

WORSHIP AT TEN

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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January 29, 2023

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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**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

“Es ist das Heil uns kommen her”  
 (“Salvation unto Us has Come”)

Dieterich Buxtehude  
and Freidrich Zachow

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Christine Farquhar

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

\*Please stand as you are able.

(\* indicates Congregation standing)

L: The God of New Beginnings has called us to this place.

P: We come celebrating the new life that is ours as God’s faithful people.

L: Let your joy ring through the universe, and let your vision see to the depths of every soul.

P: We will be shouters of joy and seekers of God’s light wherever we go!

All: Praise God for this amazing day! Let us worship God!

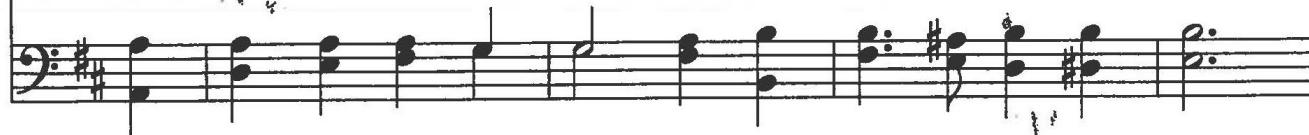
—Sandra E. Graham, from Flames of the Spirit, ed. Ruth C. Duck



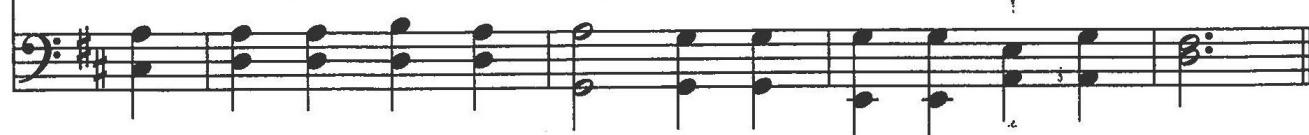
She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the word;  
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion One Lord, one faith, one birth;  
 By schis - ms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more;



From heaven He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;  
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.  
 And to one hope she press - es, With ev - ery grace en - dued.  
 And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.  
 And the great church vic - to - rious Shall be the church at rest.



5. Yet she on earth has union  
 With God the Three in One,  
 And mystic sweet communion  
 With those whose rest is won:

O happy ones and holy!  
 Lord, give us grace that we,  
 Like them, the meek and lowly,  
 May live eternally.

\* INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: God be with you.

**P. And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**P: Cause us, O Lord our God, to lie down each night in peace, and to awaken to renewed life and strength. Help us to order our lives by your counsel; lead us in the paths of righteousness. Lord, be a shield about us, protect us. Save our world from sorrow, from hate, and from war. Curb within us the will to do evil. Shelter us beneath the shadow of your wings, for you are God forever and ever. 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

Rev. Samuelson

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Micah 6:1-8

Christine Farquhar

*A reading from the book of the prophet Micah, chapter 6.*

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against the people, and the Lord will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before the Lord with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" God has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

We wait for Thy loving kindness, O God  
Daniel Ehrman, tenor

William McKie

We wait for Thy loving kindness, O God: in the midst of Thy temple. Alleluia.

O God, according to Thy Name, so is Thy praise unto the world's end.  
Thy right hand is full of righteousness: Alleluia.

We wait for Thy loving kindness, O God: in the midst of Thy temple.  
O Lord send us now prosperity. Amen.

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

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, children of God: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

1. What does the Lord re - quire for praise and of - fering?  
 2. Rul - ers of earth, give ear! should you not jus - tice know?  
 3. Mas - ters of wealth and trade, all you for whom we toil,  
 4. Still down the a - ges ring the proph - ets' stern com - mands:  
 5. How shall our lives ful - fill God's law so hard and high?

What sac - ri - fice of praise or trib - ute bid you bring?  
 Will God your plead - ing hear while crime and cruel - ty grow?  
 Think not to win God's aid, if lies your com - merce soil.  
 To mer - chant, work - er, king, they bring God's high de - mands:  
 Let Christ en - due our will with grace to for - ti - fy.

Do just - ly, love mer - cy, walk hum - bly with your God.  
 Do just - ly, love mer - cy, walk hum - bly with your God.  
 Do just - ly, love mer - cy, walk hum - bly with your God.  
 Do just - ly, love mer - cy, walk hum - bly with your God.  
 Then just - ly, in mer - cy, we'll hum - bly walk with God.

*A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 5.*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Blessed”

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 **Knight Perry Fund**. The Knight-Perry Fund, through the Board of Trustees, provides support for persons in the church in financial need. The Senior Minister, in strict confidence, approves all loan requests. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Glory of the Father

Egil Hovland

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.  
We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.

In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God.  
In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.  
He came to his own, and his own received him not.

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.  
We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.

\* 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. Ahrens

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

\* CLOSING HYMN 440

"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

Maryton

The musical score consists of three staves of music in common time (indicated by '4') and G major (indicated by a 'G' with a sharp). The top staff is for the soprano voice, the middle staff for the alto voice, and the bottom staff for the bassoon. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below each staff. The first section of lyrics is:

1. O Mas - ter, let me walk with Thee In low - ly  
2. Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear,  
3. Teach me Thy pa - tience; still with Thee In clos - er,  
4. In hope that sends a shin - ing ray Far down the

The second section of lyrics is:

paths of ser - vice free; Tell me Thy se - cret;  
win - ning word of love; Teach me the way - ward  
dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith  
fu - ture's broad - ening way; In peace that on - ly

The third section of lyrics is:

help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.  
feet to stay, And guide them in the home - ward way.  
sweet and strong, In trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.  
Thou canst give, With Thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Samuelson

POSTLUDE

"Es ist das Heil uns kommen her"

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.

*You are invited to move forward and sit in the front section of the Nave for the Annual Congregational Meeting.*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the hard work, wisdom, and courage of Church Council and lay leaders during 2022 by Christine Farquhar.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Samuelson – Narthex

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *liturgist*

Christine Farquhar, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Ethan Murray, *crucifer*

Emma Dean, *acolyte*

Barry Moenter, *interim organist*

Jim Gallagher, *interim choir director*

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

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# **2023 Nominations Slate**

## **Officers**

Moderator: Greg Halbe

Vice Moderator:

Treasurer: James Velo

Treasurer Elect: Ramona Moenter

Secretary: Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen

Secretary Elect:

## **Commissioners**

Administration Commissioner: Tom Brownfield

Administration Commissioner - Elect:

Church Growth Commissioner: Steve Sterrett

Church Growth Commissioner - Elect:

Church Vitality Commissioner: Wendy Kennedy

Church Vitality Commissioner - Elect: Janice Taft

Education Commissioner:

Education Commissioner - Elect: Mariner Taft

House & Grounds Commissioner: Michael Kennedy

House & Grounds Commissioner - Elect:

Music, Arts, & Heritage Commissioner: Melissa Kulwicki

Music, Arts, & Heritage Commissioner - Elect: Jim Griffin

Justice & Mercy Commissioner: Kris Brant

Justice & Mercy Commissioner - Elect: Jan Miller

## **At-Large Members**

Adult Member-at-Large: Jacquelyn Dean

Youth Member-at-Large:

## **Nominating Chair**

Christine Farquhar

## **Trustees**

Chair: Sue Cook

4-year term: Hugh Schultz

4-year term: Jan Miller

Open Spot: Melody Leidheiser

## **Deacons**

Senior Deacon: Martha Wilson

Senior Deacon - Elect: Lynn Wallich

2-year term: Fran Panek

2-year term: Martha Worth

3-year term: Tyler Rogers



# Depart to Serve

January 29, 2023

## This Week at First Church

**1/29**

- 10 a.m.      Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)  
11 a.m.      Annual Meeting (Sanctuary)  
12 Noon      Congregational Potluck (Parish Hall)

**1/30**

- 12 Noon      Grief Support Group (Virtual)

**1/31**

- 5:30 p.m.      Laundry Love (Wash Land)

**2/1**

- 10:30 a.m.      Book Study (Virtual)  
7 p.m.      Book Club (Virtual)

**2/2**

- 6 p.m.      First Church Ringers Practice (Bell Rm)  
7:15 p.m.      First Church Choir Rehearsal (Parish Hall)

**2/4**

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

**2/5**

- 9 a.m.      Service of Morning Prayer & Communion  
(Parish Hall & Virtual)  
10 a.m.      Faith Formation (Classrooms)  
11 a.m.      Coffee Sales & Book Offer (Parish Hall)  
12:15 p.m.      Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)  
3 p.m.      Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)  
First Church Youth Bowling  
(Columbus Square Bowling Palace)

## The Annual Meeting

**Sunday, January 29**

**One Worship Service at 10 a.m.**  
**Meeting at 11 a.m.**  
**Church Potluck at Noon**

Everyone is encouraged to attend this very important yearly event in the life of our church. Childcare will be provided during worship and the annual meeting.

Voting Members are active members of First Congregational Church - United Church of Christ - Columbus, Ohio. Voting Members must be present to vote.

Non-Voting Members are Associate Members of First Congregational Church - United Church of Christ – Columbus, Ohio, and Guests.

The Annual Meeting will be recorded but will not be accessible through Zoom or Live-Stream.

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## Volunteers Needed to Host Future Coffee Hours

We hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy the return of Coffee Hour following the 11 a.m. service in Parish Hall! Church Vitality is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping us continue to provide this opportunity to socialize and connect with our church family. We will provide simple guidelines to follow that will make it a fun and easy way to volunteer at First Church! Please contact Cosby Carrico ([kkcarrico@gmail.com](mailto:kkcarrico@gmail.com)) or Wendy Kennedy ([wendyjkennedy@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyjkennedy@yahoo.com)) if interested.

## This Week in Faith Formation

### No Faith Formation Due to Annual Meeting

Just a quick reminder that our Faith Formation classes (for all ages) will not meet this coming Sunday, January 29, so that we may all worship together as a congregation at 10 a.m.

This will be followed by the annual meeting at 11 a.m. (also in the sanctuary). Nursery care will be provided during worship and the annual meeting for the youngest among us. All are welcome to join us for the potluck luncheon in Parish Hall that will immediately follow the annual meeting.

Looking ahead, on Sunday, February 5, our guest presenter for our adult Faith Formation class is from the Mid-Ohio Food Collective. Our high school and middle school classes are also welcome to join us for this opportunity to learn more about food deserts, food insecurity and hunger within our community. For more details, please contact Rev. Joanna ([jsamuelson@first-church.org](mailto:jsamuelson@first-church.org)).

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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 Wash 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!

## Youth Group News

All high school and middle school First Church youth (and their friends) are invited to participate in a bowling event that is scheduled for Sunday, February 5 from 3-5 p.m. at Columbus Square Bowling Palace (5707 Forest Hills Blvd., Columbus, 43221) located just off of 270 and is an easy drive from anywhere in Columbus or the suburbs.

If your teen is able to participate, please contact Rev. Joanna ([jsamuelson@first-church.org](mailto:jsamuelson@first-church.org)) or Melissa Kulwicki ([communications@first-church.org](mailto:communications@first-church.org)). We also will send out an email reminder to all the parents of our First Church youth. If you are not receiving our Youth Group emails or if your email address has changed, please contact Pat Patterson ([ppatterson@first-church.org](mailto:ppatterson@first-church.org)) in the church office so that she can update your contact information. Thank you!

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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 the **Knight Perry Fund**. The Knight-Perry Fund, through the Board of Trustees, provides support for persons in the church in financial need. The Senior Minister, in strict confidence, approves all loan requests. Thank you for your generosity.

## First Church Book Club

Everyone is invited to join the First Church Book Club! The club meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. to engage in member-led discussions about that month's book selection. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 1 on Zoom. The selection for February is The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles. If you would like more information or the link to the Zoom meeting email Elaine Warren at [melainewarren@aol.com](mailto:melainewarren@aol.com).

## **February Lunch Bunch**

**Wednesday, February 15, 12-1 p.m.**

**Molly Woo's Asian Bistro,  
Polaris Fashion Place  
1500 Polaris Parkway  
Columbus, OH, 43240**

Let's gather around a big round table and enjoy lunch together at Molly Woo's at Polaris! Noodle dishes, sushi, peppery stir-fries, and award-winning spring rolls...they have it all. Please join us for some church fellowship and be sure to register by February 14 at <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MTYxZGY1NTEtOTI0NC00NTI3LTk4YT-MtYWY3ZjAxMmVmODY0> or by clicking the QR Code below.



## **Time Out Tuesday**

**February 28, 6-7 p.m.**

**Cap City Fine Diner in Grandview  
1299 Olentangy River Rd  
Columbus, OH, 43212**

Let's enjoy dinner together at Cap City in Grandview where they have "classic comfort food made modern!" The menu is brimming with upscale touches to your diner favorites and the company of your church family is sure to warm your heart! Please register by February 25 so we can be sure to save you a seat at:

[https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/t:linkString=YjMzNzhhZmUtYmE4Zi00MjU2LTkyMG\\_MtYWY3ZjAxM2ZhMTVh](https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/t:linkString=YjMzNzhhZmUtYmE4Zi00MjU2LTkyMG_MtYWY3ZjAxM2ZhMTVh) or by clicking the QR Code below.



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## **Game Night**

**Friday, February 3, 5:30 p.m.**

**Parish Hall**

Who's got game? We do! Come join us in Parish Hall for a casual evening of games and fun on Friday, February 3 at 5:30 p.m. Light snacks, lemonade, and popcorn will be provided. Feel free to pack a dinner to bring with you to enjoy before we get started with the games at 6 p.m. Please enter via the Ninth Street door or elevator, which will be unlocked from 5:15- 6:15 p.m. If you arrive after 6:15 p.m., please use the intercom at the Ninth Street door and ring Parish Hall to be buzzed in. All attendees will need to sign-in/out upon entering/exiting the building. We will have a variety of games available but please also bring any games or puzzles you would like to share for the evening. Kids at heart and kids of all ages are welcome! Please register by February 2.

Register by clicking the link or QRCode below

<https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YzJmY2UyNzUtYmMwZS00N-TRmLWE1ZGYtYWY3MjAxM2E5MjI4>



## **Global Mission Partner India: Family Village Farm**

The Family Village Farm (FVF) was founded in 1969 for orphans and the elderly in Katpadi, south India, where FVF is located. The children come from difficult circumstances, some having no parents or one parent who is not able to support them. Ten to twelve children, a mother, and grandparents live in each cottage in a family-type group. The mothers and grandparents are also poor and come from difficult circumstances. This life-giving ministry for children also provides a home for elderly adults. These adults provide "families" for the children and help to care for them while benefiting from the housing and support.

Global Ministries supports children and elders living at FVF through its Sponsorship Program, which provides food, clothing, education, and training for each sponsored child. FVF also includes staff housing, a bakery, poultry farm, a feed mixing unit and a dairy for the supply of milk to the residents. Young boys are trained to tend crops and fruit trees and the girls are trained in sewing. Girls are given training and the opportunity to make school uniforms, hospital linen, and garments for other local schools. These activities help support the FVF. The school also serves 300 non-resident children from nearby small villages. Additional training at school helps the children learn skills that will enable them to be self-supporting in the future.

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## **Upcoming Mission Offerings**

February 5	Deep Griha
February 12	Good Samaritan
February 19	First Serves
February 26	Faith Mission

## **Keep in Prayer**

**Members** Kathy Reed; Anne Morganstern; Glenn and Sharon Bardus; Rick Sayre; Gretchen Atkinson; Leslie Boltz; Wendy Reber; Annette McCormick; 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; 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** Janet Hoffman and family, on the death of her mother, Shirley Santopadre; Sallie and Karl Danneberger and the Wesner family on the death of their sister-in-law, Rose Wesner; Jan Kevan on the death of her son, Rick Kevan; George Ferzli and family on the death of his mother; and Megan Smith, grandson Peregrin Smith Jr. and family on the death of her step-granddaughter and his sister, Sarah.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches in Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, and Tunisia. We pray for Global Ministries workers at the Family Village Farm in Katpadi, India.

We pray for the citizens of California on the loss of 25 people killed while dancing, working, and shopping.

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: Cosby 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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