



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
MAY 17, 2026
SEVENTH 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

Prelude on *Deo Gracias*

Healey Willan, 1957

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Maggie Myers

Leader: This is the good news which we proclaim to you.

People: Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!

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

*Leader: Walk in the light of his love.

People: Live in the light of his teachings and healing mercies.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One Who overcame death.

People: Let us celebrate the triumph of our Lord. Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Deo Gracias, The Agincourt Song, c. 1415

"A hymn of glory let us sing"

The Venerable Bede, 7th/8th c.; trans. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New songs through-
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the
 3 To all, the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the
 5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to

out the world shall ring: Christ, by a road be -
 Mount of Ol - ives stand, and with his fol - low -
 gaze up - on the sky? This is the Sav - ior!"
 por - tals of the sky. Here - af - ter you shall
 you let earth ac - cord. You are, while end - less

fore un - trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.
 ers they see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.
 thus they say; "This is his glo - rious tri - umph - day."
 Je - sus see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."
 a - ges run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.

*INVOCATION

Henry Wade

Leader: Lord of life,
 You defeated death to demonstrate a love that is beyond our understanding,
 that reaches out to each one of us.
 Saving grace to all who hear.

People: **Christ the Lord is risen today!**
Alleluia!

*GLORIA

The Sewanee Service, Malcolm Archer, 2010

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. 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 may greet one another by name.*

ANTHEM

John Rutter, 1973

“O clap your hands”

Psalm 47:1–7

O clap your hands together all ye people:
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.
For the lord is high and to be feared:
He is the great king upon all the earth.
He shall subdue the people under us:
And the nations under our feet.
He shall choose out an heritage for us
Even the worship of Jacob whom he loved.
God is gone up with a merry noise:
And the lord with the sound of the trump.
Oh sing praises, sing praises unto our God:
Oh sing praises, sing praises unto our King.
For God is the king upon all the earth:
Sing ye praises with understanding.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:6-14

Ms. Myers

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

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

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



Let the right-eous be glad and re-joice be-fore God.

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.

Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away;
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;
exalt him who rides upon the heavens;
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!

Father of orphans, defender of widows,
God in his holy habitation!

Antiphon

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.

He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

Ascribe power to God;
his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.

How wonderful is God in his holy places!
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!
Blessed be God!

Antiphon

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Alexi Cooks

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

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:18

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

Following the verse, all repeat the Alleluia.



Verse: I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord.
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

*THE GOSPEL

John 17:1-11

Rev. David

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. David

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. jessica 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

“Hail the day that sees him rise”

Llanfair, Robert Williams, 1817

Charles Wesley, 1739

1 Hail the day that sees him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!
*3 See! he lifts his hands a - bove; Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Lord be - yond our mor - tal sight, Al - le - lu - ia!

glo - rious to his na - tive skies; Al - le - lu - ia!
lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates! Al - le - lu - ia!
See! he shows the prints of love: Al - le - lu - ia!
raise our hearts to reach thy height, Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, a - while to mor - tals given, Al - le - lu - ia!
Wide un - fold the ra - diant scene; Al - le - lu - ia!
Hark! his gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!
there thy face un - cloud - ed see, Al - le - lu - ia!

en - ters now the high - est heaven! Al - le - lu - ia!
take the King of glo - ry in! Al - le - lu - ia!
bless - ings on his Church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!
find our heaven of heavens in thee. Al - le - lu - ia!

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Melody Leidheiser

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

OFFERTORY SOLO

Carroll Martin, 1939

Elegy

Aran Cunningham, *trombone*

*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 God whom we a - dore. Sing prai - ses, sing prai - ses, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Congregants, please take note of an important announcement in our celebration: due to specific needs to accommodate our congregation today, we will NOT be offering applause to celebrate our graduates.

Instead, we will use the American Sign Language, or ASL, sign for applause.

Faith Formation Interim Director Leslie Fulford is going to introduce each graduate receiving recognition.

After all our graduates have been named, we will show our pride and affirmation for our graduates by signing, rather than by clapping.

We offer our thanks and gratitude to the following faith formation volunteers who led children's, youth, and adult education classes this school year:

Todd Cunningham
Melissa Kulwicki
Amanda Butler
Nan Kreimer
Stacie Sholl
Mark Sholl
Maggie Myers
Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston
Rev. Margot Connor
Rev. Larry Miller
Caroline Panahon
Joshua Stafford
Tom Brownfield
Rev. jessica young chang
Jackie Dean
Tom Worley
Alejandro Rodriguez
Taimur Chaudry

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

“Crown him with many crowns” vv. 1-2

Diademata, George Job Elvey, 1868

Matthew Bridges, 1851

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 but down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. David

VOLUNTARY

Exultemus

Percy Whitlock, 1935

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 celebration of Carol Gallagher's birthday by Jim Gallagher.

† PLEASE JOIN US IN PARISH HALL FOR COFFEE HOUR, hosted by the Exhilarated Neighborhood Care Circle, led by Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen.

† 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)

† PERMISSIONS AND COPYRIGHTS

The following are printed and/or livestreamed under permission of OneLicense #A-717661. All rights reserved.

“A hymn of glory let us sing.” Words translated 1978, Lutheran Book of Worship. © 1978 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

The Rev. jessica young chang, *worship leader*

Maggie Myers, Henry Wade, and Alexi Cooks, *liturgists*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Aarav Peter, *crucifer*

Henry Wade and Sebastian Kulwicki, *vergers*

Aran Cunningham, *trombone*

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

The First Church Choir

Pat Patterson, *livestream ministry*



Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

May 17, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, May 17

- 9 a.m. Worship Service and
 Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
 (Classroom C)
 Family Playground Time (Playground)
 Youth Mission Trip Family Mtg
 (Classroom D)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
- 12:30 p.m. Graduate Celebration & Sacred Conversation
 (Parish Hall)
- 4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, May 19

- 5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg
 (Classroom C & Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Church Council Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, May 20

- 10 a.m. The Largest Table (Kitchen)
- 6 p.m. Faith Formation Mtg (Classroom C & Teams)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Monthly Mtg (SM Office)

Thursday, May 21

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

Friday, May 22

- 10 a.m. Full Circle Connections (Parlor)
- 11:30 a.m. Faith Mission Food Prep & Serve (Kitchen)

Sunday, May 24

- 9 a.m. Worship Service and
 Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Adult Faith Formation (Classroom C)
 Family Playground Time (Playground)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Adult Bible Study

Today at 10 a.m. in Classroom C

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

Family Playground Time! **Today at 10 a.m. on the** **Sam Gordon Playground**

Summertime means playground time! Join the First Church playground gang between services for outdoor play and parent catch up. We'll be outside playing this summer through the fall, weather permitting.

Join the Conversation

Join me, Rev. Becky and the Transition Team, today for our second Sacred Conversation about what it means to be open and affirming at First Congregational Church. Each meeting of this series of four stands alone to uniquely focus on one aspect of the church's Open and Affirming Statement. Today we will consider how we, as individuals and as a congregation, welcome and affirm those who may express their sexual or gender identity different from our own. It is not necessary to attend the full sequence, but we hope you will join each one to enrich your understanding of our O&A statement, as well as your relationships in the church.

All conversations will be in Parish Hall following the 11 a.m. worship service. A light lunch will be offered. The next gatherings are June 7 and June 14.

Sarah Reed, Moderator

Choral Evensong

Today at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Choral Evensong is rooted in the rich liturgical tradition of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, and has been aptly described by W.H. Auden as “the finest piece of liturgical writing in the English language.” Held in the late afternoon, this service offers attendees a serene and contemplative experience, where scripture, music, and prayer intertwine. Choral Evensong invites you to connect with the divine and immerse yourself in a spiritual journey that is timeless and beautiful.

Community Yoga Wednesdays

May 20 Session Cancelled

Your own resident yogi Pastor Jess Young Chang offers Community Yoga, and everyone is welcome to this gentle class, suitable for all levels of practitioner. The next session will be Wednesday, May 27 at 6 p.m. in Parish Hall.

Dinner Out

Wednesday, May 27, at 6 p.m.

at TAT Restaurant

Our church famiglia will dine at TAT, a Ristorante Di Famiglia that for over 90 years has been serving delicious and authentic dishes. You will dine on dishes made from scratch... *delizioso!* We’ve been there before, and we’re going back. It will be bene!

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



Full Circle Connections

Friday, May 22, at 10 a.m.

in the Parlor

Full Circle Connections will meet as usual and Jan Hamilton will be there to facilitate. We will be suspending the meetings for the summer months. The discussion will focus on the contributions from all who come regarding how to move forward with this gathering in the fall. All are welcome, including anyone who hasn’t come in the past but has an interest.

Sleep Out With Us On May 29!

First Church is co-sponsoring the annual Sleep Out Columbus event to benefit Huckleberry House, and we’re hosting the event at our church! Since 1970, Huckleberry House has been a safe place and source of support for young people who’ve left home and are facing homelessness, or simply need a safe place to rest their heads. Huck House has evolved to meet the changing needs of young people, with hope, shelter, stability, emotional support, and caring guidance. Sleep Out provides Huck House with critical fundraising to deliver these needed services, and also provides important visibility for the needs Huck House addresses.

Join the First Church Sleep Out team on Friday, May 29-30, whether you plan to spend the night on the church grounds with us, attend the Friday evening program only, help with fundraising, or just help spread the word. For more info or for help registering, contact Gail or Jim Lowe at 614-397-7512 or lowemail1124@gmail.com.

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 31, at 12:15 p.m.

in the Sanctuary

A Congregational meeting will be held regarding the grant preservation project. The meeting will review the results of a recent building assessment report completed by architectural firm of Schooley Caldwell. The report was funded jointly by the National Fund for Sacred Places and the Church. The report highlights the need to make immediate repairs to the Rose Window, the front steps, and several areas of mortar and stone work around the church.

Through a bidding process overseen by Schooley Caldwell, a contractor has been chosen to begin working this summer and complete the construction project before the end of this year. The Congregational meeting will provide details of how the grant project can be funded by a variety of sources to complement an intended modest fund-raising campaign with the membership. Please attend and learn how you can help support this important preservation project of the church.

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

May 17 - Good Samaritan Fund

May 24 - Laundry Love May 31 - Huckleberry House

Keep in Prayer

Members 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; Melva Fisher's brother, James Garrison; Pat Patterson's sister-in-law, Bonnie Elliott; Amy Wagner's friend, Nancy Rowe Wickline; 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 Kris Brant and her brother's family, Libby, John, and Nick Koetz, on the death of Kris' nephew, Josh Koetz; Tom Brownfield on the death of his brother, C. William (Bill) Brownfield.

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 Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. We also pray for our UCC partners in mission the All Africa Conference of Churches and the Project for Christian Muslim Relations in Africa in Kenya.

Enjoy Summer Reading with the First Church Book Club

If you're looking for your next good read, the First Church Book Club will be discussing a variety of books this summer and all are welcome! Join this fun opportunity for lively conversation and get to know other church members better. We gather on Zoom on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Questions? Want to receive book club emails? Please call Kathy Reed, 614-442-7742.

June 3, 2026

The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway

Published in 1926, *The Sun Also Rises* is our centennial read. Based on Hemingway's experiences in Paris and Spain during/following WWI, it's a story of the "Lost Generation," young, disillusioned American and British expats grappling with the aftermath of WWI.

July 1, 2026

My Friends by Fredrik Backman. This fiction is a #1 NY Times Bestseller.

August 5, 2026

Mona's Eyes by Thomas Schlessler. Fiction – a NY Times Bestseller; Barnes & Noble 2025 Book of the Year.

September 2, 2026

Paper Girl: A Memoir of Home and Family in a Fractured America by Beth Macy (reflecting on her hometown of Urbana, Ohio). *Memoir* was named a Best Book of 2025 by The New Yorker; one of Barack Obama's Favorite Books of 2025.

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

444 E Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 | 614-228-1741

www.firstchurcharts.org | home@first-church.org

