



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

March 26, 2023

The Fifth Sunday of 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.*

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

Joshua Stafford, *pianist*

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: Jesus says: If you would come after me, deny yourself and take up your cross and follow me.

People: Great is God's love for us.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: God calls us in our lives to be like the grain of wheat which dies, which lets go of one form in order to be transformed into new, and fuller life. And yet we often fear the risk and change which new growth involves. Let us ponder for a moment the places where we may be resisting God moving in our lives.

A brief period of silence follows.

L: When we resist your call to change our hearts and allow a deepening of relationship:

P: Lord, have mercy.

L: When we nurse our wounded hearts and withhold forgiveness which may transform relationship:

P: Christ, have mercy.

L: When fear for our own security leads us to close our hearts from those who are in need:

P: Lord, have mercy.

All: The One who makes a covenant on our hearts is faithful, and forgives us our sins and failures. In Christ, God offers forgiving grace and welcome into a community of trust, abundance, and hope. Let us give thanks, for the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.

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

Come, let us sing to God on high

Tallis' Canon



1. Come, let us sing to God on high, The Rock of our sal - va - tion praise; Come
2. For God is high a - bove all gods, The heights and depths are in God's hand; God
3. Bow down and let us wor - ship God Who is our Ma - ker and our Lord; We



with thanks - giv - ing to God's courts And raise our joy - ful psalms in praise.
made the sea and all there - in, God's hands have mold - ed the dry land.
are God's peo - ple and God's sheep; To - day, then, heark - en to God's Word.

* PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 130

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

L: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

P: Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

L: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

P: But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

L: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in God's word I hope;

P: my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

L: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with God is great power to redeem.

P: It is God who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

* WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR ARBOR JEAN BUZZELL
*We welcome Arbor, parents Greg and Jennifer, brothers Atticus and Ansel,
godparent Laura Buzzell, and Senior Deacon Martha Wilson.*

WELCOME

Leader: . . . But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

People: “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”

ADDRESS

L: . . . the sign and seal of their participation in God’s forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

P: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ’s body.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

* CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

** The congregation is invited to stand.*

L: . . . Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as Arbor lives and grows in Christ?

P: We promise our love, support, and care.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.
Do you believe in God?

P: I believe in God.

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

P: I believe in Jesus Christ.

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

P: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

L: Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

ACT OF BAPTISM

NAMING OF THE CHILD

L: Arbor Jean Buzzell, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Rise from the waters of baptism and give glory to God all the days of your life.

P: Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

L: Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this newest member of the body of Christ.

P: Give to Arbor strength for life’s journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel, chapter 37.

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.” So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

1. Wis - dom freed a ho - ly peo - ple, blame - less from op - pres - sor's sword,
2. Through the Red Sea safe - ly brought them, led a - long the wa - ters steep,

and with - stood, with signs and won - ders, rul - ers dread to serve the Lord.
but their en - e - mies she swal - lowed, o - ver - whelmed them in the deep.

Giv - ing them re - ward of la - bors, led the saints a - long her way,
For sal - va - tion, Lord, the right - eous praised your name with one ac - cord:

she was blaze of stars in dark - ness and a shel - ter through the day.
song - filled tongues of new - born peo - ple ut - tered Wis - dom's might - y word.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The lyrics are arranged in two columns under the vocal line. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano grand staff.

A reading from the Gospel according to John, chapter 11.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

What Wondrous Love Is This

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!

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 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

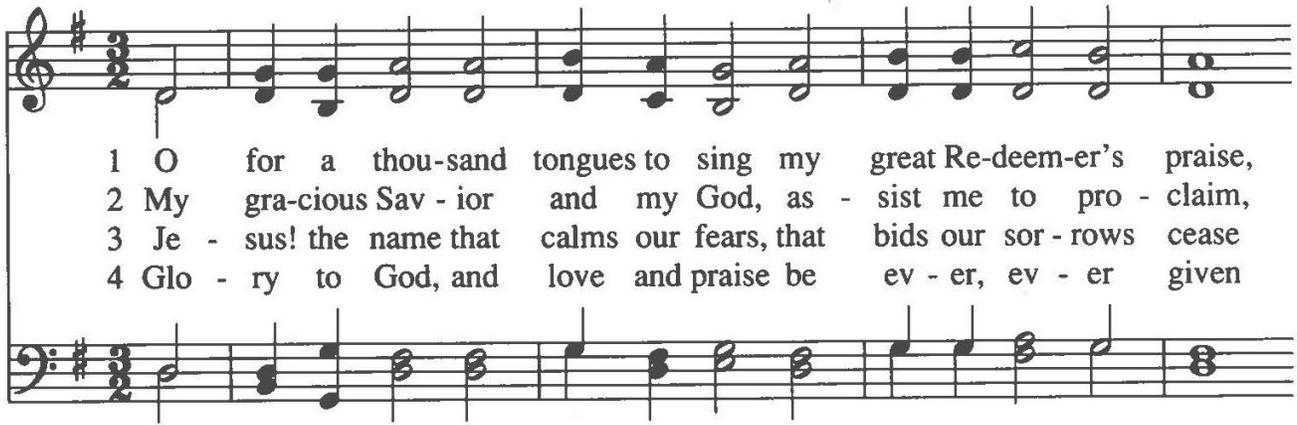
Want to give online? Please scan this QR code link, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



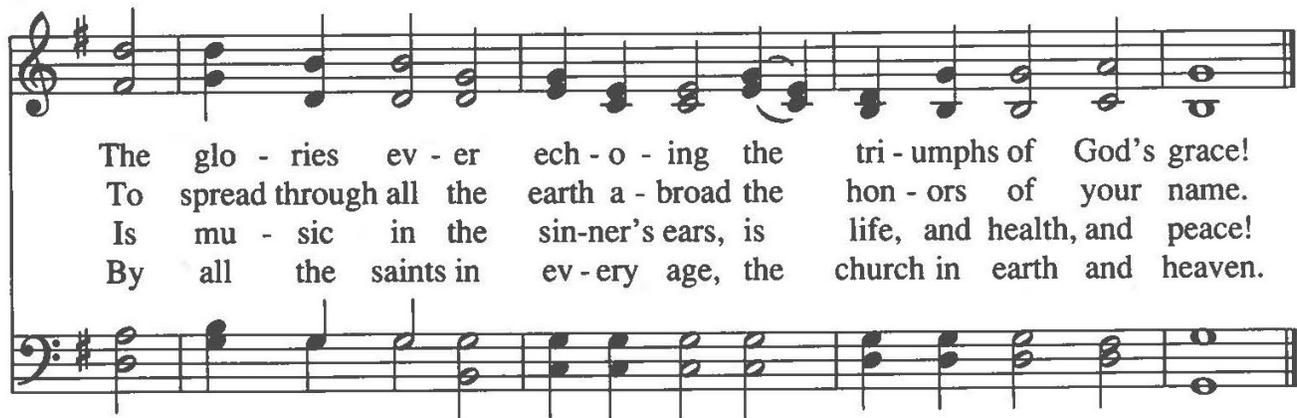
MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Samuelson

Designated gifts go to support **Green Columbus**, a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to promoting sustainable living, environmental education, and community involvement. Green Columbus holds the largest one day Earth Day event in the country. Green Columbus aspires to be a “do tank” (as opposed to a think tank), running programs—such as tree plantings and community outreach events—that have a positive impact on our environment.



1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
 2 My gra-cious Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
 3 Je - sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease
 4 Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be ev - er, ev - er given



The glo - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God's grace!
 To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
 Is mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
 By all the saints in ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

Music at Communion

Taste and see

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness

The first system of musical notation for 'Taste and see' consists of a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness'.

of the Lord. O taste and see. Taste and

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: 'of the Lord. O taste and see. Taste and'.

see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord. Fine

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. The lyrics are: 'see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord. Fine'.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Miller

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

God be with you till we meet again

God be with you till we meet a-gain; lov - ing coun - sels guide, up - hold you,

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

with a shep - herd's care en - fold you; God be with you till we meet a-gain.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It concludes with a double bar line. The key signature and time signature remain the same.

* BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Rev. Miller

POSTLUDE

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

March 26, 2023

This Week at First Church

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)

3/27

10:30 a.m. Grief Support (Virtual)

3/28

5:30 p.m. Laundry Love (Wash Land)
7 p.m. Deacons Meeting (Virtual)

3/29

12:15 p.m. Organ Meditation (Sanctuary)

3/30

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

4/1

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

4/2

9 a.m. Palm Sunday
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. Coffee Hour and Coffee Sales
(Parish Hall)
12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)

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

Forgiveness: 2023 Lenten Sermon Series Remaining Sermons

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**”

Congregational Concert Today at 4 p.m. Featuring Eric Plutz, Organist

First Church Book Club Wednesday, April 5, at 7 p.m. Zoom.

Everyone is invited to join the First Church Book Club. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 5, at 7 p.m. and the book that will be discussed is “The Book Woman’s Daughter” by Kim Michele Richardson. For more information or for the Zoom link email Elaine Warren (melainewarren232@gmail.com).

Concerts at First Church

Lenten Meditation

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.

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



Join us for a three-day-long Spring Retreat at Templd 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?link-String=NzViNzA5YzEtY2JiYy00OWE0LWFiOTAxYWZjNTAxMDE3NjY0>

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

April Lunch Bunch Maple Street Biscuit 1310 Polaris Parkway, Columbus, OH 43240 Tuesday, April 4 12 Noon - 1 p.m.



Join First Church friends for a taste of comfort food with a modern twist. Mark your calendars and sign up before April 2 and we'll save you a seat. We look forward to seeing you there!

This event is sponsored by Church Vitality.

Global Ministries
Angola: Angola Council
of Christian Churches and the
Evangelical Congregational Church in
Angola

The Angolan Council of Christian Churches (CICA) is an ecumenical institution founded in 1977 to provide guidance for the Angolan faith community as well as be a voice for its members toward local and international governments. CICA has 22 member churches and related organizations. It is based in Luanda.

Angola's Department of Justice, Ecumenism, Reconciliation, and Cooperation promotes peace building and conflict transformation. Its objectives are to develop a culture of peaceful coexistence and to build relationships throughout Angolan society. Following these goals, CICA supports activities and ecumenical relationships in all 18 of Angola's provinces.

The Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola (IECA) is a longstanding partner of Global Ministries and was founded in 1880 in the Chilume Mission, Bailundo, and Huambo Province.

Easter Flowers and Music

Here is your opportunity to dedicate beautiful Easter flowers (suggested donation \$10/each) or contribute to special Easter music in honor/memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special occasion by March 31.

Simply send an email to Amy Wagner, (awagner@first-church.org) Administrative Manager. Please include the following information in your email:

Your name

Dedication in memory of or in Celebration of

Amount you intend to donate

You may pay via Realm or EasyTithe, or by mailing a check to the church office with "Easter Flowers" or "Easter Music" written in the memo line.

Thank you for your continued support of First Church.

Laundry Love
Tuesday, March 28
from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

"Laundry Love" is an outreach ministry that 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, March 28, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., at the Washland 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) or Rev. Joanna (jsamuels@first-church.org) for more details.

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

Give

At First Church, our financial resources enable us to “Enter to worship, depart to serve.” You can support the mission and ministry of First Church now by using either EasyTithe or PayPal, by visiting <https://www.first-church.org/give/>, or by sending your offering directly to First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information, please contact Annette McCormick at amccormick@firstchurch.org.

Designated gifts go to support **Green Columbus**, a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to promoting sustainable living, environmental education, and community involvement. Green Columbus holds the largest one-day Earth Day event in the country. Green Columbus aspires to be a “do tank” (as opposed to a think tank), running programs—such as tree plantings and community outreach events—that have a positive impact on our environment.

BREAD:

Join us at Nehemiah Action Tuesday, April 25 at 6:45 p.m.

BREAD’s big annual Nehemiah Action will take place on April 25 at the Celeste Building on the State Fair Grounds at 6:45 p.m. At this event we will show our support for the research that was done to find solutions for some of the problems that concern us so much. Please get your BREAD T-shirt at the coffee hour and sign up to be there. Together we can make a difference, because BREAD rises!

Connect with Us

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

Keep in Prayer

Members Karin Sandell; John Anderson; Sarah Giffen; 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 Matty Provenzano; Melissa Kulwicki’s sister, Jennifer Scruggs; Cara Harasaki; 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; Victor John’s parents, Charles and Mary Jane John; Tom Gies’ sister, Monica Depinet; and Nancy Mayle.

Those who mourn loved ones Fred Hunker and family on the death of his mother, Beth Hunker; 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; and David Kandel and family on the death of his sister, Sue.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches in the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia. We also pray for the Angolan Council of Christian Churches, and the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola.

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.

Minister of Music: Joshua Stafford, M.M.

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

Building and Grounds Superintendent: Quang Pham

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

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

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



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



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www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx

