



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*
The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *liturgist*
Martha Wilson, *liturgist*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
Sebastian Kulwicki, *crucifer*
Greg Duncan, *verger*
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 Dietrich Buxtehude, 1637-1707) +E18
Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne in C, Bux 137

INTROIT Anton Brucker, 1869
Locus iste Gradual for the Feast of the Dedication of a Church
Locus iste a Deo factus est, inestimabile sacramentum, irreprehensibilis est.
This place was made by God, a priceless mystery, it is without reproof.

ENTER TO WORSHIP Martha Wilson

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: Come, let us praise the Lord!

People: We praise God with our whole heart!

Leader: God's works are great!

People: Open our hearts and spirits to see your works, O Lord!

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord who has saved us!

**People: May our lives reflect the wondrous love of God
that all may see and know of God's greatness. Amen.**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN
"The church's one foundation"

Aurelia, Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864
Samuel John Stone, 1866

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord.
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op-pressed,
4 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more:
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.
One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

People. **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. 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.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Melissa Kulwicki

During the sermon time, the young children are welcome to participate in "Sunday Stories" with Melissa Kulwicki and Barb Clapham.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Mrs. Wilson

Leader: A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, the eighteenth chapter.

Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*THE GOSPEL HYMN
"Silence! Frenzied, unclean spirit"

Ebenezer, Thomas John Williams, 1890
Thomas H. Troeger, 1984



1. "Si - lence! Fren - zied, un - clean spir - it,"
2. Lord, the de - mons still are thriv - ing
3. Si - lence, Lord, the un - clean spir - it,



Cried God's heal - ing, ho - ly One. "Cease your rant - ing!
In the grey cells of the mind: Ty - rant voic - es
In our mind and in our heart. Speak your word that,



Flesh can't bear it. Flee as ³ night be -
shrill and driv - ing, Twist - ed thoughts that
when we hear it, All our de - mons



fore the sun." At Christ's voice the
grip and bind, Doubts that stir the
shall de - part. Clear our thought and



de - mon trem - bled, From its vic - tim mad - ly rushed,
heart to pan - ic, Fears dis - tort - ing rea - son's sight,
calm our feel - ing, Still the frac - tured, war - ring soul.



While the crowd that was as - sem - bled
Guilt that makes our lov - ing fran - tic,
By the pow - er of your heal - ing



Stood in ³ won - der, stunned and hushed.
Dreams that cloud the soul with fright.
Make us faith - ful, true, and whole.

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

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Pay Attention to the Prophet"

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 the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Cash and designated gifts go to the **Knight-Perry Fund**. Through the Board of Trustees, the Knight-Perry Fund provides support for persons in the church in financial need. The Senior Minister, in strict confidence, approves all loan requests. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

"I was glad"

David Hurd

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."
Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;
To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the Lord.
For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.
For my brethren and companions' sake,
I pray for your prosperity.
Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good."

*DOXOLOGY

Old 100th

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Samuelson

We walk by faith. We live by faith. We give by faith. God of great gifts, you have given us so much. Accept these gifts from our hands, our faithful response to your abundant grace. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

“O master, let me walk with thee”

Maryton, H. Percy Smith, 1874

Washington Gladden, 1879

1. O Mas - ter, let me walk with Thee in low - ly
2. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3. Teach me Thy pa - tience; still with Thee in clos - er,
4. In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice free; tell me Thy se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way; in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
Thou canst give, with Thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Final: Allegro assai from Organ Sonata No.1, Op. 42 Alexandre Guilmant, 1874

Please be seated for the Postlude.

During the postlude, Church Council members are invited to enter the Chancel following the verger.

Following the postlude, you are invited to move forward and sit in the front section of the Nave for the Annual Congregational Meeting.

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 one of our pastors or 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 thanks for all of the elected and volunteer leaders who served our congregation faithfully in 2023 by the Flower Fund.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Samuelson — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

January 28, 2024

This Week at First Church

Sunday, Jan. 28

- 10 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
11 a.m. Annual Congregational Mtg
 (Sanctuary)
12 Noon Council Reception (Parish Hall)
6 p.m. Youth Gathering (Parish Hall)

Monday, Jan. 29

- 12 Noon Grief Support Group
 (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, Jan. 30

- 5:15 p.m. Laundry Love (Wash Land)

Thursday, Feb. 1

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

Saturday, Feb. 3

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

Sunday, Feb. 4

- 9 a.m. Morning Worship & Holy Communion
 (Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)
 Sunday School (Various Classrooms)
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)

Coffee Hour This Week

Following the Annual Meeting, join us in Parish Hall for a reception.

The Annual Meeting Immediately Following Worship

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.

Stephen Ministry

You can support Stephen Ministry by helping individuals going through a difficult time connect to with our Stephen Ministry Program. When you know about or interact with someone who is hurting you could help by making sure they know how easy it is to connect with Stephen Ministry at First Church.

Susie Loik is our Stephen Ministry Program's Referrals Coordinator and can be reached anytime at Stephen-Ministry@first-church.org.

To learn more about what types of care a Stephen Minister is trained to provide care for, take a moment to visit our web page at <https://www.first-church.org/stephen-ministry/>. Be sure to check out the sections titled: Stephen Ministry Caregiving Situations and Stephen Ministers: The After People.

First Church Book Club:

Wednesday, February 7

Demon Copperhead

Wednesday, March 6

*Paved Paradise: How Parking
Explains the World*

Come enjoy lively conversation and fellowship this February and March with the First Church Book Club.

On Wednesday, February 7, Elaine Warren will lead a discussion of Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*. Inspired by *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens, *Demon Copperhead* is the story of a boy born into poverty in Appalachian Virginia and his experiences with foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, opioid addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses, using his wits to survive. Kingsolver makes plain the problems facing rural America. Equal parts hilarious, heartbreaking, and wise, it was awarded the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

On Wednesday, March 6, Todd Jacobson will lead a discussion of Henry Graber's *Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World*, an entertaining, enlightening, and original investigation into one of the most quietly influential forces in modern American life—the humble parking spot. Parking dominates and frustrates our lives and actually consumes more space in America than housing. The Los Angeles Times says this is an “entertaining romp packed with tales of anger, violence, theft, lust, greed, political chicanery, and transportation policy gone wrong.”

Questions? Call Kathy Reed, 614-442-7742.

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, February 6

12 noon

101 Beer Kitchen

7509 Sawmill Road

Join us for lunch at 101 Beer Kitchen on February 6 at noon. This chef-owned restaurant features a seasonal menu with hand-crafted specialties and a few house classics that are exceptional. At 101 Beer Kitchen, beer might come first in the name, but their food is second to none! Register by clicking the QR Code below.



Time Out Monday

Monday, February 19

6 p.m.

Cafe Istanbul

6125 Riverside Drive

Join us for authentic Turkish and Mediterranean Cuisine at Cafe Istanbul, 6125 Riverside Drive on Monday, February 19 at 6 p.m. Come and enjoy dinner and a Turkish coffee with us! Register by clicking the QR Code below.



Keep in Prayer

Members Antoinette Beynen; Elaine Warren; Janice Taft; Hugh Schultz; Steve Anderson; Dene Barnard; Tim Holt; Connie Johnson; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter; Dan Axt; Rick Sayre; Anne Morganstern; Martha Huey; Twink Starr; Janice White.

Family and friends Jill Hultin's brother-in-law, Ken Hultin; Mary Ann Jacobson's nephew, Peter Poppleton; Diane Kutschbach and Emily Kutschbach Schmitt's aunt and great aunt, Lola, and Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples; Melissa Kulwicki's mother-in-law, Bev Kulwicki; Susie Loik's grandson, Alex Glover and his parents, Kristen & Wes; Hugh Schultz's friend, Barbara Van Riper; Arevena Nirote's sister and brother-in-law, Marlene and Gary Gallion; Fran and Bruce Panek's friends, Richard and Beverly Cicenias; Victor John, his parents, Charles and Mary Jane, and sister; Martha Huey's sister, Stephanie Childs and cousin, Martha Dieckmann; Melody Leidheiser's niece and husband, Kathy and Mick Clark; Amy Brooks' father, Michael Hamlin; and Karl and Sallie Danneberger's friend, Ron Kendzier.

Those who mourn loved ones Jill Hultin on the death of her sister, Gail Nelson; Geneva Rice on the death of her husband, Jim Monsul; Allison Ellenberger, on the death of her father, Bill Ellenberger; David Kandel and family on the death of his sister, Sheryl Elizabeth Kandel Loeffler; and Joe Provenzano and family on the death of his step-father, Harve Senter.

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 Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, and Tunisia. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Refugee Ministry of the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid in Hungary.

Give

Upcoming Mission Offerings

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.

January 28	The Knight Perry Fund
February 4	The Largest Table
February 11	NAMI
February 18	Good Sam
February 25	Equal Justice Initiative

Cash and designated gifts go to the **Knight-Perry Fund**. Through the Board of Trustees, the Knight-Perry Fund provides support for persons in the church in financial need. The Senior Minister, in strict confidence, approves all loan requests. Thank you for your generosity.

Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care please contact Rev. Tim Ahrens at tahrens@first-church.org or Rev. Joanna Samuelson at jsamuelson@first-church.org.

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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