



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
FIFTEENTH 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

Andante sostenuto from *Symphonie gothique*, Op. 70

Charles Marie Widor, 1895

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Nancy Braverman

Leader: People of God, open your eyes!

Look around!

**People: The presence of our Lord Jesus Christ is here—
among us and within us.**

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

*Leader: God's salvation is close at hand—
nearer than you know.

People: Why do you work for what does not nurture you?

Leader: Become a witness of God's free gift of grace to all people.

**People: So let us open our hearts and minds to the Spirit,
and let's worship God together!**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"God is here"

Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941

Fred Pratt Green, 1979; rev. 1988

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an

of - fer praise and prayer, may we find in
 life - long need of grace; here are ta - ble,
 Shep - herd's flock and fold; here as bread and
 age of change and doubt keep us faith - ful

full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.
 font, and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.
 wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
 to the gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we

var - ied skills and arts wait the com - ing
 si - lence, as in speech, here, in new - ness
 wor - ship to ex - plore what it means in
 have to give, re - ceive: we, who can - not

of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

***WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Rev. Becky David

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.*

INVOCATION

Rev. jessica young chang

(written by Cameron Douglas)

Leader: You, O God, illumine our world with the light of a new day,
 the day of our salvation in Jesus' name.

Bring his presence here as we lay aside the deeds of darkness
 and put on the armor of light and truth.

People: It is by the eternal hope of Jesus we pray. Amen.

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

Owe no debt to anyone—except the debt that binds us to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you have fulfilled the Law. The commandments—no committing adultery, no killing, no stealing, no coveting, and all the others—are all summed up in this one: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love never wrongs anyone—hence love is the fulfillment of the Law. Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarreling and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 119:33–40

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.



33. Teach me, O Lord, the way of your | statutes,
and I shall keep it to the | end.
34. Give me understanding, and I shall keep your | law;
I shall keep it with all my | heart.
35. Make me go in the path of your com- | mandments,
for that is my de- | sire.
36. Incline my heart to your de- | crees
and not to unjust | gain.
37. Turn my eyes from watching what is | worthless;
give me life in your | ways.
38. Fulfill your promise to your | servant,
which you make to those who | fear you.
39. Turn away the reproach which I | dread,
because your judgments are | good.
40. Behold, I long for your com- | mandments;
in your righteousness preserve my | life.

*The Choir introduces the Alleluia, which is then repeated by the Congregation.
Following the verse, all repeat the Alleluia.*



Verse: God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

Rev. David

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

“If your sister or brother should commit some wrong against you, go and point out the error, but keep it between the two of you. If she or he listens to you, you have won a loved one back; if not, try again, but take one or two others with you, so that every case may stand on the word of two or three witnesses. If your sister or brother refuses to listen to them, refer the matter to the church. If she or he ignores even the church, then treat that sister or brother as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. “The truth is, whatever you declare bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven. “Again I tell you, if two of you on earth join in agreement to pray for anything whatsoever, it will be granted you by my Abba God in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. David

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev. young chang

Leader: ...We pray O God,

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We ask all this of you, O God,
knowing that you are our hope and our salvation,
a very present help in times of trouble,
and the One whose purpose is to grant a new and abundant life to us and our world.
Praise be to your name. And let the church say, **Amen.**

*HYMN

“Will you let me be your servant”

The Servant Song, Richard Gillard, 1977, arr. Betty Pulkingham

Richard Gillard, 1977

1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall

be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -

grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.
(repeat stanza 1)

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. This week, cash and designated gifts go to support the **Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)**. The CIW is a worker-based human rights organization internationally recognized for its achievements in fighting human trafficking, sexual violence, modern-

day slavery, and other human rights abuses. The CIW is also recognized for pioneering worker-driven, socially responsible fair food programs in unprecedented partnerships among farmworkers, growers, and the buyers from major retail chains. CIW programs protect tens of thousands of workers harvesting dozens of crops across 23 states and three countries. On this Labor Day Weekend, we are thankful for the selfless dedication of this organization. Thank you for prayerfully considering support of the Coalition's work.

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 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

Philip Wilby, 1992

"If ye love me"

John 14:15-18

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you for ever,
even the Spirit of truth.

And ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

*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. Amen.

COMMUNION

Rev. David and Rev. young chang

(liturgy written by Mary Luti)

*SURSUM CORDA

Plainsong

The musical notation is written on three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is for the Leader and the second and third staves are for the People. The lyrics are as follows:

Leader: The Lord be with you. And also with you.

People: Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: For the power of love in human life and history, we give thanks and praise.
 Long ago our ancestors knew love's power and they became the tellers of love's tale.
 Love bound them in covenant, teaching them to live in community
 with compassion and concern for the poorest among them.
 Yet centuries of domination and violence
 shaped a different kind of community based on selfishness and inequality.
 In the struggle against oppression, Jesus became the face of love,
 showing us the way to abundant life.
 In the spirit of that vision, we join our voices in singing God's glory.

SANCTUS

A Community Mass, Richard Proulx, 1971

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: In word and deed, Jesus announced love's new reign of justice, reconciliation, and peace.
 Filled with the courage and passion of love's spirit,
 he gave his life to challenge the unjust systems of this world.
 On the night of his betrayal and arrest, as he shared a meal with his friends,
 Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his followers, saying:
 "Share this bread among you; this is my body which will be broken for justice.
 Do this to remember me."
 When supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 "Share this wine among you; this is my blood which will be shed for liberation.
 Do this to remember me."
 Let us pray,
 God of love, spirit of compassion, bless us and this bread and wine.
 May this meal be food and drink for our journey—
 renewing, sustaining, and making us whole.
 When we eat this bread and drink from this cup
 we experience again the presence of Jesus in our midst.

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.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Please come forward as directed by the vergers to receive the common elements for communion.

*Receive the bread from the pastor, and as you approach the cup,
dip just the edge of the bread into the juice (this is called intinction)*

If you require a gluten-free piece, please proceed to the front.

*If you are unable to rise and come forward and would still like to partake of communion,
please tell a verger when they are at your pew.*

If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home.

Leader: The table is ready. All are welcome. The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. young chang

Leader: Let us pray.

 God of love, we give You thanks for satisfying our hungry hearts with this meal.

 Send us from here to reveal Your love in the world.

 Inspire in us the resolve and the courage, the compassion and the passion,
 to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with You.

People: **Amen.**

SENDING HOME COMMUNION

Rev. young chang

Leader: Siblings in Christ, we invite you to receive the Word of God
 and the sacrament of communion to our beloved community and friends at home.
 Go to them with our love and prayers, in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*CLOSING HYMN

"Called as partners in Christ's service"

Beecher, Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John Zundel, 1870

1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life

we re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol-low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,

e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu-man skills to - geth - er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes - sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. David

VOLUNTARY

A Trumpet Minuet

Alfred Hollins, 1929

Please be seated for the voluntary.

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 are dedicated to our youngest granddaughter, Brylee Grace Shannon, a beautiful soul with the big brown eyes who is celebrating her 9th birthday today from Janet and Dan Axt.

† PLEASE JOIN US IN PARISH HALL FOR COFFEE HOUR, hosted by the Church Vitality Commission, led by Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. young chang— Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Mrs. Fulford — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

Rev. David — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

The Rev. jessica young chang, *worship leader*

Nancy Braverman, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Stefan Duga, *crucifer*

Jason Harrell and Sebastian Kulwicki, *vergers*

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

The First Church Choir

Gregory Halbe, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

September 6, 2026

This Week at First Church

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)

Monday, September 7

- Labor Day – Church office closed
6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg (Fanning Rm & Zoom)

Tuesday, September 8

- 7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg
 (Classroom C & Zoom)
 Preservation Grant Informational Session
 (Teams)

Thursday, September 10

- 12 Noon Lunch Bunch (Katalina's)
6 p.m. First Church Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal for Brahms Requiem
 (Parish Hall)

Sunday, September 13

- 9 a.m. Worship Service and
 Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
 Godly Play (Godly Play Rm)
10 a.m. Adult Faith Formation (Classroom C)
 Family Playground Time (Playground)
 Legacy Sunday Update Mtg
 (Parish Family Rm)
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
 BREAD Mtg (Parish Family Rm)
12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)
4 p.m. Brahms Requiem Commemorating
 September 11, 2001 (Sanctuary)

Thoughts on Gratitude

"Gratitude is a powerful catalyst for happiness. It's the spark that lights a fire of joy in your soul."

Amy Collette

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

History and Preservation

Tom Worley will lead a 2-part program on the original architects and construction of our church building. As part of the program, Tom will provide information about the preservation grant project and the fundraising campaign.

Godly Play Returns Sunday, September 13, at 9 a.m.

This year, we are offering Godly Play Sunday school class during the 9 a.m. worship hour to better serve our families. Godly Play is a creative, imaginative approach to children's faith formation led by Miss Melissa and Mr. Todd.

Geared toward preschool through 6th grade, children of all ages are welcome. Families can come with their children to the 9 a.m. worship, get a snack, and go to the Godly Play Room after the welcome with Miss Leslie. Children will return to Parish Hall for communion. Come join in the fun!

Sunday, September 13 at 4 p.m. Johannes Brahms: Ein Deutsches Requiem Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of September 11, 2001

First Church Arts begins its 2026–2027 concert season on Sunday, September 13, at 4 p.m. We commemorate the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, with Johannes Brahms' monumental work "Ein Deutsches Requiem." This piece, sometimes called "A Human Requiem" will be sung in its original German by the First Church Choir accompanied by Brahms' own arrangement for piano four-hands. This event is free and open to all. For more details, and information on all our upcoming events, please visit us at: www.firstchurcharts.org.

Lunch Bunch

Thursday, September 10, at 12 Noon

Please join others 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 and flavor galore so come join us!

Please use the QR Code on Realm to reserve your place at the table.



Dinner Out

Wednesday, September 23, at 6 p.m.

Join fellow church members at Hunan Lion, a family-run restaurant in northwest Columbus. Voted the best Chinese restaurant in Columbus, you can indulge in the taste of authentic Chinese cuisine and experience their culture. Their family has dedicated over 38 years creating a casual and inviting atmosphere where one can enjoy the delicious cuisine.

Please use the QR Code on Realm to reserve your place at the table.



First Serves

Thank you, First Church, for the volume of school supplies donated to Gladden Community House and to the Vogt family for leading the charge. Many children will be supported through your generosity!

Upcoming dates to serve:

September 27 All church Disaster Clean Up Bucket assembly for Church World Services during Legacy Sunday on the west lawn.

October 18 Halloween Candy will be collected for Gladden Community House at the Giving Tree, then we'll organize it in Classroom D.

Legacy Sunday is September 27

Come, let's honor our history and go forward into tomorrow.

As we draw closer to our 175th year as a congregation, please join us on September 27th when we will have one hour of worship at 10 a.m. followed by a church-wide potluck picnic. Invitations will be handed out next Sunday at both services.

In addition to great food, there will be games for all ages. Also, First Serves will give us a chance to support Church World Service. It will be a fun time together.

Please Save the NEW Date!

Sunday, October 25

**First Church Engagement Fair in
Parish Hall following
9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship**

Come celebrate our meaningful projects and activities on Sunday, October 25, in Parish Hall, following the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services.

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:

September 6 - Coalition of Immokalee Workers
September 13 - FCC Unsheltered Ministry
September 20 - Good Samaritan Fund
September 27 - Legacy Fund

Keep in Prayer

Members Margaret Cipriani; Brittney Dean; Sandy Mathias; Matt Stevens and Jim Velo; Jane Weddle; Victor John; 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; 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.

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 Benin, Ivory Coast, and Togo. We also pray for our UCC partner, the Evangelical Mission Hospital, Tilda in India.

Preserving the Past, Stepping into the Future

The church is offering a series of information sessions to provide a time to learn more about the preservation grant project and answer your questions. See the listing below for dates and times.

Date	Time	Location	Host
Sunday, 9/6	10:00 a.m.	Classroom C	Tom Worley
Tuesday, 9/8	7:00 p.m.	Virtual Link: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/235269437966784?p=qJjqbbwb1CKifrCkKZ	Tom Worley
Wednesday, 9/9	7:00 p.m.	Home of the host	Jackie Dean
Sunday, 9/13	10:00 a.m.	Classroom C	Tom Worley
Monday, 9/14	7:00 p.m.	Home of the hosts	Paul & Melody Leidheiser
Tuesday, 9/15	1:00 p.m.	Virtual Link: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/222814744565587?p=Fi1CHYKSgNrIphI6q2	Tom Worley
Wednesday, 9/16	7:00 p.m.	Home of the hosts	Martha & Hank Wilson
Sunday, 9/20	12:15 p.m.	Classroom D	

Sacred Earth Eco Tip

The vibrant colors of autumn sweeping across the landscape remind us of the delicate balance of nature—one that is increasingly under threat. Warming temperatures are already altering the natural rhythms of fall. Leaves in some regions are changing color later each year, and if global temperatures rise by just 2°C, autumn could shorten drastically, robbing us of its vivid hues.

Fall is traditionally a time of harvest, but climate change is disrupting agricultural cycles. Erratic weather patterns and rising temperatures are threatening crop yields, which affect global food security. Loss of pollinators like bees and butterflies are vital for crops such as pumpkins and apples, but their populations are declining due to climate change and habitat loss. Without them, fall's harvests are at risk, along with future food supplies. Please act locally as it impacts globally. Source: www.ecoblvd.com

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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