



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
APRIL 13, 2025
PALM / PASSION 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.

VOLUNTARY

Valet will ich dir geben

J.S. Bach, c. 1715

*ENTER TO WORSHIP

Rev. Becky David

Leader: Children of God, Rejoice!
Sing out in celebration, God's people!
Your King is coming to you, humble,
riding on a donkey, on a donkey's foal.

People: Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name.
Glory to God! Hosanna!

Leader: Let us pray.
Eternal God, whose whisper silences the shouts of the mighty,
Quiet within us every voice but your own.
Speak to us now through the mysteries of this most holy week,
That by the power of your Holy Spirit
We may receive grace to show forth Christ's love in lives committed to your service.

People: Amen.

MOTET

Bartholomäus Gesius (1562-1613)

"Hosanna to the Son of David"

Matthew 21:9

Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna to the Son of David in the highest!

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

After telling a parable to the crowd at Jericho, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*BLESSING OF THE PALMS *written by Rev. Caela Simmons*

Rev. Becky David

Leader: Bless these parade palms, O God of Celebration.
May they remind us of the simple joys of living.
May we remember the excitement that comes with following Christ.
Bless these protest palms, O God of Justice.
May they remind us that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave to stand up against injustice.
Bless these funeral palms, O God of Comfort.
May they remind us of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us in times of grief and pain.

**People: We give you thanks for the parade, the protest, the processional.
Guide our steps through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!" Amen.**

Children, youth, and adults are invited to gather at the back of the sanctuary to lead the palm procession.

Leader: Hosanna to the Son of David!

Rev. David

People: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the Highest!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Valet will ich dir geben, Melchior Teschner, 1614


"All glory, laud, and honor"

Theodulph of Orleans, c. 820; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851


Refrain




All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!



1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra-cious King!

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. David

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.*

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.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Rev. David

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

The Lord God has given me

the tongue of a teacher,

that I may know how to sustain

the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—

wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear,

and I was not rebellious,

I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,

and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face

from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;

therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me;

who will declare me guilty?

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

People: Thanks be to God.

so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*HYMN

The King's Majesty, Graham George, 1939

"Ride on! Ride on in majesty!"

Henry Hart Milman, 1827



1	Ride	on!	ride	on	in	ma	-	jes	-	ty!	Hark!	all	the	
2	Ride	on!	ride	on	in	ma	-	jes	-	ty!	In	low	-	ly
3	Ride	on!	ride	on	in	ma	-	jes	-	ty!	The	an	-	gel
4	Ride	on!	ride	on	in	ma	-	jes	-	ty!	Thy	last	and	
5	Ride	on!	ride	on	in	ma	-	jes	-	ty!	In	low	-	ly



1	tribes	ho	-	san	-	na	cry;	thy	hum	-	ble	beast	pur	-	sues	his
2	pomp	ride	on	to	die;	O	Christ,	thy	tri	-	umphs	now	be	-		
3	ar	-	mies	of	the	sky	look	down	with	sad	and	won	-	dering		
4	fierc	-	est	strife	is	nigh;	the	Fa	-	ther	on	his	sap	-	phire	
5	pomp	ride	on	to	die;	bow	thy	meek	head	to	mor	-	tal			



1	road	with	palms	and	scat	-	tered	gar	-	ments	strowed.			
2	gin	o'er	cap	-	tive	death	and	con	-	quered	sin.			
3	eyes	to	see	the	ap	-	proach	-	ing	sac	-	ri	-	fice.
4	throne	ex	-	pects	his	own	a	-	noint	-	ed	Son.		
5	pain,	then	take,	O	God,	thy	power,	and	reign.					

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO LUKE

LUKE 23:1-53

Rev. David and Rev. Samuelson

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man inciting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to Caesar and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some

length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people, and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified, and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

The congregation is invited to stand.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

The congregation is invited to sit.

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid.

SERMON

"Even the Stones Cry Out"

Rev. Samuelson

LITANY TO BEGIN HOLY WEEK

Rev. David

written by Rev. Christine Sobania Johnson

Leader: Today we have cheered you on as our champion and hailed you as our hero.

People: Forgive us tomorrow when our enthusiasm wanes.

Leader: Today we have entrusted you to rescue us from our pitiful circumstances.

People: Forgive us on Tuesday when we decide we can take care of ourselves.

Leader: Today we have made you the centerpiece of our very existence.

People: Forgive us on Wednesday when we forget to remember who you are.

Leader: Today we have called out to you loudly by name.

People: Forgive us on Thursday when we pretend that we've never met you.

Leader: Today we have stared at you with the star struck eyes of fans and groupies.

**People: Forgive us on Friday when we avert our eyes
because it's too painful to see you on the cross.**

Leader: Today we have expressed our unsuppressed hopefulness in the future you have in store for us.

People: Forgive us on Saturday when we believe all is lost.

Leader: Today we have been boldly certain of the earthly ways you will redeem us.

People: Restore us on Sunday when we are startled and awed by your rising.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. David

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

Cash and designated gifts go to support **Laundry Love**, an initiative in partnership with individuals, groups and local laundromats throughout the country to wash the clothes and bedding of individuals and/or families living in poverty. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

McNeil Robinson

Improperium

Palm Sunday Antiphon, tr. Imogen Howe

*Improperium expectavit cor meum et miseriam.
et sustinui qui simul contristaretur et non fuit.
Consolantem me quaesivi et non inveni.
Et dederunt in escam meam fel,
et in siti mea potaverunt me aceto.*

You have abandond me and broken my heart, and I am full of woe.
I look about for someone who will be merciful, but there is no one.
No one will console me, no one will comfort my pain.
But you gave me vinegar to drink,
and when I was hungry you fed me the bitterest gall.

CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Loving God, we give you thanks for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. As we prepare for the solemn events of Holy Week, we ask for your guidance and strength to follow Jesus' example of humility, service, and love. Help us to be faithful witnesses to your love and grace in our daily lives.

People: May our hearts be filled with joy and hope as we reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus, and may we be ever mindful of his teachings and his unwavering love for us.

Leader: We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Passion Chorale, Hans Leo Hassler, 1601

"O sacred head, now wounded"

Latin, 12th or 13th cent.; trans. James Waddell Alexander, 1830



1 O sa - cred head, now wound-ed, with grief and shame weighed down;
 2 What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:
 3 What lan-guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear-est friend,

now scorn-ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead-ly pain.
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with-out end?

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint-ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 look on me with thy fa - vor, and grant to me thy grace.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

*There is no postlude on this Holy Day. Please depart in silence.
 If you have not done so, you are invited to add your palms to the Palm Cross on the chancel steps.
 You are also invited to proceed downstairs to Parish Hall to walk the labyrinth.*

*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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“Ride on! Ride on in majesty!” Music: Graham George, 1939. ©1941; ren 1969, H.W. Gray Company, Inc., a division of Belwin Mills Corporation. All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S LITURGY

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *preacher*

The Rev. Becky David, *worship leader*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Luke Bendick, *crucifer*

Gregory Duncan, Gary Glover, and Dayna McCrary, *vergers*

The First Church Choir

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

Peter Murray, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship **Depart to Serve**

April 13, 2025

This Week at First Church

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

- 9 a.m. Informal Worship Service & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Godly Play (Classroom B)
Camp & Mission Trip Info Session/
Parent Conversations
(Adult Library)
Adult Education (Classroom C)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Monday, April 14

- 9 a.m. WGSJP Executive Committee Mtg
(Zoom)
- 6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal
(Bell Rm)

Wednesday, April 16

- 10 a.m. Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery
(Kitchen)

Thursday, April 17– Maundy Thursday

- 7 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Supper
(Sanctuary)

Friday, April 18

- 7 p.m. Tenebrae Service (Sanctuary)

Sunday, April 20 – Easter Sunday

- 7 a.m. Sunrise Service (WGSJ Park)
- 8:45 a.m. Worship Service &
Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
- 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt & Donut Hour
(S. Gordon Playground)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service &
Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

First Church

Visitation Ministry

At First Congregational Church UCC, we share in worship, the nurture of our faith development, our calling to social justice, music and arts, and the care of our church home—building a strong, loving community through faith and fellowship.

When life's challenges—illness, hospitalization, or mobility concerns—keep us apart, our Visitation Ministry helps to keep us connected. Through visits, prayer, and companionship, we remind one another that no one is forgotten and that we are always one in Christ.

This ministry is a blessing to all involved. Those receiving care feel supported and uplifted, while those who serve find their own faith and hearts enriched. In giving, we receive—and in community, we are made whole.

If you would like to become part of our Visitation Ministry Team please contact Gary Glover through care@first-church.org.

HoneyBaked Ham Spring Gift Card Sale to Benefit Mission Trip

We are once again selling HoneyBaked Ham gift cards for Easter and Graduation season entertaining. Purchase by scanning the QR code below and 20% goes to our mission trip. Please feel free to share the link with family and friends!



First Serves April Little Bottoms Free Store Sunday, April 27, at 10 a.m. Classroom D

Little Bottoms Free Store serves Franklin County babies and children ages 3 and under (or families at least 7 months pregnant). They provide diapers, wipes, clothes, and baby supplies to over 100 babies a week. Most needed items are wipes, diapers in sizes 3, 4, or 5, and sizes 3T, 4T, and 5T clothing. Spring and summer clothing would be most appreciated now. For our packaging event on April 27, we will need gallon-size Ziploc bags and Sharpies to sort the diapers. We will be counting diapers into the bags and marking the sizes with the Sharpies. Little Bottoms will be collecting the diapers for us. We can use the diaper boxes to store the Ziploc bags for them. Reminder tags with the needed items will be on the Giving Tree. You will also find baskets to place the donated items. Thank you for your generosity!

Time Out Wednesday Wednesday, April 30, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

TAT Ristorante De Familia

Our church family will dine at TAT, a Ristorante Di Famiglia that for over 90 years has been serving delicious and authentic dishes. You will dine on delicious dishes made from scratch.

Please scan the QR code below to register on Realm!



Summer Camps for Kids at Camp Christian

The summer programs like MMADD, Sports Camp, Camp Out, and Grands Camp previously offered at Templed Hills will now be run by Camp Christian in Marysville. Scan the QR code below to view camp options and to register. First Church is pleased to offer scholarships from the Alma Keeler Fund for 50% of the cost. You can download the Camp Scholarship Request form by scanning the QR code below. Please return the form to Annette McCormick (amccormick@first-church.org) or Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org.



Registration



**Scholarship
Request**

Mission Trip Opportunity

We are excited to offer an urban immersion youth mission trip to Camp Washington UCC in Cincinnati this summer. Dates (see below) are being selected and your voice matters. We invite interested youth (ages 13 and up) as well as adult chaperones to weigh in on your choice of dates. If interested, please email Leslie Fulford (lfulford@first-church.org) and let her know which dates you'd be available.

June 8-12
June 22 – 26
July 6-10
July 20-24



Learn More

**B.R.E.A.D.
Annual Nehemiah Action -
May 13, 6:40 p.m.
The Celeste Center
at the Ohio State Fairgrounds**

Calling on all people who are wondering how to respond to the recent actions to cut funds from a variety of programs that benefit especially those of us who are least able to cope!

Many of us have expressed our unhappiness with these new policies, but what to do? We can demonstrate, write letters to our congress people or even write editorials, but only B.R.E.A.D. has an action plan to make improvements instead of cutting programs.

Join B.R.E.A.D. on May 13 and let our public officials know that we deeply care about the unhoused, and the City's heat islands and flooding problems. Only B.R.E.A.D. has done the research to effectively address those needs.

Join us and raise our voice to demand better!
B.R.E.A.D. rises!

**Columbus Pride Parade
Helpers Needed**

Jim Griffin has taken on the leadership of getting First Church's participation in the Columbus Pride Parade. If you can help with the various tasks for this event please talk to Jim or email him [binkycmh@hotmail.com]. Last year we had 25 marchers. It takes time to get this all organized and Jim will need your support. If you want to make sure First Church is in the Pride Parade, please contact him.

Look for more information in the next few weeks on being involved with the Columbus Pride Parade, Saturday, June 14!

**Creation's Stewards
Washington Gladden Social
Justice Park
April 27, 12:30-2:15 p.m.**

Celebrate Earth Day with family fun and climate action at the Washington Gladden Social Justice Park on Sunday, April 27. The free event, "Creation's Stewards," will start at 12:30 p.m. with a local food truck and with students from the Columbus College of Art & Design helping children create sidewalk chalk art – a way to get kids involved in environmental creativity.

A program will begin at 1 p.m. with speakers addressing local issues of environmental sustainability and growing the City's tree canopy. The program will conclude by 2:15 p.m. Parking without charge will be available adjacent to the park for those attending the event.

The park is located at the corner of East Broad Street and Cleveland Avenue in downtown Columbus.

**We're Looking for Coffee
Hour Hosts!**

There is a sheet posted on the bulletin board on the first floor near the water fountain where you can sign up to host a coffee hour. We encourage families, friends, committees, and commissions to host a coffee hour, so find a date and sign up! Our Neighborhood Care Circles will continue to host on the first and third Sundays so please help us by signing up to host on one of the other Sundays.

Please talk to Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen or Pat Patterson if you have questions.

Keep in Prayer

Members James Velo; Tom Worley; Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Mike Weddle; Francille Firebaugh; Pauline Fritz; Nancy Burba; John Carter; Carol Lowy; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt; and Janice White.

Family and friends Kathy Reed's friend, Tom Faist; Melissa Kulwicki's cousin, Nancy Lamie; the Speakman family; Michael Russell's friends, Donald Featheroff, Jr. and Ryan Featheroff; Wendy and Robert Reber's sister-in-law, Judy Reber; Tom Kiesel's friend, Carrie; Robyn and Mike Petras; Matt Myers' sister, Erin Myers; 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 friend, Lee Gatton; Michael Russell's friend, Teresa Elliott; Amanda Butler's aunt, Hattie Coatney; Bob and Lorraine Quinichett's daughter, Susan Webster; Melva Fisher's daughter, Susan Wood; 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 Annette McCormick and her family on the death of her father, Charles McCormick; Victor John's friend, Kevin Dean on the death of Kevin's son, Noah Dean; and on the death of Victor's cousin, Devan Endlich.

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 Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission at The Fiji Council of Churches.

Experience Holy Week and Easter at First Church

Maundy Thursday, April 17

Liturgy of the Lord's Supper, 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18

Tenebrae Service, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20

Sunrise Service in The Washington Gladden Social Justice Park, 7 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt on the Playground, 10:15 a.m.

Festival Worship and Holy Communion in the Sanctuary, 8:45 & 11 a.m.

Music performed by The First Church Choir, two organs, brass, and percussion

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: Martha Worth
Deacons: Allen Baker, Heather Jones, Brian Kemp, Allison Lowery 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
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: James Lowe
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



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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