



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

A Joyous Song

arr. J. Wayne Kerr, 1988

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Andrew Welsh-Huggins

Leader: God, your justice shines like a lamp in the dark,
we turn toward your face in these trying and uncertain times;

**People: We are beset on all sides by deceit and violence,
still, we continue to put our trust in You.**

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

*Leader: God, your word is the great preserver,
giving flavor and nourishment to the call for love and justice;

**People: Teach us to value the gifts of your teachings
and the radical love that created them, that creates us.**

Leader: Holy One, let us worship you in spirit and in truth.

People: Holy One, let us worship you in thought, word, and deed.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

New Dimensions, Julian B. Rush, 1979, rev. 1985

“In the midst of new dimensions”

1 In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of
 2 Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple, war - ring fac - tions,
 3 As we stand, a world di - vid - ed by our own self -
 5 Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with -

chang - ing ways, who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples
 and de - spair, who will lift the ol - ive branch - es?
 seek - ing schemes, grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage,
 draw in pain, may your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it

Refrain

wan - dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will light the flame of care?
 might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams. God of rain - bow, fi - ery pil - lar,
 res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

lead - ing where the ea - gles soar, we your peo - ple, ours the jour - ney

now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Becky David

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

** When you return to your seat, please find the blue Welcome notebook at the end of the pew, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor so we many greet one another by name.*

INVOCATION

Rev. jessica young chang

written by Peter Haynes

Leader: Ease our troubled hearts, Sovereign God,
and root our hope in You.

**People: Put a light in our hearts and a taste in our mouths
for Your will, for Your justice, for Your peace.
We pray to You, we hope in You,
put desires for Your kindom in our tender hearts.
We cannot go without You, we know we are not alone:
Be here now, God, and have Your way in us. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Alexander Kopylov, arr. Peter Wilhousky, 1937

Heavenly Light

Alice Mattullath

Sent from heaven, thy rays were given on great and small to shine, O Light Divine. May each soul in sorrow's night see the heavenly light. Thy blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation. All those whose feet may falter, lead unto the sacred altar. Oh, shine from above, Divine Light of love. Show us the way unto our God, we pray. Thou our beacon and guide shalt be. Light Divine, we praise thee.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:1-9

Mr. Welsh-Huggins

Leader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, the fifty-eighthth chapter.
Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.
“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

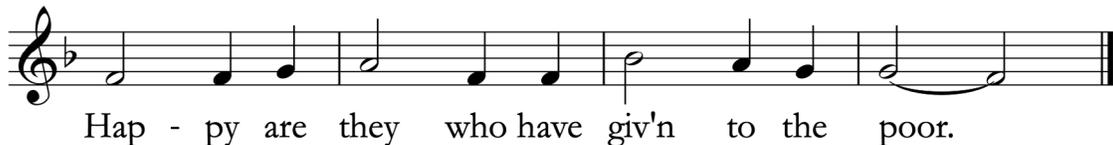
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 112:1-9

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



Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in his commandments!
Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last for ever.
Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

Antiphon.

It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance
They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.
Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
They have given freely to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

Antiphon.

*HYMN

“The church of Christ in every age”

Wareham, William Knapp, 1738

Fred Pratt Green, 1969

1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing

change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Melody Leidheiser

Cash and designated gifts go to support First Church's **Good Samaritan Fund**. Each month “Good Sam” provides financial help to people in need who come to our church seeking assistance. Every effort is made to meet the unique, emergency needs of these neighbors. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Peter Hallock, 1984

“The Lord is my light”

Psalms 27:1, 139:8, 63:4, 7

The Lord is my light, the refuge of my life and my salvation; of whom then shall I be afraid?

If I take the wings of the morning, or go up into heaven,
in the shadow of your wings I will rejoice and bless your holy Name;
and I will sing of your Glory, O Lord my strength, as long as I live.

*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. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Houston, Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

“I want to walk as a child of the light”

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. David

VOLUNTARY

Festival Toccata

Percy Fletcher, 1915

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 by Janice Cook, with thanks for those who serve this church with their time and talents.

† PLEASE JOIN US IN PARISH HALL after the Annual Meeting for the Chili Cook-Off.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

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

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S LITURGY

The Rev. jessica young chang, *preacher*

The Rev. Becky David, *worship leader*

Andrew Welsh-Huggins, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Jim Griffin, *crucifer*

Jason Harrell and Camille Bendick, *vergers*

Jennifer Fry, *director*

The First Church Ringers

Joshua Stafford, *director and organist*

The First Church Choir

Mike Kennedy, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

February 8, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, February 8

- 10 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 11 a.m. First Serves (Education Wing)
- 11:15 a.m. Annual Meeting (Sanctuary)
- 12:30 p.m. Chili Cook-off & Coffee Hour
(Parish Hall)
Confirmation Class (Youth Rm)

Monday, February 9

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

Tuesday, February 10

- 5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg
(Classroom C & Zoom)
- 6 p.m. Dinner Time Out
(Starliner Diner, Hilliard)
- 7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg
(Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, February 11

- 6 p.m. Faith Formation (Teams)
- 6:30 p.m. Faith in Action for Justice (ICE)
(Classroom C)

Annual Meeting & Chili Cook-off Today, February 8

First Congregational Church's Annual Meeting will follow the 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.

Thursday, February 12

- 6 p.m. First Church Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

Friday, February 13

- 10 a.m. Full Circle Connections (Parlor)
- 6:30 p.m. Family Mardi Gras Night (Parish Hall)

Sunday, February 15

- 9 a.m. Worship Service &
Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Sunday School Classes
(Various Classrooms)
Adult Bible Study (Classroom C)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Sales (Parish Hall)
- 12:30 p.m. Pride Organizing Mtg
(Fanning Rm)
- 4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)

First Serves Today, February 8

Please join us after the annual meeting to help load up diapers and wipes for delivery. We will meet in the Education Wing to carry the packages out to the van from CelebrateOne.

Adult Bible Study Sunday, February 15 10 a.m. in the Classroom C

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston begins the series "For Such a Time as This - Journey through the book of Esther." This study will continue till March 15.

Faith in Action for Justice What You Need to Know about ICE Wednesday, February 11 at 6:30 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 Tom for this discussion in Classroom C.

Snow Tubing at Snow Trails Monday, February 16 4 to 6 p.m. (home by 8 p.m.)

Youth of all ages are invited to go tubing at Snow Trails with First Church teens. Tickets are \$38 per person for 2 hours. Please register and pay in Realm (use the QR Code) so we can buy the tickets as a group. You can buy your own tickets directly but please let Leslie know if you do. Snow Trails does not give refunds or allow walk-up purchases. Chaperones do not need a ticket, just tubers. Families with younger children are welcome to join with adult supervision.



If you could use financial assistance, we can help. Please contact Leslie at lfulford@first-church.org. We will meet in the church parking lot at 2:15 p.m. to ride together.

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

Come to our first dinner this year at the Starliner Diner in Hilliard at 4121 Main St. 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 use the QR Code and register in Realm so we can reserve a table and be together.



All Church Mardi Gras Party Friday, February 13 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

Let the good times roll, New Orleans style, with a pre-Lent celebration of King Cake baking, mask making and costume parading!

Wear your favorite costume or dress-up outfit! Pizza, punch, and King Cake will be provided. Other party drinks/snacks are welcome!

Please use the QR Code to register in Realm by Monday, Feb 9.

For more information please contact [Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org](mailto:lfulford@first-church.org)



Choral Evensong Sunday, February 15 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Choral Evensong offers attendees a serene and contemplative experience, where scripture, music, and prayer intertwine. Through psalms, hymns, canticles, and scripture readings, 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 true testament to the enduring legacy of the English liturgical tradition.

First Church Reads: 2026 Lenten Reflection

How to Know a Person

First Church Reads: 2026 Lenten Reflection features a church-wide read and small-group conversations centering on *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others and Being Deeply Seen* by New York Times columnist David Brooks.

Community groups will meet four times. While we are still looking for people to host, we have a few groups lined up. If you would like to host a group or attend any of the following groups, please email Pastor Jess at jyoungchang@first-church.org to sign up.

Martha and Hank Wilson will host in their home on Tuesdays (2/17, 3/10, 3/24, 3/31) at 6:30 p.m.

Susie Loik will host in her home on Tuesdays (2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/7) at 10 a.m.

Antoinette Koolemans-Beyen and Becky Taft will host at Westminster Thurber on Fridays (3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27) at 10 a.m.

Jackie Dean will host at First Church on Thursdays (2/26, 3/12, 3/26, 4/9) at 1 p.m.

Additionally, Andrew Welsh-Huggins will host a group at First Church on Sundays after the 11 a.m. service. These dates will be announced.

Anyone interested in attending a virtual session on Zoom on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. should email Pastor Jess for a Zoom link.

Please email Pastor Jess at jyoungchang@first-church.org with any questions you have or to reserve your spot at one of the above groups. These are wonderful opportunities for fellowship and learning so please join in!

Lenten Devotion for LGBTQIA

Wednesdays starting February 18

7:30 a.m. on Zoom

Join Rev. Jess Young Chang, to gather briefly to pause, listen, pray, and rejoice in ourselves and our beloved community. Email Rev. Jess for a Zoom link.

Keep in Prayer

Members 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 Victor John's father, Charles John and sister, Amanda Young; Leslie and David Fulford's sister-in-law, Donna Fulford; Alexis Wayne; Annette McCormick's friend, Dannie Grace; Janice Taft's cousin, Teri Williams; 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 Joe Provenzano and family on the death of his mother, Mary Jo Senter.

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 Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, and Vatican City. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh.

Pride March Planning Meeting

Sunday, February 15

12:15 p.m. in the Fanning Rm

You are invited to bring your energy and creativity to the first planning meeting for First Church participation in the annual Pride March, Saturday, June 20. We want to show up even larger and louder this year, but we need YOU! Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Full Circle Connections Fridays, February 13 and 27 10 a.m. at Delaney's Diner

Full Circle Connections is a semi-monthly gathering of First Church folks on the 2nd and 4th Fridays each month. We discuss a wide variety of topics dealing with issues and events locally, nationally, and globally. Afterwards, for all who can stay, we walk over to the Museum Café at 11:15 for lunch together. Come and join us! Jan Hamilton and Ron Botts are the convenors.

Ash Wednesday Services Wednesday, February 18 in the Sanctuary

First Church will hold two services on this sacred day. The first service, Service of the Word and Imposition of Ashes, will be held at 12 p.m. The evening service, Solemn Liturgy and Imposition of Ashes, will be held at 7 p.m.

Lunch Bunch Thursday, February 26 12 p.m. at Delaney's Diner

Join Church Vitality as we begin a season of visiting our local diners. Our first diner visit of the year will be at Delaney's in Westerville. Owners Jeff and Lisa Miller wrote "Our goal is to operate a neighborhood spot with a favorite menu item for everyone in the group!"

Delaney's is at 5916 Westerville Road in the Glengary Shopping Center. Please register for this Lunch Bunch at Delaney's in Realm by using the QR Code.



Healing Circles during Lent in the Gladden Chapel

In a time of struggle and grief, when we are handed hard news or asked to accept the unacceptable, it can be helpful to gather and listen deeply to one another, to share our tender hearts and our aching parts.

Join your pastors for a healing circle during Lent on Sunday February 22 at 12:15 p.m., or Thursday, March 5 at 6 p.m., both in the Gladden Chapel.

These circles will center on the recent decision handed down from the Central Southeast Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference UCC. In these circles, we will continue to practice listening and sharing in keeping with our faith tradition and the principles of sacred circle practice. For questions, please reach out to Pastor Jess or Pastor Becky.

Livestream Ministry Seeks Volunteers

The Livestream Ministry is seeking volunteers to join the team that extends our Sunday worship services to online viewers. No video production experience is needed. The team provides training, and the equipment is straightforward to use.

We are asking for volunteers to serve one Sunday a month at one worship service. Recording and streaming services for other events is also a possibility.

Become a part of our congregation's Extravagant Welcome to online worshippers. Please email Mike Kennedy at mkenedy@first-church.org if you are interested and want to learn more.

Youth Service Project & Lunch Sunday, February 22 12 p.m. at Broad St Presbyterian

Join other Downtown church teens for games, lunch and packing pet supplies for the Broad Street Presbyterian Pantry. This is open to middle and high school students. Sign up with Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org.

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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