



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.

VOLUNTARY

Faith

arr. Janet Linker and Jane McFadden, 1991

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Rev. Becky David

INVOCATION

Rev. jessica young chang

written by Peter Haynes

Leader: Light of Christ,
awaken us this hour to the glory of your presence in our midst.
Shine among us in such a way that
the darkness without and within may be pushed back,
such that we might truly see what is really real.
Help us to recognize our sin for what it is.
Enable us to behold the world as you created it to be,
as you created us to be.
Empower us to move from darkness to light,
from sin to new life.
May your light within us shine through into worship this day, as all days.
This we pray in the name of the Word made flesh,
the light which is the light of all people. Jesus Christ. Amen.

ANTHEM

Anton Bruckner, 1869

Locus iste

Gradual for the Feast of the Dedication of a Church

Locus iste a Deo factus est, inæstimabile sacramentum, irreprehensibilis est.

This place was made by God, a priceless mystery, it is without reproof.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-6

Rev. David

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

To give online, please scan this QR code.



MISSION INVITATION

Cash and designated gifts today go to **Church World Services (CWS)**, a global non-profit founded to overcome the devastation in Europe and Asia after World War II. During those times, CWS mobilized millions of pounds of food, clothing and medical supplies for war-torn areas. More recently, they've been a critical partner with faith congregations like ours in helping people in the midst of a natural disaster, facing an economic crisis, or suffering from a humanitarian calamity. So CWS is a lifeline for the affected people. And the blankets, disaster kits, and hygiene packs that CWS provides are the fiber of that lifeline.

We have seen the value and impact of these critical supplies right here at First Church, where CWS blankets help shield our unsheltered neighbors from the harsh winter, and our guests at Bethlehem On Broad Street depend on the CWS toiletries and hygiene kits to protect their health. Last year, Church World Services, through organizations like us, gave out 17,317 blankets, 71,760 hygiene kits, and 39,300 school readiness kits. Our offering today will help to replenish those supplies and help CWS be prepared for the next crisis they face on our behalf. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Lamb

Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and bid thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing woolly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice:
Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

John Tavener, 1982
William Blake, 1789

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek and he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child and thou a lamb,
We are called by his name:
Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Rev. David

BENEDICTION

Rev. young chang

VOLUNTARY

Postlude in D

Healey Willan, 1957

*Thank you for viewing worship. 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 contact us at home@first-church.org. We would be delighted to assist you.*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of their son, Ashley Arter Taft, who died January 27, 2025. Ashley was baptized by Chalmers Coe, enjoyed Sunday School with Arlene Reynolds, tested the patience of Dene Bernard in the Treble Choir and volunteered on Christmas Day for Bethlehem On Broad Street in the tent and volunteer room.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY
The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*
The Rev. jessica young chang, *worship leader*
Jennifer Fry, *director*
The First Church Ringers
Joshua Stafford, *director and organist*
The First Church Choir



Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

January 25, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, January 25

Worship Service available to view online

Monday, January 26

6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Practice
(Bell Rm)

6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg
(Fanning Rm & Zoom)

Tuesday, January 27

5 p.m. Laundry Love (Wash Land)

7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Zoom)

Thursday, January 29

6 p.m. First Church Ringers Rehearsal
(Bell Rm)

7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal
(Choir Rm)

Sunday, February 1

9 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

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)

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 Leslie and David Fulford's sister-in-law, Donna Fulford; Nicole Speakman and family; Alexis Wayne; Annette McCormick's friend, Dannie Crace; 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.

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 Cyprus, Greece, and Türkiye. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission the Evangelical Disciples of Christ Church in Argentina.

First Serves Moved to Sunday, February 8

January has moved into February for the First Serves mission, a diaper drive for CelebrateOne. Please continue to bring donated items to the Giving Tree. Items to be donated need to be unopened and unused packs of diapers in any child size, and unopened packs of diaper wipes. We will also collect money to purchase diapers and wipes. Please join us after the annual meeting to help load up diapers and wipes for delivery!

Annual Meeting & Chili Cook-off Moved to Sunday, February 8

On February 8, First Congregational Church will hold its Annual Meeting following a 10 a.m. worship service. At the meeting, members receive a copy of the church's annual report, and approve last year's minutes, our annual budget, and the nomination of new commissioners. After the meeting there will be a Chili Cook-off in Parish Hall.

**I Matter 2026:
The Strength Within Us
Sunday, February 1, Noon to 4 p.m.**

Girls grades 6-12 and the mothers/mother figures in their lives are encouraged to attend this free workshop on healthy relationships and wellness conducted by ROX, The Center for Family Safety and Healing, and Nationwide Children's Hospital. Please contact Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org for registration information, and to attend together. The event is free but registration is required.

For information on the breakout sessions and registration visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/i-matter-2026-the-strength-within-us-tickets-1858424229899?aff=oddtcreator>

**First Church Book Club
Wednesday, February 4
7 p.m. on Zoom**

Join the First Church Book Club when they discuss *John & Paul: A Love Story in Songs* by Ian Leslie.

What are your favorite Beatles songs? We each have them. The Beatles shook the world to its core in the 1960s and new generations continue to fall in love with their songs and their story.

John Lennon and Paul McCartney knew each other for 23 years. Their friendship changed the world. This intimate book shares insights into their music and the nature of creativity, collaboration, and human intimacy.

To receive book club emails or the Zoom link please email Kathy Reed at kbreed2010@gmail.com.

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

February 1 - Community Refugee & Immigration Services (CRIS)

February 8 - Good Samaritan Fund

February 15 - Laundry Love

**Faith in Action for Justice
Sunday, February 1
10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is not only in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Minnesota, ICE is here in Central Ohio, Cleveland and elsewhere in Ohio. Everywhere ICE agents appear, citizens as well as documented and undocumented immigrants are being abused, and their First, Fourth, and Fifth Amendment rights are being denied. But what can we do? We can be aware and support organizations such as ACLU and Indivisible of Central Ohio, and join a neighborhood support group. If there isn't one, we can start one. Tom Brownfield is offering "Faith in Action for Justice: What you need to know about ICE," as informative sessions on taking action. Please join him today at 10 a.m. in Classroom C, or at 12:30 p.m. in Parish Hall. He will also offer sessions on Wednesday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m. in Classroom C, or Wednesday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m. in Classroom C.

**Time Out Dinner
Tuesday, February 10
6 p.m. at Starliner Diner**

Church Vitality invites you to our first Dinner Out at Starliner Diner in Hilliard at 4121 Main Street. With its eclectic menu and kitschy decor, Starliner offers customers an alternative to the cookie cutter, big chain restaurants by providing them with a unique and fun dining experience.

Step out on a Tuesday night and join us at the Starliner! Please register on Realm so we can reserve a table and be together.

Sacred Earth Eco-Tips

Do you want to recycle your prescription bottles? If you have bottles where the labels are difficult to remove, try filling them with very hot water for about 10 second then peel the label off from the corner. Once you remove the label bring to our recycling bin for prescription bottles by the Giving Tree in the Education wing.

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

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