



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT NINE
OCTOBER 11, 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

“Here in this place”

Gather Us In

Marty Haugen, 1979

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,
van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
light years a - way: here in this place the new light is shin - ing;
brought here to you in the light of this day.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.
Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath - er us in and
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,
we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Katarina Yamaguchi and Henry

People: Make us eager to rebuild the cities You have made,
and ready to receive strangers,
so that we celebrate at all times and in all places
the peace which is life in You. Amen.

Rev. Becky

Rev. Becky and Leslie Fulford

Rev. Becky

During the sermon time, our young children are welcome to participate in “Godly Play.”

Isaiah 25:1-9

Isaiah 25:1-9

Katarina Yamaguchi and Henry

YHWH, You are my God— I exalt You! I praise Your Name!

For You do marvelous things, planned long ago with steadfast faithfulness.

You turned cities into dump heaps, fortified cities into rubble; strongholds of foreigners are no more, never to be rebuilt. It is for this reason that the powerful honor You, and cities of ruthless people fear You. Yet You are a refuge to poor people, refuge to the needy in their distress, shelter in the storm, shade from the heat—for the breath of the ruthless is like an ice storm or a scorching drought. You subdue the roar of the enemy, and the mantra of tyrants is stilled.

On this mountain, YHWH Omnipotent will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, food rich and succulent, and fine, aged wines. On this mountain God will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, the shroud covering all nations, destroying all death forever. God will wipe away the tears from every cheek, and will take away the shame of God's people on earth, wherever they live. YHWH has spoken.

On that Day it will be said, “This is our God, this is the One for whose liberation we waited, YHWH is the One in whom we had hoped! We rejoice exultantly in our deliverance.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

The congregation joins in singing the entirety of the Psalm.

Each measure of the chant corresponds to one half-verse of the Psalm, with notes changing at the | symbol.



1. The Lord is my | shepherd;
I shall not be in | want.
2. He makes me lie down in green | pastures
and leads me beside still | waters.

3. He revives my | soul
and guides me along right pathways for his | Name's sake.
4. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no | evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.
5. You spread a table before me in the presence of those who | trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running | over.
6. Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my | life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for | ever.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

Rev. Becky

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

Then Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like this: there was a ruler who prepared a feast for the wedding of the family's heir; but when the ruler sent out workers to summon the invited guests, they wouldn't come. The ruler sent other workers, telling them to say to the guests, 'I have prepared this feast for you. My oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding.' But they took no notice; one went off to his farm, another to her business, and the rest seized the workers, attacked them brutally and killed them. The ruler was furious and dispatched troops who destroyed those murderers and burned their town. "Then the ruler said to the workers, 'The wedding feast is ready, but the guests I invited don't deserve the honor. Go out to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find.' The workers went out into the streets and collected everyone they met, good and bad alike, until the hall was filled with guests. "The ruler, however, came in to see the company at table, and noticed one guest who was not dressed for a wedding. 'My friend,' said the ruler, 'why are you here without a wedding garment?' But the guest was silent. Then the ruler said to the attendants, 'Bind this guest hand and foot, and throw the individual out into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "Many are called, but few are chosen."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Rev. Becky

RESPONDING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev. Becky

Leader: ... Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,
Hear us, O God,

People: Your mercy is great.

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

“Shepherd me, O God”

Shepherd Me, O God

Marty Haugen, 1986

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



The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.

Refrain

He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I fear no evil;
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Refrain

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house
of the Lord forever.

Refrain

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 **Neighbors in Need (NIN)**, a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. One-third of the offering is given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025, the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. 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

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: We gather at the table to retell the story of death, resurrection, and oneness with God. The night Jesus was betrayed, he gathered with his friends:

People: Friends who would betray him, friends who would deny him, friends who would flee from him.

Leader: Still, out of love, Jesus gathered them unto himself, so they could eat, connect and remember. Breaking the bread, He gave us the words of our sacrament:

People: Take, eat. This is my body broken for you. Eat it to remember me.

Leader: After supper, Jesus poured and blessed the cup, and gave us the meaning of our remembrance:

People: Take, drink. This is my blood, shed for all. Drink it to remember me.

Leader: Anointed One, we gather at Your table to affirm Your sacrifice and our faith. By making ourselves one in Your sacrament, we unmake our fears, our limitations, and our obstacles to Your way.

People: We join hearts and hands in this covenant of faith and this observance of community and sustenance.

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, Come. Twine yourself within these crumbs, dive deep within these cups, so that for us as we receive these elements, we receive nothing less than your love and presence; when we go from this place, changed by this sacrament, we embody nothing less than your love in the world.

People: In the name of Jesus and for the sake of the world we pray, Amen.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Come, for all things are ready.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Come and fill our hearts"

Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982

Jacques Berthier, 1982

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

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Becky

Leader: Beloved Lord,
You have made us Your friend, one with You,
in the breaking of bread and the sharing of cup.

People: **We thank you for community that connects us all.**
May we take this connection into Your world
and share it widely with all You love. Amen.

SENDING

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Jim Lowe, Justice and Mercy Commissioner

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

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.

Fine

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.

† 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.

"Here in this place." Words and music by Marty Haugen, 1979. © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

"Shepherd me, O God." Psalm 23 adaptation and music by Marty Haugen, 1986. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

"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*

Katarina Yamaguchi and Henry, *liturgists*

Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*

Joshua Stafford, *pianist*

Geoffrey Gear, *soloist*

Gregory Halbe, *livestream ministry*



Enter to Worship Depart to Serve

October 11, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, October 11

- 9 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion
 (Parish Hall)
 Godly Play (Library)
- 10 a.m. Care & Share Kitchen Mtg (SM Office)
 Family Playground Time
 (Sam Gordon Playground)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. UCC 101 (Parish Hall)
- 4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)

Monday, October 12

- 6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, October 13

- 5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg
 (Classroom C & Zoom)
- 6:30 p.m. Sacred Journeys through Reproductive
 Justice Mtg (Teams)
- 7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg
 (Classroom C & Teams)

Thursday, October 15

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

Saturday, October 17

- 9 a.m. Fall Clean Up Day (Church Grounds)

Sunday, October 18

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

Keep in Prayer

Members Lee Wetmore; Melva Fisher; 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 Dakotah Saunders' friend, Olena Glotova; 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; 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 Dameon Jones on the death of his aunt, Belinda Tracey; and David Wyatt on the death of his mother, Sybil Foley-Kalail.

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 Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama. We also pray for our UCC partner, the Institute of Intercultural Studies and Research in Mexico.

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 10:00 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

First Church is a member congregation of the United Church of Christ (UCC); therefore, all First Church members are members of the UCC. What is the United Church of Christ, anyway?

Come join the Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston and Rev. Dr. Marti Baumer, both of whom have many years of involvement in the UCC at all levels, as they explain the ways of the UCC.

A simple lunch will be served so please register on Realm using the QR Code for the upcoming class.



Choral Evensong Today at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Choral Evensong, rooted in the rich liturgical tradition of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, has been aptly described by W.H. Auden as "the finest piece of liturgical writing in the English language." This venerable Anglican service has a storied history that spans centuries, dating back to the early days of the Church of England. Originally crafted during the English Reformation, the Book of Common Prayer became a cornerstone of Anglican worship, and Choral Evensong stands as one of its most cherished expressions. Held in the early evening, this service offers attendees a serene and contemplative experience, where scripture, music, and prayer intertwine. Through psalms, hymns, canticles, and scripture readings, Choral Evensong invites you to connect with the divine in a profoundly meditative way, immersing yourself in a spiritual journey that is as timeless as it is beautiful—a true testament to the enduring legacy of the English liturgical tradition.

First Serves Sunday, October 18 at 10 a.m. in Classroom D

First Serves continues to collect donated candy at the Giving Tree in the Education Wing. Your donation will give the children of the Gladden Community a great party.

Please join us on Sunday, October 18, for fall games, treats, and fun for all ages as we gather the candy for the Gladden Community House Halloween Party. Come have a spooktacular time with our church friends. Costumes are welcome!

Dinner Out **Wednesday, October 21, at 6 p.m.** **at High Bank Distillery in** **Grandview**

High Bank Distillery is an elevated, yet casual, distillery pub with seasonally inspired takes on modern American cocktails and cuisine. It's known for great food, cold drinks, and fun times in. They pair their creative cocktails with some traditional pub food for a perfect night out.

Join in with others from First Church for a dinner out by registering on Realm.



Legacy Sunday Pie Contest **Winners!!**

Congratulations to the winners of the 2026 Legacy Sunday Pie Contest! Greg Halbe (hot from the oven gooseberry pie) and Melody Leidheiser (scrumptious four berry pie) wowed us all with their delicious homemade submissions. Greg and Melody were awarded bright yellow chrysanthemums for their awesome submissions. Not only were these pies tasty, they were beautiful and savored by all.

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

Oct. 11 - UCC Neighbors in Need

Oct. 18 - Sacred Earth for the First Church Library

Oct. 25 - Pathway Clubhouse

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!

Preserving the Past, **Stepping into the Future**

Pledges and gifts to the Preserving the Past, Stepping into the Future fundraising campaign total \$323,486. It was always our hope to exceed the \$200,000 campaign goal to allow for additional repairs to be made to our historic 1931 church building. With your help, we have done that with great enthusiasm.

Just as the generations before us built and maintained this wonderful worship space and community center, we too are making investments now to ensure its future for generations to come.

Although the official fundraising campaign ended on September 30, we anticipate that preservation project pledge cards will continue to be received in the next few weeks as individuals make their final decisions of how they can support this significant preservation project.

The grant construction committee will be recommending for Council's approval a short list of related construction projects that can be completed with the extra funds raised.

More information about the progress being made to preserve our historic building can be found at the grant project website: www.first-church.org/preservation.

Justice & Mercy Stewardship

Many members were drawn to First Church because our congregation strives to put into practice the words from the parable that Jesus depicted in Mathew 25:40. He told his disciples that “as you have done for the least of these, you have done for me.” One way we fulfill this promise is through the ministries that the Justice & Mercy Commission (J&M) recommends for congregation support in weekly special offerings. However, our offerings are only part of how we live out our faith. Our 12 different ministries under the J&M umbrella assure that each of us has a “hands-on” opportunity to serve in our own way. These include: Bethlehem On Broad Street (BOBS); BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity); Faith Mission; First Serves; Good Samaritan; Human Rights Committee; Largest Table; Laundry Love; Rapid Response Team; Sacred Earth; Sacred Journeys, Reproductive Justice; and the Unsheltered Ministry. Most of these are successfully fulfilling their missions, and aren’t planning program changes in 2027. But there are opportunities in five areas that offer new ways to “do for the least of these.” We aspire to help more by:

- Restoring stability for more households through the Good Samaritan program payments for utility bills and basic human needs. We’ll also continue distributing grocery gift cards, and explore more ways to provide emergency help.
- Increasing financial and volunteer help in our Laundry Love program, to preserve the health and dignity of more neighbors, with a second laundry site in 2027, and a third in 2028. This will triple our service, to nearly 80 households, in underserved neighborhoods in Linden, the Southside, and the Near East. We’ll also offer refreshments and increase availability of coloring books, comic books, and arts and crafts for children.
- Strengthening our longtime connection to the Deep Griha Society and Deep Griha Society, USA, committing finances to sponsor 5 children in their Pune, India, school, and recruiting 5 new member sponsors. This provides food, medical care, education, counseling, and other needs.
- Funding support for educational materials, supplies, event programming, and other services for the new Sacred Journeys Reproductive Justice Ministry.
- Supporting our Human Rights Committee’s sponsorship and organizing of educational and advocacy events and programs that promote and protect human rights in First Church and the community. This will solidify our commitments to ongoing activities like the annual Pride March, and to new projects like the Mama Bears film screening.

Jim Lowe, Commissioner

Stewardship Campaign for 2027 Promotes Faith and Love in Action

Our church will begin its annual stewardship campaign this Sunday under the banner of "First Congregational Church at 175: Faith and Love in Action." Church members will receive stewardship letters in the mail next week.

The stewardship campaign seeks pledges of financial support for 2027 to meet the congregation's annual operating budget. The Stewardship and Growth Commission has set a goal of raising \$850,000 from 200 households. The campaign will formally conclude with an offering of pledges on Sunday, October 25.

Throughout September and October, representatives of the church's commissions are offering brief Stewardship Moments during the worship services and written reports in "Connections" and "Depart to Serve." They are explaining their commission's goals and aspirations for 2027, as well as accomplishments in 2026.

Thoughts on Gratitude

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

- Winston Churchill

2027 Aspirational Budget

Accounts	2026 Actual YTD As of 9/15/2026	2026 Annual Budget	2027 Aspirational Budget
Revenues			
Total Pledge Giving-Current and Prior	\$ 630,039.70	\$ 795,694.56	\$ 850,000.00
Total Unpledged and Other	\$ 56,663.94	\$ 64,700.00	\$ 65,000.00
Total PLEDGES AND GIFTS	\$ 686,703.64	\$ 860,394.56	\$ 915,000.00
Total USE OF BUILDING & FACILITIES	\$ 74,254.80	\$ 92,382.00	\$ 98,208.00
Total OTHER REGULAR INCOME	\$ 33,536.23	\$ 45,500.00	\$ 38,450.00
Total TRUSTEES SUPPORT	\$ 58,193.76	\$ 104,000.00	\$ 114,000.00
Total ASSIGNED FUNDING	\$ 11,316.29	\$ -	\$ 11,174.00
Total Revenues	\$ 864,004.72	\$ 1,102,276.56	\$ 1,176,832.00
Expenses			
STAFF SALARY & BENEFITS			
Total MINISTERS	\$ 180,845.11	\$ 255,720.62	\$ 297,055.11
Total STAFF - Comm. & IT	\$ 51,786.58	\$ 72,361.58	\$ 75,331.44
Total STAFF - Office	\$ 141,043.67	\$ 193,487.74	\$ 201,785.52
Total STAFF - House & Grounds	\$ 85,320.04	\$ 116,970.41	\$ 123,653.00
Total STAFF - Music	\$ 109,107.36	\$ 155,903.34	\$ 170,562.75
Total STAFF -Faith Formation	\$ 33,311.91	\$ 49,142.94	\$ 122,072.75
Total STAFF SALARY & BENEFITS	\$ 601,414.67	\$ 843,586.63	\$ 990,460.57
OFFICE			
Total Office Supplies	\$ 6,652.06	\$ 9,200.00	\$ 10,200.00
Total Office Fees	\$ 6,874.55	\$ 11,400.00	\$ 11,600.00
Total Other Costs	\$ 94.54	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
Total Office Expenses	\$ 13,621.15	\$ 24,100.00	\$ 24,800.00
Total IT Contracts & Services	\$ 25,931.77	\$ 38,200.00	\$ 35,873.32
Total OFFICE	\$ 39,552.92	\$ 62,300.00	\$ 60,673.32
Total ADMINISTRATION	\$ 640,967.59	\$ 905,886.63	\$ 1,051,133.89
HOUSE & GROUNDS			
Total Utilities	\$ 52,201.65	\$ 70,100.00	\$ 81,850.00
Total Parts & Supplies	\$ 10,153.47	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 8,750.00
Total Outside Vendors	\$ 1,800.75	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 17,700.00
Total Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 11,954.22	\$ 22,900.00	\$ 26,450.00
Total Building Supplies	\$ 5,152.51	\$ 6,100.00	\$ 7,650.00
Total Building Chemicals	\$ 1,302.22	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,875.00
Total Operating Supplies	\$ 6,454.73	\$ 8,700.00	\$ 10,525.00
Total Contracted Services	\$ 18,839.01	\$ 28,800.00	\$ 29,400.00
Total Durable Goods	\$ 2,359.12	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,700.00

Accounts	2026 Actual YTD As of 9/15/2026	2026 Annual Budget	2027 Aspirational Budget
Total HOUSE & GROUNDS	\$ 91,808.73	\$ 132,500.00	\$ 150,925.00
MUSIC, ARTS, & HERITAGE			
Total MUSIC	\$ 4,843.72	\$ 12,250.00	\$ 9,250.00
Total ARTS & HERITAGE	\$ 492.84	\$ 300.00	\$ 800.00
Total MUSIC, ARTS, & HERITAGE	\$ 5,336.56	\$ 12,550.00	\$ 10,050.00
JUSTICE & MERCY			
Total JUSTICE & MERCY	\$ 23,780.84	\$ 48,461.67	\$ 59,450.00
FAITH FORMATION			
Total Resources	\$ 1,552.06	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 3,200.00
Total Programs	\$ 1,270.63	\$ 2,350.00	\$ 2,850.00
Total FAITH FORMATION	\$ 2,822.69	\$ 6,950.00	\$ 6,050.00
CHURCH VITALITY			
Total CHURCH VITALITY	\$ 1,793.13	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 4,125.00
CHURCH GROWTH			
Total CHURCH GROWTH	\$ 1,019.36	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 4,200.00
DEACONS			
Total DEACONS	\$ 3,005.23	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 7,811.00
Trustees Funded			
Total Trustees-Property Insurance	\$ 38,950.75	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Total Trustees-Emergency Repairs	\$ 23,460.07	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Major Projects Funded			
Total Major Projects Funded	\$ 12,523.39	\$ -	\$ 11,174.00
Total Expenses	\$ 845,468.34	\$ 1,197,148.30	\$ 1,394,918.89
Net Difference			\$ (218,086.89)

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

