



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



WORSHIP AT 9 A.M.
FEBRUARY 25, 2024
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! For more than 171 years our Covenant has been: We covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ and one another, and bind ourselves in the presence of God to live together in all God's ways as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and holy scripture. The church acknowledges that all members have the right of individual interpretation of the principles of the Christian faith and respects them in their honest convictions. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord, the church recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

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

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *co-celebrant*

Maggie Myers, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

David Hogrefe, *pianist*

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

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Maggie Myers

Leader: Our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth. Let us worship God.

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

Leader: The pathway is just beginning.

People: We have encountered the wilderness.

Leader: Now we are moving rapidly toward Jerusalem.

People: Along the way we will witness astonishing acts of mercy and justice.

Leader: Lord, be with us on the journey.

People: Guide our lives and our steps, we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“Called as partners in Christ’s service”

Beecher, John Zundel, 1870

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

1 Called as part-ners in Christ’s ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
2 Christ’s ex-am-ple, Christ’s in-spir-ing, Christ’s clear call to work and worth,
3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ’s mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life

we re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
let us fol-low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
help us bear each oth - er’s bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
that sur-round each per - son’s sor-row with a calm that con-que-ers strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor - er, all God’s peo-ple, young and old,
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,

e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God’s cho-sen end.
blend-ing hu-man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
mes - sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

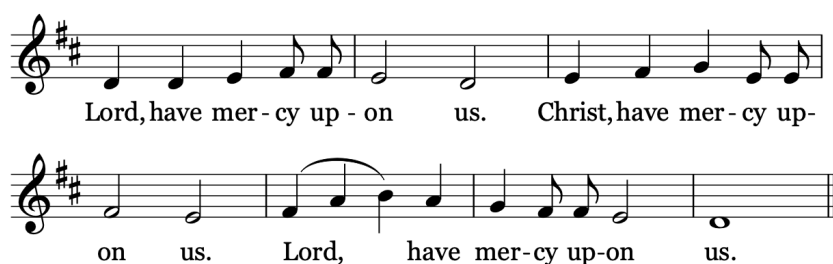
Leader: We are called to examine our faithfulness to God’s covenant with us. God, in whose presence we gather, promises us grace and pardon when we acknowledge our weakness and brokenness. Let us confess our sin to almighty God.

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Silence may be observed for reflection and prayer.

*KYRIE ELEISON

Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan, 1928



*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Almighty God, who is great in mercy and promises forgiveness of sin to all who truly repent and are sincere in faith, have mercy on us, pardon and deliver us from all sin, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ahrens

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

People: **And also with you.**

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

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

CHILDREN’S TIME

Melissa Kulwicki

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

Leader: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans, the fourth chapter.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."

Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

May all who fear you, O God, give praise;
 may the offspring of Israel stand in awe,
 and all of Jacob's line give glory.

**For you do not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty,
 neither do you hide your face from them,
 but when they cry to you, you hear them.**

My praise is of you in the great assembly;
 I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
 and those who seek you shall praise you:
 "May your heart live for ever!"**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you,
 and all the families of the nations shall bow before you.

**For yours is the royal power, O God;
 you rule over the nations.**

To you alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
 all who go down to the dust fall before you.

**My soul shall live for you;
 my descendants shall serve you;
 they shall be known as yours for ever.**

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that you have done.

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

Then he began to teach them that the Anointed One must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Anointed One will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Jesus and His Call to Follow"

Rev. Ahrens

Third in the Lenten sermon series, "Jesus"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ahrens

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

All: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Cash and designated gifts go to the **Equal Justice Initiative**, whose mission includes ending the mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the US. They challenge racial and economic injustice for the most vulnerable people in society and strive to protect basic human rights. They established the Legacy Museum in 2018 which explores the history of racial inequality. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Kelvingrove, Scottish traditional, arr. The Iona Community, 1987

"Will you come and follow me"

The Iona Community, 1987



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
5. Christ, your sum - mons e - choes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot - steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

COMMUNION

Rev. Samuelson

COMMUNION HYMN

Bless the Lord, Jacques Berthier, 1994

“Bless the Lord, my soul”

Taizé Community, 1984

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It features a treble and bass staff. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with accompaniment in the bass staff. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It concludes with a double bar line. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Ahrens

Leader: Let us pray.

All: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have brought us from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from death to rebirth. Transform our lives with this heavenly food, that we may shine with your love and take to the world the risen life of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN
"Jesus, remember me"

Remember Me, Jacques Berthier, 1981
Taizé Community, 1881

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The image shows the first system of a musical score for the hymn "Remember Me". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics "Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom." are printed below the treble staff.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The image shows the second system of the musical score for "Remember Me". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is three flats and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is in the treble staff and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics "Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom." are printed below the treble staff.

*BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

Rev. Ahrens

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.

ON THE COVER
Go Teach All Nations

Artist Sketch for the Jeffrey Window, Nicola D'Ascenzo Studios, Philadelphia, PA, 1931
Rightmost medallion in the upper band of the Jeffrey Window.

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

February 25, 2024

This Week at First Church

Sunday, Feb. 25

- 9 a.m. Morning Worship & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. First Serves (Education Wing)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12:30 p.m. Neighborhood Care Circles
(Parish Hall)

Monday, Feb. 26

- 10 a.m. Stewardship & Growth Commission
Meeting (Fanning Rm)
- 12 Noon Grief Support Group
(Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, Feb. 27

- 5:15 p.m. Laundry Love (Wash Land)
- 7 p.m. Deacon's Mtg (Zoom)

Thursday, Feb. 29

- 10 a.m. Memorial Service for James Borling
(Sanctuary)
- Reception to follow (Parish Hall)
- 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)

Friday, Mar. 1

- 6 p.m. Pysanky Egg Workshop (Parish Hall)

Saturday, Mar. 2

- 10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg (Adult Library)
- 1:30 p.m. Pysanky Egg Workshop (Parish Hall)

Sunday, Mar. 3

- 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)
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)
- 4 p.m. Concerts at First Church (Sanctuary)

Neighborhood Care Circles Luncheon

**Today, After 11 a.m. Worship
Parish Hall**

**Concerts at First Church
Ahreum Han, organist
Sunday, March 3
4 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

Organist Ahreum Han Congdon's imaginative, powerful, and extraordinary performances have thrilled audiences throughout the United States, Asia, and Europe. She has been a featured soloist at many conventions and festivals, including the 2012 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists, the 2010 AGO Winter Conclave, the Young Virtuosi Festival, and the White Mountain Musical Arts Bach Festival.

Pysanky Workshop

Two Dates:

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

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

Register on Realm

Deep Griha Dinner

Friday, March 8, 6 – 8 p.m.

First Community North Campus

Please join us for the catered dinner at First Community North Campus, 3777 Dublin Road, Dublin Ohio 43221. The event is Friday, March 8, 6 – 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25/person and you can register online at tinyurl.com/deepgrihadinner2024.

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 “Jesus in Our Midst”
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 the Office of 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: Rising Now and Forever”
Sunrise Service, 8:45 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Lenten Book Study Groups

We are offering book study groups throughout this Lenten season. The book that we'll read as a congregation this year is *Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety* by the beloved author Henri Nouwen. We have copies of the book available for your purchase for \$17 in the church office or you may find a copy of the book at the public library or bookseller.

Our Lenten Book Study Groups will be hosted by the following First Church members:

Marty and Gerry Worth

(Marty and Gerry's home in Upper Arlington)
Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m., beginning on Wednesday, March 6. Contact Marty to register at 614.488.2169 or martha-worth@att.net

Becky Taft

(Ohio Living Westminster-Thurber in Victorian Village/Columbus) Thursdays, February 22 - March 28, 10-11:15 a.m. Contact Becky at 614.702.1011 or rrtaft@columbus.rr.com

Melissa Kulwicksi

(First Church Parlor)
Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m., beginning on February 29
Contact Melissa at mkulwicksi@first-church.org

Rev. Tim Ahrens

(First Church Parlor)
Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m., March 13, 20 and 27
Contact Tim at tahrens@first-church.org

Lynn Wallich and Bev Cook

(Lynn's home in Victorian Village/Columbus)
Thursdays, 6-8 p.m., beginning on March 7
Contact Lynn at 614.563.2560 or lrw25@yahoo.com

Melva Fisher

(Melva's home on the east side near Reynoldsburg)
Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m., Thursday, 3/6 and 3/20
Contact Melva at 614.264.7476

Please contact the host directly for more details and directions. Please reach out to Rev. Joanna at jsamuelson@first-church.org or 214.995.3525 (cell) with questions.

First Church Book Club

Wednesday, March 6 at 7 p.m.

Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World

Wednesday, April 3 at 7 p.m.

A Long Petal of the Sea

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

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 utterly 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 a “highly entertaining romp, packed with tales of anger, violence, theft, lust, greed, political chicanery, and transportation policy gone wrong.”

On Wednesday, April 3, Jackie Dean will lead a discussion of *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende. This epic novel follows two young people fleeing the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War, searching for a place to call home. As the battle between freedom and repression plays out across the world, they create a new life in Chile as refugees while still hoping to someday return to Spain. A story of political upheaval, war, loss, survival, and love. Questions? Call Kathy Reed, 614-442-7742.

Stephen Ministry: Do You Know Someone Who Is Hurting?

Suggest a Stephen Minister and ask whether you can have a Stephen Leader contact him or her. You can help! A Stephen Minister offers one-to-one confidential care. Contact our Stephen Ministry at stephenministry@first-church.org

Keep in Prayer

Members Annette McCormick; Maggie Myers; Kathy Brownfield; Bob and Sheri Moreen; Bridget Tharp and Tony Baker; Wendy Reber; Antoinette Beynen; Elaine Warren; 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 Alexis Wayne; David Kandel's mother, Dottie Kandel; Jim Griffin's friends, Andy Bell and John Alatsis; 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; Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples; Susie Loik's grandson, Alex Glover and his parents, Kristen and Wes; Arevena Nirote's sister and brother-in-law, Marlene and Gary Gallion; Fran and Bruce Panek's friends, Richard and Beverly Cicenas; 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 Melissa Kulwicki's cousins, Linda and Lexi Brown on the death of Linda's daughter and Lexi's sister, Mia Brown; Elaine Borling on the death of her husband, James Borling.

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 Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Ecumenical Foundation for Integral Development, Capacity Building, and Education, and the Evangelical United Methodist Church of Ecuador.

Give

At First Church, our financial resources enable us to "Enter to worship, depart to serve." You can support the mission and ministry of First Church now by using Realm, EasyTithe or PayPal, by visiting <https://www.first-church.org/give/>, or by sending your offering directly to First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information, please contact Annette McCormick at amccormick@firstchurch.org.

Cash and designated gifts go to the **Equal Justice Initiative**, whose mission includes ending the mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the US. They challenge racial and economic injustice for the most vulnerable people in society and strive to protect basic human rights. They established the Legacy Museum in 2018 which explores the history of racial inequality. 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.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

February 25	Equal Justice Initiative
March 3	Sanctuary Night
March 10	First Serves
March 17	Columbus Relief

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

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: Tom Kiesel

Senior Deacon-elect:

Deacons: Allen Baker, Leslie Boltz, Heather Jones, Brian Kemp, Allison Lowery Palmer, Joel Mathias, Dayna McCrary, Matt Myers, Fran Panek, Andy Smith Verhage, Thom Smith, Lynn Wallich, 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

Church Stewardship and Church Growth: Janice Taft

Church Stewardship and Church Growth-elect:

Church Vitality: Pat Patterson

Church Vitality-elect:

Communications and Technology Commission: Mike Kennedy

Communications and Technology Commission-elect: Stefan Duga

Faith Formation Commission: Mariner Taft

Faith Formation Commission-elect: Cami Curren

House & Grounds: Eric Klintworth

House & Grounds-elect:

Justice & Mercy: Janet Miller

Justice & Mercy-elect:

Music, Arts & Heritage: Jim Griffin

Music, Arts & Heritage-elect: Cheryl Hoskinson

Members-at-Large: Jacquelyn Dean

Personnel: David Hogrefe

Personnel-elect: Sandra Mathias

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: Frank Cook

Trustees: David Holt (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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