



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN  
MAY 25, 2025  
FIFTH 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

"The Peace may be exchanged"

Dan Locklair, 1988

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: Those who love Jesus keep his words;  
Those who love Christ will make their home with God.

**People: Those who know Jesus will know his peace;  
Those who know Jesus will be taught in the ways of peace.**

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

\*Leader: Come, follow Jesus and love our Lord,  
who has come to be among us.

**People: We come to worship God who lives among us,  
loves us, and calls us home. Amen.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Open now thy gates of beauty"

*Unser Herrscher*, Joachim Neander, 1680

Benjamin Schmolck, 1732; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me  
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so  
3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be

en - ter there, where my soul in joy - ful du - ty  
un - to me; where we find thee and a - dore thee,  
done in - deed; may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee,

waits for God who an - swers prayer; O how bless - ed  
there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O  
while thou dost thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the

is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace.  
en - ter thou; let it be thy tem - ple now.  
foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

\*INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. William R. Nirote

Leader: Through the gift of your own Spirit, O God, you abide with us and in us.

People: **Open our eyes to recognize your presence here among us.**

**Open our hearts to the love that you have for us.**

**Open our minds to the truth that you review to us. Amen.**

\*GLORIA

*The Sewanee Mass, Malcolm Archer, 2010*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo-ple on

earth. Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-migh-ty God and Fath - er, we wor-ship you, we

give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fath-er, Lord, God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the

Fath - er: re - ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the

Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the

Fath - er. A - men, A - men.

\*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. 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.*

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

## THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 16:9-15

Leslie Fulford

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

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALTER

Psalm 67



May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*  
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, \*  
your saving health among all nations.

**Refrain.**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.

**Refrain.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth her increase; \*  
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

May God give us his blessing, \*  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

**Refrain.**

Leader:    A reading from the Revelation to John, the twenty-first chapter.

In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

**People:    Thanks be to God.**

\*GOSPEL HYMN

"Blessed Jesus, at your word"

*Liebster Jesu*, Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1664

Tobias Clausnitzer, 1663; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your word we have come a -  
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est  
 3 Glo - rious Lord, your - self im - part, Light of Light, from

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
 dark - ness shroud - ed, till your Spir - it breaks our night,  
 God pro - ceed - ing. Touch our lips and ears and heart;

and in glow - ing faith be near you. By your gos - pel  
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and  
 help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your

true and ho - ly, teach us, Lord, to love you sole - ly.  
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.  
 church now rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

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

Jesus said to Judas (not Iscariot), "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Keep My Word"

Rev. Nirote

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Samuelson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Leslie Fulford

Cash and designated gifts today go to support the **National Alliance on Mental Illness**, also known as NAMI, which provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives. NAMI's education program in Central Ohio includes seven expansive program areas. One critical example is "The Basics Program," to provide parents, caregivers, and family members important information and skills to care for youth experiencing mental health symptoms. The Franklin County Chapter of NAMI appreciates their long-standing relationship with First Church, and is very grateful to the congregation for the offering today.

# OFFERTORY ANTHEM

William Mathias, 1981

"Let the people praise thee, O God"

Psalms 67

Let the people praise thee, O God:  
 yea, let all the people praise thee.  
 O let the nations rejoice and be glad:  
 for thou shalt judge the earth righteously,  
 and govern the nations upon earth.  
 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,  
 and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.  
 God shall bless us and all the ends of the world shall fear him.  
 God be merciful unto us, and bless us:  
 and show us the light of his countenance,  
 and be merciful unto us.  
 That thy way may be known upon earth:  
 thy saving health among all nations.  
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
 world without end. Amen.

## PRESENTATION HYMN

*Lasst uns erfreuen*, Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1632

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Praise Ho-ly Spi-rit ev-er-more; Praise Tri-une God whom we a-dore. Sing praises, sing praises, Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Samuelson

**Leader:** As we offer our gifts to you, O God,  
 we are reminded of your call to step out into the world and make a difference.  
 Give us courage and wisdom as we engage with the world around us,  
 sharing your love and compassion with others.

**People:** **Bless these offerings that they may support ministries and programs  
 that reach out to those in need.  
 And empower all of us to be your hands and feet in the world,  
 shining your light wherever we go. Amen.**



# COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*St. Thomas (Wade)*, John Francis Wade, c. 1750

"For the healing of the nations"

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal-ing of the na-tions, Lord, we pray with  
 2 Lead us for-ward in-to free-dom; from de-spair your  
 3 All that kills a-bun-dant liv-ing, let it from the  
 4 You, Cre-a-tor God, have writ-ten your great name on

one ac-cord; for a just and e-qual shar-ing  
 world re-lease, that, re-deemed from war and ha-tred,  
 earth be banned: pride of sta-tus, race, or school-ing,  
 hu-man-kind; for our grow-ing in your like-ness,

of the things that earth af-fords; to a life of  
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through  
 dog-mas that ob-scure your plan. In our com-mon  
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re-

love in ac-tion help us rise and pledge our word.  
 care and good-ness fear will die and hope in-crease.  
 quest for jus-tice may we hal-low life's brief span.  
 sponse and ser-vice earth its des-ti-ny may find.

## BENEDICTION

Rev. Nirote

## POSTLUDE

"The People respond — Amen!"

Dan Locklair, 1988

*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 honor of Carol Gallagher's birthday by Jim Gallagher.

† COFFEE HOUR THIS MORNING is hosted by the House and Grounds Commission led by Eric Klintworth and Fran Panek.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Nirote — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

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

Mrs. Fulford — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

† PERMISSIONS AND COPYRIGHTS

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

“For the healing of the nations.” Words: Fred Kaan, 1965. © 1968 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

#### LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Dr. William R. Nirote, *preacher*

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *worship leader*

Leslie Fulford, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Jim Griffin, *crucifer*

Aarav Peter and Henry Wade, *acolytes*

Camille Bendick and Dayna McCrary, *vergers*

First Church Choir

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

Peter Murray, *livestream ministry*

# *Enter to Worship* **Depart to Serve**

May 25, 2025

## **This Week at First Church**

### **Sunday, May 25**

- 9 a.m.      Worship Service &  
                Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m.      Sunday School  
                (Various Classrooms)  
                Parent Coffee & Conversation  
                (Adult Library)
- 11 a.m.      Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12 Noon      Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)

### **Monday, May 26**

- 9 a.m.      Church closed in  
                observance of Memorial Day

### **Tuesday, May 27**

- 5:15 p.m.    Laundry Love (Wash Land)
- 7 p.m.      Deacons Mtg (Zoom)

### **Wednesday, May 28**

- 10:30 a.m.   Morganstern Memorial Service  
                (Sanctuary)
- 6 p.m.      Time Out Dinner  
                (Wine Bistro, 1750 W. Lane Ave)

### **Thursday, May 29**

- 7:15 p.m.    First Church Choir Rehearsal  
                (Choir Rm)

### **Saturday, May 31**

- 8:30 a.m.    Leadership Retreat (Parish Hall)

### **Sunday, June 1**

- 9 a.m.      Worship Service &  
                Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 11 a.m.      Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12 Noon      Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales  
                (Parish Hall)
- 12:15 p.m.   Liturgists Training (Sanctuary)

## **Church Office Closed**

### **Monday, May 26**

### **In Observance of Memorial Day**

The church office will be closed Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day and will re-open Tuesday, May 27. We wish everyone a happy and safe Memorial Day.

---

## **Last Call!**

## **Join us for the Columbus Pride Parade**

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). **Everyone who wants to participate in the march must register to receive a wristband. The deadline for registration is Tuesday May 27.**

As always, if you would like to support the costs of marching please feel free to donate to Columbus Pride in the Realm dropdown list. Register by scanning the QR code.



## Enjoy Summer Reading with the First Church Book Club

Have fun getting to know other church members while discussing a wide range of books. We gather on Zoom on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. for lively conversation. All are welcome!

June 4

*Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf

Published in 1925, *Mrs. Dalloway* is our centennial read. Set in London in the wake of WWI and the 1918 flu pandemic, the story unfolds over a single June day as Mrs. Clarissa Dalloway prepares for an evening dinner party. The stream-of-consciousness narrative explores time, relationships, and the search for meaning in a rapidly changing world.

---

## Where Did the Name "Stephen" Come From for Stephen Ministries?

In Acts 6, Stephen was among those chosen to provide a caring and confidential ministry to those in need. Since Jesus' time, caring ministry has been a hallmark of the Christian faith community. A new Stephen Ministry class is currently forming for 2025. Contact [care@first-church.org](mailto:care@first-church.org) for more information.



## Staying Connected Through Care and Presence

Being apart from friends and family can be difficult—especially during times of illness or recovery, when support and connection matter most. The same is true when we're separated from our church family. In those moments, the comfort of knowing someone cares makes all the difference.

That's where our First Church Visitation Ministry comes in. Through visits, prayer, phone calls, and home communion, we remind one another that no one is ever forgotten or alone.

If you'd like to learn more about this meaningful ministry, feel free to reach out to Gary Glover, Wendy Kennedy, or Susie Loik. They'd be happy to talk with you.

You're also invited to connect with Rev. Ron Botts and your Stephen Ministry leaders on **Wednesday, June 18, between 6 – 6:45 p.m., just before the Visitation Training Session led by Rev. Botts from 7 – 9 p.m.** Stop by with your questions—and if you feel called, stay and join the training.

Rev. Nancy Livingston will be leading our upcoming **Home Communion Training Session on Wednesday, June 12, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** This is a meaningful way to extend care and connection to those who can't be with us in person. If you're curious about what the training involves or simply want to explore whether this is the right fit for you, Rev. Livingston would be glad to talk with you and warmly welcomes your questions and conversation—you can reach her at [care@first-church.org](mailto:care@first-church.org).



## Keep in Prayer

**Members** Peter Worley; Janice Taft; Sebastian Kulwicki; 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** Mark Sholl's mother, Kaye Sholl; Melissa Kulwicki's mother, Judy Blandi, and her friend, Sandy Bushong; Rose Kandel's friend, Boyce Lancaster, and family; Stephanie and Bob Childs; the Speakman family; Wendy and Robert Reber's sister-in-law, Judy Reber; Tom Kiesel's friend, Carrie; Robyn and Mike Petras; Matt Myers' sister, Erin Myers; Shelly Gies' brother, Mike Simms; Victor John's father, Charles John and mother, Mary Jane John; Amy Wagner's friend, Lee Gatton; 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 Cicenias.

**Those who mourn** Kathy Reed on the death of her friend, Tom Faist; Arevena Nirote and family on the death of her brother-in-law, Gary Gallion; Margaret Cipriani's friend, Christie Baker on the death of her husband.

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 on the Indian Ocean Islands of Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, and Seychelles. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission the Dansalan College in Marawi City and Lanao del Sur in Southern Philippines.

---

### Save the Dates!

**Congregational Conversation with Rev. Becky**

**Sunday, June 8**

**Following 11 a.m. Worship**

**And on Zoom Wednesday June 11 at 6 p.m.**

Everyone is invited to participate and encouraged to bring your joys and concerns to this question and answer session with Rev. Becky. Sandwich, salad, and drinks provided. Please RSVP on Realm by scanning the QR code or by contacting Pat Patterson ([ppatterson@first-church.org](mailto:ppatterson@first-church.org)). The deadline to register is Wednesday, June 4.

There will be an additional session via Zoom on Wednesday, June 11 at 6 p.m. Meeting information can be found below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89364175078?pwd=78AI23HIINgomaJEXLRjiupItRtwOF.1>

Meeting ID: 893 6417 5078

Passcode: 329590



**Getting Ready to Move?  
Helping a Friend or Family  
Member Down-Size?  
Just Cleaning Things  
Out at Home?**

If you—or someone you know—happen to fall into one of the categories mentioned above, your church archivists have a heartfelt request: If you come across any items related to First Congregational Church that are no longer wanted or needed, we would be grateful to receive them!

Examples of helpful materials include Sunday bulletins, special programs, newspaper articles, membership directories, annual reports, books, posters, significant photographs, certificates, correspondence, and other related items. These pieces may help fill important gaps in our church's historical record—no item is too small or too large.

If you're ready to part with such materials, please place them in envelopes or boxes and leave them on the designated cart in the Adult Library (near Parish Hall). Be sure to include your name and contact information. We'll review the items, preserve what is valuable for the Archives, and responsibly dispose of anything that isn't needed.

**BREAD: Thank You!**

A hearty shout-out to all who participated in the May 13 Nehemiah Action. Over 70 people from our congregation were seated in the Celeste Center, and many more would have wanted to come but couldn't because of illness or family/graduation commitments. A total of over 1200 people joined from other congregations in the greater Columbus area. A commitment was obtained to get an ordinance in place to improve the rental policies to include regular inspections of rental units, and also to require a rental registry so landlords can be held responsible.

More work is needed to pass an ordinance to protect trees on public property. Columbus' tree canopy is about twenty percent less than cities of comparable size...

For those of us who were there it is evident that BREAD Rises!

Scan the QR code below to view photos of the event.



**Time Out Wednesday**  
**Wednesday, May 28, 6 p.m.**  
**Wine Bistro on Lane Avenue**

Our church family will dine at the Wine Bistro on Lane Avenue. The Wine Bistro offers a cozy, retro-chic atmosphere. It's a wonderful place to relax and share a sensory adventure.

Please scan the QR code below to register as it will be wonderful evening together!



---

**Laundry Love Needs**  
**Volunteers**  
**Tuesday, May 27, 5:15 p.m.**  
**Washland**  
**1469 W. Broad Street**

Laundry Love needs volunteers for the next event on Tuesday, May 27, 5:15 p.m. Please contact Vicki Lyden at [vlyden@gmail.com](mailto:vlyden@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering for May or for future months or if you would like more information!

**Thursday Fun at the Museum**

Grab a church friend and experience the fun of Bar, Art, and Music (BAM) at the Columbus Museum of Art every Thursday this summer starting on May 29. BAM runs all summer long on Thursday nights from May 29 to September 2. Enjoy live music, great art, delicious bites, creative experiences, and fresh libations in the Sculpture Garden at the Columbus Museum of Art. These evening events are from 5-10 p.m. and no reservations. Call up a few of your church friends and meet up for this fun and casual outdoor event conveniently located right next door to our church!

## 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:** 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:** 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

444 E Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 | 614-228-1741

[www.firstchurcharts.org](http://www.firstchurcharts.org) | [home@first-church.org](mailto:home@first-church.org)

