



WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God. Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

GATHERING

\* WELCOME

Rev. Becky

\*GATHERING SONG

*Ratisbon*, German folk melody

“Christ, whose glory fills the skies”

Charles Wesley, 1740

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies; Christ, the true, the on - ly light;  
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa-nied by thee;  
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of Righ-teous-ness, a - rise; tri-umph o'er the shades of night;  
joy - less is the day's re - turn till thy mer - cy's beams I see;  
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
till they in - ward light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.  
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

\*OPENING PRAYER *(written by Stephen Fearing)*

Rev. Becky

Leader: Reveal your presence to us this day,  
O God of light, love, and glory.  
As you did to your servants at the foot of the mountain,  
send your Spirit to show us your story.

**People: May the brilliance of your face  
illuminate this place  
as we dare to proclaim your Word  
and may we, your people,  
be never unable to tell all of that we have heard. Amen.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Becky

CHILDREN'S TIME

Donna Vogt

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

LISTENING

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 24:12-18

Barbara Mason

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 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.**

REFLECTION

Rev. Becky

## RESPONDING

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Salzburg, Jakob Hintze, 1678

"Sing of God made manifest" vv. 1-2

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1990

1 Sing of God made man - i - fest in a child ro - bust and blest,  
2 Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,  
3 Sing of God made man - i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest,  
4 Sing of God made man - i - fest on the cloud - capped moun - tain's crest,  
to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid - ed them,  
"I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."  
and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
where the law and proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re - mained:  
ma - gi came and gifts un - bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro - found:  
Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—  
fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,  
glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face  
myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.  
hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."  
bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call.  
towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

“Sing of God made manifest” vv. 3–4

Rev. Becky

Salzburg, Jakob Hintze, 1678

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1990

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Donna Vogt

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 MUSIC

David Hogrefe

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Becky

**All: God of the open hand, we thank you for your continued blessing of us, our hearts, and our lives. Take this, our offering of time, talent, and treasure, and use it, and use us, to manifest Your Kin-dom, on Earth, as it is in Heaven. Amen.**

COMMUNION

Rev. Becky

COMMUNION PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Becky

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

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION HYMN  
"Come and fill our hearts"

*Confitemini Domino*, Jacques Berthier, 1982  
Jacques Berthier, 1982

Musical score for the hymn "Come and fill our hearts" in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of two systems of treble and bass staves. The first system has chords D, Bm, D, and A. The lyrics are "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." The second system has chords Em, C, Em, A, and D. The lyrics are "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Becky

**All:** And so we thank you, Holy Spirit, and we ask that you take this food we have shared and make it into one body. Take our bodies and make us into one body. Christ's body. Breathing, crying, spitting, bleeding, blessing, breaking, sharing, revealing to all the Living God. Here and now. Amen.

SENDING

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Becky

\*CLOSING HYMN

Bernadette Farrell, 1993

"Christ, be our light"

Musical score for the hymn "Christ, be our light" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of three lines of treble staves. The first line has chords G, C, G, Em, Bm, Em. The lyrics are "Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the". The second line has chords Am7, D, G, Dsus, D, Em, Em7. The lyrics are "dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your". The third line has chords C, Am7, D, G, Am7, G. The lyrics are "church gath - ered to - day."

*Thank you for attending worship this morning. We hope that you have found peace and grace here and invite you to return often. If you would like more information or have any questions about First Church, please ask anyone wearing a name tag. We would be delighted to assist you.*

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“Christ be our light.” Words and music by Bernadette Farrell. ©1993 OCP. All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

Barbara Mason, *liturgist*

Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

David Hogrefe, *pianist*

Geoffrey Dean, *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

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