First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Worship at Eleven
November 8, 2026
Twenty-Fourth 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.

Please use this time for quiet preparation for worship.

Voluntary
Prelude in D Minor, BuxWV 140 — Dietrich Buxtehude (1637–1707)

Enter to Worship — Emma Dean

Leader: As we enter the family of Christ this morning,
may we be delighted at how our kindness
comes into blossom.

People: As we become known to one another
in the presence and witness of our God,
may our worship and communion restore in forlorn places,
new vitality and promise.

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

*Leader: In our worship, our prayer,
our listening and our connection,
may the light of Christ shine in and through us.
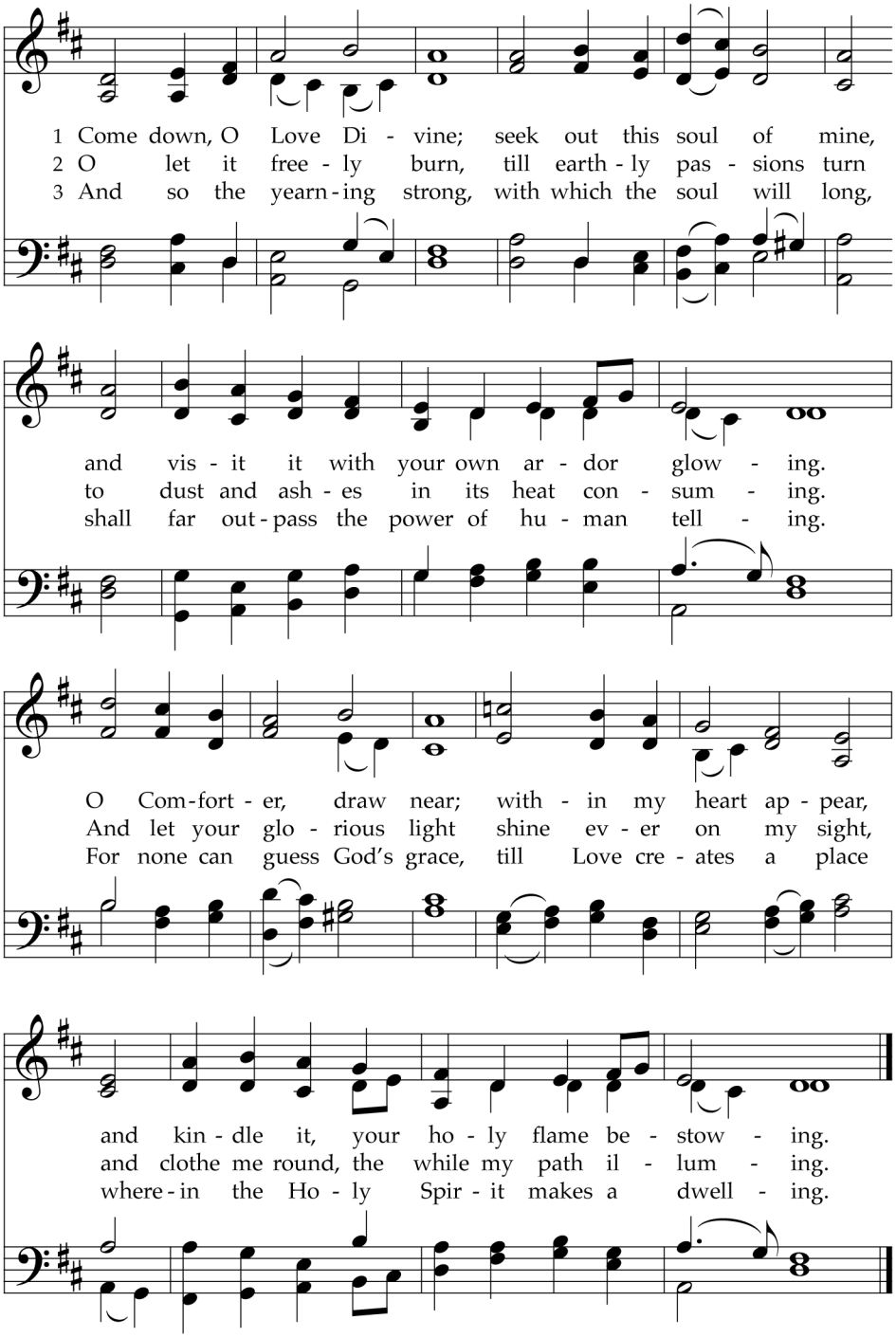
People: May the light of Christ sparkle in our eyes,
recognizing itself as we look at one another.

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

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

*Processional Hymn — *Down Ampney,* Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

"Come down, O love divine" — Bianco da Siena, c. 1367; trans. Richard Frederick Littledale, 1867, alt.



*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 — Aubrey Schmitt

Leader: God of all generations,
We come to You with our creaking joints, with our cracking voices,
with bodies loved and protected by You, even as they change day by day.

**People: We long for Your presence and Your wisdom, for Your insight and Your care.
Show us Your presence in the saint and the stranger, the youth and the elder.
Be with us now, and care for us deeply, as we turn our hearts toward You.
Amen.**

Anthem

"God of Grace and God of Glory" — Improvisation by Paul Manz; tran. Martha Lynn Thompson, 1998

The First Reading — Acts 2:1-21 — Emma Dean and Xavier Dean

Leader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the second chapter.

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room. Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as she enabled them.

Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled. But they were bewildered to hear their native languages being spoken. They were amazed and astonished: "Surely all of these people speaking are Galileans! How does it happen that each of us hears these words in our native tongue? We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya around Cyrene, as well as visitors from Rome—all Jews, or converts to Judaism—Cretans and Arabs, too; we hear them preaching, each in our own language, about the marvels of God!"

All were amazed and disturbed. They asked each other, "What does this mean?" But others said mockingly, "They've drunk too much new wine."

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd: "Women and men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem! Listen to what I have to say! These people are not drunk as you think—it's only nine o'clock in the morning! No, it's what Joel the prophet spoke of:

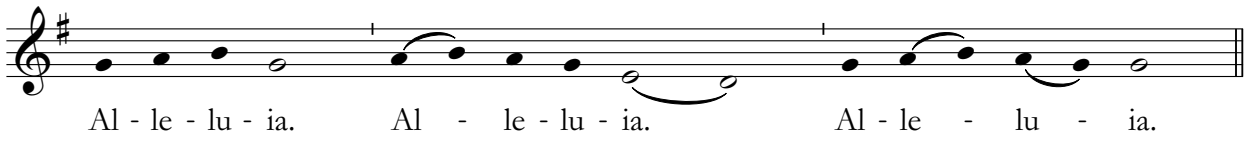
'In the days to come
—it is our God who speaks—
I will pour out my Spirit
on all humankind.
Your daughters and sons will prophesy,
your young people will see visions,
and your elders will dream dreams.
Even on the most insignificant of my people,
both women and men,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.
And I will display wonders
in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below:
blood, fire and billowing smoke.

The sun will be turned into darkness
and the moon will become blood
before the coming of the
great and sublime day of our God.
And all who call upon the name
of our God will be saved.'

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

*Gospel Acclamation John 15:26b, 27a

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



Verse: The Spirit of truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord,
and you also will bear witness.

*The Gospel Matthew 7:7-12 Rev. young chang

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

"Ask and keep asking, and you will receive. Seek and keep seeking, and you will find. Knock and keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who keeps asking, receives. The one who keeps seeking, finds. And the one who keeps knocking, enters.

"Is there any among you who would hand your daughter a stone when she asked for bread? Would one of you hand your son a snake when he asked for a fish? If you, with all your faults, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your Abba God in heaven give good things to those who ask!

"Therefore treat others as you would have them treat you. This is the whole meaning of the Law and the prophets."

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

Sermon Rev. young chang

[God,] You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us join our voices together in the prayer of Jesus.

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.

Confirmation

Rev. young chang, Jacquelyn Dean, & Leslie Fulford, *Confirmation Leaders*
Emma Dean, Xavier Dean, Aubrey Schmitt, & Miles Sholl, *Confirmands*

Leslie Fulford: Beloved community and Friends in Christ,

We are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These young people have found nurture and support in the family of Christ. Through prayer and study, they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of First Congregational UCC. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Jacquelyn Dean: God's household, the church, is made of God's people. Emma, Xavier, Aubrey, and Miles, today you become equal citizens with all the saints and members of God's household, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone. The church is joined together and grows into a holy temple in Christ. Today you become even more a part of the church, built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Questions of Candidates

*Affirmation of Faith

The congregation rises.

Leader: People of God, I invite you to rise in body or in spirit.
Let us unite with the church
in all times and places
in confessing our faith in the triune God.
Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

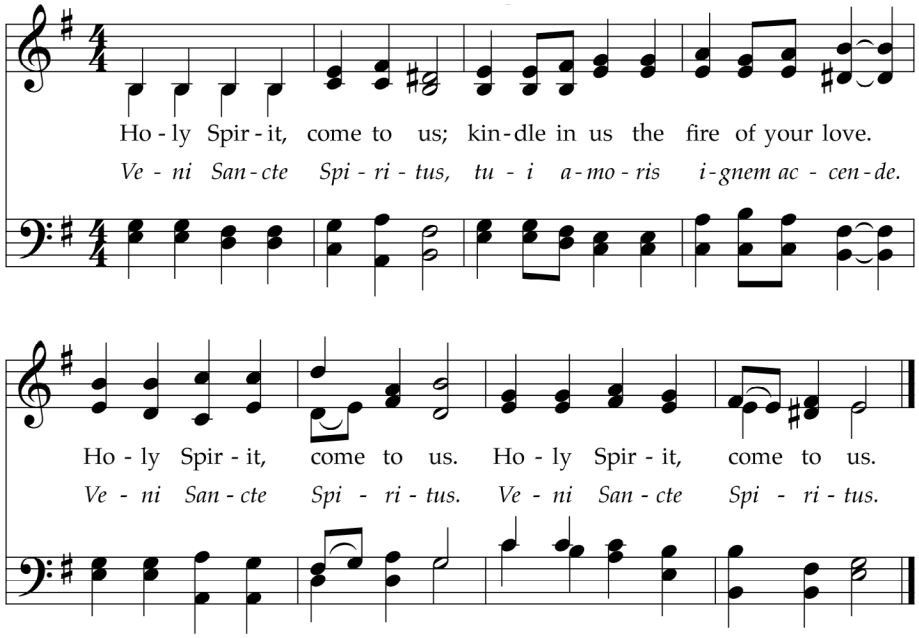
People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation is seated.

Act of Confirmation

As Confirmation Leaders lay hands on each of the four Confirmands,
the congregation is invited extend their hands to share in the blessing, and to then sing the refrain below.

Sung Refrain — *Tui Amoris Ignem,* Jacques Berthier, 1998
"Holy Spirit come to us" — Taizé Community, 1998



Pastoral Prayer of Confirmation — Rev. young chang

Leader: We rejoice, O Merciful God,
with these people in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us
to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life.
We give thanks that they have been moved
to affirm their baptism, and to be confirmed
as members of the First Congregational Church UCC community.
Help them to live not for themselves
but for Christ and those whom Christ loves.
Keep them steady and abounding in hope,
never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with You in Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

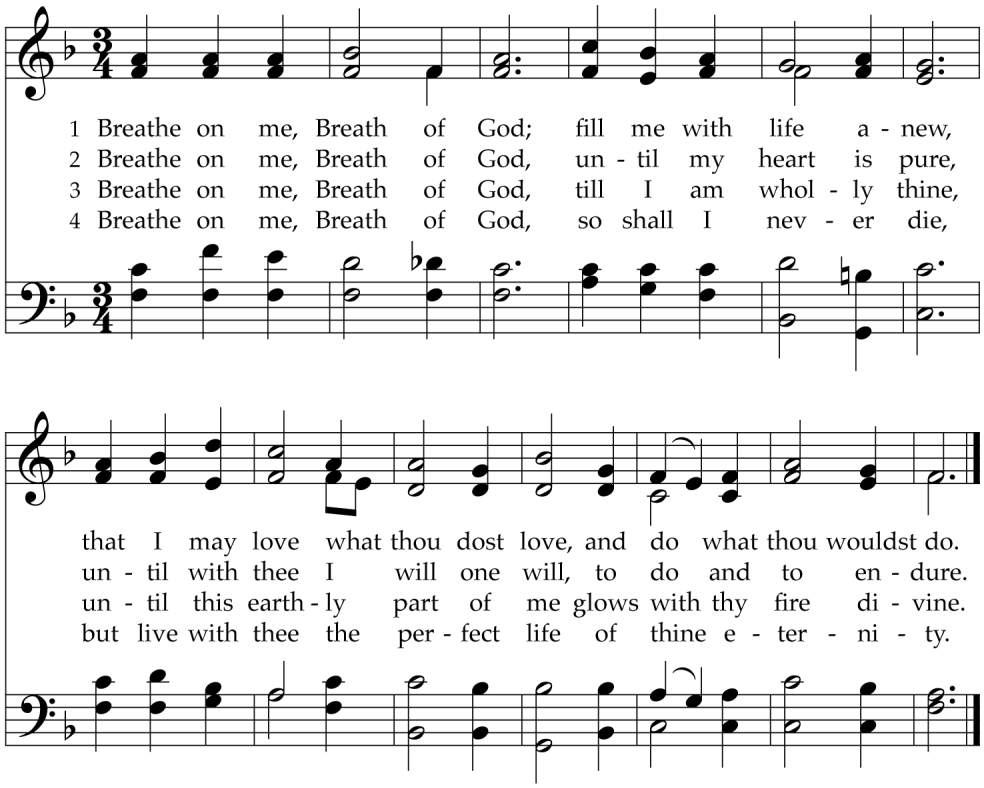
*Celebration and Welcome from the Congregation

The congregation rises.

Leader: Let the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ,
express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers
as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ.
By the power of the Holy Spirit
may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love
and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

*Hymn *Trentham,* Robert Jackson, 1888
"Breathe on me, Breath of God" Edwin Hatch, 1878



The Offertory

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

Mission Invitation Xavier Dean

"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 checks will support **Charlie's Place**, an outreach ministry and social services program located in Washington, D.C. dedicated to supporting individuals experiencing homelessness and low-income neighbors. A welcoming space where everyone is treated with empathy and dignity, Charlie's Place offers hot meals, haircuts, medical care, clothing and toiletries, art therapy, and social services, helping to address the social, emotional and health impacts of homelessness. In 2025, Charlie's Place accomplished: 8269 guest visits; 859 articles of clothing distributed; 433 hours of case management; 1200 bagged lunches; 102 grocery bags of food; and 1104+ volunteer shifts worked. The First Church youth group served at Charlie's Place on their mission trip, making and serving a taco lunch and greeting the day's guests. Afterward, they met with director Reggie Cox, who shared his personal story of going from a laid off DC executive to homelessness, reluctant Charlie's Place recipient, and eventually running the program. Your financial support will help support a caring program that is close to the hearts of our First Church youth. Thank you for your generosity.

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

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

Offertory Anthem — Philip Stopford, 2013

"O thou who camest from above" — Charles Wesley, 1762

O thou who camest from above
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle the flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my hearts desire
to work and speak and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up thy gift in me.

Still let me prove thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat;
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

*Doxology — *Old 100th*

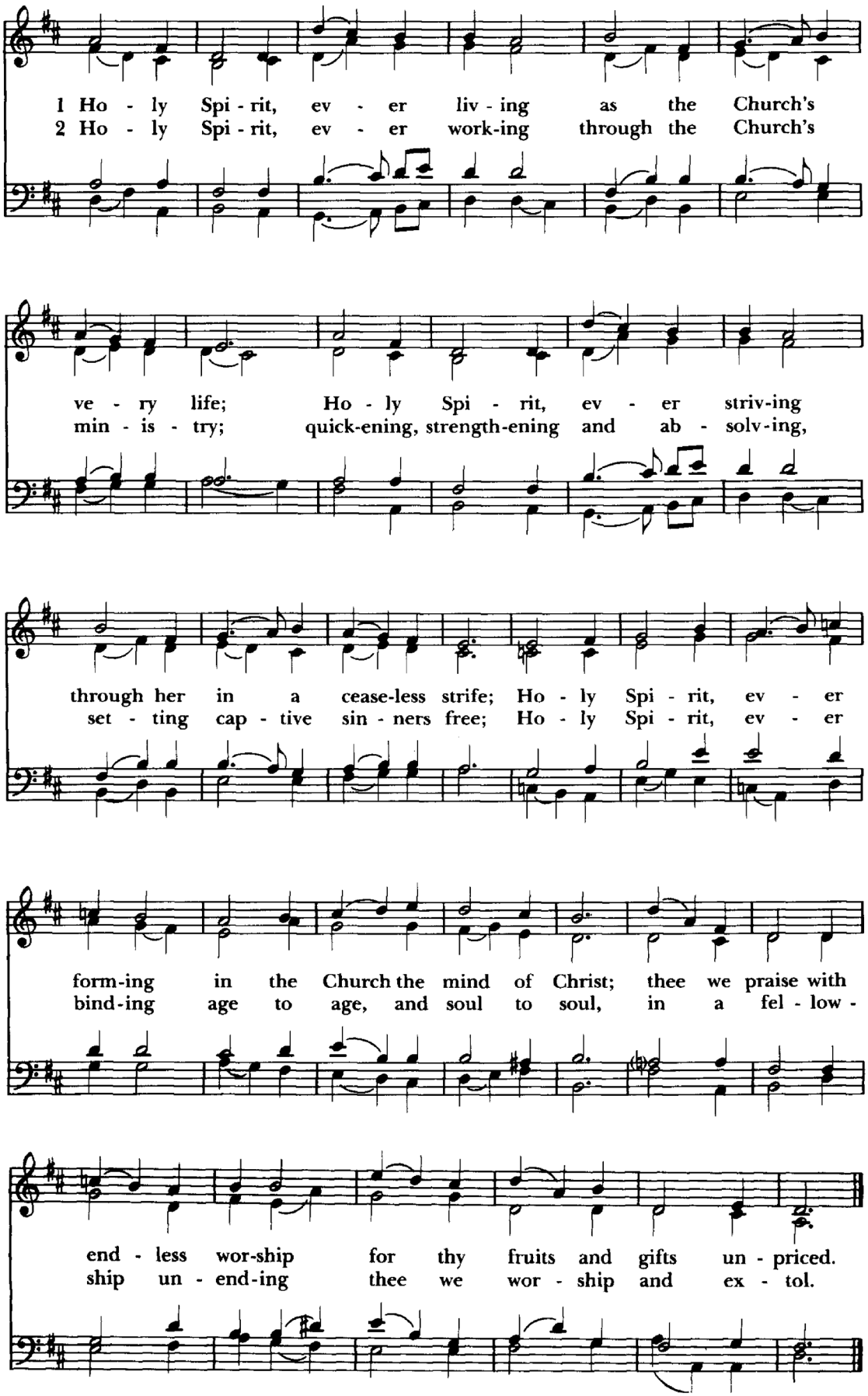
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Community Notices - Depart to Serve — Miles Sholl

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

*Closing Hymn
"Holy Spirit, ever living"

Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941
Timothy Rees, 1922



Benediction — Rev. young chang

Voluntary

Allegro ma non troppo e pesante — Charles Villiers Stanford, 1907

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 loving memory of her parents, Edward and Barbara Kemery Heer Reed, and her sisters, Holly and Cynthia, by Kathy Reed.

† Please Join Us in Parish Hall for Coffee Hour; the Harvest Feast is hosted by Hank and Martha Wilson.

† Greeting at the Exits

Rev. young chang & Confirmands — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)
Ms. Dean — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)
Ms. Fulford — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

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Leadership in Today's Liturgy

The Rev. jessica young chang, *preacher*
Emma Dean, Xavier Dean, Aubrey Schmitt, & Miles Sholl, *worship leaders & 2026 Confirmands*
Jack Drake, *crucifer*
Jason Harrell and Sebastian Kulwicki, *vergers*
Jennifer Fry, *director*
The First Church Ringers
Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*
The First Church Choir
John Bierley, *livestream ministry*

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Congratulations to the 2026 Confirmands!



Emma Elaine Dean

Emma is in 9th grade at Dublin Coffman High School and enjoys softball, music, animals, friends and family. She is the daughter of Lisa and Shane, sister to Erin, and granddaughter of First Church member Jackie Dean. Like her family, Emma was baptized at First Church. Her favorite church memory is the mission trip to Washington DC. Emma's mentor is Dayna McCrary.



Xavier Mitchell Dean

Xavier is in 9th grade at Dublin Scioto High School, and enjoys basketball, drawing, and video games. He is the son of Kelley and Mitchell, brother to Isaac and Madalyn, and grandson of First Church member Jackie Dean. Like his siblings and father, Xavier was baptized at First Church. He has participated in church plays and the Christmas pageant, youth group and two mission trips. His favorite church memory is watching the Christmas pageant for the first time. Xavier's mentor is Alejandro Rodriguez.



Aubrey June Schmitt

Aubrey is in 8th grade at Liberty Union and enjoys competitive cheerleading, being a peer model for a cheer team with special needs, working with her animals at home, specifically her beloved goat, and spending time with friends and family. A fifth-generation member of First Church, Aubrey is the daughter of Derek and Emily Schmitt, sister to Kinsley, Carsyn, and Lincoln Rose, and granddaughter of First Church members, Bob and Diana Kutschbach. Aubrey was baptized at First Church, and her favorite church experience was going on the DC mission trip last summer. Aubrey's mentor is Julia Myers.



Miles William Sholl

Miles is in 9th grade at Dublin Scioto High School where he enjoys soccer, Taiko drumming, anime, traveling, and being with friends. Miles is the son of Stacie and Mark Sholl and lives with adored dog, Ruthie. Miles has been a part of the First Church family since he was four years old and was baptized at First Church at age five. His favorite church memories are watching the butterflies at Easter as a young child, running around the church with other kids, and attending church camps at Templed Hills and Camp Akita. Greg Halbe is Miles' mentor.

Enter to Worship

Depart to Serve

November 8, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, November 8

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

Monday, November 9

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

Tuesday, November 10

12 Noon	Lunch Bunch (Cuco's Taqueria, Henderson Rd.)
5:30 p.m.	Budget & Finance Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)
7 p.m.	Executive Committee Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Thursday, November 12

6 p.m.	First Church Ringers Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
7:15 p.m.	First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

Sunday, November 15

9 a.m.	Worship Service & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
	Godly Play (Library)
11 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
12:15 p.m.	Coffee Hour & Sales (Parish Hall)
1 p.m.	Day of Remembrance (Washington Gladden Social Justice Park)
4 p.m.	Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)

Nursery

The church nursery remains closed. If you need childcare please contact Leslie at lfulford@firstchurch.org. We are happy to set up an alternative room for childcare!

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

We honor **Native American Heritage Month** with a look at the culture and history of the largest US tribe, the Navajo Nation. Join Vicki Lyden as she shares her experiences and insights from her time on the Navajo Nation Reservation. She offers us an opportunity to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Navajo culture.

There will be a discussion on a potential First Church experience on the Navajo Nation Reservation.

Congregational Concert Today at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Called "a stunning player of exceptional ability," Colin MacKnight brings exceptional artistry to Columbus for a recital showcasing First Church's two magnificent instruments: the four-manual 1931 Kimball organ and the 1972 Beckerath Gallery organ. Director of Music at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Little Rock, MacKnight holds his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from The Juilliard School and has been named one of The Diapason's "20 Under 30" eminent young organists. A prize-winner at competitions across the United States and Europe, he is one of the most compelling voices of his generation.

Admission and parking are free. Donations are gratefully welcomed.

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

Nov. 8 - Charlie's Place (Confirmands' Choice)
Nov. 15 - Good Samaritan Fund
Nov. 22 - Bethlehem on Broad Street

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!

Day of Remembrance 2026
Sunday, November 15, at 1 p.m.
Washington Gladden Social Justice Park

Columbus will take a day to honor those who have been killed or seriously injured on its roads. From 1 to 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 15, at the Washington Gladden Social Justice Park, community members will remember all people killed and injured on central Ohio roads, streets and highways. Loved ones of those who have died or been seriously injured will speak and remember their friends and family members.

Organized by Friends and Family for Safe Streets Columbus, the event will be held on the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. The nonpartisan group works to make roads and vehicles safer while also improving post-crash care. Aligned with the group's work, the November 15 event will use this approach to promote strategies to end road traffic deaths and serious injuries. Additionally, the event will honor emergency services that respond in times of crisis. All are welcome to attend this deeply meaningful program of remembrance.

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.

First Church Reminders

Veterans Day Food Drive
The twelfth annual Veterans Day Food Drive to help local veterans and their families is sponsored by Egan-Ryan Funeral Homes. Non-perishable food items, personal care items, and 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. through November 11.

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!

Thoughts on Gratitude

"You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

- John Bunyan

Keep in Prayer

Members Barbara Clapham; 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 Kimberly Wood and husband; 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.

Those who mourn the family and friends of The Rev. John M. Gantt, First Church Interim Minister, 1998-1999.

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 Oceania including American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia (Maohi Nui), Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. We also pray for our UCC partner, the Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa.

2026 PLEDGES | PROGRESS & PRIORITIES

RECEIVED	GOAL FUNDED	STILL NEEDED
$662,770	**83.2%**	**$133,518**

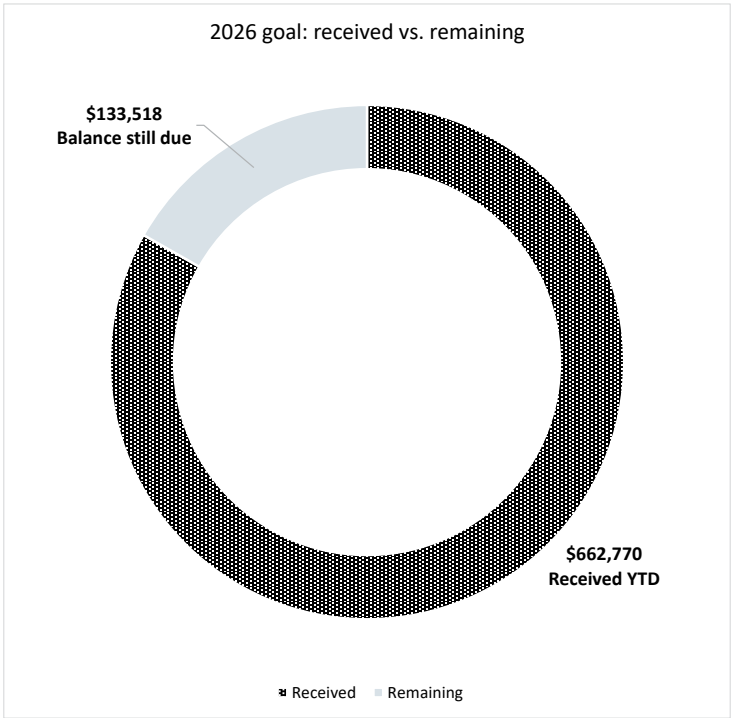
01 | More than four-fifths of the goal is funded

$662,770 received toward a $796,288 goal: 83.2% funded.

02 | The remaining gap needs a 0.0% uplift

$133,518 remains (16.8% of the goal). Closing that gap requires additional receipts equal to 0.0% of the amount received so far.

AUDITABLE METRICS	
Received	$662,770
Remaining	$133,518
Budgeted goal	$796,288
Goal funded	83.2%
Goal remaining	16.8%



Complete your Pledge for 2027 to Help Meet our Church's Goal

As of November 2, our church has received pledges of financial support for 2027 from 97 households totaling $532,578.

The stewardship campaign's goals for 2027 are pledges from 200 households that total $850,000. In 2026, 188 households pledged $796,817.

The Stewardship and Growth Commission thanks the church members and supporters who already have generously pledged. In mid-November, volunteers with the commission will begin contacting church members who have not yet pledged to ask for their support.

If you have not yet pledged, please save the volunteers' time and energy by making your pledge now. Remember: Your pledge is not a contract. If for any reason in the coming year, you can't fulfill your pledge, simply inform Annette McCormick, church business administrator.

You may make your pledge online by using the QR code.

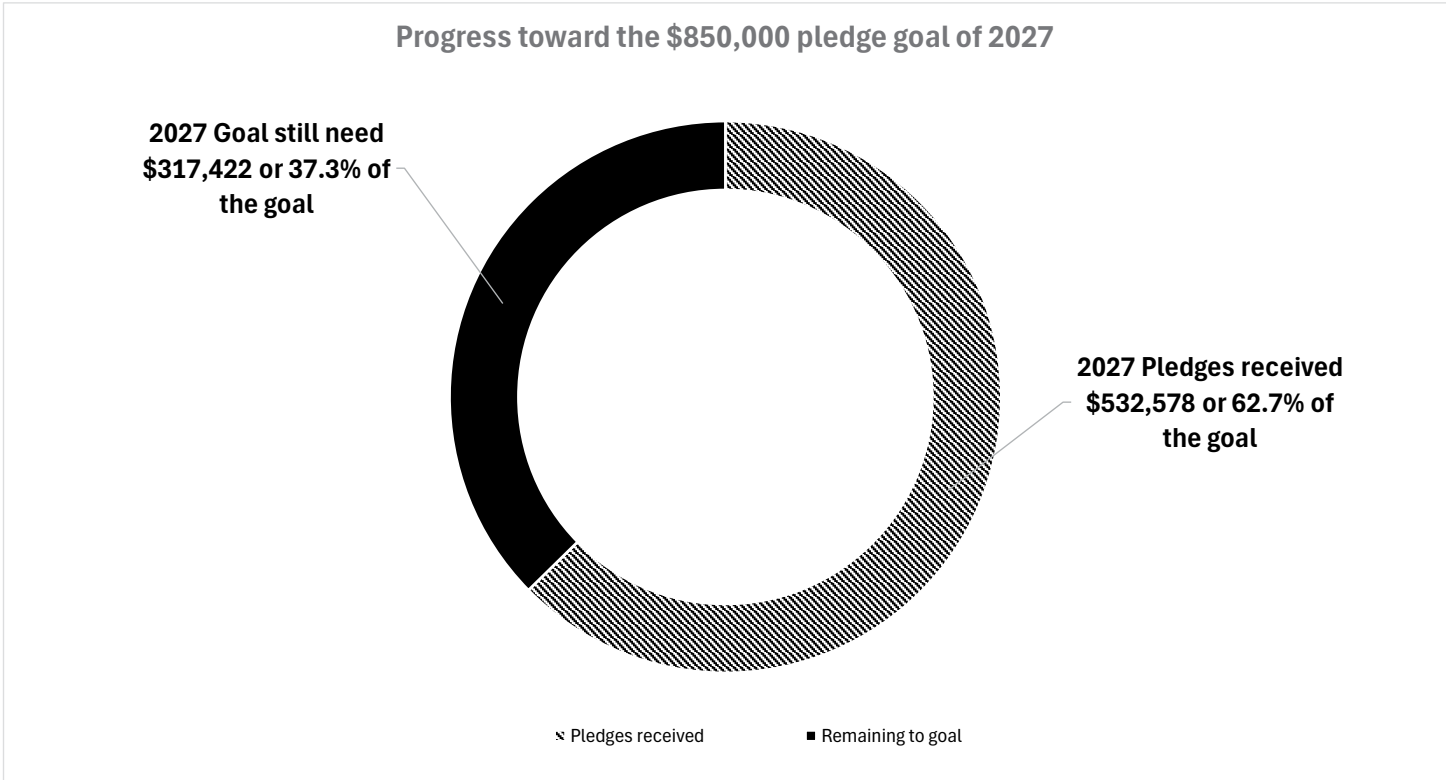
Paper copies of the pledge form are available at each of the entrances to the sanctuary. You may complete the paper copy and return it to the church office.

2027 Pledge Campaign

Pledges received from 97 households • 62.7% of goal reached

Campaign metric	Amount / count
2027 pledge goal	$850,000
Pledges received to date	$532,578
Goal reached	62.7%
Participating households	97

Goal breakdown	Amount
Pledges received	$532,578
Remaining to goal	$317,422



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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