



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

Cantilène from Symphony No. 3, Op. 28

Louis Vierne, 1911

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Phil Armbruster

Leader: Jesus, Light of the world

People: Give us eyes to see.

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

*Leader: Once we lived in darkness, but now—

**People: As children of light we are called
To do what is good and right and true.**

Leader: Jesus, Light of the world

People: Give us eyes to see as You see!

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

*INVOCATION

Rev. Becky David

Leader: Gracious God, who created us in God's own image, we are grateful for all that You have done for us, for all that You are doing in us, and for all that You will do through us.

Open our eyes to see Your presence among us, moving in powerful ways at all times and in all places.

Open our ears to hear familiar words in new ways—ways that will change us and challenge us to become the people You created us to be.

**People: Grant us the power and the courage
to come out of the darkness
and into the light of Jesus Christ,
that we may serve You by serving others.
We love You with all our heart, soul, mind,
and strength. 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. 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.*

ANTHEM

C.V. Stanford, 1909

Hymn after a Song of Wisdom

William Cowper, 1769

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame;
 a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!
 Return, O holy Dove, return! sweet messenger of rest;
 I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.
 So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;
 so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Mr. Armbruster

Leader: A reading from the First Book of Samuel, the sixteenth chapter.

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 23

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

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in - to life.

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

Antiphon.

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your name.

Antiphon.

Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff,
my comfort and my hope.

Antiphon.

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.

Antiphon.

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God for evermore.

Antiphon.

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

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*THE GOSPEL HYMN

Kelvingrove, Scottish melody; arr. John L. Bell, 1987

“Will you come and follow me”

John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2 “Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
4 “Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don’t know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus)(A)
Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you’ve found to re-shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I’ll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. David

SILENCE

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: God our faithful Shepherd, we depend on You for everything we need
 And You respond in abundant provision.
 Knowing Your faithfulness in our lives,
 We bring before You the lives of others, the cares of the world
 Entrusting all things to Your goodness and mercy
 We pray for those living precariously in the midst of war and domestic violence.
 Protect we pray, immigrants and the citizens who stand in their defense.
 By the power at work in Christ, break down the walls of hostility we build
 So that we may learn to live together graciously, peacefully.
 As sheep of Your flock we pray,

All join in singing the refrain.

Leader: We remember those living in the midst of drought and famine.
 We pray for rain to fall and crops to grow,
 And for generosity to overflow from our own hands and resources,
 Until all Your children receive their daily bread;
 Until all Your children have clean water to drink,
 Until all Your children have adequate shelter and medical care,
 As sheep of Your flock, we pray.

All join in singing the refrain.

Leader: Bring healing gentle God to those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit.
Bring release to those who are held captive by old hurts
Or new bonds that oppress and entangle.
Bring freedom to those unjustly accused,
Relief to those burdened with debt,
Comfort to all who suffer from abuse of any kind
As sheep of Your flock, we pray.

All join in singing the refrain.

Leader: We pray these things in the name of the one who came that we might see,
in the name of the one who taught us to pray in one voice,

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

Steve Sterrett

Cash and designated gifts go to support **BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity)**. BREAD is the organization through which our congregation works for social justice. BREAD has nearly a 30-year history of improving the quality of life in Central Ohio by researching serious community problems and gathering the power of people in nearly 40 congregations to press public officials to implement proven solutions to those problems. BREAD rises! Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Richard Shephard, 1980

The Secret of Christ

Isaiah 42:14–16, Revelation 22:1–3, The Pilgrim Prayer by Derrick Walters

For a long time I have held my peace, but now I speak. I will lead the blind in a way they know not, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn their darkness into light, and I will not forsake them.

And he showed me a pure river of the water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God; and on either side of the river was there a tree of life, and the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations.

Help us, Lord to persevere in prayer
with minds awake and thankful hearts,
that we may share the secret of Christ
with those we meet on our earthly pilgrimage,
following in the steps of Jesus,
our Master and our Friend. Amen.

*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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. David

Leader: In gratitude O God, we come into Your presence.
For all that You have done for us,
most especially for bringing us into the light of Jesus Christ,
We offer our thanks and praise.
We long to live as children of light,
Doing what is right and bearing the fruit of the light through Jesus Christ.
May these gifts be our first steps into the pool of Your healing love.

People: Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.
People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

"I'll praise my maker while I've breath"

Old 113th, attr. Matthäus Greiter, 1525

Isaac Watts, 1719, adapt. John Wesley, 1736, alt.

1 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice
2 How hap - py they whose hopes re - ly on Is - rael's God,
3 The Lord pours eye - sight on the blind; the Lord sup - ports
4 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice

is lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.
who made the sky and earth and seas with all their train;
the faint - ing mind and sends the la - boring con - science peace.
is lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.

My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought
whose truth for - ev - er stands se - cure, who saves the op - pressed
God helps the strang - er in dis - tress, the wid - owed and
My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought

and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.
and feeds the poor, and none shall find God's prom - ise vain.
the par - ent - less, and grants the pris - oner sweet re - lease.
and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. David

VOLUNTARY

Attende Domine, Op. 8, No. 3

Jeanne Demessieux, 1947

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 Martha and Hank Wilson.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. David— Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Mr. Stafford — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

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

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“O Lord, hear my prayer” Words: Taizé Community, 1982. Music: Jacques Berthier, 1982. © 1982 Les Presses de Taizé (admin GIA Publications, Inc.) All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

Phil Armbruster, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Douglas Taft, *crucifer*

Jason Harrell, *verger*

Joshua Stafford, *director and organist*

The First Church Choir

Pat Patterson, *livestream ministry*



Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

March 15, 2026

This Week at First Church

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)

Monday, March 16

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

Tuesday, March 17

- 7 p.m. Council Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, March 18

- 7:30 a.m. Wonderfully Made: LGBTQ+ Devotional
(Zoom)
- 6 p.m. Faith Formation Mtg
(Classroom C & Teams)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Monthly Mtg
(SM Rm)

Thursday, March 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)

Friday, March 20

- 10 a.m. Lenten Small Group (Ohio Living
Westminister-Thurber)

Saturday, March 21

- 9 a.m. H&G's Spring Cleanup Day
(Church grounds)

Sunday, March 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)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
Confirmation (Classroom C)

Teens and Young Adult Study Today at 10 a.m. in the Youth Rm

As a life long young First Church member, Caroline Panahon (nee Carly Kutschbach) will present The Wisdom of World Religions. She will lead a discussion on the perspectives and wisdom of various world religions based on her studies and experiences. Middle school through young adult ages are encouraged to attend.

Adult Bible Study Today at 10 a.m. 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. Everyone is welcome to join in this study.

Lenten Small Group Today at 12:15 a.m. in the Parlor

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

Choral Evensong Today at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

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.

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 to let her know.

Second Annual Gratitude Sunday March 22

Our congregation will celebrate the second annual Gratitude Sunday on March 22 to express appreciation for a successful stewardship campaign for 2026. The stewardship campaign concluded with pledges totaling \$796,817 for 2026 from 188 households, an increase of more than 7% over the pledges for 2025. We are grateful for the generosity of our church members, and also wish to thank the many church members who volunteer through our commissions, ministries, and service projects.

The Stewardship and Growth Commission will provide special snacks for the 9 a.m. service and will host coffee hour after the 11 a.m. service.

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 at the Rusty Bucket.



Youth Mission Trip Washington, DC June 13-18

Youth ages 14 through young adult are invited on our urban mission trip to serve, learn how to help others, and be agents of change in our own communities. The program will be led by the Youth Service Opportunity Program (YSOP).

If you are interested in attending as a youth or chaperone please register using the QR Code. We are able to take up to 15 people so please register this week! If you would like to help plan the trip please email Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org. Learn more about the YSOP mission trip at <https://www.ysop.org/programs>.



Sacred Earth Eco Tip

Food production is the biggest cause of tropical deforestation. Cut your food waste by planning ahead. Be realistic about how much food you need and use your leftovers (keep them at the front of your fridge so they're not forgotten). Leftover food may be unavoidable, but you can save it and enjoy it the next day by using eco-friendly reusable food wrap and containers. Source: World Wildlife

Deep Griha Dinner

Friday, March 27

6 p.m. at First Community Church

Join us for the annual Deep Griha celebration dinner on March 27th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Wing Grace Hall at First Community North, 3777 Dublin Road.

Deep Griha is an outreach mission to the disadvantaged residents of Puna, India and the surrounding area, started in 1975. It has been supported by the members of First Congregational Church since its beginning and is continuing today with the enthusiastic participation of a number of other UCC Churches in the Central Ohio area. It is supported internationally as well.

This year also marks the 65th year of the Peace Corps. Its continued success story is a testament to how cross-cultural understanding and willingness to reach across the globe can make change.

In March of 1961, President Kennedy launched the Peace Corps with an executive order. That September, Prime Minister Nehru hosted the first three groups of Peace Corps Volunteers in India. These 750 volunteers served in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Mysore with the goal of helping to grow poultry and egg production.

The more specific goals, values, and approaches to the work of both Deep Griha and the Peace Corps are generally in line with one another. Each has the goal of providing assistance and services designed to raise people out of poverty and to provide those marginalized people with a chance for a brighter future.

Ohio has a rich history of Peace Corps service from former Governor Robert Taft who served in Tanzania in the 1960s to Anthony Joseph, the current president of White Castle who was a volunteer in Cameroon in the early 1990s. Since 1961, roughly 7,943 Ohioans have served in the Peace Corps.

In addition to an update on what is happening today at Deep Griha, the program will also help to celebrate the 65 years of the United States Peace Corps.

Ticket cost is \$30/person. Reservations are required and the deadline to register is Wednesday, March 25.



Solidarity Vigil / Community Meal

Abubakar Asiddiq Islamic Center

3 p.m., Sunday, March 29

As the day-to-day struggle of being Somali-American in our community has recently escalated into violence and hate crimes, local leaders, people of faith and good will, and neighbors must act!

You're invited to a Solidarity Vigil and Community Meal hosted by Abubakar Asiddiq Islamic Center and co-sponsored by Faith in Public Life and Ohio Interfaith Collective.

Black and Brown immigrants are being targeted by cruelty and bigotry both from the current administration and those emboldened by them. We can do something about it! We can come together and proclaim that we belong together, that we are stronger together. That is what we'll do on Sunday March 29 from 3-6 p.m. at Abubakar Asiddiq Islamic Center.

Ramadan in the Muslim tradition and Lent in the Christian tradition both began the same week. In both cases, they are seasons of fasting with a focus on charity, justice, and moral realignment. As we move through these weeks of spiritual practice, let us look ahead to Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, and the Sunday after Eid. On that day, we'll gather for prayer and proclamation, for community, and for sharing a meal generously provided by the Somali-American community that we are called to love as our neighbors.

Register today using the QR Code to attend this meaningful event!



For more information, please contact Rev. Dan Clark (he/him) at dclark@faithinpubliclife.org.

Book Club **Wednesday, April 1** **7 p.m. on Zoom**

Come enjoy lively conversation at the First Church Book Club when they discuss *Wandering Stars* by Tommy Orange. It spans more than 150 years, from the horrors of the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre in Colorado to the aftermath of a 2018 mass shooting in California. Orange's characters explore the importance of ancestors' stories, strength of tribal ties, resilience of those continuing ancestral traditions, and the need for home and hope. Please call Kathy Reed, 614-442-7742 for the Zoom link.

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 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 team leaders for a fun and required training exploring what Visitation Ministry is and how to join!

Registration is open on Realm and closes Wednesday, April 1. Individuals can also stop by the church office and sign up.

Please note: The church is required to perform a background check on all people who visit congregants. To serve as a visiting friend, you will need to pass this background check.

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 (3/18, 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 (3/20, 3/27) at 10 a.m. at Westminster Thurber in the Goodale Landing 8th floor Community Room.

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

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

Jackie Dean on Thursdays (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! Please email Rev. jess for the Zoom link.

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 Dayna McCrary's sister, Rosalind Murray; 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 Vonja 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 Dayna McCrary and family on the death of her mother-in-law, Patricia McCrary; 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 Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone.

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

March 15 - BREAD

March 22 - The Largest Table

March 29 - Good Samaritan Fund

April 5 - UCC Ohio Great Hour of Sharing

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. | Festival Worship and Holy Communion 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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