



WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! For more than 171 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.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *preacher and co-celebrant*

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *co-celebrant*

Maggie Myers, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

David Hogrefe, *pianist*

Geoff Dean, *livestream ministry*

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

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Maggie Myers

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

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

Leader: Welcome to worship this day!

People: We have come seeking God's blessings and love.

Leader: They shall be given to you.

People: We have come seeking forgiveness and healing.

Leader: These will be offered to you. Let us open our hearts to receive God's Good News.

People: We open our hearts to all of God's words and ways for us. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“O Radiant Christ, incarnate Word”

Canonbury, Robert Schumann, 1839

Ruth Duck, 1991

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.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: God in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ahrens

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

People: And also with you.

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

**When you return to your seat, please find the blue Welcome notebook, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor so you may greet them by name.*

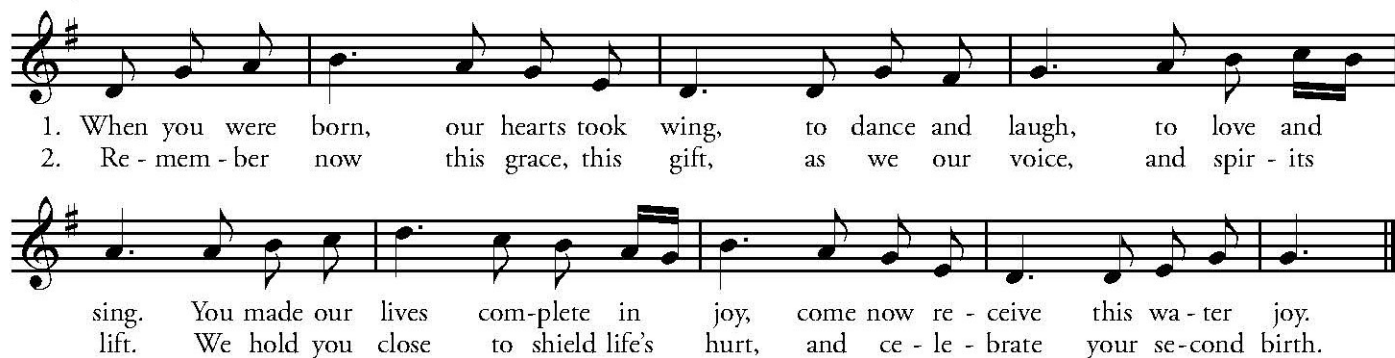
THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

*HYMN

O Waly, Waly, Scottish Traditional English melody

“Hymn of Water and Spirit” vv. 1-2

Timothy C. Ahrens, 1998



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.

LITANY OF BAPTISMAL AFFIRMATION

Rev. Ahrens, Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Lord and life-giving Spirit, who brooded over the waters when first the world began:

People: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.

Leader: Who led your people out of slavery through the waters of the Red Sea and into freedom through the waters of the Jordan: who overshadowed Mary of Nazareth and caused her to be the mother of Jesus.

People: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.

Leader: Who anointed Jesus as Messiah as he was baptized by John in the Jordan: Who raised Jesus Christ from the grave and proclaimed Christ “Son of God” in all power over the living and the dead.

People: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.

Leader: Who appeared in tongues of flame on Pentecost: Who charges the waters of baptism through and through with power to give new life.

People: Help us renounce evil and receive new life in Christ.

Leader: Lord, hear our prayer.

People: Let our cry come to You.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER OF BAPTISM

Rev. Samuelson

Please stand.

* RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

Rev. Ahrens

As we sing, Rev. Ahrens will share the water of baptism with all using these words:

Leader: Remember your baptism and keep it holy.

People: Amen.

*HYMN

O Waly, Waly, Scottish Traditional English melody

“Hymn of Water and Spirit” vv. 3-5

Timothy C. Ahrens, 1998

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.

* CLOSING BAPTISMAL PRAYER

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Almighty and everlasting God, who out of pure mercy decreed both the creation and the renewal of the world, be present and active in the sacraments which you have instituted for our salvation. Send forth the Spirit of adoption in full measure that those who are born of water and the Spirit may live under the power of the same Spirit all the days of their life and so arrive safely in their heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Melissa Kulwicki

During the sermon time, the young children are welcome to participate in “Sunday Stories” with Melissa Kulwicki and Cami Curren.

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 19:1-7

Maggie Myers

Leader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the nineteenth chapter.

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Psalms 29

Maggie Myers

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:4-11

Rev. Ahrens

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

"Water AND Spirit"

Rev. Ahrens

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

All: 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, or see additional instructions in Depart to Serve:



MISSION INVITATION

Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen

Cash and designated gifts go to support **BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity)**.

BREAD is the organization through which our congregation works for social justice. BREAD has a 24-year history of improving the quality of life in Central Ohio by researching serious community problems and gathering the power of people in nearly 40 congregations to press public officials to implement proven solutions to those problems. BREAD rises! Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Wash, O God, your sons and daughters”

Beach Spring, The Sacred Harp, 1844

Ruth Duck, 1987



1 Wash, O God, your sons and daugh - ters, new - born crea - tures
 2 Ev - ery day we need your nur - ture; by your milk may
 3 O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - i - mag - ined,

(D) (Bm)
 F Dm



of your womb. Num - ber them a - mong your peo - ple, raised like
 we be fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of
 all your ways! To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our

(G) (D) (A)
 B^b F C



Christ from death and tomb. Weave them gar - ments bright and
 bless - ing, liv - ing bread. God, re - new us; guide our
 lives we wor - ship, praise! We your peo - ple stand be -

(Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)
 Dm Am Dm B^b C F



spark - ling; com - pass them with love and light. Fill, a - noint them;
 foot - steps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in
 fore you, wa - ter - washed and Spir - it - born. By your grace, our

(Bm) (G) (D)
 Dm B^b F



send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.
 liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.
 lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

“Eat this bread”

Rev. Samuelson

Eat this Bread, Jacques Berthier, 1982



“Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and



nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread;



drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst.”

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Ahrens

Leader: Let us pray.

All: 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

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

Christ Be Our Light, Bernadette Farrell, 1987

“Christ, be our light”

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 church gath - ered to - day.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

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.

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

January 7, 2024

This Week at First Church

Sunday, Jan. 7

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study on 1 Corinthians
(Classroom C)
Sunday School for Children & Youth
(Various Classrooms)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales
(Parish Hall)
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)

Monday, Jan. 8

- 12 Noon Congregational Care Ministry Mtg
(Fanning Rm)
- 5 p.m. Unhanging of the Greens (Church)
- 6:30 p.m. House & Grounds Mtg (Adult Library)
- 7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, Jan. 9

- 5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg
(Classroom C & Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Executive Committee & Joint Council
Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, Jan. 10

Deadline for Annual Reports

Thursday, Jan. 11

- 4:30 p.m. Choristers (Choir Rm)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Choir Rm)

Sunday, Jan. 14

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study on 1 Corinthians
(Classroom C)
Sunday School for Children & Youth
(Various Classrooms)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12:30 p.m. Healthy Congregations Workshop
(Parish Hall)

Healthy Congregations

Sunday, January 14

Following 11 a.m. Worship

We hope you'll make plans to attend the second workshop on Sunday, January 14 immediately after the 11 a.m. service. In this session, we'll dig deeper into how best to deal with anxiety and conflict in both our own families and our church setting. A box lunch will be available from Freedom a la Carte; lunch will begin at 12:15 a.m. The session will begin at 12:45 p.m. and conclude at 2:15 p.m. You can register by clicking the QR Code below or in the church office.



2024 Annual Stewardship Campaign Update

As of Wednesday, January 3 the pledged amount is \$752,708, or 84.75% toward our \$900,000 goal. The number of giving units is 210, and the balance left towards the goal of \$900,000 is \$137,292

Coffee Hour This Week

Following 11 a.m. worship, join us in Parish Hall for Coffee Hour! This week's Coffee Hour is hosted by the Dean Family.

Time Out Wednesday The Rusty Bucket in Hilliard Wednesday, January 10, 6 p.m.

Join us on Wednesday, January 10 at The Rusty Bucket in Hilliard (3901 Britton Pkwy, Hilliard) at 6 p.m. Come and enjoy some Tavern food with attitude, made-from-scratch meals, and hand-crafted cocktails. Don't forget to sign up on Realm. See you there!! Register by clicking the QR Code below.



Lunch Bunch East Market Thursday, January 25, 11:30 a.m.

Join us for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, January 25 at 11:30 a.m. at the East Market, 212 Kelton Avenue, Columbus. The East Market has transformed the historic West Car Barn of the old "Trolley Barn" property into a modern mix of the best local and independent businesses and restaurants. Register by clicking the QR Code below and enjoy a fun and unique dining and shopping experience!



Unhanging of the Greens

Mark your calendar for Monday, January 8 at 5 p.m. to help us return our sanctuary to its pre-Advent state of simple beauty. We will begin with pizza and then form teams of volunteers to help take down the Christmas trees and other holiday decorations and store them away until next December. Please sign up using the QR Code below so we can order enough pizza. This could be a good opportunity for youth to earn service hours.



New Adult Bible Study on 1 Corinthians Starts January 7, 10-10:50 a.m in Classroom C

Bible study with retired pastors Rev. Margot Connor and Rev. Larry Miller will resume this Sunday. This new class will focus on 1 Corinthians, and the recommended resource book is *1 Corinthians: 13 Studies for Individuals and Groups* by N. T. Wright although it isn't required that you purchase or read this book ahead of time.

All are welcome! For more information, please contact our Faith Formation Commissioner, Janice Taft (jtaft@columbus.rr.com), or Rev. Joanna (jsamuels@first-church.org).

**Rev. Tim's Wednesday
Book Study: Next Session
Wednesday, January 17**

Join us on Wednesday, January 17 at 10:30 a.m. in Classroom C or on Zoom as we begin a new year and a new book study on *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman.

This is a classic theological treatise by the acclaimed theologian and religious leader Howard Thurman helped shape the civil rights movement and change the history of our nation. Called by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King as the best book ever written on Jesus, *Jesus and the Disinherited* demonstrates how the gospel may be read as a manual of resistance for the poor and disenfranchised.

Please note our new Zoom link and meeting times for the Book Study.

Jan 17, 2024 10:30 AM

Feb 7, 2024 10:30 AM

Feb 21, 2024 10:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81627149619?pwd=QjJhbG0NIYvcC9NeU9jaikUTkxZz09>

Meeting ID: 816 2714 9619

Passcode: 984584

**Save the Date
Family Organ Day
Saturday, January 20, 2024
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Our first Family Organ Day will be held on January 20. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity for children of all ages to get up close and personal with the Kimball and Beckerath organs of First Church. There will be an organ demonstration, a brief concert, and even an opportunity for children to try playing the organs.

**'Stars of Wonder' by the
Magpie Consort
Sunday, January 7 at 3 p.m.**

The Magpie Consort (magpieconsort.org) is bringing a program called Stars of Wonder to First Congregational Church on Sunday, January 7 at 3 p.m. Highlights include the beautiful Ave Maris Stella (Hail, Star of the Sea) by Monteverdi, and other choral and instrumental music, poetry, and dance inspired by the stars. Guests include Phil Brown Dupont (piano), Sean Ferguson (theorbo and guitar), Rocki Strader (narration and cello), Jessa Ehle (violin), Vickie Starbuck (recorders), and Meghan Western (dance).

Suggested donation is \$10 at the door, with an additional freewill collection for the NSI Food Pantry (NSIfoodpantry.org), a large food bank in North Columbus and partner of Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

Further details are on the Magpie Consort website magpieconsort.org. Enquiries info@magpieconsort.org

**The Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 28
One Worship Service at 10 a.m.
Meeting at 11 a.m.**

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

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

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

Keep in Prayer

Members Hugh Schultz; Ann Eidson; Steve Anderson; Janice Taft; Dene Barnard; Tim Holt; Connie Johnson; Sarah Ahrens Stadie; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter; Marilyn Potts; Dan Axt; Karl Schaab; Rick Sayre; Anne Morganstern; Martha Huey; Twink Starr; Janice White.

Family and friends Gary Glover and Greg Duncan's friend, Barb Wilson; Mary Ann Jacobson's nephew, Peter Poppleton; Diane Kutschbach and Emily Kutschbach Schmitt's aunt and great aunt, Lola; David Hogrefe and Brian Kemp's family members, Doug Hogrefe, Scott Wolfe, Jim Whetstone, Corey Rahe, Melissa Hoover Connor, Linda Hogrefe, and Lauren Banks; Melissa Kulwicki's mother-in-law, Bev Kulwicki; Susie Loik's grandson, Alex Glover and his parents, Kristen and Wes; Evin Hatch's grandmother, Shirley Hatch; Annie Hatch's extended family member, Ranae Walters; Wayne Piper; Hugh Schultz's friend, Barbara Van Ripper; Arevena Nirote's sister and brother-in-law, Marlene and Gary Gallion; Melva Fisher's sister, Mary Bittle, and her friend, Penny Perkins; Jill Hultin's sister, Gail Nelson; Fran and Bruce Panek's friends, Richard and Beverly Cicenas; Victor John, his parents, Charles and Mary Jane, and sister; Lorraine Quinichett; Martha Huey's cousin, Martha Dieckmann; Melody Leidheiser's niece and husband, Kathy and Mick Clark; Amy Brooks' father, Michael Hamlin; Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples; Karl and Sallie Danneberger's friend, Ron Kendzier; Emily Wilson's friend, Thane Fanfulik, her sister and niece, Karen Newcomb and Stasia Hylas, and friend Julia Wharff Piermont; and Todd Cunningham and family's aunt, Mary Ann Dykes.

Those who mourn loved ones during this holiday season including Pat Patterson and family on the death of her sister-in-law, Mollie Stone.

We keep Stephen Ministers in prayer as they care for our church members.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray for the people and churches in Iran, Iraq, and Syria. We also pray for our UCC partners in mission, Madagascar.

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 Realm, 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.

Cash and designated gifts go to support **BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity)**. BREAD is the organization through which our congregation works for social justice. BREAD has a 24-year history of improving the quality of life in Central Ohio by researching serious community problems and gathering the power of people in nearly 40 congregations to press public officials to implement proven solutions to those problems. BREAD rises! Thank you for your generosity.

BREAD Update

BREAD has voted to embark on a new research issue this year and will be receiving the mission offering this Sunday. Four different aspects of the current Columbus housing crisis are causing major problems for low and middle-income residents: 1. Increasing housing costs for existing homeowners; 2. Barriers to buying a new home for first-time buyers; 3. Evictions/rental problems; and 4. Unsafe housing.

This new housing issue, involving rental issues and vouchers, was not previously included in BREAD's demands for equality and justice. Continued follow-up with Restorative Practices, Elder Care, Police Violence and Environmental Concerns has yielded some important results: Columbus City Schools have committed to installing restorative practices in all Columbus City schools, reducing or even eliminating suspensions, and Columbus Police officials have begun a dialogue with BREAD on a police training program to equip officers to intervene in problem situations.

As we start the new year, may the hunger for justice be a continuing motivator in the work of First Church and an inspiration to our membership. Please give generously, so that BREAD rises!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

Designated Minister: Rev. Joanna Samuelson, M.Div.

Minister of Music: Joshua Stafford, M.M.

Administrative Manager: Amy Wagner

Communications Manager: Melissa Kulwicki

Office Assistant: Pat Patterson

Business Administrator: Annette McCormick

Building and Grounds Superintendent: Quang Pham

Custodians: Alexis Wayne, Bob O'Brien

Wedding Coordinators: Amy Wagner, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani

Nursery Staff: Miranda Brooks, Shelly Gies, Celecia Smith

Commissioned Minister for Social Justice: Tom Brownfield

Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction: Jacquelyn Dean

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Program Coordinator: Gary Glover

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Training Coordinator: Wendy Kennedy

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator: Susie Loik

Senior Deacon: Martha Wilson

Senior Deacon-elect: Tom Kiesel

Deacons: Nan Kreimer, Gail Lowe, James Lowe,

Allison Lowery Palmer, Fran Panek, Joel Mathias, Dayna McCrary,

Matt Myers, Lynn Wallich, 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: Martha Wilson

Nominating Chair: Sarah Reed

COMMISSIONERS

Administration: Thomas Brownfield

Administration-elect: David Hogrefe

Church Growth: Steve Sterrett

Church Growth-elect:

Church Vitality: Wendy Kennedy

Church Vitality-elect:

Education: Janice Taft

Education-elect: Mariner Taft

House & Grounds: Mike Kennedy

House & Grounds-elect: Eric Klintworth

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

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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