



WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 23, 2023

The Third Sunday of Easter

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

“Come Into God's Courts with Praise”
The First Church Ringers
Catherine Cunningham, guest conductor

Michael Helman

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Ronald Jenkins

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

L: The Lord has heard your voice and the cries of your hearts.

P: Lord, bring us peace and healing.

L: Rejoice, and call upon the name of the Lord!

P: Praise be to you, O God, who has raised up our Savior Jesus Christ.

L: Bring your praises and your songs to the table of the Lord.

P: May our hearts and spirits rejoice in this day. Amen.

1. The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet from gar - den
 2. The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side, breathes out his
 3. The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand the bread for
 4. May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand with the op -

tomb through dark-ened cit - y street, un - locks the door of grief, de-spair, and
 Spir - it on them to a - bide whose faith still wav - ers, who dare not be -
 those who fail to un - der - stand, re - veals him - self, de - spite their ling-ering
 pressed in this and ev - ery land, till all are blessed and can a bless-ing

fear, and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 lieve, new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 tears, en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 be, re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

* INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

P: O God, whose blessed One was made known to the disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold the redeeming work of Christ; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMAND ERIN DEAN

Rev. Ahrens

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Erin Dean

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 SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR ELSIE LELA HILLYARD

We welcome Elsie, parents Brittany and David, brother Harrison, and Senior Deacon Martha Wilson.

* BAPTISMAL HYMN

Hymn of Water and Spirit (*stanzas 1–2*)

O Waly Waly

1. When you were born, our hearts took wing, to dance and laugh, to love and
2. Re - mem - ber now this grace, this gift, as we our voice, and spir - its

sing. You made our lives com-plete in joy, come now re - ceive this wa - ter joy.
lift. We hold you close to shield life's hurt, and ce - le - brate your se-cond birth.

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 PARENTS

* 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 Elsie 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: Elsie Lela Hillyard, 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 Elsie 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.

* BAPTISMAL HYMN

“Hymn of Water and Spirit” (stanzas 3–5)

O Waly Waly

3. Far from this font, your feet will trod, in hard times you may ques - tion
 4. Hold fast to what is good and true, Bring hurt to none, for hur - ting
 5. When time has passed, and you are old, with no one's ba - by left to
 God. But ne'er for - get this wa - ter gift. And let God's spir - it heal all rifts.
 you. Strength-en the weak, up-hold the poor, And live your faith for - ev - er - more.
 hold, thank God and walk your fi - nal mile, live in E - ter - nal bliss and smile.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

2:14a, 36–41

Mr. Jenkins

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2.

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

*Cantate Domino canticum novum, cantate Domino omnis terra.
Cantate Domino, et benedicite Nomini eius:
Annuntiate de die in diem salutare eius.
Annuntiate inter gentes gloriam ejus, in omnibus populis mirabilia eius.*

O sing unto the Lord a new song, sing unto the Lord all the whole earth.
Sing unto the Lord, and bless his Name;
Tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his honour among the heathen; his wonders unto all peoples.
- Psalm 96.1-3

THE EPISTLE

1 Peter 1:17-23

Mr. Jenkins

A reading from the first book of Peter, chapter 1.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL HYMN

“Now the green blade riseth”

Noël nouvelet

1. Now the green blade ris - eth from the bur - ied grain, wheat that in dark earth
 2. In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain, think - ing that nev - er
 3. Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain, he that for three days
 4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain, your touch can call us

man - y days has lain; love lives a - gain, that with the dead has
 he would wake a - gain, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un -
 in the grave had lain, quick from the dead my ris - en Lord is
 back to life a - gain, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have

Refrain

been:
 seen: Love is come a - gain like wheat that spring - eth green.
 seen:
 been:

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 24.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“A Kindness in God's Justice”

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

Designated gifts go to support Rapid 5, a project with a vision to create one regional park system. By connecting our five waterways, over 80 municipalities, nearly 40,000 acres of parks, and hundreds of miles of trails, Rapid 5 hopes to create the largest interconnected park system in the country. When complete, over three million residents will be within a mile of water or greenspace. Thank you for your generosity.

Dr. Andrew Thomas

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Worthy The Lamb

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Glory to God on high,
let earth and skies reply,
praise ye his Name,
praise ye his Name.

His love and grace adore
who all our sorrows bore,
sing aloud evermore:
Worthy the Lamb,
worthy the Lamb.

Jesus our Lord and God,
bore sin's tremendous load.
Tell what his arm has done,
what spoils from death he won;
sing his great Name alone:
Worthy the lamb,
worthy the lamb.

While they around the throne
cheerfully join as one,
praising his Name.
Those who have felt his blood
sealing their peace with God,
sound his dear fame abroad:
Worthy the lamb,
worthy the lamb.

-Traditional

* THE DOXOLOGY

Lasst uns erfreuen

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.
P: **Thanks be to God.**

Introduction



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2. There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven;
 3. For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of the mind;



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.



There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good; there is mer - cy
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for
 If our love were but more faith - ful, we should rest up - on God's word; and our lives would



Interlude



with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.



BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

"The Peace May be Exchanged" from *Rubrics*

Dan Locklair

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 would be delighted to assist you.

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sue Ellen Kandel by David and Rose Kandel.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens – Narthex

Rev. Samuelson – Education Wing breezeway

Melissa Kulwicky – Education Wing door

LEADERSHIP IN THE LITURGY

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

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *liturgist*

Ronald Jenkins, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Malcolm Gillies, *crucifer*

Emma Dean, *acoltye*

Joshua Stafford, *minister of music*

Jim Gallagher, *guest conductor*

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

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

April 23, 2023

This Week at First Church

4/23

9 a.m. Service of Morning
Prayer and Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)

10 a.m. Faith Formation (Classroom C)

11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)

12 Noon Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)

4 p.m. Congregational Concert (Sanctuary)

4/24

12 Noon Grief Support Group (Virtual)

7 p.m. Deacons Meeting (Virtual)
New Members Class
(Classroom C & Virtual)

4/25

5 p.m. BREAD Network Gathering
(Parish Hall)

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

6:45 p.m. BREAD Nehemiah Action
(Ohio Expo Center)

4/27

6 p.m. First Church Ringers Practice (Bell Rm)

7 p.m. Governance Task Force
Recommendations Discussion (Virtual)

7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Choir Rm)

4/30

9 a.m. Service of Morning
Prayer and Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)

10 a.m. First Serves (Classroom C)
Governance Task Force
Recommendations Discussion
(Fanning Rm)

11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)

12 Noon Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)

1 p.m. Second Nurture (Classroom C)

Concerts at First Church

Today at 4 p.m.

New World Singers of the Columbus Children's Choir

Join us this Sunday, April 23, at 4 p.m. for our final concert of the season! Concerts at First Church is delighted to welcome the New World Singers of the Columbus Children's Choir under the direction of Jeanne Wohlgamuth. Comprised of students in sixth through twelfth grades, they possess the technique and artistry to perform with world-class ensembles such as the Columbus Symphony, Opera Columbus, and the Vienna Boys' Choir.

On the international stage, the New World Singers have performed in Germany, Russia, Italy, France, Canada, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, and Spain. In 2021, they won Grand Prize at the Youth International Choral Competition and the Rimini International Choral Festival Competition, where they received first place in both equal voices and children's choir divisions.

The choir will present a varied program including works by Eleanor Daley, Zoltán Kodály, Stephen Paulus, Rosephanye Powell, John Rutter, Gwyneth Walker, and more. As a special treat, the New World Singers will be joined for one number by members of the Columbus Kinderchor/Jugendchor.

BREAD:

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

In preparation for the Nehemiah Action, Tuesday, April 25, the BREAD team will be hosting a pizza dinner starting at 5:45 p.m., and then car-pool to the Nehemiah Action. It is an easy drive from our Church to the Celeste Center, and we should be there by 6:45 p.m.

The issues this year are Juvenile Justice (we are campaigning to obtain a commitment from the Columbus schools to have Restorative Practices in all Columbus City schools by 2026, rather than just 40% of them); Housing: to have the city invest American Rescue money into low income housing; Violence Reduction: to promote the free training of police officers in ABLE (Active Bystander Law Enforcement) practices and institute procedures promoted by the National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC); Environment: enforce legislature to protect mature trees on private properties from developers; and initiate a municipal ID card program that would allow people who have lost other forms of identification to open bank accounts, to contact the police if needed, and get bus passes and other benefits.

Only by showing up in large numbers can we convince the officials of the urgency of these campaigns. Also, we will be selling BREAD t-shirts again at the coffee hour on Sunday and passing out Nehemiah Action tickets. Please join us! BREAD rises!

Opportunities

to Review Church Governance

Church members are invited to discuss recommendations to improve our congregation's administrative structure and congregational care during meetings on Thursday, April 27, and Sunday, April 30.

The First Church Governance Task Force in late December offered recommendations to restructure some church commissions, numerous amendments to the church constitution, and proposals for greater accountability and transparency.

The discussion meeting on April 27 will be conducted over Zoom from 7 to 8 p.m. The focus of the discussion will be recommendations to restructure the Administration Commission as a Personnel Commission, create a Stewardship and Growth Commission, and have the Budget and Finance Committee report to the church treasurer. The task force's other recommendations also can be reviewed.

Here is the link to the Zoom meeting:
Time: Apr 27, 2023, 7 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88482484836?pwd=NjlhMmhhekxKOVBwSkF6UCt3VEs4dz09>
Meeting ID: 884 8248 4836

Passcode: 476943

The discussion meeting on April 30 will be conducted in-person at church during the education hour from 10 to 11 a.m. The focus will be on improving congregational care, including the potential reestablishment of the Stephen Ministry program. The meeting also will be open to questions and comments about the task force's other recommendations.

For more information and to offer comments on the report's recommendations, contact Steve Sterrett, chair of the task force, at sterrett.1@osu.edu.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame
Wednesday, June 7
& Friday, September 8
Game Time 7:05 p.m.

Ticket price is the same as last year: \$8.00 per person and must be paid in advance so that we can order the block of tickets. Register using the QR codes.

On Wednesday, **June 7**, the stadium will have a special \$1.00 each, hot dogs, popcorn and junior soft drinks. The deadline for registration May 31; this will allow us to order seats together. Game time is 7:05 p.m.



On Friday **September 8**, the stadium will have a special \$5.00 each for small beers and wines. You can also get a slice of Donatos pizza and a soft drink for \$5.00. The deadline for registration is August 31; this will allow us to order seats together. Game time is 7:05 p.m.



If you have any questions, please contact Annette McCormick at amccormick@first-church.org

Global Ministries
Lebanon
The Forum for Development,
Culture and Dialogue

The Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (FDCD) is a faith-based, integrated initiative arising from the community and which aims to restore dignity to marginalized, oppressed, and dehumanized individuals and groups. It supports communities of faith, both Muslim and Christian, to increase the role that they play as they strive for cultural, social, and economic empowerment of marginalized peoples. FDCD promotes sustainable development; advocates building peace through justice and reconciliation; and promotes inter-communal understanding and cooperation by strengthening the role of women and youth in inter-cultural dialogue.

The FDCD has expanded its service in Lebanon to provide medical aid and public health training to Syrian refugees. The refugee population in Lebanon has grown to two million people, which is half of the Lebanese population. The distressed living conditions of Syrian refugees are made worse by the country's existing shortages in electricity and water. The FDCD promotes basic public health concepts and practices in order to mitigate the health risks of living in overpopulated camps and settlements. The FDCD provides training to refugees on hygiene, preventing the spread of diseases and food safety practices. The FDCD also provides necessary medications to refugees with chronic illnesses.

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 **Rapid 5**, a project with a vision to create one regional park system. By connecting our five waterways, over 80 municipalities, nearly 40,000 acres of parks, and hundreds of miles of trails, Rapid 5 hopes to create the largest interconnected park system in the country. When complete, over three million residents will be within a mile of water or greenspace. Thank you for your generosity.

Second Nurture Foster Family Gathering

Are you a current or former foster parent or caregiver? Join us for a Sunday brunch to meet other foster families, share stories, and share resources. This is a time for you to connect, commiserate -- and celebrate! -- your experience.

Sunday, April 30th, 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
First Congregational Church on Broad Street,
Classroom C
Click the QR code below to register to attend.

If you are interested in becoming a fostering adult, we'd love to hear from you! Please email columbus@2nurture.org.



Keep in Prayer

Members Nancy Loy; Matty Provenzano; Karin Sandell; John Anderson; Sarah Giffen; Barbara Sterrett; Bill Kutschbach; Bob Monahan; Rick Sayre; Melva Fisher; Anne Morganstern; Glenn and Sharon Bardus; Gretchen Atkinson; Martha Huey; Twink Starr; Lola Edwards; Betsy Zahn; Janice White; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter.

Family and friends Emily Wilson's sister and niece, Karen Newcomb and Stasia Hylas, and friend Julia Wharff Piermont; Nancy Loy's cousin, Sue Lyon; AJ McWilliams' friend, Bryce Miller; 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; 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 Melissa Kulwicki on the death of her friend, Donn Walden; and Mark, Stacie, and Miles Sholl on the death of Mark's father, Jerry Sholl.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we lift the people and churches in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. We also pray for The Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue in Lebanon.

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

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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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
444 EAST BROAD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3885
PHONE: 614.228.1741 FAX: 614.461.1741
WWW.FIRST-CHURCH.ORG

