



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN  
JULY 20, 2025  
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

*Pastorale*

Katherine Kennicott Davis, 1918

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston

Leader: Blessed be the name of God from this time on and forevermore.

**People: From the rising of the sun to its setting  
The name of God is to be praised.**

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

\*Leader: It is good to give thanks to God

**People: to sing praises to your name, O Most High.**

Leader: To declare a your steadfast love in the morning

**People: and your faithfulness by night.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"The church's one foundation"

*Aurelia*, Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

Samuel J. Stone, alt. 1866

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,  
 4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three-in - One,  
 we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;  
 one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,  
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.  
 From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;  
 One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,  
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,  
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,  
 with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

\*INVOCATION

Rev. Livingston

Leader: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Loving God, you brought creation into being through Christ,  
 and in Christ all things find their purpose.

Open our eyes to see the world as your gift and to use your gifts for the sake of Christ,  
 that through the witness of our lives the gospel may be proclaimed to all people.

People: **Amen.**

\*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Becky 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, our young children are welcome to participate in "Sunday Stories" with Melissa Kulwicki and Nan Kreimer.*

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 18:1-10a

Martha Worth

Leader: A reading from the Book of Genesis, the eighteenth chapter.

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on-- since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalms 27

The Lord is my light

Frances Allitsen, 1897

Leader: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians, the first chapter.

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers-- all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him-- provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*GOSPEL HYMN

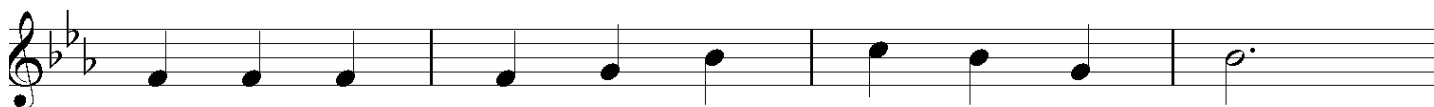
"Be thou my vision"

*Slane*, harm. David Evans, 1927

Irish Poem, trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Elenor Jull, 1912, alt.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought, — by day or by night,  
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;  
Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

\*THE GOSPEL

Luke 10:38-42

Rev. David

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, the tenth chapter.

As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. David

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Livingston

INVITATION TO SILENCE

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Rev. Livingston

Cash and designated checks supports the **Church World Services (CWS) Emergency Response Fund** — responding to recent flooding in Texas, North Carolina, and West Virginia. Your gift helps provide critical relief like cleanup buckets, hygiene kits, blankets, and long-term recovery support for families and communities in crisis. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Come, ye blessed”

John Prindle Scott, 1917

\*DOXOLOGY

*Old 100th*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Livingston

Leader:   O God, receive these gifts which are a product of our labors,  
              And let us not forget the better part of our offering,  
              Which is our devotion to the words of life  
              We have received from Christ our Lord,

**People:   Amen.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

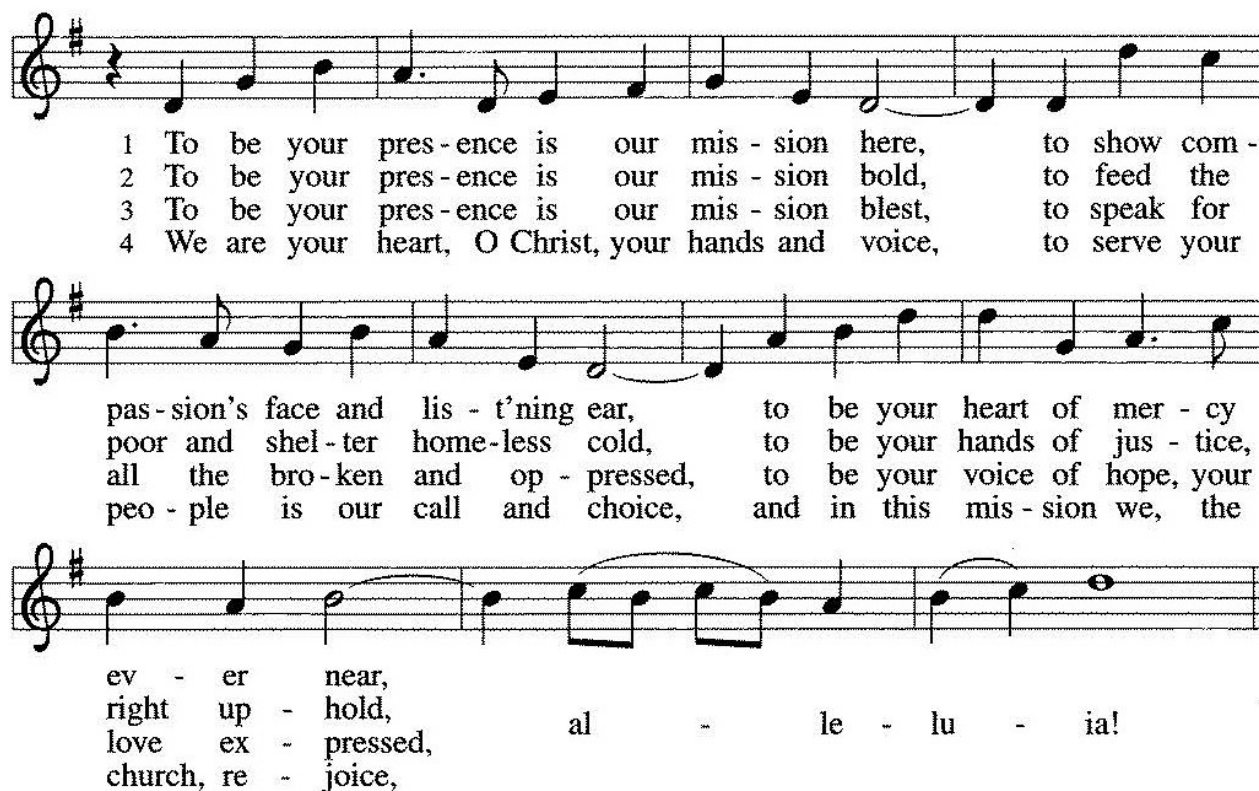
Ms. Kulwicki

Leader:   Let us depart with a heart to serve.

**People:   Thanks be to God.**

\*CLOSING HYMN  
"To be your presence"

Engleberg, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
Delores Dufner, 1959



1 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion here, to show com-  
2 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion bold, to feed the  
3 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion blest, to speak for  
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your  
pas-sion's face and lis-t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer-cy  
poor and shel-ter home-less cold, to be your hands of jus-tice,  
all the bro-ken and op-pressed, to be your voice of hope, your  
peo-ple is our call and choice, and in this mis-sion we, the  
ev-er near,  
right up-hold, al-le-lu-ia!  
love ex-pressed,  
church, re-joice,

BENEDICTION

Rev. David

POSTLUDE

*Fugue in C Major*, BWV 564

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

*Please be seated for the postlude.*

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*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 in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary by Albert and Cynthia Adcock.

† COFFEE HOUR THIS MORNING is hosted by Sacred Earth.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. David — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Rev. Livingston — 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. David Becky, *preacher*

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston, *worship leader*

Martha Worth, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Aarav Peter, *crucifer*

Gregory Duncan and Gary Glover, *vergers*

James Bobb, *organist*

Victor John, *soloist*

Aran Cunningham, *livestream ministry*



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

**July 20, 2025**

## **This Week at First Church**

### **Sunday, July 20**

- 9 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Family Playground Time (Sam Gordon Playground)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)
- Art Committee Mtg (Adult Library)

### **Monday, July 21**

- 6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg (Fanning Room & Zoom)

### **Tuesday, July 22**

- 7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Zoom)

### **Wednesday, July 23**

- 6 p.m. First Church Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Rm K)
- Time Out Dinner (Giammarco's Italian Restaurant)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision Mtg (SM Office)

### **Thursday, July 24**

- 11 a.m. Fiber Arts Ministry (Fanning Rm)

### **Sunday, July 27**

- 9 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Family Playground Time (Sam Gordon Playground)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Transition Listening Session (Parish Hall)

## **Time Out Dinner** **Giammarco's Italian Restaurant** **Wednesday, July 23** **6 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

Meet your church family at Giammarco's in Westerville. Voted as #1 for spaghetti and lasagna by the Columbus Dispatch, Giammarco's offers authentic Italian dishes. Their goal is to create a delicious and memorable dining experience. Please register on Realm for this relaxing evening.




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## **Fiber Arts Ministry** **Thursday, July 24** **11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Come and join the Fiber Arts Ministry on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Bring your projects to the Fanning Room. Fiber Arts Ministry members are devoted to caring for individuals in times of celebration, loss, healing (both physical and emotional), and whenever support is needed.

Remember 11 a.m.... it'll be a stitch!



**Full Circle Connections**  
**Friday, July 25**  
**10 a.m.**

Full Circle Connections continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at 10 a.m. in the Parlor (July 11 and 25). Currently they are focusing on the subject of aging: its joys, challenges, and opportunities, and are using a book as a launching guide for their discussion. All are welcome and please bring a friend. For more information, please contact Jan Hamilton at [hamiltonjan30@yahoo.com](mailto:hamiltonjan30@yahoo.com).



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**First Serves for July**  
**Pack Lunches for St. Stephens**  
**Summer Program**  
**Sunday, July 27**  
**10 a.m.**

Children and adults are invited to create sack lunches for the children in St. Stephens summer program. We will decorate bags and fill them with PB&J sandwiches and non-perishable sides.

Donations needed include: paper lunch sacks, water bottles, chips, granola bars, cookies, and fruit cups. Cash donations will allow us to purchase any additional needed items. We will fill 40 lunch bags!



**Listening Session**  
**Sunday, July 27**  
**12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

The Transition Team will host this listening session to report on the results of the previous Listening Circles and what we have learned. A free-will lunch will be provided. Please register on Realm for this Listening Session.



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**Laundry Love Needs You!**

Our congregation's Laundry Love program is part of a nationwide ministry whose goal is to help those living in poverty have clean clothing and bedding. Once each month we bring laundry detergent and dryer sheets and pay for the guests' use of the washers and dryers.

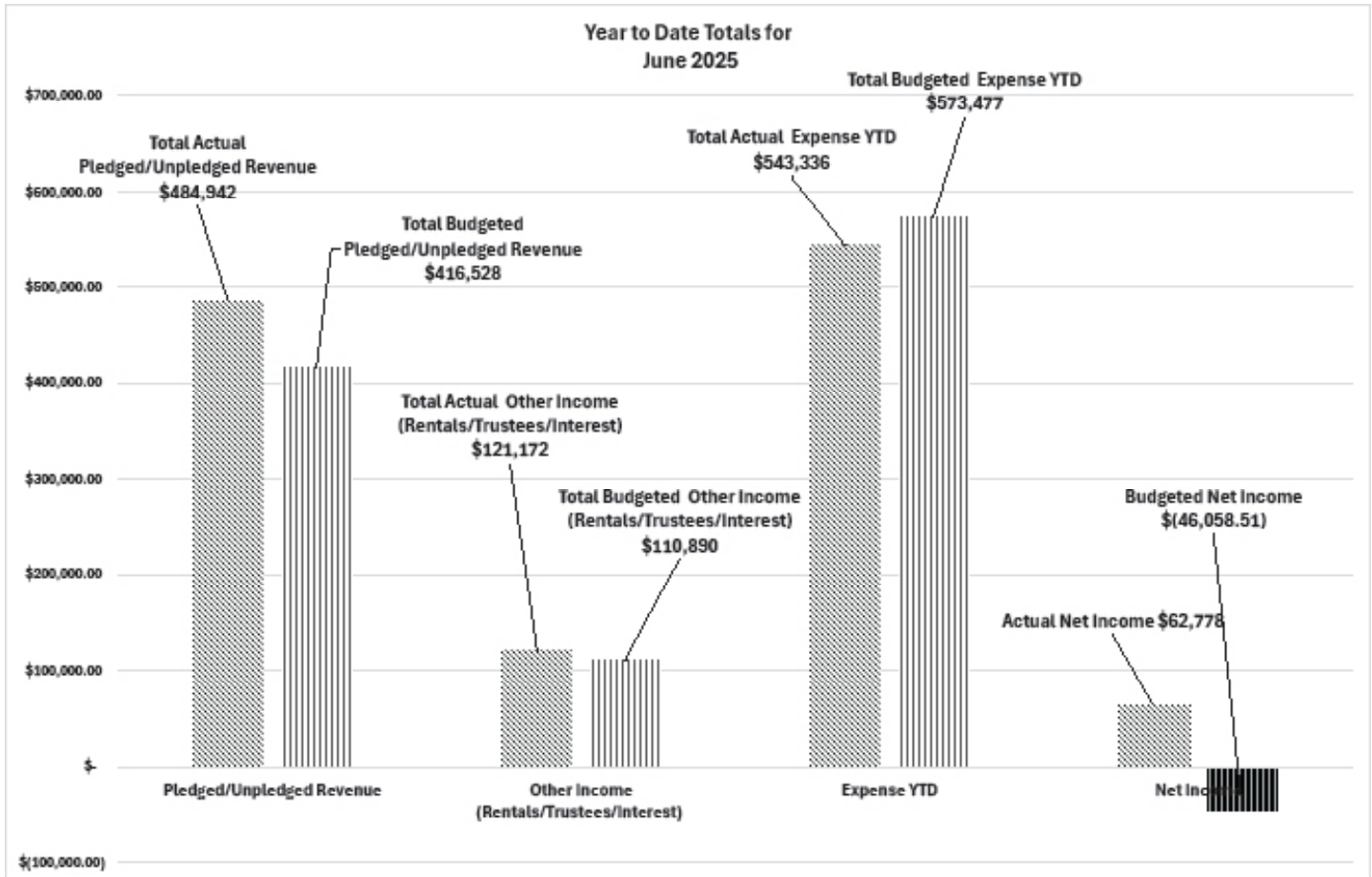
For Laundry Love to succeed, First Church needs volunteers to help with this once per month easy and rewarding project. Volunteers greet folks, record the number of washers and dryers used, put detergent and dryer sheets in the machines, and talk with our guests. Laundry Love is held at the Wash Land Laundromat at 1469 W. Broad St. from 5 to 7:15 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month (our next Laundry Love is July 29). To learn more or volunteer, email Vicki Lyden email at [vlyden@gmail.com](mailto:vlyden@gmail.com).

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**"Mama Bears"**  
**Sunday, August 24, 2:30 p.m.**

Join us for a screening of the film "Mama Bears" followed by a panel discussion. This will be a free ticketed event on the powerful topic of "mama bears" and their love for their LGBTQ children.

# Budget and Finance June Report



## Keep in Prayer

**Members** Steve Wild; Mark Williams; Gretchen Atkinson; Nancy Livingston; Janice Taft; 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** Geoffrey Dean's aunt, Vivian Heaney; Jason Harrell's mother, Sherry Harrell; Rose Kandel's sister, Linde Klein; Rev. Becky David's brother-in-law, Scott Bickford; Melissa Kulwicki's friend, Sandy Bushong; 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; Victor John's father, Charles John and mother, Mary Jane John; 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** Dean Hafey on the death of his brother, Brad Hafey, and the death of his father, Paul Hafey; Amy Wagner on the death of her friend, Lee Gatton; Pavan Peter on the death of his mother, Rev. Dr. Navamani Peter.

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 Djibouti and Somalia. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, Church of the American Ceylon Mission in Sri Lanka.

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

**Interim Senior Minister:** Rev. Becky David, 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, Fubara Braide, Stella Braide, 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:** Neal Brower

**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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