



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.

PRELUDES

“Christ lag in Todesbanden” (Christ Jesus lay in Death's Strong Bonds)

BWV #625- J. S. Bach

“I Know That My Redeemer Liveth,” from “Messiah”

G. F. Handel

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day
Upon the earth. And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall
I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

ENTER TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. William R. Nirote

Leader: You, Resurrection and Life, are all that we have,
You are our food and drink, You are our warmth and provision.

**People: You remind us in the blossom of flower and the miracle of the empty tomb,
that there is Life after death.**

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

*Leader: Our hearts are happy and our tongues sing with joy,
we are held by You, Holy One, who draw us into your light.

**People: In Your love and Your life, we are at peace, we belong;
You breathe into us and we are filled with your Spirit.**

Leader: Let us worship You in community and in reflection,
In connection and in presence.

People: Our Christ is risen; Let us celebrate together!

Leader: Let us worship You in Spirit and in Truth.

People: Let us worship You in thought, word, and action.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN
"Christ is alive"

Truro, Musica Sacra, c. 1778
Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1995

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

*INVOCATION

Rev. Nirote

Leader: Let us pray:
Like fragrance on the springtime breeze,
We put our worship and our gratitude before You, God,
And we receive the breath of your Spirit, in our hearts and our lives.

People: **Be among us now, and companion us in worship,
show us your teachings and your ways, and
draw us to your path, that we may ever move closer to You.
This we pray in the name of the Risen Christ, Amen.**



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo-ple on



earth. Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-migh-ty God and Fath - er, we wor-ship you, we



give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fath-er, Lord, God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the



Fath - er: re - ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the



Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the



Fath - er. A - men, A - men.

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Nirote

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

** When you return to your seat, please find the blue Welcome notebook at the end of the pew, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor so we may greet one another by name.*

ANTHEM

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski, 1988

“In The Garden”

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Lyle Barkhymer

Leader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the second chapter.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

1 When in the night I med - i - tate on
 2 For - ev - er in my thought, the Lord be -
 3 My in - most be - ing thrills with joy and
 4 I know that I shall not be left for -
 5 The path of life you show to me; of

mer - cies mul - ti - plied, my grate - ful heart in -
 fore my face shall stand; se - cure, un - moved I
 glad - ness fills my breast; be - cause on God my
 got - ten in the grave, and from cor - rup - tion,
 joy a bound - less store is ev - er found at

spires my tongue to bless the Lord, my guide.
 shall re - main, with God at my right hand.
 trust is stayed, my flesh in hope shall rest.
 you, O Lord, your ho - ly one will save.
 your right hand, and plea - sures ev - er - more.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 20:29

The cantor introduces the Alleluia, which is then repeated by the Congregation.

Following the verse, all repeat the Alleluia.

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Verse: You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord;
 blessed are they who have not seen me, but still believe!

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

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

"Blessed Are Those Who Believe"

Rev. Nirote

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev. Nirote

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.**

*HYMN

O filii et filiae, French melody, 15th c.

“O sons and daughters, let us sing” vv 1-4 Attr. Jean Tisserand, 15th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1852

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

1 O sons and daughters, let us sing with
2 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; a -
3 When Thom - as first the ti - dings heard, how
4 “My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see; and

heaven - ly hosts to Christ our King; to - day the grave has
mong them came their Lord most dear, and said, “My peace be
they had seen the ris - en Lord, he doubt - ed the dis -
look up - on my hands, my feet; not faith - less, but be -

lost its sting!
with you here.”
ci - ples’ word.
liev - ing be.” Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Fine

THE OFFERTORY

To give online, please scan this QR code, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Fran Panek

Cash and designated gifts go to support **The Largest Table**. Every Wednesday, for more than twelve years, volunteers provide food for individuals and families in the community who are in need. This program transitioned to grab-and-go lunches during COVID in the Spring of 2020. The First Church meal team gathers on the third Wednesday of each month to make and pack up to 100 lunches. Your gifts will help purchase the supplies for our meal team to support this feeding ministry. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

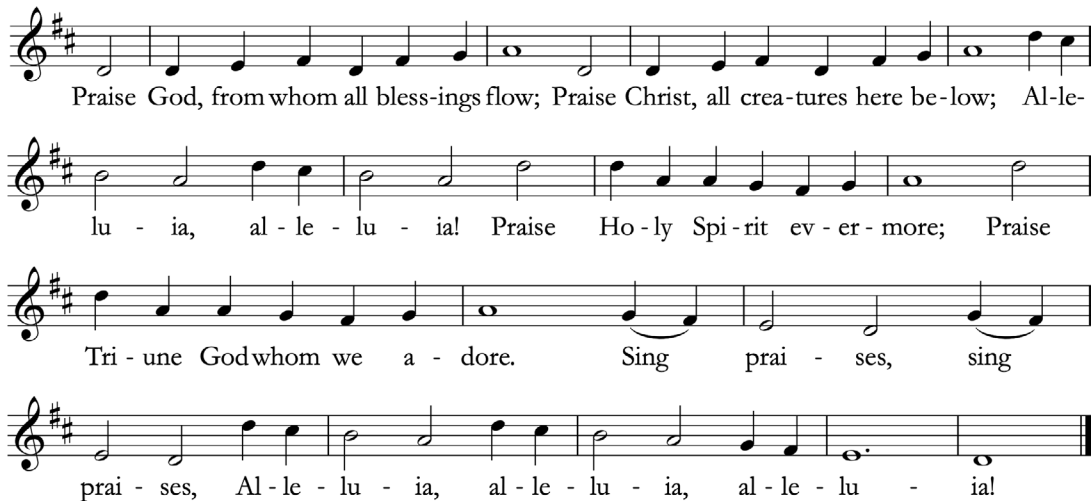
G. F. Handel

“But Thou Didst Not Leave”

He was cut off out the land of the living; for the transgressions of thy people was he stricken.
But thou didst not leave his soul in hell; neither didst thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption.

*PRESENTATION HYMN

Lasst uns erfreuen



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Christ, all crea-tures here be-low; Al-le-
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more; Praise
Tri - une Godwhom we a - dore. Sing prai - ses, sing
prai - ses, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*CLOSING HYMN
"This Joyful Eastertide"

Vruechten, Psalmen, 1685
George R. Woodward, 1894, alt.

1. This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and sor - row! My
2. Death's flood hath lost its chill, since Je - sus crossed the riv - er: Lord
3. My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a sea - son slum - ber, till

Refrain

Love, the Cru - ci - fied, hath sprung to life this mor - row.
of all life, from ill my pass - ing life de - liv - er. Had
trump from east to west shall wake the dead in num - ber.

Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day pris - on, our faith had been in vain;

but now is Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Nirote

VOLUNTARY

"This Joyful Eastertide"

arr. Jan Bender

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.

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in memory of Lung-Hsiung Chang by CP Chang and Jessica Young Chang.

† PLEASE JOIN US IN PARISH HALL FOR COFFEE HOUR, hosted by the Euphoric Neighborhood Care Circle led by Jean and Sam Lebold.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Nirote — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Ms. Kulwicki — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

Mrs. Fulford — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY
The Rev. Dr. William R. Nirote, *preacher*
Lyle Barkhymer, *liturgist*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
Jim Griffin, *crucifer*
Matthew and Camille Bendick, *verggers*
Barry Moenter, *organist*
Geoffrey Gear, *soloist*
The First Church Ringers
Jim Gallagher, *conductor*
Mike Kennedy, *livestream ministry*



Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

April 12, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, April 12

- 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)
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)

Monday, April 13

- 12 p.m. Card Care Ministry (Fanning Rm)
- 6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Practice (Bell Rm)
- 7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, April 14

- 5:30 p.m. Budget and Finance Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, April 15

- 10 a.m. The Largest Table Food Prep and Delivery (Zoom)
- 6 p.m. Faith Formation Mtg (Classroom C & Teams)

Thursday, April 16

- 11 a.m. Fiber Arts Ministry (Fanning Rm)
- 6 p.m. First Church Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

Saturday, April 18

- 9 a.m. Women's Retreat (Westminster-Thurber Heritage Pointe Party Rm)

Sunday, April 19

- 9 a.m. Worship Service and Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
 - 10 a.m. Sunday School Classes (Various Classrooms)
Adult Faith Formation (Classroom C)
Youth Bible Study (Youth Rm)
 - 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
 - 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour and Sales (Parish Hall)
 - 12:30 p.m. Congregational Care Visitation Training (Fanning Rm)
 - 4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)
-

Adult Faith Formation Today at 10 a.m. in Classroom C

Attend this new class on *The Wisdom of World Religions* with Caroline Panahon, also to be offered Sunday, April 19. Every world religion includes revelation of divine wisdom and teaches the practitioner how to build a relationship with the divine. In this course, Caroline will discuss eight of the major world religions, their similarities, and their differences.

Caroline Panahon (aka Carly Kutschbach) grew up at First Church, from baptism to confirmation. Her experiences in confirmation sparked a love for interfaith work, and inspired her to seek higher education in world religions. Carly received bachelor's and master's degrees in religious studies, specializing in interfaith dialogue and critical theory respectively. Her experiences in the field have taken her around the world to visit houses of worship, holy sites, and meet people of all faiths. She aspires to educate people on diverse traditions from an unbiased perspective.

The Message of the Psalms with Revs. Margot Connor and Larry Miller will resume on April 26.

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

One of the purposes of a spiritual practice is to cultivate self-care and spiritual growth while deepening one's relationship with God. Please join Jackie Dean when she leads us as we explore and engage in the spiritual practice of prayer using Lectio/Visio Divina, praying with colors and centering prayer.

There will be food for the morning welcome, and a salad luncheon will be available for lunch. A "goodwill" offering of \$10 will cover the cost of materials Jackie will use and the food.

Please use the QR Code to register on Realm.



Pride March Planning Meeting Monday, April 20, at 11 a.m.

Join us in the Fanning Room for pizza and help plan for the 2026 Stonewall Columbus Pride March. First Church will be in attendance at this year's March on Saturday, June 20, 2026. We need volunteers to plan for this event. Please contact Wayne Henry at wayne@43homes.com if you can attend this important meeting.

We are also looking for individuals who want to participate in the March. There will be a float available for those who would prefer to ride than walk. Please register for the Pride March on Realm using the QR Code.



For over 40 years Stonewall Columbus has served the Central Ohio community working to uplift LGBTQ+ identities. Stonewall's annual PRIDE Festival and March serve as the organization's largest annual fundraiser.

New Members Class Saturday, April 25 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Are you interested in exploring membership at First Congregational Church? There will be a new member class where you can learn more about us.

Attending a new member class is not required to be accepted into membership; however, we do encourage potential new members to attend the class. Participants will meet our ministers and lay leaders, learn the congregation's history, and the opportunities for spiritual growth and service.

The Stewardship and Growth Commission organizes the class, in cooperation with our ministers. A boxed lunch will be served. To register for the class, please contact the church office at (614) 228-1741 or note your interest in the pew pad.

Sacred Conversations Sundays: April 26, May 17, May 31, and June 14, at 12:30 p.m.

The Transition Team is focusing on how we, as individuals and as a congregation, live with justice and mercy for all. Our Open and Affirming Statement of First Congregational Church begins with, "We welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and are 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.

Please join Moderator, Sarah Reed, Rev. Becky, and the Transition Team for these Sacred Conversations about what it means to be open and affirming at First Congregational Church. We will meet after 11 a.m. worship and a light lunch will be included.

First Serves in April Sunday, April 26, at 10 a.m. in Classroom D

During the month of April, First Serves in collaboration with Sacred Earth will be collecting items for the Ohio Wildlife Center. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Ohio Wildlife Center is dedicated to fostering awareness and appreciation of Ohio's native wildlife through rehabilitation, education, and wildlife health studies.

For over 40 years, Ohio Wildlife Center has cared for injured, orphaned, and ill native wildlife. As the state's largest rehabilitation center, they rely on a dedicated team of staff and volunteers to make this work possible. Their need for supplies is ongoing.

First Church will collect paper towels, septic safe toilet paper, and non-lotion tissues. We will collect these items by the giving tree in the education wing, outside the church office, and in the narthex. We will come together at 10 a.m. on April 26 to organize the products for delivery.

Please share your generosity of time, talent, and treasure with those who care for the wildlife of Ohio. To learn more about the Ohio Wildlife Center please visit their website at <https://ohiowildlifecenter.org/>. An offertory for the Ohio Wildlife Center will be Sunday, April 19.

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 wondered about recycling beauty products?

We found a nonprofit that recycles them! Products like mascara tubes and wands, droppers and applicators, pumps and dispensers, caps, colored glass bottles and jars, plastic and aluminum squeezable tubes, toothpaste tubes, and floss containers!

Three reasons beauty products can't be accepted in regular recycling bins are that they are small containers, made of mixed materials, and aren't labeled with a recycling number.

So... these products can be taken to Sephora and Ulta Beauty stores and placed in a special bin for the Pact Collective. Pact is a nonprofit collective uniting the beauty industry to reduce beauty packaging waste and work collaboratively toward more circular solutions for the industry. Check out their website too... <https://www.pactcollective.org/>. It has lots of good information!

BREAD Earth Day Forum Congregation Tifereth Israel Wednesday, April 22, at 10 a.m.

The BREAD Forum is "Our Trees, Our Health - Why Tree Loss Matters" and will share compelling data and analysis from health care experts and others about the growing health problems in Columbus neighborhoods caused by tree canopy loss. Learn what the city can do to protect mature trees, and improve public health outcomes for vulnerable residents.

The topics that will be covered include:

- The link between tree canopy loss and respiratory illness, heat stress, and mental health
- The exceptionally low tree canopy in Columbus
- Disparities in tree coverage across Columbus neighborhoods
- Policy solutions to protect mature trees and expand urban canopy

Please plan to attend this informational forum on why tree loss matters and what we can do to safeguard our trees.

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

Family and friends Annette McCormick's niece, Abbie McCormick; 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; 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; Matt Myers' sister, Erin Myers; and Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples.

Those who mourn Barbara Mason on the death of her sister, Theresa Dawson; Allen Baker on the death of his husband, Al Waddell; Wayne Henry and Shawn Dingus on the death of Wayne's father, Wayne Henry; Nathaniel Powell and Brian Pousak on the death of Brian's grandmother, Barbara Pousak.

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:

April 12 - The Largest Table

April 19 - Ohio Wildlife Center

April 26 - Moms Demand Action

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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