

Worship at Eleven
May 11, 2025
Fourth Sunday After Easter

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

Carillon de Westminster, Op. 54, No. 6

Louis Vierne, 1927

Rev. Becky David

Enter to Worship

Leader: You, O God, are our Shepherd. **People: You provide everything we need.**

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

*Leader: You renew our strength;

People: You guide us in ways that bring honor to Your name.



*Invocation Rev. David

Leader: Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us.

People: When we face darkness and death, you walk beside us.
When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence.
When we are fearful, feed us at your table.
May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. 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.

Introduction of the 2025 Schumacher Award Recipients

Amy Wagner, Chairperson

Ellie Brownell, Ashley Lawrence, Sofia Lozada, Sadie Moore, and Frieda Zirille

CHILDREN'S TIME Melissa Kulwicki

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

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 9:36-43

Jacquelyn Dean

Leader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the ninth chapter.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER Psalm 23

Bobby McFerrin, 1990 transcribed by Dan Stolper, 1994

The Lord is my Shepherd,

I have all I need,

She makes me lie down in green meadows,

Beside the still waters, She will lead.

She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,

She leads me in a path of good things,

and fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk, through a dark and dreary land,

there is nothing that can shake me,

She has said She won't forsake me,

I'm in her hand.

She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,

She anoints my head with oil,

and my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me,

all the days of my life,

And I will live in her house,

forever, forever and ever.

Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter,

and to the Holy of Holies,

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Leader: A reading from the Revelation to John, the seventh chapter.

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!

Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Hymn

"My Shepherd will supply my need"



*The Gospel John 10:22-30 Rev. Samuelson

Leader: A reading from the gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer Rev. Samuelson Rev. David

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 Danielle Tong

Cash and designated gifts go to support **CelebrateOne**, a community-driven movement dedicated to creating a brighter future for the families of Columbus. By addressing the root causes of infant mortality and fostering collaboration, CelebrateOne is making strides toward a healthier, more resilient community where every child has the opportunity to thrive and celebrate his or her first birthday. CelebrateOne collaborates with local organizations, healthcare providers and community members to tackle the complex issues contributing to infant mortality. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

John Rutter, 1992 Jane Eliza Leeson, 1842

"Loving shepherd of thy sheep"

Loving shepherd of thy sheep, keep thy lamb, in safety keep; nothing can thy power withstand, none can pluck me from thy hand.

I would praise thee every day, gladly all thy will obey, like thy blessed ones above, happy in thy perfect love. Loving shepherd, ever near, teach thy lamb thy voice to hear; suffer not my steps to stray from the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest I would go, walking in thy steps below, till before my Father's throne, I shall know as I am known.

*Presentation Hymn Lasst uns erfreuen, Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1632 "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"









Prayer of Dedication

Rev. David

Leader: The Shepherd cares for us, providing all that we need in abundance.

The Shepherd calls us to love one another in truth and action.

People: May our gifts reflect our trust in the Shepherd's care.

May our offerings show our willingness to love one another. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

Benediction Rev. Samuelson

*Closing Hymn

Hanover, A Supplement to the New Version of the Psalms, 1708

"You servants of God, your Master proclaim" Charles Wesley, 1744, alt.



Postlude Fanfare Fantastique

Karen L. Buckwalter, 2025

Today is the world premiere of this work, commissioned by the First Church Ringers in celebration of our new set of handbells.

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 one of our pastors or 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 memory of his father and brother by Jonathan Miller and Finnegan Miller.
- † Thank you to the Schumacher Committee, Camille Bendick, Ruth Decker, Pat Patterson, Kathy Reed, Jon Sauer, and Amy Wagner, Chairperson, for soliciting and reviewing the nominations and selecting and presenting this year's recipients.
- † Greeting at the Exits

Rev. Samuelson — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Rev. David — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

Ms. Kulwicki — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

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Leadership in Today's Liturgy
The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, preacher
The Rev. Becky David, worship leader
Jacquelyn Dean, liturgist
Melissa Kulwicki, worship leader
Lila Bendict, crucifer
Stefan Duga and Ryan Jones, acolytes
Gregory Duncan and Gary Glover, vergers
First Church Choir
Joshua Stafford, organist and director
First Church Ringers
Jennifer Fry, director
Peter Murray, livestream ministry



May 11, 2025

This Week at First Church

Sunday, May 11

9 a.m. Informal Worship Service &

Holy Communion (Parish Hall)

10 a.m. Sunday School (Various Classrooms)

Adult Education (Classroom C)
Parent Coffee & Conversation

(Adult Library)

11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Monday, May 12

7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, May 13

5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg

(Classroom C & Zoom)

6:30 p.m. BREAD Nehemiah Action

(Fairgrounds)

Wednesday, May 14

7 p.m. Heritage Committee Mtg

(Adult Library)

Thursday, May 15

10 a.m. Fiber Arts Ministry Mtg (Fanning Rm) 4:30 p.m. Choristers (Music Activities Rm)

7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal

(Choir Rm)

Sunday, May 18

9 a.m. Informal Worship Service &

Holy Communion (Parish Hall)

10 a.m. Sunday School (Various Classrooms)

Adult Education (Classroom C)
Parent Coffee & Conversation

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(Adult Library)

11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales

(Parish Hall)

4 p.m. Choral Evensong and reception

BREAD Nehemiah Action Tuesday, May 13 Doors Open 6:15 p.m. Event Starts 6:40 p.m. Celeste Center Ohio State Fairgrounds

Update: BREAD had a great meeting with Council member Nick Bankston last week. He has agreed to sponsor a rental registry with some sort of pre-rental inspections tied to it and he will be attending the Nehemiah Action. BREAD Rises!

We still need our people power to make our case on Tuesday. Parking at the Celeste Center is free, but if you need a ride, please join us at the Church at 5 p.m. We will meet in Classroom D in the Education Wing with pizza and will car-pool from there. We will leave promptly at 6 p.m.

A special section at the Celeste Center will be reserved for First Church members and guests. BREAD Rises!

From the Moderator Leadership Retreat May 31

On Saturday, May 31, we will gather as leaders of First Church to review our Long-Range Plan of 2027 and to envision how we see the church moving into the future.

All Council members, Deacons, Trustees, members of Commissions, and members of the Transition Team, please reserve this date for a day-long (5 hours) time for conversation and envisioning our future together. Thank you.

Sarah Reed, Moderator

Laundry Love Donations

"If I had clean clothes people would treat me like a human being."- T-Bone (Eric)

Our cupboard is bare. Laundry Love needs liquid detergent for our Washland visits. Please leave detergent donations by the Giving Tree or by the Office during the month of May. For more information on Laundry Love, please scan the QR code below.



Call for Graduates

We are recognizing First Church Graduates on Sunday, May 18, during the 11 a.m. worship service. If you have a student graduating from high school, tech, performance, college or the like, please send their name, school they are graduating from, degree, and a digital photo to Leslie at lfulford@first-church.org so we can recognize them.

Choral Evensong in Memory of Rick Sayre Sunday, May 18, at 4 p.m.

Please join us on Sunday, May 18, at 4 p.m. as the First Church Choir sings a service of Choral Evensong. This service will be offered in memory of beloved choir member and church archivist Richard (Rick) Sayre. A homily will be offered by Designated Minister Joanna Samuelson, and a reception will follow in the Parish Hall where you will have the opportunity to share memories of Rick.

Sign Up Now for the Youth Mission Trip

All youth, ages 7th – 12th grades and interested adults are encouraged to attend the urban immersion youth mission trip to Camp Washington UCC in Cincinnati this July. Many hands make light work, and we need yours to make it happen! Please let Leslie at lfulford@first-church.org know if you are interested and which dates, Sunday-Thursday July 6-10 or 20-24, you would be available. You can learn more about the camp by scanning the QR code below.



Keep in Prayer

Members Sebastian Kulwicki; Ron Jenkins; James Velo; Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Mike Weddle; Francille Firebaugh; Pauline Fritz; Nancy Burba; John Carter; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt; and Janice White.

Family and friends Leslie Fulford's friend, Marcy Smith; Annette McCormick's brother, Bill McCormick; Melissa Kulwicki's friend, Sandy Bushong; Kathy Reed's friend, Tom Faist; 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; Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples; and Fran and Bruce Panek's friends, Richard and Beverly Cicenas.

Those who mourn Arevena Nirote and family on the death of her brother-in-law, Gary Gallion; Jim Griffin on the death of his friend, Cheryl Meade; Jeff Lowy on the death of his mother, Carol Lowy; and Matt Myers on the death of his cousin, Laura Weisgarber.

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 India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees in Gaza.

Join in the Columbus Pride Parade

Come join us for the Columbus Pride March on June 14. Step-off is at 10:30 a.m. and will start at the State House (more details are coming). The walk is approximately 1.5 miles on asphalt pavement and will take approximately 2 hours. If you are interested in marching or supporting Columbus Pride please register. You can email Annette McCormick (amccormick@first-church.org) for more information.

T-shirts are available starting at \$30 and must be pre-paid; all proceeds go to First Church Pride funds to cover all costs. You must order your shirt no later than Wednesday, May 21. Please indicate the size needed and select either tie dye or lavender. Children's t-shirts are available; please email Melissa Kulwicki (mkulwicki@first-church.org) to order children's sizes.

T-Shirts are available to all whether marching or not. Please email Melissa Kulwicki to place non-marching t-shirt orders.

As always, if you would like to support the costs of marching, you may donate to Columbus Pride in the Realm dropdown list.

Register by scanning the QR code.



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: Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen

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



