



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT TEN
SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
LEGACY SUNDAY

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

Comes Autumn Time

Leo Sowerby, 1916

INTROIT

Locus iste

Anton Bruckner, 1869

Gradual for the Feast of the Dedication of a Church

Locus iste a Deo factus est, inestimabile sacramentum, irreprehensibilis est.

This place was made by God, a priceless mystery, it is without reproof.

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Lyle Barkhymer

Leader: With our ancestors and our descendants,
we praise You, God of the Ages:

**People: We lift up our souls to You, O God.
Show us Your road, teach us Your way.**

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

*Leader: Your steadfast love reaches to the heavens,
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains;

**People: Although we might stray, You draw us back.
You are always true to Your word, You keep Your covenant.**

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

People: Let us worship God in thought, word, and deed.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Coe Fen, Kenneth Nicholson Naylor, 1958

"How shall I sing that majesty"

John Mason, 1683



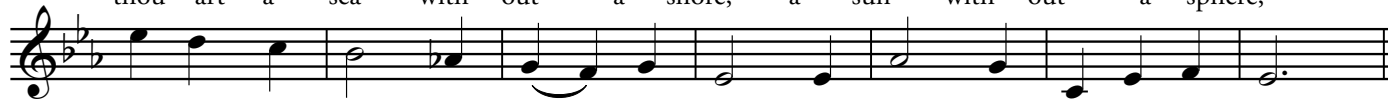
1. How shall I sing that ma - jes - ty which an - gels do ad - mire?
2. Thy bright-ness un - to them ap - pears, while I thy foot - steps trace;
3. En - light - en with faith's light my heart, in - flame it with love's fire,
4. How great a be - ing, Lord, is thine, which doth all be - ings keep!



Let dust in dust and si - lence lie; sing, sing, ye hea - venly choir.
 a sound of God comes to my ears, but they be - hold thy face:
 then shall I sing and take my part with that ce - les - tial choir.
 Thy know-ledge is the on - ly line to sound so vast a deep:



Thou-sands of thou - sands stand a - round thy throne, O God most high;
 I shall, I fear, be dark and cold, with all my fire and light;
 They sing, be - cause thou art their sun; Lord, send a beam on me;
 thou art a sea with - out a shore, a sun with - out a sphere;



ten thou - sand times ten thou - sand sound thy praise; but who am I?
 yet when thou dost ac - cept their gold, Lord, trea - sure up my mite.
 for where heaven is but once be - gun, there al - le - lu - ias be.
 thy time is now and ev - er - more, thy place is eve - ry - where.

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. jessica young chang

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

** When you return to your seat, please find the blue Welcome notebook at the end of the pew,
 sign it and pass it on to your neighbor so we many greet one another by name.*

INVOCATION

Rev. young chang

(adapted from language by Cole Arthur Riley and Joanna Hargreaves)

Leader: God of the long table,
 we are made of gratitude today.
 That we can gather across generations and households is a rare gift not lost on us.
 We thank You for every face before us and those who are not with us.

**People: We thank You for our ancestors of faith and practice
 who are present to us as we celebrate cycles of time and memory.
 May our lives, our relationships, our worship, and our care for each other
 be a witness and a living monument to Your faithfulness. Amen.**

ANTHEM

“Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart”

arr. Anna Laura Page, 2001

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Mr. Barkhymer

Leader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, the eighteenth chapter.

The word of YHWH came to me: "What do you mean by repeating this proverb about the land Israel:

'Parents eat sour grapes
and their children's teeth
are set on edge?

"As I live, says Sovereign YHWH, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. For every living soul belongs to me--the parents as well as the child; both alike belong to me. It is only the person who sins who will die.

"Yet you say, 'The way of YHWH is not just.' Listen, you Israelites! Am I unjust? It is your ways that are un-just. If the just turn from their integrity, take to evil ways, and die, it is because of their evil ways that they die. If sinners give up their evil ways and do what is just and right, they preserve their life. They acknowledged their sins and turned their backs on all their wrongdoing, and they will live. 'YHWH is not just,' say the Israelites. No, it is you, Israel, who is unjust, not I!

"Therefore, House of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to your ways, says Sovereign YHWH. Repent! Turn from your evil. Otherwise, your corruption will be your ruin. Rid yourself of your offenses, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you Israelites die? For I take no pleasure in anyone's death, says Sovereign YHWH. Turn then, and live."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Psalms 25:1-8

The Choir introduces the Antiphon, after which the People join in singing the Antiphon, repeating as indicated after the Choir chants the verses.



To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

Antiphon



Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.

Antiphon

THE EPISTLE

Philippians 2:1-13

Mr. Barkhymer

Leader: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians, the second chapter.

If our life in Christ means anything to you—if love or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness if sympathy can persuade you at all—then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing that would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit, but everybody is to be humble: value others over yourselves, each of you thinking of the interests of others before your own. Your attitude must be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

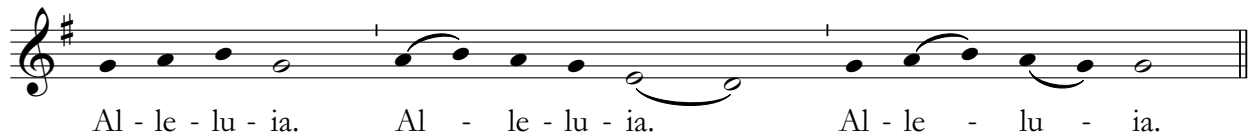
Christ, though in the image of God,
 didn't deem equality with God
 something to be clung to—
 but instead became completely empty
 and took on the image of oppressed humankind:
 born into the human condition,
 found in the likeness of a human being.
 Jesus was thus humbled--
 obediently accepting death, even death on a cross!
 Because of this, God highly exalted Christ
 and gave to Jesus the name above every other name,
 so that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend
 in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth,
 and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God:
 Jesus Christ reigns supreme!

Therefore, my dear friends, you who are always obedient to my urging, work out your salvation with fear and trembling, not only when I happen to be with you, but all the more now that I'm absent. It is God at work in you that creates the desire to do God's will.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

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



Verse: My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

Rev. young chang

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

Jesus entered the Temple precincts and began teaching.

The chief priests and the elders of the people came to him and said, "By what authority are you doing what you do?"

Who gave you this authority?"

"And I," replied Jesus, will ask you a single question; if you give me the answer, I will tell you my authority for these actions. What was the origin of John's right to baptize? Was it divine or was it human?"

They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'divine', he will respond, 'Then why did you refuse to believe him?' But if we say 'human', we have the people to fear, for they regard John as a prophet." So they replied to Jesus, "We don't know."

Jesus said in reply, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

Jesus continued, "What do you think? There was a landowner who had two children. The landowner approached the elder and said, 'My child, go out and work in the vineyard today. This first child replied, 'No, I won't,' but afterwards regretted it and went. The landowner then came to the second child and said the same thing. The second child said in reply, 'I'm on my way,' but never went. Which of the two did what was wanted?"

They said, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "The truth is, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kin-dom of God before you. When John came walking on the road of justice, you didn't believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you didn't repent and believe."

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, Beloved Lord,

People: in Your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

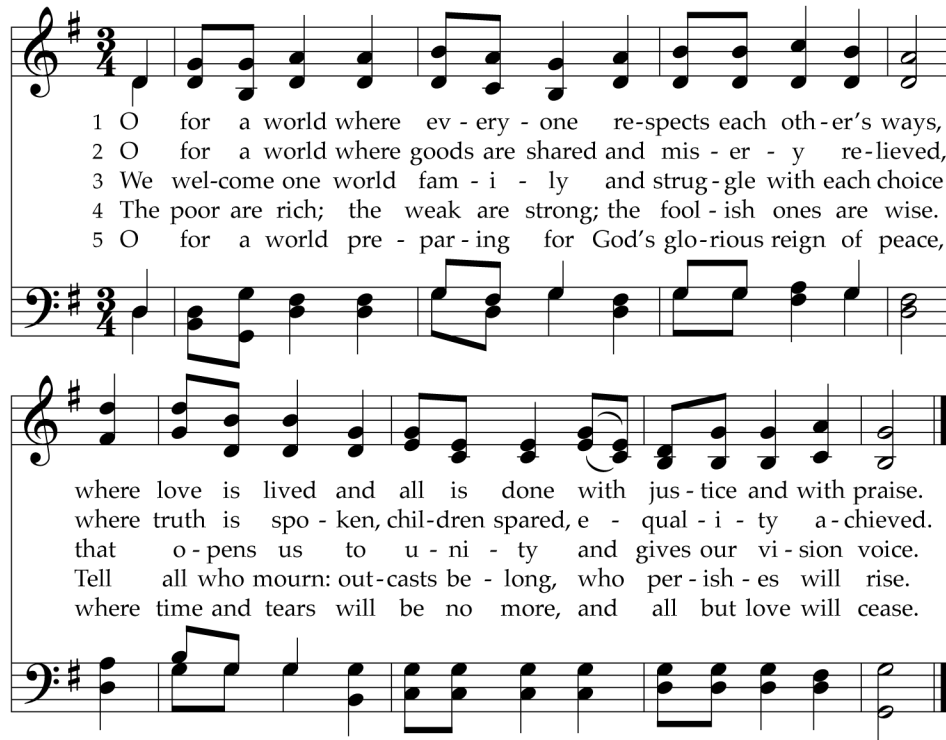
**All: Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

*HYMN

"O for a world"

Azmon, Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,
where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Eric Klintworth, House & Grounds Commissioner

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

This Sunday, to honor the legacy and history of our congregation, our ancestors of community, and our descendants in worship, all cash and designated gifts go to support First Church's **Legacy Fund**. The Legacy Fund provides support to make major church repairs, pay property insurance, and make capital improvements, and includes the 2020 Project, funds for emergency repairs, and the Repair, Restore Enhance Reserve Fund. Trustees approve disbursements in consultation with Church Council. Thank you for your generosity.

You can use the QR code to donate to both this week's mission and to First Church! If you are giving by cash or check and would also like to give something to First Congregational Church, please use one of the giving envelopes available in the pew racks, and mark it accordingly. Thank you so much for your consideration and generosity. Any amount significant to you is significant to us.

"Put the entire tithe into the storehouse so there be food in my house! Put me to the test, says Yahweh Omnipotent, and see if I do not open windows in the sky and pour so much blessing on you that you cannot contain it!"—Malachi 3:10

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

David Hurd, 1993

"I was glad"

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."
Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;
To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the Lord.
For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.
For my brethren and companions' sake,
I pray for your prosperity.
Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good."

*PRESENTATION HYMN

East Acklam, Francis Jackson, 1957

"For the fruit of all creation"

Fred Pratt Green, 1970

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has the lyrics "For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God." The second staff has the lyrics "For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God." The third staff has the lyrics "For the plow-ing, sow - ing, reap-ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep-ing,". The fourth staff has the lyrics "fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep - ing, thanks be to God." The notation includes various note values, rests, and a double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Maryton, H. Percy Smith, 1874

"O Master, let me walk with thee"

Washington Gladden, 1879

1. O Mas - ter, let me walk with Thee in low - ly
 2. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3. Teach me Thy pa - tience; still with Thee in clos - er,
 4. In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice free; tell me Thy se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way; in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
 Thou canst give, with Thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

BENEDICTION

Rev. young chang

VOLUNTARY

Carillon, Op. 31, No. 21

Louis Vierne, 1913

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 celebration of and much gratitude for the September wedding anniversaries of David and Leslie (32 years), and daughter and son-in-law Alli and Kyle Barta (2 years), and the birth of their beloved new granddaughter, Evelyn Ann Barta, by David & Leslie Fulford. Thanks be to God!

† PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE LEGACY SUNDAY CHURCH-WIDE POTLUCK PICNIC on the West Lawn immediately following worship today.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. young chang — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

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

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

† PERMISSIONS AND COPYRIGHTS

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

The following are printed and/or livestreamed under permission of OneLicense #A-717661. All rights reserved.

The following are printed and/or livestreamed under permission of OneLicense #A-717661. All rights reserved.

"How shall I sing that majesty." Music: Kenneth Nicholson Naylor, 1958. © 1984 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

"For the fruit of all creation." Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1970. © 1970 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The jessica young chang, *preacher*

Lyle Barkhymer, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Jim Griffin, *crucifer*

Sebastian Kulwicki and Jason Harrell, *vergers*

Neal Brower and Stefan Duga, *tourehbearers*

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

The First Church Choir

Jennifer Fry, *director*

The First Church Ringers

Geoffrey Dean, *livestream ministry*



Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

September 27, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, September 27

- 10 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
11:15 p.m. Legacy Sunday Picnic, First Serves,
Games & Fun (West Lawn)

Monday, September 28

- 6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)

Tuesday, September 29

- 5 p.m. Laundry Love (Wash Land)

Thursday, October 1

- 6 p.m. First Church Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Rm)

Saturday, October 3

- 11 a.m. Robert Reber Memorial Service & Reception
(Sanctuary & Parish Hall)

Sunday, October 4

- 9 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall)
Godly Play (Library)
10 a.m. Family Playground Time
(Sam Gordon Playground)
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
12:15 p.m. UCC 101 (Parish Hall)
12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)

Book Club

**Wednesday, October 1, at 7 p.m.
on Zoom**

Come enjoy lively conversation at the First Church Book Club as we discuss *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan on Zoom.

Set in a small Ohio town during WWII through the Vietnam War, two families become intertwined through one bad decision. Andrew Welsh-Huggins will lead our discussion.

To receive book club emails or the Zoom link, please email Kathy Reed at kbreed2010@gmail.com.

Keep in Prayer

Celebrating the birth of Melva Fisher's 8th great grandchild, Penelope, and her parents Sarah and Richard Boyko.

Members Margaret Cipriani; 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 Jim and Gail Lowe's daughter, Kim Lowe; 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; 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 Kathy Reed and family on the death of her cousin, Barbara Works.

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 Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Peru. We also pray for our UCC partner, the Odaka Church in Japan,

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

Sept. 27 - Legacy Fund

Oct. 4 - BREAD

Oct. 11 - UCC Neighbors in Need

Church Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees for First Church, as fiduciaries, have the responsibility of investing and disbursing funds held by the Board in accordance with instructions of donors and in compliance with Ohio law for endowment funds. The Trustees consult with Council prior to authorizing the disbursement of such funds.

The Board's aspirations from one year to the next do not change much. With that in mind, the Board's main objective each year is to oversee the growth, protection and administration of both restricted and unrestricted endowment funds in support of the activity, life and ministry of First Church. Restricted funds include a wide array of areas involving Church activities such as music, education, social concerns, buildings and grounds. At the beginning of each year, the Trustee Board approves budget allocations for each of its endowment funds and for its reserves.

For Unrestricted funds, there is the Legacy Fund. The Trustees determine how these funds are to be managed and used in ways that support the mission, ministries and facilities of First Church. Typical uses include major church repairs, building improvements, operational support, insurance, new programs, capital campaign support, and property acquisition and development.

While monies for both the Restricted and Unrestricted funds are invested, which can result in increased funds, it is important to note that monies for both types of funds came first through contributions from Church members such as yourselves. All Church members are invited and encouraged to make contributions to existing or newly-created funds to help ensure First Church has continuing funds, year-to-year, for all of its activities and programs. And, keep in mind that First Church is a non-profit 501c3 organization and gifts are tax deductible.

Frank Cook, Chair

House and Grounds

The mission of House and Grounds Commission, per the Church constitution, is to “maintain, repair, and improve the church buildings, and their mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, furnishings, aesthetics, and landscape.” Pretty straightforward, but the devil is in the details, and, oh, do we have details!

So many of our projects remind me of the book “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.” A “simple” repair or replacement exposes damage or deterioration that has to be fixed in order to complete the original job, so it costs more and takes longer. One of our member’s rule of thumb is to “take your estimate and double it.”

But these beautiful and unique buildings are worth the extra effort. They genuinely don’t build them like this anymore—even the Ed Wing (1964) would be nigh impossible to get built today. Our aspirations are simple—to keep our buildings beautiful and functional while staying true to their historic character.

The House and Grounds budget is the church’s second largest, after personnel. A lot of that money goes to electricity, gas, water, and all manner of other maintenance and repairs.

Our “big aspiration” might seem a bit mundane—plastering. We have numerous areas of damaged plaster throughout the building, most all of it caused by water intrusion. Over the past few years we’ve addressed many of the exterior drainage issues that led to that damage.

So, in the areas where the water ingress has been stopped, we’d like to get the plaster repaired to its original condition. Boring, but it costs money. So, think of plaster when you make your pledge for 2027.

If you’d like to talk numbers, come see me, or join us at House and Grounds. You won’t be bored!
Eric Klintwork, House and Grounds Commissioner

Thoughts on Gratitude

"When eating fruit, remember the one who planted the tree."

Vietnamese proverb

UCC 101 — What does it mean to be the United Church of Christ? Sundays, October 4, 11, and 18, in Parish Hall at 12:15 p.m.

First Church is a member congregation of the United Church of Christ (UCC), therefore, all First Church members are members of the UCC. What does that mean? What difference does that make? What is the United Church of Christ, anyway?

These and other questions will be addressed in a three week “short course” on the history, polity, and theology of the UCC. The sessions will be led by the Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston and Rev. Dr. Marti Baumer, both of whom have many years of involvement in the UCC at all levels. A simple lunch will be served, so please register on Realm for each date you are able to attend.

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, Denise Vogt, 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

444 E Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 | 614-228-1741

www.firstchurcharts.org | home@first-church.org

