



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT NINE
MARCH 29, 2026
PALM SUNDAY

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.

GATHERING

SOUNDING OF THE BELL

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jill Hultin

Leader: On this day, Jesus marched

**People: in between the city walls and the Temple,
in between joyful Hosannas and doubtful whispers,
in between oppressive poverty and greedy power,
in between rampant fear and hope unfurled.**

Leader: On this day, Jesus marched in between what had been and what could be.

**People: So may we meet Christ in that liminal space.
May we lay down our coats in that messy middle.**

Leader: Hosanna in the highest!

People: Hosanna in between!

*INVOCATION

Rev. Becky

Leader: God of the cross, tottering down the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey,
You are not the savior we expect.

Your power doesn't look like the power we want our God to have.
Your wisdom makes no sense to us.

We are happy to join the crowd, waving branches,
but not so sure we want to follow you through this Holy Week:
into the temple courts
into the upper room
into the Garden of Gethsemane
to the high priest's house,
to the assembly of elders,
to Pilate,
to Herod,
to the place of The Skull,
to the foot of the cross.

People: We need you to go with us on this journey.
Grant us clear vision,
courageous hearts,
persistent steps.
Even though we know what this week will bring, we sing:
Hosanna, hosanna.
Save us, we beseech you! Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Becky

Leader: When the parade is over, do we pick up our lives, brush them off, and live in the old way?
Do we toss our palm branches aside, so we can grasp the seductions of the world?
As we begin the journey through the holiest of weeks, let us speak the truth,
as we confess to our God, praying together,

People: Ever constant Love, you pave the way to the kingdom,
but we prefer to stub our toes on the potholed roads of temptation.
You would touch the cup of grace to our parched lips,
but we seem to hunger for the ashy taste of bitterness.
You beg us to learn the songs of salvation,
but we hum along with the chorus death plays in the background of our lives.
Have mercy upon us, God of Holiness.
As you come to us, you bring healing for our brokenness,
peace for our troubled lives, hope for our doubting minds.
May we empty ourselves of everything which keeps us from following you,
so we may receive these gifts, and more, from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Leader: Laying aside judgment, God offers us redemption;
setting aside anger, God embraces us with love;
letting go of grief, God pours living water upon us.
This is the good news, my friends:
God's steadfast love endures forever.

People: Hosanna! Hosanna!
Blessed is the One who brings us the kingdom of God!
Amen.

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Becky

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Rev. Becky

Leader: Bless these parade palms, O God of Celebration.
May they remind us of the simple joys of living.
May we remember the excitement that comes with following Christ.
Bless these protest palms, O God of Justice.
May they remind us that Empire is not a thing of the past.
May they make us bold and brave to stand up against injustice.
Bless these funeral palms, O God of Comfort.
May they remind us of the road that lies ahead.
May they encourage us in times of grief and pain.

**People: We give you thanks for the parade, the protest, the processional.
Guide our steps through this holiest of weeks
as we cry out together "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!" Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN

Valet will ich dir geben, Melchior Teschner, 1614

“All glory, laud, and honor”

Theodulph of Orleans, c. 820; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King!

to Refrain

*During the singing of the hymn, please lay palms on the steps to the mezzanine, forming the shape of the cross.
Our young children are invited to process to “Sunday Stories.”*

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Cash and designated gifts go to support First Church's **Good Samaritan Fund**. Each month "Good Sam" provides financial help to people in need who come to our church seeking assistance. Every effort is made to meet the unique, emergency needs of these neighbors. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

David Hogrefe

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Becky

*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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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

Jill Hultin, *liturgist*

Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*

David Hogrefe, *pianist*

Geoffrey Dean, *livestream ministry*

EXPERIENCE HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT FIRST CHURCH

Maundy Thursday, April 2

Liturgy of the Lord's Supper, 7 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3

Tenebrae Service, 7 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 4

Easter Vigil, 7 p.m.

With choir, brass, and percussion.

Prosecco reception to follow.

Easter Sunday, April 5

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

Easter Egg Hunt on the Playground, 10 a.m.

Festival Worship and Holy Communion in the Sanctuary, 11 a.m.

With The First Church Choir, two organs, brass, and percussion



Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

March 29, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, March 29 — Palm Sunday

- 9 a.m. Worship Service and
 Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. 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)

Monday, March 30

- 6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Practice
 (Bell Rm)
- 7 p.m. Holy Week Deacon Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, March 31

- 5 p.m. Laundry Love (Wash Land)
- 6 p.m. Lenten Small Group
 (Hank and Martha Wilson's home)
- 7 p.m. Lenten Labyrinth Walk (Parish Hall)

Wednesday, April 1

- 7:30 a.m. Wonderfully Made: LGBTQ+ Devotional
 (Zoom)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Monthly Mtg
 (SM Office)
- 7 p.m. Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, April 2 — Maundy Thursday

- 7 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Supper (Sanctuary)

Friday, April 3 — Good Friday

- 7 p.m. Tenebrae Service (Sanctuary)

Saturday, April 4 — Holy Saturday

- 7 p.m. Easter Vigil (Sanctuary)

Sunday, April 5 — Easter Sunday

- 7 a.m. Sunrise Service (Washington
 Gladden Social Justice Park)
- 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt and Donut Hour
 Sam Gordon Playground &
 Education Wing)
- 11 a.m. Festival Worship and
 Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

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.

First Serves for March

Today at 10 a.m. in Classroom D

First Serves has collected items for hygiene care kits for women at CHOICES, a program of Lutheran Social Services. CHOICES has served and helped protect Central Ohio women facing domestic violence since 1977.

We collected full size hygiene products for women entering the shelter. Donated items will be put into the kits today. Please come share your generosity of time, talent, and treasure with the women at CHOICES.

Solidarity Vigil / Community Meal Abubakar Asiddiq Islamic Center Today, March 29 at 3 p.m.

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 using the QR Code to attend this meaningful event. Please contact Rev. Dan Clark (he/him) at dclark@faithinpubliclife.org for more information.



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

We are close to ending our season of Lenten Reflections and our small-group conversations centering on *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others and Being Deeply Seen* by David Brooks.

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 (4/1, 4/8) at 7:30 a.m. on Zoom.

Susie Loik on Tuesday (4/7) at 10 a.m. in her home.

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

Jackie Dean on Thursday (4/9) at 1 p.m. in the Parish Family Room at First Church.

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?

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>.



Sacred Earth Eco Tip

Have you started your Spring Cleaning yet? Here's an effective, eco-friendly cleaning solution for kitchen countertops, bathroom surfaces & appliances.

Ingredients are 1 cup white vinegar; 1 cup water; 1 sliced lemon or 10 drops of lemon essential oil; 1 tablespoon Castile soap (optional for extra grease-cutting power). Combine all ingredients in a reusable spray bottle. Let it sit for 24 hours if using lemon slices to infuse the vinegar.

Vinegar cuts through grease and kills bacteria, while lemon and essential oils add antibacterial properties and a fresh scent. **Avoid using vinegar on granite or marble** as it can etch stone, use Castile soap & water instead.

Source: Sustainable Spring Cleaning Tips & Products for 2025.

Summer Camp Registration Time

There are many ways to engage children, youth, adults & families in the faith, fellowship and outdoor fun of summer camps, and First Church makes it easy with early registrations and camper scholarships for youth. Here are some to consider:

First Church Singing & Ringing Day Camp will be offered June 8-12, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Children entering grades 2-8 are invited to explore choral singing, handbells, Choir Chimes, and the two magnificent First Church organs led by talented music professionals in this fun weeklong day camp at First Church. No musical experience or faith background required—just bring your curiosity and enthusiasm! Financial assistance is available to anyone in need.

Camp Christian UCC Camps offers *In the Wilderness* as this summer's theme for Heartland UCC camps at Camp Christian in Marysville. There are many programs to choose from for youth and adults of all ages.

Social Justice Day Camp at Broad Street Presbyterian Church, for rising K-5th graders runs June 1-4, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Youth explore multiple justice themes in child-appropriate ways through hands-on learning, with plenty of play and fun.

Family Camp at Camp Akita is August 14-16. Family Camp is a weekend of outdoor family fun in the Hocking Hills, full of swimming, kayaking, giant soap slides, basketball, nature hikes, singing, crafts, vespers and great food & accommodations (really!). Akita staff even provides nighttime childcare so parents and older kids can stay out late after little ones turn in. This camp is run by First Community UCC.

First Church is happy to provide camper scholarships for any First Church children and youth who want to attend a church related camp, thanks to the generosity of the late Alma Keeler. Scholarships are for 50% of the camp cost on the early registration fee, after the \$75 deposit. To request the Alma Keeler scholarship, there is the "Campership Request" form to be completed and submitted to Annette McCormick by April 14 at 5 p.m.

Contact Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org for more information and to request the Campership Request form. Links to more detailed information is available in Connections.

Keep in Prayer

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

Family and friends Malini Peter's friend, Usha Rangarajan; 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 Allen Baker on the death of his husband, Al Waddell; Wayne Henry and Sean Dingus on the death of Wayne's father, Wayne Henry; Nathaniel Powell and Brian Pousak on the death of Brian's grandmother, Barbara Pousak; Dayna McCrary and family on the death of her mother-in-law, Patricia McCrary.

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 the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Peace Bible Schools in El Salvador.

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

March 29 - Good Samaritan Fund

April 19 - Ohio Wildlife Center

April 5 - UCC Ohio Great Hour of Sharing

April 26 - Moms Demand Action

April 12 - The Largest Table

Call for Columbus Pride Volunteers

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



Let's have Sacred Conversations

In the past two years, I have shared the goals for this transitional time at First Church – to become healthy and whole in our relationships and ministry together, and to be ready to fully welcome new spiritual leaders into our church. Recently, based on a conversation about welcome and inclusion at the March 8th Congregational Conversation, the Transition Team is focusing on how we, as individuals and as a congregation, live with justice and mercy for all.

The Open and Affirming Statement of First Congregational Church begins, “We welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God’s image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us.” What does that mean and what does it look like? Now is the time to ask these and other hard questions and do what can be uncomfortable self-reflective work. Now is a time to share experiences that serve as invitations for connection. I believe we love each other not through abstract ideas, but through our connections of lived experiences. I believe this is another way we become healthy and prepare for next ministries.

Please join me, Rev. Becky, and the Transition Team for Sacred Conversations about what it means to be open and affirming at First Congregational Church. We will meet after 11am worship on April 26, May 17, May 31, and June 14. A light lunch will be included.

Sarah Reed, Moderator

Information for our faith community from the 2026 Stewardship Campaign

By Steve Sterrett, commissioner

Stewardship and Growth Commission

In this time of ministerial transition, we should look forward to new church leadership, but we also should pay attention to whom we are as a congregation and to plan for the future. Demographic information from the 2026 stewardship campaign offers important insight into the composition of our church membership.

First, let me express gratitude for the great response to the recently completed stewardship campaign. We raised \$797,247 in pledges for 2026 from 189 households. The pledge total is a 7.4% increase over the pledges for 2025. I thank all of our members for their pledges.

Printed below is demographic data on the pledges for 2026 by the various age groups within our congregation.

| Age group | Number in group | Pledge totals | Average pledge |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 49 & under | 13 | \$ 32,150 | \$ 2,473 |
| 50 to 59 | 30 | \$163,500 | \$ 5,450 |
| 60 to 69 | 34 | \$106,820 | \$ 3,142 |
| 70 to 79 | 55 | \$214,947 | \$ 3,908 |
| 80+ | 43 | \$251,950 | \$ 5,859 |
| <u>No age listed</u> | <u>14</u> | <u>\$ 27,880</u> | <u>\$ 1,991</u> |
| Grand total | 189 | \$797,247 | \$ 4,218 |

By comparison, we have demographic data from our congregation's 2003 stewardship campaign when 238 households pledged a total of \$464,365, averaging \$1,951 per giving unit. Here is the number of households by age group:

| | |
|------------|----|
| 39 & under | 44 |
| 40 to 49 | 53 |
| 50 to 59 | 36 |
| 60 to 69 | 29 |
| 70 to 79 | 41 |
| 80+ | 35 |

Comparing 2026 to 2003, the data clearly underscores the aging of our church's membership. In 2026, more than half the pledging households were 70 years of age and older. The households that averaged the highest pledges were 80 years of age and older.

While I am extremely grateful that our members who are older than 70 are committed to our church and most likely have the resources to pledge at the highest levels, I also recognize they are not likely to be with us in 10 to 20 years.

Our faith community's future requires that we continue to attract new members and welcome them into our congregation. If we expect to attract new members, however, we must be open to examining and, as necessary, changing the way we do "church."

I suspect our church will always be characterized by a commitment to social justice and to music and other liturgical arts, but the programs and activities that fulfill these commitments may need to evolve to meet the expectations younger generations. I suggest we also may need to more actively engage our members in small groups, service projects, social activities, and spiritual direction that build the sense of "community" that is lacking in our secular culture.

One example might be a larger investment of resources in our 9 a.m. worship service that is reaching a growing segment of our congregation. Perhaps, we also should grow support for congregational care, particularly ministries that reach older members who may be less able to attend worship services in person and ministries that enable members to know one another through small group activities and service projects.

As the commissioner for stewardship and growth, I don't have the prescription for how our church should evolve over the next decade. As a congregation, we do have the human and capital resources to figure that out. But we must be open to change. That will determine whether we are a thriving faith community in 10 years or a dwindling congregation desperately trying to maintain an historic cathedral building with inadequate resources.

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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