



## 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. Joanna Samuelson, *preacher*

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

The Rev. Dr. Emlyn Ott, *liturgist and co-celebrant*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Joshua Stafford, *organist*

Cynthia Adcock, *pianist*

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

*Scherzetto, Op. 108, No. 1*

arr. Joseph Jongen, 1940

### ENTER TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Emlyn Ott

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

Leader: This is the good news which we proclaim to you.

**People: Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!**

Leader: Walk in the light of Christ's love.

**People: Live in the light of his teachings and healing mercies.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who overcame death.

**People: Let us celebrate the triumph of our Lord. Amen.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN  
"Christ is alive"

*Truro*, Musica Sacra, c. 1778  
Brian Wren, 1968, rev. 1995

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

**People. And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

\*WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMAND NAOMI HOLT

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 Sarah Giffen.*

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 4:32-35

Rev. Ott

Leader: A reading from the book of Acts, the fourth chapter.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

\*THE GOSPEL HYMN

*St. Botolph, Gordon Slater, 1929*

"We walk by faith"

*Henry Alford, 1844*

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight; no gra-cious words we hear  
 2. We may not touch His hands and side, nor fol-low where He trod;  
 3. Help then, O Lord, our un-belief; and may our faith a-bound  
 4. That, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clear-er light,

from Him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we be-lieve Him near.  
 but in His prom-ise we re-joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 to call on You when You are near and seek where You are found.  
 we may be-hold You as You are with full and end-less sight.

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to John, the twentieth chapter.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION

"The Wounded Healer"

Rev. Samuelson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Ahrens

### THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Samuelson

Designated gifts go to support **Freedom a la Cart**. Freedom a la Cart is a nonprofit social enterprise that makes meals more meaningful by tastefully combining fresh, from-scratch cuisine with life-changing employment and long-term support to local survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation. This program provides supportive services for more than 400 survivors a year, including workforce development and comprehensive life skills training. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY

"All creatures of our God and King"

arr. Howard Helvey

\*DOXOLOGY

*Lasst uns erfreuen, Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1623*

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Christ, all crea-tures here be-low; Al-le-  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more; Praise  
 Tri - une God whom we a - dore. Sing prai - ses, sing  
 prai - ses, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

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

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

\*INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens and Rev. Ott

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*

*Leader* The Lord be with you. *People* And also with you.  
*Leader* Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Leader* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

\*COMMUNION PRAYER

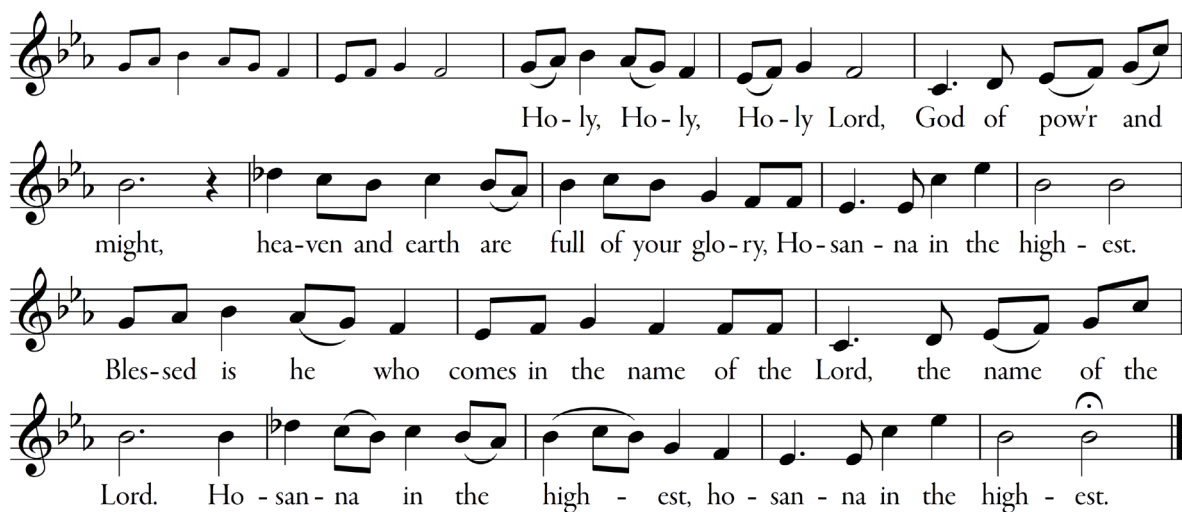
Revs. Ahrens and Ott

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.

\*SANCTUS

*The Sewanee Service, Malcolm Archer, 2010*



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

*The congregation may be seated.*

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

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

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

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

Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

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

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

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

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

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

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

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

#### SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

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

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

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

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

#### MUSIC AT COMMUNION

"Jesus loves me"

arr. Craig Curry

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Ott

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  
 "The risen Christ"

Woodlands, Walter Greatorex, 1916  
 Nigel Weaver, 1993



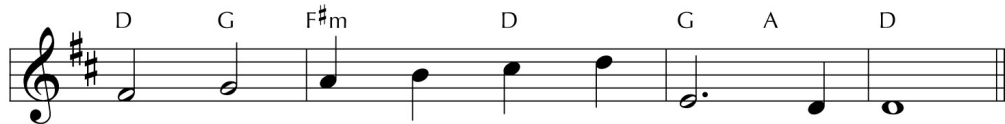
1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound - ed  
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound - ed  
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound - ed  
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and



feet from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y  
 side, breathes out his Spir - it on them to a -  
 hand the bread for those who fail to un - der -  
 stand with the op - pressed in this and ev - ery



street, un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear, and  
 bide whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve; new  
 stand, re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - gering tears, en -  
 land, till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be, re -



speaks a word of peace to all who hear.  
 grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.  
 flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.  
 stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Samuelson

POSTLUDE

Toccata on *O filii et filiae*

Lynnewood Farnam, 1932

*Please be seated for the Postlude.*

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

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and honor of Rebecca Taft on her 90th birthday by Sheldon Taft.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Samuelson and Rev. Ott — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)  
 Rev. Ahrens — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)  
 Ms. Kulwicki — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

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

**April 7, 2024**

## **This Week at First Church**

### **Sunday, Apr. 7**

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)  
Study School for Children & Youth (Various Classrooms)  
Confirmation Class (Parlor)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12:15 p.m. Healthy Congregations History Session (Parish Hall)

### **Monday, Apr. 8**

- 9:30 a.m. Park Executive Committee Mtg (Classroom C)
- 10 a.m. Stewardship & Growth Commission Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 12 Noon Congregational Care Ministry Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)  
Faith Formation (Classroom D)

### **Tuesday, Apr. 9**

- 7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

### **Wednesday, Apr. 10**

- 9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution Day (Church)

### **Thursday, Apr. 11**

- 4:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)  
Choristers (Choir Rm)
- 6 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Rm, Classroom J)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

### **Saturday, Apr. 13**

- 10 a.m. New Members Class (Classroom C)

### **Sunday, Apr. 14**

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)  
Study School for Children & Youth (various classrooms)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 4 p.m. Concerts at First Church (Sanctuary)

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## **Learn About Our Congregation Through Our New Member Class**

We invite persons interested in potentially joining our faith community to attend our New Member Class on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church.

The class is an opportunity to meet our ministers and lay leaders, to learn our church's history, and to see how you might serve and grow spiritually through our activities and programs. The class also includes a boxed lunch and a tour of our historic church building.

Please register for the new member class by completing the form in the pew pad and placing the form in the offering plate. You also may register by calling the church office at (614) 228-1741 by Tuesday, April 9.

Our congregation's Stewardship and Growth Commission is planning a two-session new member class on August 25 and 26. A new member class also is planned for November, but the dates haven't been set yet.

## Summer Camp Registration

Throughout the summer months, a variety of weeklong camps are planned at Temple Hills for children/youth who have completed the second grade and older. Camper scholarships are available for First Church children and youth because of the generosity of the late Alma Keeler, a longtime First Church member. For more information about camp, Camper Scholarships, and how to register, click the QR Code below.



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### Concerts at First Church Richard Elliott, organist Sunday, April 14, 4 p.m.

Richard Elliott is the Principal Organist for The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah. For the past 32 years, he has accompanied the choir on its weekly radio and TV broadcast, “Music & the Spoken Word,” as well as in general conferences of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, on dozens of CDs and DVDs, and in the choir’s annual Christmas concerts, which are broadcast each year on PBS. As accompanist for the Tabernacle Choir, he has performed in many of the world’s great halls and appeared on numerous TV and radio programs, including the NBC “Today Show,” the “CBS Morning Show,” “A Prairie Home Companion,” and the nationally syndicated “Pipedreams” radio program. In his work with the choir, Dr. Elliott has collaborated with many guest artists including Andrea Bocelli, the Canadian Brass, Kristin Chenoweth, Renée Fleming, Evelyn Glennie, the King’s Singers, the Sesame Street Muppets, Robert Shaw, James Taylor, and Bryn Terfel.

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### Rev. Tim’s Book Study on *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond Wednesday, April 17, 10:30 a.m. Classroom C or on Zoom.

Please join us Wednesday, April 17 for a study on *Poverty, by America*, by Matthew Desmond.

Desmond, the author of *Evicted*, illustrates how poverty injures the impoverished — physically, financially, and spiritually — and how the wealthiest country in the world has developed a bifurcated system that favors those who are better off (in the form of tax breaks, hoarded benefits, and walled-off communities).

Come join the conversation!

**First Serves April:  
CWS Disaster Hygiene Kits  
April 28, 10-10:45 a.m.**

Thank you to all who made monetary donations, donated supplies, and time to help assemble Period Packs for First Serves March. Through your generosity, we were able to assemble and donate 100 kits, as well as donate additional feminine hygiene products to the Coalition for the Homeless.

We will assemble Church World Service Hygiene Disaster Kits for First Serves on April 28. For someone who has just experienced a disaster, these kits help ensure that the person has the hygiene supplies they need to start their day out right. We will be collecting supplies as well as monetary donations. The total cost to assemble each kit is \$15.

A list of items needed can be found by clicking the QR Code below, or on cards located on the Giving Tree. Envelopes will also be available and can be returned in the offering plate or to the church office. Thank you for your generosity!



## Stephen Ministry at First Church

### Become a Stephen Minister

Be involved in a meaningful ministry that uses your spiritual gifts. Serving as a Stephen Minister gives people an opportunity to put their spiritual gifts into action—gifts such as faith, mercy, compassion, and encouragement. Ministry that draws on your gifts is personally fulfilling and touches people's lives in powerful ways.

One of the blessings of being a Stephen Minister is being part of a community of people who care, all of whom lift one another up as they strive together to provide the best possible ministry for the members of our congregation. The strong relationships you'll form as a Stephen Minister are both rewarding and a great source of support.

To find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister at First Church, contact Gary Glover at [stephenministrycoordinator@first-church.org](mailto:stephenministrycoordinator@first-church.org). Our next Stephen Minister Training Course begins on Wednesday, May 1.

### Check it Out!

Have you seen the Stephen Ministry bulletin board near the church office? It's new and changing! Meet your Stephen Ministers and Leaders and get to know them. See our current book recommendation *The Gift of Empathy*.

"Empathy is something we all need and something we can all give." *The Gift of Empathy* explains what empathy is, how to use it well, and ways to practice it in all types of situations. "This book will empower you to better understand, connect with, and empathize with family, friends, coworkers, and others you may relate to."

If you'd like to read *The Gift of Empathy* please tell a Stephen Minister. We will be sure you receive a copy.



**The Spring Retreat:**  
**“One Last Time in the Hills”**  
**Friday, April 26 - Sunday, April 28**  
**Templed Hills Camp & Retreat Center**  
**Bellville, Ohio**

Our intergenerational spring retreat will take place Friday evening, April 26, through Sunday morning, April 28 at Templed Hills, the camp and retreat center of our conference, Heartland Conference United Church of Christ. Templed Hills is located one hour north of Columbus in a woody setting in Bellville among the rolling hills just outside of Mansfield. You are welcome to stay the entire time or for just one night or even part of the day on Saturday – whatever works best for you!

It will include some planned activities, walks in the woods, arts and crafts, plenty of “downtime,” camp songs around the campfire (and yummy s’mores, of course!) as well as an informal worship gathering on Sunday morning. All our meals will take place in the dining hall and will be prepared by the staff of Templed Hills and lodging is available in two of the camp houses. Most of the rooms have single and/or bunk beds.

The total cost for the weekend is \$100/ Adult. Costs for children are covered through the generosity of the Alma Keeler Fund. Please register by clicking the button below. If you need assistance with the cost, please contact Rev. Joanna at [jsamuels@first-church.org](mailto:jsamuels@first-church.org). If you have any additional questions, please contact Melissa Kulwicki at [mkulwicki@first-church.org](mailto:mkulwicki@first-church.org).



## Keep in Prayer

**Members** Tom Bishop; Elaine Borling; Jason Allen; Kathy Brownfield; Wendy Reber; Steve Anderson; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter; Dan Axt; Rick Sayre; Anne Morganstern; Martha Huey; Twink Starr; Janice White.

**Family and friends** Amy Wagner's friend, Brenda Jackson; Barry Moenter's brother-in-law, Tom Huss; Joanna Samuelson's friend, Tijuana Scott; Gilda Perry's friend, Kathryn Schlarb; L.J. and Gretchen Cooks' brother, Kione Cooks; David Kandel's mother, Dottie Kandel; Jim Griffin's friends, Andy Bell and John Alatsis; 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 Cicenias; Victor John, his parents, Charles and Mary Jane, and sister; Martha Huey's sister, Stephanie Childs and cousin, Martha Dieckmann; and Amy Brooks' father, Michael Hamlin.

**Those who mourn loved ones** Karl and Sallie Danneberger on the death of their friend, Ron Kendzier; Steve and Karen Sterrett on the death of Steve's mother, Barbara Sterrett; Sandra Geronimo on the death of her brother, Tony Geronimo; the Samuelson/Gillies family friend, Elyshua Franklin on the death of her husband, Aaron Franklin; the Haslett family on the death of their neighbor and friend, Dave Amundson.

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 The Balkans – Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Slovenia. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa.

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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).

Designated gifts go to support Freedom a la Cart. **Freedom a la Cart** is a nonprofit social enterprise that makes meals more meaningful by tastefully combining fresh, from scratch cuisine with life-changing employment and long-term support to local survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation. This program provides supportive services for more than 400 survivors a year, including workforce development and comprehensive life skills training. Thank you for your generosity.

## Upcoming Mission Offerings

April 7	Freedom a la Cart
April 14	CRIS
April 21	Green Columbus
April 28	Good Samaritan

# Citizens Not Politicians session

Catherine Turcer from Common Cause Ohio will lead a Teach-In about gerrymandering...

Come learn about how we can help fight for fair districts in order to take part in more meaningful elections.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21 @ 12 PM**

**At North Congregational UCC (2040 Henderson Rd)**



**Save the Date**

**BREAD Nehemiah Action**

**Tuesday, May 21,**

**at 6:30 p.m.**

**Celeste Center**

**BREAD Rises!**

# CHURCH LEADERSHIP

**Senior Minister:** Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, D.Min., M.Div.

**Designated Minister:** Rev. Joanna Samuelson, M.Div.

**Minister of Music:** Joshua Stafford, M.M.

**Administrative Manager:** Amy Wagner

**Communications Manager:** Melissa Kulwicki

**Office Assistant:** Pat Patterson

**Business Administrator:** Annette McCormick

**Building and Grounds Superintendent:** Quang Pham

**Custodians:** Alexis Wayne, Bill McCabe

**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

**Deacons:** Allen Baker, Heather Jones, Brian Kemp, Nan Kreimer, Allison Lowery Palmer, Dayna McCrary, Matt Myers, Fran Panek, Andy Smith Verhage, Thom Smith, Lynn Wallich, Martha Worth

## 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

## 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

**Member-at-Large:** Jacquelyn Dean

**Personnel:** David Hogrefe

**Personnel-elect:** Sandra Mathias

**Youth Member-at-Large:**

## 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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