



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
AUGUST 10, 2025
NINTH 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

Arietta

“O God of Every Nation”

Thomas J. Kerr, 1957
arr. Michael Helman, 2020

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Rev. Becky David

Leader: Gather before God, people of the covenant.
Listen for God’s Word, O faithful ones.

**People: God has summoned us to this place.
We believe God will speak to us here.**

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

*Leader: Come to honor God and give thanks.
Seek to learn and follow in God’s way.

**People: We come as willing and obedient servants.
Let your steadfast love, O God, be upon us.**

Leader: God calls us as workers for justice.
God sends us out as advocates for the dispossessed

**People: We are here to be equipped for ministry.
We expect to be empowered for our service.**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Morning Hymn, François Hippolyte Barthélémon, 1785

"Awake, my soul, and with the sun"

Thomas Ken, 1695, alt.

*INVOCATION

Rev. David

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

O God of promise, Creator of the cosmos,
You are the first light breaking through the void,
And the final light we shall eternally enjoy.

**People: Keep our hearts ever vigilant as we wait to welcome you,
That you would find us clothed in love,
Dressed for action,
And eager to receive you. Amen.**

*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

Leslie Fulford

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

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 1:10-30

Nancy Braverman

Leader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, the first chapter.

Hear the word of the Lord,
you rulers of Sodom!

Listen to the teaching of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!

What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the Lord;
I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of fed beasts;
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.
When you come to appear before me,
who asked this from your hand?
Trample my courts no more;
bringing offerings is futile;
incense is an abomination to me.
New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—
I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.
Your new moons and your appointed festivals
my soul hates;
they have become a burden to me,
I am weary of bearing them.
When you stretch out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.
Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your doings
from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,
learn to do good;
seek justice,
rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan,
plead for the widow.
Come now, let us argue it out,
says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.
If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land;
but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be devoured by the sword;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

In a 'call and response' pattern, the Leader sings each verse alone, then All repeat each verse in unison.

Tone I.1



- 1 The mighty one, God the Lórd, has spóken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun / to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines / forth in glory.
- 3 Our God will come and will not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before,
and round a- / bout a raging storm.
- 4 God calls the heavens and the éarth from ábove
to witness the judgment / of the people.
- 6 The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause,
for it is / God who is judge.
- 23 "Whoever offers me a sacrifice of thanksgiving hónors me;
I will show the salvation of God to those who / go the right way.

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

Nancy Braverman

Leader: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews, the eleventh chapter.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old— and Sarah herself was barren— because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL HYMN

Foundation, American folk melody: Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832, alt.

"How firm a foundation"

"K" in John Rippon's A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.



1. How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4. "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is laid for the I will
 I am thy God, in and will ex - cel - lent Word!
 rib - ers of sor - row shall not give you aid;
 will not de - sert to his foes;

What more can be said than to you God hath said,
 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cuase thee to stand,
 for that I soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to bless, shake,

to - you who for re - fuge to Je - sus hath fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, the twelfth chapter.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. David

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. David

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

Matt Bruns

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Gladden Community House Food Pantry**. Gladden Community House has been a settlement house serving the needs of the people in Franklinton and beyond, since it was launched by First Church pastor Washington Gladden in 1905. The Gladden Food Pantry is one of the largest food pantries in Central Ohio, serving approximately 1,000 families each month. Through this service, the pantry helps strengthen the well-being of children, families, seniors, and community, while helping to build thriving, equitable neighborhoods on the near west side of Columbus. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY

"I need thee every hour"

arr. Jason Krug, 2021

*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. David

Leader: Thank you, God, for welcoming us into your caring realm,
where we claim the needs of others as our concern.

We are finding a homeland in your service and we are grateful.

Above all, may our offerings be an outpouring of thanksgiving
for a God who does not forget us.

Your promises are sure and your faithfulness is to all generations.

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

"Lift every voice and sing"

Lift Every Voice, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1905

James Weldon Johnson, 1900

1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,
ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening skies;
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,
let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
keep us for - ev - er in the path we pray.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;
sing a song full of the hope that the pre - sent has brought
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get
us; fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,
let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

BENEDICTION

Rev. David

POSTLUDE

Fugue in E Minor "The Wedge," BWV 548

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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 by Charlie Weaver. Happy Birthday, Mary. Miss you.

† COFFEE HOUR THIS MORNING is hosted by the Celebrate Neighborhood Care Circle.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. David — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Mrs. Fulford — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

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

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† MUSIC NOTES

The four stanzas of the Processional Hymn "Awake, my soul" are just a few of the original fifteen stanzas of the morning hymn sung daily by the boys at Winchester College in the late 17th century. The final stanza is the original source of the doxology text "Praise God from whom all blessing flow."

The Johnson brothers created "Lift every voice and sing" for a Jacksonville, Florida celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday in 1900. A chorus of five hundred black school children sang it that day. Today we sing the first and third stanzas, but encourage you to reflect on the middle stanza which so specifically speaks to African American history in our country.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

Nancy Braverman, *liturgist*

Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Stefan Duga, *crucifer*

Camille Bendick and Matthew Bendick, *vergers*

James Bobb, *organist*

Jennifer Fry, *director*

First Church Ringers

Aran Cunningham, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship **Depart to Serve**

August 10, 2025

This Week at First Church

Sunday, August 10

- 9 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Kaffee Klatsch (Parish Hall)
Family Playground Time (Sam Gordon Playground)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
- 12:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm)
- 6 p.m. BREAD Membership Mtg (Parish Hall)

Monday, August 11

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

Tuesday, August 12

- 5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, August 13

- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Class (Fanning Rm)

Thursday, August 14

- 6 p.m. First Church Ringers (Bell Rm)

Sunday, August 17

- 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. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)

"Light the Way" Youth Bible Study with Maggie Myers Today, August 10 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

"Light the Way" Youth Bible Study is for youth ages 14-20. It is led by high school senior and lifelong First Church member, Maggie Myers. This is a relaxed, teen friendly discussion of the Bible and personal faith journeys, where connection, not perfection, are the goals. Friends are welcome and pizza will be provided. This will be offered again August 31st.

Please contact Maggie at maggiemyers0816@gmail.com or Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org to learn more.

Leveling the Playing Field Thursday, August 14 10:00 a.m.

Youth are invited to volunteer at Leveling the Playing Field, a nonprofit that collects and redistributes sporting equipment to under-resourced communities.

There will be a two-hour shift organizing gear, then lunch at Ranchero Kitchen, a nearby Salvadorian restaurant, for pupusas. Please bring lunch money if able. If you would like to carpool please notify Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org, 614-354-0720. Plan to meet at the church at 9:30 or go directly to LPF at 4848 Evanswood Dr. in Columbus.



Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 17 9 & 11 a.m

Dururing both services on Sunday, August 17, we will have the “Blessing of the Backpacks” for all of our children and youth. We encourage our students heading back to school to bring their own backpack to church for the blessing.

Justice Ministry Network Meeting Sunday, August 10 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

All are invited to our church’s Justice Ministry Network meeting Sunday, August 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We will plan our work with the B.R.E.A.D. (Building Responsibility, Equality And Dignity) organization through the fall and into the new year. Coffee, tea and desserts will be served.

Our network is composed of three dozen church members committed to working on local issues of social justice. B.R.E.A.D. is a coalition of 36 Columbus area churches, synagogues, and mosques, each of which has a justice ministry network of individuals. First Church has been a member of B.R.E.A.D. for a quarter-century.

The primary agenda items for the network meeting are planning the annual congregational listening process involving house meetings early in the fall and preparing for B.R.E.A.D.’s annual assembly in November. Any church member or visitor is welcome to attend the network meeting to learn more about our work.

First Serves for August: Hygiene Kits for Gladden Community House Sunday, August 24 10 a.m. Classroom D

First Serves will be making hygiene kits for the middle and high school teens served by Gladden Community House. Many of their students don’t have necessary hygiene products at home. Let’s help them start their school year feeling confident and supported! We will assemble the hygiene kits into boy and girl packs to be presented at their Back to School Bash.

To fill the hygiene kits we need any brand of new, full size products. Items needed include:

- Deodorant - for Boys and Girls
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Floss
- Unscented Bar soap
- Tampons
- Pads
- Toilet paper - 4 Pack Only
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Shaving Cream for Boys
- Razors for shaving - Boys and Girls
- Body Lotion
- Hand Sanitizer
- Brushes and Combs
- 2-Gallon size Ziplock bags

Donations can be placed under the Giving Tree. Thank you for supporting these teens!

An Eco Reminder

Sacred Earth continues to recycle prescription bottles. The bottles should be empty and have the labels removed. Please bring them to the blue recycle container by the Giving Tree. This will be an ongoing project for Sacred Earth. Thank you for your recycling efforts!

"Mama Bears"

Sunday, August 24, 2:30 p.m.

Join us for a screening of the film "Mama Bears" on Sunday, August 24, at 2:30 p.m., followed by a panel discussion.

The film focuses on "mama bears" who are spread across the country but connected through private Facebook groups. They call themselves "mama bears" because while their love is warm and fuzzy, they fight ferociously to make the world kinder and safer for all LGBTQ+ people. Some grew up as fundamentalist, evangelical Christians, and are willing to lose friends, family, and faith communities to keep their offspring safe — even when it challenges their own belief systems.

"Mama Bears" is an intimate, thought-provoking exploration of the journeys taken by two "mama bears"— whose profound love for their LGBTQ children turned them into advocates for the entire queer community — and a young African American lesbian whose struggle for self-acceptance exemplifies why "mama bears" are so important.



Council Minutes Are Now Available in Realm

Church Council Minutes are now being shared with the congregation. The May 2025 meeting minutes can be viewed in Realm under the Group Resources for "The First Congregational Church" Files. If you need an invite to Realm, please contact the church office at 614-228-1741.

Calling All Bakers

"Do this in memory of Me"

Perhaps there are no two commandments more clear than Jesus' command for us to love one another and his command for us to remember the last supper when we gather as a faith community. But we don't just remember it or re-enact the Last Supper. We are called to relive it, to let it transform us. In order for this to happen, everything we do in worship should be intentional toward that end. We are now using real bread baked by members of our worshipping community.

First, a shout out to Bruce Panek for all of the sourdough he baked for us, and my thanks to Melanie Brown and Wendy Kennedy for working out the details of a new recipe for us.

We are now in need of others to join our communion bread baking team. This is a great ministry not just for seasoned bakers but for families that want to bake communion bread together.

Please consider joining our team and participating in this ministry so vital to our worship together.

If you are interested, please contact Rev. Becky through the church office.

Time Out Dinner

Wednesday, August 27

6:00 p.m.

Plank's Bier Garten is a go-to spot for fans of good food and a great atmosphere. Join others from First Church at this fun time and have some dinner!

Please register on Realm so we can reserve a table at this fun restaurant.



Re-Connecting from Moderator, Sarah Reed

Congregational care is always a significant concern in the life of the church. During this time of transition, we are especially focused on the needs of our 1200+ members. A challenge is understanding what your needs are, especially if we have lost touch with you.

Council recently formed a membership committee to address this challenge. This committee is looking at our membership rolls to reconnect with those we have not seen in a while. Soon, letters are going out to members who, for whatever reason, have not been in worship or active in the life of the church. We want to say, “we miss you,” and to know if there is a need that can be addressed by this faith community.

First Congregational Church is here to support our members through continued fellowship and unwavering love. We’d love to hear from you and reconnect, if that is your wish. Please let us know how we may serve you.

Save the Date First Church Engagement Fair Sunday, September 7

Come learn about all our mission projects, activities, and ways to become engaged and serve here at First Church at our annual Engagement Fair!

Join us Sunday, September 7 in Parish Hall right after each worship service for an opportunity to connect with other members as you learn about our activities.

As you see the many ways we work in the community and within our church family, you may discover a group whose activities speak to your heart! And you can meet folks you see in worship but may not have met yet.

Come chat with fellow members, put names with the faces, and explore wonderful opportunities for service, engagement, and friendship!

Keep in Prayer

Members Annette McCormick; Stella Braide; Jennifer Fry; Steve Wild; Nancy Livingston; Janice Taft; James Velo; Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Mike Weddle; Francille Firebaugh; Nancy Burba; John Carter; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt; and Janice White.

Family and friends Candy Cummings’ friend, Robdonda Hardin; 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 Cienas.

Those who mourn Dianne Frazer on the death of her brother, Dwight Frazer.

We pray for the willpower and knowledge to form a safety committee for the church.

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 the Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome, and Principe. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Disciples of Christ Church of the Congo, Brazzaville.

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:

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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