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

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Carillon de Westminster, Op. 54, No. 6

Louis Vierne, 1927

Rev. jessica young chang

Leader: The people of God were made for worship:

To sing and to praise, to laugh and to dance.

People: The people of God were made for God's presence:

For pleasure and praise, for joy and for song.

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

*Leader: Come, holy people, God's chosen disciples:

Gather for worship, come from all places!

People: We have come to God's temple, gathered together,

We have come to praise Yahweh and enjoy God forever.



*Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Rev. Becky David and Rev. young chang

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.

Invocation Rev. young chang

Ever-present God, let your Spirit fill this place, Leader:

for we need to know that you are in charge.

Through the terrors of the night, amid the arrows that fly by day,

we need to sense your power, your protection, your higher purpose.

Show us here your saving, healing strength. People:

Grant to us such confidence

That we may look beyond ourselves To become a blessing to others. Amen.

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.

Anthem Ola Gjeilo, 2007 "Ubi caritas"

North Italian or Burgundian, ca. 8th c.

Ubi caritas et amor. Deus ibi est.

Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.

Exultemus et in ipso jucundemur.

Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.

Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

Where charity and love abide, there is God.

The love of Christ hath joined us into one.

Let us rejoice and be glad in him.

Let us fear and let us love the living God.

And let us love each other in sincerity of heart.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Maggie Myers

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, the thirty-second chapter.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

Jeremiah said, The word of the Lord came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours." Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the Lord, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying,

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER Psalm 91:9–10, 12–15

The Choir introduces the Antiphon, after which the People join in singing the Antiphon, repeating as indicated after the Choir chants the verses.



Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation, There shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

Antiphon

They shall bear you in their hands,

lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the lion and adder;

you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

Antiphon

Because he is bound to me in love,

therefore will I deliver him;

I will protect him, because he knows my Name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;

I am with him in trouble;

I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

Antiphon

*Gospel Acclamation Psalm 7:11

The Choir introduces the Alleluia, which is then repeated by the Congregation. Following the verse, all repeat the Alleluia.



Verse: God is my shield and defense; God is the savior of the true in heart.

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

Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house — for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.""

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Rev. David
Pastoral Prayer Rev. David

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 church of Christ in every age" vv. 1-3



THE OFFERTORY

To give online, please scan this QR code, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



Mission Invitation Frank Cook

Cash and designated checks will support First Church's **Legacy Fund**. The Legacy Fund provides support to make major church repairs, pay property insurance and make capital improvements and includes 2020 Project, funds for emergency repairs and Repair, Restore Enhance Reserve Fund. Trustees approve disbursements in consultation with Church Council. Thank you for your generosity.

*Offertory Anthem

"Jesu, the very thought of thee"

Jesu, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills the breast; but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the memory find, a sweeter sound than Jesus' Name, the Savior of mankind.

O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek, to those who fall, how kind thou art: how good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show; the love of Jesus, what it is, none but his loved ones know.

Jesu, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be; in thee be all our glory now, and through eternity.

*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.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Eric Klintworth

Paul Halley, 1994

Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th c.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1849

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

"O master, let me walk with thee"



Benediction Postlude Festival Rev. young chang

Healey Willan, 1958

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 James Monsul by Geneva Rice.
- † Join us for the Legacy Sunday Picnic! Food is located in the Education Wing and the picnic will be held in the north lot. Fist Church Trustees, Church Vitality, and House & Grounds are hosting the picnic.
- † Greeting at the Exits

Rev. David — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Rev. young chang — 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. Becky David, preacher
The Rev. jessica young chang, worship leader
Maggie Myers, liturgist
Leslie Fulford, worship leader
Melissa Kulwicki, worship leader
Neal Brower, crucifer
Jason Harrell and Dayna McCrary, vergers
Joshua Stafford, director and organist
The First Church Choir
Peter Murray, livestream ministry



September 28, 2025

This Week at First Church

Sunday, September 28 — Legacy Sunday

10 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)11:15 a.m. Congregational Picnic

(Parish Hall)

4 p.m. Congregational Concert

(Sanctuary)

Monday, September 29

6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal

(Bell Rm)

Tuesday, September 30

5:15 p.m. Laundry Love (Wash Land)

Wednesday, October 1

12:15 p.m. Music at Midday (Sanctuary)

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

Stephen Ministry Monthly Mtg

(SM Office)

7 p.m. Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, October 2

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

6 p.m. First Church Ringers Rehearsal

(Bell Rm)

7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal

(Choir Rm)

Saturday, October 4

10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg (Fanning Rm)

2 p.m. Gladden Lecture (Sanctuary)

Sunday, October 5

9 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

10 a.m. Sunday School (Various Classrooms)

Adult Bible Study (Classroom C)

Parent Conversation (Adult Library)

11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales

(Parish Hall)

12:30 p.m. Youth Group (Youth Rm)

Legacy Sunday Today, September 28 11:15 a.m.

Come and celebrate our Legacy at the picnic on the north parking lot. We're grilling burgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers, and have iced tea, lemonade, and water for beverages. All the other food is provided by YOU!

You'll find the food in the Education Wing. We'll announce the winners who get the bragging rights as **BEST PIE BAKERS 2025!** Plus, there will be fun games for kids of all ages. We look forward to seeing you there!

Adult Education and Young Peoples Sunday School

Adult Bible Study continues in Classroom C on the theme of The Parables of Jesus in an Autocratic World. The Revs. Margo Connor and Larry Miller are leading this study.

Sunday School for young children continues and the new Youth Group is meeting after the 11 a.m. service. Maggie Myers will lead the Youth Bible Study again on October 12 for middle and high school students. Please contact Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org to register youth or for more information.

Parent Conversations are in the Adult Library. Join other parents at 10 a.m. and have some coffee!

Engagement Fair Thank Yous

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Engagement Fair on Sunday, September 7! Our commissions, committees, boards, and missions were very creative in displaying and discussing the many kinds of good work and activities they sponsor throughout the year.

The fun included knitters from the Fiber Arts Ministry showing different items they create, our tech team staffing the Realm Help Desk, and our Care & Share Kitchen team offering samples of tasty chicken & noodles and giving away pans so we can bring in frozen casseroles to provide meals for members facing challenges. And thanks to Annette McCormick and Melissa Kulwicki who showcased our Christmas ornaments, t-shirts, and new water bottles that were available for purchase.

It was wonderful to have all our groups in Parish Hall on one day so that we all could learn more about them. Volunteers are needed throughout the year, so reflect on which spoke to your heart and consider volunteering. You can pick up a brochure that gives an overview of all our groups and their group leaders/contact info at various locations in the church.

And a very big thank you to each of you who attended the fair and learned more about all our activities and ways that each of us can engage with one another and do good work together!

Engagement Fair Raffle Winner

Moderator Sarah Reed has designed and created a First Church water bottle. We had a raffle drawing for one of them . . . and the lucky winner is Greg Duncan, leader of our Verger Ministry. Congratulations, Greg!

Thank You, Mr. Josh

We want to thank Mr. Josh for singing with our children last Sunday. We learned to sing *God is so Good* and *There is a Balm in Gilead* and played a fun music game. Can't wait to have him back next month!

The Music at Midday Wednesday, October 1 12:15 p.m.

First Church welcomes Nikita Annenkov on cello and Yihan Zhang on piano. Come listen to music in the Sanctuary.

First Church Book Club Wednesday, October 1 7 p.m.

Come enjoy lively conversation about the book, *There's Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension* by Hanif Abdurraqib on Zoom.

Columbus resident Hanif Abdurraqib, a MacArthur Fellow and National Book Award finalist, shares his personal reflections on basketball, life, home, and community in *There's Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension*. His memoir interweaves the 1990s basketball culture of east Columbus where he grew up with the ascension and cultural impact of Akron's LeBron James, and how losses can tell us more about ourselves, and one another, than wins.

Abdurraqib will join our Zoom discussion of his book. We invite you to be part of this special evening. To receive book club emails and the Zoom link please contact Kathy Reed at kbreed2010@gmail.com.

Keep in Prayer

Congratulations to parents Kendra and Nick DeFrancisco, and grandparents Nancy Loy and Tom Worley, on the birth of Isabella DeFrancisco on September 17, 2025.

Members Al Waddell; Pat Liebchen; Jane Ward; Gretchen Atkinson; Stella Braide; Steve Wild; Nancy Livingston; Janice Taft; James Velo; Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Jane 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; Melissa Kulwicki's friend, Sandy Bushong; 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 Cicenas.

Those who mourn Emily Wilson on the death of her father, Bud Newcomb.

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 Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Peru. We also pray for our UCC partners in mission, the Christian Church in West Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Sacred Earth Eco Tip

Plastic can only be recycled one to 10 times, depending on the type. Most plastic can only be recycled once then it goes to the landfill.

Best practices to consider using instead of plastic:

- Use canvas grocery bags,
- Crumble old paper instead of using packing peanuts or bubble wrap,
- Reuse plastic straws or purchase stainless steel straws.
- Buy and refill glass drinking bottles instead of the plastic ones.

Gladden Lecture Saturday, October 4 2 p.m.

Popular theologian, author and podcaster Pete Enns will deliver the annual Gladden Lecture in the Sanctary. His lecture will be "The Case for Social Justice." Enns is known for his interpretations of the Bible that reconcile biblical stories with science and modern biblical scholarship, and speak to faith concerns. He is author of *Curveball: When Your Faith Takes Turns You Never Saw Coming* and co-host of the podcast "The Bible For Normal People."

The lecture is free and open to the public. Advance registration for the lecture is requested, but not required. Click the QR code to register.



Enns will preach at First Community Church on Sunday, October 5.

BREAD House Meeting

House meetings are designed to discover what issues in our community BREAD should address. All issues from the house meetings are brought forward and discussed at the Annual Assembly on November 19. The most prevalent will be chosen by vote for further study.

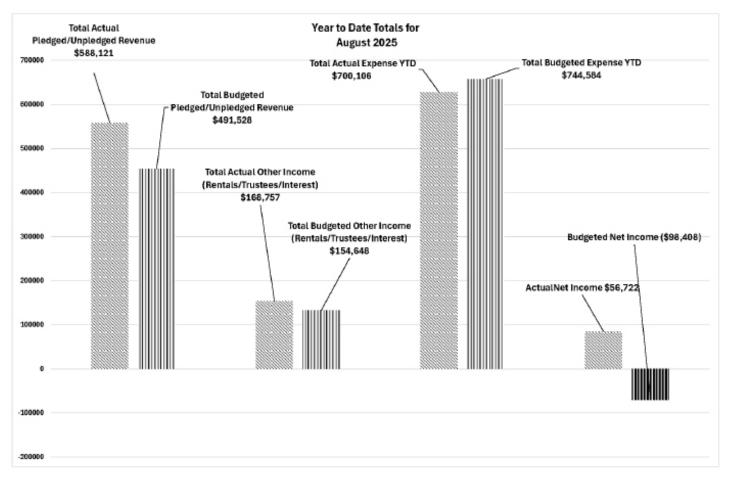
Local government representatives will be consulted and recommendations made. The path leads to the Nehemiah Action in May 2026 where commitments are cemented.

Please join us and make BREAD rise!



The final house meeting will be hosted by Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen at 7 p.m. at Westminster-Thurber on Wednesday, October 22 and she invites everyone.

August Financials



August YTD Income

Pledge/Unpledged YTD over budget by \$96,593 Other Revenue YTD over budget by \$14,109 Total Revenue YTD over budget by \$110,702

August YTD Expenses

Total Expenses YTD under budget by \$44,478

Net Income

Net Income YTD actual \$56,772 vs budget of (\$98,408) with a positive variance \$155,180

While the 2025 YTD Financial picture is still very solid, August Pledge Revenue was the lowest of 2025. Now that summer's over - let's have a great finish to the rest of the year!!

Church Leadership

Interim Senior Minister: Rev. Becky David, M.Div.

Interim Associate Minister: Rev. jessica young chang, 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 Building and Grounds Superintendent: Kevin Salem 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, Fubara Braide, Stella Braide, Heather Jones, Justice & Mercy: James Lowe Brian Kemp, Allison Lowery Palmer, Dayna McCrary, Matt Myers, Justice & Mercy-elect: Janice Taft

Fran Panek, Gary Seigerst, Thomason Smith

Transition Team: Jacquelyn Dean and Nancy Loy, co-chairpersons, Music, Arts & Heritage-elect: Cheryl Hoskinson Todd Cunningham, Rev. Becky David, Scott Graham, Gregory

Halbe, Susie Loik, Allison Lowery Palmer, Pavan Peter, Sarah Reed, Personnel: Neal Brower

Joshua Stafford

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: Music, Arts & Heritage: Jim Griffin

Member-at-Large: Martha Wilson

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



