



WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE

\*GATHERING SONG

*Holy Manna*, William Moore's Columbian Harmony, 1825

"All who hunger gather gladly"

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1990

1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.  
2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang - ers, seek - er, be a wel - come guest.  
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil - der - ness and wan - dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.  
Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.  
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.

You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.  
We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.  
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Leader: Let us turn our hearts together toward our Creator,  
With the whole church:

**People: We affirm that we are made in God's image,  
Befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

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.**

\*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S TIME

Leslie Fulford

*During the sermon time, our young children are welcome to participate in "Sunday Stories."*

LISTENING

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

Jill Hultin

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

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

Rev. Becky

RESPONDING

HYMN OF PREPARATION

*Azmon*, Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828

"O for a world" vv. 1-2

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
 2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
 3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
 4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.  
 5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,  
 where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
 where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
 that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
 Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
 where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

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.**

SUNG RESPONSE

*Azmon*, Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828

"O for a world" vv. 3-5

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
 2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
 3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
 4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.  
 5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,  
 where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
 where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
 that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
 Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
 where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Rob Nicholson

Cash and designated gifts will go to support the **Mother's Day Brunch for the Homeless**, an affiliate program of the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless. For 26 years, a dedicated team of volunteers has hosted the Mother's Day Brunch for homeless women who are mothers. The brunch celebrates the strength and resilience of mothers who are facing the hardships and overcoming the challenges of homelessness, like the stresses of joblessness, chronic low income, lack of housing, and healthcare issues. In 2025, this event gave 398 mothers and family members a short breather from these stresses of attempting to secure the stability their families deserve. Thank you for any support you can give this family-based project.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Iona Community*)

Rev. Becky

Leader: All that we have and all that we are, are God's gifts to us.  
So here we return a token of our wealth  
Asking that it and all we possess be used to God's glory.

**People: Blessed be God forever.**

COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYERS

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION HYMN

*Confitemini Domino*, Jacques Berthier, 1982

"Come and fill our hearts"

Jacques Berthier, 1982

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*adapted from the Iona Community*)

Rev. Becky

Leader: Let us pray,  
In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people,  
We give ourselves to you.

**People: Take us out to live as changed people  
Because we have shared the Living Bread  
And cannot remain the same. Amen.**

SENDING

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Becky

\*CLOSING HYMN  
"Christ, be our light"

Bernadette Farrell, 1993

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gath - ered to - day.

*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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"Come and fill our hearts." Words and music: Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community; ©1991 Less Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) All rights reserved.

"Christ be our light." Words and music by Bernadette Farrell. ©1993 OCP. All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*  
Jill Hultin, *liturgist*  
Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*  
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*  
Joshua Stafford, *pianist*  
Geoffrey Dean, *livestream ministry*





*Enter to Worship*  
**Depart to Serve**

**May 3, 2026**

## **This Week at First Church**

### **Sunday, May 3**

- 9 a.m. Worship Service and Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. PreK-4th Grade Sunday School (Godly Play Rm)  
5th-12th Grade Youth Scavenger Hunt (Washington Gladden 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)

### **Monday, May 4**

- 12 Noon Card Care Ministry Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 7 p.m. House & Grounds Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

### **Tuesday, May 5**

- 9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution Day (Social Justice Office)
- 7 p.m. Communications & Technology Mtg (Teams)  
Justice & Mercy Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)  
Personnel Mtg (Teams)

### **Wednesday, May 6**

- 12:15 p.m. Music at Midday (Sanctuary)
- 6 p.m. Community Yoga Wednesdays (Parish Hall)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Education and Supervision Mtg (SM Office)
- 7 p.m. Book Club (Zoom)

### **Thursday, May 7**

- 6 p.m. Church Vitality Mtg (Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Home Communion Training (Parlor)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

### **Friday, May 8**

- 9:30 a.m. Stewardship & Growth Mtg (Classroom C)
- 10 a.m. Full Circle Connections (Parlor)

### **Sunday, May 10**

- 9 a.m. Worship Service and Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. PreK Sunday School (Godly Play Rm)  
Adult Faith Formation (Classroom C)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)

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## **Adult Bible Study**

### **Today at 10 a.m. in Classroom C**

Rev. Margot Connor and Rev. Larry Miller continue the series on the Psalms. Everyone is welcome to join in this study.

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## **Youth Scavenger Hunt**

### **Today at 10 a.m.**

### **Meet in Classroom D**

Our 5th – 12th grade students will learn about social justice leaders and decode hidden messages throughout the Park with park director, Alejandro Rodriguez. Everyone will gather in Classroom D and walk to the Washington Gladden Social Justice Park for the scavenger hunt.

**First Church Concerts presents**  
**First Church Ringers**  
**Today 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.

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

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**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.

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.

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**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.



**Music at Midday**

**Wednesday, May 6 at 12:15 p.m.**

Take a break from the busy workweek and experience the artistry of Jeremy Bankson, the Director of Music and Organist of Prince of Peace Lutheran in Dublin. Join us in the Sanctuary.

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**Holding the Sacred: An Evening of Spirit & Reproductive Justice**  
**Monday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m.**  
**in Parish Hall**

In a world and a time where birthing and reproducing people are losing rights, access, and safety, the Church has a responsibility to provide the protection, the love, and the justice of Christ. This responsibility motivates Rev. Jessica Young Chang to host Holding the Sacred: An Evening of Spirit & Reproductive Justice. This salon features an evening of storytelling, education, and inspiration about how you can live into your faith and politics in the Reproductive Justice (RJ) landscape here in Central Ohio. You'll learn more about Pastor Jess and their history in this work, and the history and foundation of Reproductive Justice. You'll also learn about organizations in Columbus and Central Ohio who work in RJ, and how we at First Church can take up the call to love, provide for, and accompany our siblings in this space.

Tea, water, and light refreshments will be served. People of all gender expressions are welcome. This event is free but registration is required. Members of First Church can register on Realm using the AR Code.



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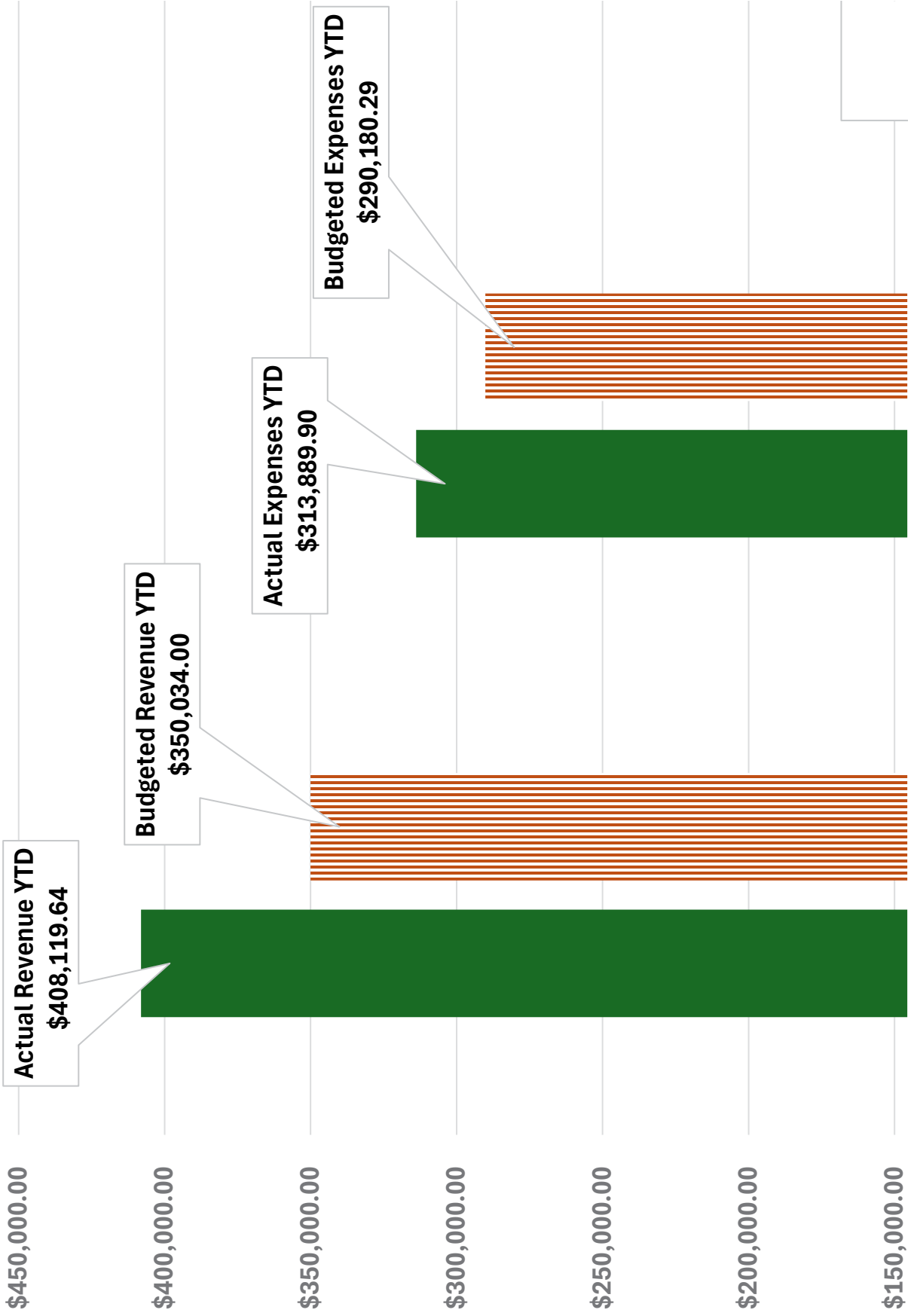
**Lunch Bunch**  
**Wednesday, May 13, at 12 Noon**  
**at Chef-O-Nette in Upper Arlington**

Our diner of the month is Chef-O-Nette Restaurant in Tremont Center. This stalwart diner provides traditional homestyle dishes in an old-fashioned interior. Chef-O-Nette opened in 1955. With few ownership changes over the last 70 years, in 2024, the Purdums became the third family to operate the restaurant.

Please register on Realm for a relaxing lunchtime by using the QR Code.



January - March 2026  
Year To Date



## Keep in Prayer

**Members** Jim Velo; 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** Tom Brownfield's brother, C. William (Bill) Brownfield; Melva Fisher's brother, James Garrison; Pat Patterson's sister-in-law, Bonnie Elliott; 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.

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 Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission the United Theological College of the West Indies.

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### Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

- 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

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### Community Yoga Wednesdays Starting May 13 at 6 p.m. in Parish Hall

Join your own resident yogi Pastor Jess Young Chang for Community Yoga. Everyone is welcome to this gentle class, suitable for all levels of practitioner.

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 the class is donation-based. No one is turned away for not being able to pay. Class proceeds will benefit a different community-based organization every month.

Contact Rev. Jess Young Chang for more information.

### B.R.E.A.D.'s Nehemiah Action May 12 at the Celeste Center on the Ohio State Fair Grounds

This year, B.R.E.A.D. is fighting for progress on three urgent campaigns: 1) Rental Registry – ensuring safe, accountable, and dignified rental housing; 2) Environmental Justice – protecting the health of our neighborhoods and our tree canopy; 3) Livable Wage – making sure pathways are provided to livable wage careers.

Showing up for the Action isn't just symbolic—it is the engine that drives real change in our community. When we show up in large numbers, we make it unmistakably clear that justice is not optional—it is expected. Doors open for registration at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 6:40 p.m. Tickets are available in the church office. Please join us! BREAD Rises!

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### Sacred Earth Eco Tip

A gentle reminder that Sacred Earth continues to collect empty prescription bottles with the **labels removed**. We have made two deliveries of two large bags to SWACO!

Please put your label free, empty, prescription bottles in the blue recycling container near the Giving Tree in the Education Wing. Let us continue our efforts to keep these bottles out of our landfill! We ARE making a difference!

## 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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