



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT NINE
MARCH 22, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

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

GATHERING

SOUNDING OF THE BELL

A period of silence is observed.

BLESSING

Rev. jess

“Where the Breath Begins”

Circle of Grace, Jan Richardson, 2016

Dry
and dry
and dry
in each direction.
Dust dry.
Desert dry.
Bone dry.
And here
in your own heart:
dry,
the center of your chest
a bare valley
stretching out
every way you turn.
Did you think
this was where
you had come to die?
It’s true that
you may need
to do some crumbling,
yes.
That some things
you have protected
may want to be
laid bare,
yes.
That you will be asked
to let go
and let go,
yes.

But listen.
This is what
a desert is for.
If you have come here
desolate,
If you have come here
deflated,
then thank your lucky stars
the desert is where
you have landed —
here where it is hard
to hide,
here where it is unwise
to rely on your own devices,
here where you will
have to look
and look again
and look close
to find what refreshment waits
to reveal itself to you.
I tell you,
though it may be hard
to see it now,
this is where
your greatest blessing
will find you.

I tell you,
this is where
you will receive
your life again.
I tell you,
this is where
the breath begins.

*GATHERING SONG
 “Not my brother, nor my sister”

Standin' in the Need of Prayer
 African American Spiritual

1. Not my broth - er, nor my sis - ter, but it's me, O Lord,
 2. Not the preach - er, nor the dea - con, but it's me, O Lord,
 3. Not my fa - ther, nor my moth - er, but it's me, O Lord,
 4. Not the strang - er, nor my neigh - bor, but it's me, O Lord,

stand - in' in the need of prayer; not my broth - er, nor my
 stand - in' in the need of prayer; not the preach - er, nor the
 stand - in' in the need of prayer; not my fa - ther, nor my
 stand - in' in the need of prayer; not the strang - er, nor my

sis - ter, but it's me, O Lord, stand - in' in the need of prayer.
 dea - con, but it's me, O Lord, stand - in' in the need of prayer.
 moth - er, but it's me, O Lord, stand - in' in the need of prayer.
 neigh - bor, but it's me, O Lord, stand - in' in the need of prayer.

Refrain

It's me, it's me, O Lord, stand - in' in the need of prayer;
 It's me,

It's me, it's me, O Lord, stand - in' in the need of prayer.
 It's me,

* INVOCATION

Rev. jess

Leader: Gracious God of all compassion and consolation,
Your breath alone brings life to dry bones and weary souls.
Pour out Your Spirit upon us,
that we may face despair and death with the hope of resurrection
and faith through Christ, our Lord.

**People: Help us to dance with the Spirit,
the breath of life, which calls us out of the valley of dry bones
and into Your community of Empowerment
both a present reality and the grounding of our future hope.
We pray in Your many names. Amen.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Leslie Fulford

Our young children are welcome to participate in "Sunday Stories."

LISTENING

LECTIO DIVINA

Rev. jess

*Lectio Divina is a contemplative scriptural practice created in the fifth century.
We have printed the scripture in the bulletin, and we encourage you if you do not need to,
to choose to listen to the scripture as it is read, rather than following along on paper.*

We will read today's gospel passage through four times: the first movement is to familiarize ourselves with the passage; the second movement is to silently allow the Spirit to reveal to each of us what Spirit has for us in this passage; the third gives us the chance to respond to our neighbors, friends, or loved ones in worship with us for a few moments about what is lifting up within us, and within others. The presiding minister will also offer a brief response. We will close the practice with sacred silence with one another and the Spirit.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:20-27

Rev. jess

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

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING

*SONG OF RESPONSE
 "Abide with me" vv. 1, 4, 5

Eventide, William Henry Monk, 1861
 Henry Francis Lyte, 1847

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide!
 earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see.
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

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.**

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN
"Adoramus te Christe"

Adoramus Te Christe, Marty Haugen, 1984
Antiphon from Good Friday Liturgy

1. A - do - ra - mus te Chri - ste, 2. a - do - ra - mus te Chri - ste,
3. a - do - ra - mus te Chri - ste, a - do - ra - mus Chri - ste.

THE OFFERTORY / MISSION MOMENT

We put our collective offering of our time, talent, and treasure to God here as a response to our experience in worship this morning. As is our practice, each week, we will give to a different mission working to bring justice, equity, and peace to the world. Please give generously in gratitude for our shared worship.

Any amount significant to you is significant to us. Thank you.

To give online, please scan this QR code:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. jess

Cash and designated contributions today go to **Deep Griha**, which means “house of lights” in many Indian languages. Through the illuminating paths of education, healthcare, and community building, Deep Griha equips individuals in marginalized areas in Puna, India with the skills and confidence to build brighter futures. First Church was instrumental in starting the Deep Griha mission in 1975 when Dr. Neela Onawale and her husband Rev. Bhaskar Onawale visited, seeking support. Deep Griha has constantly expanded and adapted in response to community needs and opportunities, providing access to education for young children, skill-building for youth, healthcare access to all in the urban communities it serves, and a Healthy Aging program for senior citizens. Thank you for your generous, continuing support.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

David Hogrefe

*BENEDICTION

Rev. jess

*CLOSING HYMN

Marty Haugen, 1985

“Lead us from death to life”

Satish Kumar, 1981

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to
truth, from des - pair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to
peace; let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our
world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

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

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“Lead us from death to life.” Marty Haugen, 1985. © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. jessica young chang, *preacher*

Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*

David Hogrefe, *pianist*

Mike Kennedy, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

March 22, 2026

This Week at First Church

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)

Monday, March 23

- 6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Practice
 (Bell Rm)
- 7 p.m. Assoc. Ministers Advisory Group Mtg
 (Parlor)
 Search Committee Mtg
 (Parish Family Rm)

Tuesday, March 24

- 10 a.m. Lenten Small Group (Susie Loik's home)
- 6 p.m. Lenten Small Group
 (Hank and Martha Wilson's home)
- 7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 25

- 7:30 a.m. Wonderfully Made: LGBTQ+ Devotional
 (Zoom)
- 6 p.m. Dinner Out (Rusty Bucket, Bexley)

Thursday, March 26

- 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 27

- 10 a.m. Full Circle Connections (Parlor)
 Lenten Small Group (Ohio Living
 Westminister-Thurber)
- 11:30 a.m. Faith Mission Food Prep & Serve
 (Kitchen)
- 6 p.m. Deep Griha Dinner
 (First Community Church,
 North Campus)

Sunday, March 29 — Palm Sunday

- 9 a.m. Worship Service and
 Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Sunday School Classes
 (Various Classrooms)
 Adult Bible Study (Classroom C)
 First Serves (Classroom D)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
 Lenten Small Group (Parlor)
- 3 p.m. Solidarity Vigil and
 Community Meal
 (Abubakar Asiddiq Islamic Ctr)

Adult Bible Study

Today at 10 a.m. in Classroom C

Rev. Margot Connor and Rev. Larry Miller continue the series on the Psalms. They 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.

Second Annual Gratitude Sunday **Today, March 22**

Our congregation will celebrate the second annual Gratitude Sunday in appreciation of a successful 2026 stewardship campaign. Our 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. 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.

**First Church Reads:
2026 Lenten Reflection
*How to Know a Person***

First Church Reads: 2026 Lenten Reflection continues with our 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 Sunday (3/29) at 12:30 p.m. in the Adult Library at First Church.

Rev. Jess Young Chang on Wednesdays (3/25, 4/1, 4/8) at 7:30 a.m. on Zoom.

Antoinette Koolemans-Beyen and Becky Taft on Friday (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.

**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.



**Lenten Labyrinth Walk
Parish Hall
March 31 at 6:30 p.m.**

Walking the labyrinth is a ritual form that is thousands of years old and is often seen as a metaphor for our spiritual journey. This walking meditation is an opportunity for you to discover the Divine as you experience the transformative energy within its twists and turns.

You are invited to join Jackie Dean in Parish Hall to learn a brief history of and then to walk the labyrinth as part of your contemplative experience of Holy Week. Finger labyrinths will be available for anyone who may have mobility issues.

**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.

Wandering Stars spans more than 150 years, from the horrors of the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre in Colorado to the pain inflicted at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania to the aftermath of a 2018 mass shooting in Oakland, California. What does it mean to be Native American in the U.S., to survive cultural erasure? How do generations find ways through the long-term effects of massacre, dislocation, and forced assimilation?

In this prequel/sequel to *There There*, Orange's characters explore family, loss, history, addiction, and the importance of ancestors' stories, the strength of tribal ties, the resilience of those who continue ancestral traditions, and the need for home and hope.

Please call Kathy Reed, 614-442-7742 with any questions, to receive book club emails, or 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! Please join the team that shows others you care. Visitation Ministry is a wonderful way to share Christ's love and while caring for one another. Join Rev. Jess and members of the Congregational Care Ministries team leaders for the required training and explore 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: A background check on people who visit congregants is required.

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>.



Call for Pride Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help plan First Church participation in the Columbus Pride March. This event allows us to extend our welcome to all LGBTQ+. Please contact Wayne Henry at wayne@43homes.com to get involved with this great opportunity to showcase our open and affirming community.

Congratulations to Jack Drake

We celebrate with Jack Drake as he was recently awarded the Walter M. Rudin Most Distinguished Junior Pace Setter Award from The Ohio State University. This award is the highest honor given by the Max M. Fisher College of Business, and is awarded to one third-year student each year for outstanding academic achievement, leadership and service to the community.

Jack was chosen for his service as a Fisher Ambassador where he represents the College by giving tours and informational sessions for future Business Buckeyes and for his impact as President of Fisher's Aviation Management Organization. In that role, he has made it the largest aviation focused student organization, and boosted interest in Fisher's Aviation Management specialization as a whole through outreach programs. Jack has inspired many to consider careers in the aviation industry through events sponsored by Fisher's Office of Career Management.

Here at First Church we can find him participating in the Chancel Choir, as a crucifer, and as co-leader of the Bliss Neighborhood Group. Congratulations Jack!

Sacred Earth Eco Tip

Central Ohio Crime Stoppers is hosting a fund-raising shredding event on Saturday, April 4th, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 775 Taylor Road in Gahanna. They will only accept paper and have a 5 box limit. A \$15.00 per car donation will help stop central Ohio crime.

Crime Stoppers receives calls with tips and information on unsolved crime or wanted persons. Tips that result in the apprehension of a felony suspect qualifies the caller for a cash reward from the Central Ohio Crime Stoppers Board.

Deep Griha Dinner

Friday, March 27

6 p.m. at First Community Church

Join us for the annual Deep Griha celebration dinner in Wing Grace Hall at First Community North Campus, 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.

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.

In addition to an update on what is happening today at Deep Griha, this program will also 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! As such, you are 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 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.



First Serves for March

Sunday, March 29, at 10 a.m. in Classroom D

During the month of March, First Serves is collecting items for hygiene care kits for CHOICES, a program of Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Since 1977, CHOICES has served and helped protect Central Ohioans facing domestic violence. We are collecting full size hygiene products that the women receive when entering the shelter. These items include women's shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrush, and deodorant. Leave your products at the Giving Tree in the Education Wing, outside of the church office, or in the narthex. We will organize and bag up the kits on March 29. Please share your generosity of time, talent, and treasure with the women of CHOICES.

Keep in Prayer

Members Charles Wagner; Jane Weddle; Al Waddell; Jane Ward; Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Francille Firebaugh; Nancy Burba; John Carter; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt.

Family and friends Susan Brooks' friends, Marti and Ned Timmons; 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;

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 Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Family Village Farm, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India.

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

March 22 - Deep Griha March 29 - Good Samaritan Fund April 5 - UCC Ohio Great Hour of Sharing
April 12 - The Largest Table April 19 - Ohio Wildlife Center

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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