



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
JULY 19, 2026
EIGHTH 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

Benedictus

Alec Rowley, 1931

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Dr. Sandra Mathias

Leader: Teach us Your ways, God the Almighty, God the Ever-Present,
That in our going out and coming in, we are reminded we are Yours.

People: **How great is Your name, Worker of all marvels,
You are good and forgiving for all who call on You.**

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

*Leader: In success and in suffering, in pleasure and in pain,
we remember You are with us, Your presence gladdens our hearts.

People: **Pour out Your teachings on us, that through the miracle of radical love,
We come to understand Your compassionate liberation for all.**

Leader: We offer our hearts, our hands, our attention and our curiosity
To You: Hear our praise and our prayer and draw near to us.

People: **God of the inbreath and outbreath, Master of sunrise and sunset,
let us praise You in thought, in word, and in deed.**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Lauda Anima, John Goss, 1869

"Praise, my soul, the God of heaven"

Henry Francis Lyte, 1834; rev. Ecumenical Women's Center, 1974



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears
3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. jessica young chang

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 many greet one another by name.*

by Cole Arthur Riley

Leader: God, our maker,
We honor the sacred multitude that resides in You.

People: **May the guardian in You protect us.**
May the child in You delight in us.
May the friend in You challenge us.
May Your ashes resurrect us.
May Your sky shelter us.
May the mystery of You liberate us.

Leader: Provide abundance and healing in all forms to all who need it today,
and deliver us from shame, hatred, and the chains that bind us.

People: **For You have made us—*glory*—and we are still being made. Amen.**

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:12-25

Dr. Mathias

Leader: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans, the eighth chapter.

Therefore, we are under an obligation, my sisters and brothers but not to the flesh or to live according to the flesh. If you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if you live by the Spirit, you will put to death the evil deeds of the body and you will live.

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. For the Spirit that God has given you does not enslave you and trap you in fear; instead, through the Spirit God has adopted you as children, and by that Spirit we cry out, "Abba!" God's Spirit joins with our spirit to declare that we are God's children. And if we are children, we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing in Christ's suffering and sharing in Christ's glory.

Indeed, I consider the sufferings of the present to be nothing compared with the glory that will be revealed in us. All creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the children of God. Creation was subjected to transience and futility, not of its own accord, but because of the One who subjected it—in the hope that creation itself would be freed from its slavery to corruption and would come to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that from the beginning until now, all of creation has been groaning in one great act of giving birth. And not only creation, but all of us who possess the firstfruits of the Spirit—we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

In hope we were saved. But hope is not hope if its object is seen; why does one hope for what one sees? And hoping for what we cannot see means awaiting it with patient endurance.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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



11. Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your | truth;
knit my heart to you that I may fear your | Name.
12. I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my | heart,
and glorify your Name for ever- | more.
13. For great is your love toward | me;
you have delivered me from the nethermost | Pit.
14. The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my | life; *
they have not set you before their | eyes.
15. But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of com- | passion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and | truth.
16. Turn to me and have mercy up- | on me;
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your | handmaid.

Matthew 13:35

Following the verse, all repeat the Alleluia.



Verse: I will open my mouth to speak in parables;
I will proclaim what has been hidden since the foundation.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Rev. young chang

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

Jesus presented another parable to those gathered: "The kin-dom of heaven is like a farmer who sowed good seed in a field. While everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then made off. When the crop began to mature and yield grain, the weeds became evident as well. "The farmer's workers came and asked, 'Did you not sow good seed in your field? Where are the weeds coming from?'

"The farmer replied, 'I see an enemy's hand in this!

"They in turn asked, 'Do you want us to go out and pull them up?'

“No,” replied the farmer, “if you pull up the weeds, you might take the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until the harvest, then at harvest time I will order the harvesters first to collect the weeds and bundle them up to burn, then to gather the wheat into my barn!”

Then Jesus left the crowd and went into the house. The disciples also came in and said, "Explain the parable about the weeds in the field."

Jesus answered, "The farmer sowing the good seed is the Chosen One, the field is the world, and the good seed, the citizens of the kin-dom. The weeds are the followers of the Evil One, and the enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world, while the harvesters are the angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned, so it will be at the end of the age. The Chosen One will send the angels who will weed out the kin-dom of everything that causes sin and all who act lawlessly. The angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. But those who are just will shine like the sun in the kin-dom of their Abba God. Let those who have ears to hear, hear this!

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. young chang

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dr. Mathias

Leader: Let us together turn our hearts toward God in prayer.

God who spoke order out of chaos, be our resolute steadiness and our tender strength. Why do we do what we do, and why is the world as it is? Root us in humble righteousness, keeping us kind and curious.

We pray to You our Creator,

People: Remember us and heal us O God.

Leader: God who embodied solidarity in the midst of empire, guide us in the way of love. How do we radiate mercy and forge justice? Empower us to be good companions, good neighbors, and good friends.

We pray to You our Creator,

People: Remember us and heal us O God.

Leader: God who is as large as the whole universe and as close as our next breath, accompany us in our need. We put before you those on our heart and in our community who need you to come by here, who need be reminded they are not alone...

We pray to You our Creator,

People: Remember us and heal us O God.

Leader: God who promised never to leave us, show us how to persevere faithfully. How do we bear witness through these trying days and in manifold ways? Open us to creativity and imagination, consolation and care.

We pray to You our Creator,

People: Remember us and heal us O God.

Leader: Through all this, God, remember us, hold us, and remind us what it means to become whole again. Surprise us with laughter and energize us with hope. Turn our tears into rain for the fields of healing, make our collective outcry a comforting breeze for those who labor faithfully, and transform our love into sunshine for your garden of grace.

People: Amen.

Leader: Let us join our voices together in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

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

"My soul cries out with a joyful shout"

Star of County Down, Irish melody
Rory Cooney, 1990

Em C D

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

Em C D Em

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

G D Em C Em

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

G D

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

Em C D Em

weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. young chang

“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 the **Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)**, one of the nation's most effective and respected legal advocacy organizations. Founded by legendary public interest lawyer Bryan Stevenson in 1989, this nonprofit justice organization works with individuals and communities that have been marginalized by poverty and discouraged by unequal treatment across generations. In addition to criminal justice reform, EJI's mission has expanded to challenging racial and economic injustice, protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society (including justice-involved children), and implementing public education campaigns. EJI's work is time consuming, expensive, labor intensive, and emotionally demanding, so our help is needed now more than ever. Thank you for your generosity.

You can use the QR code 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 use one of the giving envelopes available in the pew racks, 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

“Verleih' uns Frieden”

Felix Mendelssohn, 1831
Medieval prayer, tr. Martin Luther

*Verleih' uns Frieden gnädiglich, Herr Gott, zu unsern Zeiten!
Es ist doch ja kein Andrer nicht, der für uns könnte streiten,
denn du, unser Gott alleine.*

Graciously grant us peace, Lord God, in our time.
For there is indeed no one else who can defend us
Other than you, our God, alone.

*DOXOLOGY

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

*CLOSING HYMN

"There's a wideness in God's mercy"

In Babilone, Dutch melody

Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures
of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,
of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal
which is more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth's
is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more
sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word, and our lives re-
where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
flect thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our Lord.

BENEDICTION

Rev. young chang

VOLUNTARY

Toccata Giocosa

William Mathias, 1968

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 in memory of Jon “Mac” Anderson by Deb Anderson.

† PLEASE JOIN US IN PARISH HALL FOR COFFEE HOUR, hosted by the Personnel Commission, led by Neal Brower.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. young chang — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Ms. Kulwicki — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

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

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All scripture readings used in today’s service are from *The Inclusive Bible*.

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“My soul cries out with a joyful shout” Words and music arrangement by Rory Cooney, 1990. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S LITURGY

The Rev. jessica young chang, *preacher*

Dr. Sandra Mathias, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Neal Brower, *crucifer*

Joshua Stafford, *organist*

First Church Choir

Pat Patterson, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

July 19, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, July 19

- 9 a.m. Worship Service and Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Family Playground Time (Playground)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Sales (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, July 21

- 6 p.m. Faith Formation Mtg (at the Cunninghams')

Wednesday, July 22

- 7 p.m. 175th Anniversary Planning Mtg (Teams)
Assoc. Minister Advisory Group Mtg (Parlor)

Thursday, July 23

- 5 p.m. BAM Thursdays (Columbus Museum of Art)

Friday, July 24

- 11:30 a.m. Faith Mission Food Prep & Serve (Kitchen)

Sunday, July 26

- 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)

BAM at CMOA

Thursday, July 23, at 5 p.m.

Church Vitality invites you to kick off your weekend early with BAM Thursdays (Bar, Art, and Music) at the Columbus Museum of Art. Enjoy live music, great art, delicious bites, creative experiences, and fresh libations in their Patricia M. Jurgensen Sculpture Garden. This CMOA program runs weekly until September 10.

You do not need a reservation or ticket to attend BAM but we would appreciate you registering on Realm for this fun, afternoon activity. Please use the QR Code to register.



Adult Faith Formation

Sunday, July 26, at 10 a.m. Classroom C

Alejandro Rodriguez will share information about the Washington Gladden Social Justice Park. Come learn about the Park's history, its plans, and why it's so important now as we strive for a more just society for all.

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 summer, weather permitting.

Joy is an Act of Resistance Friday, August 14, 2026

The Washington Gladden Social Justice Park and the Human Service Chamber are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help create a welcoming, joyful morning for the nonprofit professionals, social workers, educators, advocates, healthcare workers, and community leaders who strengthen Central Ohio every day.

Joy is an Act of Resistance is a free community appreciation event celebrating those who dedicate their lives to serving others. Through breakfast, music, games, creative activities, reflection, and connection, we'll create a space for renewal and gratitude—because caring for those who care for our community strengthens the movement for social justice. It runs from 7 to 11 a.m.

Please use the QR Code to volunteer for this event. Should you have questions about becoming a volunteer please email Barb Poppe at Barbara.poppe.77@gmail.com.



Good Works!

Engaging with Our Church and Our Community ... January – June 2026

Our church has been busy during the first six months of 2026. Though this is a period of ministerial transition, our church members continue to respond to God's call and to serve each other and our community.

Faith Formation

Adult Education

We had five adult education events during the 10 a.m. adult education hour. They were well attended:

- Connecting with our Passion for Social Justice
- Faith in Action for Justice
- For Such a Time as This: Journey through the book of Esther
- The Message of the Psalms
- The Wisdom of World Religions

We offered small book study circles during Lent that studied David Brooks' book, *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others and Being Deeply Seen*.

In June we had a series of Pride presentations during the 10 a.m. hour.

Youth Education

- Confirmation classes with confirmation in October
- Youth Bible Study
- Martin Luther King Day in the Social Justice Park
- The Wisdom of World Religions
- College chats with First Church alums
- Bowling in January
- Snow tubing in February
- Pet Pantry service project
- Social Justice Park scavenger hunt and lesson
- Washington, D.C. mission trip in June

Children's Education

In addition to Godly Play at 10 a.m., we offered:

- Sunday Stories
- Music with Mr. Josh
- Lenten Garden project
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Family Playground

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

- July 19 - Equal Justice Initiative
- July 26 - Bikes for All People
- August 2 - Gladden Community House

Keep in Prayer

Members Fran Panek; 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 Jenny Provenzano's mother, Joyce Beitzel; Melissa Kulwicki's father, Jack Blandi; Rev. Becky David; David Wyatt's uncle, Richard Hendrix Wyatt; 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, and friend Mitchell McGuire; 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-in-law Michael Bittle; Jennifer Fry on the death of her friend, Dennis Moore.

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 Djibouti and Somalia. We also pray for our UCC partner, the the Admucajevi Women's Association in Tarazá, Antioquia, Columbia.

Sacred Earth Eco Tip for a 'Plastic-Free Month'

Please consider buying and/or using reusable and refillable products. This will help reduce waste, conserve our resources, and decrease the demand for one-time, disposable items.

In Franklin County, there are businesses that help with reducing single-use plastic. Referred to as a refillery, these businesses are zero-waste retail stores where customers bring their own empty containers to fill with bulk items.

- ReWash Refillery (3133 N. High Street, Columbus)
- Resen Refillery (Winchester Farm Exchange, 8 S. High Street, Canal Winchester)
- City Folks Farm Shop (4522 Indianola Avenue, Columbus)
- Bexley Natural Market (508 N. Cassady Avenue, Bexley)

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 Hafe, 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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