



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

Katarina Yamaguchi and Henry

Leader: Holy One, may our bodies be resounding instruments,
Humming to the tune of Your praise and your glory.
We join the vibration of the stars and the earth,
In affirming and celebrating Your beauty and diversity.

People: **What is humanity that You consider and think of us?
Who are we that You should care for us?**

Leader: Let us turn our awareness and our energy to You,
a Love greater than our understanding, a Peace deeper than our fear.

People: **Yahweh, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your Name in all the earth!**

*OPENING PRAYER OF AFFIRMATION

Rev. jess

Leader: Let us pray:
God of Immanence and Transcendence,
we cannot go where You are not, and nothing made or unmade,
known or unknown, separates us from Your love.
In Your breath over the waters of creation,
In Your command to the waves, saying, "Peace, be still!"
In Your pouring out the fire of Your Spirit in our hearts,
Be present with us in our worship this day.
Receive our attention, hear our prayer, and draw us close,
That in all we do, we love and serve You.

People: **In the name of Christ and for the sake of the world we pray, Amen.**

*GATHERING SONG
 "Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty"

Nicaea, John Bacchus Dykes, 1861
 Reginald Heber, 1827, alt.

Descant

4 Ho - - - ly,

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

ho - - - ly,

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

ho - - - ly,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

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

LISTENING

THE FIRST READING

The Book of Wisdom, 9:1-4, 9-11

Katarina Yamaguchi and Henry

(from *The Inclusive Bible*)

Leader: A reading from the Book of Wisdom, the ninth chapter.

God of our ancestors, God of mercy,
you who made all things by your word,
and in your wisdom
gave mere mortals stewardship over all creation
to care for the world in holiness and uprightness,
and to administer justice with a pure heart:
Give me Wisdom, who sits beside your Judgment Seat,
and do not reject me from those you call your own.
Wisdom is beside you and knows all your ways
and was present when you created the universe.
She is aware of what is acceptable to you
and what is in keeping with your Law.
Send Her forth from your holy heavens,
and dispatch Her from your glorious Judgment Seat to work at my side
and teach me to do what is pleasing to you.
She knows and understands all things
and will lead me with discernment in everything that I do,
guarding me with Her radiance.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING

Matthew 28:16-20

Rev. jess

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Rev. jess

RESPONDING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. jess

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

Julion, David Hurd, 1974

"Come and seek the ways of Wisdom"

Ruth Duck, 1993



1. Come and seek the ways of Wis - dom, she who danced when earth was new,
2. Lis - ten to the voice of Wis - dom, cry - ing in the mark - et place.
3. Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who seek re - birth.



fol - low close - ly what she teach - es, for her words are right and true.
Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us, full of glo - ry, truth, and grace.
Spi - rit - guide and close com - pan - ion, bring to light our sa - cred worth.



Wis - dom clears the path to jus - tice show - ing us what love must do.
When the word takes root and rip - ens, peace and right - eous - ness em - brace.
Free us to be - come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Gail Lowe

Cash and designated gifts go to support **Huckleberry House**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides services to adolescents and young adults who are struggling with homelessness, family conflict, poverty, and violence. Since 1970, Huck House has been a safe place for young people in our community. Their teen crisis shelter is available 24/7, and they offer a transitional living program, a counseling center, and a youth outreach program. This year, our Unsheltered Ministry and other helped begin a partnership with Huck House for First Church to co-sponsor and host their annual Sleep Out event that was held here on May 29, to raise awareness of the critical services they provide, and to help raise badly needed funds. Thank you for your generous support.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. jess

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

Leader: Our God is here.

People: God's Spirit is with us.

Leader: Open your hearts to the One who is Love:

People: We open our hearts to you, O God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God who sets us free.

People: It is our joy to give you thanks!

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION HYMN

Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982

“Come and fill our hearts”

Jacques Berthier, 1982

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has four measures with lyrics: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." The second system has five measures with lyrics: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!". The chords are indicated above the notes: D, Bm, D, A in the first system; Em, C, Em, A, D in the second system.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**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. jess

*CLOSING HYMN

Bernadette Farrell, 1993

“Christ, be our light”

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. jessica young chang, *preacher*
Katarina Yamaguchi and Henry, *liturgists*
Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
Joshua Stafford, *pianist*
Geoffrey Dean, *livestream ministry*



Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

May 31, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, May 31

- 9 a.m. Worship Service and
 Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Adult Faith Formation (Parish Hall)
 Family Playground Time (Playground)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Congregational Mtg (Sanctuary)
 Confirmation Class (Classroom C)
- 4 p.m. Organ + Silent Film (Sanctuary)

Monday, June 1

- 12 Noon Card Care Ministry (Fanning Rm)
- 6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg
 (Fanning Rm & Zoom)
- 7 p.m. House & Grounds Mtg
 (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, June 2

- 6 p.m. Music Committee (Parlor)
- 7 p.m. Communications & Technology Mtg (Zoom)
 Justice & Mercy Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)
 Personnel Mtg (Teams)

Wednesday, June 3

- 6 p.m. Community Yoga Wednesdays (Parish Hall)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Education & Supervision
 Mtg (SM Office)
- 7 p.m. Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, June 4

- 6 p.m. Church Vitality Mtg (Zoom)

Friday, June 5

- 9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution Day
 (Social Justice Office)

Saturday, June 6

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

Sunday, June 7

- 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 & Sales (Parish Hall)
 Mission Trip Family Mtg (Classroom C)
- 12:30 p.m. Sacred Conversation #3 (Parish Hall)

Preservation Grant Information Today at 10 a.m. in Parish Hall

Immediately following the 9 a.m. worship service, the Preservation Grant Committee will provide an information session regarding the grant project and plans for the fundraising campaign. It is the same presentation that will take place at the congregational meeting today at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This 15 minute presentation will be followed by a time for questions and answers.

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

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.

Special Congregational Meeting Today at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Today's Congregational meeting will be regarding the grant preservation project. The meeting will review the results of a recent building assessment report completed by architectural firm of Schooley Caldwell.

A vote will be taken to approve a fundraising campaign to raise match dollars to support this important grant project. The National Fund for Sacred Places has awarded a \$250,000 grant as an incentive for the church to undertake the needed construction project at this time. The intended work includes: repairs to the Rose Window, the front steps, and several areas of mortar and stone work around the church.

Each generation of church members has the honor and opportunity to step up and find ways to contribute financially or otherwise to maintain our incredible worship and community center. It is our turn to keep the building in good repair. The Congregational meeting will provide details of how the grant project can be funded by a variety of sources to complement an intended fund-raising campaign with the membership. Learn how you can help support this important preservation project of the church.

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.

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

June 7: Who Is My Neighbor? A Story of Love, Hate & Faith with David Hogrefe and Brian Kemp

June 14: First Church PRIDE. Preparation and celebration of First Church's involvement in the Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade with Wayne Henry and the First Church Pride committee.

June 21: Supporting our youth with Amanda Erickson of Kaleidoscope Youth Center.

June 28: Building Beloved Community: PRIDE, Justice & Inclusion with Equality Ohio CEO & Executive Director, Dwayne Steward

All are welcome to attend.

Organ+ Silent Film Today at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Today's Organ+ Silent Film features *The Black Pirate*.

Set sail for adventure with one of the great swashbuckling classics of the silent era! Join us today for a free screening of *The Black Pirate* (1926), starring Douglas Fairbanks, accompanied live on the church's magnificent 1931 Kimball organ by acclaimed organist Brett Miller. Experience the excitement, romance, and daring exploits of this silent film masterpiece brought vividly to life through thrilling live accompaniment in the beautiful sanctuary of First Church. Fun for all ages — with free admission and parking!

Free and open to the public | Freewill offering

First Church Book Club Wednesday, June 3, at 7 p.m. on Zoom

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.

Join us on Wednesday when we discuss *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.

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 at 614-442-7742.

First Church Pride Preparation and Celebration

Come join us for the Columbus Pride March in June. Please email Wayne Henry (wayne@43homes.com), 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!



Full Circle Connections Announcement

First Church Connections will take a break for the summer months. Thanks to all who participated in our Friday sessions and shared in our lively discussions. We'll let you know about future plans later on in the summer. ...

Jan Hamilton and Ron Botts, Convenors

Sacred Conversations Sunday, June 7, at 12:15 p.m. in Parish Hall

Join Sarah Reed, Rev. Becky, and the Transition Team for a 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. We hope you will join each one to enrich your understanding of our O&A statement, as well as your relationships in the church.

A light lunch will be offered. The next conversation is June 14.

Keep in Prayer

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 Family and friends of Alan Daulton.

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 Angola and Mozambique. We also pray for our UCC partners in mission the IPTL, the Protestant Church, and FUSONA, the diaconal department of the IPTL, in East Timor.

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

- May 31 - Huckleberry House
- June 7 - FCC Human Rights Committee
- June 21 - Kaleidoscope Youth Center
- June 28 - Good Samaritan Fund

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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