



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN  
JUNE 7, 2026  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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 *Darwall's 148<sup>th</sup>*

Percy Whitlock, 1945

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Lyle Barkhymer

Leader: Come nations of the earth, to bow before God.  
Distant galaxies proclaim the Creator of all things.

**People: We are humbled by the wonders of creation.  
We are amazed by God's mighty works.**

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

\*Leader: This infinite God cares for each one of us.

**People: God hears our cries and responds to our needs.**

Leader: Let us call on God with our prayers of thanks.

**People: Let us celebrate the wondrous things God provides.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Darwall's 148<sup>th</sup>, John Darwall, 1770

"Come sing, O church, in joy"

Brian Dill, 1988

1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
 2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,  
 3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,  
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!  
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!  
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!  
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

\*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.*

INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Marti Baumer

Leader: O God of the morning and of the evening hours,  
Let your Spirit come on us here gathered.

This is the holy place where we, your people, call on you in faith,  
Joining heart and voice in thanksgiving and praise to your name.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: This is a moment given by God to confess our sins  
against each other, all that God has created, and God.  
Let us take this moment to account  
for the ways in which we have not embodied  
what it means to be created in the image of God.  
Holy God, we confess that too often we have not been open  
to the rhythms of life you offer to us.  
We let ourselves be put off your pace  
and allow ourselves to wander off into our own songs.  
Too often the melodies of the world confuse us.  
We have led ourselves and others to paths  
that are not according to your loving pace and direction.

**People: Help us pay attention with all of our senses.  
Make our dancing faithful;  
help us take the risks that are part of letting you lead.  
Pull us back into your rhythms.  
Clean our hearts, purify our hands and steady our feet  
that we might know and share your blessings.**

Leader: The God of Hosts assures us that if we trust God's Word,  
we will be led back to the songs that God would have us sing.  
God is eager to show us the path home.  
Accept the offer of the new song we have been given through Jesus the Christ.

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Hosea 5:15-6:6

Mr. Barkhymer

Leader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Hosea, beginning in the fifth chapter.

'Come! Let us return to YHWH—  
the One who has torn us asunder will make us whole;  
the One who struck us down will bind our wounds.  
In two days, God will bring us back to life and on the third day  
God will restore us so we will live in the presence of the Most High.  
Let us come to know YHWH intimately, and pursue that knowledge zealously.  
And as sure as the sun rises in the morning,  
God will come, and will return to us like the rains of winter,  
like the rains of spring that water the earth.  
Oh, Ephraim, what am I going to do with you?  
And Judah, what am I going to do with you?  
Your devotion is like the morning fog, like the dew of the morning that vanishes!  
So I hack them to pieces through my prophets and slay them with the words of my mouth.  
My judgments flash like lightning before you.  
For I desire kindness toward others, not sacrifice,  
acknowledgement of God, not burnt offerings.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation joins in singing the entirety of the Psalm.*

*Each measure of the chant corresponds to one half-verse of the Psalm, with notes changing at the | symbol.*



7. Hear, O my people, and I will | speak:  
 "O Israel, I will bear witness against you;  
 for I am God, your | God.
10. All the beasts of the forest are | mine,  
 the herds in their thousands upon the | hills.
11. I know every bird in the | sky,  
 and the creatures of the fields are in my | sight.
12. If I were hungry, I would not | tell you,  
 for the whole world is mine and all that is | in it.
14. Offer to God a sacrifice of | thanksgiving  
 and make good your vows to the Most | High.
15. Call upon me in the day of | trouble;  
 I will deliver you, and you shall | honor me."

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 9:13

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

*Following the verse, all repeat the Alleluia.*



- Verse: I desire mercy, not sacrifice.  
 For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, the ninth chapter.

As Jesus walked on, he saw Matthew, a tax collector, at his post. Jesus approached and said, "Follow me," and Matthew got up and followed. Now it happened that, while Jesus was at table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and notorious "sinners" came to join Jesus and the disciples at dinner. The Pharisees saw this and complained to the disciples, saying, "What reason can the Teacher have for eating with tax collectors and sinners?" Overhearing the remark, Jesus said, "People who are in good health don't need a doctor; sick people do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire compassion, not sacrifices.' I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Jesus was speaking, a synagogue official came up, knelt down and said, "My daughter has just died. But if you come and lay hands on her, she will live." Jesus got up and went with the official, and so did the disciples. As they were going along, a woman who had suffered from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the hem of his cloak; she was saying to herself, "If only I can touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned around and saw her. "Courage, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." That very moment the woman was healed.

When Jesus arrived at the house of the synagogue official, a noisy crowd had gathered, and the flute players who served as mourners had already arrived. When he saw them he said, "Get out! The child is not dead—only asleep." They all laughed at him. After the crowd had been put out, he entered and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. And the news spread throughout the countryside.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. David

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Baumer

Leader: We pray to You our Creator,

**People: Remember us and heal us O God.**

\*HYMN

“We come to you for healing, Lord”

*Land of Rest*, American folk melody

Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2002

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of  
2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and  
3 Through nights of pain and wake - ful - ness, through  
4 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your  
reached toward those in pain, we know you come a -  
days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of  
our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.  
mong us still with power to heal a - gain.  
pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.  
nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

## THE OFFERTORY

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



## MISSION INVITATION

Rev. David

*“If you have more than enough material possessions and see your neighbors in need yet close your hearts to them, how can the love of God be living in you?” –1 John 3:17*

Out of gratitude to God and in keeping with our mission and values, every week our offering goes to support a vanguard humanitarian organization. Cash and designated gifts in this week’s offering will go to the newly formed First Church Human Rights Committee. Throughout the United Church of Christ, the cause of human rights is central to how we live out our faith, and, in our congregation, human rights are pivotal to much of the mission work funded by our weekly special offerings. We support this work through several ministries and committees, but none are dedicated specifically to protecting human rights or to advancing it in our church and in our wider community. So our Church Council approved the establishment of an ongoing Human Rights Committee to address this need. Now, when we want to support an organization, an event, or a public policy that is focused on critical concerns like immigration, reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ issues, human trafficking, or civil liberties, the Human Rights Committee will naturally take the lead. The Committee can also serve as the point group for organizing a human rights action where multiple ministries have a part, but none serve all the interests of the ministries involved. The first “on the ground” action by the Committee will be support of the work already underway to organize and expand our activity in this year’s Columbus Pride March. Any offering funds that remain after Pride March expenses are met will be dedicated to other upcoming human rights activities. Thank you for your generous support of this new initiative.

You can use the QR code below to donate to both this week’s mission and to First Church! If you are giving by cash or check and would also like to give something to First Congregational Church, please ask one of our deacons for an envelope and mark it accordingly. Thank you so much for your consideration and generosity. Any amount significant to you is significant to us.

*“Put the entire tithe into the storehouse so there be food in my house! Put me to the test, says Yahweh Omnipotent, and see if I do not open windows in the sky and pour so much blessing on you that you cannot contain it!” –Malachi 3:10*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Healer of our every ill”

Ken Medema, 2011  
Marty Haugen, 1986

Healer of our every ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
hope beyond our sorrow.  
You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.

In the pain and joy beholding  
how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love.  
Give us strength to love each other,  
every sister, every brother;  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.  
You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing;  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.



Leader: We remember that on that night of his betrayal,  
He ate again with his disciples in an upper room.  
He shared blessed bread with them  
And poured out wine, signs of his coming death,  
Signs of a life determined to love despite the risk.

**People: Whenever we eat, with whomever we eat,  
As guests among guests, we remember him.  
He is with us always to the end of the age.**

Leader: Come Holy Spirit Come.  
Bless this bread and this fruit of the vine.

**People: By our eating and drinking,  
Open our hearts to other guests you are always inviting,  
So that one day everyone who hungers  
Will have an honored place in your house,  
The best seats at your table.**

#### 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.**

#### SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*Please come forward as directed by the vergers to receive the common elements for communion.*

*Receive the bread from the pastor, and as you approach the cup,  
dip just the edge of the bread into the juice (this is called intinction)*

*If you require a Gluten-free piece, please proceed to the front.*

*If you are unable to rise and come forward and would still like to partake of communion,  
please tell a verger when they are at your pew.*

*If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home.*

#### COMMUNION ANTHEM

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

"I waited for the Lord"

Psalm 40:1, 5

I waited for the Lord; he inclined unto me, he heard my complaint.

O blessed are they that hope and trust in the Lord.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Baumer

Leader: Thank you God, for inviting us to this Banquet  
and feeding us with the good news of Jesus.

**People: Help us notice who is missing.  
Send us to them as friends  
With your standing invitation to come, to eat, to know love, and be in peace. Amen.**

Leader: My brothers and sisters,  
 you are sent to bring the Word of God and the Bread of Life  
 from this assembly to the sick and friends at home.  
 Go to them with our love and our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## BLESSING FOR MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Leader: Let us take a deep breath together, and bless the going forth of our community members:  
 Creator of the universe,  
 You have hung the very stars in the heavens  
 by which travelers navigate their progress.  
 You have blown the breeze to cool sweaty faces  
 and planted shady trees beneath which we rest.  
 You give us sunlight and moonlight to see the way,  
 and even the dark of night to test our fortitude and our faith in You.  
 None of us can go where You are not;  
 Every path leads to You, and every road, bumpy or smooth,  
 teaches us how to practice Your peace and show Your love.  
 With our arms outstretched, in the ancient posture of blessing,  
 we call Your blessing on these, Your people, youth and adult,  
 seasoned with experience and on the threshold of the new.  
 May the root of our YHWH protect them.  
 May the radical justice of Christ the Anointed inspire them  
 to learn and to lead.  
 May the wisdom and inspiration of the Holy Spirit  
 show them new learning that lasts a lifetime,  
 and motivate their good work in Your world,  
 and for such a time as this.  
 In Your many names and for the sake of the world, we pray,

**People: Amen.**

## COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*Mit Freuden zart*, Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesang, 1566

"Sing praise to God who reigns above"

Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; tr. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt.

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all  
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -  
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief  
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,  
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade  
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,  
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With  
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -  
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as  
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less  
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and  
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the  
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

mur - mur stilled:  
 all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!  
 cho - sen band:  
 take your part:

VOLUNTARY

Tuba Tune

Craig Sellar Lang, 1929

*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 "to the dreamers, who don't ask why but ask why not" by Charlie Weaver.

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

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. David — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Rev. Baumer — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

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

† PERMISSIONS AND COPYRIGHTS

All scripture reading used in today's service are from *The Inclusive Bible*.

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

The Rev. Dr. Marti Baumer, *worship leader*

Lyle Barkhymer, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Henry Wade, *crucifer*

Jason Harrell and Sebastian Kulwicki, *vergers*

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

The First Church Choir

Mike Kennedy, *livestream ministry*



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

**June 7, 2026**

## **This Week at First Church**

### **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)

### **Monday, June 8**

- 9:30 a.m.    Stewardship & Growth Mtg  
                (Classroom C & Zoom)
- 6 p.m.      Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 7 p.m.      Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)  
                BREAD Team Mtg (Parish Hall)

### **Tuesday, June 9**

- 5:30 p.m.    Budget & Finance Mtg  
                (Classroom C & Zoom)
- 6:30 p.m.    Reproductive Justice Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 7 p.m.      Executive Committee Mtg  
                (Classroom C & Zoom)

### **Wednesday, June 10**

- 6 p.m.      Community Yoga Wednesdays (Parish Hall)

### **Thursday, June 11**

- 10 a.m.      Congregational Care Ministry Team Mtg  
                (SM Office)
- 6 p.m.      Church Vitality Mtg (Wine Bisto, UA)  
                First Church Ringers Practice (Sanctuary)

### **Sunday, June 14**

- 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)
- 12:30 p.m.    Sacred Conversation #4 (Parish Hall)

## **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 and Executive Director, Dwayne Steward

All are welcome to attend.

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

Join the First Church playground gang between services having outdoor fun while parents catch up. We'll be outside playing every Sunday this June, weather permitting.

## Sacred Conversation

**Today 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. The meeting focuses on one aspect of the church's Open and Affirming Statement. We hope you will join to enrich your understanding of our O&A statement, as well as your relationships in the church.

A light lunch will be offered. The final conversation will be Sunday, June 14.

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## First Church Mission Trip Blessings for Participants

Ten youth and adults from First Church will travel to Washington, D.C., June 13-18 for an urban mission trip where they will serve and connect with people experiencing hunger and homelessness, learn about social justice, and put their faith into action.

Please pray for a safe and meaningful trip for our youth participants:

Grant Butler  
Emma Dean  
Xavier Dean  
Fisher Ferguson  
Aubrey Schmitt  
Donna Vogt

and our adult leaders:

Rev. Jessica Young Chang  
Leslie Fulford  
Emily Schmitt  
Nate Vogt

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## Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

June 7 - FCC Human Rights Committee  
June 21 - Kaleidoscope Youth Center  
June 28 - Good Samaritan Fund

## Pride Pep Rally

**Thursday, June 18, at 6 p.m.  
in Parish Hall**

Please join the Pride March Planning Committee for an evening of pizza, sign-making, and Pride March prep to help us extend First Church's Extravagant Welcome to the wider community at this year's Stonewall Columbus Pride March on Saturday, June 20.

Everyone is welcome, whether you are marching or not. If you would like to attend, please email Melissa Kulwickski, [mkulwickski@first-church.org](mailto:mkulwickski@first-church.org), so we can plan accordingly!

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## First Church Book Club Wednesday, July 1, 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 next month when we discuss *My Friends*, a novel by Fredrik Backman. A #1 NY Times Bestseller, *My Friends* is an unforgettably funny, deeply moving tale of four teenagers whose friendship creates a bond so powerful that it changes a complete stranger's life twenty-five years later.

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.

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## Sacred Earth's Eco Tip

Sacred Earth has been focused on recycling activities, but we also want to highlight the natural beauty of the earth!

Quarry Trails Metro Park is one of the newest parks in central Ohio. It runs along the Scioto River, along Dublin & Old Dublin Road. Go walk the paved trails of 1 mile or less that are a part of this park, and find a waterfall on one trail. For further details about this and other metroparks, visit the [metroparks.net](http://metroparks.net) website.

Also, don't forget to enjoy nature's bounty in our own backyard!

## Preserving the Past, Stepping into the Future

At the special congregational meeting held on May 31, 2026, the congregation voted to approve a \$200,000 fundraising campaign entitled: "Preserving the Past, Stepping into the Future." The fundraising campaign will support the Preservation Grant Project that involves replacing the front steps, restoring the Rose Window, and repairing mortar, stone, and some windows around the 1931 building.

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.

During the meeting, Ramona Moenter, church treasurer, announced the receipt of a \$200,000 anonymous gift to support the preservation project. Anne Jeffrey Wright announced a \$350,000 community grant for the preservation project by the Tad and Nancy Jeffrey Fund of the Columbus Foundation. Along with the national grant, \$800,000 has been raised towards the overall \$1 million goal. Anne also announced a separate community grant of \$150,000 from the same family fund for an intended landscaping project along Broad Street at the front of the church.

Tom Worley and Allison Lowery have agreed to help lead the fundraising campaign to raise the \$200,000 from the congregation to cover the remaining funds needed to complete the preservation project. During this summer, members and friends of the congregation will receive an invitation to attend one of several information sessions to be held throughout the community and at the church. Plan to attend a session to learn how you can help to support this project. Every new dollar given by the congregation will unlock \$4 of other support for the preservation project.

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## Keep in Prayer

**Congratulations** to First Church Member Nathaniel Powell and Brian Pousak who were married here on Saturday.

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

**Family and friends** Rev. jess young chang's friend, Rev. Steve Swisher's mother, Barbara Swisher; Annette McCormick's sister, Kathy McCormick; Amy Wagner's great nephew, Brody Wilson, her friend, Nancy Rowe Wickline, and friend Mitchell McGuire; Melva Fisher's brother, James Garrison; Pat Patterson's sister-in-law, Bonnie Elliott; 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; Dakotah 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 Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Eswatini. We also pray for our UCC partners in CREATE, the association of 19 educational institutions related to the Global Ministries partner in the United Church of Christ of the Philippines.

# 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](http://www.firstchurcharts.org) | [home@first-church.org](mailto:home@first-church.org)

