



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
FEBRUARY 9, 2025
RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

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.

Please use this time for quiet preparation for worship.

PRELUDE

Canticle of Hope

Cynthia Dobrinski, 1984

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Jacquelyn Dean

Leader: Jesus calls us to praise and prayer, to song and silence;

People: Jesus calls us to worship.

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

Leader: Jesus calls us to hearing and healing, to service and solidarity;

People: Jesus calls us to love.

Leader: Jesus calls us to advocacy and action, to protest and provision;

People: Jesus calls us to justice.

Leader: Let us heed the call of Christ.

People: Let us worship together with joy.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"There's a sweet, sweet spirit"

Sweet, Sweet Spirit, Doris Akers, 1962

Doris Akers, 1962

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spi - rit in this place, and I know that it's the
 2. There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive 'til you know him in his
 3. If you say he saved you from your sin, now you're weak, you're bound and

pres - ence of the Lord; there are sweet ex - pres - sions on each
 pres - ence and be - lieve; you're the one to pro - fit when you
 can - not en - ter in; you can make it right if you will

face, and I know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
 say, "I am going to walk with Je - sus all the way."
 yield, you'll en - joy the Ho - ly Spi - rit that we feel.

Sweet Ho - ly Spi - rit, sweet heav'n - ly Dove, stay right here with us, fil - ling us with your
 love. And for these bless - ings we lift our hearts in praise; with - out a
 doubt we'll know that we have been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

*INVOCATION

Rev. Sarah Reed

Leader: God be with you.

People. And also with you.

Leader: God,

You are the source of human dignity,

and it is in your image that we are created.

Pour out on us the spirit of love and compassion.

People: Enable us to reverence each person,

to reach out to anyone in need,

to value and appreciate those who differ from us,

to share the resources of our nation,

to receive the gifts offered to us

by people from other cultures.

**Grant that we may always promote
the justice and acceptance
that ensures lasting peace and racial harmony.
Help us to remember that we are one world and one family. Amen.**

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

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 at the end of the pew,
sign it and pass it on to your neighbor so we many greet one another by name.*

CONFESSON AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Reed

Leader: O Lord, forgive us when we fail to respond to your call with faith.

**People: Through your Spirit
we stand in the assurance of your acceptance.**

Leader: Forgive us when we are shackled by our narrow understandings of discipleship
and our clouded sense of purpose.

**People: Through your Spirit
we are drawn into the illumination of your empowering love.**

** Time of silent prayer*

Leader: Forgive us when we are frightened of the future
or pull back from the demand of your calling.
Forgive us when we fail to sense your presence in our past,
to acknowledge your grace in the present moment,
and to trust you for our future.

**People: Through your Spirit we offer ourselves in discipleship.
We stand together as your disciples.
We seek renewed and renewing faith.
Touch us now with your Spirit, Lord.
Touch us now with your Spirit.**

ANTHEM

Eurydice V. Osterman, 2019

"Create in me a clean heart"

Psalms 51:10-13

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence;
and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Melissa Kulwicki

*During the sermon time, the young children are welcome to participate in "Sunday Stories" with
Melissa Kulwicki and Nan Kreimer.*

Leader: A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, the sixth chapter.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 138

The Choir introduces the Antiphon, after which the People join in singing the Antiphon, repeating as indicated after the Choir chants the verses.



Lord, your love en - dures for - ev - er; do not a - ban-don the work of your hands.

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name,
because of your love and faithfulness;

For you have glorified your Name
and your word above all things. *Antiphon.*

When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord. *Antiphon.*

Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly;
 he perceives the haughty from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
 you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
 your right hand shall save me.
The Lord will make good his purpose for me;
 O Lord, your love endures for ever;
 do not abandon the works of your hands. *Antiphon.*

THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Mrs. Dean

Leader: A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, the fifteenth chapter.

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them--though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL HYMN

"Lord, you have come to the lakeshore"

Pescador de Hombres, Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1979

trans. Gertrude Suppe, George Lockwood, and

Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon, 1988, alt.

1 Lord, you have come to the lake - shore look - ing
 2 You know so well my pos - ses - sions; my boat
 3 You need my hands, full of car - ing, through my
 4 You, who have fished oth - er o - ceans, ev - er

nei - ther for wealth - y nor wise ones; you on - ly
 car - ries no gold and no weap - ons; you will
 la - bors to give oth - ers rest and con - stant
 longed for by souls who are wait - ing, my lov - ing

asked me to fol - low hum - bly.
 find there my nets and la - bor.
 love that keeps on lov - ing.
 friend, as thus you call me:

Refrain / Estribillo

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while
 smil - ing have spo - ken my name; now my
 boat's left on the shore - line be - hind me. By your
 side I will seek oth - er seas.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 5:1-11

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: A reading from the gospel according to Luke, the fifth chapter.

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down

your nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Into the Deep”

Rev. Samuelson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reed

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Joe Gottron

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Gladden Community House**, a settlement house located in the heart of Franklinton on the near west side of Columbus. Their mission is to strengthen the well-being of Franklinton’s children, families and community, and build a thriving equitable neighborhood. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Marques L. A. Garrett, 2012

“Seek ye first”

Matthew 6:31-33, Psalm 23:6

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink?
for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever and ever. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow"

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Reed

Leader: Let us pray.

People: O Generous One, we offer our gifts, given from your abundance. May they be used to proclaim your love and to bring healing and hope to all who are in need. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

Gardiner, Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

"Where cross the crowded ways of life"

Frank Mason North, 1903

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on sha - dowed
3 The cup of wa - ter given for thee still holds the
4 O Mas - ter, from the moun - tain side, make haste to
5 till all the world shall learn thy love, and fol - low

1 cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
2 thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
3 fresh - ness of thy grace; yet long these mul - ti -
4 heal these hearts of pain; a - mong these rest - less
5 where thy feet have trod; till glo - rious from thy

1 self - ish strife, we hear thy voice, O Son of Man.
2 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of thy tears.
3 tudes to see the true com - pas - sion of thy face.
4 throngs a - bide, O tread the ci - ty's streets a - gain;
5 heaven a - bove, shall come the ci - ty of our God.

POSTLUDE

Obangiji ("God Almighty")

Fela Sowande, 1955

*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 in honor of Donna's baptism (February 14, 2010) by Nate and Denise Vogt.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Samuelson— Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Rev. Reed — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

Ms. Kulwicki — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

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"Lord, you have come to the lakeshore." Cesareo Gabarain, 1979. Words, English translation and music © 1979, 1987 Cesareo Gabarain, published by OCR Publications. All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *preacher*The Rev. Sarah Reed, *worship leader*Jacquelyn Dean, *liturgist*Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*Henry Gillies, *crucifer*Gregory Duncan and Gary Glover, *vergers*Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

The First Church Choir

Jennifer Fry, *director*

The First Church Ringers

Peter Murray, *livestream ministry*

ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC

Today's music includes works of several notable composers of color. Doris Akers, composer of "There's a sweet, sweet spirit," was named "the foremost black gospel songwriter in the United States" by the Smithsonian Institution in 1992 and was noted for her ability to straddle the gulf between black and white gospel. Doris lived in Columbus from 1970-1988, serving as a soloist and choir director with Pentecostal churches and collaborating with artists such as Mahalia Jackson and preachers Jim Bakker and Tammy Faye Messner.

Eurydice Osterman, composer of "Create in me a clean heart," is a Fulbright scholar and published author and composer whose works have been read and performed around the world. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in composition from The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, and is the first female and African American to graduate with this degree.

Marques L.A. Garrett, composer of "Seek ye first," is an associate professor of choral studies at the University of North Texas. An avid composer of choral and solo-vocal music, his compositions have been performed to acclaim by high school all-state, collegiate, and professional choirs including Seraphic Fire, the Oakwood University Aeolians, and the National Lutheran Choir. His work in researching non-idiomatic choral music of Black composers resulted in the anthology *The Oxford Book of Choral Music by Black Composers* released in February 2023.

Fela Sowande, considered the father of Nigerian art music. A mix of western and African ideas prevail in his organ music such as *Obangiji*, which translates from Yoruba as "God Almighty." In his later years, Sowande taught in the Department of Pan-African Studies at Kent State University. He is buried in Randolph Township, OH.



Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

February 9, 2025

This Week at First Church

Sunday, February 9

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer and Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. The Bible in Context (Classroom C)
Sunday School (Classrooms B, E & F)
Parent Conversations (Adult Library)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Monday, February 10

- 10 a.m. Stewardship & Growth Commission (Fanning Rm)
- 6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg (Fanning Rm & Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, February 11

- Washington Gladden's Birthday
- 5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, February 12

- 10 a.m. The Largest Table (Kitchen)
- 4:30 p.m. House & Grounds Evening Work (Bell Rm)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Monthly Mtg (Fanning Rm)

Thursday, February 13

- 4:30 p.m. Choristers (Music Activities Rm)
- 6 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir (Choir Rm)

Friday, February 14

- 10 a.m. Full Circle Connections (Parlor)

Sunday, February 16

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer and Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. The Bible in Context (Classroom C)
Sunday School (Classrooms B, E & F)
Parent Conversations (Adult Library)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)
- 4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)

**Bread Network
Meeting**

BREAD is welcoming all past, present and future Network members to join us on February 17 at 5:45 p.m. at First Church (Parish Hall) for a light supper, and to map out our strategy for inviting a record number of people to join us for the May 6 Nehemiah Action. Last year First Church brought a total of about 80 people to this important event, and I'm hoping to double that number this year.

Our issues are housing and tree protection, but we are also supporting a big initiative to get the City to improve its emergency response policy by having a non-police team available 24/7 for non-violent emergencies. Too often, these seem to escalate when police are involved. Please respond by February 15 by texting Antoinette at 1-240-557-9970.

**House and Grounds
Evening Work
Wednesday
February 12
4:30 to 7 p.m.**

The House and Grounds Commission has painting and cleanup to do on the evening of Wednesday, February 12, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. All skill levels are welcome, and if you have a paint brush please bring it. Text or call Eric Klintworth at 614-499-7056 for a door code or to ask questions.

Full Circle Connections
Friday, February 14 at 10 a.m.
Church Parlor

This Friday's topic in Full Circle Connections is "Crossing Thresholds." If you can't make it this time, be sure to mark your calendar for our next gathering. We meet for an hour on the second and fourth Fridays every month. All are welcome and bring a friend! Reach Jan Hamilton on Realm or by clicking the QR Code below.



Family Mardi Gras Night
Hosted by the First Church
Parent Group
Friday, Feb 28
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Wear your favorite costume or dress-up outfit! Pizza, punch, and King Cake will be provided. You are welcome to bring snacks/drinks to share.

We will bake and decorate your own King Cake and decorate Mardi Gras masks. There will also be a Costume Parade.

Please click the QR Code below to RSVP to Leslie Fulford by Sunday, February 23 for headcount and include information on any food allergies.



Choral Evensong
Sunday, February 16 at
4 p.m.

Worship in the beauty of holiness with the First Church Choir.

Organ + Orchestra
Sunday, February 23, 4 p.m.
Joshua Stafford, organ
Ronald Jenkins, conductor
Joanna Frankel, concertmaster

Experience the breathtaking synergy of organ and orchestra in a program of profound beauty and thrilling virtuosity. First Congregational Church presents Organ + Orchestra, featuring acclaimed organist Joshua Stafford, conductor Ronald Jenkins, and concertmaster Joanna Frankel in a program that highlights the expressive range of the organ in partnership with a dynamic chamber ensemble.

The concert features:

Howard Hanson – *Concerto for Organ, Harp, and Strings*

Francis Poulenc – *Concerto for Organ, Strings, and Timpani*

Edward Elgar – *Sospiri for String Orchestra with Harp and Organ*

Samuel Barber – *Toccata Festiva for Organ, Strings, Trumpet, and Timpani*

From the lush Romanticism of Hanson's concerto to the striking contrasts of Poulenc's beloved masterpiece, the dazzling brilliance of Barber's Toccata Festiva, and the poignant lyricism of Elgar's Sospiri, this program promises an unforgettable afternoon of music in the stunning acoustics of First Congregational Church.

Free and open to the public | Freewill offering

Keep in Prayer

Members Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Allison Lowery Palmer; Mike Weddle; Elaine Warren; Victor John; Margot Connor and John Anderson; Francille Firebaugh; Pauline Fritz; Nancy Burba; Mary Kay Beall Carter and John Carter; Carol Lowy; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt; Anne Morganstern; Martha Huey; and Janice White.

Family and friends Robyn and Mike Petras; our Evensong organist, Jon Tyillian; Marcy Essig's daughter, Daniella Essig; Joanna Samuelson and family's neighbor, Donna Hammond; Matt Myers' sister, Erin Myers; Michael Russell's friend, Donald Featheroft; BOBS volunteers, John Holly and Sandy Waters-Holly; Shelly Gies' brother, Mike Simms; Victor John's father, Charles John and mother, Mary Jane John; Amy Wagner's friends Bill Kelley and Lee Gatton; Michael Russell's friend, Teresa Elliott; Amanda Butler's aunt, Hattie Coatney; Jennifer Provenzano's friend, Anita Wright; Pat Patterson's son, Jay Patterson, and brother, Dan Stone; Bob and Lorraine Quinichett's daughter, Susan Webster; Melva Fisher's daughter, Susan Wood; Annette McCormick's father, Charles McCormick; Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples; Arevena Nirote's sister and brother-in-law, Marlene and Gary Gallion; and Fran and Bruce Panek's friends, Richard and Beverly Cicenias.

Those who mourn family and friends of Anne Morganstern; family and friends of Jan Kevan; Sheldon, Becky, Mariner, Janice and their family on the death of their son, Ashley Taft; Janet Axt on the death of her mother, Alice Paugh; David Holt on the death of his uncle, James Holt; David Hogrefe and family on the death of his mother, Linda Hogrefe; Sebastian Kulwicki and the Levert family on the death of Sebastian's chess coach Ernest Levert Jr.; Todd and Aran Cunningham's family friends, the Baturin family on the death of Philip Baturin.

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 of Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, and Vatican City. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid and the Reformed Church in Hungary.

All Church Game Night Friday, February 21, 6-8:30 p.m. Parish Hall

Bring your favorite game and a snack or dessert to share.

Upcoming Missions

February 9 Gladden House
February 16 Deep Griha
February 23 ACLU

I MATTER 2025: Strong Voices, Strong Girls Sunday, February 16, 12-4 p.m. Nationwide Children's Hospital

The event is Sunday, February 16, 12-4 p.m. at Nationwide Children's Hospital Education Center and is hosted by ROX, a leader in research, empowerment education, and coaching for the wellbeing of girls nationwide. Click the QR code below to contact Leslie Fulford for more information.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Interim Senior Minister: Rev. Becky David, M.Div.
Designated Minister: Rev. Joanna Samuelson, M.Div.
Minister of Music: Joshua Stafford, M.M.
Interim Director of Faith Formation: Leslie Fulford
Administrative Manager: Amy Wagner
Communications Manager: Melissa Kulwicki
Office Assistant: Pat Patterson
Business Administrator: Annette McCormick
Maintenance: Mike Sharrock
Custodians: Alexis Wayne, Bill McCabe, Bob O'Brien
Handbell Director: Jennifer Fry
Wedding Coordinators: Amy Wagner, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani, Denise Vogt
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, Thomason Smith, Lynn Wallich, Martha Worth

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: Frank Cook
Trustees: 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: Amanda Butler
Nominating Chair: Sarah Reed

COMMISSIONERS

Church Stewardship and Church Growth:
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: Jim Lowe
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: Sebastian Kulwicki

FIRST CHURCH IS A FAITH COMMUNITY

- † Called together by God, the Creator, Redeemer, 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.

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.

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



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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