



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, *co-celebrant*

Kat Cochrane-Yamaguchi, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

David Hogrefe, *pianist*

Geoff Dean, *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

Kat Cochrane-Yamaguchi

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.

*OPENING HYMN
"Savior, like a Shepherd lead us"

Bradbury, William Batchelder Bradbury, 1859
Thrupp's Hymns for the Young, 1836

1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.

In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-prepare.
Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Timothy C. Ahrens

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 PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

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 the pad 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 Kris Brant.*

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 4:5-12

Kat Cochrane-Yamaguchi

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.

THE PSALTER

Kat Yamaguchi

Psalms 23

The St. Helena Psalter

O God, you are my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

You make me lie down in green pastures

and lead me beside still waters.

You revive my soul

and guide me along right pathways for the sake of your Name.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of God forever.

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.

SERMON

"Well-Loved Church Set to Explode"

Rev. Ahrens

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Samuelson

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

Dawn George

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.

OFFERTORY HYMN

"My shepherd will supply my need"

Resignation, American Folk Melody

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.____

COMMUNION
COMMUNION HYMN
"Eat this bread"

Rev. Samuelson
Berthier, Jacques Berthier, 1984
Robert J. Batastini and Taizé Community, 1984

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are: "Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and never be hungry. Eat this bread; drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst."

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

“God be with you till we meet again”

Randolph, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Jeremiah Eames Rankin, 1880

1. God be with you till we meet a - gain; Lov - ing coun - sels
guide, up - hold you, With a Shep-herd's care en - fold you:
God be with you till we meet a - gain.

The image shows a three-system musical score for the hymn "God be with you till we meet again". Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The score ends with a double bar line.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

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.

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FIRST CHURCH will welcome the following new members during our 11 a.m. worship: David Buzzee and Lucy Hadley Buzzee, Shawn Castle, Beverly Halbe, Madeline Graham (Jack and Lily), Robert and Sheri Moreen, and Bradford Myers.

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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www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx

