



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
SEPTEMBER 13 2026
SIXTEENTH 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

Con moto maestoso from Sonata No. 3

Felix Mendelssohn, 1844

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Dr. Gregory Halbe

Leader: Bless our God, O my soul, and all that is within me,

People: Bless God's holy name.

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

*Leader: Your steadfast love lasts forever, Beloved Lord,

People: You are tender and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

Leader: Remind us that we are Yours, we are beloved;

People: Teach us Your ways when we get distracted.

Leader: We worship You in spirit and in truth.

People: We worship You in thought, word and 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 - sored, 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 may greet one another by name.*

Leader: Sacred One, Holy One, Eternal One,
 Forgive seventy times seven, Your word says.
 My ways are not Your ways, Your word says.
 Yet over and over, we dole out judgment and demand restitution,
 forgetting that Your word is final, and Your Love endures forever.

**People: Abide with us as we put before You our listening hearts
 and our overwhelmed minds.
 Hold us close, show us Your way.
 Hold us close in your bosom of love.
 Amen.**

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 14:1-12

Dr. Halbe

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

Welcome those whose faith is weak, and don't argue with them. The opinions of people range from those who believe they may eat any sort of meat, to those whose faith is so weak they eat only vegetables. Those who eat everything must not despise those who abstain. The ones who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to judge someone else's worker? It's for the employer to decide if the worker has succeeded or failed and the worker will succeed, for our God has the power to make it so. One person considers one day more sacred than another, another considers all days equally sacred and both are equally certain of their own opinions. The person who observes special days does it for our God. Whoever eats meat does it for our God and gives thanks to God. Whoever abstains does it for our God and gives thanks to God.

We don't live for ourselves, nor do we die for ourselves. While we live, we live for Christ Jesus, and when we die, we die for Christ Jesus. Both in life and in death we belong to Christ. That's why Christ died and came to life again—in order to reign supreme over both the living and the dead.

But you, how can you sit in judgment of your sisters or brothers? Or you, how can you look down on your sisters or brothers? We will all have to appear before the judgment seat of God. Scripture says, "'As surely as I live' —it is our God who speaks—'every knee will bend before me and every tongue will give praise to God.'" We will all have to give an account of ourselves before God.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 103:1–8

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.



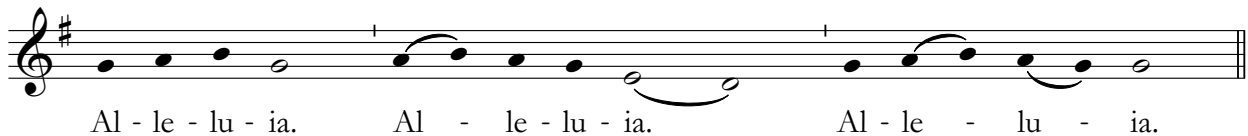


3. He forgives all your | sins
and heals all your | infirmities;
4. He redeems your life from the | grave
and crowns you with mercy and loving- | kindness;
5. He satisfies you with | good things,
and your youth is renewed like an | eagle's.
6. The Lord executes | righteousness
and judgment for all who 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.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 130:5

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



Verse: I wait for the Lord;
my soul waits for his word.

*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

Rev. young chang

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

Peter came up and asked Jesus, "When a sister or brother wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? Seven times?"

"No," Jesus replied, "not seven times; I tell you seventy times seven. And here's why.

"The kin-dom of heaven is like a ruler who decided to settle accounts with the royal officials. When the audit was begun, one was brought in who owed tens of millions of dollars. As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler ordered this official to be sold, along with family and property, in payment of the debt.

"At this, the official bowed down in homage and said, 'I beg you, your highness, be patient with me and I will pay you back in full!' Moved with pity, the ruler let the official go and wrote off the debt.

"Then that same official went out and met a colleague who owed the official twenty dollars. The official seized and throttled this debtor with the demand, 'Pay back what you owe me!' "The debtor dropped to the ground and began to plead, 'Just give me time and I will pay you back in full!' But the official would hear none of it, and instead had the colleague put in debtor's prison until the money was paid.

"When the other officials saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and went to the ruler, reporting the entire incident. The ruler sent for the official and said, 'You worthless wretch! I cancelled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. Should you not have dealt mercifully with your colleague,

as I dealt with you?’ Then in anger, the ruler handed the official over to be tortured until the debt had been paid in full.

“My Abba in heaven will treat you exactly the same way unless you truly forgive your sisters and brothers from your hearts.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. young chang

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev. young chang

Leader: ... We pray, Forgiving God, in Your mercy,

People: **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

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

Detroit, Supplement to Kentucky Harmony, 1820

“Forgive our sins as we forgive”

Rosamond E. Herklots, 1969, 1983, alt.

1 For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray,
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with-in our souls and bid re-sent-ment cease.

but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
what triv - ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
Then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Steve Sterrett,

Commissioner, Stewardship and Growth

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 this week go to **First Church’s Unsheltered Ministry**, whose priority is to help unsheltered people get into safe, affordable

housing, and to help them sustain themselves until that housing is available. We partner with agencies and nonprofits to assist unsheltered people in locating housing, and to guide them through the housing application process, including replacing IDs and other documents. We sometimes help with security deposits or partial first-month rent, and we have matched start-up renters with folks who can donate used household goods. We assist unhoused neighbors by supplying them with food and essential personal items. The ministry also helps with a more visible service, in the form of our ongoing rental of a port-a-john in the church parking lot – addressing a vitally important need. The ministry has served over 90 people and has been blessed by their gracious thanks. Most expenses have been funded by individual donations from a handful of church members, but the need continues to grow, so your generosity and volunteer support will be deeply appreciated.

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

The Beatitudes

James Biery, 2007

Marilyn Biery, 2007

Lift up your hearts, you poor in spirit,
the kingdom of heaven is yours;
And blest are you, bent in two with mourning,
God's comfort sustains you through all.

Be still with gentle, quiet meekness,
the plenty of earth will be yours;
And blest are you, filled with aching hunger,
the satisfied earth will be yours.

With joyfulness show love and mercy,
the mercy of God will be yours;
And blest are you, pure of heart and selfless,
the vision of God will be yours.

Work tirelessly for peace and justice,
as children of God you'll be known;
And blest are you, who are persecuted,
the kingdom of heaven is yours.

Rejoice, be glad, be joyful, people,
the kingdom of heaven is yours;
So blest are you-hear the words of Jesus:
"The kingdom of heaven is yours!"

*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.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(written by Jeff Shrowder)

Rev. young chang

Leader: Gracious and holy God,
accept what we offer today:
our cheques and cash, our faltering steps,
our brokenness, our leftovers,
our hope, our risking, our lives.

People: Bless and transform all that we offer
and all that we hold back,
that new life may be ours,
to celebrate and share in Jesus' name. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Go, my children, with my blessing"

Ar Hyd y Nos, Welsh melody

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort

ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

BENEDICTION

Rev. young chang

VOLUNTARY

"O Welt, ich muß dich lassen," Op. 122, No. 6

Johannes Brahms, 1896

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 in memory of parents Charles and Carolyn Brooks and son Rand Hamilton by Susan Brooks.

† PLEASE JOIN US IN PARISH HALL FOR COFFEE HOUR, hosted by the First Church Unsheltered Ministry led by Gail and Jim Lowe.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. young chang — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Mr. Stafford — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

Ms. Kulwicki — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

† PERMISSIONS AND COPYRIGHTS

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

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"Go, my children, with my blessing." Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1982. © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. jessica young chang, *preacher*

Dr. Gregory Halbe, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Jason Harrell, *crucifer*

Joshua Stafford, *organist*

The First Church Choir

Pat Patterson, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

September 13, 2026

This Week at First Church

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)
Confirmation Class (Classroom C)
- 4 p.m. Brahms Requiem Commemorating
September 11, 2001 (Sanctuary)

Monday, September 14

- 6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
Visitation Ministry Mtg (Teams)
- 7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)
Preservation Grant Informational Session
(home of Paul and Melody Leidheiser)

Tuesday, September 15

- 1 p.m. Preservation Grant Informational Session
(Teams)
- 7 p.m. Budget & Finance Meeting
(Classroom C & Zoom)
Church Council Mtg (Classroom C & Teams)

Wednesday, September 16

- 10 a.m. The Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery
(Kitchen)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Supervision Mtg (SM Office)
- 7 p.m. Preservation Grant Informational Session
(home of Martha & Hank Wilson)

Thursday, September 17

- 11 a.m. Fiber Arts Ministry (Fanning Rm)
- 6 p.m. First Church Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Rm)

Sunday, September 20

- 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)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
Preserving the Past Info Session
(Classroom C)
- 1 p.m. Green Lawn Tour
(Green Lawn Cemetery)

Adult Faith Formation Today at 10:00 a.m. in Classroom C

History and Preservation

Tom Worley will lead this program on the history of Rose Windows and details about our church's own Rose Window. As part of the program, Tom will provide information about the preservation grant project and the fundraising campaign.

Godly Play Today at 9 a.m.

This year, Godly Play Sunday school class will be offered during the 9 a.m. worship hour. 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!

Laundry Love is collecting calendars for the year 2027. There is a box in the education wing marked for Laundry Love Calendars. Last year the calendars were appreciated by our Laundry Love community. Thank you for your donations to Laundry Love.

Adult Faith Formation

Sunday, September 20, at 10 a.m. in Classroom C

Voting our Values -- How Your Vote this Year Affects Healthcare for Ohioans

Please join Cami Curren, MD, a Columbus leader of the Committee to Protect Healthcare (protectmed.org), as we discuss the trajectory of health care, human rights, and how to change this.

In Ohio, half a million of us have lost healthcare due to ACA cuts so far, and millions more will lose coverage due to work requirements starting in January. Several of our critical access hospitals are on the chopping block.

A federal movement aims to cut healthcare costs nationwide and to undermine standard healthcare in our country. This will cost American lives.

Learn how your vote can help safeguard care now and in the future. Learn how you can oppose the trend of anti-science and learn how you can see through the smokescreen of budget cuts that threatens us all.

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.



Thoughts on Gratitude

"Gratitude is the appreciation of things that are not deserved, earned, or demanded - those wonderful things that we take for granted."

Renee Paule

September 27 is Legacy Sunday

We will have one hour of worship on Sunday, September 27, at 10 a.m. followed by a church-wide potluck picnic. Please plan to join in for this time of fellowship as we draw closer to our 175th year as a congregation.

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.

Trustees will provide grilled burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers and beverages. We ask you to bring a dish to share according to your last name:

A-F - Side Dish **G-M** - Dessert **N-Z** - Salad/Appetizer

Plates, napkins and utensils will be provided. Invitations will be handed out today at both services. You can also register on Realm.

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:

Sept. 13 - FCC Unsheltered Ministry

Sept. 20 - Good Samaritan Fund

Sept. 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 Amanda Butler's father, Tom Lynch; 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 Ghana and Nigeria. We also pray for our UCC partner, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

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, 9/13	10 a.m.	Classroom C	Tom Worley
Monday, 9/14	7 p.m.	Home of the hosts	Paul & Melody Leidheiser
Tuesday, 9/15	1 p.m.	Virtual Link: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/222814744565587?p=Ei1CHYKSgNrIphI6q2	Tom Worley
Wednesday, 9/16	7 p.m.	Home of the hosts	Martha & Hank Wilson
Sunday, 9/20	12:15 p.m.	Classroom D	

We will support our church's future and celebrate its heritage in 2027

By Steve Sterrett, commissioner, Stewardship and Growth Commission

Even as our congregation is in a time of discernment and ministerial transition, we continue on our journey in response to God's call to be a beacon of light in the city. In 2027, we will celebrate the visionary leaders and dedicated church members who have brought us this far in 175 years, but we also must recommit ourselves to continuing their work as we fulfill today's appeal for love, community and service.

During the worship services over the next five Sundays, lay leaders will offer brief reports on the accomplishments of our commissions and boards in 2026 and their aspirations for what they hope to achieve in 2027. Their reports will be printed in "Connections" and "Depart to Serve." Taken together, these aspirations will create a compelling vision for our future, even as we celebrate our past.

Our 2027 stewardship campaign will kick off on Sunday, October 11, with the theme: "First Congregational Church: Faith and Love in Action." I hope the reports from our lay leaders will inspire you as you learn how your investment of time, talent and treasure is multiplied in faith and service to God, each other, and our larger community.

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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