



WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

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

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY
The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *preacher*
The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *officiant*
The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston, *liturgist*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
Sebastian Kulwicki, *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

Pastorale, Op. 19

César Franck, 1862

ENTER TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

Leader: The God of all shepherds has called us here.

People: We come today celebrating God's love for us.

Leader: The Good Shepherd has given his life for us and has risen for us.

People: We come today thanking Jesus for his witness and his teachings and his resurrection.

Leader: The Shepherding Spirit moves through us, bringing us new hope.

People: We come today ready to celebrate and to praise God. Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Resignation, American Folk Melody

“My shepherd will supply my need”

Isaac Watts, 1719



1 My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je - ho - vah
2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres - ence
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me



is his Name; _____ in pas - tures fresh he
is my stay; _____ one word of thy sup -
all my days; _____ oh, may thy house be



makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream.____
port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.____
mine a - bode and all my work be praise.____



He brings my wan - dering spi - rit back when I for -
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my
There would I find a sett - led rest, while o - thers



sake his ways, _____ and leads me, for his
ta - ble spread; _____ my cup with bless - ings
go and come; _____ no more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.____
o - ver - flows, thy oil a - noints my head.____
or a guest, but like a child at home.____

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

*WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF CONFIRMAND

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

MIGUEL GONZALEZ

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 the pad and pass it on to your neighbor so you may greet them by name.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR ADELINE (ADA) JANE SCHWARTZ
*We welcome Adeline, parents Benjamin and Cori, brother Jack, godparents Josh and Kate Page,
and Senior Deacon Tom Kiesel.*

WELCOME

Rev. Ahrens

*BAPTISMAL HYMN

Kingdom, V. Earle Copes, 1959

“Child of blessing, child of promise” (*vv. 1–2*)

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1980

1 Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized
2 Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -

with the Spir - it's sign, with this wa - ter God has
a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re - fresh our

sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
spir - its; in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.

ADDRESS

Leader: . . . But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

People: **“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”**

Leader: . . . the sign and seal of their participation in God’s forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

People: **This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ’s body.**

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

*CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Leader: . . . Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as Adeline lives and grows in Christ?

People: **We promise our love, support, and care.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Leader: Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

ACT OF BAPTISM

NAMING OF THE CHILD

Leader: Adeline Jane Swartz, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Rise from the waters of baptism and give glory to God all the days of your life.

People: Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

Leader: Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this newest member of the body of Christ.

People: Give to Adeline strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

*During the singing of the hymn, the young children are invited to follow
Melissa Kulwicki and Jen Provenzano out of the Sanctuary to participate in Sunday Stories in Classroom B.*

*BAPTISMAL HYMN

“Child of blessing, child of promise” (vv. 3–4)

Kingdom, V. Earle Copes, 1959

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1980

3 Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you
4 Child of God, your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to

are, from God you came. Back to God we hum - bly
lis - ten for God's call. Grow to laugh and sing and

give you: live as one who bears Christ's name.
wor - ship; trust and love God more than all.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 4:5-12

Rev. Livingston

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

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.’

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM
Psalm 23

Bobby McFerrin, 1990
transcribed by Dan Stolper, 1994

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters, She will lead.
She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.
Even though I walk, through a dark and dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said She won't forsake me,
I'm in her hand.
She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,
She anoints my head with oil,
And my cup overflows.
Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me,
All the days of my life,
And I will live in her house,
Forever, forever and ever.
Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter,
And to the Holy of Holies,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World, without end. Amen

THE GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

Rev. Ahrens

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

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

BAPTISMAL MEDITATION

"Well-Loved Church Set to Explode"

Rev. Ahrens

THE REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Kathy Reed, Church Growth: I invite all those who have been in conversation with First Church and now wish to accept our invitation of membership to please step forward as I read your names: David Buzzee and Lucy Hadley Buzzee, Shawn Castle, Beverly Halbe, Madeline Graham (Jack and Lily), Robert and Sheri Moreen, and Bradford Myers.

Tom Kiesel, Senior Deacon: Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through baptism. These persons standing before you have found nurture and support in our spiritual family. Through study, discussion, and prayer they have been led to reaffirm their baptism and to enter into a covenantal relationship with the members of this church. They are ready to offer their devotion and service to Jesus Christ, using the unique gifts provided them.

Rev. Ahrens: You are no longer strangers, but are now one of us. We are delighted to have you here and willingly share with you all of our resources. We look forward to getting to know you better in the weeks and months to come. I invite all the members and friends of First Church to unite with those joining in reading together our church's statement of faith and covenant.

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

The church is a community of faith called to witness and to serve. 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.

Rev. Ahrens: Will all people of faith please rise? By our baptism we are made one in the body of Christ. Today we rejoice in the journey which has brought you here. We give thanks for other communities which have been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your commitment to continue your sojourn in this household of faith. Let us read together:

*WELCOME

We welcome you with joy to the life and ministry of The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Columbus, Ohio. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be faithful witnesses to the ways of Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Rev. Samuelson: Let us pray. O God, we praise you for calling us to be disciples and for gathering us into the Church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this congregation and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Rev. Ahrens: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this church. We look forward to getting to know you better. Welcome to First Church!

You are invited to welcome the new members at the Chancel steps following the service and then join us for the reception in Parish Hall.

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 section of this bulletin:*



MISSION INVITATION

Jim Griffen

Cash and designated gifts go to support **Green Columbus**, a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to promoting sustainable living, environmental education, and community involvement. They coordinate hundreds of volunteer worksites to remove litter, plant trees and more. Green Columbus holds the largest one day Earth Day event in the country. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

Edward C. Bairstow, 1930

“The King of love my Shepherd is”

Psalms 23, para. Henry Williams Baker, 1861

The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living waters flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow with food celestial feedeth.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth:
and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed but yet in love he sought me,
and gently on his shoulder laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house for ever.

*DOXOLOGY

Lasst uns erfreuen, Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1623

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Alle-
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!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Samuelson

O Resurrected One, we offer our gifts this morning not to the church historical—the church that was—but to a church that is becoming, that is still being born, that Christ will bring into the future. May our eyes and ears and hearts continue to hold on to Christ as we help him lead his church forward! In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*CLOSING HYMN

“We know that Christ is raised”

Engelberg, C.V. Stanford, 1904

John Brownlow Geyer, 1967



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows

(D) (A) (D) (E7) (A)
 F C F G7 C

Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life
 The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

(Am) (D) (G) (Em) (Bm)
 Cm F B^b Gm Dm

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse, re - stored and whole, will sing:

1-3 4
 (Em) (D) (Asus) (A) (Em) (D)
 Gm F Csus C Gm F

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Paeon, IPW 6, No. 5

Percy Whitlock, 1930

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 one of our pastors or anyone wearing a name tag. We would be delighted to assist you.

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dana Navin Schultz by Hugh Schultz.

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

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Samuelson — 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 21, 2024

This Week at First Church

Sunday, April 21

- 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)
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
(Noor Islamic Cultural Center)
- 4 p.m. Evensong (Sanctuary)

Monday, April 22

- 10 a.m. Church Growth Committee Mtg
(Fanning Rm)
- 5:30 p.m. Timeout Monday (Andon's Pub)

Tuesday, April 23

- 7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Zoom)

Thursday, April 25

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

Saturday, April 27

- 9 a.m. Faith Mission Lunch Prep & Serve
(Kitchen)

Sunday, April 28

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)
First Serves (Education Wing)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12:30 p.m. Picnic in the Park
(Gladden Social Justice Park)
- 2 p.m. Park Tree Dedication
(Gladden Social Justice Park)

Choral Evensong Today at 4 p.m.

Introducing Full Circle Connections

You are invited to make connections with other First Church members and friends! Join Jan Hamilton on **Friday, April 26 at 10 a.m. in the Church Parlor** for Full Circle Connections. This will be a time and place to discuss "things that really matter." All are invited and encouraged to join the circle!

Time Out Monday Monday, April 22, 5:30 p.m. Andon's Pub

We're heading to a pub so join us and other First Church members for a relaxing evening together! Andon's Pub will be the place to be as having fun is their main objective. Register by clicking the QR Code below.



Stephen Ministry at First Church

The deadline to register for our next Stephen Minister Training Course is Monday, April 22. Contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Wendy, Susie, or Gary if you're interested. You can also email us at stephenministry@first-church.org to sign up.

Like and follow the new Stephen Ministry Facebook page. Click the QR Code below to view the page.



Washington Gladden Social Justice Park Earth Day Event April 28 Picnic at 12:30 p.m. Dedication at 2 p.m.

Mark your calendars! In the week when we celebrate Earth Day, more than 40 trees – including elm, hornbeam, redbud, cherry, and Japanese maple – will be dedicated on Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. These trees have been given in honor or in remembrance of a variety of people. They help to beautify the unique Social Justice Park while supporting the City's Urban Forestry Masterplan. All are welcome to attend this brief ceremony. You also are invited to a Picnic in the Park that will begin at 12:30 p.m. prior to the dedication event. Food and beverages will be provided.

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

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!



Calling All Archives Supporters!

We need many willing hands to help file important documents from our church history into the appropriate year boxes. We will work on **April 30 from 10:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.** Come as little or as long as you like and feel free to bring your lunch, if you choose. The work session will start in the Adult Library at 10:30 a.m.; if you come later, please go straight to the Lower Narthex which will be the main staging area. Please let Greg Duncan know of your availability (interprep@earthlink.net) or if you can lend a helping hand at the last minute, just come!



The Spring Retreat:
“One Last Time in the Hills”
Friday, April 26 - Sunday, April 28
Templed Hills Camp & Retreat Center
Bellville, Ohio
Deadline to Register is
Monday, April 22 at Noon

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 woodsy 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. If you have any additional questions, please contact Melissa Kulwicki at mkulwicki@first-church.org.



Keep in Prayer

Members John and Francille Firebaugh; Nick Boriin; Tom Bishop; Jason Allen; Kathy Brownfield; Steven Anderson; John Carter and Mary Kay Beall Carter; Dan Axt; Rick Sayre; Anne Morganstern; Martha Huey; Twink Starr; Janice White.

Family and friends Margaret Cipriani's friend, Kathryn Schlarb; 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 Cicenas; 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 Kelly Dodd on the death of her mother, Estelle Stout; Karl and Sallie Danneberger on the death of their friend, Ron Kendzier; and Steve and Karen Sterrett on the death of Steve's mother, Barbara Sterrett.

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 Belarus, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Armenian Evangelical Church in Beirut, Lebanon/Syria.

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 support **Green Columbus**, a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to promoting sustainable living, environmental education, and community involvement. They coordinate hundreds of volunteer worksites to remove litter, plant trees and more. Green Columbus holds the largest one day Earth Day event in the country. Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

April 21	Green Columbus
April 28	Good Samaritan
May 5	BREAD
May 12	CelebrateOne

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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