

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.

GATHERING

- * Welcome
- *Gathering Song
- GATHERING SONG
- "God is calling through the whisper"

Rev. jess *W żłobie leży*, Polish carol Mary Louise Bringle, 2003



*Invocation Rev. jess

Leader: Beloved Companion,

You exist in multitudes—in the eyes we see in the mirror,

in the stranger we ignore on the street, in the touch of our friends

and the breath of our loved ones.

We belong to you, God, and we belong to each other.

People: Move among us now, God.

Remind us of our belovedness to you,

and remind us to care for one another with the same tenderness and love.

We lay down our burdens and distractions,

and we dwell with you,

in stillness, in reflection, in a willingness to be led.

Come Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace Rev. jess

CHILDREN'S TIME Leslie Fulford

During the sermon time, our young children are welcome to participate in "Sunday Stories."

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

THE FIRST READING "Make Noise" by Katie Mulligan

Kelly Dodd

from The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. —Psalm 98:4

Make a joyful noise—

not a beautiful noise or a perfect noise or a balanced noise;

It doesn't even say music.

Make noise all the earth!

Pound on those drums,

scream your screams,

shout into the void,

stomp your feet,

beat on the pews,

laugh and cry and holler!

Rough and tumble and loud like baby kittens and grown lions,

stampede like cattle,

bray like donkeys!

Crash to the ground like trees struck by lightning,

burn and crackle and snap and roar like fire out of control!

Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth!

Don't you dare be silent;

Don't you dare hold anything back!

With everything that you are, with every part of your being,

make noise!

Praise the Lord!

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Reflection Rev. jess

RESPONDING

Hymn of Preparation "We are your people" vv. 1-3

Whitfield, John Wilson, 1975 Brian Wren, 1973, rev. 1993



PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. jess

Sung Response

"We are your people"vv. 4-6

Whitfield, John Wilson, 1975 Brian Wren, 1973, rev. 1993

THE OFFERTORY

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



Mission Invitation Gail Lowe

Cash and designated gifts go to support **World Central Kitchen (WCK)**. Since 2010, WCK has often been first to the frontlines when natural disasters and human calamities have struck, providing fresh meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. Over the past 15 years, WCK has served over 500 million meals, on every continent and in every corner of the world. Today, WCK is at work helping the survivors of recent natural disasters like Typhoons in Alaska and the Philippines, Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica, and flooding in Arizona. Kitchens have also been set up to help with the humanitarian needs of conflict victims in Northern Gaza, and furloughed federal workers in the U.S. Food is essential to life every single day, everywhere, but it is more important than ever in the wake of a crisis. Mobilizing immediately when a crisis occurs, volunteer chefs team up with local culinary workers and other volunteers onsite to use their culinary knowledge and talent to help. Please give generously.

Offertory Music

David Hogrefe

Prayer of Dedication Rev. jess

All: God of the open hand, we thank you for your

continued blessing of us, our hearts, and our lives.

Take this, our offering of time, talent, and treasure,

and use it, and use us,

to manifest Your Kin-dom, on Earth, as it is in Heaven Amen.

Communion Rev. jess

Leader: We know, O God,

that we are both hosts and guests at this table.

People: We know, too, that guests are often hosts,

and hosts are often guests,

And that you like to mix these roles up

in a great remembering act of eating together to remember you.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

People: Join us at our table as we join you at yours. Amen.

COMMUNION PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.

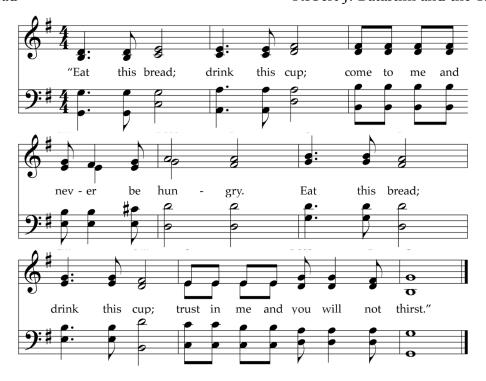
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

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.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. jess

Leader: God whose name is Love, we rejoice in the sharing of your love,

in the nourishment of your sacrament,

and in the warmth of worship and companionship.

Work in our hearts and our lives as we learn to be loved by you

and to love you through loving others.

All: Amen.

SENDING

Worship Survey Rev. Sarah Reed

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Benediction Rev. jess



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 anyone wearing a name tag. We would be delighted to assist you.

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"Lead me, guide me." Words and music: Doris M. Akers. © 1953 Doris M. Akers, admin by Chappell & Co/Alfred Publishing Co, Inc. All rights reserved.

Leadership in Today's liturgy
The Rev. jess young chang, preacher
Kelly Dodd, liturgist
Leslie Fulford, worship leader
Melissa Kulwicki, worship leader
David Hogrefe, pianist
Geoffrey Dean, livestream ministry



November 16, 2025

This Week at First Church

Sunday, November 16

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 & Sales (Parish Hall)

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

4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)

Monday, November 17

9:30 a.m. Stewardship & Growth Mtg

(Classroom C & Zoom)

6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal

(Bell Rm)

Wednesday, November 19

10 a.m. The 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, November 20

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

6 p.m. First Church Ringers Rehearsal

(Bell Rm)

7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal

(Choir Rm)

Saturday, November 22

11 a.m. BOBS Planning Mtg (Zoom)

Sunday, November 23

10 a.m. Service of Healing (Sanctuary)

11 a.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)

First Serves (Classroom D)

4 p.m. Congregational Concert & Reception

(Sanctuary)

Adult & Youth Bible Study Today at 10 a.m.

Adult Bible Study will continue our study asking why does the Bible speak in allegories, which can have various meanings, when we just want to know the real story? Come share your views. The Parable of the Wicked Tenants will be the jumping off point. This class will be led by The Rev. Margo Connor in Classroom C.

Youth Bible Study will be led by Maggie Myers. This class is for youth ages 14-20 and is held in the Youth Room. This is a relaxed, teen friendly discussion of the Bible and personal faith journeys, where connection, not perfection, are the goals. Friends are welcome.

Confirmation Class Today, November 16 12:30 p.m.

Following our service at 11 a.m., our Confirmation Class will meet in Classroom C. Following a lunch, classmates will go to the Columbus Museum of Art for their first field trip.

Choral Evensong Today, November 16 4 p.m.

Held in the late afternoon, this service offers attendees a serene and contemplative experience, where scripture, music, and prayer intertwine. Choral Evensong invites you to connect with the divine in a profoundly meditative way, immersing yourself in a spiritual journey that is as timeless as it is beautiful.

A Service of Healing Sunday, November 23 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church will hold A Service of Healing. This single service will allow for intergenerational and intercultural connection that is so necessary for our congregation. We will come together, as one people, as God's people, to acknowledge our pain, and then as the Good Shepherd instructs us, lay our burdens down at the altar of Christ.

We are having a single service because we are a single community, and because healing happens in community. We will breathe together, be together, feel together, and recover together, all in the nourishing, protective, and generous presence of our God.

First Serves November Food Drive for Gladden Community House Food Pantry Sunday, November 23 at 11 a.m.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we are collecting non-perishable boxed and canned food items and other household and toiletry items for donation to the Gladden Community House. With the freeze on SNAP benefits the need for items is even greater this year. Visit the Giving Tree in the Education Wing Breezeway to pick a "can" with a QR Code to get the most requested items. Some requested items are: Canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned meats, canned soups; personal items like shampoo, diapers, and toilet paper.

Food donations can be placed in the baskets under the Giving Tree. Following the 10 a.m. service, we will work together in Classroom D to box everything for delivery.

If you are available to help deliver the food on Monday, November 24 or Tuesday, November 25, to Gladden House, please inform Donna and Denise Vogt at dvogt@first-church.org. Thank you for your generous spirits and giving hearts!

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

As part of the Concert Series, Ohio Capital Winds (OCW) will perform a classic repertoire from masters such as Holst, Sousa, Grainger, and Ohio's own Henry Fillmore. OCW is a champion of wind ensemble music. The program will also feature a work for wind symphony and organ!

This freewill concert will be held in the Sanctuary, and is open to the public.

Handbell Festival in New Albany Sunday, November 23 7 p.m.

First Church Campanelle will join other handbell choirs at the Handbell Festival Ringing Joyfully! It will be held at the Rose Run Presbyterian Church, 5220 Johnstown Rd in New Albany.

Your attendance will help support our Campanelle handbell ringers. In lieu of an admission fee, cash donations will be accepted that will provide Christmas gifts for the foster teens in Franklin County Children's Service. For more information please contact Jennifer Fry at griffingretel@gmail.com.

Hanging of the Greens Monday, November 24 6 p.m.

It's time to deck the halls of First Church for the Advent and Christmas seasons! Gather at 6 p.m. for a pizza and then begin the various tasks of decorating.

It's a streamlined process, thoughtfully organized to tackle the project more effectively. The decorating should go quite smoothly. Many hands make light work so please register on Realm so we know how much pizza to order. There are jobs for everyone – of every age and ability!

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; and Dan Axt.

Family and friends Wendy and Robert Reber's life-long friend, David Roberts and family; Melissa Kulwicki's father, Jack Blandi; Candy Cummings' friend, Robdonda Hardin; Geoffrey Dean's aunt, Vivian Heaney; Jason Harrell's mother, Sherry Harrell; 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.

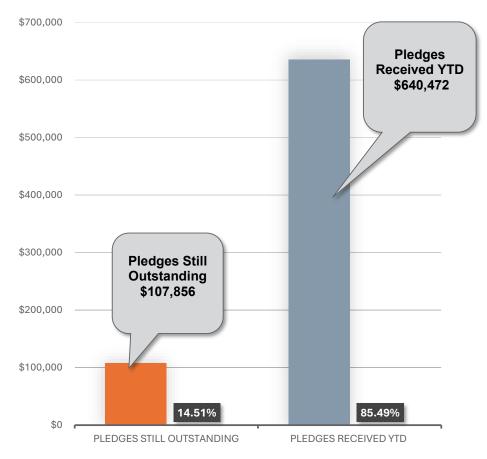
Those who mourn the family and friends of Janice White.

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 Aotearoa New Zealand, and Australia. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission Nora Hernández, a social and church leader and peacebuilder in the municipality of Tarazá in the Bajo Cauca region of Antioquia in Colombia.

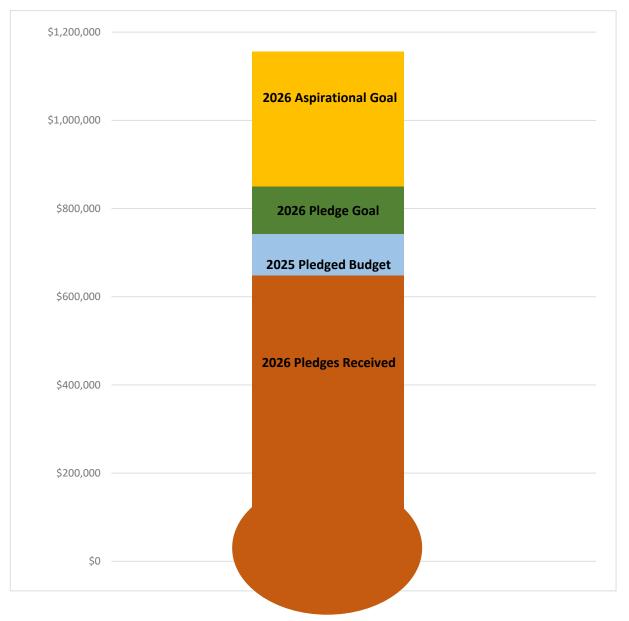
The graphic compares total pledges received to outstanding amounts for the 2025 pledge year to date. We have 6 ½ weeks until the end of the year, please call the office and speak to Annette if you have any questions about your giving balance.

Current Year Pledged \$743,328 as of 11/12/2025



2026 Pledges Received	2025 Pledged Budget	2026 Pledge Goal	2026 Aspirational Goal	2025 Comparison	2026 Goal	Aspirational Goal
647.317	742.253	850.000	1.156.258	87%	76%	56%

This chart represents how we are making progress on our 2026 stewardship campaign. It shows our current progress for 2026 pledges received of \$647,317 and how we compare to last year's campaign of \$742,253 for 2025. It shows our goal for 2026 of \$850,000. Finally, how close we are in obtaining our ultimate goal of reaching our 2026 aspirational goal of \$1,156,258.



Eco-Tip from Sacred Earth

Recycle Your Political Yard Signs

Political yard signs can be recycled throughout the month of November by taking them to the Board of Elections, 1700 Morse Road, or the SWACO Recycling Convenience Center Drop-off at 2566 Jackson Pike.

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

