



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 19, 2023

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Passion Chorale
Prelude on "Rhosymedre"

Leo Sowerby
Ralph Vaughan Williams

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Carol Gallagher

Leader: Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth. Let us worship God.

** Please stand as you are able. (* indicates Congregation standing)*

L: Once you lived in darkness.

P: Now the light of God has shone upon us.

L: Find what is pleasing to God and follow God's ways.

P: The acts of darkness are left behind as we journey to God's light.

L: Thanks be to God who gives us the light.

P: Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your light of salvation. Amen.

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
 2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
 3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

What won - drous love is this, O my soul!
 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;

What won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
 To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful be,

To bear the *heav - y cross for my soul, for my soul,
 While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
 And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

To bear the *heav - y cross for my soul!
 While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: Gracious God, whose blessed One, Jesus Christ, came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that Christ may live in us and we in Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: We are called to examine our faithfulness to God's covenant with us. God, in whose presence we gather, promises us grace and pardon when we acknowledge our weakness and brokenness. Let us confess our sin to almighty God.

ALL: Eternal God, whose Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, we recognize and confess that we have failed to respond faithfully to your gracious presence in our lives. Through Jesus Christ you have offered us new life, fulfillment, and the freedom to serve you. We confess that we are captive to sin, that our sin binds us with false pride, and that the wrong we do is made worse by the good we leave undone. Reconcile us to you and to all people. God of mercy, forgive all our sin and strengthen us anew for life as you intend it; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Silence may be observed for reflection and prayer.

* KYRIE ELEISON

William Mathias

(organ)

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have
mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer -
- cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Almighty God, who is great in mercy and promises forgiveness of sin to all who truly repent and are sincere in faith, have mercy on us, pardon and deliver us from all sin, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life.

P: Amen. Thanks be to God.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

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

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 16:6-7, 11-13

Ramona Moenter

A reading from the first book of Samuel, chapter 16.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Mary Was the Queen of Galilee

Spiritual

arr. Wendell Whalum

Who was Mary? Mary was the queen of Galilee.
Mary rode to Bethlehem, There she brought forth the Holy Lamb.
Mary saw Him crucified, When her Lord cried out an' died,

Now, after Sunday down at the Tomb,
When the stone was rolled away,
She didn't find her Lord.
Angel came unto her, Telling the good news
that Jesus Christ is risen an' will appear again.
Oh! Oh! _____ Mary.

Who was Mary? Mary was the queen of Galilee.

Cynthia Adcock, soprano

THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 5: 8-14

Mrs. Gallagher

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians, chapter 5.

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

1. A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, And did my Sov-ereign die!
 2. Was it for sins that I have done He suf - fered on the tree?
 3. Well might the sun in dark-ness hide, And shut its glo - ries in,
 4. But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay The debt of love I owe;

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THE GOSPEL

John 9:30-41

Rev. Reed

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 9.

The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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

P: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION

"Seeing/Seen:Forgiving/Forgiven"
Fifth in the Lenten sermon series, "Forgiveness"

The Rev. Sarah Reed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ahrens

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 **Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS)**, an independent non-profit agency serving refugees, asylees and immigrants in central Ohio. Among local community-based organizations, CRIS is the largest agency providing services to immigrants in Central Ohio, and is the agency providing the most extensive services to immigrant populations in our area. Those services include immigration legal services and interpretation and translation. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas

Ola Gjeilo

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
Amen.

Where charity and love are, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us revere and love the living God.
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.
Amen.

* THE DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”

Tallis Canon

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

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Ahrens

RECOGNITION OF INTERIM MUSIC LEADERS:

Rev. Ahrens

Jim Gallagher, Barry Moenter, Sandy Mathias, and Marti Rideout

L: Let us pray.

P: Gracious God, we thank you for music and its wondrous power to touch and heal; to strengthen and transform us. Through music, closed doors of the human spirit are unlocked and hearts are moved to respond to you in worship. Through music, we have been blessed by the gifts of Jim Gallagher, Sandy Mathias, Barry Moenter, and Marti Rideout. Thank you, Lord, for each of their gifts shared with us in worship, concerts, and the ministry of music. Bless them as they continue to share their gifts in the time ahead and help us always to praise you for in our music you, O God, are glorified! Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

1. Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly light,
 2. Dark and cheer-less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa - nied by Thee;
 3. Vis - it then this soul of mine; Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of Righ-teous - ness, a - rise, Tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
 Joy - less is the day's re - turn Till Thy mer - cy's beams I see,
 Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; Scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
 Till they in - ward light im - part, Cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
 More and more Thy - self dis - play, Shin - ing to the per - fect day.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Reed

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in E minor, BWV 533

Johann Sebastian 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.

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in honor of their wedding anniversary by Janice and Mariner Taft.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Reed – Narthex

Rev. Ahrens – Education Wing

Melissa Kulwicki – Education Wing breezeway

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

The Rev. Sarah Reed, *preacher*

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

Carol Gallagher, *liturgist*

Ramona Moenter, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Sebastian Kulwicki, *crucifer*

Aubrey Schmitt, *acoltye*

Jim Gallagher, *interim choir director*

Barry Moenter, *interim organist*

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

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

March 19, 2023

This Week at First Church

3/19
9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer and Communion (Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. Faith Formation (Education Wing)
Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12:15 p.m. Reception of Appreciation (Parish Hall)

3/21
7 p.m. Church Council Mtg
(Classroom C and Zoom)

3/22
12:15 p.m. Harpiscord Meditation (Sanctuary)

3/23
6 p.m. First Church Ringers Practice (Bell Rm)
7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)

3/24
12 Noon Faith Mission Dinner Prep (Kitchen)
6 p.m. Time Out Friday
(Grizzlybird Brewing Co.)

3/26
9 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer and Communion (Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. First Serves (Education Wing)
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12:15 p.m. Welcome Reception (Parish Hall)
4 p.m. Congregational Concert (Sanctuary)
Congregational Concert Reception
(Parlor)

Holy Week at First Church

Palm/Passion Sunday - April 2, 9 & 11 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - April 6, 7 p.m, Begins in Parish Hall

Good Friday - April 7, 12 Noon, Sanctuary

Easter Sunday - April 9, 7 a.m. Social Justice Park,
8:45 a.m. Sanctuary, 11 a.m. Sanctuary

UCAO Pysanka Workshop March 25 from 10 a.m.- 12 Noon Parish Hall

Intergenerational Activity:

Learn how to make an intricately decorated egg known as Ukrainian “pysanky” - traditionally created to celebrate Easter or spring. Steeped in history and culture, discover the ancient technique of wax-resist - the process that gives the eggs their beautiful and distinctive look. Then decorate a real eggshell, finalizing the process with a candle at home. All supplies provided. Initial cost for this event has been covered by a generous giver. Suggested donation for participants is \$25, and all proceeds will benefit the Ukrainian Culture Association of Ohio. Registration space is limited.

Register by scanning the QR Code or Visiting <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=OWY1YjMzZWUtNGE2Yi00YjFjLTlhNWUtYWZjNTAxMGM3ZDZk>



Summer Camp Registration Scholarship Deadline April 14



Throughout the summer months, a variety of weeklong camps are planned for our children and youth who have completed the second grade and above. All the camps include swimming, hiking, games, crafts, singing, and worship – as well as the opportunity to make new friends from other UCC congregations that are part of our Conference. There is even a “Grandparents Camp” for kindergarteners and first graders to attend with a grandparent. In addition, there are camps for families and just for adults.

To review this year’s schedule and to register, go to <https://heartlanducc.org/templed-hills/>.

We are able to offer a 50% camp scholarship on the early registration fee (after the \$75 deposit) to any First Church child or youth who wants to go to camp. In order to request the Alma Keeler scholarship, please complete the “Campership Request” form and submit it to Annette McCormick by Friday, April 14.

Register for the Spring Retreat Friday Evening, April 14 - Sunday, April 16



Join us for a three-day-long Spring Retreat at Templed Hills Camp in Bellville, Ohio. This is a wonderful time to be outside and to reconnect with our friends at First Church. This event is for all ages! There will be time for devotion, crafts, games, fishing, and much more!

To register, scan the QR code or visit <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NzViNzA5YzEtY2JiYy00OWE0LWFiOTAtYWZjNTAxMDE3NjY0>

Contact Rev. Joanna (jsamuels@first-church.org) or Melissa Kulwicki (communications@first-church.org) for more information.

Time Out Friday Friday, March 24 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Grizzlybird Brewing Company 5901 Chandler Court, Westerville, Ohio



Join us for Time Out Friday at Grizzlybird Brewing Company, a family-friendly nanobrewery. They brew on-site and have created unique and bold flavors for their IPA’s, lagers, and seasonal flavors. In addition to beer, they have a great selection of wine and spirits to satisfy what you are looking for.

To register, scan the QR code or visit <https://onrealm.org/TheFirstCongreg/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=OWNkNDI0ZDUtNTg2MS00M-mRhLTgwMWUtYWZiMzAwZWJhNjg1>

Global Ministries Sri Lanka

The Church of the American Ceylon Mission has roots in the work of the predecessor body of UCC mission which is celebrating over 200 years of global mission. CACM strives to provide educational, medical, and social services throughout Sri Lanka. It provides educational opportunities to children and youth, helping them escape the cycle of poverty through early childcare programs, after school programs, and vocational training, and other special programs.

The Ecumenical Institute for Study and Dialogue was established in 1951 following Sri Lanka's independence from the British Raj. Its purpose is to promote peaceful relations between the Christian minority and the Buddhist majority. In the late seventies, the Institute expanded to examining relations between other faith traditions throughout Sri Lanka. The endowment fund enables the EISD to continue developing and offering opportunities for programs that promote respectful and cooperative relationships among differing faith traditions.

The National Christian Council of Sri Lanka has been involved in interfaith dialogue, theological education and rehabilitation in the midst of the civil war. Its vision is to promote unity and ecumenical witness while providing Christian service in social transformation. The Commission for Justice and Peace promotes human rights and social justice through advocacy and interfaith dialogue. It also supports the education and training of Christian educators and is now developing the capacity to address the HIV/AIDS crisis.

Lenten Circles

Our Lenten Circle discussions will be inspired by "The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World" by the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter, the Reverend Mpho Tutu. Copies of this book are available through the Columbus Metropolitan Library, local bookstores, and online, and a few books are available for \$10 in the church office.

The hosts and participants of each Lenten Circle will decide together the day and time that works best for everyone in the group as well as the frequency of their gatherings.

Becky Taft at Westminster-Thurber retirement community in Victorian Village
To register, please contact Becky at 614.702.1011 or rrtaft@columbus.rr.com.

Marty and Gerry Worth at their home in Upper Arlington
To register, please contact Marty at 614.937.2466 or marthaworth@att.net.

Martha and Hank Wilson at their home in Grandview Heights (This group will also be co-hosted by Lynn Wallich and Tom Kiesel.)
To register, please contact Martha at 540.588.0324 or martha1wilson@gmail.com.

Rev. Joanna will host two Lenten Circles at the church:
Wednesday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m.
(March 22 and April 5)
Friday mornings, 10-11:30 p.m. (March 24 and 31)
To register, please contact Rev. Joanna at 214.995.3525 or jsamuelson@first-church.org.

Forgiveness: 2023 Lenten Sermon Series Remaining Sermons

Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 26, 9 & 11 a.m.
Rev. Laurence Miller, Jr., preaching
"Forgive and Raise Dry Bones"

Palm Sunday - April 2, 9 & 11 a.m.
Rev. Joanna Samuelson preaching
"A Forgiving Spirit"

Easter Sunday – April 9, 7 a.m., 8:45 & 11 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens preaching
"Forgiven and Risen"

Concerts at First Church

Lenten Meditations

Michael Unger

Wednesday, March 22 from 12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Michael Unger, Associate Professor of Organ and Harpsichord at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, will present a program of music by Johann Sebastian Bach on the Ben Bechtel harpsichord. Dr. Unger is a multiple award-winning performer who appears as a soloist and chamber musician in North America, Europe, Japan, and South Korea. He will perform on the two-manual French-style harpsichord, modeled after one by Pascal Taskin in 1769, built by First Church member Ben Bechtel, his final instrument before his death in 2008.

Amanda Mole

Wednesday, March 29 from 12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Amanda Mole is Principal Organist and Assistant Director of Music at St. Joseph Catholic Cathedral in Columbus. She obtained a Bachelor of Music degree with honors from Eastman, a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance and Sacred Music at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, and is currently completing a Doctor of Musical Arts at the Eastman School of Music. She is a first-prize winner of the 2017 International Musashino-Tokyo Organ Competition, has performed internationally across the USA, Europe, and Japan, and at the AGO National Convention in Seattle, Washington in 2022, among many other competitions and venues.

Congregational Concert

Eric Plutz, Organist

Sunday, March 26 at 4 p.m.

Eric Plutz is University Organist at Princeton University, where his responsibilities include playing for weekly services at the Chapel, Academic Ceremonies, and solo concerts, as well as accompanying the Chapel Choir in services and concerts. He coordinates the weekly After Noon Concert Series, is Lecturer in Music and Instructor of Organ at Princeton University, and maintains a private studio. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Westminster Choir College and a Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music. Additional study was in Paris and The Hague. Eric has accompanied many organizations, including the Symphonic Choir at Westminster Choir College, the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, Choral Arts Society of Washington, and the Cathedral Choral Society (DC).

Mr. Plutz has accepted concert engagements in distinguished locations across the United States and abroad, including Germany, Austria, Philadelphia, New York City, Washington, DC, and San Francisco. He has been a featured artist in Regional and National Conventions of the American Guild of Organists.

In celebration of Louis Vierne's 150th birthday in 2020, Eric initiated The Vierne Project, performances of the complete organ symphonies, which were released on CD in 2022. We are privileged to hear one of those symphonies during his concert at First Church. On the Beckerath Organ, Eric will perform The Third Sonata by Gerald Near, dedicated to Eric Plutz, and the famous Passacaglia by J. S. Bach. After the intermission he will perform Concert Overture in C Minor by Alfred Hollins and the Deuxième Symphonie by Louis Vierne on the Kimball Organ. Eric has written extensive program notes that will enrich your listening experience.

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.

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If you need help accessing Realm or to join our email list please send an email to home@first-church.org.

Keep in Prayer

Members Nancy Braverman; Barbara Sterrett; Bill Kutschbach; Ron Cook; Bob Monahan; Rick Sayre; Melva Fisher; Anne Morganstern; Glenn and Sharon Bardus; Gretchen Atkinson; Martha Huey; Twink Starr; Lola Edwards; Rick Brant; Betsy Zahn; Janice White; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter.

Family and friends Melissa Kulwicki’s sister, Jennifer Scruggs; Cara Harasaki; Joanna Samuelson’s mother, Debbie Arner; Susie Loik’s friend and neighbor, Dottie Clark; Melody Leidheiser’s nephew, Mick Clark; Matt Farabaugh’s friend Pamla Mineo; Samuelson/Gillies family friend, Eric Williams; Susie Loik’s friend, Jan Lanier and family; Nancy Loy’s friend, Maxey; Victor John’s parents, Charles and Mary Jane John; Tom Gies’ sister, Monica Depinet; and Nancy Mayle.

Those who mourn loved ones Callie Mitchell on the death of Connie Hollins; David Temple on the death of his mother, Erna Temple; the family and friends of Ecumenical leader and seeker of social justice Marilyn Shreffler; Jenkins Smith on the death of his brother, Richard E. Thompson; David Kandel and family on the death of his sister, Sue; Amy Wagner on the death of her uncle, Chuck Evans; and Victor John on the death of his friend, Doug Marloni.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. We also pray for the Church of the American Ceylon Mission (CACM), Ecumenical Institute for Study and Dialogue (EISD), and the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka.

Church Leadership

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, D.Min., M.Div.

Interim Associate Minister: Rev. Joanna Samuelson, M.Div.

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

Custodians: Jenkins Smith, Alexis Wayne

Wedding Coordinators: Amy Wagner, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani

Nursery Staff: Miranda Brooks, Shelly Gies, Celecia Smith

Senior Deacon: Martha Wilson

Senior Deacon-elect: Lynn Wallich

Deacons: Cami Curren, Tom Kiesel, Nan Kreimer, Gail Lowe, James Lowe, Allison Lowery Palmer, Alex Palmer, Fran Panek, Joel Mathias, Dayna McCrary, Matt Myers, Tyler Rogers, Hank Wilson, Martha Worth

Church Council Leadership

Moderator: Gregory Halbe

Moderator-elect: Sarah Reed

Treasurer: James Velo

Treasurer-elect: Ramona Moenter

Secretary: Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen

Secretary-elect:

Nominating Chair: Christine Farquhar

Board of Trustees

Chairperson: Sue Cook

Trustees: Cindy Conn (Treasurer), Greg Halbe, Elizabeth Iannarino, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Melody Leidheiser, Janet Miller, Judy Smith (Secretary), Hugh Schultz

Commissioners

Administration: Thomas Brownfield

Administration-elect: David Hogrefe

Church Growth: Steve Sterrett

Church Growth-elect:

Church Vitality: Wendy Kennedy

Church Vitality-elect: Annette McCormick

Education: Janice Taft

Education-elect: Mariner Taft

House & Grounds: Mike Kennedy

House & Grounds-elect:

Justice & Mercy: Kris Brant

Justice & Mercy-elect: Janet Miller

Music, Arts & Heritage: Melissa Kulwicki

Music, Arts & Heritage-elect: Jim Griffin

Members-at-Large: Jacquelyn Dean and Aran Cunningham

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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