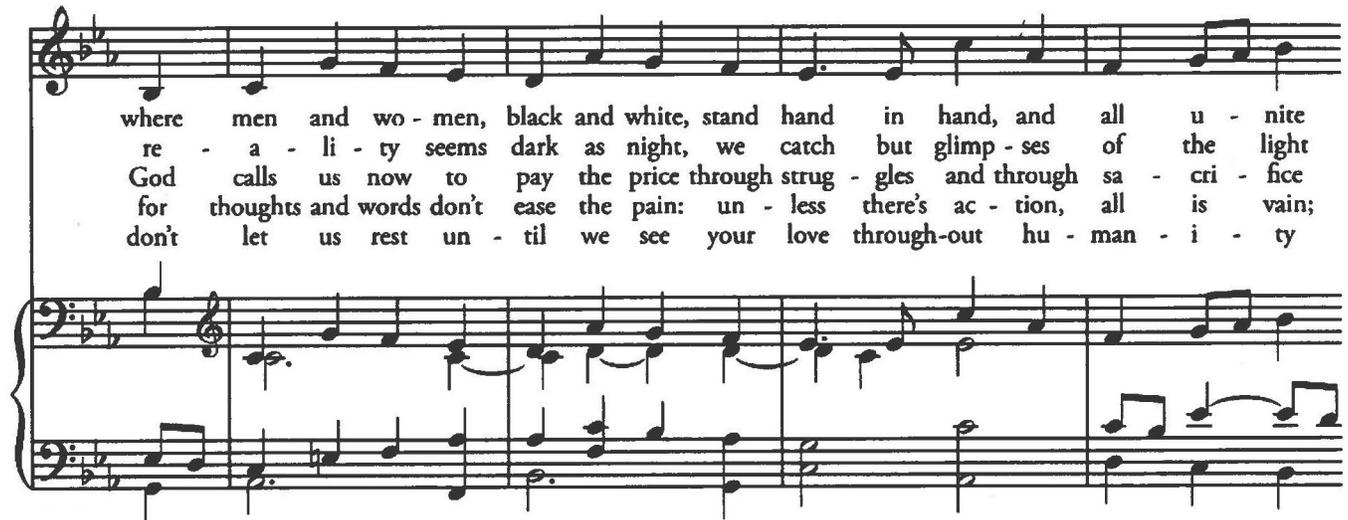
**P: To God be the glory for the things God has done.**

*Adapted: Trinity UCC, Chicago, Ill.*

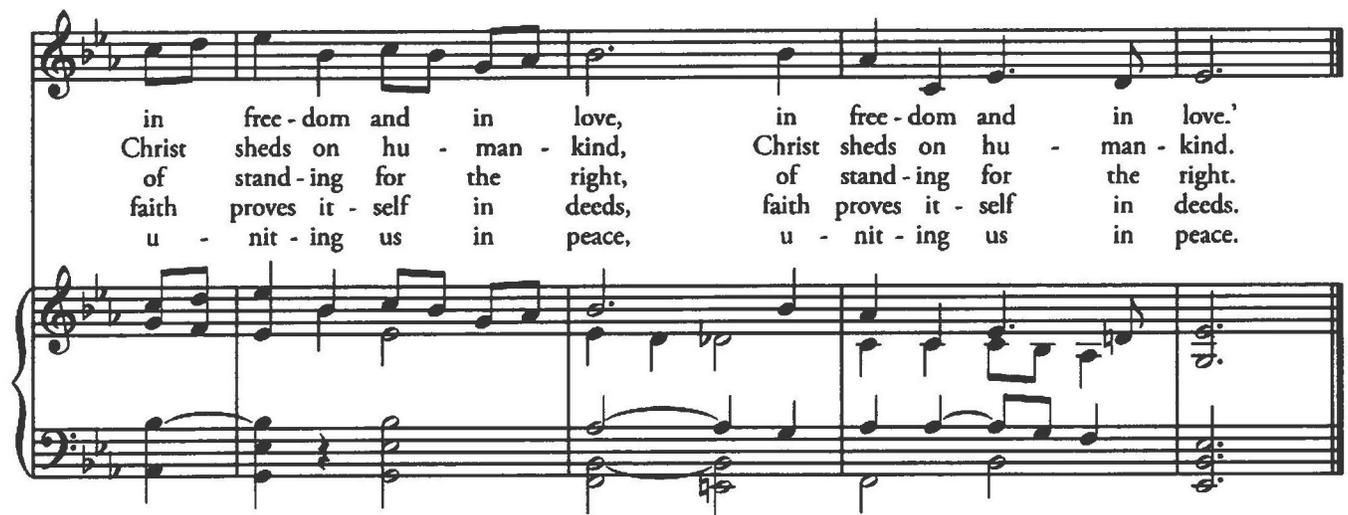
(1070-1710)



1. 'I have a dream,' a man once said, 'where all is per - fect peace;  
 2. But in this world of bit - ter strife the dream can of - ten fade;  
 3. Fierce per - se - cu - tion, war, and hate are ra - ging ev - ery - where;  
 4. So dream the dreams and sing the songs, but nev - er be con - tent;  
 5. Lord, give us vis - ion, make us strong, help us to do your will;



where men and wo - men, black and white, stand hand in hand, and all u - nite  
 re - a - li - ty seems dark as night, we catch but glimps - es of the light  
 God calls us now to pay the price through strug - gles and through sa - cri - fice  
 for thoughts and words don't ease the pain: un - less there's ac - tion, all is vain;  
 don't let us rest un - til we see your love through-out hu - man - i - ty



in free - dom and in love, in free - dom and in love.  
 Christ sheds on hu - man - kind, Christ sheds on hu - man - kind.  
 of stand - ing for the right, of stand - ing for the right.  
 faith proves it - self in deeds, faith proves it - self in deeds.  
 u - nit - ing us in peace, u - nit - ing us in peace.

\* INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: God be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**P: Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your Church, following the example of your prophet The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of 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

Ms. Jacquelyn Dean

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 49:1-7

Mr. Palmer

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 49.*

Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb the Lord named me. The Lord made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of the Lord's hand I was hidden; the Lord made me a polished arrow; in the Lord's quiver I was hidden away. And the Lord said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God."

And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be the Lord's servant, to bring Jacob back, and that Israel might be gathered to God, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—God says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and the Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

The Lily of the Valley

Afro-American Spiritual  
arr. Wendell Whalum

He's the lily of the valley, Oh, my Lord.  
I've never been to heaven but I've been told, Oh, my Lord.  
That the streets up there are paved with gold, Oh, my Lord.

What kind of shoes are those You wear? Oh, my Lord.  
That You can walk up in the air, Oh, my Lord.

These shoes I wear are gospel shoes, Oh, my Lord.  
And You can wear these if You choose, Oh, my Lord.

He's the lily of the valley, Oh, my Lord.

*A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, chapter 1.*

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

*Precious Lord*

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,  
3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
when my life is al - most gone,  
and the day is past and gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:  
At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

*Refrain*  
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

*A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 1.*

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed. He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“What Would Mike Say?”

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

Rev. Ahrens

Designated gifts go to support **BREAD**. We are all members of the BREAD organization – Building Responsibility Equality And Dignity. Your gifts are needed to help us build a strong justice ministry in Columbus. Thank you for your generosity

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

All My Trials  
Al Adcock, baritone

arr. Norman Luboff

If religion was a thing that money could buy,  
The rich would live and the poor would die.  
All my trials, Lord, soon be over.

Too late my brothers. Too late, but never mind.  
All my trials, Lord, soon be over.

Now hush, little baby, don't you cry.  
You know that man is born to die.  
All my trials, Lord, soon be over.

\* PRESENTATION HYMN

"As with Gladness Men of Old" *verse 3*

*Dix*

As they offered gifts most rare At that manger rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy, Pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Samuelson

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve

**P: Thanks be to God.**

1. Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and Heav - en ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.  
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chast-ening rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
 3. God of our wear - y years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening skies; Let it re-sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
 Yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet Come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
 Thou Who hast by Thy might led us in - to the light; Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered; We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, Our God, where we met Thee; Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for-

brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -  
 slaugh - tered, Out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at  
 get Thee; Shad-owed be - neath Thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, Let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.  
 last Where the pure gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

*Please be seated for the Postlude.*

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*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 would be delighted to assist you.*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of Sam Morris. “We miss you every day.” Lisa, Kent, Courter, and Wyatt Shimeall Morris.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens – Narthex

Rev. Samuelson – Education Wing breezeway

Melissa Kulwicki – Education Wing north doors

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *liturgist*

Alexander Palmer, *liturgist*

Jacquelyn Dean, *worship leader*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Ethan Murray, *crucifer*

Emma Dean, *acoltye*

Barry Moenter, *interim organist*

Jim Gallagher, *interim choir director*

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

# Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

January 15, 2023

## This Week at First Church

1/15

- 9 a.m. Service of Morning  
Prayer & Communion  
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Adult Faith Formation  
(Classroom C & Virtual)  
Faith Formation (Classrooms)  
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)

1/16

Church and Office are Closed in Observance of  
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

1/17

- 4 p.m. Annual Campaign Committee Mtg  
(Virtual)
- 7 p.m. Church Council Mtg (Virtual)

1/18

- 10 a.m. Largest Table Food Prep and Delivery  
(Kitchen)
- 10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)

1/19

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

1/20

- 5:30 p.m. Time Out Friday  
(Northstar Café at Easton)

1/22

- 9 a.m. Service of Morning  
Prayer & Communion  
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Faith Formation (Classrooms)  
First Serves (Education Wing)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
- 6 p.m. Youth Connections (Parish Hall)

## This Week in Faith Formation Sunday, January 15 at 10 a.m.

All are invited to participate in our Faith Formation classes for all ages that take place from 10-10:50 a.m. on the first three Sundays of the month. On the fourth Sunday, there is an intergenerational service project that takes place during the Sunday School hour (more details about that next week!)

Our Adult Faith Formation Class conversation about human trafficking continues this week, Sunday, January 15. Our guest presenter will be Ms. Tiandra Finch, Director of Programs, at “Freedom a la Cart,” an organization that provides a safe space for survivors of human trafficking to heal, learn, and grow as they prepare for sustainable employment and reintegrate with our community.

If you'd like to participate via Zoom, the passcode is: 058882, and the link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82717081754?pwd=c1BjTmhaUUtPRmlYdmMyZm-toR2hBZz09>. If you need additional information about any of our classes, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rev. Joanna (jsamuels@first-church.org). 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, please do so by today, Sunday, January 15. Visit [www.first-church.org/annual-campaign](http://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. If you have any questions or concerns please email Business Administrator Annette McCormick at [amccormick@first-church.org](mailto:amccormick@first-church.org)

## 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 5:30 p.m. at the Northstar Café (at Easton) where they offer live jazz music at 6 p.m.! 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=MjY5OT-g3NjctMjViNS00NTUzLTkzMzgtYWY3MjAx-MTUxMzEz>

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## Laundry Love

“Laundry Love” is an outreach ministry which provides the opportunity for individuals and families of low income to wash their own clothes and bedding, without cost, at a local laundromat.

Our next “Laundry Love” event is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., at the West Land Laundromat in Franklinton. As volunteers, we assist individuals with operating the washers and dryers.

If you are interested or need additional information, please contact Kris Brant ([kbrant2408@gmail.com](mailto:kbrant2408@gmail.com)) or Rev. Joanna ([jsamuelson@first-church.org](mailto:jsamuelson@first-church.org)) for more details.

Thank you for all the ways that you serve God by serving our community!

## 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 reimagined 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!

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## 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 BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity). BREAD is the organization through which our congregation works for social justice. BREAD has a 24-year history of improving the quality of life in Central Ohio by researching serious community problems and gathering the power of people in nearly 40 congregations to press public officials to implement proven solutions to those problems. BREAD rises! Thank you for your generosity.

## Save the Date

### The Annual Meeting

Sunday January 29

One Worship Service at 10 a.m.

Meeting at 11 a.m.

Church Potluck at Noon

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### Global Mission Partners

#### Emmanuel Baptist Church and Lutheran Church of El Salvador

The vision of Emmanuel Baptist Church, located in El Salvador's capital city of San Salvador, is to be a Christian, Evangelical, Baptist, and Ecumenical church committed to the cause of peace and justice in El Salvador. The church's mission is to promote personal and community transformation through evangelism, education, and training of pastors and deacons to contribute to constructing a more just and humane society.

The Lutheran Church of El Salvador began as a North America Mission in the 1950s and today is a vital Central American Church. El Salvador is a country whose 12-year civil war claimed an estimated 75,000 lives. Speaking out in opposition to the government can be a serious crime. The church has long believed that service and advocacy on behalf of the poor are fundamental to the Church's mission. The Lutheran Church of El Salvador focuses on three basic human rights in the aftermath of the civil war and ongoing human rights violations in El Salvador. The Truth, Justice, and Peace project is working for the people's right to the truth, to justice, and to amends regarding the events during the civil war and the continued torture, execution, and disappearance of people even today.

## Keep in Prayer

**Members** Anne Morganstern; Glenn and Sharon Bardus; Rick Sayre; Gretchen Atkinson; 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** George Ferzli's father; Lee Wetmore's daughter, Rhonda and family; Jenny Provenzano's friend, Lola; 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 cousin, Michael Chambers, and her friend, Sue Pinkerton; Victor John's parents, Charles and Mary Jane John; Tom Gies' sister, Monica Depinet; Nancy Mayle; and Martha Huey's sister, Stephanie Childs.

**Those who mourn loved ones** Jan Kevan on the death of her son, Rick; George Ferzli and family on the death of his mother; Megan Smith, grandson Peregrin Smith Jr. and family on the death of her step-granddaughter and his sister, Sarah; Phil Armbruster, on the death of his father; and Carl, Beth, and Jude Gelfius, on the death of Carl's father.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. We pray for Global Ministries workers at the Emmanuel Baptist Church and Lutheran Church of El Salvador.

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

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## Music, Arts, & Heritage Commission Hosts January Coffee Hour

January Coffee Hour is being sponsored by the Commission for Music, Arts and Heritage with January 15 being the Arts Committee, January 22 - Music Committee, and January 29 - Heritage Committee - helping with lunch, as a part of the Congregational Meeting. Join us in Parish Hall after the 11 a.m. service!

# 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

## 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

# 2023 Nominations Slate

## **Officers**

Moderator: Greg Halbe

Vice Moderator:

Treasurer: James Velo

Treasurer Elect:

Secretary:

Secretary Elect:

## **Commissioners**

Administration Commissioner:

Administration Commissioner - Elect:

Church Growth Commissioner:

Church Growth Commissioner - Elect:

Church Vitality Commissioner: Wendy Kennedy

Church Vitality Commissioner - Elect:

Education Commissioner:

Education Commissioner - Elect:

House & Grounds Commissioner:

House & Grounds Commissioner - Elect:

Music, Arts, & Heritage Commissioner:

Music, Arts, & Heritage Commissioner - Elect:

Justice & Mercy Commissioner: Kris Brant

Justice & Mercy Commissioner - Elect: Jan Miller

## **At-Large Members**

Adult Member-at-Large:

Youth Member-at-Large:

## **Nominating Chair**

Christine Farquhar

## **Trustees**

Chair: Sue Cook

2-year term:

4-year term: Jan Miller, Hugh Schultz

## **Deacons**

Senior Deacon: Martha Wilson

Senior Deacon - Elect: Lynn Wallich

2-year term: Fran Panek, Marty Worth

3-year term:





## 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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[www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx](http://www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx)



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