First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Worship at Eleven
November 1, 2026
All Saints Day

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
Sine Nomine — John Weaver, 1995

Enter to Worship — Andrew Welsh-Huggins

Leader: We will bless our God always;
Let God's praise continuously be on our lips!
People: Let us seek YHWH endlessly,
Let us exalt the name of our God together!

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

*Leader: Taste and see that the Lord is good!
God hears the poor, the oppressed, and answers.
People: Siblings, let us turn toward the voice of God,
that we might be liberated from our shame and our fear.
Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.
People: Let us worship God in thought, word, and deed.

*Processional Hymn — *Sine Nomine*, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

"For all the saints" — William Walsham How, 1864



*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. Sarah Reed

adapted from a prayer by Edward Hays

Leader: Brisk is the breeze of autumntide
which sweeps in its path
crowds of leaves, collecting them
in amber-colored communities
to share memories of the summer sun.

**People: "Dust we are and to dust we shall return,"
sing orange-brown leaves,
as they circle dance and cluster
in colonies of the dead.**

Leader: May we remember the saints and loved ones
who have gone before us;
transformed in time's crucible, stroked by rain's wet fingers,
we all shall become the rich soil,
the stuff of earth's dark flesh.

People: Player of the autumn wind,
sing to us of our reunion,
the re-memberment and great homecoming
of us all into Your luminous flesh, Holy God.
Amen.

The Hebrew Scripture Relevation 7:9-17 Mr. Welsh-Huggins

Leader: A reading from the Revelation to John, the seventh chapter.

After that, I saw before me an immense crowd without number, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They stood in front of the throne and the Lamb, dressed in long white robes and holding palm branches. And they cried out in a loud voice,

"Salvation is of our God, who sits on the throne, and of the Lamb!"

All the angels who were encircling the throne, as well as the elders and the four living creatures, prostrated themselves before the throne. They worshiped God with these words: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever! Amen!"

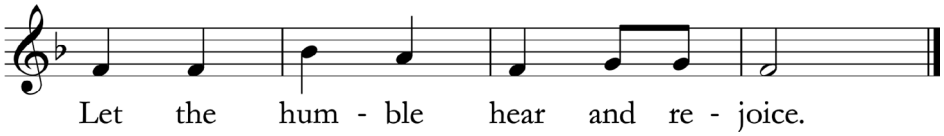
Then one of the elders asked me, "These people in white robes—who are they, and where do they come from?"

I answered, "You are the one who knows." Then the elder said to me, "These are the ones who survived the great period of testing; they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white. That's why they stand before God's throne and the One they serve day and night in the Temple; the One who sits on the throne will shelter them forever. Never again will they be hungry or thirsty; the sun and its scorching heat will never beat down on them, ' for the Lamb, who is at the center of the throne, will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe every last tear from their eyes."

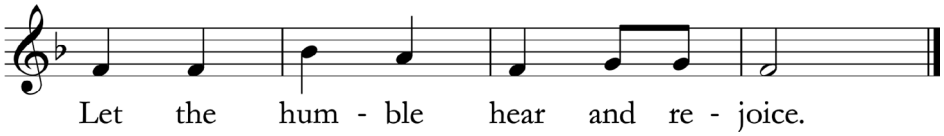
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalter Psalm 34:1–10, 22

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



I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
I will glory in the Lord;
let the humble hear and rejoice.



Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt his Name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me out of all my terror.
Look upon him and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.
Antiphon.

I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.
The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him,
and he will deliver them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who trust in him!
Fear the Lord, you that are his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing.
The young lions lack and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.
The Lord ransoms the life of his servants,
and none will be punished who trust in him.
Antiphon.

The Epistle 1 John 3:1-3 Mr. Welsh-Huggins

Leader: A reading from the First Letter of John, the third chapter.

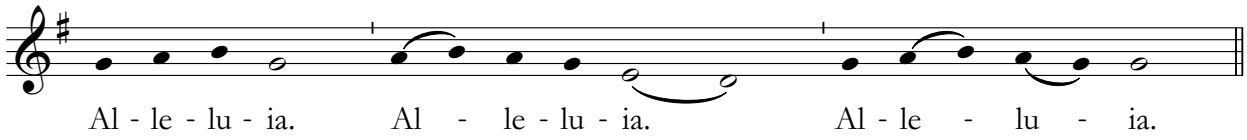
See what love Abba God has lavished on us
in letting us be called God's children!
Yet that in fact is what we are.
The reason the world does not recognize us
is that it never recognized God.
My dear friends,
now we are God's children, but it has not been revealed
what we are to become in the future.
We know that when it comes to light
we will be like God,
for we will see God
as God really is.

All who keep this hope keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation Matthew 11:28

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



Verse: Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.

*The Gospel Matthew 5:1-12 Rev. young chang

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside, and after he sat down and the disciples had gathered around, Jesus began to teach them:
"Blessed are those who are poor in spirit:
the kindom of heaven is theirs.
Blessed are those who are mourning:
they will be consoled.
Blessed are those who are gentle:
they will inherit the land.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice:
they will have their fill.
Blessed are those who show mercy to others:
they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are those whose hearts are clean:
they will see God.
Blessed are those who work for peace:
they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of their struggle for justice:
the kindom of heaven is theirs.
"You are fortunate when others insult you and persecute you, and utter every kind of slander against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Rev. young chang

Prayers of The People Rev. Reed

The Necrology

Janice Gray White	August 21, 1938–November 4, 2025
R. Allan "Al" Waddell	April 4, 1956–March 23, 2026
Alan Daulton	August 10, 1937–May 26, 2026
Chestora Dellenbach	May 1, 1932–June 1, 2026
Robert Eldred Reber	November 17, 1937–July 14, 2026
James Scott	December 24, 1956–October 5, 2026

*Hymn
"In our day of thanksgiving"

St. Catherine's Court, Richard Strutt, 1925
William H. Draper, 1916



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 support **Laundry Love**, a nationwide program for which First Church is the Columbus partner. Once each month, our Laundry Love volunteer team brings the supplies and pays for the washers and driers at a laundromat on West Broad Street, to wash clothing and bedding for low-income or no-income families and individuals. But Laundry Love also brightens the lives of our guests by welcoming them, talking with them as neighbors, and getting to know them. Through Laundry Love, we give our guests our respect for them as members of our community. We share our love for them, and we acknowledge and celebrate their value as human beings. 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.

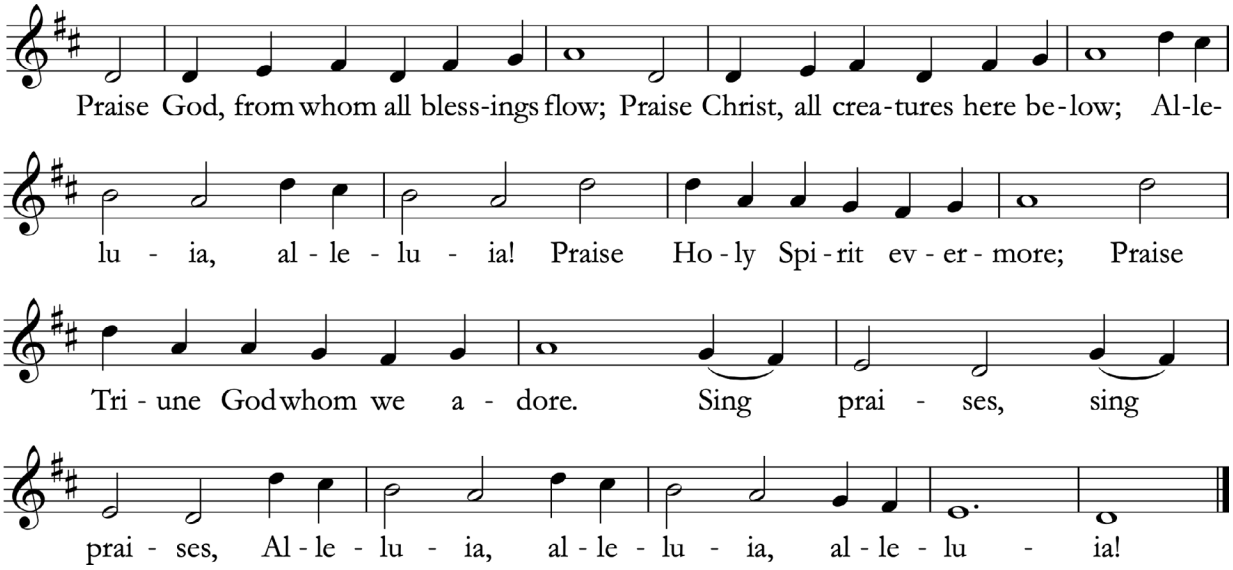
"Put the entire tithe into the storehouse so there be food in my house! Put me to the test, says Yahweh Omnipotent, and see if I do not open windows in the sky and pour so much blessing on you that you cannot contain it!" –Malachi 3:10

Offertory Anthem — Craig Phillips, 2008

The Beatitudes — Matthew 5:3-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven.
Alleluia.

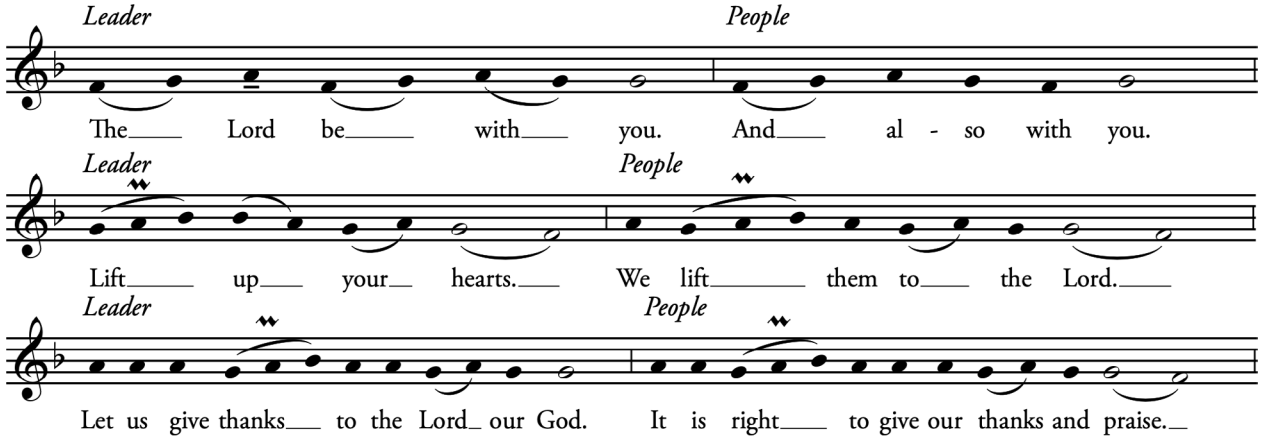
*Presentation Hymn *Lasst uns erfreuen*, Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623



Communion Rev. young chang and Rev. Reed

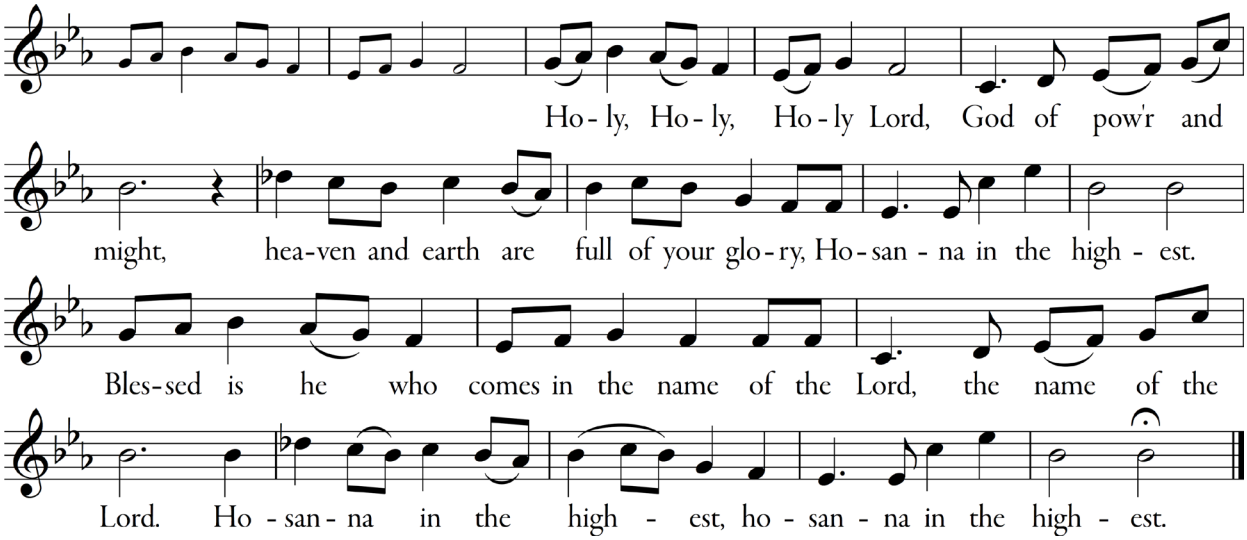
Leader: Jesus accepted invitations from everyone and ate at many tables.
He was often a guest among guests.
At this table where we remember that Jesus is the host, and
we are all guests, invited by Mercy, all summoned by Love.
Come, everyone, and enjoy Love's hospitality.
Lay aside any need you have to be first or best,
or to decide who is worthy to come and eat.
Be grateful to be here and open your heart to praise.
Let us begin.

*Sursum Corda *Plainsong*



Leader: God most generous and kind, the reach of Your mercy is endless.
You find us all, wherever we are, and bring us to Your table.
For the gracious welcome we have all received,
Whether we came first or last, early or late, with hands full of gifts,
Or with nothing at all, we praise You, singing Your glory,
This day and forever:

Sanctus *The Sewanee Mass,* Malcolm Archer, 2010



Leader: We remember that on the night of his betrayal, Jesus ate with his disciples.
After the meal he took the bread, blessed it and gave it to them saying
"This is my body. Eat. Do this every time you gather to remember me.

In the same way he poured out the wine and blessed it. He gave to his disciples saying,
"This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all. Drink it.
Do this every time you gather to remember me."

People: **Come Holy Spirit, come!**
Bless this bread and fruit of the vine.
By our eating and our drinking,
open our hearts to other guests You are always inviting,
So that one day everyone who hungers
Will have an honored place in Your house,
The best seats at Your table. Amen.

Leader: In our sharing bread today we include in companionship
the saints alive and the saints resurrected.
In our sharing of bread today we include in companionship
the poor, marginalized, and rejected of this world.
In our sharing of bread today we include in companionship
those known to us and those not known, who need Jesus now.
In our sharing we pray,

The Lord's Prayer

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

Sharing of the Elements

Please come forward as directed by the vergers to receive the common elements for communion.
Receive the bread from the pastor, and as you approach the cup,
dip just the edge of the bread into the juice (this is called intinction)
If you require a gluten-free piece, please proceed to the front.
If you are unable to rise and come forward and would still like to partake of communion,
please tell a verger when they are at your pew.
If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home.

Leader: Come, for all things are ready. The gifts of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Communion Anthem — Eleanor Daley, 1993

In Remembrance — Mary Elizabeth Frye, 1932

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep
I am the thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight-ripened grain,
I am the gentle morning rain.
And when you wake in the morning's hush,
I am the sweet uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there, I did not die.

Prayer of Thanksgiving — Rev. young chang

Leader: Thank you God for inviting us to this Banquet of Life and
feeding us with the good news of Jesus and his wondrous bread and cup.
You are always glad to have us here around Your family table.
People: Help us notice who is missing.
Make us everybody's neighbor
Send us to them as friends.
With Your standing invitation to come, to eat, to know love,
and be in peace at home. Amen.

Sending Home Communion — Rev. young chang

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

Community Notices - Depart to Serve — Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.
People: Thanks be to God.

*Closing Hymn — *Hanson Place*

"Shall we gather at the river" — Robert Lowry, 1864



*Benediction — Rev. young chang

Voluntary

Final from Symphony No. 1 — Louis Vierne, 1899

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 loved ones by Gerry Worth.

† Join us for Coffee Hour in Parish Hall, hosted by the Euphoric Neighborhood Care Circle, led by Sam and Jean Lebold.

† Greeting at the Exits

Rev. young chang— Narthex (Broad Street entrance)
Rev. Reed — 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*.

Leadership in Today's Liturgy

The Rev. jessica young chang, *preacher*
The Rev. Sarah Reed, *worship leader*
Andrew Welsh-Huggins, *liturgist*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
Jim Griffin, *crucifer*
Jason Harrell and Sebastian Kulwicki, *vergers*
Aarav Peter and Stefan Duga, *torchbearers*
The First Church Choir
Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*
Gregory Halbe, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship

Depart to Serve

November 1, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, November 1

9 a.m.	Worship Service & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
	Godly Play (Library)
10 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation (Classroom C)
	Family Playground Time (Sam Gordon Playground)
11 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
12:15 p.m.	Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
	Confirmation Class (Classroom C)
	BREAD Mtg (Parlor)

Monday, November 2

9:30 a.m.	Stewardship & Growth Mtg (Classroom C & Teams)
12 Noon	Card Care Ministry (Fanning Rm)
6 p.m.	First Church Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
7 p.m.	House & Grounds Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, November 3

7 p.m.	Communications & Technology Mtg (Zoom)
	Justice & Mercy Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 4

9 a.m.	Good Samaritan Distribution Day (SJ Office)
12:15 p.m.	Music at Midday (Sanctuary)
6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministers Education & Supervision Mtg (SM Office)
7 p.m.	Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, November 5

6 p.m.	Church Vitality Mtg (Zoom)
	First Church Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Rm)

Saturday, November 7

10:30 a.m.	Sacred Earth Mtg (Library)
12 Noon	Confirmation Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday, November 8

9 a.m.	Worship Service & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
	Godly Play (Library)
10 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation (Classroom C)
	Family Playground Time (Sam Gordon Playground)
11 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
12:15 p.m.	Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
4 p.m.	Congregational Concert (Sanctuary)

Adult Education Today at 10 a.m. in Classroom C

Join us as we honor **Native American Heritage Month** with a closer look at the culture and history of the largest US tribe, the Navajo Nation. Educator and lifelong learner, Vicki Lyden, will share her experiences and insights from time spent alongside members of the Navajo Nation Reservation, offering an opportunity to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Navajo culture. We will also discuss a potential First Church immersion experience with their reservation.

Nursery Update

The church nursery remains closed for renovations with an anticipated reopening in mid-November. If you would like childcare before then, please contact Leslie at lfulford@firstchurch.org. We are happy to set up an alternative room for childcare!

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

Nov. 1 - Laundry Love

Nov. 8 - Good Samaritan Fund

Nov. 15 - Charlie's Place (Confirmands' Choice)

B.R.E.A.D. Meeting
Today at 12 Noon

Join B.R.E.A.D. immediately after the 11 a.m. service today in the Parlor for a House Meeting that will provide insights into how B.R.E.A.D. operates and how you can participate as we seek to "do justice." B.R.E.A.D. stands for Building Responsibility, Equality And Dignity. Join us and become part of its many successes since 1996.

Music at Midday
Wednesday, November 4
12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Come hear violinist, Maalik Glover, at our noon hour concert. Glover is an active orchestral musician and private teacher. He was appointed to the Columbus Symphony violin section in 2024 after completing one season at the New World Symphony.

Admission and parking are free. Donations are gratefully welcomed.

First Church Book Club
Wednesday, November 4, at 7 p.m.

Come enjoy lively conversation and get to know other church members at the First Church Book Club on Wednesday, November 4, on Zoom as we discuss NY Times #1 bestseller *Whistler*.

Whistler is the story of a middle-aged woman trying to make peace with her parents after a chance reunion with her long-lost stepfather. What makes a family? When do we realize the past never stays in the past? Feeling known by one other person, even for a short time, can change everything. And we each need to tell our stories in order to heal.

First-timers are always welcome! Questions? Want to receive book club emails? Please call Kathy Reed at 614-442-7742.

Lunch Bunch
Tuesday, November 10, at 12 p.m.
at Cuco's Taqueria on Henderson

Once a Mexican grocery store with a tiny taco counter, Cuco's has grown into a full-fledged, successful restaurant that still sells a few Mexican goods. It's authentic Mexican cuisine.

For a great taste of Mexico in Columbus, Cuco's Taqueria is the place to be. Come join us for lunch by registering on Realm, and enjoy fun vibes, great times, and a menu with all the Mexican classics!

New Members Class
Saturday, November 21, at 10 a.m.
in Classroom C

If you're interested in exploring membership in First Congregational Church, please register for our new member class on Saturday, November 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church. We will serve a boxed lunch.

The new member class is an opportunity to meet our ministers and lay leaders, to learn our church's history, and to see how you might find fellowship and serve and grow spiritually through our activities and programs.

You are not required to attend a new member class in order to join our church, but we encourage participation in a class to learn the opportunities and workings of our large congregation.

Register for the new member class by noting your interest on the pew pad during Sunday worship or by calling the church office at (614) 228-1741 by Friday, November 13. Registration permits us to order the appropriate number of boxed lunches.

Keep in Prayer

Members David and Leslie Fulford; Julia Myers; Sam Spofforth; Lee Wetmore; Melva Fisher; Margaret Cipriani; Sandy Mathias; Matt Stevens and Jim Velo; Jane Weddle; Jane Ward; Grace Glaros and family; Beverly Halbe; Francille Firebaugh; Nancy Burba; John Carter; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt.

Family and friends our friend, Lorene Ahrens; Melva Fisher's cousin, Ray James; Annette McCormick and her sister, Kathy McCormick; Dakotah Saunders' friend, Olena Glotova; 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.

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 Canada and the United States of America. We also pray for our UCC partner, the Livelihood Project run by a Global Ministries partner in Afghanistan.

New Prayer Request Cards

First Church's Prayer Cards are an important way for congregants to share personal struggles, celebrations, or health concerns with the ministry staff and our church community. Our prayer cards now include requests for meals from the Care & Share Kitchen. We hope the changes make it easier to share concerns and request help for yourself or someone in our church family.

Supporting each other through prayer and outreach is an important but simple way you can make a difference. It only takes a moment, but it can be the connection that someone needs. Let's support one another and keep our church family connected through love and prayer.

New, updated Request Cards can be found in each pew where the old ones used to be.

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee continues to prayerfully consider candidates for the church's next Senior Minister. The Committee has been receiving profiles and interviewing candidates to find the person who has the gifts, experience, and personality that best match the ministry needs of First Congregational Church. Rev. Becky David's time with us ends on December 14th, right in the middle of Advent. To respect the Christmas ministry of the candidates, the Search Committee will not be asking for a Call to begin during that time. They will, however, be continuing their task to call our next Senior Minister. Rev. Becky, Rev. jess, and the church moderator are creating a plan to ensure the uninterrupted care and ministry of First Church.

Sacred Earth's New Initiative!

Have you wondered about those flat plastic bread tags and where they go? Sacred Earth is collecting them for Danielle Cares for Chairs, a non-profit. The foundation takes the bread tags to a recycling plant where the funds go to clients who need wheel chairs.

Please start saving those bread tags and drop them off in the container by the Giving Tree (no twist ties please). We will collect them and send to Danielle Cares for Chairs. No more putting those plastic bread tags in the trash!

Veterans Day Food Drive

Egan-Ryan Funeral Home is sponsoring their twelfth annual Veterans Day Food Drive to help our local needy veterans and their families. Join with Egan-Ryan Funeral Services in giving thanks to our Vets and donate to their Veterans Day Food Drive.

Non-perishable food items, personal care items, monetary donations can be dropped off at either of Egan-Ryan's two locations at 403 E. Broad Street or 4661 Kenny Road, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4: p.m. beginning on November 1 through November 11. Call 614-221-6665 with questions.

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: 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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