



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT NINE
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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kelly Dodd

Leader: A wind breathes among us,
calling us to gather in the name of the Holy One.

**People: A fire burns within us,
calling us to service,
calling us to prayer.**

Leader: A spirit moves around us,
calling us to turn in joy toward the sorrows of the world.

People: Burning, breathing, Spirit of Compassion, we bring our lives to you.

*OPENING PRAYER OF AFFIRMATION

Rev. Becky

Leader: Let us pray:
Sacred breath, move through this room.
Unlock a song within your people.

**People: Breathe into us your hopes and dreams
for a world filled with justice, love, and peace. Amen.**

*GATHERING SONG
 "Let us build a house" vv. 1-2

Twin Oaks, Marty Haugen, 1994

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C7 F C F B^b C Dm

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C

safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone; to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F B^b

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

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

LISTENING

THE FIRST READING

Numbers 11:24-30

Kelly Dodd

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 SECOND READING

Acts 2:1-21

Rev. Becky

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.**

REFLECTION

Rev. Becky

RESPONDING

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Trentham, Robert Jackson, 1888

"Breathe on me, Breath of God" vv. 1-2

Edwin Hatch, 1878

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life a - new,
 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
 un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

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

"Breathe on me, Breath of God" vv. 3-4

Trentham, Robert Jackson, 1888

Edwin Hatch, 1878

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Nate Vogt

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 MUSIC

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Becky

Leader: Gracious God,
Take our gifts and let us love you, as you first loved us.
**People: Because your love has touched us, we freely return that love into the world
For the good of all people everywhere. Amen.**

COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYERS

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION HYMN
"Come and fill our hearts"

Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982
Jacques Berthier, 1982

Chord symbols: D, Bm, D, A, Em, C, Em, A, D

Lyrics: Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Becky

All: We give thanks gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table.
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world in courage and peace.
Through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SENDING

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

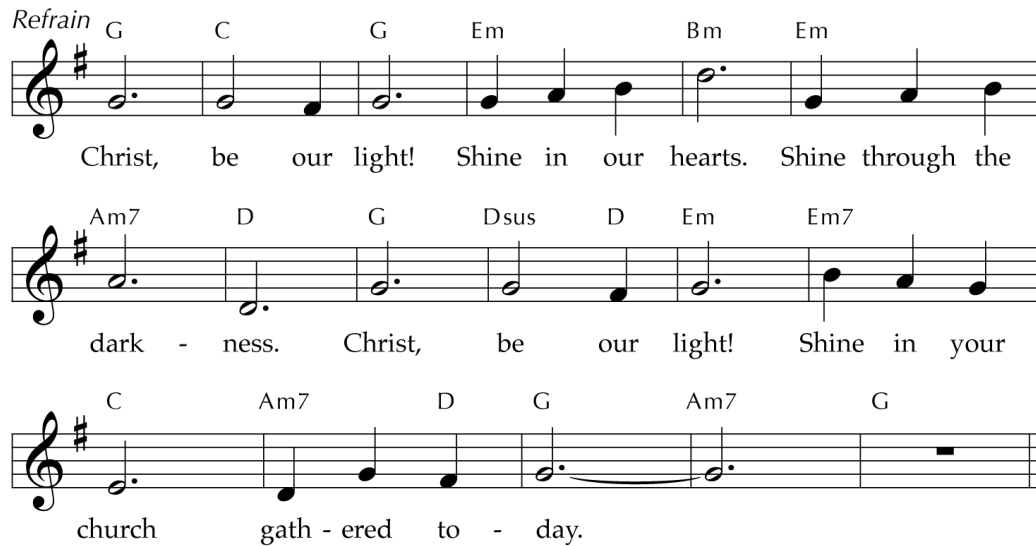
*BENEDICTION

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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"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*
Kelly Dodd, *liturgist*
Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
Joshua Stafford, *pianist*
Geoffrey Dean, *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.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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!



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, 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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