



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

RINGING OF THE BELL

*GATHERING SONG

Holy Manna, William Moore's Columbian Harmony, 1825

"All who hunger gather gladly"

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1990

All who hun-ger gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
 Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
 You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

*INVOCATION

Barbara Mason

Leader: Let us pray,
 We gather this day as Your people, O God.
 We gather hungry for justice, thirsty for peace,
 and waiting for Your reign to unfold in our world.
 Help us Gentle One, to see our own brokenness
 and to hear Your call to return to You with our whole selves.
 May our worship bring us closer to each other and make us more like You.

People: Amen.

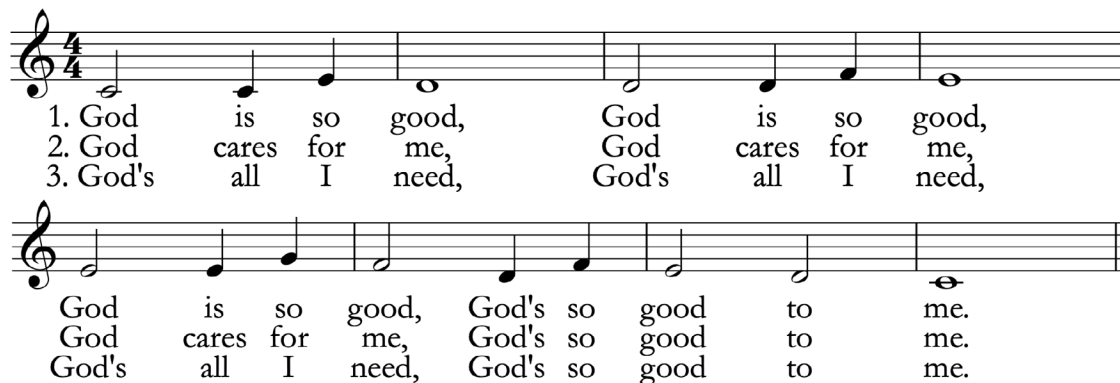
*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Becky

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

CHILDREN'S HYMN
"God is so good"

God is So Good, Traditional African
Paul Makai, tr. Marilyn Foulkes, ca. 1970, rev.



1. God is so good, God is so good,
2. God cares for me, God cares for me,
3. God's all I need, God's all I need,

God is so good, God's so good to me.
God cares for me, God's so good to me.
God's all I need, God's so good to me.

LISTENING

THE FIRST READING

Hosea 5:15-6:6

Barbara Mason

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."

*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Rev. Becky

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.

REFLECTION

Rev. Becky

RESPONDING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Becky

Leader: We pray to You our Creator,
People: **Remember us and heal us O God.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

HYMN

Land of Rest, American folk melody

"We come to you for healing, Lord"

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 Depart to Serve:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Becky

“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 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 MUSIC

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.

COMMUNION

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!

Leader: It is our shared joy to thank God for all God is doing in our lives, and for the time to gather around Christ's table and share the meal of remembrance, community, transformation. As we gather at this table, as we remember Christ, we also remember those who share the bread and the cup through time and space, as they return to the table nourished and comforted by the eternal and never-ending welcome of Christ.

When Jesus gathered with the students, the night before the trial, the night before execution, Jesus took bread, gave thanks for it, and broke it, saying This is my body, broken for you. When you do this, remember me. After supper, Jesus took the cup and blessed it, saying this is the cup of the New Covenant poured out for all. Whenever you drink from it, remember me.

Holy One, we join hearts and hands in this covenant of faith, this sacrament of transformation, and this observance of community and sustenance with all who wish to eat at your table and with your children the world over. Come Holy Spirit, Come. Twine yourself within these crumbs, dive deep within these cups, so that for us as we receive these elements, we receive nothing less than your love and presence; when we go from this place, changed by this sacrament, we embody nothing less than your love in the world.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Come, for all things are ready.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Eat this bread"

Berthier, Jacques Berthier, 1984

Robert J. Batastini and the Taizé Community, 1984, alt.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread; drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst."

All: Thank you for this meal shared in the company of friends.
 Having rested and been fed, may we go from this place
 Committed to feeding any person who hungers for love,
 offering the same blessings we have received.
 In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*CLOSING HYMN

World Peace Prayer, Marty Haugen, 1984

"Lead us from death to life"

Satish Kumar, 1981

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to
 truth, from des - pair to hope, from fear to trust.
 Lead us from hate to love, from war to
 peace; let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our
 world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Becky

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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"Lead us from death to life." Marty Haugen, 1985. © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

Barbara Mason, *liturgist*

Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Joshua Stafford, *pianist*

Cynthia Adcock and Emily Riggin, *soloists*

Geoffrey Dean, *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.

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.

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

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 Kulwicki, mkulwicki@first-church.org, so we can plan accordingly!

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.

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 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.

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

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