



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT NINE
OCTOBER 4, 2026
TWENTIETH 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

Twin Oaks, Marty Haugen, 1994

"Let us build a house"

Let us build a house where love can dwell, and all can safe-ly live, a
Let us build a house where love is found in wa-ter, wine, and wheat; a
place where saints and chil-dren tell how hearts learn to for-give. Built of
ban-quet hall on ho-ly ground where peace and jus-tice meet. Here the
hopes and dreams and vi sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
love of God, through Je-sus, is re-vealed in time and space; as we
love of Christ shall end di-vi-sions: all are wel-come;
share in Christ the feast that frees us:
all are wel-come; all are wel-come in this place.

*INVOCATION

Aryn Mason

Leader: Holy One of All Creation,
You are outside of time, and in this present moment,
You dwell here with us, with our joys, our grief, our struggle.
Even when we forget, and we forget a lot,
You are present, delighting in us, loving us, dwelling with us.

People: **Hold our hands, Beloved Lord, and hold our hearts.**
Remind us of Your teachings, Your love, Your call on our lives.
Be here among us, within us, in this present moment. Amen.

LISTENING

Aryn Mason

YHWH looked for justice, but found bloodshed;
for righteousness, but found only a cry of suffering

Psalm 80:7–14

7. Restore us, O God of | hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be | saved.
8. You have brought a vine out of | Egypt;

you cast out the nations and | planted it.

9. You prepared the | ground for it;
it took root and filled the | land.
10. The mountains were covered by its | shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its | boughs.
11. You stretched out its tendrils to the | Sea
and its branches to the | River.
12. Why have you broken down its | wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its | grapes?
13. The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed up- | on it.
14. Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
behold and tend this | vine;
preserve what your right hand has | planted.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

Rev. Becky

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

“Listen to another parable. There was a property owner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, installed a winepress and erected a tower. Then the owner leased it out to tenant farmers and went on a journey.

“When vintage time arrived, the owner sent aides to the tenants to divide the shares of the grapes. The tenants responded by seizing the aides. They beat one, killed another and stoned a third. A second time the owner sent even more aides than before, but they treated them the same way. Finally, the owner sent the family heir to them, thinking, ‘They will respect my heir.’

“When the vine growers saw the heir, they said to one another, ‘Here’s the one who stands in the way of our having everything. With a single act of murder we could seize the inheritance.’ With that, they grabbed and killed the heir outside the vineyard. What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do to those tenants?”

They replied, “The owner will bring that wicked crowd to a horrible death and lease the vineyard out to others, who will see to it that there are grapes for the proprietor at vintage time.”

Jesus said to them, “Did you ever read in the scriptures,

‘The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone;
it was our God’s doing
and we find it marvelous to behold’?

“That’s why I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to people who will bear its fruit.

“Those who fall on this stone will be dashed to pieces, and those on whom it falls will be smashed.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard these parables, they realized that Jesus was speaking about them. Although they sought to arrest him, they feared the crowds, who regarded Jesus as a prophet.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

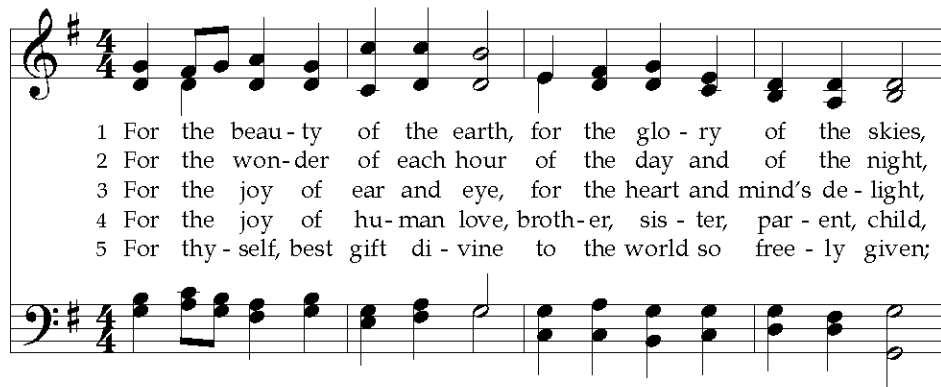
Rev. Becky

THE LORD'S PRAYER

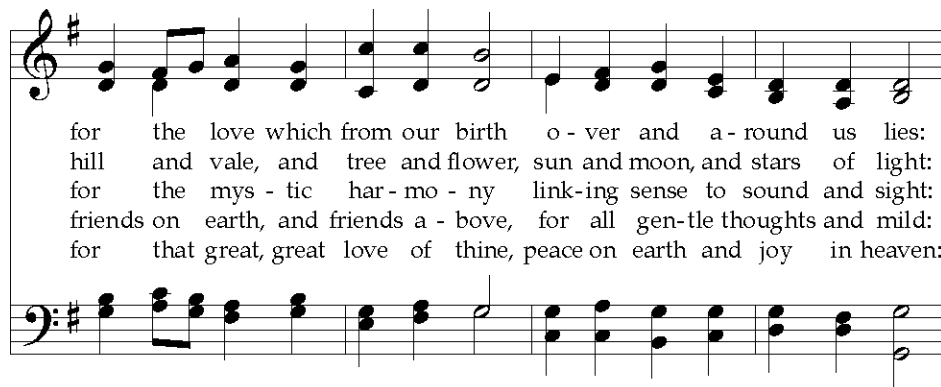
All: **Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.**
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom, and the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

HYMN

"For the beauty of the earth"

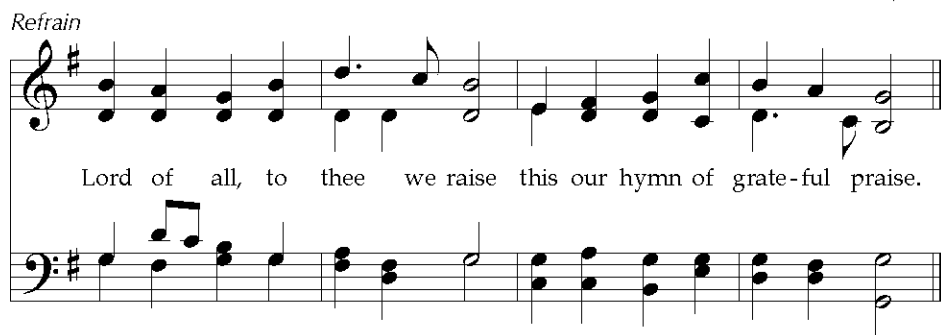
*Dix, Conrad Kocher, 1838**Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.*


1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
 4 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 5 For thy-self, best gift di-vine to the world so free-ly given;



for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild:
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Susie Loik, Congregational Care Commissioner

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Becky

"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 **B.R.E.A.D. (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity)**. B.R.E.A.D. is the organization through which our congregation responds to our call to do justice. B.R.E.A.D. has a nearly 30-year history of improving the quality of life in Central Ohio by researching serious community problems and utilizing the power of people from a wide range of different faith traditions, to press public officials to implement proven solutions to those problems. B.R.E.A.D. rises! 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

Julius Tabery

COMMUNION

Rev. Becky

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: Christ's death begins with a meal.
"Eat, drink."

The ask is that we would remember Christ in our bodies.

This is more than mere symbolism. It is not just poetry.

People: The path to liberation is to stay in our bodies.

Leader: In a world that demands strength, power, and might,
In a world that preys on softness, on need, and on struggle,
Christ teaches us to love through the act of closeness,
through touching our vulnerability and treasuring the tenderness of others.

People: The path to liberation is to stay in our bodies.

Leader: As we encircle the table of Christ today,
and use our bodies to remember the miracle,
the miracle of Christ, the miracle of life, the miracle of love,
we take and eat, and we let our lives be changed
by always turning our faces again to God.

People: **The path to liberation is to stay in our bodies.**

Leader: When the Anointed One gathered with the disciples, before his own body became the portal for love of the world, Jesus took bread, gave thanks for it, and broke it, saying, "This is my body, broken for you. When you do this, remember me." After supper, Jesus took the cup and blessed it, saying, "This is the cup of the New Covenant poured out for all. Whenever you drink from it, remember me."

People: **Sacred God, we gather around Your table, thankful for Your gifts. Bless now these elements, so that for us as we receive Your bread and Your cup, we receive Your love and presence; when we go from this place, changed by this sacrament, we embody Your love in the world.**

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Come, for all things are ready.

COMMUNION HYMN

Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982

"Come and fill our hearts"

Jacques Berthier, 1982

D Bm D A

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.

Em C Em A D

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Becky

Leader: God of all bodies,

People: **We are made more free and more loving
by Your unmaking of Yourself in this sacrament.**

Leader: Thank You for the union of love and peace
that comes in the disintegration of cruelty and selfishness.

People: **May the work of Communion meet us deeply,
and transform us completely. Amen.**

SENDING

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Leslie Fulford

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Lead Me, Guide Me, Doris Akers, 1953

"Lead me, guide me"

Doris Akers, 1953

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you

lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each

day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Becky

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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"Come and fill our hearts." Words and music: Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community; ©1991 Less Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) All rights reserved.

"Lead me, guide me." Words and music: Doris M. Akers. © 1953 Doris M. Akers, admin by Chappell & Co/Alfred Publishing Co, Inc. All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

Aryn Mason, *liturgist*

Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*

Joshua Stafford, *pianist*

Julius Tabery, *soloist*

Greg Halbe, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

October 4, 2026

This Week at First Church

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)
 Confirmation Class (Classroom C)

Monday, October 5

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

Tuesday, October 6

- 9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution Day
 (Social Justice Office)
- 7 p.m. Communications & Technology Mtg (Zoom)
 Justice & Mercy Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)
 Personnel Mtg (Teams)

Wednesday, October 7

- 12:15 p.m. Music at Midday (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Education &
 Supervision Mtg (Stephen Ministry Office)
- 7 p.m. Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, October 8

- 12 Noon Lunch Bunch (La Chatelaine in Worthington)
- 6 p.m. First Church Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Rm)

Saturday, October 10

- 10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg (Library)

Sunday, October 11

- 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)

Keep in Prayer

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 Annette McCormick's sister, Kathy McCormick; 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 mother-in-law, Beverly Kulwicki; 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 David Wyatt on the death of his mother, Sybil Foley-Kalail; and 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 Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela. We also pray for our UCC partner, the Church of the American Ceylon Mission in Sri Lanka.

Godly Play Today at 9 a.m.

The Godly Play Sunday school class will be in the Library 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. During the 9 a.m. worship, children can get a snack, then go to the Library, then return to Parish Hall for communion. Come join in the fun!

Family Playground Time! Today at 10 a.m. on the Sam Gordon Playground

Join the First Church playground gang between services having outdoor fun while parents catch up. We'll be outside playing every Sunday, weather permitting.

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

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.



October 11

October 18



Music at Midday Wednesday, October 7, at 12 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us for our first Music at Midday performance of the 2026–2027 season. We are delighted to welcome organist Abraham Wallace to the Kimball and Beckerath organs. This 45-minute program is free and open to all.

Abraham Wallace is currently the Associate Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal) in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has served various different churches in the capacity of organ scholar, chorister, and director of music, notably as the Edwards Organ Scholar at St. John's Episcopal Church (Detroit, MI) under the direction of Dr. Huw Lewis. In 2023, he was selected to be the AAM Gerre Hancock Organ Scholar at St. George's Episcopal Church (Nashville, TN) for the 2023–2024 choral season.

The midday concert takes place in the sanctuary — a beautiful setting to pause, listen, and be refreshed. To see the full 2026–2027 season, please visit the website, firstchurcharts.org.

Correction from the September 27 Depart to Serve. The Book Club date was shown as October 1. It was an error. The correct date is listed below. We apologize for any confusion.

Book Club Wednesday, October 7, at 7 p.m. on Zoom

Come enjoy lively conversation and get to know other church members at the First Church Book Club on Wednesday, October 7, on Zoom. First-timers are welcome!

Buckeye by Patrick Ryan is set in a small Ohio town during WWII through the Vietnam War. The lives of two families become intertwined through one bad decision that defines them and their children. How do we forgive ourselves and others? How complicated are second chances? And – ultimately – how can you be true to yourself? Andrew Welsh-Huggins will lead our discussion. *Buckeye* is the winner of the 2026 Ohio Book Award for Fiction, given by the Ohioana Library.

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

First Church Engagement Fair

Sunday, October 25

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. Tasty food will be served!

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 Engagement Fair.

Our First Church FREE Store will offer First Church items, including books, t-shirts, water bottles, and more. Come celebrate our mission activities, community, and friendships!

Livestreaming Update

First Church will no longer stream worship services directly to Facebook. Over the last several months, Facebook's frequent platform changes and issues have forced our volunteer team to troubleshoot problems in real time. Services will continue to stream live on YouTube, and links will be shared on Facebook, so viewers can easily find each broadcast. If funding becomes available for a reliable service that can stream simultaneously to both platforms, the Communications and Technology Commission may revisit this decision. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Nathaniel Powell, Commissioner of the Communications and Technology Commission, at npowell@first-church.org.

Aspirations for the Diaconate

In the Book of Acts 6: 1-6, we learn about the original seven deacons: Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus. These esteemed men were chosen from and by the community of disciples because the Apostles' hands were full. So full in fact, that the Apostles were receiving complaints. The Greek-speaking Jews complained against the Hebraic Jews that their widows were being neglected in the daily food distribution. Scandalous! The Apostles basically said that they were far too busy studying the Word, praying, and ministering to be serving some old, hungry widows! This reads like hot, dramatic gossip to me, but I am slightly dramatic.

The original deacons were selected from among the disciples to help and to serve. At First Church, our Diaconate has the same charge, minus the drama. Our Diaconate helps and serves with the following ministries: Worship Deacons, Stephen Ministers, Card Care, Home Communion and Visitation, Care and Share Kitchen, Fiber Arts, and Vergers.

Our ministries do not require a large line item in the church's annual budget. We are fortunate to have the material resources we need to serve our congregation; therefore, my aspirational budget doesn't include any money at all. My aspiration is that we would be blessed with more deacons in 2027.

Will you share your time and talents to help serve the members of this church? Are you willing to serve as a deacon at 9 a.m. or 11 a.m.? Are you willing to provide confidential 1:1 support to a member who may be experiencing challenges in life? Do you have time to write a note to a member to help recognize and celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other major life event? Are you able to visit our home-bound members? Do you bake a mean casserole? Are you willing to knit or crochet a prayer shawl? Will you serve as a verger--extending an extravagant welcome to members and visitors and assisting with worship?

There are many opportunities to respond to the needs of our congregation. Please consider joining the Diaconate in 2027. We need you to join us in helping and serving, just like the original seven.

Dayna McCrary, Senior Deacon

2026-2027 Overview CCM

Established in 2025, the Congregational Care Ministry is an umbrella for seven groups that helps meet the physical, spiritual, and personal needs of our congregation.

Each is focused on specific needs and interests of our church members.

The Bereavement Ministry Team helps grieving families plan gatherings after memorial or funeral services that honor their loved ones. These receptions offer comfort and a sense of closure to family and friends.

The Card Care Ministry recognizes birthdays and anniversaries and offers encouragement during illness, bereavement, and other difficult times. Many of you have likely received one of its thoughtful cards. This simple outreach strengthens the bonds within our church family.

The Fiber Arts Ministry cares for others by creating prayer shawls, newborn blankets, warm hats, scarves, and more. Everyone — from beginners to experienced artisans — is welcome to take part in this meaningful ministry.

The Care & Share Kitchen stocks the freezer with meals for people in need. Volunteers deliver the food, providing both nourishment and valuable personal connection.

The Home Communion Ministry equips commissioned volunteers to serve Communion to members of our church family who cannot attend worship in person.

The Home Visitation Ministry builds meaningful connections by visiting those who are unable to attend church in person.

Stephen Ministry are the *after people . . . after a relationship ends . . . after the funeral*, when everyone has left and the emotions you held come crashing in on you . . . *after the last child leaves home . . . after your friends and family have heard your story* one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

They are commissioned lay caregivers who provide confidential, one-on-one care to individuals facing difficult circumstances. Please read this past week's Reflections for a care receiver's personal expression on the support they received from Stephen Ministry.

We hope each of these ministries continues to grow. When we support one another, we strengthen connections; those connections build community, and a strong community can create meaningful change.

Susie Loik and Wendy Kennedy, Leaders, Congregational Care and Stephen Ministers

Preserving the Past, Stepping into the Future

Thank you to all who have sent in your pledge cards for the preservation grant campaign. We are at a critical moment to make the final decisions on the extent of our construction project. With your generous support, we hope to exceed our goal of raising \$200,000 for the grant match. We are hoping to add some other segments of repair work for the building while we have the skilled workers available on site.

More information about the progress being made to preserve our historic building for the future is available from the grant project website at: www.first-church.org/preservation.

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

Oct. 4 - BREAD

Oct. 11 - UCC Neighbors in Need

Oct. 18 - Sacred Earth for the First Church Library

Thoughts on Gratitude

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees
under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

- Nelson Henderson

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, 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

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

