



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT NINE
AUGUST 2, 2026
TENTH 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

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: Gracious God,
we gather once again to offer You praise and thanksgiving
for Your unfailing love and faithfulness,
shown most clearly through Your Son, Jesus Christ.
Grant us grace to worship You in spirit and in truth.
Through the power of Your Holy Spirit,
open our eyes to recognize You here among us.

People: **Give us courage to step out in faith to meet You,
and confidence to follow where You lead.
For You are our God, and we are Your people, called by Your name.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

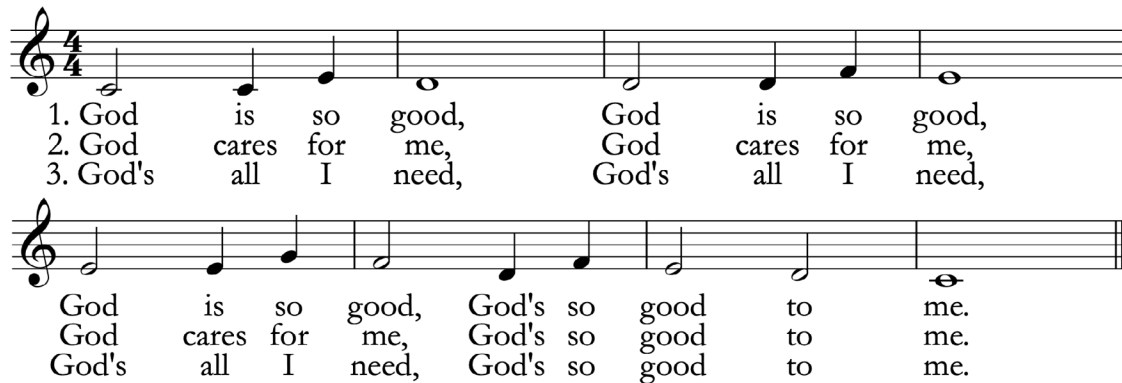
*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. jess

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

Isaiah 55:1-5

Barbara Mason

Leader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, the fifty-fifth chapter.

"All you who are thirsty, come to the water!

You who have no money, come, buy food and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk, without money, without price!

Why spend your money for what is not bread,
your wages for what fails to satisfy?

Heed me, and you will eat well, you will delight in rich fare;

bend your ear and come to me, listen, that you may have life:

I will make an everlasting Covenant with you—

in fulfillment of the blessings promised to David.

See, I have made of you to be a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander of the nations.

See, you will summon nations you never knew,

and nations that never knew you will come hurrying to you—

for the sake of YHWH, the Holy One of Israel, who will glorify you."

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.



8. The Lord is gracious and full of com- | passion,
slow to anger and of great | kindness.
9. The Lord is loving to | everyone
and his compassion is over all his | works.
15. The Lord upholds all those who | fall;
he lifts up those who are bowed | down.
16. The eyes of all wait upon you, O | Lord,
and you give them their food in due | season.
17. You open wide your | hand
and satisfy the needs of every living | creature.
18. The Lord is righteous in all his | ways
and loving in all his | works.
19. The Lord is near to those who call up- | on him,
to all who call upon him | faithfully.
20. He fulfills the desire of those who | fear him;
he hears their cry and | helps them.
21. The Lord preserves all those who | love him,
but he destroys all the | wicked.
22. My mouth shall speak the praise of the | Lord;
let all flesh bless his holy Name for ever and | ever.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

Rev. jess

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

When Jesus heard about the beheading, he left Nazareth by boat and went to a deserted place to be alone. The crowds heard of this and followed him from their towns on foot. When Jesus disembarked and saw the vast throng, his heart was moved with pity, and he healed their sick. As evening drew on, the disciples approached Jesus and said, “This is a deserted place and it is already late. Dismiss the crowds so they can go to the villages and buy some food for themselves.” Jesus said to them: “There is no need for them to disperse. Give them something to eat yourselves.” “We have nothing here,” they replied, “but five loaves and a couple of fish.” “Bring them here,” Jesus said. Then he ordered the crowds to sit on the grass. Taking the five loaves and two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven, blessed the food, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, who in turn gave it to the people. All those present ate their fill. The fragments remaining, when gathered up, filled twelve baskets. About five thousand families were fed.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

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

Llanfair, Robert Williams, 1817

"Come, behold! the feast of heaven"

John F. Underwood, 1993

1 Come, be - hold! the feast of heaven
 2 All is read - y, come at - tend Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 All who trust in God be - long
 4 As the Lord our God has willed,

has to mor - tal flesh been given.
 as the Lord's in - vit - ed friend; Al - le - lu - ia!
 at this ban - quet with this throng.
 here the hun - gry soul is filled;

Hear the Word of God de - clared:
 come from north, west, south, and east; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Share the mys - tic ho - ly food;
 here the wea - ry are re - freshed.

"Come! the ban - quet is pre - pared."
 cel - e - brate the joy - ful feast. Al - le - lu - ia!
 taste and see: the Lord is good.
 All who share God's feast are blessed.

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Jess

"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. This week, cash and designated gifts go to support **Gladden Community House**. The Gladden mission is to strengthen the wellbeing of Franklinton's children, families and community, and to build a thriving, equitable neighborhood in Franklinton and beyond. Gladden was launched by First Church abolitionist pastor Washington Gladden in 1905. Today Gladden provides vital services to more than 15,000 people each year through programs that include Homelessness Prevention; Preschool, Elementary, Middle School, and After-School programming; a thriving Senior Citizen program; and family services for Franklin County. From their own kitchen, Gladden serves 24,000 meals each year to children in their programs. 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 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

A Simple Song from *Mass*

Leonard Bernstein, 1971

Sing God a simple song: lauda, laude.
Make it up as you go along,
lauda, laude.
Sing like you like to sing;
God loves all simple simple things,
for God is the simplest of all.
I will sing the Lord a new song;
to praise him, to bless him, to bless the Lord.
I will sing his praises while I live,
all of my days.
Blessed is the man who loves the Lord,
blessed is the man who praises him;
lauda, lauda, laude.
And walks in his ways.

I will lift up my eyes to the hills
from whence comes my help.
I will lift up my voice to the Lord
singing lauda, laude.
For the Lord is my shade,
is the shade upon my right hand,
And the Sun shall not smite me by day
Nor the Moon by night.
Lauda, lauda, laude,
Lauda, laudadi dadi de.
All of my days.

COMMUNION

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: We gather at the table to retell the story of death, resurrection, and oneness with God. The night Jesus was betrayed, he gathered with his friends:

**People: Friends who would betray him,
friends who would deny him,
friends who would flee from him.**

Leader: Still, out of love, Jesus gathered them unto himself, so they could eat, connect and remember.

Breaking the bread, He gave us the words of our sacrament:

People: Take, eat. This is my body broken for you. Eat it to remember me.

Leader: After supper, Jesus poured and blessed the cup, and gave us the meaning of our remembrance:

People: Take, drink. This is my blood, shed for all. Drink it to remember me.

Leader: Anointed One, we gather at Your table to affirm Your sacrifice and our faith. By making ourselves one in Your sacrament, we unmake our fears, our limitations, and our obstacles to Your way.

People: We join hearts and hands in this covenant of faith and this observance of community and sustenance.

Leader: 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.

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

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.

“Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and

nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread;



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. jess

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Thank you, Maker and Breaker of Tables,
For inviting me – and us all – to partake in this sacred meal.
Even as we have gotten our fill today,
Keep our hungers unsatisfied and our thirsts unquenched
So that we might do and be the Church
Always in remembrance of You. 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

"Lead us from death to life"

World Peace Prayer, Marty Haugen, 1984

Satish Kumar, 1981



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

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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*
Barbara Mason, *liturgist*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
Joshua Stafford, *pianist*
Cynthia Adcock, *soloist*
Geoffrey Dean, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship **Depart to Serve**

August 2, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, August 2

- 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)

Monday, August 3

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

Tuesday, August 4

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

Wednesday, August 5

- 12 Noon Lunch Bunch (DK Diner, Grandview)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Education & Supervision
Mtg (SM Office)
- 7 p.m. Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, August 6

- 6 p.m. Bell Ensemble Practice (Sanctuary)
- 7 p.m. Church Vitality Mtg (Parish Family Rm)

Friday & Saturday, August 7-8

- 12 Noon Limited access to our parking lots
until 8:30 p.m. Saturday evening

Sunday, August 9

- 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 (Parish Hall)
- Come To The Table: Care & Share Kitchen
Ministry Mtg (Parlor)
- Confirmation Class (Classroom C)

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.

Lunch Bunch at the DK Diner Wednesday, August 5, at Noon

Meet others from First Church at the DK Diner in Grandview. DK's is a small, family owned diner serving homemade donuts, breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. It's unique in its style and will be a fun place to meet up with others. Please use the QR Code to register on Realm and join us!



Come to the Table: Care & Share Kitchen Ministry Meeting Sunday, August 9, at 12:15

Congregational Care is hosting an informational and brainstorming meeting in the Parlor for the Care & Share Kitchen Ministry. We are planning a discussion on past practices and looking ahead for new ways to grow this important ministry. We welcome all former, current, and those newly interested in this ministry. We hope to look ahead to how we can grow this ministry further, and help connect with others through food and fellowship. Please send an email Susie Loik at susieloik1219@gmail.com or Wendy Kennedy at wendyjkenedy@yahoo.com and let them know that you can come.

Save the Date: Blessing of the Backpacks will be on August 23 at both Worship Services

Joy is an Act of Resistance

Friday, August 14, 2026

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

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, they'll create a space for renewal and gratitude—because caring for those who care for our community strengthens the movement for social justice. This event will run from 7 to 11 a.m.

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



Hot Topics in Adult Education

Do you have a passion for a topic you would like to share? Do you have a suggestion for one you'd like to see offered? Then we'd love to hear from you!

From biblical content to current events, and social justice concerns - we are scheduling adult education sessions and would love to know what you are curious about.

Please contact Leslie Fulford with your suggestions and ideas at lfulford@first-church.org.

Join the Livestream Ministry

The Livestream Ministry is seeking volunteers to join the team that extends our Sunday worship services to online viewers in Central Ohio and beyond. Online worshipers are members of our faith community participating from home or while traveling.

No video production experience is needed. Training is provided on the permanently-installed equipment. If you are interested in this ministry and ready to join, please contact Melissa Kulwicki, Communications Manager, at mkulwicki@first-church.org.

Keep in Prayer

Members Kelly Dodd; Fran Panek; Lynn Wallich; Jane Weddle; Victor John; Mary Day Fewless; Ramona Moenter; Jane Ward; Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Francille Firebaugh; Nancy Burba; John Carter; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt.

Family and friends Leslie Fulford's sister, Kim Barth, and brother-in-law, Al Fulford; Pat Patterson's friend, Cindy Shealy; Jenny Provenzano's mother, Joyce Beitzel; Melissa Kulwicki's father, Jack Blandi, and her mother-in-law, Beverly Kulwicki; Rev. Becky David; David Wyatt's uncle, Richard Hendrix Wyatt; Rev. Jess Young Chang's friend Rev. Steve Swisher's mother Barbara Swisher; Amy Wagner's great nephew, Brody Wilson; 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; and Matt Myers' sister, Erin Myers.

Those who mourn Wendy Reber and family on the death of her husband, Robert Reber; and Jim Griffin on the death of his friend, Randelle Bowman.

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 the Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome, and Principe. We also pray for our UCC partner, the Postgraduate Theology Program at Artha Wacana Christian University, Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara in Indonesia.

Join Our Demisemiseptcentennial Celebration Committee

On Sunday, September 26, 2027, First Congregational Church, Columbus, Ohio, UCC will celebrate its 175th Anniversary. According to David Hogrefe, this will be our Demisemiseptcentennial! We are looking for interested FCC community members to join our planning committee. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. via Teams. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, August 26, 2026. If you would like to help plan this extravagant celebration, please contact Christine Farquhar at Farquhar128@sbcglobal.net.

Good Works!

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

Our church has been busy during 2026. Our church members continue to respond to God's call and serve one another.

Board of Trustees

Fiduciary responsibility

- Each month Trustees oversee the growth, protection, and administration of both restricted and unrestricted endowment funds in support of the activities, life, and ministry of First Church. This is done through investments and disbursements of funds held by the board in accordance with the instructions of donors and in compliance with Ohio law for endowment funds.
- Each month Trustees review performance reports from its investor entity, Manning & Napier Investments. Trustees also review restrictions that they have placed on investments by the company.
- Trustees have been involved in the process of receiving a distribution from G. Dene Barnard's estate, directed into two music funds.

Endowment funds

- Trustees initiated a more directed plan to actively encourage church members to contribute to the endowment funds, and to make special gifts for the benefit of the church, its needs, and its missions.
- Trustees created a "Thank You" card to acknowledge gifts to endowment funds.

Insurance

- Trustees have been in conversation with the church's insurance provider to ensure that adequate insurance for the church, its activities, and property is maintained at all times.
- Trustees are in the process of updating the insurance policy to include sexual misconduct liability.

West Lot

- A financial review of funds going back 15 years relative to the West Lot and its mortgage was completed.
- A revised contract with CCAD for use of the parking lots was negotiated.

Preservation Grant

- Trustees have kept abreast of the progress of the Preservation Grant for monies for work in and around the church, and the progress of the upcoming capital campaign.

Legacy Sunday

- Trustees have started planning for this year's Legacy Sunday picnic on Sunday, September 27, 2026, in cooperation with the Church Vitality Commission. Mark the date in your calendar.

Preserving the Past, Stepping into the Future

Construction for the grant preservation project began Monday, July 20, by Berglund Construction Co. Scaffolding is erected for repairs to take place on the Broad St. side of the church. As a reminder, the front steps and front doors will not be accessible until close to the end of this year. All usual entrances to the church (other than the front doors) will continue to be available to use including the narthex door on the west side of the church. Parking lots will not be impacted during the construction. Thank you for your flexibility and understanding.

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be: August 2 - Gladden Community House; August 9 - Good Samaritan; and August 16 - Laundry Love

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: Nathaniel Powell

Communications and Technology Commission-elect:

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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