



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
APRIL 19, 2026
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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
Improvisation

ENTER TO WORSHIP (*Iona Community*)

Andrew Welsh-Huggins

Leader: With the whole church,
**People: We affirm that we are made in God's image,
Befriended by Christ,
Empowered by the Holy Spirit.**

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

*Leader: With people everywhere,
**People: We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
Planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

Leader: With all creation,
**People: We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life,
The unfolding purposes of God,
For ever at work in ourselves and the world.**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN
"Now the green blade riseth"

Noël Nouvelet, French carol
John M. C. Crum, 1928, alt.



1. Now the green blade ris - eth from the bur - ied grain, wheat that in dark earth
2. In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain, think - ing that nev - er
3. Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain, he that for three days
4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain, your touch can call us



man - y days has lain; love lives a - gain, that with the dead has
he would wake a - gain, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un -
in the grave had lain, quick from the dead my ris - en Lord is
back to life a - gain, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have

Refrain



been:
seen: Love is come a - gain like wheat that spring - eth green.
seen:
been:

*INVOCATION (by John Birch)

Rev. jessica young chang

Leader: O God of all our days,
we come this morning with eager anticipation.
We seek to know you, to see you, to touch you.
Open our hearts,
that we might experience you anew.
Open our lives,
that we may be faithful witnesses to your resurrection.

People: **May we, with shouts of joy,
proclaim your steadfast, liberating love
to all people, everywhere. 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.

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.*

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Mr. Welsh-Huggins

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

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Psalms 116:10-17

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

Psalm 116: 8

Organ: *I will walk in the pres-ence of the*

Everyone: *Lord, in the land of the liv-ing.*

How shall I repay the Lord
 for all the good things he has done for me?
 I will lift up the cup of salvation
 and call upon the Name of the Lord.
 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
 in the presence of all his people.
 Precious in the sight of the Lord
 is the death of his servants.

Antiphon

O Lord, I am your servant;
 I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
 you have freed me from my bonds.
 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
 and call upon the Name of the Lord.
 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
 in the presence of all his people,
 In the courts of the Lord's house,
 in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
 Hallelujah!

Antiphon

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 24:32

The Choir 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: Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us;
 make our hearts burn while you speak to us.

*THE GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

Rev. David

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. David

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. young chang

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
"Day of arising"

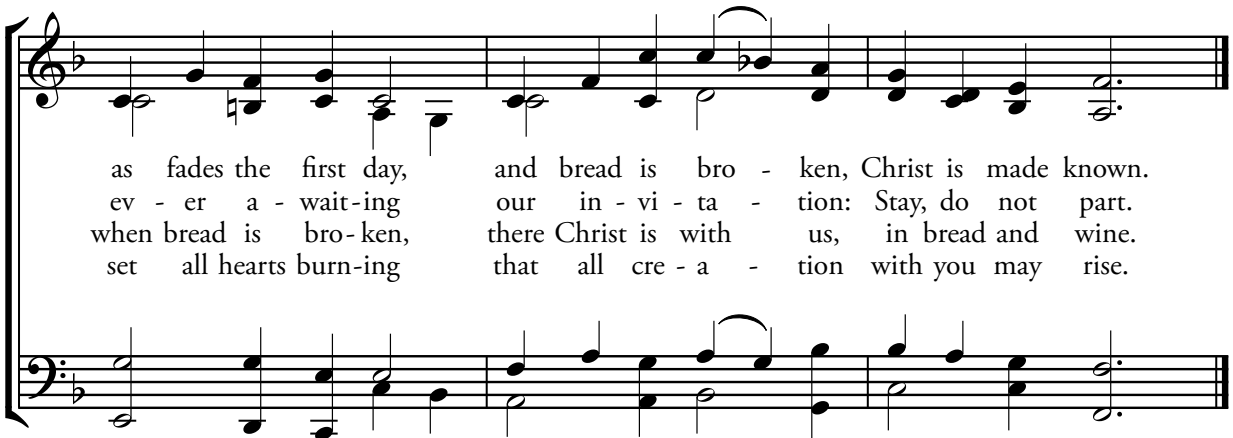
Raabe, Carl F. Schalk, 1999
Susan Palo Cherwien, 1996



1. Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way, un-known com - pan - ion walks
2. When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing, blind - ed by sad - ness, slow
3. Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken. This is Christ's prom - ise, this
4. Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney, bread of com - pas - sion, o -



with his own. When they in - vite him,
- ness of heart, yet Christ walks with us,
is Christ's sign: when the church gath - ers,
- pen our eyes. Grant us your vi - sion,



as fades the first day, and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
ev - er a - wait - ing our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
when bread is bro - ken, there Christ is with us, in bread and wine.
set all hearts burn - ing that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Jim Griffin

Cash and designated gifts will go to the **Ohio Wildlife Center**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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. Sacred Earth thanks you for your support of this mission.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

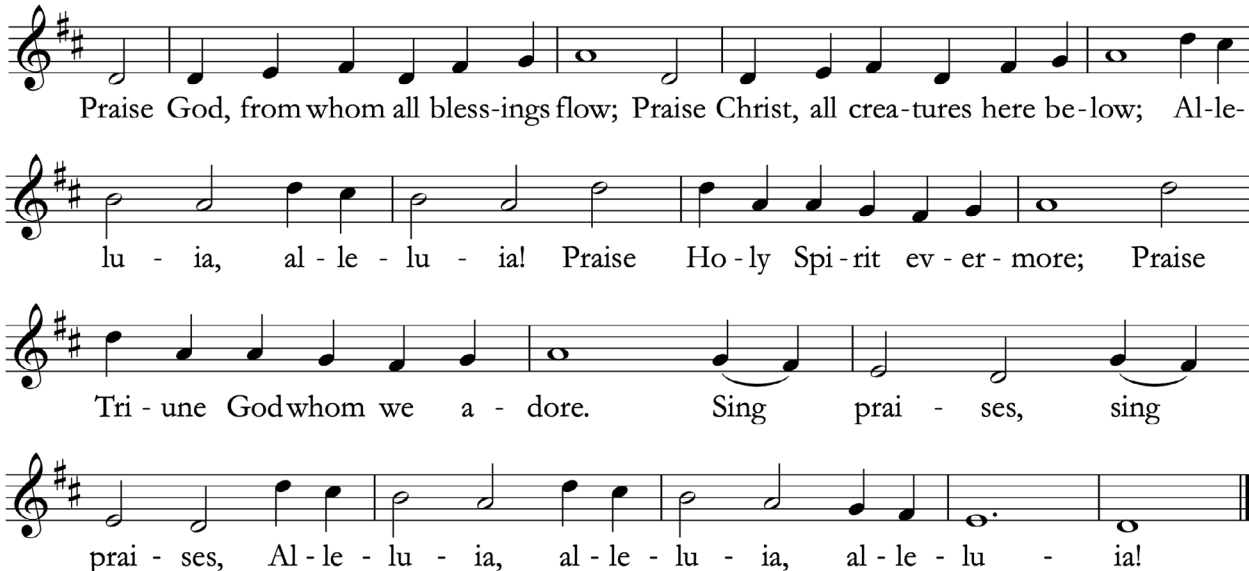
"Alleluia"

Randall Thompson, 1940

Alleluia. Amen.

*PRESENTATION HYMN

Lasst uns erfreuen



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Al-le-
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more; Praise
Tri - une God whom 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
 "The risen Christ"

Woodlands, Walter Greatorex, 1916
 Nigel Weaver, 1993



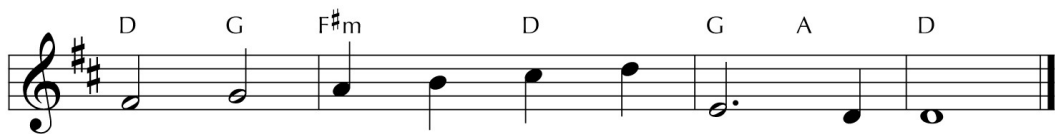
1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound - ed
 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound - ed
 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound - ed
 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and



feet from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y
 side, breathes out his Spir - it on them to a -
 hand the bread for those who fail to un - der -
 stand with the op - pressed in this and ev - ery



street, un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear, and
 bide whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve; new
 stand, re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - gering tears, en -
 land, till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be, re -



speaks a word of peace to all who hear.
 grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.
 flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.
 stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. David

VOLUNTARY

Tuba Tune

Norman Cocker, 1922

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 Martha and David Loy by Nancy Loy and Tom Worley.

† PLEASE JOIN US IN PARISH HALL FOR COFFEE HOUR, hosted by our Sacred Earth Committee led by Pat Patterson.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. David — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

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

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

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“The risen Christ” Words: Nigel Weaver, 1993. © 1993 Nigel Weaver. All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

The Rev. jessica young chang, *worship leader*

Andrew Welsh-Huggins, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Jack Drake, *crucifer*

Jason Harrell and Henry Wade, *vergers*

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

The First Church Choir

Pat Patterson, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

April 19, 2026

This Week at First Church

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)

Monday, April 20

- 11 a.m. Pride March Planning Mtg (Parish Family Rm)
- 6 p.m. First Church Campanelle (Bell Rm)
- 7 p.m. Transition Team Mtg (Fanning Rm & Zoom)

Tuesday, April 21

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

Wednesday, April 22

- 10 a.m. BREAD Earth Day Forum (Congregation Tifereth Israel)
- 7:15 p.m. Stephen Ministers Education and Supervision Mtg (SM Office)

Thursday, April 23

- 6 p.m. First Church Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

Friday, April 24

- 10 a.m. Full Circle Connections (Parlor)

Saturday, April 25

- 8:45 a.m. Faith Mission Food Prep & Serve (Kitchen)
- 10 a.m. New Members Class (Classroom C)

Sunday, April 26

- 9 a.m. Worship Service and Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Adult Faith Formation (Classroom C)
First Serves (Classroom D)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
- 12:30 p.m. Sacred Conversation (Parish Hall)
Confirmation Class (Classroom C)

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

Attend this last class on *The Wisdom of World Religions* with Caroline Kutschbach Panahon. Every world religion includes revelation of divine wisdom and teaches the practitioner how to build a relationship with the divine. Caroline discusses eight of the major world religions, their similarities, and their differences.

Caroline 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 next Sunday, April 26.

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

Choral Evensong, rooted in the rich liturgical tradition of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, has been aptly described by W.H. Auden as “the finest piece of liturgical writing in the English language.” This venerable Anglican service has a storied history that spans centuries, dating back to the early days of the Church of England. Originally crafted during the English Reformation, the Book of Common Prayer became a cornerstone of Anglican worship, and Choral Evensong stands as one of its most cherished expressions.

Held in the late afternoon or early evening, this service offers attendees a serene and contemplative experience, where scripture, music, and prayer intertwine. Through psalms, hymns, canticles, and scripture readings, 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—a true testament to the enduring legacy of the English liturgical tradition.

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. 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.

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 data and analysis from health care experts and others about the growing health problems caused by the loss of tree canopy in Columbus neighborhoods. 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 and neighborhoods.

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 **Sunday, April 26, at 12:30 p.m.** **in Parish Hall**

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 collect 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 organize the products for delivery at 10 a.m. on April 26.

Please share 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/>.

Earth Day Columbus **Sunday, April 26, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.** **At Scioto Audubon Metro Park**

Celebrate Earth Day at this free, family-friendly, zero-waste event in Central Ohio. Enjoy hands-on fun, learn about local sustainability efforts, and connect with organizations making a positive environmental impact in our community.

Scioto Audubon Metro Park is located at 400 W. Whittier St. It offers stunning views and abundant wildlife. Learn more about this day of focusing on our Earth at earthdaycolumbus.org.

First Church Book Club **Wednesday, May 6** **7 p.m. on Zoom**

Come enjoy lively conversation with the First Church Book Club when we discuss *Everything Is Tuberculosis* by John Green.

Andrew Welsh-Huggins will lead our discussion of *Everything Is Tuberculosis: The History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection* by John Green.

Around for a millennia, Tuberculosis (TB), the world's most deadly infectious disease, is now curable and preventable but still kills over 1.5 million people every year because of healthcare inequities. Author, John Green met Henry, a young African TB patient in 2019. Through the story of their friendship, Green shares the scientific and social histories of how tuberculosis has shaped our world and how our choices will now shape the future of tuberculosis. *Everything Is Tuberculosis* is a hopeful, heartbreaking, engaging, and compelling story.

To receive book club emails or receive the Zoom link, please call Kathy Reed at 614-442-7742.

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

- April 19 - Ohio Wildlife Center
- April 26 - Moms Demand Action
- May 3 - Mothers Day Brunch for Homeless
- May 10 - Church World Services
- May 17 - Laundry Love

Keep in Prayer

Kingston asks us to pray for Leslie and this church.

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 Amy Wagner's great nephew, Brody Wilson; Kathy Reed's cousin, Barbara Works; 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; Jason Harrell's mother, Sherry Harrell; Matt Myers' sister, Erin Myers; and Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples.

Those who mourn Geoffrey Dean on the death of his aunt, Vivian Heaney; 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 Belarus, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Armenian Missionary Assn. of America, the Evangelical Church of Armenia, the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, and the Haigazian University in the midst of war.

Let's Join Other Faith Communities at B.R.E.A.D.'s Nehemiah Action

For more than a quarter-century, we at First Congregational Church have joined members of dozens of Columbus area churches, synagogues and mosques to advocate for social justice through B.R.E.A.D.'s annual Nehemiah Action each May. B.R.E.A.D., which stands for Building Responsibility, Equality and Dignity, is composed of some 40 congregations and faith communities. While the world and our nation are broiling with justice issues over which we have limited control, we can stand up, once again, for justice and good public policy in Columbus next month.

Please join your fellow church members at the Nehemiah Action on Tuesday, May 12, at the Celeste Center on the Ohio State Fairgrounds. The doors open at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 6:45 p.m.

The Nehemiah Action will focus this year on three urgent campaigns:

- Establishing a rental registry by the City of Columbus to advance safe, accountable and dignified rental housing.
- Improving the environment and health of our neighborhoods by protecting the tree canopy.
- Enhancing the pathways to careers that offer livable wages.

For three decades, B.R.E.A.D. has a proven track record of accomplishments that improve lives in Columbus. Among the many examples are:

- An additional \$1 million invested for expanded care for people with mental illness.
- Advocated for the creation of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- Worked with the Franklin County Juvenile Court to establish "Restorative Justice Circles" in nine neighborhoods.

These accomplishments illustrate the power of interfaith communities working together. An important reason for First Congregational Church to be an active member of B.R.E.A.D. is to engage with other faith communities who represent the diversity of God's people across lines of race, income and belief. Together, we are God's rainbow.

By Steve Sterrett

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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