First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Worship at Nine
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.

Gathering

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell



*Gathering Song — *Hanson Place*

"Shall we gather at the river" vv. 1–2 — Robert Lowry, 1864



*Invocation — Kelly Dodd

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.

*Welcome and Passing of the Peace — Rev. jess

Our young children are welcome to participate in "Godly Play."

Listening

The First Reading — 1 John 3:1-3 — Kelly Dodd

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.**

The Psalter Psalm 34:1–5, 8

The congregation joins in singing the entirety of the Psalm.
Each measure of the chant corresponds to one half-verse of the Psalm, with notes changing at the | symbol.



1. I will bless the Lord at | all times;
   his praise shall ever be in my | mouth.
2. I will glory in the | Lord;
   let the humble hear and re- | joice.
3. Proclaim with me the greatness of the | Lord;
   let us exalt his Name to- | gether.
4. I sought the Lord, and he | answered me
   and delivered me out of all my | terror.
5. Look upon him and be | radiant,
   and let not your faces be a- | shamed.
8. Taste and see that the Lord is | good;
   happy are they who | trust in him!

The Gospel Matthew 5:1-12 Rev. jess

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.

Reflection — Rev. jess

Responding

Prayers of the People — Rev. jess

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.

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 — *Sine Nomine*, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
"For all the saints" vv. 1–3 — William Walsham How, 1864



The Offertory

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

Mission Invitation — Rev. jess

"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 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

"Pie Jesu" from Requiem — Andrew Lloyd Webber, 1984

Communion — Rev. jess

Leader: Our God is here.
People: God's Spirit is with us.
Leader: Open your hearts to the One who is Love:
People: We open our hearts to You, O God.
Leader: Let us give thanks to God who sets us free.
People: It is our joy to give You thanks!

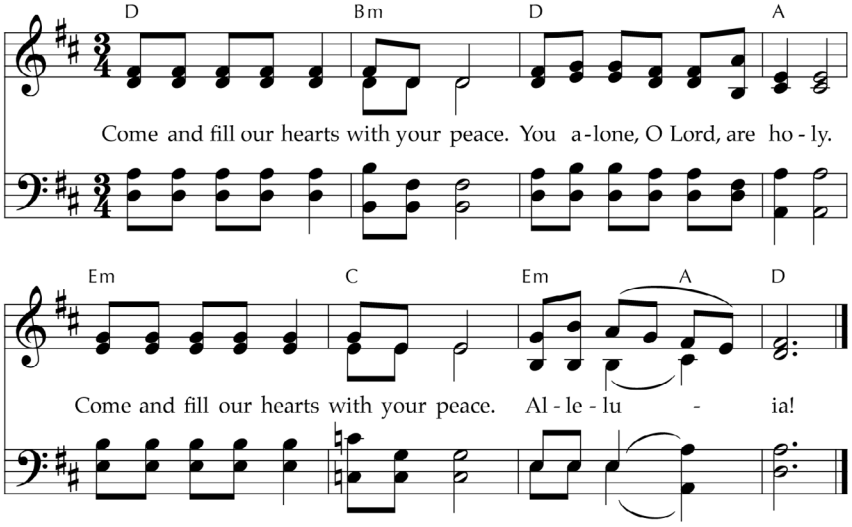
It is our shared joy to thank God for all God is doing in our lives, and for the time to gather around Christ's table and share the meal of remembrance, community, transformation. As we gather at this table, as we remember Christ, we also remember those who share the bread and the cup through time and space, as they return to the table nourished and comforted by the eternal and never-ending welcome of Christ.

When Jesus gathered with the students, the night before the trial, the night before execution, 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."

Holy One, we join hearts and hands in this covenant of faith, this sacrament of transformation, and this observance of community and sustenance with all who wish to eat at Your table and with Your children the world over. 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.

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



Prayer of Thanksgiving — Rev. jess

Leader: Holy One, You have connected us
to You and to one another through the sharing of this meal.
Thank You for Your love, thank You for Your sacrifice,
thank You for Your connection.
People: Use Your sacrament to work in us
that we might share Your love with all we meet, in all we do. Amen.

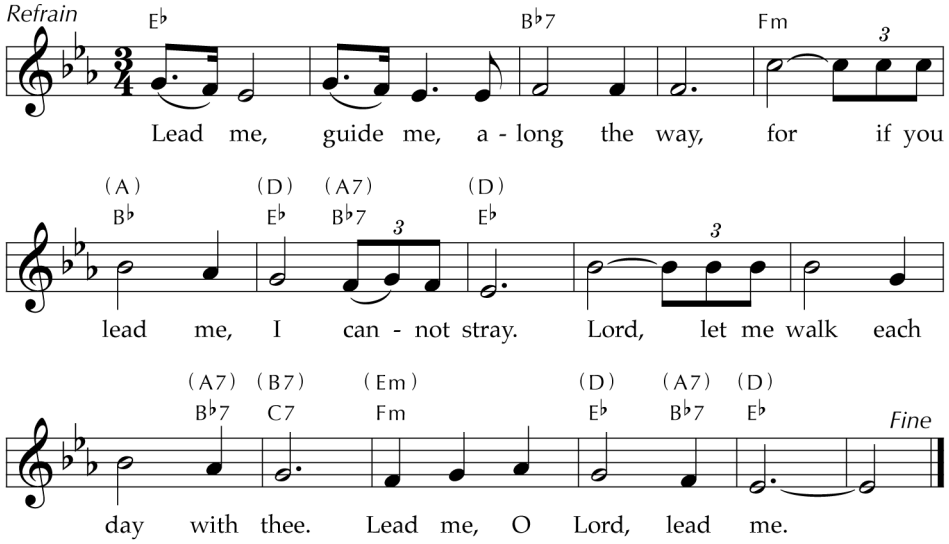
Sending

Community Notices - Depart to Serve — Melissa Kulwicki

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



*Benediction — Rev. jess

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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"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. jessica young chang, *preacher*
Kelly Dodd, *liturgist*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
Joshua Stafford, *pianist*
Cynthia Adcock and Emily Riggin, *soloists*
Geoffrey Dean, *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
444 E Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 | 614-228-1741
www.firstchurcharts.org | *home@first-church.org*