



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
APRIL 26, 2026
FOURTH 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

Pastorale, Op. 19

César Franck, 1862

ENTER TO WORSHIP (*Nany Townley*)

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: How joyful it is, to celebrate the good news of God's love!

People: We are called to be Easter people!

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

*Leader: Darkness cannot claim us!

People: Fear cannot bind us!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen, indeed! Amen!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN
"God is calling through the whisper"

W żłobie leży, Polish Carol
Mary Louise Bringle, 2003

1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,

through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.

Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:

God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—and we hear! God is call-ing—and we hear!

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the staves.

*INVOCATION

Rev. jessica young chang

Leader: Generous God and Giver of all things,
we rest in your loving and tender care;
and we are revived, restored and renewed by your strength and encouragement.
You go before us in life, leading us in pathways that are secure
without the confusion of becoming lost,
aware only that we always need to follow you.
You are our Shepherd, open our ears to recognize your voice.

People: Amen.

* GLORIA

The Sewanee Service, Malcolm Archer, 2010



*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Becky David

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

People: And also with you.

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

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

ANTHEM

"All Creatures of our God and King"

arr. Kevin McChesney, 2019

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:42-47

Ms. Kulwicki

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

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Bobby McFerrin, 1990

Psalm 23

transcribed by Dan Stolper, 1994

The Lord is my Shepherd,

I have all I need,

She makes me lie down in green meadows,

Beside the still waters, She will lead.

She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,

She leads me in a path of good things,
and fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk, through a dark and dreary land,
there is nothing that can shake me,

She has said She won't forsake me,

I'm in her hand.

She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,

She anoints my head with oil,

and my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me,
all the days of my life,

And I will live in her house,

forever, forever and ever.

Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter,

and to the Holy of Holies,

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen

Leader: A reading from the First Letter of Peter, the second chapter.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

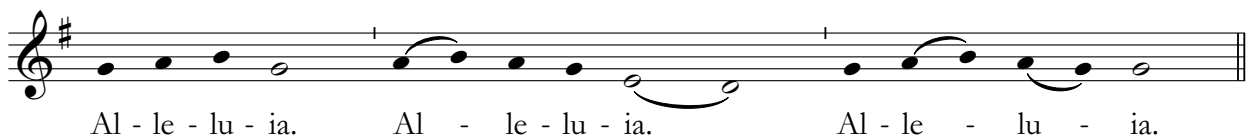
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10:14

*The Choir introduces the Alleluia, which is then repeated by the Congregation.
Following the verse, all repeat the Alleluia.*



Verse: I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

*THE GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

Rev. David

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

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. David

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

Resignation, American folk melody

“My shepherd will supply my need”

Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.



1 My Shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je - ho - vah
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres - ence
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me



is his Name; _____ in pas - tures fresh he
 is my stay; _____ one word of thy sup -
 all my days; _____ oh, may thy house be



makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream.____
 port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.____
 mine a - bode and all my work be praise.____



He brings my wan - dering spi - rit back when I for -
 Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my
 There would I find a sett - led rest, while o - thers



sake his ways, _____ and leads me, for his
 ta - ble spread; _____ my cup with bless - ings
 go and come; _____ no more a stran - ger



mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.____
 o - ver - flows, thy oil a - noints my head.____
 or a guest, but like a child at home.____

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Tiffany Murray

Cash and dedicated gifts today support **Moms Demand Action**, a grassroots, nonpartisan movement working for adoption of public safety measures that protect people from gun violence. The organization works to pass stronger gun laws and to close the legal loopholes that jeopardize the safety of families. Moms Demand Action was born in the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy in 2012; it is still locally organized and focused, but now there are 51 state chapters across the country and in Washington, D.C. In Ohio, local Moms Demand Action chapters build bridges and organize actions with faith groups, student organizations, business leaders, and community-based organizations. Through these partnerships, they carry out local advocacy and education programs, provide help to gun violence survivors, and encourage a culture of responsible gun ownership. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

John Rutter, 1992

“Loving shepherd of thy sheep”

Jane Eliza Leeson, 1842

Loving shepherd of thy sheep,
keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
nothing can thy power withstand,
none can pluck me from thy hand.

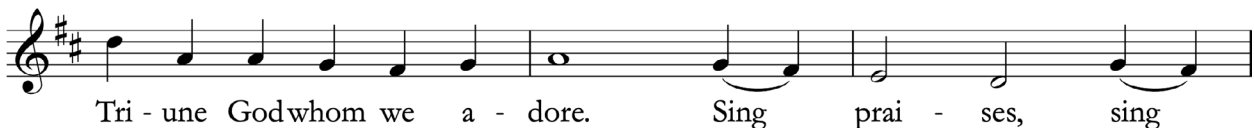
Loving shepherd, ever near,
teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
suffer not my steps to stray
from the straight and narrow way.

I would praise thee every day,
gladly all thy will obey,
like thy blessed ones above,
happy in thy perfect love.

Where thou leadest I would go,
walking in thy steps below,
till before my Father's throne,
I shall know as I am known.

*PRESENTATION HYMN

Lasst uns erfreuen



Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Bradbury, William Batchelder Bradbury, 1859

“Savior, like a Shepherd lead us”

Thrupp’s Hymns for the Young, 1836

*BENEDICTION

Rev. David

VOLUNTARY

Fanfare

William Mathias, 1987

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 Wally Giffen by Sarah Giffen.

† PLEASE JOIN US IN PARISH HALL FOR COFFEE HOUR, hosted by the Transition Team.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. David — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

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

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

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

The Rev. jessica young chang, *worship leader*

Melissa Kulwicki, *liturgist and worship leader*

Jim Griffin, *crucifer*

Jason Harrell and Sebastian Kulwicki, *verggers*

The First Church Choir

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

The First Church Campanelle

Jennifer Fry, *director*

Aran Cunningham, *livestream ministry*



Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

April 26, 2026

This Week at First Church

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)
12:30 p.m. Sacred Conversation (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, April 28

- 5 p.m. Laundry Love (Wash Land)
7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 29

- 6 p.m. Community Yoga Wednesdays
 (Parish Hall)
 Dinner Out (Starliner Diner, Hilliard)

Thursday, April 30

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

Saturday, May 2

- 10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg (Library)

Sunday, May 3

- 9 a.m. Worship Service and
 Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
10 a.m. PreK Sunday School (Godly Play Rm)
 Youth Scavenger Hunt
 (W.G. Social Justice Park)
 Adult Faith Formation
 (Classroom C)
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Sales (Parish Hall)
12:30 p.m. Pride Planning Mtg (Fanning Rm)
4 p.m. Congregational Concert (Sanctuary)

Adult Bible Study

Today at 10 a.m. in Classroom C

Rev. Margot Connor and Rev. Larry Miller will resume the series on the Psalms. They will 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 in April

Today at 10 a.m. in Classroom D

During Earth Month, First Serves has collected 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.

First Church collected paper towels, septic safe toilet paper, and non-lotion tissues for the Ohio Wildlife Center's use. Please join us to organize the products for delivery to at 10 a.m. in Classroom D.

To learn more about the Ohio Wildlife Center please visit their website at <https://ohiowildlifecenter.org/>.

Sacred Conversations

Today at 12:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

Please join us for a Sacred Conversation about what it means to be open and affirming at First Congregational Church. We will meet after the 11 a.m. worship service and a light lunch will be included.

Our Open and Affirming Statement says, "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 questions, and do the self-reflective work required.

Earth Day Columbus Today from 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.

Community Yoga with Rev. jess Wednesday, April 29, at 6 p.m.

Join resident yogi Rev. jess young chang for Community Yoga. Everyone is welcome to this gentle class, suitable for all levels of practice. Class is an hour and includes stretching and strengthening postures, learning breathwork, and practicing mindfulness. Previous yoga experience is helpful but not necessary!

Please bring your own mat and props. Cost for class is donation-based. Class proceeds will benefit a different community-based organization every month. Suggested donation is \$10 and no one will be turned away for not being able to pay. This class will be offered each Wednesday at 6 p.m. in Parish Hall.

Dinner Out Wednesday, April 29, at 6 p.m. at Starliner Diner in Hilliard

Dine with others from First Church at the Starliner Diner in Hilliard. Since beginning its operation in 1995, Starliner Diner has been a local favorite to the Hilliard community and beyond. With its eclectic menu and kitschy decor, Starliner offers customers an alternative to the cookie cutter, big chain restaurants by providing them a unique and fun dining experience. The Cuban inspired menu also includes American and Southwestern influences and features popular dishes such as Creole Macaroni and Huevos Rancheros. We will reserve a table so please register in Realm by using the QR Code.



First Church Concerts presents First Church Ringers Sunday, May 3, at 4 p.m.

Our new five-octave set of Malmark handbells and seven-octave expansion of choirchimes will be celebrated at a delightful afternoon concert with the First Church Ringers conducted by Jennifer Fry. This concert will feature organist Joshua Stafford.

This concert is free and open to the public as a freewill offering.

Youth Scavenger Hunt May 3rd at 10 a.m. in the Washington Gladden Social Justice Park

Our 5th – 12th grade students will learn about social justice leaders and decode hidden messages throughout the Park with park leader, Alejandro Rodriguez. Our middle and high school friends from Broad Street Presbyterian Church will join us.

Home Communion Training Thursday, May 7, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor

Rev. Nancy Livingston will lead this class on communion in the United Church of Christ's tradition, what is involved in serving people in their homes, and how to become a part of a commissioned team offering home communion.

Please register on Realm using the QR Code.



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 26 - Moms Demand Action
- May 3 - Mothers Day Brunch for Homeless
- May 10 - Church World Service
- May 17 - Good Samaritan Fund
- May 24 - Laundry Love
- May 31 - Huckleberry House

First Church Singing & Ringing Day Camp June 8 - 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Led by talented and experienced faculty, our week-long day camp offers children entering grades 2-8 the opportunity to explore choral singing, handbells, and ChoirChimes, all while learning music theory in a fun and supportive environment. Campers will experience the two magnificent pipe organs at First Church, including a chance to play both instruments and even assemble a small pipe organ themselves! We'll also take a special field trip to the Columbus Museum of Art, adding a creative spark to the week. Along the way, campers will grow in teamwork, leadership, collaboration, confidence, and musical expression—and, of course, make plenty of new friends.

Please find tuition information at <https://www.firstchurcharts.org/camp>, and please register on Realm using the QR Code.



Columbus Pride March June 20, starting at 9 a.m.

Come join us for the Columbus Pride March in June. Wayne Henry is this year's chair, organizing this year's march for First Church.

June 28, 1969 marked the beginning of the Stonewall Uprising, a series of events between police and LGBTQ+ protesters which stretched over six days. The Stonewall Inn and Uprising became well known due to the media coverage and the subsequent annual Pride traditions. The first Pride March in Columbus was held June 1981. Only 200 people were in attendance, and some wore bags over their heads to conceal their identities.

Last year First Church had 25 people attend and this year we hope more can participate. Participants in the March were individuals and organizations representing a vast array of non-profits, activists, community organizations, corporate sponsors, small businesses, and political candidates! Join First Church this year by registering on Realm using the QR Code.



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 Amy Wagner's great nephew, Brody Wilson; Jennifer Fry's friend, Dennis Moore; Kathy Reed's cousin, Barbara Works; 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.

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 Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission the Communion of Churches in Indonesia.

B.R.E.A.D.'s Nehemiah Issue: Stop Predatory Landlords! Protect Renters Now!

Gone are the days when landlords lived in the building, like Fred and Ethel Mertz. Or when your maintenance man was a default member of your family, like Schneider on "One Day at a Time" or Bookman on "Good Times."

For renters in Franklin County, Ohio, who spent on average \$1,200 (more than three weeks' pay at a minimum wage of \$10.45 an hour) for a one-bedroom apartment, the landlord may be an out-of-state private equity LLC, with no face or even a corporate name. In Columbus last year, 20% of all homes were purchased by such investors.

Maintenance is handled (if it is handled—so many requests fall into a vast email or voicemail system and are never responded to) by a contractor who has little to no familiarity with the building and cannot be summoned again by the tenant when repairs are incomplete or ineffective. Even code enforcement is tricky under these circumstances.

Cleveland, Akron, Athens, Sandusky, Bowling Green, Youngstown, and Reynoldsburg have addressed this issue by creating rental registries. Some of the basic rules of the registry are that if you're not a local owner, you must designate a local contact and undergo a pre-rental inspection.

Columbus City Councilmember, Nick Bankston, has been working with B.R.E.A.D. to bring the registry into existence. Some compromises have been made from the original proposal, including reducing the per unit fee that would be charged from \$40 to \$15, with a \$1,500 cap. These fees will pay for pre-rental inspections.

Council voted to pass this legislation on April 20. This is an incredible win for B.R.E.A.D., but litigation has been threatened by the Columbus Apartment Association, founded by landlords. B.R.E.A.D.'s continued advocacy supports Councilmember Bankston (and other members of Council) to face these threats, knowing that the community supports them on this issue. **On May 12, at the Nehemiah Action, B.R.E.A.D. leaders will report on the progress made to create a rental registry for the City of Columbus to help ensure that rental property owners maintain safe and decent housing.**

We pray with them: *O God, to those who have hunger, give BREAD; and to those who have BREAD, give the hunger for justice!* -- Latin American prayer

By Nicole Moss

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, Kelly Dodd, Sandra Geronimo, Dean Hafey, 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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