



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN  
MAY 24, 2026  
PENTECOST SUNDAY

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

*Fantasia super "Komm, Heiliger Geist"*

Johann Sebastian Bach, ca. 1708-1717, rev. 1739-1742

ENTER TO WORSHIP (*by Thom Schuman*)

Gregory Halbe

Leader: The Day of Pentecost is here!  
God's children have gathered in this place:

**People: We are transformed into God's family  
by God's Spirit joining with ours.**

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

\*Leader: Come, Spirit of peace, and calm our trembling hearts:

**People: Come, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Come, Breath of God, and overturn our conventional lives:

**People: Come, Holy Spirit!**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN  
 "Hail thee, festival day!"

*Salva Festa Dies*, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906  
 Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, c. 567, tr. The English Hymnal, 1906, alt.

*Refrain*

Hail thee, fes - ti - val day! blest day that art hal - lowed for ev - er,  
*To verses, then Fine*

day when the Ho - ly Ghost shone in the world with God's grace.

1. Lo, in the like - ness of fire, on those who a - wait the ap - pear - ing,  
 3. Hark! for in myr - i - ad tongues Christ's own, the cho - sen a - pos - tles,  
*Repeat refrain*

thus whom the Lord fore - told sud - den - ly, swift - ly de - scends:  
 preach to the ends of the earth Christ and his won - der - ful works:

2. Com - ing from God a - bove with seven - fold mys - ti - cal of - fering,  
 4. Praise to the Spi - rit of Life, all praise to the fount of our be - ing,  
*Repeat refrain*

pour - ing on hu - man souls in - fi - nite rich - es of God:  
 light that now light - ens all, life that in all now a - bides:

\*INVOCATION (by Rev. Gord Waldie)

Dr. Halbe

Leader: Spirit God,  
 blow into our lives,  
 move us to action,  
 break down the walls that separate us.  
 Where our language divides, offer us translation.  
 Where our fear overcomes, fill us with the fire of courage.  
 Where our lives are inert, fill our sails with wind,  
 moving us forward into the unknown future.  
 Fill us with the hope and promise of Pentecost!

People: Amen.

\*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. 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.*

## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Kathy Reed, *Church Growth*: I invite all those who have been in conversation with First Church and now wish to accept our invitation of membership to please step forward as I read your names: Fran Herrick, Moses Murray, Ken Rosenberg, Sarah Sample-LeBrell, Dakotah Saunders, and Marti Van Cleef.

Dayna McCrary, *Senior Deacon*: Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through baptism. These persons standing before you have found nurture and support in our spiritual family. Through study, discussion, and prayer they have been led to reaffirm their baptism and to enter into a covenantal relationship with the members of this church. They are ready to offer their devotion and service to Jesus Christ, using the unique gifts provided them.

Rev. David: You are no longer strangers, but are now one of us. We are delighted to have you here and willingly share with you all of our resources. I invite all the members and friends of First Church to unite with those joining in reading together our church's statement of faith and covenant.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

**The church is a community of faith called to witness and to serve. 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.**

Rev. David: Will all people of faith please rise? By our baptism we are made one in the body of Christ. Today we rejoice in the journey which has brought you here. We give thanks for other communities which have been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your commitment to continue your sojourn in this household of faith. Let us read together:

## \*WELCOME

**All: We welcome you with joy to the life and ministry of The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Columbus, Ohio. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be faithful witnesses to the ways of Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

Rev. David: Let us pray. O God, we praise you for calling us to be disciples and for gathering us into the Church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this congregation and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Kathy Reed: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this church. We look forward to getting to know you better. Welcome to First Church!

ANTHEM

“Listen, sweet dove”

Grayston Ives, 1974

George Herbert, ca. 1630–1632

Listen sweet dove unto my song,  
and spread thy golden wings in me;  
hatching my tender heart so long,  
till it get wing and flie away with me.  
Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow  
the earth did like a heav'n appeare,  
the starres were coming down to know  
if they might mend their wages and serve here.

The sunne which once did shine alone,  
hung down his head and wisht for night,  
when he beheld twelve sunnes for one  
going about the world and giving light.  
Lord, though we change, thou art the same,  
the same sweet God of love and light:  
Restore this day for thy great name,  
unto his ancient and miraculous right.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Numbers 11:24-30

Dr. Halbe

Leader: A reading from the Book of Numbers, the eleventh chapter.

Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!" And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

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.*



Send forth your Spi-rit, O God, and re - new the face of the earth.

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
 in wisdom you have made them all;  
 the earth is full of your creatures.  
 Yonder is the great and wide sea  
 with its living things too many to number,  
 creatures both small and great.  
 There move the ships,  
 and there is that Leviathan,  
 which you have made for the sport of it.  
 All of them look to you  
 to give them their food in due season.  
 You give it to them; they gather it;  
 you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.  
 You hide your face, and they are terrified;  
 you take away their breath,  
 and they die and return to their dust.  
 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;  
 and so you renew the face of the earth.

*Antiphon.*

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;  
 may the Lord rejoice in all his works.  
 He looks at the earth and it trembles;  
 he touches the mountains and they smoke.  
 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
 I will praise my God while I have my being.  
 May these words of mine please him;  
 I will rejoice in the Lord.

*Antiphon.*

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

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.  
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.  
And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.  
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. David

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION / PASTORAL PRAYER

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.**

## THE OFFERTORY

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



## MISSION INVITATION

Jim Lowe

Cash and designated gifts go to support **Laundry Love**, a nationwide initiative for which First Church is the Columbus partner. Once each month, our Laundry Love volunteer team brings the supplies and pays for the washers and dryers at the Wash Land Laundromat on West Broad Street, to wash clothing and bedding for low-income or no-income families and persons. Laundry Love also brightens the lives of our guests when we happily greet them, talk with them as neighbors, and get to know them. Through Laundry Love, we show them respect as members of our community, we share our love for them, and we acknowledge and celebrate their value as human beings. Thank you for your generosity.

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Edward Elgar, 1903

“The Spirit of the Lord,” Prologue to The Apostles, Op. 49

Isaiah 61.1-3,11

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor: he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the LORD; to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud,  
and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth;  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel.

## \*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 - ial 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!

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Aberystwyth*, Joseph Parry, 1876

“Wind who makes all winds that blow”

Thomas Troeger, 1983

Dm A7 Dm A7 Dm A7 Dm A7

1 Wind who makes all winds that blow—gusts that bend the sap-lings low,  
 2 Fire who fuels all fires that burn—suns a-round which plan-ets turn,  
 3 Ho - ly Spir - it, Wind and Flame, move with - in our mor - tal frame.

Dm A7 Dm A7 F Gdim7 Dm A7 Dm

gales that heave the sea in waves, stir-rings in the mind's deep caves—  
 bea-cons mark-ing reefs and shoals, shin-ing truth to guide our souls—  
 Make our hearts an al - tar pyre, kin - dle them with your own fire.

Bb F Bb C7 F C F Dm A7 Dm C F E Am

aim your breath with stead - y power on your church this day, this hour.  
 come to us as once you came: burst in tongues of sa - cred flame!  
 Breathe and blow up - on that blaze till our lives, our deeds, and ways

Bb F Dm Gm A7 Dm A7 Dm

Raise, re - new the life we've lost, Spir - it God of Pen - te - cost.  
 Light and Pow - er, Might and Strength, fill your church, its breadth and length.  
 speak that tongue which ev - ery land by your grace shall un - der - stand.

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. David

VOLUNTARY

Toccata, Op. 53, No. 6

Louis Vierne, 1926

*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 their mother, Arlene Reynolds by Annette Salser and Lou Flocken.

† PLEASE JOIN US IN PARISH HALL FOR COFFEE HOUR, hosted by the Stewardship and Growth Commission, led by Steve Sterrett.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. David — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

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

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

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

Dr. Gregory Halbe, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Douglas Taft, *crucifer*

Jason Harrell and Sebastian Kulwicki, *verggers*

The First Church Choir

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

Pat Patterson, *livestream ministry*

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

May 24, 2026

## This Week at First Church

### 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)  
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)

### Monday, May 25

Church and Church Office are closed for Memorial Day.

### Tuesday, May 26

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

### Wednesday, May 27

- 6 p.m. Community Yoga Wednesdays (Parish Hall)  
Dinner Out (TAT Ristorante)

### Thursday, May 28

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

### Saturday, May 30

- 10 a.m. Visitation Ministry Mtg (Fanning Rm)

### Sunday, May 31

- 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)  
12 Noon Congregational Mtg (Sanctuary)  
12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)  
4 p.m. Organ + Silent Film (Sanctuary)

## 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.

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## Community Yoga Wednesdays May 27 at 6 p.m. in Parish Hall

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. Please bring your own mat and props. Cost for the class is donation-based, and class proceeds benefit a community-based organization.

Contact Rev. Jess Young Chang for more information.

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## 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.



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## Adult Bible Study

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

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

## Sleep Out With Us On May 29th!

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](mailto:lowemail1124@gmail.com).

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## 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.

## Keep in Prayer

**Prayers of thanksgiving** for Charles Wagner's safe return from serving in Kuwait.

**Members** Nancy Livingston; Jane Ward; Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Francille Firebaugh; Nancy Burba; John Carter; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt.

**Family and friends** Annette McCormick's sister, Kathy McCormick; 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 of the Indian Ocean Islands of Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, and Seychelles. We also pray for our UCC partners in mission the Pentecostal Church of Chile.

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## Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

May 24 - Laundry Love    May 31 - Huckleberry House

## Adult Faith Formation for June Sundays at 10 a.m. in Classroom C

During Pride Month, we will have a special series on topics surrounding Pride, belonging, and what it means to create a welcoming and affirming church for all. First Church member, David Hogrefe will lead discussions on *Who Is My Neighbor? A Story of Love, Hate & Faith*.

Throughout June, David will explore topics on faith, inclusion, and honoring the diversity of God's beloved community. Join us for these meaningful discussions.

All are welcome to attend.

## First Church Pride Preparation and Celebration

Come join us for the Columbus Pride March in June. Please email Wayne Henry, this year's chair, to help organize this year's march, or for more information about First Church's participation.

The first Pride march in Columbus, Ohio, was held in June 1981. Only 200 people were in attendance, and some even wore bags over their heads to conceal their identities. 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! Last year First Church had 25 people attend and this year we hope more can participate.

The Pride March is on Saturday, June 20. Go to Realm using the QR Code for more information and to reserve your spot in our March for Pride!



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## 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

**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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