



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
OCTOBER 12, 2025
EIGHTEENTH 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

“Deep River”

arr. Janet Linker and Jane McFadden, 1994

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Rev. jessica young chang

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
Sing the glory of God’s name.

People: How awesome are your deeds, O God!
We sing praises to your name.

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

*Leader: Come and see what God has done:

People: How awesome are your deeds, O God!
We sing praises to your name.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN
"Rejoice, ye pure in heart!"

Marion, Arthur Henry Messiter, 1883
Edward Hayes Plumptre, 1865

1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
3 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go,
4 At last the march shall end; the wea - ried ones shall rest;
5 Then on, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
the pil - grims find their home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
Re - joice! Re - joice!

*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.*

INVOCATION

Rev. young chang

Leader: Let us pray.
Awesome God,
Who has given us life and kept our feet from slipping,
We thank you for bringing us to this place of worship.
Inspire us to speak truthfully and listen attentively.

**People: May we prove to be faithful workers,
Devoted to healing and reconciliation,
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Benjamin Britten, 1961

Jubilate Deo

Psalm 100

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise.
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting:
and his truth endureth from generation to generation
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.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Phil Armbruster

Leader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, the twenty-ninth chapter.

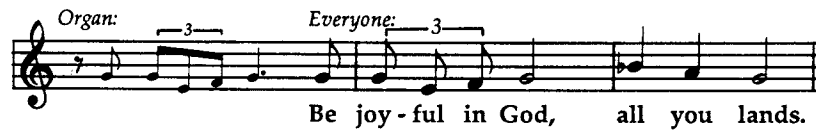
These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

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



Sing the glory of his Name;
sing the glory of his praise.
Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.

Antiphon

All the earth bows down before you,
sings to you, sings out your Name."
Come now and see the works of God,
how wonderful he is in his doing toward all people.

Antiphon

He turned the sea into dry land,
so that they went through the water on foot,
and there we rejoiced in him.
In his might he rules for ever;
his eyes keep watch over the nations;
let no rebel rise up against him.

Antiphon

Bless our God, you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
Who holds our souls in life,
and will not allow our feet to slip.

Antiphon

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

1 Thessalonians 5:18

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



Verse: In all circumstances, give thanks,
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

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

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. David

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

HYMN

“We come to you for healing, Lord”

Land of Rest, America Folk melody

Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2002

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 Through nights of pain and wake - ful - ness, through
 4 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, we know you come a -
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with power to heal a - gain.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Vicki Lyden

Cash and designated gifts go to support **Laundry Love**, a nationwide initiative for which First Church is the Columbus partner. Once each month, our Laundry Love volunteer team brings the supplies and pays for the washers and dryers at the Wash Land Laundromat on West Broad Street, to wash clothing and bedding for low-income or no-income families and persons. But Laundry Love also brightens the lives of our guests when we happily greet them, talk with them as neighbors, and get to know them. Through Laundry Love, we show them respect as members of our community, we share our love for them, and we acknowledge and celebrate their value as human beings. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Richard Shephard, 1980

The Secret of Christ

Isaiah 42:14–16, Revelation 22:1–3, The Pilgrim Prayer by Derrick Walters

For a long time I have held my peace, but now I speak. I will lead the blind in a way they know not, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn their darkness into light, and I will not forsake them.

And he showed me a pure river of the water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God; and on either side of the river was there a tree of life, and the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations.

Help us, Lord to persevere in prayer
with minds awake and thankful hearts,
that we may share the secret of Christ
with those we meet on our earthly pilgrimage,
following in the steps of Jesus,
our Master and our Friend. Amen.

*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

Kathy Reed

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

Mit Freuden zart, Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesang, 1566

“Sing praise to God who reigns above” Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt.

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,
 mur - mur stilled:
 all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 cho - sen band:
 take your part:

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Rev. young chang

John Weaver, 1968

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 from the Carrie Shoemaker Flower Fund. Miss Shoemaker was the Principal of Hubbard Avenue School in the Victorian Village area in the early 1900's. She resided a few blocks away at 158 Buttles Ave., a home that still overlooks Goodale Park. Her grave is in Greenlawn Cemetery. She established a flower fund at the church in 1936 for Sunday service flowers on the second Sunday of October. Although there is no information why that Sunday was chosen, it may be related to honoring her sister (Mary Elizabeth Shoemaker) who died in 1935. Carrie Shoemaker died 13 years later at the age of 90.

† COFFEE HOUR THIS MORNING is hosted by the Music, Arts, and Heritage Commission, led by Jim Griffin.

† 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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"We come to you for healing, Lord." Music: American folk melody. Words: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2002. © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: American folk melody, arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938, © 1938, ren. The H.W. Gray Company (admin. Alfred Music Publishing) All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

The Rev. jessica young chang, *worship leader*

Phil Armbruster, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Neal Brower, *crucifer*

Camille Bendict and Matthew Bendict, *vergers*

Jennifer Fry, *director*

The First Church Ringers

Joshua Stafford, *director and organist*

The First Church Choir

Aran Cunningham, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship **Depart to Serve**

October 12, 2025

This Week at First Church

Sunday, October 12

- 9 a.m. Worship Service &
Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Sunday School
(Various Classrooms)
Adult Bible Study (Classroom C)
Parent Conversations (Adult Library)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
- 12:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm)
Cyber Security Awareness
Workshop (Parish Hall)

Monday, October 13

- 6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal
(Bell Rm)
- 7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, October 14

- 12 Noon Lunch Bunch (Borgata Pizza Cafe,
2285 W. Dublin-Granville Rd.)
- 5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg (Classroom C
& Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg
(Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, October 15

- 10 a.m. Largest Table (Kitchen)
- 6 p.m. Faith Formation Mtg
(Classroom C & Teams)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Class (Fanning Rm)
Stephen Ministry Supervision Mtg
(SM Office)

Thursday, October 16

- 11 a.m. Fiber Arts Ministry (Fanning Rm)
- 6 p.m. First Church Ringers Rehearsal
(Bell Rm)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Choir Rm)

Saturday, October 18

- 11 a.m. BOBS Planning Mtg (Zoom)

Sunday, October 19

- 9 a.m. Worship Service &
Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Sunday School
(Various Classrooms)
Adult Bible Study (Classroom C)
Parent Conversations (Adult Library)
Budget 101 (Fanning Rm)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales
(Parish Hall)
- 4 p.m. Congregational Concert (Sanctuary)
- 5:15 p.m. Concert Reception (Parish Hall)

Cyber Security Workshop **Today, October 12** **12:30 p.m.**

Join First Church member and IT Specialist, Stefan Duga to learn more about how you can stay safe in this digital world. This will be held in Parish Hall.



Youth Bible Study **Today, October 12** **12:30 p.m.**

Join Maggie Myers at this Bible Study for middle and high school students. This will be a relaxed, teen friendly discussion of the Bible and personal faith journeys, where connection, not perfection are the goals. Friends are welcome in the Youth Room.

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, October 14

12 Noon

Pizza makes for a great lunch and who doesn't love Italian so let's get together at Borgata's. Borgata's is a casual eatery serving New York-style pizzas and home-cooked Italian fare. It's located at 2285 W. Dublin-Granville Rd. in Worthington.



Please register using the QR Code.

Fiber Arts Ministry

Thursday, October 16

11 a.m.

Members of the Fiber Arts Ministry craft beautiful prayer shawls, soft blankets for newborns, warm winter hats and scarves, and much more. Whether a beginner or an experienced artisan, all are welcome to join us in this meaningful work. Join them in the Fanning Room.

A Hymn Festival

Sunday, October 19

4 p.m.

The Organ, the Choir, and the Congregation will come together for a Hymn Festival with Richard Webster.

Noted composer, arranger, and choral conductor, Richard Webster, formerly of Trinity at Copley Square in Boston, leads us in a hymn festival with the First Church Choir, brass, percussion, organs, and congregational song!

BREAD — *Being Gnats*

If you have been out this summer, you probably have encountered them, those little pesky creatures. They don't do much harm, but they are very annoying, and can take the fun out of your outdoor plans. You probably heard the story in Sunday school, how one of the plagues visited on Pharaoh to put pressure on him to allow the Israelites to leave Egypt, was the plague of the gnats. As the Bible tells the story, this was one plague that Pharaoh's magicians could not duplicate. The gnats, seemingly originating from ordinary dust, were in dense swarms all over Egypt, and they were effective in causing Pharaoh to promise to release the Israelites.

As we consider our current political situation, feeling quite powerless to release the ICE prisoners, or to care for the starvation in Gaza or any of the other unjust inflictions that are visited on our own neighbors in Columbus' less privileged neighborhoods, we are invited to become like those old-testament gnats that got Pharaoh's attention, not because of the harm they caused by themselves, but because of his inability to ignore them.

Joining hands with the many congregations that have joined the BREAD organizations to insist on proven effective solutions to our inexcusable inability to provide low income housing, improve the air we breathe, invest in our schools, and all the other stagnant issues that our politicians are deftly avoiding to seriously address, we could make a difference. Individually doing that is impossible.

Please register through the QR Code and join me, Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen, on Wednesday, October 22 at Westminster-Thurber at 7:00 pm to discuss what is on your hearts and how we can turn into gnats! We will meet in the Art Room in the Thurber Tower, 645 Neil Ave.

BREAD Rises!



First Serves

Sunday, October 26

10 a.m.

First Serves is collecting candy for the Gladden Community House's Halloween Party. Please bring your candy to the giving tree! We will put together individual bags for the Gladden children at First Serves. For more information please talk to Leslie Fulford.

Time Out Dinner Wednesday, October 29 6 p.m.

Award-winning chef Mike Mariola founded The Rail Burger in 2011 as a full-service burger restaurant and bar suitable for any occasion. Mike's vision of the concept shifted and led to a new brand - The Rail Craft Kitchen. It's a fun place to gather and get to know each other. It is located at 1064 Dublin Road, in Grandview Crossing. Come join in and use the QR Code to register on Realm to reserve your place at the table.



Keep in Prayer

Members Al Waddell; Pat Liebchen; Jane Ward; Gretchen Atkinson; Jean Lebold; Stella Braide; Steve Wild; 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 Pat Patterson's daughter-in-law, Chelsea Powell; Candy Cummings' friend, Robdonda Hardin; Geoffrey Dean's aunt, Vivian Heaney; Jason Harrell's mother, Sherry Harrell; Melissa Kulwicks' friend, Sandy Bushong; Wendy and Robert Reber's sister-in-law, Judy Reber; Tom Kiesel's friend, Carrie; Matt Myers' sister, Erin Myers; Victor John's father, Charles John and mother, Mary Jane John; Bob and Lorraine Quinichett's daughter, Susan Webster; and Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples.

Those who mourn the family and friends of Bradford Myers.

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 Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama. We also pray for our UCC partners in mission at the Asian Rural Institute, Tochigi Prefecture, Japan.

Budget 101 Sunday, October 19 10 a.m.

Over the past six weeks, our church's commissions and boards have shared their dreams and goals for deepening and expanding our worship, service and fellowship over the next year. These inspiring ideas have been compiled into an aspirational budget for our congregation in 2026. (An outline of this aspirational budget is printed on a separate page.)

Ramona Moenter, church treasurer, and Annette McCormick, business administrator, will explain this aspirational budget during the education hour on Sunday, October 19. The session will begin at 10 a.m. in the Fanning Room. All are invited to attend.

This aspirational budget is a financial document that illustrates our congregation's vision for the future and complements the work of the Transition Team to identify who we are today and the direction of our faith journey tomorrow.

The aspirational budget is intended to inspire church members to make financial pledges during the stewardship campaign for 2026 that reflect their generosity and gratitude for the blessings they receive from God and our faith community.

Expenses	2025	2026	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation
Ministers				
Salary & Benefits	\$227,058	\$265,554	\$38,496	Interim Assoc Pastor different coverage Increase in health insurance costs
Office Staff				
Salary & Benefits	\$256,124	\$198,400	\$(57,724)	Communication staff separated from office. Added PT position 5% COL
H&G Staff				
Salary & Benefits	\$111,834	\$126,769	\$14,935	FT Manager hired 9/2025 5% COL
Music Staff				
Salary & Benefits	\$148,680	\$264,305	\$115,625	Added Assoc. Minister Added Choir Section Lead Increase Bell Director (2 choirs) 5% COL
Faith Formation Staff				
Salary & Benefits	\$49,102	\$150,171	\$101,069	Increase Director to FT Permanent w/revised pay scale 5% COL
Communication & IT Staff				
Salary & Benefits	\$ -	\$73,424	\$73,424	Separated from Office salary 5% COL
Staff totals	\$792,798	\$1,078,623	\$285,826	

Expenses	2025	2026	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation
Communication & IT	\$35,600	\$57,800	\$22,200	3 laptops 1 camera, AV contracts IT contract labor
Administrative Costs	\$22,500	\$31,700	\$9,200	Increases postage, supplies, meeting costs Transition team
House & Grounds	\$122,800	\$156,100	\$33,300	Utilities increase due to expiring contract Plaster repairs / Engineer site plan Additional security on Sunday
Music	\$12,000	\$5,500	\$(6,500)	Decrease vacation subs (assumes new Assoc Minister)
Arts & Heritage	\$300	\$16,840	\$16,540	Furniture Repair/Art Reframing & Archives Digitization
Justice & Mercy	\$45,500	\$70,389	\$24,889	6% increased pledge basis to UCC
Faith Formation	\$8,650	\$24,240	\$15,590	Outings & activities Marketing, Safety trainings
Church Vitality	\$3,175	\$4,200	\$1,025	Pride March
Church Growth	\$3,000	\$4,200	\$1,200	Advertising
Deacons	\$3,500	\$11,160	\$7,660	Stephen Ministry Increase/ added vergers & congregational care
Trustees	\$78,000	\$80,000	\$2,000	To cover building insurance
Sub-Total Other Expenses	\$335,025	\$462,129	\$127,104	
Total All Expenses	\$1,127,823	\$1,540,753	\$412,930	Increase pledges needed \$412,930

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

Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction: Jacquelyn Dean

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Training Coordinator: Wendy Kennedy

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator: Susie Loik

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Communications, Media and IT Coordinator: Annette McCormick

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

Transition Team: Jacquelyn Dean and Nancy Loy, co-chairpersons, Todd Cunningham, Rev. Becky David, Scott Graham, Gregory Halbe, Susie Loik, Allison Lowery Palmer, Pavan Peter, Sarah Reed, 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

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: Neal Brower

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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www.firstchurch.org | home@first-church.org

