

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT NINE
AUGUST 30, 2026
FOURTEENTH 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

"Morning has broken" verse 1

Bunessan, Gaelic melody
Eleanor Farjeon, 1931, alt.

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the
spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion; praise ev - ery
morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

*INVOCATION

Katarina Yamaguchi and Henry

Leader: Loving God,
You call us to turn away from our own selfish interests,
to take up our cross, and to follow after You—
to find our lives by giving them up to Your greater purpose.
So we come before You this morning with open hearts and open hands,
eager to hear Your Word, and eager to know Your will.

People: Through the power of Your Holy Spirit,
move within us and among us as we worship.
Open our eyes to Your presence;
open our ears to Your call,
open our hearts to one another.

And then send us back out into the world,
to live and work as Your faithful disciples.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord,
Amen.

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. jess

CHILDREN'S TIME

Leslie Fulford

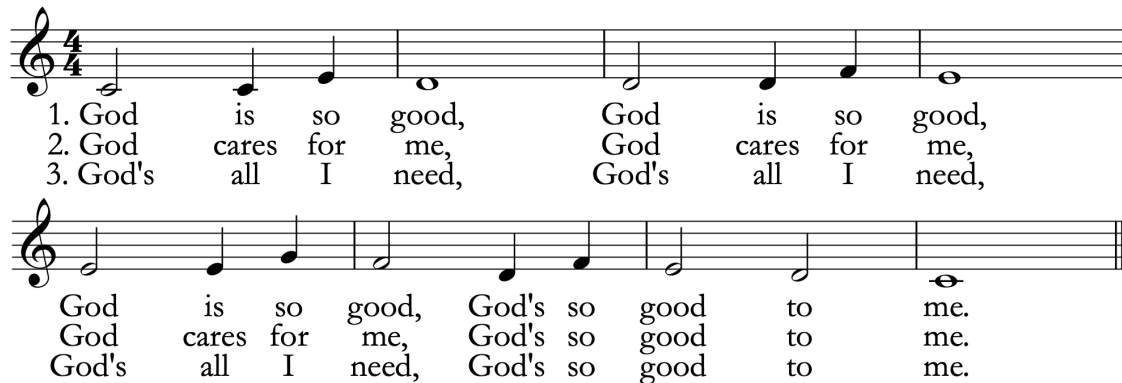
During the sermon time, our young children are welcome to participate in "Sunday Stories."

CHILDREN'S HYMN

God is So Good, Traditional African

"God is so good"

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

Romans 12:19-21

Katarina Yamaguchi and Henry

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

Your love must be sincere. Hate what is evil and cling to what is good. Love one another with the affection of sisters and brothers. Try to outdo one another in showing respect. Don't grow slack, but be fervent in spirit: the One you serve is Christ. Rejoice in hope; be patient under trial; persevere in prayer. Look on the needs of God's holy people as your own; be generous in offering hospitality. Bless your persecutors—bless and don't curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same attitude toward everyone. Don't be condescending to those who aren't as well off as you; don't be conceited. Don't repay evil with evil. Be concerned with the highest ideal in the eyes of all people. Do all you can to be at peace with everyone. Don't take revenge; leave room, my friends, for God's wrath. To quote scripture, "'Vengeance is mine, I will pay them back,' says our God." But there is more: "If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them drink. For in doing so, you will heap burning coals upon their heads." Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil by doing good.

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. Bless the Lord, O my | soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy | Name.
2. Bless the Lord, O my | soul,
and forget not all his | benefits.
3. He forgives all your | sins
and heals all your | infirmities;
4. He redeems your life from the | grave
and crowns you with mercy and loving- | kindness;
5. He satisfies you with | good things,
and your youth is renewed like an | eagle's.
6. The Lord executes | righteousness
and judgment for all who are op- | pressed.
7. He made his ways known to | Moses
and his works to the children of | Israel.
8. The Lord is full of compassion and | mercy,
slow to anger and of great | kindness.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 8:42b-48

Rev. jess

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, the eighth chapter.

As Jesus moved along, the crowd almost crushed him. In the crowd was a woman who had suffered from hemorrhages for twelve years, and had found no one who could heal her.

She came up behind Jesus and touched the fringe of his cloak, and immediately the bleeding stopped. “Who touched me?” Jesus asked.

When no one nearby responded, Peter said, “Rabbi, it’s the crowd pressing around you.”

But Jesus said, “Someone touched me. I felt power leave me.”

When the woman realized that she had been noticed, she approached in fear and knelt before him. She explained in front of the crowd why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.

Jesus said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Rev. jess

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

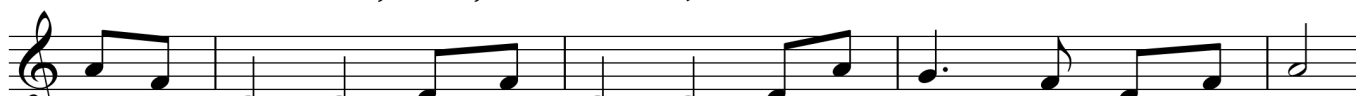
Julion, David Hurd, 1974

"Come and seek the ways of Wisdom"

Ruth Duck, 1993



1. Come and seek the ways of Wis - dom, she who danced when earth was new,
2. Lis - ten to the voice of Wis - dom, cry - ing in the mark - et place.
3. Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who seek re - birth.



fol - low close - ly what she teach - es, for her words are right and true.
Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us, full of glo - ry, truth, and grace.
Spi - rit - guide and close com - pan - ion, bring to light our sa - cred worth.



Wis - dom clears the path to jus - tice show - ing us what love must do.
When the word takes root and rip - ens, peace and right - eous - ness em - brace.
Free us to be - come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

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 **The Largest Table**. Every Wednesday, for more than twelve years, volunteers provide food for individuals and families in the community who are in need. This program transitioned to grab-and-go lunches during COVID in the Spring of 2020. The First Church meal team gathers on the third Wednesday of each month to make and pack up to 100 lunches. Your gifts will help purchase the supplies for our meal team to support this feeding ministry. 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

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte, 1935

COMMUNION

Leader: We 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.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and repetitive, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

“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.”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. jess

Leader: Generous, life-giving God,
Through this gift of Communion, You have offered Your very self to us.

People: **May this meal give us the strength to go into the world, prepared to do the same;
To offer to others our very selves
for the continued healing and redemption of humankind.
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
“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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“Eat this bread.” Words: Robert Batastini and the Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier; ©1984 Less Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) All rights reserved.

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

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

Rev. jess young chang, *preacher*
Katarina Yamaguchi and Henry, *liturgists*
Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
Joshua Stafford, *pianist*
Sebastian Kulwicki, *soloist*
Geoffrey Dean, *livestream ministry*



Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

August 30, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, August 30

- 9 a.m. Worship Service and
 Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. First Serves (Classroom)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
 MERJ/Faith Choice Ohio Kit Building
 (Parish Hall)

Monday, August 31

- 7 p.m. House & Grounds Mtg
 (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, September 1

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

Wednesday, September 2

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

Thursday, September 3

- 6 p.m. Church Vitality Mtg (Zoom)
 First Church Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal for Brahms Requiem
 (Parish Hall)

Sunday, September 6

- 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)

Calendars for Laundry Love

Laundry Love is again collecting calendars for the year 2027. There is a box in the education wing marked for Laundry Love Calendars. Last year the calendars were a hit with our Laundry Love community. All donations are appreciated!

Care & Share Kitchen Today, August 30, at 10 a.m.

WE'RE GLAD YOU ASKED!

What does C&SK stand for? Have you, or someone you know at FCC, ever needed a bit of help? You've/they've returned home after surgery or rehab; you/they aren't able to get to the grocery or prepare meals; you/they needed a little help to get by? C&SK's got you! The Care & Share Kitchen Ministry is here when you need it/them.

Join the team for a short planning meeting today, August 30 from 10-10:45 a.m. in the Stephen Ministry Room. We welcome your input. All are welcome. Stay tuned for how to request meals.

First Serves Today at 10 a.m.

First Serves is joining the Gladden Community House's Back to School Rally with supplies for our neighbors. Please help us support the students at the Gladden Community House by donating school supplies for their Back to School Rally. We have been collecting the following items as part of First Serves:

- folders - notebooks - pencils - sharpeners
- glue sticks - erasers - markers - coloring pencils

Please bring your donated items to Classroom D. We will pack the supplies for the Gladden Community House.

First Church Book Club Wednesday, September 2, at 7 p.m.

Come enjoy lively conversation and get to know other church members at the First Church Book Club as we discuss *Paper Girl: A Memoir of Home and Family in a Fractured America* by Beth Macy (set in Urbana, Ohio) on Zoom.

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

Lunch Bunch Correction

Thursday, September 10, at 12 Noon

It was previously announced this Lunch Bunch would be on a Wednesday. That was in error. Please join others from First Church on **Thursday, September 10**, at Katalina's on High Street in the heart of Clintonville.

This Little Cafe has Lots of Local Goodness™, is Home of The Original Pancake Balls™, and offers so much more. The food is homemade with attitude... Latin-leaning and Southern slanted... it's filled with friends & flavor galore so come join us!

Reserve your place on Realm.



Please Save the Date!

Sunday, September 20

First Church Engagement Fair Party in Parish Hall following worship

Come celebrate our meaningful projects and activities on Sunday, September 20, in Parish Hall, following each worship service.

Learn about our mission projects and explore opportunities for service that speak to your heart! See the many ways we work in the community and within our church family. From small discussion groups to "done in a day" projects to serving on a committee or commission, you'll find opportunities for connection and service at the Fair.

Tasty food will be served! You can visit our First Church FREE Store and snag First Church items, including books, t-shirts, water bottles, and more. You can obtain a First Church name tag and connect with folks you see in worship but might not have talked with yet, putting names with faces. We'll celebrate our mission activities, community, and friendships!

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

August 30 - The Largest Table

Sept. 6 - Coalition of Immokalee Workers

Sept. 13 - FCC Unsheltered Ministry

Sept. 20 - Good Samaritan Fund

Keep in Prayer

Members Matt Stevens and Jim Velo; Jane Weddle; Lynn Wallich; 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 Kevin Salem's uncle, Harold Allen and niece, Clare Salem; Vicki Lyden's sister, Connie Dolder; 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; 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; 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 Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal. We also pray for our UCC partner, the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola.

Sacred Earth Eco Tip

Wondering how to get rid of an old mattress?

Mattress stores have their biggest sales during the Labor Day weekend. If you're in the market and buy a new mattress you will probably need to get rid of your old mattress.

SWACO accepts dry, free of excessive staining, free of bedbugs, and without mold or mildew at the SWACO Recycling Center, 2566 Jackson Pike.

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 Hafey, 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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