



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN  
FEBRUARY 15, 2026  
TRANSFIGURATION

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

Tocatta in F Major, BWV 540

J.S. Bach, ca. 1713

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Dr. Sandra Mathias

Leader: The coming of a new day calls us to anticipate God's dawn.

**People: The light of God is like a devouring fire,  
God's brightness is too intense for our gaze.**

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

\*Leader: Come up to the mountain of God's presence.

**People: We have sensed God's presence in the stories of Jesus**

Leader: Look up and do not be afraid

**People: Happy are those whose refuge is in God.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Deo Gracias*, "The Agincourt Song", England, c. 1415

"O wondrous sight, O vision fair"

Latin, 15th c.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt.



1 O won - drous sight, O vi - sion fair  
2 From age to age the tale de - clare,  
3 The law and proph - ets there have place,  
4 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray  
5 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high

(Am) (Dm) (Am) (Em) (Am)  
Cm Fm Cm Gm Cm



of glo - ry that the church shall share,  
how with the three dis - ci - ples there,  
two cho - sen wit - ness - es of grace;  
Christ deigns to man - i - fest to - day  
by this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y,

(G) (Dm) (Em) (G) (Am)  
B-flat Fm Gm B-flat Cm



which Christ up - on the moun - tain shows,  
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah meet,  
the Fa - ther's voice from out the cloud  
what glo - ry shall be theirs a - bove  
for which in joy - ful strains we raise

(Em) (Dm) (F) (G) (Am)  
Gm Fm A-flat B-flat Cm



where bright - er than the sun he glows!  
the Lord holds con - verse high and sweet.  
pro - claims his on - ly Son a - loud.  
who joy in God with per - fect love.  
the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

\*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 (by Rev. Gord)

Rev. David

Leader: God, you bring us together in this place,  
we come to be fed, to be renewed, to seek understanding.

People: **God, you challenge us in this place,  
we embrace the challenge,  
trusting that through challenge we grow in faith.**

Leader: God, you are revealed in this place, sometimes in shining glory,  
sometimes in tears and struggle.

**People:** God as we worship in this place,  
refresh, renew, and challenge us  
so that we would see your awesomeness.

Leader: We pray in Jesus' name,  
as we strive to walk the path of discipleship.

**People:** Amen.

ANTHEM

William H. Harris, 1954

“Behold, the tabernacle”

Sarum Antiphon for the Dedication of a Church

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with you,  
and the Spirit of God dwelleth within you:  
for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are:  
for the love of whom you do this day  
celebrate the joys of the temple with a season of festivity. Alleluia.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 24:12-18

Dr. Mathias

Leader: A reading from the Book of Exodus, the twenty-fourth chapter.

The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 2:7–13

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



O hear and heed the voice of God.

Let me announce the decree of the Lord:

he said to me, "You are my Son;  
this day have I begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for your possession.

You shall crush them with an iron rod  
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

And now, you kings, be wise;

be warned, you rulers of the earth.

Submit to the Lord with fear,  
and with trembling bow before him;  
Lest he be angry and you perish;  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
Happy are they all  
who take refuge in him!

*Antiphon.*

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 17:5

*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: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased;  
listen to him.

\*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

Rev. David

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. David

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev. David

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

“Jesus on the mountain peak”

Mowsley, Cyril V. Taylor, 1985

Brian Wren, 1977, 1995

1 Je - sus on the moun - tain peak stands a - lone in  
2 Trem - bling at his feet we saw Mo - ses and E -  
3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came, God pro - claim - ing,  
4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and proph - ets

glo - ry blaz - ing; let us, if we dare to speak,  
li - jah speak - ing. All the proph - ets and the law  
in its thun - der, Je - sus as the Son by name!  
sing be - fore him, first and last and on - ly One.

join the saints and an - gels prais - ing.  
shout through them their joy - ful greet - ing: Hal - le - lu - jah!  
Na - tions, cry a - loud in won - der:  
All cre - a - tion shall a - dore him!

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Vicki Lyden

Cash and designated gifts go to support **Laundry Love**, a nationwide initiative for which First Church is the Columbus partner. Once each month, our Laundry Love volunteer team brings the supplies and pays for the washers and dryers at the Wash Land Laundromat, to wash clothing and bedding for low-income or no-income families and persons. But Laundry Love also brightens the lives of our guests when we happily greet them, talk with them as neighbors, and get to know them. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM  
"O thou, the central orb"

Charles Wood, 1915  
Henry Ramsden Bramley, 1873

O thou the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the Most High,  
eternal Light of this our wintry world,  
thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith; hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,  
gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move as stars about thy throne  
set in the height of God's ordaining counsel,  
as thy sight gives measured grace to each thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,  
our nature all shall feel eternal day, in fellowship with thee,  
transforming clay to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

\*PRESENTATION HYMN  
"Sing of God made manifest"

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

Sing of God made man - i - fest on the cloud-capped moun-tain's crest,  
where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re - mained:  
glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, giv'n as Je - sus set his face  
towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

\*CLOSING HYMN  
"Alleluia, song of gladness"

*Lauda anima*, John Goss, 1869  
Latin hymn, 11th c. tr. John Mason Neale, 1861, alt.

1. Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;  
2. Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;  
3. Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;  
4. In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,

al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear by choirs on high;  
al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful mo - ther, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;  
al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;  
at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;

in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.  
here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.  
for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.  
there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. David

VOLUNTARY

Fugue in D Major, BWV 532

J.S. Bach, ca. 1708

*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 Donna's February 14, 2010 baptism at First Church by the Vogt family.

† PLEASE JOIN US IN PARISH HALL FOR COFFEE HOUR, hosted by the Festive Neighborhood Care Circle from Ohio Living Westminster Thurber, led by Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. David — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Mr. Stafford — 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. Becky David, *preacher*

Dr. Sandra Mathias, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Jack Drake, *crucifer*

Jason Harrell and Sebastian Kulwicki, *vergers*

Joshua Stafford, *director and organist*

The First Church Choir

Jon Tyillian, *organist*

Aran Cunningham, *livestream ministry*

*Enter to Worship*  
**Depart to Serve**

**February 15, 2026**

## **This Week at First Church**

### **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)

### **Monday, February 16**

- 4 p.m.      Youth Snow Tubing (Snow Trails)
- 6 p.m.      First Church Campanelle Practice  
              (Bell Rm)
- 7 p.m.      Transition Team Mtg  
              (Fanning Rm & Zoom)

### **Tuesday, February 17**

- 6 p.m.      Small Lenten Group  
              (home of Hank & Martha Wilson)

### **Wednesday, February 18 — Ash Wednesday**

- 6:30 a.m.    Wonderfully Made: LGBTQ+ Devotional  
              (Zoom)
- 10 a.m.      The Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery  
              (Kitchen)
- 12 Noon      Service of the Word and  
              Imposition of Ashes (Sanctuary)
- 7 p.m.      Solemn Liturgy and Imposition of Ashes  
              (Sanctuary)

### **Thursday, February 19**

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

### **Sunday, February 22**

- 9 a.m.      Worship Service and  
              Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m.      Sunday School Classes  
              (Various Classrooms)  
              Adult Bible Study (Classroom C)
- 11 a.m.      Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 11:30 a.m.   Dog Food Pantry Youth Service  
              Project & Confirmation Class  
              Field Trip (Classroom C to  
              Broad St Presbyterian)
- 12:15 p.m.   Coffee Hour & Sales (Parish Hall)  
              Lenten Healing Circle (Chapel)
- 12:30 p.m.   Small Lenten Group  
              (Andrew Welsh-Huggins in  
              Adult Library)
- 4 p.m.      Organ + Chamber Orchestra  
              Concert (Sanctuary)

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## **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 through March 8.

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## **Choral Evensong Today, February 15**

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 in the Sanctuary.

## **Pride March Planning Meeting Today, February 15**

Please bring your energy and creativity to the first planning meeting for our participation in the annual Pride March, Saturday, June 20. We want to show up even larger and louder this year and extend our extravagant welcome to our LGBTQ+ siblings, so we need YOU!

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## **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](mailto:lfulford@first-church.org). We will meet in the church parking lot at 2:15 p.m. to ride together.

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

The Confirmation Class will 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. Please sign up with Leslie Fulford at [lfulford@first-church.org](mailto:lfulford@first-church.org). The Confirmation Class will meet in Classroom C at 11:30 a.m. then go to Broad Street Presbyterian together.

## **Healing Circles during Lent in the Gladden Chapel February 22 & March 5**

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. For questions, please reach out to Pastor Jess or Pastor Becky.

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

Join Church Vitality as we visit local diners. This lunch is 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 in Realm by using the QR Code.



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

Come enjoy lively conversation with the First Church Book Club when we discuss *Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler.

Mysterious and moving, *Kindred* is a haunting, harrowing story about a modern black woman transported back in time to a slave plantation in the antebellum South.

Octavia E. Butler is an award-winning science fiction writer, and the first Black woman to achieve national prominence in science fiction.

To receive book club emails or receive the Zoom link, please email Kathy Reed at [kbreed2010@gmail.com](mailto:kbreed2010@gmail.com).

## 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.

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### 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.

Groups will meet four times. Please email Pastor jess at [jyoungchang@first-church.org](mailto:jyoungchang@first-church.org) to sign up for any of the groups below:

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

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

Antoinette Koolemans-Beyen and Becky Taft on Fridays (3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27) at 10 a.m. at Westminster Thurber in the Goodale Landing 8th floor Community Room.

Jackie Dean on Thursdays (2/26, 3/12, 3/26, 4/9) at 1 p.m. at First Church in the Parish Family Room.

Andrew Welsh-Huggins on Sundays (2/22, 3/1, 3/15, 3/29) at 12:30 p.m. at First Church in the Adult Library.

Rev. jess young chang on Wednesdays (2/18, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8) at 6:30 a.m. on Zoom. Please email Rev. jess for the zoom link.

Should you have any questions or want to reserve your spot at one of the above groups, please email Rev. jess at [jyoungchang@first-church.org](mailto:jyoungchang@first-church.org). These are wonderful opportunities for fellowship and learning so please join in!

## Keep in Prayer

*Kingston, son of Bridget Tharp and Tony Baker, reminds us that as we pray, we remember the lessons of Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**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** Vicki Lyden's daughter, Hilary; LJ Cooks' sister, Gretchen Weller-Cooks' sister-in-law, and Alexi and Saturn Cooks' aunt, La Vonja Dowdell; Victor John's father, Charles John and sister, Amanda Young; Leslie and David Fulford's sister-in-law, Donna Fulford; Alexis Wayne; Janice Taft's cousin, Teri Williams; Shelly Gies' father, Robert Simms and brother, Mike Simms; 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 Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission the United Church of Christ in Mozambique.

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### Livestream Ministry Seeks Volunteers

The Livestream Ministry team will honor Peter Murray on Sunday, February 22 as he ends his leadership of this ministry. Join us during the coffee hour to thank Peter for his years of service.

Additionally, we are asking for volunteers to join the team that extends our Sunday worship services to online viewers. Volunteers serve one Sunday a month at one worship service. Please email Mike Kennedy at [mkenedy@first-church.org](mailto:mkenedy@first-church.org) if you are interested.

## 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.firstchurcharts.org](http://www.firstchurcharts.org) | [home@first-church.org](mailto:home@first-church.org)

