



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT NINE
JUNE 28, 2026
FIFTH 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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

*GATHERING SONG

Twin Oaks, Marty Haugen, 1994

"Let us build a house" v. 1

Let us build a house where love can dwell, and all can safely live, a
place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of
hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
love of Christ shall end divisions: all are welcome;
all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

*INVOCATION

Julia Myers

From *Upper Room Worshipbook*

Leader: Let us pray,
New every morning is your love, great God of light,
and all day long you are working for good in the world.

**People: Stir up in us desire to serve you,
to live peacefully with our neighbors and all your creation,
and to devote each day to your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. jessica young chang

CHILDREN'S TIME

Donna Vogt, Grant Butler, and Fisher Ferguson

*Young children are invited to remain in worship this morning
to hear from our mission trip participants.*

Those not wishing to remain in worship are welcome to go to the Nursery for play time.

LISTENING

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Julia Myers

Leader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, the twenty-eighth chapter.

Jeremiah the prophet then answered the prophet Hananiah in front of the priests and all the people there in the Temple of YHWH. "Amen!" he said. "May YHWH do so! May YHWH fulfill the words you have prophesied, and return to us from Babylon the vessels of the Temple of YHWH and all the exiles. But listen carefully to what I'm about to say to you and all the people: From of old, the prophets who preceded you and me prophesied war, famine, and plague for many countries and great empires. But the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognized as having been sent by YHWH only when the prophesied words come true."

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.



1. Your love, O Lord, for ever will I | sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your | faithfulness.
2. For I am persuaded that your love is established for | ever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the | heavens.
3. "I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my | servant:
4. 'I will establish your line for | ever,
and preserve your throne for all gene- | rations.'"
15. Happy are the people who know the festal | shout!
they walk, O Lord, in the light of your | presence.
16. They rejoice daily in your | Name;
they are jubilant in your | righteousness.
17. For you are the glory of their | strength,
and by your favor our might is ex- | alted.
18. Truly, the Lord is our | ruler;
the Holy One of Israel is our | King.

*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 10:40-42

Rev. jess

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

"Those who welcome you also welcome me, and those who welcome me welcome the One who sent me. "Those who welcome prophets just because they are prophets will receive the reward reserved for the prophets themselves; those who welcome holy people just because they are holy will receive the reward of the holy ones. "The truth is, whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these lowly ones just for being a disciple will not lack a reward."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Leslie Fulford and 2026 First Church Mission Trip Participants:
Grant Butler, Fisher Ferguson, and Donna Vogt

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.

*HYMN

McKee, African American spiritual

"The church of Christ cannot be bound"

Adam M.L. Tice, 2005



1 The church of Christ can - not be bound by
2 True faith will o - pen up the door and
3 True love will not sit i - dly by when
4 If what we have we free - ly share to
5 The church of Christ can - not be bound by



walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and
step in - to the street. True ser - vice will seek
jus - tice is de - nied. True mer - cy hears the
meet our neigh - bor's need, then we ex - tend the
walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and



love are found, there can the church be known.
out the poor and ask to wash their feet.
home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.
Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.
love are found, there can the church be known.

THE OFFERTORY

Rev. jess

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



“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 go to support First Church’s **Good Samaritan Fund**. Each month “Good Sam” provides financial help to people in need who come to our church seeking assistance. Every effort is made to meet the unique, emergency needs of these neighbors. Thank you for your generosity.

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 ANTHEM

Bryn Calfaria, William Owen, 1850

Laudamus

arr. Daniel Protheroe, 1957

Unto Thee all praise be given, King of Kings and Lord of Lords;
Heav’n and earth proclaim Thy glory, and the wonders of Thy works.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, we will give Thee evermore.

In Thy mercy Thou dost save us, and from harm Thou’lt keep us free;
When temptations dire assail us, we shall always look to Thee.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, we will give Thee evermore.

In Thy pow’r we ever glory, in Thy strength we shall endure;
Leaning on Thy gracious mercy, and Thy precious love so pure.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, we will give Thee evermore.

COMMUNION

Rev. jess

Leader: We, then, are the body of Christ.

**People: We are made one body through the love of Jesus
and the work of the Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Christ’s death begins with a meal.
“Eat, drink.”

The ask is that we would remember Christ in our bodies.

This is more than mere symbolism. It is not just poetry.

People: The path to liberation is to stay in our bodies.

Leader: In a world that demands strength, power, and might,
In a world that preys on softness, on need, and on struggle,
Christ teaches us to love through the act of closeness,
through touching our vulnerability and treasuring the tenderness of others.

People: The path to liberation is to stay in our bodies.

Leader: As we encircle the table of Christ today,
and use our bodies to remember the miracle,
the miracle of Christ, the miracle of life, the miracle of love,
we take and eat, and we let our lives be changed
by always turning our faces again to God.

People: The path to liberation is to stay in our bodies.

Leader: When the Anointed One gathered with the disciples, before his own body became the
portal for love of the world, 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.

**People: Sacred God, we gather around Your table, thankful for Your gifts. Bless now these
elements, so that for us as we receive Your bread and your cup, we receive Your love and
presence; when we go from this place, changed by this sacrament, we embody 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 musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. 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."

Leader: Let us pray,

People: Gracious God,

God of our creation, how can we thank you for the gift of your body

but by honoring our bodies and the bodies of our brothers and sisters?

Help us to hold ourselves and each other in the deep dignity of your grace.

Remember us into this world you have created

so that we may hold her too in our care.

As we leave this sacred place, may we embody your love into the world. 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. jess

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. Jessica Young Chang, *preacher*

Julia Myers, *liturgist*

Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*

Grant Butler, Fisher Ferguson, and Donna Vogt, *worship leaders*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Sebastian Kulwicki, *soloist & pianist*

Cynthia Adcock, *pianist*

Geoffrey Dean, *livestream ministry*



Enter to Worship **Depart to Serve**

June 28, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, June 28

- 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)

Tuesday, June 30

- 5 p.m. Laundry Love (Wash Land)

Wednesday, July 1

- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Education and
 Supervision Mtg (SM Office)
- 7 p.m. Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, July 2

- 6 p.m. Church Vitality (Off Campus)

Friday, July 3

Office Closed in Celebration of Independence Day

Sunday, July 5

- 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)

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.

Mission Trip Celebration

Today in Parish Hall

Our First Church youth are back from their Washington, D.C. mission trip and are excited to share their journey with you! Please join us this Sunday at both 9 and 11a.m. where they will share their experiences. They will show photos in Parish Hall at the 9 a.m. service and at coffee hour following the 11 a.m. service. Please join us and learn about their trip!

Adult Faith Formation **Today at 10 a.m. in Classroom C**

During Pride Month, we had a special series on topics surrounding Pride, belonging, and what it means to create a welcoming and affirming church for all. Today is the final session in this series.

"Building Beloved Community: Pride, Justice and Inclusion" will be presented by Equality Ohio CEO and Executive Director, Dwayne Steward.

All are welcome to attend.

Laundry Love **June 30 at 5 p.m.**

Since 2003, the national Laundry Love program has partnered with individuals, groups, and local laundromats throughout the US to help wash the clothes and bedding of individuals and/or families living in poverty. First Congregational Church became a partner in this free laundry service for the residents of Franklinton in 2015. We continue to support this program with our time, money, and detergent.

Today, Vicki Lyden leads our team. They offer fellowship and laundry services at 5 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month at Wash Land, 1469 West Broad Street.

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. This is a fun opportunity for lively conversation and get to know other church members better.

This month we will discuss *My Friends*, 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 at 7 p.m. on Zoom the first Wednesday of each month. Our August book will be *Mona's Eyes* authored by Thomas Schlessler, a NY Times Bestseller, and Barnes & Noble 2025 Book of the Year.

Questions? Want to receive book club emails? Please call Kathy Reed at 614-442-7742.

Summer Volunteers for Faith Formation Needed

Have a little free time this summer? If so, we would love some help in the following areas:

- Organizing the resource and teen rooms
- Helping with Sunday Stories or Children's Time on Sundays while Leslie is out of town

Teens can receive service hours!

If you are willing to lend a hand, please use the QR Code to fill out this short form with your interests.



Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

June 28 - Good Samaritan Fund

July 5 - UCC Strengthen the Church

July 12 - BREAD

Lunch Bunch at Ari's Thursday, July 16, at Noon

Join others from First Church at this south side diner for a nice lunch or a breakfast meal. Ari's on Frank Rd. opened in 2006 serving the community with classic diner comfort food and a few special dishes inspired by their Albanian roots. Founded by husband and wife duo Ari and Neta, the diner is a family-run labor of love.

Ari's is located at 1425 Frank Road.

For more information and to register on Realm please use the QR Code.



Keep in Prayer

Members Lynn Wallich; Jane Weddle; Victor John; Mary Day Fewless; 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. Becky David; Janet Axt's friend Phyllis Humphrey; David Wyatt's uncle, Richard Hendrix Wyatt; Rev. Becky David's son, Gabe Stevens; Pat Patterson's friend, Cindy Shealy; 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; 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; Jason Harrell's mother, Sherry Harrell; Matt Myers' sister, Erin Myers.

Those who mourn Melva Fisher on the death of her brother, James Garrison; Kevin Salem on the death of his aunt, Alice Mikesina; Mary Jo Hudson and Lynn Wallich and family on the death of Mary Jo's mother, Ann Hudson.

We keep Stephen Ministers in prayer as they care for our church members.

We keep our Search Committee and Our Future Pastor in our prayers.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray for the people and churches of Kenya and Tanzania. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission the Lao Evangelical Church in Laos.

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 Hafez, 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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