



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

*Fantasy on Kingsfold*

arr. H. Dean Wagner, 2000

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Martha Worth

Leader: God of our hearts...here we are!  
We've come with thirsty hearts, praying that your Word will satisfy us.

**People: We come with aching hearts,  
praying for good news to comfort us.**

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

\*Leader: We come with overflowing hearts, praying for a chance to share your love.

**People: You, who know our hearts and hear our prayers,  
be with us now in this hour of worship.**

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

INVOCATION

Rev. jessica young chang

*Excerpted from a longer prayer by Rev. Scott McKenna*

Leader: Let us pray.  
God Who Knows, all that we experience is held in your care.  
Nothing is hidden from you - not the burdens we bear in public  
or the quiet pain felt only in secret.

**People: Your love for us welcomes everything that aches.  
With hearts open to your Spirit,  
we bring all our hopes and fears to you. Amen.**

2

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. 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 may greet one another by name.*

COMMISSIONING OF 2026 OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Rev. David and Rev. Sarah Reed, Moderator

Pastor: Hear these words of Scripture:

“I give you a new commandment that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Do you seek to experience God in new ways through this time of service as officers of First Congregational Church?

Officers: We do, with the help of God and one another.

Pastor: Will you listen to the wisdom and experience of those you meet during this time of service?

Officers: We will, with the help of God and one another.

Moderator: Do you promise to share your talents, skills and energy, as you are able, serving alongside and with others?

Officers: We do, with the help of God and one another.

Moderator: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our siblings in Christ, who have answered God's call to service.

Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

**People:** We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours  
to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ.  
We promise to love you and keep you in prayer.  
We promise to keep in prayer those with whom you will serve,  
that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: We commission you on behalf of this congregation and in covenant  
with the United Church of Christ to be officers of this church  
and disciples of Christ in this place. Love one another, as Christ has first loved you.

ANTHEM  
“Sicut cervus”

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1581  
Psalm 42:1

*Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum: ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.*  
Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks: so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1-7

Mrs. Worth

Leader: A reading from the Book of Exodus, the seventeenth chapter.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

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.*



Come, let us sing to the Lord;  
 let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
 and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.  
 For the Lord is a great God,  
 and a great King above all gods.  
 In his hand are the caverns of the earth,  
 and the heights of the hills are his also.  
 The sea is his, for he made it,  
 and his hands have molded the dry land.  
 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
 and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
 For he is our God,  
 and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.



## THE SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 5:1-11

Mrs. Worth

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

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*THE GOSPEL HYMN

*Kingsfold*, English County Songs, 1893

"I heard the voice of Jesus say"

Horatius Bonar, 1846, alt.

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.  
thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

\*THE GOSPEL

John 4:5-30

Rev. David

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

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I

will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. David

SILENCE

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev. young chang

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: Holy God,  
whose Spirit moved over the waters at the dawn of creation,  
hear our prayers for all who thirst today.

We pray for those who are spiritually thirsty,  
who long to know Your presence, but don't know where to find You.  
We pray for those who are alone and without hope,  
those who long to feel needed and loved,  
those who are searching for meaning and purpose.

*All join in singing the refrain.*

Leader: We pray for all who are physically thirsty,  
who don't have enough water to drink, or feed their animals,  
whose fields are parched, whose crops have withered;  
those who have to walk long distances to find enough water to survive,  
or who have to be content with water that is unclean.  
We pray for those whose homes and villages are torn apart  
because of drought or famine.

*All join in singing the refrain.*

Leader: We pray for those who are thirsty for justice,  
Who take to the streets in solidarity with the immigrant,  
who long for an equal sharing of resources among peoples and nations;  
those who put their lives at risk to protect streams and rivers and oceans;  
those who are working to find clean water,  
and make it available to those who need it.

*All join in singing the refrain.*

Leader: God, we ask that you would open our hearts to the needs of all who thirst.  
Give us courage to work together for justice,  
to stand alongside those who are thirsty,  
so that all people, everywhere, may live without want or fear,  
and may discover the abundant life You promise to each one.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Wellspring,  
as we pray together the words he taught us, Our Father...

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

## THE OFFERTORY

To give online, please scan this QR code:



### MISSION INVITATION

Jim Lowe

Cash and designated gifts go to the **Gladden Community House**. Gladden is a settlement house located in the heart of Franklinton on the near west side of Columbus. The Gladden mission is to strengthen the wellbeing of Franklinton's children, families and community, and to build a thriving, equitable neighborhood. Gladden House was launched by First Church abolitionist pastor Washington Gladden in 1905. Today Gladden serves 15,000 people annually, through programs including Homelessness Prevention, After School programs, a thriving Senior Citizen program, and County Family Services. From their own kitchen, the Community House serves over 24,000 meals each year to children in Gladden programs. Thank you for considering giving to Gladden.

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Herbert Howells, 1941

"Like as the hart"

Psalm 42:1-3

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.  
My soul is athirst for God, yea even for the living God:  
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?  
My tears have been my meat day and night,  
while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

### \*PRESENTATION HYMN

*St. Flavian, Day's Psalter, 1562*

"Lord, who throughout these forty days"

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.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. young chang

Leader: O God, You are our God;  
We are the people of Your pasture, the sheep of Your hand.

People: **As you have fed us by Your mercy,  
May it be our daily bread to do Your will;  
Through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

"Guide me, O thou great Jehovah"

*Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes, 1907

William Williams, 1762

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me  
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.  
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.  
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. David

VOLUNTARY

*Rhosymedre*

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1920

*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 THE CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION, hosted by the Transition Team.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. David— Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Rev. young chang — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

Ms. Kulwicki — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S LITURGY  
The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*  
The Rev. jessica young chang, *worship leader*  
Martha Worth, *liturgist*  
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*  
Aarav Peter, *crucifer*  
Sebastian Kulwicki and Henry Wade, *vergers*  
Jennifer Fry, *director*  
The First Church Campanelle  
Joshua Stafford, *director and organist*  
The First Church Choir  
Pat Patterson, *livestream ministry*

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

**March 8, 2026**

## **This Week at First Church**

### **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 (Parish Hall)  
              Mission Trip/Summer Camp Info  
              (Classroom D)
- 12:30 p.m. Congregational Conversation  
              (Parish Hall)  
              Confirmation Class (Classroom C)

### **Monday, March 9**

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

### **Tuesday, March 10**

- 9 a.m.      Good Samaritan Distribution Day  
              (Suzuki Rm)
- 10 a.m.      Lenten Small Group (Susie Loik's Home)
- 12 Noon     Lunch Bunch (George's Linworth Diner)
- 5:30 p.m.   Budget & Finance Mtg  
              (Classroom C & Zoom)
- 6 p.m.      Lenten Small Group  
              (Hank & Martha Wilson's Home)  
              Music Committee Mtg (Parlor)
- 7 p.m.      Executive Committee Mtg  
              (Classroom C & Zoom)

### **Wednesday, March 11**

- 7:30 a.m.   Wonderfully Made: LGBTQ+ Devotional  
              (Zoom)

### **Thursday, March 12**

- 1 p.m.      Lenten Small Group (Parish Family Rm)
- 6 p.m.      First Church Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 7:15 p.m.   First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

### **Friday, March 13**

- 10 a.m.      Full Circle Connections (Parlor)  
              Lenten Small Group (Ohio Living  
              Westminister-Thurber)

### **Sunday, March 15**

- 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)  
              Lenten Small Group (Parlor)
- 4 p.m.      Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)

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## **Adult Bible Study**

### **Today at 10 a.m. in Classroom C**

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston's series "For Such a Time as This - Journey through the Book of Esther" ends with this class.

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## **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*.

## **Mission Trip / Summer Camp Info Today in Classroom D 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.**

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

The youth will be engaged with the Washington, DC Youth Service Opportunities Project. Information on that project is available at [www.ysop.org/programs](http://www.ysop.org/programs). Summer camp opportunity information is available at <https://heartlanducc.org/storycontinues/>. Funds are available to offset the cost of the youth programs. Contact Leslie Fulford at [lfulford@first-church.org](mailto:lfulford@first-church.org) for more information.

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## **First Church Congregational Conversation in Parish Hall Today at 12:30 p.m.**

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 prepared a "Pastoral Expectations Survey" that was distributed to the congregation through email. The survey process culminates today with a congregational conversation and lunch.

## **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. Please attend as you are able.

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

Rev. Jess Young Chang on Wednesdays (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 (3/13, 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.

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## **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!



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**Adult Bible Study**  
**Beginning March 15**  
**10 am. in Classroom C**

Rev. Margot Connor and Rev. Larry Miller will begin a new series on the Psalms. They will follow the lectionary, and introduce classical means of interpreting psalms, psalm categories and types, and then look at the meaning of the individual psalm of the day. This series will run till Sunday, May 10.

Many psalms are laments, some glorify the king, many glorify Israel and the Temple, etc. They express repentance, forgiveness, hope, and expand on God's intimate relationship with us. Happenings are a part of every life, making the Psalms universally relevant.

Everyone is welcome to join in this study.

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**A Women's Retreat**  
**April 18 at 9 a.m.**

Save the date for this Women's Retreat to be led by Jackie Dean. It will be held at the Westminster-Thurber Heritage Pointe Party Room. More information and registration will be available soon.

**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.

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**Spring Cleanup Day**  
**Church Grounds**  
**March 21 at 9 a.m.**

House and Grounds is organizing a Spring Cleanup. Everyone is encouraged to bring their garden tools and help clean up the church grounds prior to Holy Week.

If you can help please talk to Fran Panek or email her at [franpan2000@yahoo.com](mailto:franpan2000@yahoo.com) to let her know.

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**Dinner Out**  
**At the Bexley Rusty Bucket**  
**March 25 at 6 p.m.**

First Church is going to the Rusty Bucket in Bexley on E. Main St. Come join our fellow members for a relaxing dinner out. Have their daily special which will be their Indiana Pork Tenderloin sandwich or pick from their very full menu. The Rusty Bucket is a casual American restaurant and tavern where people come to share laughter, smiles, and great conversation over food that makes everyone happy.

Registration is now open in Realm so reserve your spot for at the Rusty Bucket.



## Keep in Prayer

**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** Dakota Saunders' friend, Trisha; Susie Loik's daughter, Kelly and son, Laeric; Vicki Lyden's daughter, Hilary; LJ Cooks' sister, Gretchen Weller-Cooks' sister-in-law, and Alexi and Saturn Cooks' aunt, La Vonia Dowdell; 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** Victor John and his sister Amanda Young on the death of their father, Charles John; Amy Wagner and her cousin, Brooke Chute and family, on the death of Brooke's husband, Brian Chute; Kelley Dean's brother and sister-in-law, Jen and Mike Weaver on the death of Jen's mother, Kathy Cassaletta.

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 Ireland, and the United Kingdom including England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Latin American Biblical University in Costa Rica.

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## Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

March 8 - Gladden Food Pantry

March 15 - BREAD

March 22 - The Largest Table

March 29 - Good Samaritan Fund

April 5 - UCC Ohio Great Hour of Sharing

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## Experience Holy Week and Easter at First Church

March 29 | 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. | Palm Sunday

Parish Hall and the Sanctuary

April 2 | 7 p.m. | Maundy Thursday

Liturgy of the Lord's Supper in the Sanctuary

April 3 | 7 p.m. | Good Friday

Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary

April 4 | 7 p.m. | Saturday

Easter Vigil in the Sanctuary

April 5 | Easter Sunday

7 a.m. | Sunrise Service in The Washington Gladden Social Justice Park

10 a.m. | Easter Egg Hunt with Donut Hour in the Playground area and Education Wing

11 a.m. | Easter Worship in the Sanctuary

## 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:** Dayna McCrary

**Deacons:** Fubara Braide, Stella Braide, Camilla Curren, Sandra Geronimo, Jason Harrell, Brian Kemp, Allison Lowery, Barbara Mason, Fran Panek, Gary Seigerst, Thomason Smith, Martha Worth

**Transition Team:** Jacquelyn Dean and Nancy Loy, co-chairpersons, Todd Cunningham, Rev. Becky David, Gregory Halbe, Susie Loik, Allison Lowery, Pavan Peter, Sarah Reed, Joshua Stafford

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Chairperson:** Frank Cook

**Trustees:** Matthew Bendick, David Hogrefe, Victor John, Melody Leidheiser (Secretary), Janet Miller, Sarah Reed, Hugh Schultz, Charlie Weaver

### 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:** Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen

**Church Vitality-elect:**

**Communications and Technology Commission:** Mike Kennedy

**Communications and Technology Commission-elect:** Nathaniel Powell

**Faith Formation Commission:** Mariner Taft

**Faith Formation Commission-elect:**

**House & Grounds:** Eric Klintworth

**House & Grounds-elect:** Fran Panek

**Justice & Mercy:** James Lowe

**Justice & Mercy-elect:**

**Music, Arts & Heritage:** Jim Griffin

**Music, Arts & Heritage-elect:** Cheryl Hoskinson

**Member-at-Large:** Martha Wilson

**Personnel:** Neal Brower

**Personnel-elect:** Chris Brooks

**Youth Member-at-Large:**

## 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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