



## 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*

Dayna McCrary, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Sebastian Kulwicki, *crucifer*

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

Pat Patterson, *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 *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*, BuxWV 223

Dietrich Buxtehude

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Dayna McCrary

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.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Canonbury, Robert Schumann, 1839

“O Radiant Christ, incarnate Word”

Ruth Duck, 1991

1. O ra - dant 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 at the end of the pew, 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

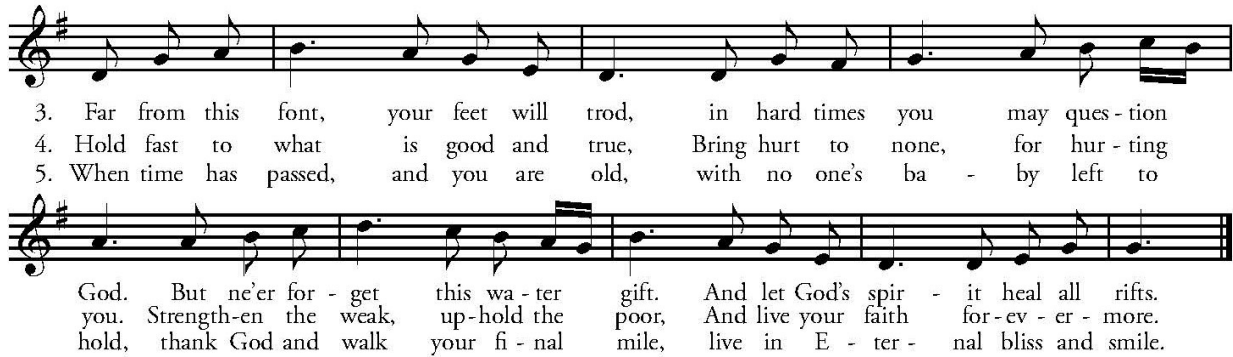
*As we sing, Rev. Ahrens will share the water of baptism with all using these words:*

Leader: Remember your baptism and keep it holy.

**People: Amen.**

\*HYMN  
“Hymn of Water and Spirit” vv. 3-5

*O Waly, Waly*, Scottish Traditional English melody  
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 Amy Wagner.*

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 19:1-7

Mrs. McCrary

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 GOSPEL HYMN  
"Christ, when for us you were baptised"

*Caithness*, Scottish Psalter, 1635  
F. Bland Tucker, 1979

1. Christ, when for us You were bap-tized, God's Spir - it on You came,  
2. God called You "My be - lov - ed Son," The suf - fering ser - vant true,  
3. Straight-way and stead-fast un - til death You then o - beyed God's call  
4. Bap - tize us with Your Spir - it, Lord, Your cross on us be signed,

As peace-ful as a dove and yet As ur - gent as a flame.  
Sent You the king-dom to pro-claim, God's ho - ly will to do.  
Free - ly as Son of Man to serve And give Your life for all.  
That, like - wise in God's ser - vice, we May per - fect free-dom find.

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.

**People: 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 the Depart to Serve leaflet:



### MISSION INVITATION

Janice Taft

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 ANTHEM

There Shall a Star

Felix Mendelssohn, 1846

There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a sceptre from Israel rise up.  
And dash in pieces princes and nations.  
How brightly beams the morning star!  
with sudden radiance from afar  
With light and comfort glowing!  
Thy word, Jesus, inly feeds us,  
rightly leads us, life bestowing.  
Praise, O praise such love o'er flowing!

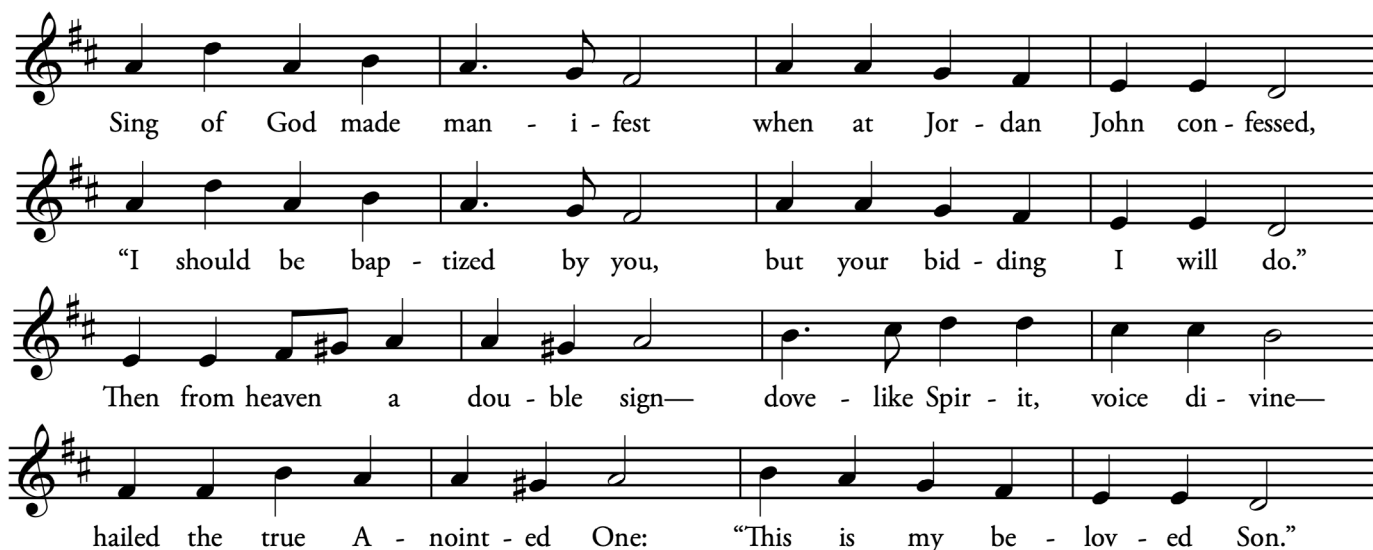
Numbers 24:17, Psalm 2:9, Philipp Nicolai, 1597, tr. Catherine Winkworth

### \*PRESENTATION HYMN

Salzburg, Jakob Hintze, 1678

“Sing of God Made Manifest”

Carl P. Daw, Jr. 1990



Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,  
“I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do.”  
Then from heaven a dou - ble sign— dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—  
hailed the true A - noint - ed One: “This is my be - lov - ed Son.”

# THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table.*

*As directed by the Deacons, please come forward down the center aisle, receive the elements of communion, partake them, and place the cup in the basket provided. Individual bread and cup will be offered to you by the communion ministers.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available. Please deposit the plastic cups in the bins by the side aisles.*

## \*INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

## \*SURSUM CORDA

Plainsong

The musical notation is written on three staves in a plainsong style. The first staff shows the Leader's part: "The Lord be with you." and the People's part: "And also with you." The second staff shows the Leader's part: "Lift up your hearts." and the People's part: "We lift them to the Lord." The third staff shows the Leader's part: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." and the People's part: "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The notation uses a single melodic line with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing.

## \*COMMUNION PRAYER

Revs. Ahrens and Samuelson

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless. We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory. And now we give you thanks for the hope to which you call us in your Son, that following in the faith of all your saints, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and with them receive the unfading crown of glory. We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons, daughters, and all children of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
 hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The congregation may be seated.*

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

**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.**



Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

#### SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*Please come forward as directed by the Deacons to receive the common elements for communion.*

*Receive the bread and grape juice at one of the stations. You are invited to consume the elements as you receive them.*

*Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the tray. Place empty cups in the baskets on the tables by the transepts.*

*If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home.*

#### COMMUNION ANTHEM

The Baptism of Jesus

Peter Hallock,  
Thomas Campion, ca. 1612

*Jesus autem hodie regressus est a Jordane.*

*Hic est Filius meus: ipsum intende.*

But Jesus on this day returned from the Jordan.

“This is my Son: hear him.”

When Jesus Christ baptised was,  
the Holy Ghost descended with grace;  
the Father’s voice was heard in the place:

There were Three Persons and one Lord,  
the Son baptised with one accord,  
the Father said this blessed word:

Now Jesus, as thou art both God and man,  
and were baptised in from Jordan,  
at our last end, we pray thee, say then:

English carol, c. 1500

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ’s gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

#### COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Beach Spring, The Sacred Harp, 1844*

“Wash, O God, your sons and daughters”

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<sup>b</sup> 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<sup>#m</sup>) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)  
 Dm Am Dm B<sup>b</sup> 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<sup>b</sup> 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!

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

*Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam, BWV 684 Johann Sebastian Bach, 1739*

*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 celebration of Baptism of Christ Sunday by the Flower Fund.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Rev. Samuelson — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

Ms. Kulwicki — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

† COFFEE HOUR THIS MORNING are is hosted by the Dean Family. Please join us in Parish Hall, located downstairs immediately below the sanctuary.

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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.



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## **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

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## **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!



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## **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.



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## **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](mailto:jtaft@columbus.rr.com)), or Rev. Joanna ([jsamuels@first-church.org](mailto: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=QjJhbG0NlYvcC9NeU9jaikUTkxZz09>

Meeting ID: 816 2714 9619

Passcode: 984584

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**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](http://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](http://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](http://magpieconsort.org). Enquiries [info@magpieconsort.org](mailto:info@magpieconsort.org)

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**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](mailto: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.

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## 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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