# 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. Becky

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. Joanna

Leader: O Holy One,

on mountaintops and valley floors you reveal to us the light of your love.

Our hearts desire is to bask in the amazing glory

of the divine presence.

With each encounter we are changed and transformed.

Draw us nearer

that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit.

Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory.

People: May we walk among our brothers and sisters as a blessing,

bearing light into dark places,

hope to displace despair,

and love that casts out hate.

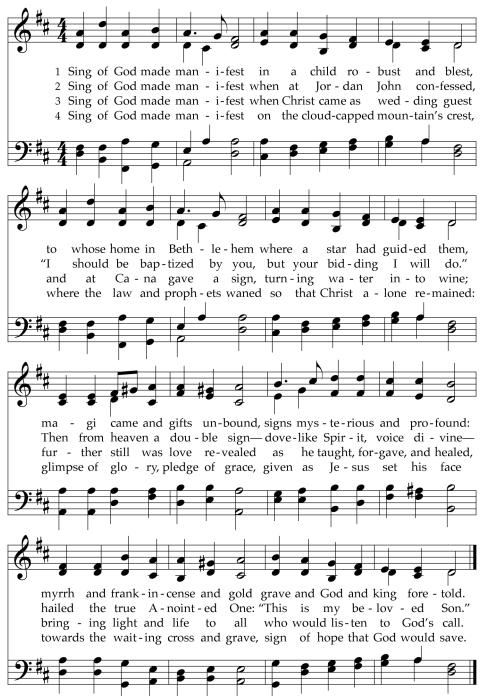
Our world is hurting

and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely.

Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying,

... "listen to my Child, the Beloved!" Amen.

"Sing of God made manifest"



Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Joanna

Leader: In trust, let us call upon God's holy name, confess our sin, and receive forgiveness.

People: Merciful and gracious God,

We bow before your unending compassion,

The measure of our falling short.

We have not loved as you command.

We have not spoken truly.

We have not cared for creation, including ourselves, according to your will.

What we intend, we have not pursued;

What we mean to avoid, we embrace.

Help us to know the mind of Christ,

That we might come to honor you. Amen.

Leader: When one turns to God, the veil is removed.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,

And by the authority of the Holy Spirit working among God's holy people,

I declare your sins forgiven.

Turn now with unveiled faces and see to the health of all creation as newborn children of

God.

People: Amen.

Time of silent prayer and reflection

CHILDREN'S TIME Melissa Kulwicki

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

# LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Exodus 34:29-35

Jill Hultin

Leader: A reading from the book of Exodus, the thirty-fourth chapter.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 99 Jill Hultin

The Lord is great in Zion,

God is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name.

Mighty God, lover of justice,

You have established equity

You have executed justice

And righteousness in Jacob.

Extol the Lord our God

Worship at his footstool.

Holy is our God!

Extol the Lord our God,

And worship at God's holy mountain,

For the Lord our God is holy.

LUKE 9:28-43 Rev. Becky

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

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." While he was being brought forward, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Reflection Rev. Becky

Hymn of Preparation "Alleluia, song of gladness"

Lauda anima, John Goss, 1869 Latin hymn, 11th c. tr. John Mason Neale, 1861, alt.



Prayers of the People

Rev. Joanna

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 Emelia Sheeley

Designated gifts go to support the **Riverview International Center (RIC)**, to help empower new American neighbors in Columbus. The center works to support individuals, strengthen families, and nurture community, by assisting with adjustment to life here. Riverview offers citizenship services, English language classes, job help and workforce development programs, computer literacy, homework and reading help, legal services, and other guidance on navigating life in our country and city. Thank you for your generosity.

# OFFERTORY ANTHEM

George Dyson, 1935

Praise

George Herbert, The Temple, 1633

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King. The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither fly: the earth is not too low, his praises there may grow. Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King. The Church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out: but above all, the heart must bear the longest part. Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King.

### Prayer of Dedication

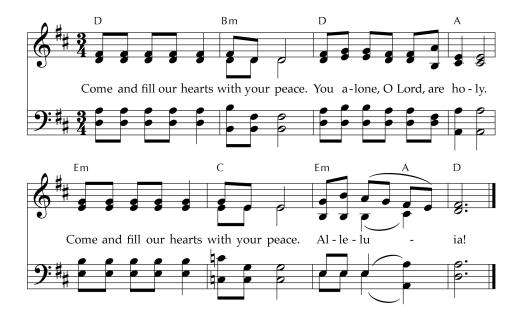
Rev. Joanna

All: Holy are you, O God!

We praise your great and awesome name. Use us, and these our gifts, in your service, To establish justice, righteousness, and equity, All for the good of your people And the glory of your eternal realm. Amen. Communion Rev. Becky

Communion Hymn "Come and fill our hearts"

Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982 Jacques Berthier, 1982



Post-Communion Prayer

Rev. Joanna

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

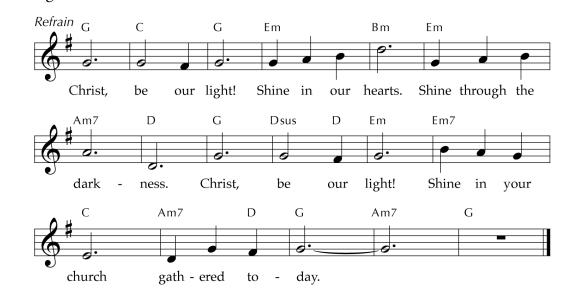
COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

\*Benediction Rev. Becky



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.

# † Permissions and Copyrights

The following are printed and/or livestreamed under permission of OneLicense #A-717661. All rights reserved.

"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. Becky David, preacher
The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, worship leader
Jill Hultin, liturgist
Melissa Kulwicki, worship leader
The First Church Choristers
Joshua Stafford, director
Cynthia Adcock, pianist
David Hogrefe, pianist
Geoffrey Dean, livestream ministry



March 2, 2025

# This Week at First Church

# Sunday, March 2

9 a.m. Informal Worship Service (Parish Hall)10 a.m. Sunday School (Classrooms B, E & F)

Parent Conversations (Adult Library)

11 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)

### Monday, March 3

12 Noon Card Care Ministry Mtg (Fanning Rm)
6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg (Fanning Rm & Zoom)

7 p.m. House & Grounds Commission Mtg

(Classroom C & Zoom)

### Tuesday, March 4

4 p.m. Church Vitality Commission Mtg (Fanning Rm)7 p.m. Communications & Technology Commission Mtg

(Zoom)

Justice & Mercy Commission Mtg (Zoom) Personnel Commission Mtg (Zoom)

# Wednesday, March 5 Ash Wednesday

12 Noon Service of the Word and Imposition of Ashes (Sanctuary) 7 p.m. Solemn Liturgy and Imposition of Ashes (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, March 6

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, March 7

9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution Day (GS Office)

### Saturday, March 8

10 a.m. UCAO Pysanky Egg Workshop (Parish Hall)

### Sunday, March 9

9 a.m. Informal Worship Service (Parish Hall)10 a.m. Sunday School (Classrooms B, E & F)

Parent Conversations (Adult Library)
Adult Education (Classroom C)

11 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion (Sanctuary) 12:15 p.m. Gratitude Sunday Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)

2:00 p.m. Kelton House Tour (586 E Town St.)

# Ash Wednesday Wednesday, March 5

12 Noon Service of the Word and

Imposition of Ashes

7 p.m. Solemn Liturgy and

Imposition of Ashes

# Celebration of Gratitude Sunday, March 9 Following 11 a.m. Worship

The congregation will hold a Celebration of Gratitude Sunday on March 9 during the coffee hour following the 11 a.m. worship service.

The Stewardship and Growth Commission will host the coffee hour to highlight the completion of the 2025 stewardship campaign and to express appreciation for the many church members who volunteer in so many capacities to serve our congregation and the wider community.

Research shows that expressing gratitude is good for our emotional, mental and physical health. Join us to express your gratitude on March 9.

# Ukrainian Cultural Association of Ohio Pysanka Egg Workshop Saturday, March 8 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Learn about the ancient art of wax batik on eggs and decorate an egg to take home. \$40 per person. All supplies provided. To register click the QR code below.



# Kelton House Tour Sunday, March 9 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Kelton House Museum and Garden

Church Vitality welcomes everyone to take a guided tour of the Kelton House. With over 80% of the artifacts originating with the Kelton family, the museum offers a unique experience focusing on the Underground Railroad, local history, and decorative arts. It is a wonderful place to visit in the heart of the Town Street historic district.

Click the QR code below to register.



# **Lenten Book Study Groups**

In keeping with a cherished First Church tradition, we are planning to offer the Lenten Book Study Groups throughout the upcoming Lenten season. The book that we'll read together as a congregation this year is *Grounded: Finding God in the World – a Spiritual Revolution* by Diana Butler Bass, an award-winning author, preacher, and advocate for progressive Christianity. We have ordered copies of the book for you to pick up in the church office (for \$11) or you may find a copy of the book at the public library or your favorite bookseller.

Once again, the Lenten Book Study Groups will take place in the homes of First Church members who live in different neighborhoods of the Columbus area. In the past, most of our Lenten groups have met two or three times for discussions about the book and for fellowship. Each host determines the day of the week and time of their gatherings.

If you are interested in hosting a Lenten Book Study Group or would like more information, please contact Rev. Joanna by clicking the QR code below.



Teen & Adult Outing
Shaun Boothe's Unauthorized
Biography Series
presented by CAPA
Friday, March 14, at 7p.m.
Riffe Center

Tickets are \$5 and the church will purchase the first 20. Contact Leslie Fulford at <u>lfulford@first-church.org</u> as soon as possible to secure seats and plan carpooling.

# Save the Date Fiber Arts Ministry March 20, 10 - 11:30 a.m. In the Fanning Room

Plan to join the Fiber Arts Ministry team as we gather in the Fanning Room on Thursday, March 20 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Find out more about our ministry, connect with fellow creatives, and learn about the many benefits to both the artists and the recipients of their gifts. For more information, contact Sarah Giffen through care@first-church.org.



# Everything in Between Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes enten Devotional Bookl

# Lenten Devotional Booklet and Cards

Pick up your Lenten Devotional booklets and daily devotional cards at any exit beginning this Sunday.

Booklet: Beginning with Ash Wednesday, the weekly devotional booklet follows the scriptures of the *Everything In Between* series through Easter Sunday. Each week offers commentary, poetry, visual art, written reflections, hymns, and reflection prompts.

Daily Devotional Cards: A collection of 52 daily devotional cards for Ash Wednesday through Easter. Each card has a question for reflection and a short prayer. These are especially great for middle and high school youth, college students, and adults of all ages.

# New Member Class Saturday March 15 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

With support from our ministers, the Stewardship and Growth Commission will sponsor a new member class on Saturday, March 15, for visitors and others who may have an interest in joining our faith community. The class will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church.

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

Our congregation will accept new members at the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, March 30. You are not required to attend a new member class in order to join, but attendance is encouraged because of the size and complexity of our congregation.

To register for the class, please contact the church office at (614) 228-1741 by Friday, March 7, so we can order the appropriate number of boxed lunches. If you are interested in joining on March 30, but are not able to attend the class, please let the office know that.

# Keep in Prayer

**Members** Lynn Wallich; Nancy Loy; Lisa Fravel-Dean; Mark Brown; Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Mike Weddle; Elaine Warren; Margot Connor and John Anderson; Francille Firebaugh; Pauline Fritz; Nancy Burba; Mary Kay Beall Carter and John Carter; Carol Lowy; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt; and Janice White.

Family and friends Robyn and Mike Petras; our Evensong organist, Jon Tyillian; Marcy Essig's daughter-in-law, 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; 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** the family and friends of Martha Huey.

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 Belgium, Luxemburg, and the Netherlands. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Evangelical Church of West Timor in Indonesia.

# Lenten Book Study Groups

First Church Book Club:
Wednesday, March 12, 7 p.m.
You Could Make This Place Beautiful:
A Memoir
Wednesday, April 2, 7 p.m.
The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store

Come enjoy lively conversation and friendship this March and April with the First Church Book Club.

Questions? Want to receive book club emails? Please call Kathy Reed, 614-442-7742.

Sunday Morning Book Study
Saying Yes and Saying No: On
Rendering to God and Caesar
With Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston
Sunday, March 16 Sunday, April 27
(No Class on Easter)
10 a.m. in Classroom C

Join Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston for an exploration of Robert McAfee Brown's 1986 book about historic tensions between governments and the church. Beginning with the Barman Declaration, the document the Confessing Church produced in Germany in response to the Nazi take-over in government and the capitulation of the German Evangelical Church.

Copies of the book can be found at your local library, bookstore, or on Amazon.

# 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

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: Martha Worth

Deacons: Allen Baker, Heather Jones, Brian Kemp, Allison Lowery Justice & Mercy: James Lowe Palmer, Dayna McCrary, Matt Myers, Fran Panek, Gary Seigerst,

Thomason Smith

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** Chairperson: Frank Cook

Trustees: Matthew Bendick, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Melody Leidheiser, Janet Miller, Sarah Reed, Judy Smith, (Secretary),

Hugh Schultz

CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP Moderator: Sarah Reed **Moderator-elect:** 

Treasurer: Ramona Moenter

Treasurer-elect:

Secretary: Amanda Butler

Secretary-elect:

Nominating Chair: Gregory Halbe

**COMMISSIONERS** 

Church Stewardship and Church Growth: Stephen Sterrett Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction: Church Stewardship and Church Growth-elect: Kathy Reed

Church Vitality: Pat Patterson

**Church Vitality-elect:** 

Communications and Technology Commission: Mike Kennedy

Communications and Technology Commission-elect:

Faith Formation Commission: Cami Curren Faith Formation Commission-elect: Mariner Taft

House & Grounds: Eric Klintworth

House & Grounds-elect: Justice & Mercy-elect: Janice Taft Music, Arts & Heritage: Jim Griffin

Music, Arts & Heritage-elect: Cheryl Hoskinson

Member-at-Large: Martha Wilson Personnel: Sandra Mathias

Personnel-elect:

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



