### 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

Sine Nomine John Weaver, 1995

Enter to Worship Rev. jessica young chang

Leader: Praise God, all people who are called to be saints.

Sing a new song in the assembly of the faithful.

People: We will be glad in God our Maker.

We will rejoice with music and dancing.

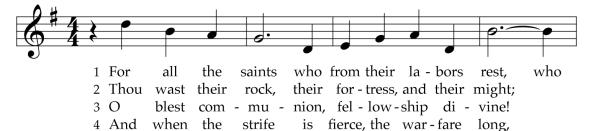
Please stand as you are able. (\* indicates congregation standing)

\*Leader: Listen here for God's Word of truth.

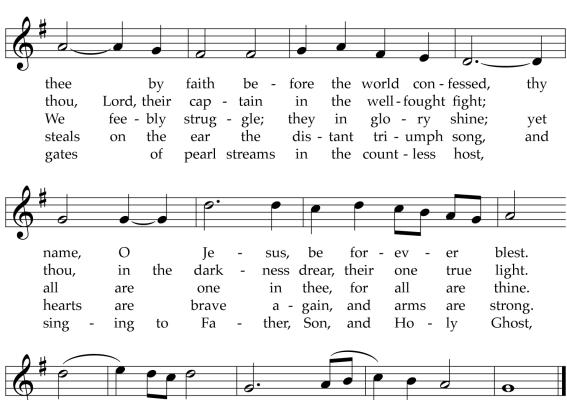
Share with one another the gospel of salvation.

People: We are here to seek a better way of life.

We have come to learn and to do what God intends.



5 From earth's wide bounds, from o-cean's far-thest coast, through



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

\*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.

<sup>\*</sup> 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 written by Christine Jerrett

Leader: The grace of our friend and savior Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: You are our God and we are Your people,

and we are grateful that You have claimed us as your own. You have set us in the company of saints past and present,

among those who have made bold witness to Your goodness and Your truth.

Your Word opens up new futures where we see no way forward.

Write the stories of your people deep into our hearts so that we may learn to trust you beyond our fears.

Give us hearts and minds and spirits

ready to trust and follow wherever your Spirit leads,

confident that you will not lead us beyond your loving embrace.

People: We ask in Jesus' name whose outstretched arms welcome us

and hold us securely in your grace. Amen.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 1:11-23

Jennifer Fry

Rev. young chang

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

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER Psalm 149

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



Let Israel rejoice in his Maker;

let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

Let them praise his Name in the dance;

let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

### Antiphon

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people and adorns the poor with victory.

Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them be joyful on their beds.

### Antiphon

Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand;

To wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples;

### Antiphon

To bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron;

To inflict on them the judgment decreed; this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!

### Antiphon

\*Gospel Acclamation

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



Matthew 11:28

Verse: Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,

And I will give you rest, says the Lord.

\*The Gospel Luke 6:20–31 Rev. David

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

Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,

for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,

for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets."

"But woe to you who are rich,

for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now,

for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,

for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Rev. David

Prayers of the People

Rev. David and Rev. young chang

Leader: Siblings in Christ, let us join our hearts together in prayer,

lifting before our Maker the needs of our lives, our community, and the world.

Almighty God, we thank you today for calling us your saints.

In spite of our unholy lives we reflect Your image and You call us beloved.

Thank you for this grace gifted to us at baptism.

Lord in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who are lonely.

We hope in the promise that the home of God will be among people:

that God will dwell with us.

Leader: Lord in your mercy: **People:** Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who are crying;

the sad, the depressed and the anxious.

We hope in the promise that God will wipe every tear from our eyes.

Lord in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who are experiencing the consequences of death;

the bereaved and those who are mourning.

We hope in the promise that death and mourning will be no more.

Lord in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who are in pain;

suffering from illness either physical, mental, or spiritual. We hope in the promise that crying and pain will be no more.

Lord in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those who are thirsty for truth, love and grace;

those who seek God and God's life with earnest hearts.

We hope in the promise that God will give water to the thirsty without cost

from the spring of the water of life.

Lord in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for your church on earth; that it may remain faithful to

Your Word and that it will strive for unity.

We pray for all Christians, that they may imitate the martyrs in bold witness to the gospel.

Lord in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Bring peace where there is conflict; in our homes, our communities,

our nation and the world.

Protect those who are poor and hungry and give them hope. Move those with plenty to share with those who have little.

Help all people to love their neighbour as themselves.

Lord in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: In your mercy, O God, we lift to you those from this community

who have died this past year.

As their names pass through our hearts and over our lips, may we be comforted by the truth of your everlasting life.

Receive these saints into your heart as they continue to live on in ours.

#### THE NECROLOGY

Rupert "Twink" Starr July 16, 1922-November 4, 2024 Robert B. Rideout May 14, 1941-November 21, 2024 December 3, 1943–January 5, 2025 Bernie Martin Anne Morganstern February 5, 1936–January 19, 2025 Jan (Janet) Kevan April 11, 1931–January 29, 2025 October 31, 1941-February 26, 2025 Martha Huey Mary Kay Beall Carter August 16, 1943-March 1, 2025 July 13, 1953-April 25, 2025 Carol Lowy Samuel Ronald Cook, Jr. February 19, 1945-August 15, 2025 **Bradford Myers** August 3, 1988–October 1, 2025

CLOSING PRAYER (adapted from Bruce Prewer)

Leader: Living God, in whom there is no shadow or change,

we thank you for the gift of life eternal,

and for all those who having served you well, now rest from their labors.

#### We thank you for all the saints remembered and forgotten, People:

for those dear souls most precious to us.

Leader: Today we give thanks for those who during the last twelve months

have died and entered into glory.

We bless you for their life and love, and rejoice for them

"all is well, and all manner of things will be well."

#### People: In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

\*Hymn St. Catherine's Court, Richard Strutt, 1925 "In our day of thanksgiving" William H. Draper, 1916 In our day of thanks-giv - ing of - fer one psalm us morn - ing of life, and eve - ning, In the at noon, and at stones that have ech - oed their prais - es are ho - ly, found them praise, then, and thanks that God's love here has for the saints who fore re - ceived the be ward; us re they were gath - ered heav'n from our to wor - ship be and dear the ground where their feet have once trod; whose jour - ney end - ed, whose per - ils past; when the shad - ow of death fell up - on them, we sor - rowed, but not till God's love, at the font and the al - tar, fessed they were strang-ers pil - grims, yet here they con and round them, they be-lieved in light; and the its glo - ry but now re - joice that they rest in the Lord. clothed them with grace for the way they should go. had cit - y lift - ed and God. still they were seek-ing of of earth's sor-row where the clouds last. at

#### THE OFFERTORY

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



Mission Invitation Douglas Taft

Cash and designated gifts go to **Pathway Clubhouse**, which provides a friendly, communal space for adults living with mental illness in Franklin County. Pathway offers the opportunity for members to participate in new experiences, while engaging with fellow members in the development of social relationships, employment and education opportunities, and community involvement. The Clubhouse Model is a national and international holistic approach to empowering its members with mental illness, while providing steps to rehabilitation. The Pathway mission is to maximize and strengthen members' independence in working, living, and socializing in the community. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Philip Stopford, 2014

"O how glorious" Revelation 7:9, para. Basil Harwood

O how glorious is the kingdom wherein all the saints rejoice with Christ.

Clothed in white robes they follow the lamb withersoever he goeth.

\*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.

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table.

#### Invitation

Rev. David and Rev. young chang

Leader:

Jesus accepted invitations from everyone and ate at many tables.

He was often not the host, he was a guest among guests.

At this table where we remember him, we too are not hosts.

We are all guests, invited by Mercy, all summoned by Love.

Come, then, everyone, and enjoy Love's hospitality.

Lay aside any need you have to be first or best,

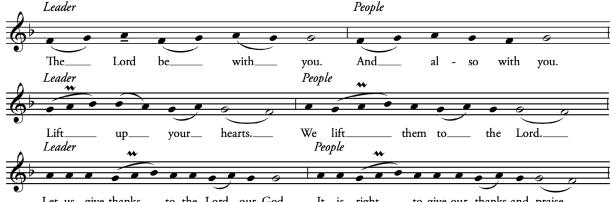
Or to decide who is worthy to come and eat.

Just be grateful to be here and open your heart to praise.

So let us begin.

\*Sursum Corda

Plainsong



Let us give thanks\_\_\_ to the Lord\_ our God.

It is right\_\_\_\_ to give our thanks and praise.\_\_

Leader:

God most generous and kind, the reach of your mercy is endless.

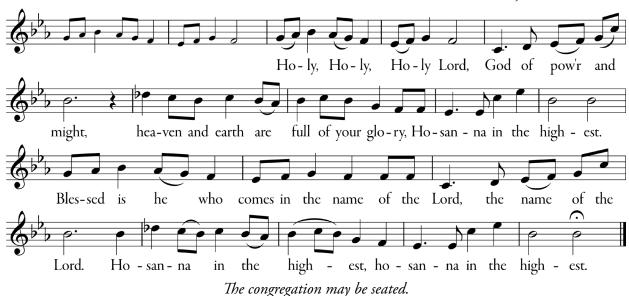
You find us all, wherever we are, and bring us to your table.

For the gracious welcome we have all received,

Whether we came first or last, early or late, with hands full of gifts,

Or with nothing at all, we praise you, singing your glory,

This day and forever:



#### COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. David and Rev. young chang

Leader: We remember that on the night of his betrayal, he ate again with his disciples.

After the meal he took the bread, blessed it and gave it to them saying "This is my body. Eat. Do this every time you gather to remember me.

In the same way he poured out the wine and blessed it. He gave to his disciples saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all. Drink it. Do this every time you gather to remember me."

People: Come Holy Spirit, come!

Bless this bread and fruit of the vine.

By our eating and our drinking,

open our hearts to other guests you are always inviting,

So that one day everyone who hungers

Will have an honored place in your house,

The best seats at your table. Amen.

Leader: In our sharing bread today we include in companionship

the saints alive and the saints resurrected.

In our sharing of bread today we include in companionship

the poor, marginalized and rejected of this world.

In our sharing of bread today we include in companionship those known to us and those not known, who need Jesus now.

In our sharing we pray,

People: 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.

Leader: Beloved, the table is now ready. The gifts of God for the people of God. Amen.

#### SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Please come forward as directed by the vergers to receive the common elements for communion. Receive the bread from the pastor or take a Gluten-free piece from the tray. As you approach the cup, dip just the edge of the bread into the juice (this is called intinction) and consume it.

If you are unable to rise and come forward and would still like to partake of communion, please tell a verger when they are at your pew.

If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

James Biery, 2007

The Beatitudes

Marilyn Biery, 2007

Lift up your hearts, you poor in spirit, With joyfulness show love and mercy, the kingdom of heaven is yours; the mercy of God will be yours; And blest are you, bent in two with mourning,

And blest are you, pure of heart and selfless,

the vision of God will be yours.

Be still with gentle, quiet meekness, the plenty of earth will be yours; And blest are you, filled with aching hunger, the satisfied earth will be yours.

God's comfort sustains you through all.

Work tirelessly for peace and justice, as children of God you'll be known; And blest are you, who are persecuted,

the kingdom of heaven is yours.

Rejoice, be glad, be joyful, people, the kingdom of heaven is yours; So blest are you-hear the words of Jesus: "The kingdom of heaven is yours!"

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. young chang

Leader: Thank you, God, for inviting us to this Banquet of Life and feeding us with the

good news of Jesus and his wondrous bread and cup.

You are always glad to have us here around your family table.

Help us notice who is missing. People:

Make us everybody's neighbor. Send us to them as friends.

With your standing invitation to come, to eat, to know love,

and be in peace at home. Amen.

Words for Sending Communion Ministers

Rev. young chang

Leader: My brothers and sisters,

> you are sent to bring the Word of God and the Bread of Life from this assembly

to the sick and friends at home.

Go to them with our love and our prayers

in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God. "Ye watchers and ye holy ones"



BENEDICTION

Rev. young chang

Voluntary

Nimrod, from Enigma Variations, Op. 36

Edward Elgar, 1899

Please be seated for the postlude.

Thank you for attending worship this morning. We hope that you have found peace and grace here and invite you to return often. If you would like more information or have any questions about First Church, please ask one of our pastors or anyone wearing a name tag. We would be delighted to assist you.

- † THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in honor of All Saints Day from the Farquhar Family in memory of beloved family and friends.
- † Please Join Us in Parish Hall for Coffee Hour, hosted by the Joyous Neighborhood Care Circle, led by Wendy and Mike Kennedy.
- † Greeting at the Exits

Rev. David — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)
Rev. young chang — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)
Mrs. Fulford — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

Leadership in Today's Liturgy
The Rev. Becky David, preacher
The Rev. jessica young chang, worship leader
Jennifer Fry, liturgist
Melissa Kulwicki, worship leader
Henry Wade, crucifer
Jason Harrell and Sebastian Kulwicki, vergers
Stefan Dugas and Aarav Peter, acolytes
Joshua Stafford, director and organist
The First Church Choir
Aran Cunningham, livestream ministry



**November 2, 2025** 

### This Week at First Church

Sunday, November 2

9 a.m. Worship Service &

Holy Communion (Parish Hall)

10 a.m. Confirmation Family Information Mtg

(Fanning Rm)

Adult Bible Study (Classroom C)

Sunday School Classes (Various Classrooms)

11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Sales (Parish Hall)

Monday, November 3

10 a.m. Stewardship & Growth Mtg

(Classroom C & Zoom)

12 Noon Card Care Ministry (Fanning Rm)

6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal

(Bell Rm)

7 p.m. House & Grounds Mtg

(Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, November 4

7 p.m. Communications & Technology Mtg

(Zoom)

Justice & Mercy Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom) Personnel Mtg. (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 5

12:15 p.m. Music at Midday (Sanctuary)6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Monthly Mtg

(SM Office)

Stephen Ministry Class (Fanning Rm)

7 p.m. Book Club (Zoom)

## Mid-Ohio Workers Holiday Benefit Today, November 2 1 p.m.

Tamales from the Benefit sale are available for pickup from 1 to 6 p.m. in the Education Wing.

#### Thursday, November 6

9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution (Church)11 a.m. Fiber Arts Ministry Mtg (Fanning Rm)

6 p.m. Healing Circle (Chapel)

Church Vitality Mtg (Zoom) First Church Ringers Rehearsal

(Bell Rm)

7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal

(Choir Rm)

Saturday, November 8

11 a.m. BOBS Planning Mtg (Zoom)

Sunday, November 9

9 a.m. Worship Service &

Holy Communion (Parish Hall)

10 a.m. Adult Bible Study (Classroom C)

Sunday School Classes (Various Classrooms)

Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm)

11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary) 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)

Congregational Conversation

(Parish Hall)

12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)

## Confirmation Information Mtg Today, November 2 10 a.m.

If your student is in 7th-9th grade or older and has not been confirmed, please join the confirmation journey. Led by Rev. jess, students will explore their faith and that of others, go on field trips and service activities; question, learn and build relationships with church friends. There is a Confirmation Information Meeting, today at 10 a.m. in the Fanning Room. Classes will be held twice a month on Sundays from 12:30-2:30 p.m., and they begin November 9th in Classroom C.

## Adult Bible Study Sunday, November 2 10 a.m.

How can I forgive those making a mess of our government and doing untold damage to the futures of my grandchildren? Come wrestle with these issues when we discuss the parable of the Unforgiving Servant in Matthew 18.

# New Member Class Today at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, November 13, at 7 p.m.

If you are a visitor to First Congregational Church, we encourage you to take the next step to consider joining our faith community. We have a two-session class for potential new members at the church. This is an opportunity to meet our ministers and lay leaders, learn about our church's history, and see how you might serve and grow spiritually through our activities and programs. The class will help you become better acquainted with our large congregation.

Please call the church office at (614) 228-1741 to register for the class. You are not required to attend a new member class to join our church.

## First Church Book Club Wednesday, November 5 7 p.m.

Come enjoy lively conversation and get to know other church members at the First Church Book Club on Zoom.

The Mighty Red is a moving story of mothers and daughters, and a love triangle among three teens, in North Dakota's Red River Valley. This multigenerational saga contains humor and sorrow, along with desperation, regrets, grief, and love. It's a meditation on what it means to belong . . . to a place, to a people, to oneself.

Questions? Want to receive book club emails? Please call Kathy Reed, 614-442-7742

## Music at Midday Wednesday, November 5 12:15 p.m.

First Church welcomes Jeanne Norton, principal harpist and soloist with the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra of Columbus and associate musician with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. First Church Minister of Music, Joshua Stafford, will play the organ.

# Healing Circle Thursday, November 6, at 6 p.m. Monday, November 10, at 2 p.m.

Facilitated by our Interim Ministers, Circle Practice emerges from spiritual, cultural, and religious practices and communities all over the world and it has been practiced in circles of community, healing, decision making, and restorative justice for centuries.

In this practice, participants engage in safe, open communication and presence, and practice deep, confidential listening, and story sharing from the tenderness and vulnerability of our hearts. Please join the Healing Circle for deep listening, open sharing, and acknowledging of pain that is blocking our way to experiencing the healing and transformation of Christ.

# Ohio Capital Winds Sunday, November 23 4 p.m.

As part of the Concert Series, Ohio Capital Winds (OCW) performs a classic repertoire from masters such as Holst, Sousa, Grainger, and Ohio's own Henry Fillmore. The musicianship of the ensemble's 30+ professional and semi-professional players is its hallmark. OCW is a champion of wind ensemble music. This program will also feature a work for wind symphony and organ!

This concert will be held in the Sanctuary, and is free and open to the public. There will also be a freewill offering.

## Youth Bible Study with Maggie Sunday, November 9 10 a.m.

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.

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

## Congregational Conversation Sunday, November 9 12:30 p.m.

A Congregational Conversation on the Congregational Life Cycle will be held following the 11 a.m. service on November 9 in Parish Hall. Registration will be available for this conversation soon.

## Church Vitality Invite Thursday, November 13 12 p.m.

Church Vitality member, Vicki Lyden, will be saving a table at the Schokko Café in the Columbus Museum of Art at noon on November 13 for you! Come and enjoy good food and good company. You do not need to register, just come. You can even park in the church lot. Call the church office (614-228-1741) with questions.

With the holiday months approaching and lots of activities going on, this will be our last mealtime together till after the first of the year. We thank all who have attended our Time Out Dinners and Lunch Bunches this past year.

We hope you can attend on the 13th, and we look forward to new events in 2026. If you would like to help plan our church-wide events please email Pat Patterson (ppatterson@first-church.org).

### Keep in Prayer

Members Gerry Worth; Emily Wilson; Al Waddell; Pat Liebchen; Jane Ward; Gretchen Atkinson; Jean Lebold; Stella Braide; James Velo; Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Francille Firebaugh; Nancy Burba; John Carter; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt; and Janice White.

Family and friends Melissa Kulwicki's father, Jack Blandi; Candy Cummings' friend, Robdonda Hardin; Geoffrey Dean's aunt, Vivian Heaney; Jason Harrell's mother, Sherry Harrell; 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.

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 North America. We also pray for our UCC partners in mission at the Kukhany'Okusha Zion Church in Eswatini.

### **Eco-Tip from Sacred Earth**

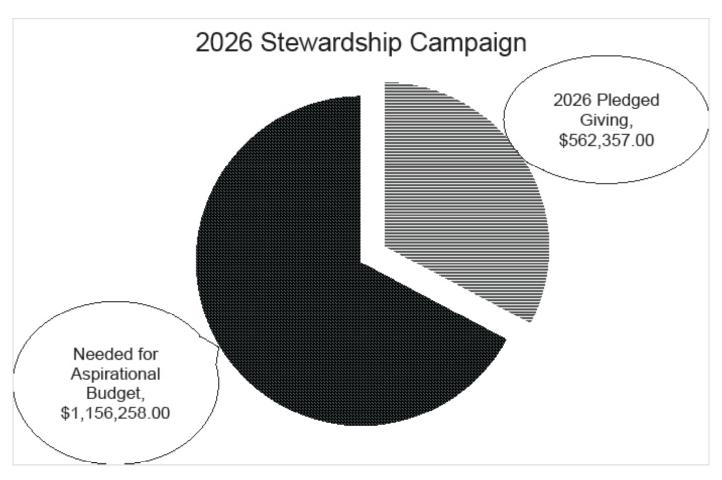
Recycling isn't just about plastics. Level The Playing Field is a non-profit that collects gently used sports equipment such as footballs, soccer balls, baseballs, basketballs, frisbees and more. The equipment helps kids stay engaged in sports. Donation bins are located at Dick's Sporting Goods at Easton, and Dublin, OhioHealth Chiller at Easton, and Lou Berliner Sports Park. There are other locations in the area you can find on their website.

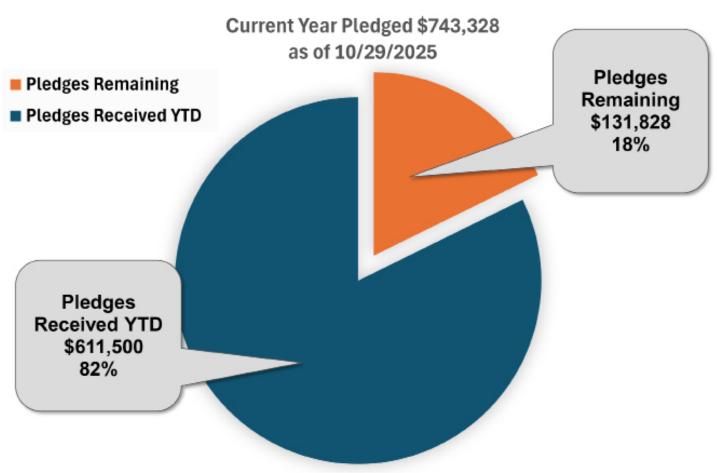
### First Serves Thanks You

Thank you to all who donated candy for the Gladden Community House Halloween Party and a BIG THANK YOU to our new First Serves leader, Donna Vogt, who along with parents Denise and Nate, arranged fun crafts for kids (and grown ups) and made separate allergy free candy bags. There were 104 bags assembled for Gladden's indoor trick or treat bash and they were thrilled!

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	ر چ	\$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

Jacquelyn Dean

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Training Coordinator:

Wendy Kennedy

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator:

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Communications, Media Faith Formation Commission: Cami Curren

and IT Coordinator: Annette McCormick

Senior Deacon: Martha Worth

Deacons: Allen Baker, Fubara Braide, Stella Braide, Heather Jones, House & Grounds-elect: Brian Kemp, Allison Lowery, Dayna McCrary, Matt Myers, Fran Panek, Gary Seigerst, Thomason Smith

Transition Team: Jacquelyn Dean and Nancy Loy, co-chairpersons, Music, Arts & Heritage: Jim Griffin Todd Cunningham, Rev. Becky David, Scott Graham, Gregory Halbe, Susie Loik, Allison Lowery, Pavan Peter, Sarah Reed, Joshua Member-at-Large: Martha Wilson

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: Nathaniel

Powell

Faith Formation Commission-elect: Mariner Taft

House & Grounds: Eric Klintworth

Justice & Mercy: James Lowe Justice & Mercy-elect: Janice Taft

Music, Arts & Heritage-elect: Cheryl Hoskinson

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

