



MORNING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION AT NINE  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 12, 2023

The Sixth Sunday after 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.*

*The liturgy of Morning Prayer is a form of daily worship adapted through the ages that has its earliest roots in our Jewish heritage. Its premise is one of praying to God at the beginning of the day—giving thanks for another day ahead. The service falls roughly into three main parts: Opening sentences and singing/reading of the Psalms; readings from Holy Scripture - usually one from the Hebrew texts, and one from the Gospels - interspersed with ancient songs of the church; and prayers. To this we add Holy Communion, bringing further meaning to the totality of the prayers we have already offered. The liturgy presupposes full and hearty congregational involvement in the spoken and sung responses, preparing us to be sent forth from this house of worship into the wider world to live out the Great Commission.*

PRELUDE

Ann Eliot, *pianist*

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, the life and light of humanity.

**People: Great is God's love for us. Alleluia!**

*Please stand as you are able.*

*(\* indicates Congregation standing)*

\* THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

L: O God, open our lips.

**P: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

L: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

**P: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

\* OPENING SONG

I Sing as I Arise Today

*Seed of Life*



1. I sing as I a - rise to - day! I call on my Cre - a - tor's might:  
 2. The word of God to be my speech, The hand of God to be my stay,  
 3. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



The will of God to be my guide, The eye of God to be my sight.  
 The shield of God to be my strength, The path of God to be my way.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

L: Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

**P: Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart,**

L: who also do no wrong but walk in his ways.

**P: You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.**

L: O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

**P: Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.**

L: I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances.

**P: I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.**

\* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: The peace of God be always with you.

**P: And also with you.**

*\*Please find the blue Welcome notebook, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor so you may greet them by name.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Melissa Kulwicki

THE FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Rev. Samuelson

*A reading from the book of Deuteronomy, chapter 30.*

“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in God’s ways, and observing God’s commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying God, and holding fast to God, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

1. A - rise, shine out, your light has come, un - fold - ing  
 2. A - bove earth's val - leys, thick with night, high on your  
 3. From walls sur - pass - ing time and space un - num - bered  
 4. The sounds of vi - o - lence shall cease as dwell - ings  
 5. The danc - ing air shall glow with light, and sun and

ci - ty of our dreams. On dis - tant hills a  
 walls the dawn ap - pears, and his - to - ry shall  
 gates, like o - pen hands, shall gath - er gifts from  
 of sal - va - tion rise to spar - kle in e -  
 moon give up their place, when love shines out of

glo - ry gleams: the new cre - a - tion has be - gun.  
 dry its tears, as na - tions stream towards your light.  
 all the lands, and wel - come all the hu - man race.  
 ter - nal skies from a - ve - nues of praise and peace.  
 ev - ery face, our good, our glo - ry, and de - light.



THE PRAYERS

Rev. Samuelson

L: God be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

**P: Almighty God, you have given us the Word in flesh. Let the Word be the wisdom for all that we do in our lives; through Jesus Christ, this Word, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*(We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, the members, family, and friends who are listed in the Depart to Serve and whom we hold in our hearts in prayer. As directed, you are invited to pray silently or aloud for those needs and concerns you have.)*

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.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, be our starting point and our haven, and accompany us in this day's journey. Use our hands to do the work of your creation, and use our lives to bring others the new life you give this world in Jesus Christ, redeemer of all. **Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

*Want 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 **United Church of Christ Disaster Relief** for the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey. More than 15,000 people have been killed and tens of thousands injured after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Turkey and Syria on Monday. UCC Disaster Relief is a global-reaching organization called to respond to both natural and human-caused disasters, providing physical, financial, emotional, and spiritual care to those affected. Thank you for your generosity.

1. O ra - diant Christ, in - car - nate Word, e - ter - nal love re - vealed in time:  
 2. Our bar - tered, bus - y lives burn dim, too tired to care, too numb to feel.  
 3. Your glo - ry shone at Jor - dan's stream, the font where we were born a - new.  
 4. O Light of Na - tions, fill the earth; our faith and hope and love re - new.

come, make your home with - in our hearts, that we may dwell in light sub - lime.  
 Come shine up - on our shad - owed world: your ra - diance bathes with power to heal.  
 At - tune your church to know you near; il - lu - mine all we say and do.  
 Come, lead the peo - ples to your peace, as stars once led the way to you.

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Ahrens

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Ahrens

**We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have brought us from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from death to rebirth. Transform our lives with this heavenly food, that we may shine with your love and take to the world the risen life of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

L: Let us sing the closing hymn as we depart with a heart to serve.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\* CLOSING HYMN

Many are the Lightbeams

*Lightbeams*

Ma - ny are the light-beams from the one light. Our one light is Je - sus.  
 Ma - ny are the light-beams from the one light; we are one in Christ.

\* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Rev. Moxley

POSTLUDE

We welcome The Rev. Dr. Norman Moxley from Trinity United Church of Christ to the pulpit today.

Enter to Worship  
**Depart to Serve**

February 5, 2023

## This Week at First Church

- 2/12**  
9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer and Communion (Parish Hall & Virtual)  
10 a.m. Faith Formation (Classrooms)  
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)  
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)  
4 p.m. Congregational Concert and Reception (Sanctuary & Parlor)
- 2/13**  
7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Virtual)
- 2/14**  
7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Virtual)
- 2/15**  
10 a.m. Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery (Kitchen)  
10:30 a.m. Book Study (Virtual)  
12 Noon Lunch Bunch (Molly Woo's, Polaris)
- 2/16**  
6 p.m. First Church Ringers Practice (Bell Rm)  
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Parish Hall)
- 2/19**  
9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer and Communion (Parish Hall & Virtual)  
10 a.m. Faith Formation (Classrooms)  
Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)  
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)  
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)  
Christian Education Parent Mtg (Classroom C)

## Faith Formation This Week

**Sunday, February 12**

**10-10:50 a.m**

### Preschool - High School

The lesson of the week is based on Matthew 5:21-37.

Children of all ages and their grown-ups too are invited to join us in the Children's Library for a short lesson based on Matthew 5:21. After the lesson, we will make special Valentines to share with our First Church friends during this week's Children's Time. If you have any questions, please email Melissa Kulwicki ([communications@first-church.org](mailto:communications@first-church.org)).

### Adult Faith Formation Classroom C in the Education Wing

This month, our adult class discussions are focused on hunger and food insecurity within our community. We are delighted that our guest presenter this coming Sunday will be Mr. Nick Bankston, the President and CEO of Gladden Community House. He will provide us with updates about their feeding ministries and programs that address the various needs of our neighbors who are hungry. All are welcome to participate in what promises to be an engaging presentation and group discussion this Sunday.

If you plan on joining by Zoom, the passcode is 058882. Please use the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82717081754?pwd=c1BjTmhaUUtPRmlYdMMyZmtoR2hBZz09>

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If you need additional information about our adult class, please don't hesitate to contact Rev. Joanna ([jsamuelson@first-church.org](mailto:jsamuelson@first-church.org)). Hope to see you there!

## Foster Family Gathering

Second Nurture is hosting our first foster family and caregiver gathering! Please join us for a casual get-together in the First Church Parish Hall to meet other foster families and share resources. Coffee and treats will be provided. Kids are welcome!

Sunday, February 19, 1-3 p.m.

To Register, scan the QR Code below or visit <https://www.2nurture.org/event-details/foster-family-gathering-second-nurture-columbus>



This gathering is for current and former foster/kinship families, caregivers, and youth. If you are interested in becoming a fostering adult, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Second Nurture ([courtney@2nurture.org](mailto:courtney@2nurture.org)).

## BREAD Update and Book Study Event

Dear BREAD Network members and members of First Congregational Church: as you know, the big Nehemiah Action will be coming up soon. This year it will be a little earlier than usual: on April 27. The location will be once more at the Celeste Center on the Franklin County Fairgrounds, starting at 6:45 p.m.

In order for us to be able to powerfully support our BREAD issues, each of us Network members will need to bring at least 3 people with us. Our target number for First Congregational Church is 200 (members, family and friends). So at our February Network meeting, on February 26, following Rev. Ahrens' discussion and teaching of the new book he just published, we will be selecting names for the Nehemiah Action from our Church membership.

I'm asking you to think about family and friends first and make up a list with those names before February 26. Also, if you have attended the Nehemiah Action in previous years, you may want to add those people to your list again. Aim to have at least 8 names and bring the list with you to the February 26 meeting, and also bring a copy for me.

If you have never been to the Nehemiah Action and are new to First Church, we will help you put together a list.

We will also be able to talk about what to say when you make your phone calls to invite your guests to the Action.

See you all the 26th!

Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen ([antoinettekbr79@gmail.com](mailto:antoinettekbr79@gmail.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> or by clicking the QR Code below.



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## Global Ministries

### Ghana: Christian Council of Ghana and Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana

The Christian Council of Ghana, founded in 1929, is the unifying organization of Christians in that country. It represents the Methodist, Anglican, Mennonite, Presbyterian, Evangelical Presbyterian, African Methodist Episcopal Zionist, Christian Methodist, Evangelical Lutheran, F'Eden, and Baptist churches, and the Society of Friends. The Council serves as the link with the World Council of Churches and other ecumenical bodies. This Christian organization is concerned primarily with the spiritual affairs of its congregations but has occasionally acted in circumstances described by the government as political. Such was the case in 1991 when both the Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Ghana Christian Council called on the military government of the Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC) to return the country to constitutional rule.

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana, is an established partner of Global Ministries, having been founded in the 1840's by the Bremen Mission of Germany among the Ewe people of what was then German Togoland. After World War 1, Togoland was divided as a spoil of war between Britain and France. The Ewe people were divided between Anglophone Ghana and Francophone Togo, and the Church became divided as well. The United Church Board for World Ministries began its involvement with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana in 1946. It is one of the oldest self-governing churches in Africa with strong roots in the Evangelical and Reformed tradition. It has 512 congregations and includes approximately 600,000 members. The EP Church, Ghana, is very committed to its spirituality and social action ministries. Global Ministries supports the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana, in programs of church expansion, education, and service.

**Concerts at First Church**  
**Sunday, February 12, 4 p.m.**  
**Janet Yieh, Organist**

Janet Yieh, Director of Music at Church of the Heavenly Rest on the Upper East Side in New York City, will present a program of organ music on both the Kimball and von Beckerath organs at First Church. Ms. Yieh holds double Master's degrees in Organ Performance from the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music, and a Bachelor of Music from The Juilliard School. She has performed throughout the United States, as well as in Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan, and Malaysia.

The program on February 12 will include music by Theodore Dubois and J. S. Bach, as well as arrangements of well-known hymn tunes by Gerre Hancock and Carl Haywood. Janet Yieh is known to champion the works of women composers, so the program will also include works by Christa Rakich (b. 1952), Florence Price (1887-1924), Germaine Tailleferre (1892-1983), and Jessica French (young woman composer in her 20s with the rare ability of synesthesia, in which her various senses are linked to one another in the form of colors associated with notes, timbres, and words).

The final selection will be Concert Piece: Variations and Theme, commissioned by First Congregational Church to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the installation of the von Beckerath organ in the Gallery. The Canadian composer, Rachel Laurin, based her composition on The Music Window, which was created and installed to honor G. Dene Barnard and his 30 years of service as Organist and Choir Director at First Church. In the two panels of the window, Ms. Laurin saw swirling organ pipes, keyboards, music notations, bass and treble clefs, handbells, and the first notes of J. S. Bach's Fantasy in G Minor. Ms. Laurin was inspired to create a musical stained glass window on the organ, featuring an array of sounds to demonstrate the organ's tonal qualities.

A reception follows the concert and you are all invited. You will still be able to be home in time to watch the Super Bowl!

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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 Wendy Kennedy ([wendyjkenedy@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyjkenedy@yahoo.com)) if interested.

## 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 **United Church of Christ Disaster Relief** for the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey. More than 15,000 people have been killed and tens of thousands injured after a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Turkey and Syria on Monday. UCC Disaster Relief is a global-reaching organization called to respond to both natural and human-caused disasters, providing physical, financial, emotional, and spiritual care to those affected. Thank you for your generosity.

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## Upcoming Mission Offerings

February 12	<b>UCC Disaster Relief Emergency aid to Syria or Turkey</b>
February 19	First Serves
February 26	Faith Mission

## Keep in Prayer

**Members** Bob Monahan; Rick Sayre; Melva Fisher; Anne Morganstern; Glenn and Sharon Bardus; Gretchen Atkinson; Rick and Lourdes Henderson; Martha Huey; Bob Davis; Twink Starr; Lola Edwards; Rick Brant; Betsy Zahn; Janice White; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter.

**Family and friends** Samuelson/Gilles family friends Eric Williams and Leslie Kern; Susie Loik’s friend, Jan Lanier and family; George Ferzli’s father; Gail and Jim Lowe’s great niece, Ani; Margaret Cipriani’s sister and brother-in-law, Sara and Terry Godwin; Nancy Loy’s friend, Maxey; Paula Terry-Locke; Kathy Reed’s cousin, Michael Chambers; 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** Jane Weddle on the death of her friend, Janet Lasley; Janette Hoffman and family on the death of her mother, Shirley Santopadre.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches in Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland. We pray for Global Ministries workers at the Christian Council of Ghana, and Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana.

We pray for the residents of Turkey and Syria and all the victims of the recent earthquake.

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

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



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