



### 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. Sarah Reed, *preacher*
- Dr. Gregory Halbe, *worship leader*
- The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston, *liturgist*
- Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
- Henry Gillies, *crucifer*
- Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*
- Jennifer Fry, *handbell director*
- Peter Murray, *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  
Flee As A Bird

Mary Dana Shindler, 1846  
arr. Anna Laura Page, 2017

ENTER TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston

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: By the appearance on earth of our Saviour Jesus Christ

**People: God has broken the power of death and brought life and immortality to light.**

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come

**People: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

Leader: For though darkness will cover the earth

**People: and thick darkness the nations,**

Leader: the Lord will rise upon you

**People: and his glory will be seen upon you.**

Leader: By the appearance on earth of our Saviour Jesus Christ

**People: God has broken the power of death and brought life and immortality to light.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Oh wondrous sight, O vision fair”

*Deo Gracias*, “The Angicourt Song,” c. 1415

Latin, 15th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851



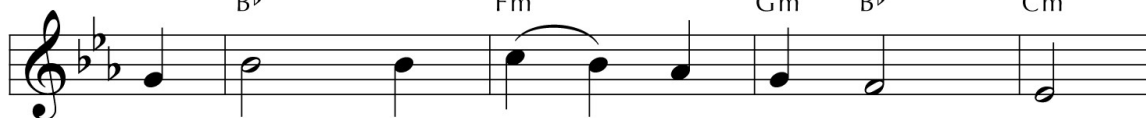
1 O won - drous sight, O vi - sion fair  
 2 From age to age the tale de - clare,  
 3 The law and proph - ets there have place,  
 4 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray  
 5 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high

(Am) (Dm) (Am) (Em) (Am)  
 Cm Fm Cm Gm Cm



of glo - ry that the church shall share,  
 how with the three dis - ci - ples there,  
 two cho - sen wit - ness - es of grace;  
 Christ deigns to man - i - fest to - day  
 by this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y,

(G) (Dm) (Em) (G) (Am)  
 B<sup>b</sup> Fm Gm B<sup>b</sup> Cm



which Christ up - on the moun - tain shows,  
 where Mo - ses and E - li - jah meet,  
 the Fa - ther's voice from out the cloud  
 what glo - ry shall be theirs a - bove  
 for which in joy - ful strains we raise

(Em) (Dm) (F) (G) (Am)  
 Gm Fm A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Cm



where bright - er than the sun he glows!  
 the Lord holds con - verse high and sweet.  
 pro - claims his on - ly Son a - loud.  
 who joy in God with per - fect love.  
 the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

\*INVOCATION

Dr. Gregory Halbe

Leader: God be with you.

**People. And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; 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. Sarah Reed

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 Jonathan Miller.*

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

2 Kings 2:1-12

Rev. Livingston

Leader: A reading from the second book of Kings, the second chapter.

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Thomas Tallis, 1575

“O nata Lux”

*Hymnarius Moissiacensis*, 10th cent. tr. chiefly by John David Chambers, 1857

*O nata Lux de lumine, Jesu Redemptor sæculi,  
dignare clemens supplicum laudes precesque sumere.  
Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus es pro perditis.  
Nos membra confer effici, tui beati corporis.*

O Light, which from the Light hast birth, Jesu Redeemer of the earth,  
in loving mercy deign to hear thy humble suppliants' praise and prayer.  
Thou who, for lost transgressors' sake didst not disdain our flesh to take,  
O grant that living members we of that thy body blest may be.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Rev. Livingston

Leader: A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, the fourth chapter.  
Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

\*THE GOSPEL HYMN

*Mowsley*, Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1985

“Jesus on the mountain peak”

Brian A. Wren, 1962, 1988

1. Je - sus on the moun-tain peak Stands a - lone in  
 2. Trem-bling at His feet we saw Mo - ses and E -  
 3. Swift the cloud of glo - ry came, God pro - claim - ing,  
 4. This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and proph - ets

glo - ry blaz - ing; Let us, if we dare to speak,  
 li - jah speak - ing. All the proph - ets and the law  
 in its thun - der, Je - sus as the Son by name!  
 sing be - fore Him, First and last and on - ly One.

Join the saints and an - gels prais-ing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Shout through their joy - ful greet-ing: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Na - tions, cry a - loud in won - der: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 All cre - a - tion shall a - dore Him! Al - le - lu - ia!

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Greater than can be Thought"

Rev. Reed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dr. Halbe

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

Dr. Halbe

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **National Alliance on Mental Illness NAMI Franklin County (NAMI FC)**. NAMI FC's mission is to improve the quality of life for people with mental illness and their loved ones and families through support, education, referral, and advocacy. They offer mentoring, parenting classes, peer support, prevention, school services, support groups, and youth mental health services. The families and members of NAMI Franklin County offer understanding to anyone concerned about mental illnesses and the treatment of mental illness. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Christ, whose glory fills the skies”

Christ, Whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of righteous arise!  
Triumph o’er the shades of night:  
Day-spring from on high, be near;  
Day star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day’s return,  
Till Thy mercy’s beams I see;  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine!  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!  
Fill me, Radiancy Divine;  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display.  
Shining to the perfect day. Amen.

\*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. Reed

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

\*CLOSING HYMN  
"Sing of God made manifest"

Salzburg, Jakob Hintze, 1678  
Carl P. Daw, Jr. 1990

1 Sing of God made man - i - fest in a child ro - bust and blest,  
2 Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,  
3 Sing of God made man - i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest  
4 Sing of God made man - i - fest on the cloud - capped moun - tain's crest,  
to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid - ed them,  
"I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."  
and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re - mained:  
ma - gi came and gifts un - bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro - found:  
Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—  
fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,  
glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face  
myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.  
hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."  
bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call.  
towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Reed

POSTLUDE

*Toccato* from Suite for Organ

Florence Price, 1942

*Please be seated for the Postlude.*

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*Thank you for attending worship this morning. We hope that you have found peace and grace here and invite you to return often. If you would like more information or have any questions about First Church, please ask anyone wearing a name tag. We would be delighted to assist you.*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in honor of Donna's baptism on February 14, 2020 by the Vogt Family.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Reed — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Dr. Halbe — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

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

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

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## **Jesus: A Lenten Sermon Series**

February 14, 2024, Ash Wednesday

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching “Jesus and Forgiveness”

Worship at Noon & 7 p.m.

February 18, 2024, First Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching “Jesus and Temptation”

Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.

February 25, 2024, Second Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching “Jesus and His Call to Follow”

Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.

March 3, 2024, Third Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching “Jesus, Anger, and Justice”

Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.

March 10, 2024, Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching “Jesus and the Agony of Prayer”

Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.

March 17, 2024, Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson Preaching

Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.

March 24, 2024, Palm/Passion Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching “Jesus and the Children”

Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.

March 28, 2024, Maundy Thursday

7 p.m. Communion, Followed by Tenebrae Service

March 29, 2024, Good Friday

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching “Jesus and the Way of the Cross”

Service at 12 Noon

March 31, 2024, Easter Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching “Jesus and Rising Now and Forever”

Sunrise Service, 8:45 a.m. & 11 a.m.



*Enter to Worship*  
**Depart to Serve**

February 11, 2024

## **This Week at First Church**

**Sunday, Feb. 11** – Washington Gladden’s Birthday!  
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)

**Monday, Feb. 12**  
7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

**Wednesday, Feb. 14**  
12 Noon Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)  
7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)

**Thursday, Feb. 15**  
10 a.m. Stewardship & Church Growth Mtg  
(Fanning Rm)  
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. 17**  
9:30 a.m. Council Orientation (Fanning Rm)

**Sunday, Feb. 18**  
9 a.m. Morning Worship & Holy Communion  
(Parish Hall & Virtual)  
10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)  
Sunday School (Various Classrooms)  
10:30 a.m. Confirmation Class  
(St. Dominic’s Church)  
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)  
12 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales  
(Parish Hall)  
Second Nurture (Classroom C)  
4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)  
6 p.m. Youth Group Gathering (Parish Hall)

## **Joshua Stafford in Concert** **St. Joseph Cathedral** **Today at 3 p.m**

Today at 3 p.m., Minister of Music Joshua Stafford will play a recital at St. Joseph Cathedral (212 E. Broad Street) on the Fritts organ. This festive program includes works of Cochereau, Price, Bach, Coleridge-Taylor, Storace, and Dvořák. Tickets are not required.

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## **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.

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## **No Youth Group** **Sunday, February 11**

Youth Group will resume meeting on February 18, from 6-7:30 p.m. in. Parish Hall. All youth grade 6-12 are invited to join the fun! Questions? Please contact Melissa Kulwicki ([mkulwicki@first-church.org](mailto:mkulwicki@first-church.org).)

## **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](mailto:jsamuelson@first-church.org) for more information or to host.

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### **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 ([soaproject.org](http://soaproject.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!

## **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**

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## **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.



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## **Stephen Ministry**

More than 13,000 congregations are enrolled in Stephen Ministry. They represent 192 different Christian denominations and come from all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 30 other countries. Over 80,000 pastors, church staff, and laypeople have been trained as Stephen Leaders. These Stephen Leaders in turn have trained over 600,000 congregation members to be Stephen Ministers. Those Stephen Ministers have provided confidential care to more than 1.5 million people in one-to-one Stephen Ministry caring relationships, and have also used their caregiving skills to touch the lives of millions more.

# Keep in Prayer

**Members** Kathy Brownfield; Bob and Sheri Moreen; 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** Pastor Michael Bean and family on the death of his sister, Eloise Downing; Joshua Stafford and Stefan Duga's friend, Robert Moody, on the death of his husband, James Jones; Duan Cannon's mother, Lois Fields; 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; 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; 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 dear friend, 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 Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone.

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## 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).

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## Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care please contact Rev. Tim Ahrens [tahrens@first-church.org](mailto:tahrens@first-church.org) or Rev. Joanna Samuelson [jsamuelson@first-church.org](mailto:jsamuelson@first-church.org).

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## Upcoming Mission Offerings

<b>February 11</b>	<b>NAMI</b>
February 18	Good Sam
February 25	Equal Justice Initiative
March 3	Sanctuary Night

# 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  
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