

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.

GATHERING

Prelude

WELCOME

SHARING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Joanna Samuelson

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.

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

*Opening Prayer Rev. Reed

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.

"In Christ there is no east or west"



Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Samuelson

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.

CHILDREN'S TIME Melissa Kulwicki

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

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 6:1-8 Tom Brownfield

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.

PSALM 138:1-3, 8 Mr. Brownfield

I give you thanks O God, with my whole heart.

I bow down toward your holy temple And give thanks to your name For your steadfast love and faithfulness.

On the day I called, you answered me: You increased my strength of soul.

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; Your steadfast love O God, endures forever I give you thanks O God, with my whole heart. 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.

REFLECTION "Into the Deep" Rev. Samuelson

RESPONDING

HYMN OF PREPARATION
"Lord, you have come to the lakeshore"

Pescador de Hombres, Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1979 trans. Gertrude Suppe, George Lockwood, and Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon, 1988, alt.



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 Depart to Serve:



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 MUSIC

Prayer of Dedication Rev. Reed

All: Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God.

Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people.

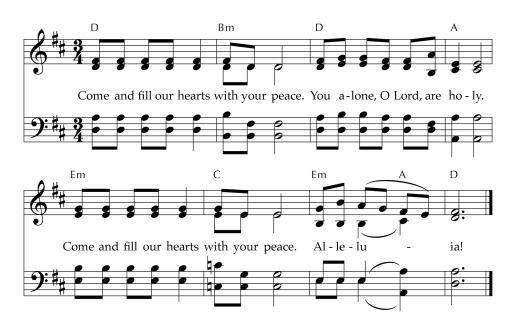
And let the called and redeemed of God say, "Amen."

Communion Revs. Samuelson and Reed

Communion Hymn

"Come and fill our hearts"

Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982 Jacques Berthier, 1982



Post-Communion Prayer

Rev. Reed

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.

SENDING

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader Let us depart with a heart to serve.

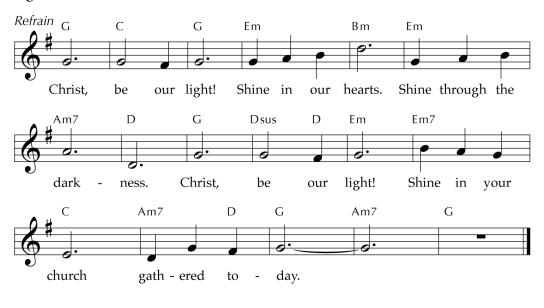
People: Thanks be to God.

*Benediction Rev. Samuelson

*Closing Hymn

Bernadette Farrell, 1993

"Christ, be our light"



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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"Come and fill our hearts." Words and music: Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community; ©1991 Less Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) All rights reserved.

"Christ be our light." Words and music by Bernadette Farrell. ©1993 OCP. All rights reserved.

Leadership in Today's liturgy
The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, preacher
The Rev. Sarah Reed, worship leader
Tom Brownfield, liturgist
Melissa Kulwicki, worship leader
Joshua Stafford, pianist
Geoffrey Dean, livestream ministry



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)

February 9, 2025

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 Cicenas.

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: Church Stewardship and Church Growth:

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: MarinerTaft
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



