



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

Canzona in D minor, BWV 588

J.S. Bach, ca. 1705

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Fry

Leader: God of courage, you remind us that we belong to You,
and even more fully to ourselves,
when we step out on faith toward You.

**People: Let us turn our faces toward Your brilliant light
toward Your love, toward Your promise, your presence.**

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

*Leader: Let us meet You with hope and surrender,
for You keep your promises to us.

**People: We are Yours, Beloved God. Be close to us this day,
and let us find our way in You.**

SILENT PROCESSION (*Begins with ringing of the bell three times*)

*INVOCATION

Rev. Becky David

Leader: O Ancient of Days, God of new beginnings,
in a world of shifting sands beneath us
and cheap talk echoing in our weary heads and hearts,
we know Your word is all that remains.

**People: You promise us the bounty of blessing and relationship,
if only we will surrender ourselves to You.
We put our hearts on Your altar, Giver of Life.
Draw Your protection over us like a Mother hen protecting her chicks.
Come close to us, abide with us, and
remind us we are forever beloved children of God. Amen.**

Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

*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 many greet one another by name.*

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

Ms. Fry

Leader: A reading from the Book of Genesis, the twelfth chapter.

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

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



My help comes from the Lord, the ma-ker of heav'n and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord,

the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved

and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel

shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The Lord himself watches over you;

the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day,

nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;

it is he who shall keep you safe.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,

from this time forth for evermore.

Antiphon.

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Ms. Fry

Leader: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans, the fourth chapter.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*THE GOSPEL HYMN
"Breathe on me, breath of God"

Trentham, Robert Jackson, 1888
Edwin Hatch, 1878

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written between the staves. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the remaining lines. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

*THE GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

Rev. young chang

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

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev. David

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
 when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O
 Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O

Leader: We call on Your name, She who Birthed the Earth,
 Divine One of water and of Spirit.
 We long to understand
 how Your divine breath moves in us and moves us.
 We pray today for those whose spirits are
 broken by hunger, by poverty,
 by homelessness and alienation.
 We pray for those
 who have disappeared and been incarcerated,
 who have been deported and dispossessed.
 Give us freedom from bondage and wisdom for integration.

All join in singing the refrain.

Leader: We pray for those whose spirits are torn apart
 by the disorder of mental illness, dementia,
 substance use, and intimate partner violence.
 We pray for those victimized
 by themselves and by others.
 Give us freedom from oppression and strength for recovery.

All join in singing the refrain.

Leader: Creatrix of Matter and Spirit,
In this season of rebirth and renewal,
at this beginning of Women's History Month,
we pray for our women:
we pray for our trans women and our cis women,
our girl women and our elder women,
our Indigenous women, our Black women,
and our women of every race, creed, and nationality,
the women in our families,
the women in our history,
the women in our world.
We pray for those who love women,
for those who are afraid of women,
for those who mistakenly seek to possess and control women.
Give us freedom from violence and knowledge of kindness, respect, and equity.

All join in singing the refrain.

Leader: We pray this day for those
who feel unfree to turn to You,
to emerge from the dark closet of fear and timidity
into the brilliance of Your radical love and relationship.
We pray for those who
long to feel Your sunlight on our faces
and Your Spirit in our action.
Give us freedom from the closet and courage for the work ahead.
With these prayers on our lips and our hearts, we join voices and say

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, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Donna Vogt

Cash and designated gifts will support **CHOICES**, a program of Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Since 1977, CHOICES has served and helped protect Central Ohioans facing domestic violence. CHOICES provides counseling, shelter, crisis intervention, education, and legal advocacy. They are the only domestic violence shelter and hotline in Franklin County, so they are the first line of defense in these crisis situations. CHOICES works to interrupt the cycle and culture of domestic violence directly in households, through a trauma-informed, client-centered approach, but they also actively advocate for social policy changes in our community. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
"God so loved the world"

Bob Chilcott, 1999
John 3:16

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

*PRESENTATION HYMN
"Lord, who throughout these forty days"

St. Flavian, Day's Psalter, 1562
Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873, alt.

3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas - sion -
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be

tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

COMMUNION

Rev. young chang and Rev. David

(Liturgy Adapted from *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*)

Leader: Holy One, we join hearts and hands in this covenant of faith,
this sacrament of transformation,
and this observance of community and sustenance with all
who wish to eat at Your table and with Your children the world over.
We spread Your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,
and we remember those who long to eat at Your table,
who are hungry for a nourishment that only You can give.
We present to You our lives, committed to Your service on behalf of all people.

Come Holy Spirit, Come.

Twine yourself within these crumbs of bread,
dive deep within this cup, so that for us as we receive these elements,
we receive nothing less than your love and presence;
when we go from this place, changed by this sacrament,
we embody nothing less than your love in the world.

**People: Loving God, through your goodness we have this bread and cup to offer.
May we know your presence in the sharing,
so that we may know your touch and presence in all things.
Made one in Christ and one with each other,
we offer these gifts, and with them, ourselves, a single, living act of praise. Amen.**

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Please come forward as directed by the vergers to receive the common elements for communion.

*Receive the bread from the pastor, and as you approach the cup,
dip just the edge of the bread into the juice (this is called intinction)*

If you require a Gluten-free piece, please proceed to the front.

*If you are unable to rise and come forward and would still like to partake of communion,
please tell a verger when they are at your pew.*

If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Henry Loosemore (d. 1670)

“O Lord, increase our faith”

O Lord, increase our faith, strengthen us and confirm us in thy true faith; endue us with wisdom, charity and patience; in all our adversities sweet Jesu, say Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. David

**All: God of Abundance, thank you for the gift of this sacrament,
and the time to gather and share it among ourselves.
To Your people who are hungry, give bread.
And to we, Your people whom You have fed,
give a hunger for justice. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

SENDING OF HOME COMMUNION

Rev. David

Leader: My brothers and sisters,
you are sent to bring the Word of God
and the Bread of Life from this assembly
to the sick and friends at home.
Go to them with our love and our prayers
in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Sing praise to God who reigns above"

Mit Freuden zart, Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesang, 1566

Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; tr. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt.

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
4 Thus all my toil-some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

mur - mur stilled:
all is right:
cho - sen band: to God all praise and glo - ry!
take your part:

VOLUNTARY

Fuga 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.

† PLEASE JOIN US IN PARISH HALL FOR COFFEE HOUR, hosted by the Bliss Neighborhood Care Circle, led by Susan Brooks and Jack Drake.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. young chang— Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Rev. 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*
Jack Drake, *crucifer*
Jason Harrell and Henry Wade, *vergers*
Joshua Stafford, *director and organist*
The First Church Choir
Aran Cunningham, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

March 1, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, March 1

- 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)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Sales (Parish Hall)
- Small Lenten Group (Parlor)

Monday, March 2

- 12 Noon Card Care Ministry (Fanning Rm)
- 6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Practice
 (Bell Rm)
- 7 p.m. House & Grounds Mtg
 (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, March 3

- 7 p.m. Communications & Technology Mtg
 (Zoom)
- Justice & Mercy Mtg (Zoom)
- Personnel Commission Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 4

- 7:30 a.m. Wonderfully Made: LGBTQ+ Devotional
 (Zoom)
- 12:15 p.m. Music at Midday (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Monthly Mtg
 (SM Office)
- 7 p.m. First Church Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, March 5

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

Friday, March 6

- 9:30 a.m. Stewardship & Growth
 (Classroom C & Zoom)
- 10 a.m. Lenten Small Group (Ohio Living
 Westminister-Thurber)

Saturday, March 7

- 10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg (Adult Library)

Sunday, March 8

- 9 a.m. Worship Service and
 Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Sunday School Classes
 (Various Classrooms)
- Adult Bible Study (Classroom C)
- Mission Trip/Summer Camp Info
 (Classroom D)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Sales (Parish Hall)
- Mission Trip/Summer Camp Info
 (Parish Hall)
- 12:30 p.m. Congregational Conversation
 (Parish Hall)
- Confirmation Class (Classroom C)

Adult Bible Study

Today at 10 a.m. in Classroom C

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston will continue the series "For Such a Time as This - Journey through the Book of Esther." This study will end on March 8.

Lenten Small Group

Today at 12:15 in the Parlor

Andrew Welsh-Huggins will lead a Lenten Small Group in the Adult Library on the book *How to Know a Person*.

**Music at Midday
in the Sanctuary
March 4 at 12:15 p.m.**

Take a break from the busy workweek and experience the artistry of Dr. Richard K. Fitzgerald, Director of Music and Organist of Saint Joseph Cathedral, Columbus.

This concert is free and open to the public, and a freewill offering will be accepted.

**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*, a 1979 science fiction masterpiece 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 phone Kathy Reed at 614-442-7742.

**Healing Circles during Lent
in the Gladden Chapel
March 5 at 6 p.m.**

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

**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 to sign up for any of the groups below:

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

Rev. Jess Young Chang on Wednesdays (3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8) at 7:30 a.m. on Zoom. Please email Rev. Jess for the Zoom link.

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.

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

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

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

**Wonderfully Made:
A Lenten Devotion for the
First Church LGBTQIA Community
Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. on Zoom**

Join your fellow queer and trans* besties this Lent for a season of contemplation, reflection, and introspection. This weekly devotional affinity group is open to all who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, trans, intersex, ace, genderfluid, gender non-conforming, or a little of each!

Come in your jammies or your best workwear, come from your couch or your desk, come once or come every week, just come! Please email Rev. Jess for the Zoom link.

Lunch Bunch At George's Linworth Diner March 10 at 12 p.m.

Church Vitality is inviting you to join others from First Church at George's Linworth Diner. Owner, George came to The United States from Albania and worked his way up from busboy to line cook at the historic Tommy's Diner. Under Tommy's guidance, George learned to cook with inspiration and take care of and care for his customers. He now owns two diners, cooking with fresh ingredients that makes great comfort food.

Registration is now open in Realm so reserve your spot for a fun lunch time at George's!



Sacred Earth Eco Tip

Have you thought about when you use a ballpoint pen and it dries up so you can't use it anymore? Well, here's some good news!

It takes hundreds of years to break down ballpoint pens in the landfill. They contain microplastics and toxic inks that eventually enter our ecosystems and bloodstreams. The good news is that ink pens, markers, highlighters and their caps can be taken to Staples, Best Buy, Office Max, and Sprint stores when they dry up!

Look for and buy pens that are made from recycled materials. A good resource for renewable energy and green living is the website: GreenCoast.org.

Mission Trip / Summer Camp Info March 8 in Classroom D at 10 a.m. and Parish Hall at 12:15 p.m.

Youth and adult chaperones are invited to learn about this summer's mission trip to Washington DC as well as the many programs and camps offered this summer through the Heartland Council and other faith based groups. Stop by for coffee and info!

Deep Griha Mission Update Malini Gnanatheeban, Pavan Peter, and Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen

In 2025 Ashlesha Onawale, Director of Deep Griha, visited First Congregational Church to kick off the 50 year celebration of the Deep Griha mission in Pune, India. With the help of Fran and Bruce Panek and many others, we welcomed Ashlesha back to First Church with a great luncheon. Ashlesha's parents, Dr. Neela and Rev. Baskhar Onawale were the founders of this mission that was sponsored by First Church in 1975. Since then, their mission has grown and is supported by a number of other Central Ohio UCC congregations (First Community, Westerville UCC, and Dublin Community Church) as well as many other supporters worldwide.

In the 50 years of its existence, Deep Griha has been attacking poverty and illiteracy. It has grown from a one-room clinic to serving three urban communities and two rural centers. It is providing education for children, skill-building for youth, and healthcare access, while its Vriddha Mitra initiative helps senior citizens regain their self-sufficiency.

This year, the annual fundraiser/dinner, organized by First Community Church, will take place in March, and anybody interested in the Deep Griha mission is welcome to attend. Our focus will be on sponsoring a young student in the City of Child, and participating in a trip to Pune, planned for 2027. Further information will be made available.

Visitation Ministry Training April 19 at 12:30 p.m.

Congregational Care means taking care of our church community, and it depends on YOU! Would you like to join the team that shows others you care? Visitation Ministry is a wonderful way to connect with other members and friends of First Church, and share Christ's love and care with one another. Join Rev. Jess and members of the Congregational Care Ministries Leadership team for a fun and required training exploring what Visitation Ministry is and how to join!

More information will be made available soon.

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; 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 Susie Loik's friends, Julia and Jim Perry; 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; 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 Kelley Dean's brother and sister-in-law, Jen and Mike Weaver on the death of Jen's mother, Kathy Cassaletta; 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 Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Forum for Development, Culture, and Dialogue in Lebanon.

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

March 1 - CHOICES

March 22 - The Largest Table

March 8 - Gladden Food Pantry

March 29 - Good Samaritan Fund

March 15 - BREAD

April 5 - UCC Ohio Great Hour of Sharing

First Church Congregational Survey and Conversation in Parish Hall Sunday, March 8 at 12:15

As discussed during the congregational annual meeting on February 8, a search committee is being formed to engage in the process of calling a new settled Senior Minister. A key element of preparing for the search and call process is establishing a clear understanding of the congregation's expectations for our new Senior Minister.

To support development of these expectations, the transition team has prepared a "Pastoral Expectations Survey" that was distributed to the congregation through email. The survey completion window closes Wednesday, March 4 at 5 p.m. Please use the QR Code to the right for the survey. The survey process will culminate with a congregational conversation and lunch.

Register for the conversation and lunch on Realm by using this QR Code.



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 | home@first-church.org

