



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*

Tom Kiesel, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Malcolm Gillies, *crucifer*

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

Aran Cunningham, *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

Organ Sonata in F

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, ca. 1732

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Tom Kiesel

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: In this year of our Lord, on this Sabbath morning, in this Holy moment we come seeking God's presence with hope, with wonder, and with joy. And we pray:

People: Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might, the whole world is filled with your glory!

Leader: Yet, this beloved world is riddled with sadness. For need encounters greed, and war is a constant. We listen for the call:

People: Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?

Leader: We come longing to be consoled, strengthened, and changed so that in hope, in wonder, and in joy we may answer:

People: Here I am! Send me!

Leader: Let us worship our God in this year of our Lord, on this Sabbath morning, in this Holy Moment!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“We come to you for healing, Lord”

Land of Rest, American folk melody

Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2002

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
3 Through nights of pain and wake - ful - ness, through
4 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
reached toward those in pain, we know you come a -
days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
mong us still with power to heal a - gain.
pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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.*

Leader: Lord, hear our prayer.

People: Let our cry come to You.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Melissa Kulwicki

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

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:21-31

Mr. Kiesel

Leader: A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, the fortieth chapter.

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,

or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,

mighty in power,

not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*THE GOSPEL HYMN

“God weeps with those who weep and mourn”

Moshier, Sally Ann Morris, 1995

Thomas H. Troeger, 1996

1 God weeps with us who weep and mourn; God's
2 Through tears and sor - row, God, we share a
3 And yet be - cause, like us, you weep, we

tears flow down with ours, and God's own heart is
sense of your vast grief: the weight of bear - ing
trust you will re - ceive and in your ten - der

bruised and worn from all the heav - y hours
ev - ery prayer for heal - ing and re - lief,
heart will keep the ones for whom we grieve,

of watch - ing while the soul's bright fire burned
the bur - den of our ques - tions why, the
while with your tears our hearts will taste the

low - er day by day, and pulse and breath and
doubts that they en - gage, and as our friends and
deep, dear core of things from which both life and

love's de - sire dimmed down to ash and clay.
loved ones die, our hope - less - ness and rage.
death are graced by love's re - new - ing springs.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

Rev. Ahrens

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

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION

"The Fifth Stream"

Rev. Ahrens

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Samuelson

THE OFFERTORY

To give online, please scan this QR code, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Fran Panek

Cash and designated gifts go to support **The Largest Table**. Every Wednesday, for more than twelve years, volunteers provide food for individuals and families in the community who are in need. This program transitioned to grab-and-go lunches during COVID in the Spring of 2020. The First Church meal team gathers on the third Wednesday of each month to make and pack up to 100 lunches. Your gifts will help purchase the supplies for our meal team to support this feeding ministry. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

William Bradley Roberts, 2017

"Our souls in silence wait"

Anonymous, based on Psalm 62 and I John 4:18

Our souls in silence wait for God alone.
Here our weakness is steadied by God's strength,
here our hearts find their calm,
here our fears are cast out by God's perfect love.
Inhabit this silence, O God,
the mystery of your presence filling our spirits,
renewing our hearts and our minds,
enfolding us in love and peace.

*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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

*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 consists of three staves of plainsong. The first staff is for the Leader and the second for the People. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise." The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and various note values and rests.

*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.



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the



pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 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 as you return to your seats. If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home.

ANTHEM

Edward Elgar, for the Coronation of George V, 1911

“O hearken thou”

Psalm 5:2-3

O hearken thou unto the voice of my calling, my King, and my God:

for unto thee will I make my prayer.

My voice shalt thou hear betimes, O Lord:

early in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

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
 "Abide with me"

Eventide, William Bradley Monk, 1861
 Henry Francis Lyte, 1847

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide!
 earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see.
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Nimrod, from Enigma Variations

Edward Elgar, 1899

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 in loving memory of Celestine Clarke by Emily Davidson, Shirley Clarke, and Michelle Davidson.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Ms. Kulwicki — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

Rev. Samuelson — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

† COFFEE HOUR THIS MORNING is hosted by the Confirmation Class and Rev. Ahrens. Please join us in Parish Hall, located downstairs immediately below the sanctuary.

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

February 4, 2024

This Week at First Church

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 & Holy Communion
(Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12 Noon Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)
- 6 p.m. Youth Group Gathering (Parish Hall)

Monday, Feb. 5

- 9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution
(Good Sam Office)
- 12 Noon Congregational Care Ministry Mtg
(Fanning Rm)
- 6:30 p.m. House & Grounds Mtg (Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Faith Formation Mtg
(Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, Feb. 6

- 12 Noon Lunch Bunch (101 Beer Kitchen)
- 7 p.m. Communications & Technology Mtg
(Fanning Rm)
Justice & Mercy Mtg
(Classroom C & Zoom)
Personnel Committee Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, Feb. 7

- 11 a.m. Church Vitality Mtg (Zoom)
- 12:15 p.m. Wednesday Meditations (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Monthly Mtg
(Fanning Rm)
- 7 p.m. Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, Feb. 8

- 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)

Sunday, Feb. 11

- 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)

Youth Group

Today, February 4

6-7:30 p.m.

Parish Hall

Youth grades 6-12 are invited to join us this evening from 6-7:30 p.m. in Parish Hall for Youth Group. Each week, we will share a meal, have a discussion, an activity, or work on a mission project, and then we will close with the First Church favorite game Sardines.

This is an excellent opportunity for our young people to connect and build relationships with each other and their church family. If you have middle school or high school-age youth and are not receiving our youth group emails, have any questions, or would like to help out please contact Rev. Joanna Samuelson jsamuelson@first-church.org or Melissa Kulwicki mkulwicki@first-church.org.

Neighborhood Care Circles Luncheon

**Sunday, February 25
After 11 a.m. Worship
Parish Hall**

Learn all about our new neighborhood groups and how they will help all of us create new connections with our church family. Enjoy a taco bar and get to know your neighbors! Dessert contributions are welcome. Representatives from Church Vitality and Deacons will pass out invitations this Sunday following both worship services. Donations for the luncheon are encouraged. Please RSVP by placing your completed invitation in one of the baskets outside the sanctuary.

First Church Book Club:

Wednesday, February 7

7 p.m. Zoom

Demon Copperhead

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.

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

Coming Soon ... Lenten Book Study Groups

In keeping with a cherished First Church tradition, we are offering book study groups for the upcoming Lenten season. The book that we'll read together as a congregation this year is *Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety* by the beloved author Henri Nouwen who speaks to the gifts, vulnerabilities, and struggles that come with faithful living. We'll have copies of the book available for your purchase in the church office soon or you may find a copy of the book at the public library or your favorite bookseller.

Once again, we hope to organize several Lenten Book Study Groups to take place in the homes of First Church members who live in the different neighborhoods and suburbs of the Columbus area. In the past, most of our Lenten groups have met two or three times for discussions about the book and fellowship. Each host determines the day of the week and time of their gatherings. Contact Rev. Joanna at jsamuelson@first-church.org for more information or to host.

First Serves: SOAP Project

Sunday, February 25

10-10:45 a.m.

This month, we will work alongside one another to label bars of soap that we will donate to The Soap Project (soapproject.org). It is a nationwide organization that works to end human trafficking by mobilizing communities to provide prevention education and advocacy and to facilitate restorative experiences for survivors.

We are asking for monetary donations to purchase the supplies. Please visit the Giving Tree in the Education Wing and take an envelope. You can place your donation in the envelope and drop it in the collection plate. You can also give online, just make sure to designate it for "First Serves." Thank you for your generosity!

Join the New Communications and Technology Commission

The Communications and Technology Commission is now forming! It is led by Mike Kennedy, Commissioner, and Stefan Duga, Commissioner-Elect, and the staff liaison is Melissa Kulwicki, Communications Manager. The group is hoping to meet the first Tuesday of each month, starting in February. If you are interested in helping the church grow in the areas of technology and communications, contact Mike Kennedy (michaela.kennedy@yahoo.com) or Melissa Kulwicki (mkulwicki@first-church.org).

Wednesday Meditation Qin Ying Tan, Harpsichord Wednesday, February 7 12:15 p.m.

Join us for a brief, free Wednesday Meditation at First Congregational Church on February 7 at 12:15 p.m. featuring Dr. Qin Ying Tan playing our beautiful Bechtel harpsichord.

Stephen Ministry: How Stephen Ministry Works

Stephen Ministry in each church is led by Stephen Leaders—lay leaders, church staff, and pastors who are trained by Stephen Ministries, St. Louis, through the online Bridge Leader's Training Course. Following their training, Stephen Leaders recruit and select laypeople from their congregation to serve as Stephen Ministers.

Stephen Leaders then train their congregation's Stephen Ministers, covering topics such as listening, understanding difficult feelings, maintaining confidentiality, and ministering to people in specific situations, including grief, divorce, medical crises, terminal or chronic illness, infertility and other family issues, and more.

Stephen Ministers also learn to recognize when a care receiver may need care beyond what a Stephen Minister is able to provide and how to work with Stephen Leaders to make referrals to the appropriate type of care. After completing training, Stephen Ministers are commissioned by their congregations and matched with care receivers by their Stephen Leaders.

A Stephen Minister typically meets with their care receiver once a week for about an hour, for as long as the need for care persists. Stephen Ministers also meet regularly with their Stephen Leaders for supervision, support, and continuing education.

Pysanky Workshop

Two Dates:

Friday, March 1, 6 - 9 p.m.

**Saturday, March 2, 1:30- 4:30
p.m.**

Parish Hall

Register on Realm

Lunch Bunch Tuesday, February 6 at 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 at 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.



Wednesday Book Study *Jesus and the Disinherited* Wednesday, February 21 10:30 a.m., Classroom C or Zoom

Keep in Prayer

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

Family and friends Marti Rideout; Pat Patterson's son, Jay Patterson; Jill Hultin's brother, 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 and Wes; Hugh Schultz's friend, Barbara Van Ripper; 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; Amy Brooks' father, Michael Hamlin; and Karl and Sallie Danneberger's friend, Ron Kendzier.

Those who mourn loved ones Melody Leidheiser and her niece, Kathy Clark, on the death of Melody's nephew and Kathy's husband, Mick Clark; 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 Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, and the Vatican City. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Pacific Conference of Churches in Fiji.

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.

February 4	The Largest Table
February 11	NAMI
February 18	Good Sam
February 25	Equal Justice Initiative

Cash and designated gifts go to support **The Largest Table**. Every Wednesday, for more than twelve years, volunteers provide food for individuals and families in the community who are in need. This program transitioned to grab-and-go lunches during COVID in the Spring of 2020. The First Church meal team gathers on the third Wednesday of each month to make and pack up to 100 lunches. Your gifts will help purchase the supplies for our meal team to support this feeding ministry. Thank you for your generosity.

Pastoral Care

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