



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.

VOLUNTARY

Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam, BWV 684

J.S. Bach, 1739

ENTER TO WORSHIP *by Bruce Power*

Jennifer Fry

Leader: O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

People: **Let us credit YAHWEH with glory and strength,
Let us worship God in holy splendor.**

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

*Leader: The voice of our God sets forth the rhythm of creation.

People: **We sing praises to you, our God,
Have Your way, in Heaven and on earth,
Give your people strength and mercy.
Bless us with your peace and justice!**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Wash, O God, your sons and daughters”

Beach Spring, The Sacred Harp, 1844

Ruth Duck, 1987

1 Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, new-born creatures
 2 Every day we need your nurture; by your milk may
 3 O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined,
 (D) (Bm) of your womb. Number them among your people, raised like we be fed. Let us join your feast, partaking cup of all your ways! To your name be glory, honor! With our (G) (A) (C) Christ from death and tomb. Weave them garments bright and bless-ing, liv-ing bread. God, renew us; guide our lives we worship, praise! We your people stand be-spark-ling; compass them with love and light. Fill, anoint them; foot-steps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born. By your grace, our (Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D) (Dm) (Am) (Dm) (Bb) (C) (F) send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's delight. liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs. lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. jessica 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 may greet one another by name.*

Leader: Over the murmur of the stream,
 over the crashing of the ocean,
 Over the shattered scatter of the rain,
 over the stillness of the morning lake before the wind:
 The wind, the Spirit.

People: **Over the rushing of blood through our bodies,
 thudding our heads, breaking our hearts, aching our feet:
 the voice of the Lord over the waters, stirring up trouble, calling our names.**

Leader: Call our names, God: pour Your spirit like water over us,
 reminding us that our body is a gift from you,
 a teacher of our faith, a safe place to land.

People: **The sound of your name is the sound of our breath, God.
 The rhythm of your presence is the rhythm of our heartbeat.
 Remind us we are always with you, always on holy ground. Amen.**

ANTHEM

The Baptism of Jesus

Peter Hallock, 1980

English, c. 1500

Jesus autem hodie regressus est a Jordane.
 [But Jesus on this day returned from the Jordan.]

When Jesus Christ baptised was,
 the Holy Ghost descended with grace;
 the Father's voice was heard in the place:
Hic est Filius meus: ipsum intende. [This is my Son: hear him.]

There were Three Persons and one Lord,
 the Son baptised with one accord,
 the Father said this blessed word:
Hic est Filius meus: ipsum intende.

Now Jesus, as thou art both God and man,
 and were baptised in from Jordan,
 at our last end, we pray thee, say then:
Hic est Filius meus: ipsum intende.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3:1-10

Ms. Fry

from *The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*

Leader: A reading from the Book of the Exodus, the third chapter.

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock deep into the wilderness, Moses came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

The messenger of YHWH appeared to Moses in a blazing fire from the midst of a thornbush. Moses saw—"The bush is ablaze with fire and yet it isn't consumed! Moses said, "Let me go over and look at this remarkable sight—and see why the bush doesn't burn up!"

When YHWH saw Moses coming to look more closely, God called out to him from the midst of the bush. "Moses! Moses!"

Moses answered, "I am here."

God said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground!"

"I am the God of your ancestors," the voice continued, "the God of Sarah and Abraham, the God of Rebecca and Isaac, the God of Leah and Rachel and Jacob!"

Moses hid his face, afraid to look at the Holy One.

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

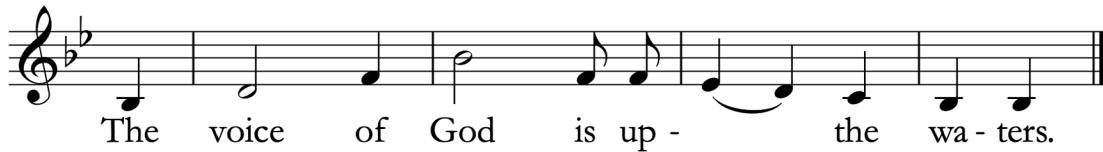
People: **Thanks be to God.**

YHWH, often pronounced 'Yah-Weh' is the Romanization of the Hebrew name of God used in the Hebrew bible. It is written with four aspirated consonants that aren't in our alphabet and represented as Y H W H. For more information on this name of the Divine, and its relationship to human breath and language, please return next week or tune in for Rev. jess's sermon on January 18, 2026.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 29

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



Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
 ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name;
 worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
 the God of glory thunders;
 the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
 the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
 the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

Antiphon.

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
 and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
 the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
 the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.

The LORD shall give strength to his people;
 the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Antiphon.

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:2b-10

Ms. Fry

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to John, the thirteenth chapter.

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 9:7

The Choir introduces the Alleluia, which is then repeated by the Congregation.

Following the verse, all repeat the Alleluia.



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Verse: The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

Rev. young chang

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, the third chapter.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. young chang

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev. young chang

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,

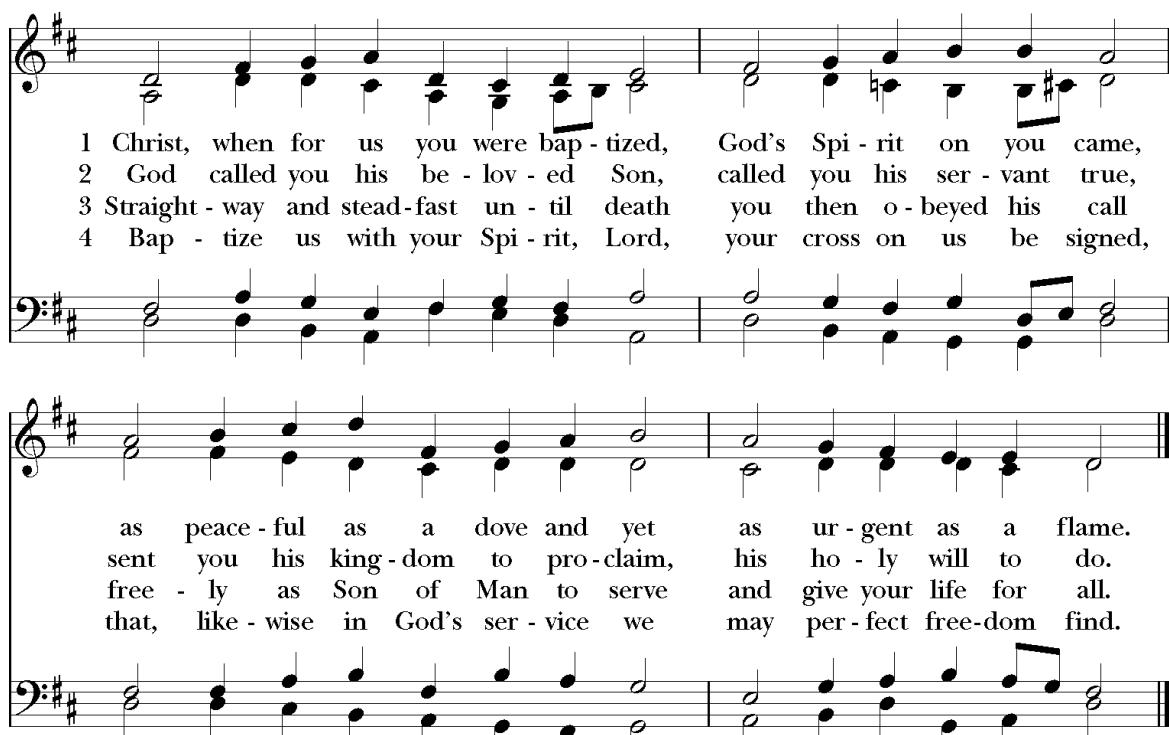
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*HYMN

“Christ, when for us you were baptized”

Caithness, Scottish Psalter, 1635

F. Bland Tucker, 1979



THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. David

Cash and designated gifts go to the **Knight Perry Fund**. Through the Board of Trustees, the Knight-Perry Fund provides support for persons in the church in financial need. The Senior Minister, in strict confidence, approves all loan requests. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“There shall a star”

Felix Mendelssohn, 1846

Numbers 24:17, Psalm 2:9, Philipp Nicolai, 1597

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,
and a sceptre from Israel rise up.
And dash in pieces princes and nations.
As bright the star of morning gleams,
so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams
of light and consolation!
Thy word, O Lord,
radiance darting, truth imparting,
gives salvation.
Thine be praise and adoration.

*PRESENTATION HYMN
“Sing of God made manifest”

Salzburg, Jakob Hintze, 1678
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1990

Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,
“I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do.”
Then from heaven a dou - ble sign— dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
hailed the true A - noint - ed One: “This is my be - lov - ed Son.”

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*CLOSING HYMN
"O radiant Christ, incarnate word"

Canonbury, Robert Schumann, 1839
Ruth Duck, 1991

1. O ra - diant Christ, in - car - nate Word, e - ter - nal love re - vealed in time:
2. Our bar - tered, bus - y lives burn dim, too tired to care, too numb to feel.
3. Your glo - ry shone at Jor - dan's stream, the font where we were born a - new.
4. O Light of Na - tions, fill the earth; our faith and hope and love re - new.

come, make your home with - in our hearts, that we may dwell in light sub-lime.
Come shine up - on our shad-owed world: your ra-diance bathes with power to heal.
At - tune your church to know you near; il - lu - mine all we say and do.
Come, lead the peo - ples to your peace, as stars once led the way to you.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. David

VOLUNTARY

Allegro from Concerto in D minor, BWV 596

Antonio Vivaldi, arr. J.S. Bach, ca. 1713

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 in memory of her father, Edward Ryan, by Amy Wagner and family.

† PLEASE JOIN US IN PARISH HALL FOR COFFEE HOUR, hosted by the Celebrate Neighborhood Care Circle, led by Fran Panek and Denise Vogt.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. jessica young chang — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Rev. Becky David — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

Mrs. Fulford — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’s LITURGY

The Rev. jessica young chang, *preacher*

The Rev. Becky David, *worship leader*

Jennifer Fry, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Neal Brower, *crucifer*

Matthew Bendick and Camille Bendick, *vergers*

Joshus Stafford, *director and organist*

The First Church Choir

Aran Cunningham, *livestream ministry*

Nominating Committee: Slate of Officers for 2026 Council

Officers

Moderator: Sarah Reed

Moderator Elect:

Treasurer: Ramona Moenter

Treasurer Elect:

Secretary: Amanda Butler

Secretary Elect:

Commissioners

Church Stewardship & Growth Commissioner: Steve Sterrett

Church Stewardship & Growth Commissioner Elect: Kathy Reed

Church Vitality Commissioner: Antoinette Koomans-Beynen

Church Vitality Commissioner Elect:

Communications & Technology Commissioner: Mike Kennedy

Communications & Technology Commissioner Elect: Nathaniel Powell

Faith Formation Commissioner: Cami Curren

Faith Formation Commissioner Elect: Mariner Taft

House & Grounds Commissioner: Eric Clintworth

House & Grounds Commissioner Elect:

Justice & Mercy Commissioner: James Lowe

Justice & Mercy Commissioner Elect:

Music, Arts, & Heritage Commissioner: Jim Griffen

Music, Arts, & Heritage Commissioner Elect: Cheryl Hoskinson

Personnel Commissioner: Neal Brower

Personnel Commissioner Elect:

At-Large Members

Adult Member At-Large:

Youth Member At-Large:

Trustees

Chair: (elected by Trustees)

4 year term: David Hogrefe

4 Year term:

Deacons

Senior Deacon: (elected by Deacons)

3 year term: Barbara Mason

3 year term:

3 year term:

3 year term:

3 year term:

Nominating Chair: Greg Halbe



Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

January 11, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, January 11

9 a.m. Worship Service (Parish Hall)
10 a.m. Sunday School
 (Various Classrooms)
 Adult Education (Classroom C)
 Justice & Mercy Informational Mtg
 (Fanning Rm)
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)

Monday, January 12

6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal
 (Bell Rm)
7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)
 Assoc. Minister Advisory Group Mtg
 (Parlor)

Tuesday, January 13

5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg
 (Classroom C & Zoom)
7 p.m. Church Council Mtg
 (Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, January 14

12 Noon Church Office Closes

Thursday, January 15

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

Saturday, January 17

10 a.m. Family Organ Day (Sanctuary)

Sunday, January 18

9 a.m. Worship Service (Parish Hall)
10 a.m. Sunday School (Various Classrooms)
 Adult Education (Classroom C)
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales
 (Parish Hall)
4 p.m. Evensong (Sanctuary)

Adult Education Today at 10 a.m.

Adult Bible Study will meet in Classroom C. A new series on *Connecting with our Passion for Social Justice* will begin. Alejandro Rodriguez and Taimur Chaudhri will lead this series.

Mr. Chaudhri will lead the study on Sunday, January 18.

Church Office Announcement Wednesday, January 14 Noon Closure

Now that the holidays are behind us, the church staff will celebrate with a special holiday lunch. Therefore, the church office will close for the afternoon of January 14.

Also, in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the office will be closed all day on Monday, January 18.

Can We Balance the Budget? — Please!

Very soon the church will meet for its Annual Meeting. We'll celebrate the ministries of 2025, elect leaders and pass an operating budget for 2026. It is always our goal to present a budget that is fully funded by the pledges and revenues of the church, and this year we are almost there, but we have some work yet to do.

The Stewardship Committee, in collaboration with the Budget & Finance Commission, set a 2026 pledge goal of \$850,000. To date, we have \$801,052 pledged, reflecting 187 units (households). This is about \$60,000 more than pledges for 2025. We are very grateful for this exceptional giving, especially for the many members who increased their pledges over last year. Thank you.

The church relies on pledged giving to plan the program year, to pay all staff fairly, and to maintain the building. Your pledge is part of the covenantal relationship that defines us as a faith community. If you have not completed your pledge intention please contact our Financial Administrator, Annette McCormick (614-228-1741, ext 111) as soon as possible. Please help to balance the budget.

You make a difference!
Sarah Reed, Moderator

Family Organ Day Saturday, January 17 10 a.m.

Join the third annual Family Organ Day for an opportunity for the young and young-at-heart to interact with the two magnificent pipe organs at First Church — the Kimball from 1931 and the Beckerath from 1972!

The morning includes: a short, family-friendly concert; an explanation and demonstration of the organs; an opportunity to build a small pipe organ; and a chance to play the organs!

This is a great opportunity for children interested in music, especially piano students, to experience the thrill of hearing and playing a pipe organ. There is no charge for this event.

Worship Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who participated and offered comments in the worship survey that was conducted in November. There were 184 respondents who shared perspectives and constructive feedback about their worship experience at First Church.

At both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services, the overall experience, as well as communion and the format for worship, was significantly viewed as meaningful. Comments addressed the need to improve the flow of communion at 11 a.m. and concerns in ensuring the safety of communion by intinction at both services. The preaching and messages of our interim pastors was affirmed, and time for prayer and reflection are important. Your comments expressed concern that hymns be “singable.” Requests were made for additional musical instruments in the 9 a.m. service, and during the summer months at 11 a.m. The processional entrance of the liturgist and the book of the Lectionary was seen as “flashy” and “parade-like,” and the informality at 9 a.m. was just as important as the formality at 11 a.m.

Transition time is our opportunity to consider new ways of “doing church.” We appreciate your willingness to try out the changes, as it is very possible that we will see more happening in the future, especially at the 9 a.m. service. The results of the survey are posted on the Transition Team bulletin board in the main hallway of the church.

Evensong Sunday, January 18 4 p.m.

Choral Evensong is rooted in the rich liturgical tradition of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. This venerable Anglican service has a storied history that dates back to the early days of the Church of England. Originally crafted during the English Reformation, the Book of Common Prayer became a cornerstone of Anglican worship, and Choral Evensong stands as one of its most cherished expressions.

Join us in the Sanctuary for this late afternoon service offering attendees a serene and contemplative experience, where scripture, music, and prayer intertwine.

Adult & Youth Education

Sunday, January 18

10 a.m.

Youth grades 4 through college are invited to a special lesson on the teachings of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and walk to the Social Justice Park to learn about the inspiration of Martin Luther King, Jr. in the signature artwork, Our Single Garment of Destiny. This class will be led by former Washington Gladden Social Justice Park director, Tom Worley and Taimur Chaudhri. Parents and adults are welcome to attend.

First Serves

Sunday, January 25

12 Noon

Our January First Serves mission will be a diaper drive for CelebrateOne! CelebrateOne is a nonprofit organization and the City of Columbus' initiative focused on ensuring every baby reaches its first birthday and beyond. They work with families, healthcare providers, community partners, and local leaders to reduce infant mortality and support healthy pregnancies, safe beginnings, and strong families across Columbus.

Items to be donated need to be unopened and unused packs of diapers in any child size, and unopened packs of diaper wipes. Please bring your donated items to the Education Wing's Giving Tree. We will also collect money to purchase diapers and wipes for this cause (see the Giving Tree for cash amounts). All donations should be delivered by Sunday, January 25. Please join us after the annual meeting to help load up diapers and wipes for delivery!

Please reach out to Donna and Denise Vogt at dvogt@first-church.org with any questions. To learn more about CelebrateOne and how to get involved, please visit <https://celebrateone.org/>

Annual Meeting & Chili Cook-off

Sunday, January 25

On January 25, following a 10 a.m. worship service, First Congregational Church will hold its Annual Meeting. At the meeting, members will receive a copy of the church's annual report, and approve last year's minutes, our annual budget, and the nomination of new commissioners.

Following the meeting there will be a chili cook-off in Parish Hall. Look for more details on the cook-off.

Keep in Prayer

Members Gail Lowe; Jane Weddle; Gerry Worth; Al Waddell; Jane Ward; James Velo; Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Francille Firebaugh; Nancy Burba; John Carter; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt.

Family and friends Janice Taft's cousin, Teri Williams; Jim and Gail Lowe's friends, Gretta Hibbs and Billy; Shelly Gies' father, Robert Simms and brother, Mike Simms; Susie Loik's friends, Julia and Jim Perry; Kevin Salem's uncle, Harold Allen; Wendy and Robert Reber's life-long friend, David Roberts and family; Geoffrey Dean's aunt, Vivian Heaney; Jason Harrell's mother, Sherry Harrell; Tom Kiesel's friend, Carrie; Matt Myers' sister, Erin Myers; and Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples.

Those who mourn Victor John and family on the death of his mother, Mary Jane John; Rev. Jess Young Chang on the death of her friend, A.J. Banks.

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 Iran, Iraq, and Syria. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission the Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs in Hong Kong.

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

January 11 - Knight Perry

January 18 - ACLU - Ohio

February 1 - Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS)

January 25 - Church World Services (CWS)

February 8 - Good Samaritan Fund

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, 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, 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: Nathaniel Powell

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

444 E Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 | 614-228-1741

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

