First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Worship at Ten
November 22, 2026
Healing Service

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
Chant de paix — Jean Langlais, 1945

Greeting and Welcome — Rev. Sarah Reed

Mission Invitation: Bethlehem on Broad Street — Rev. Reed

Opening Prayer — Rev. jessica young chang

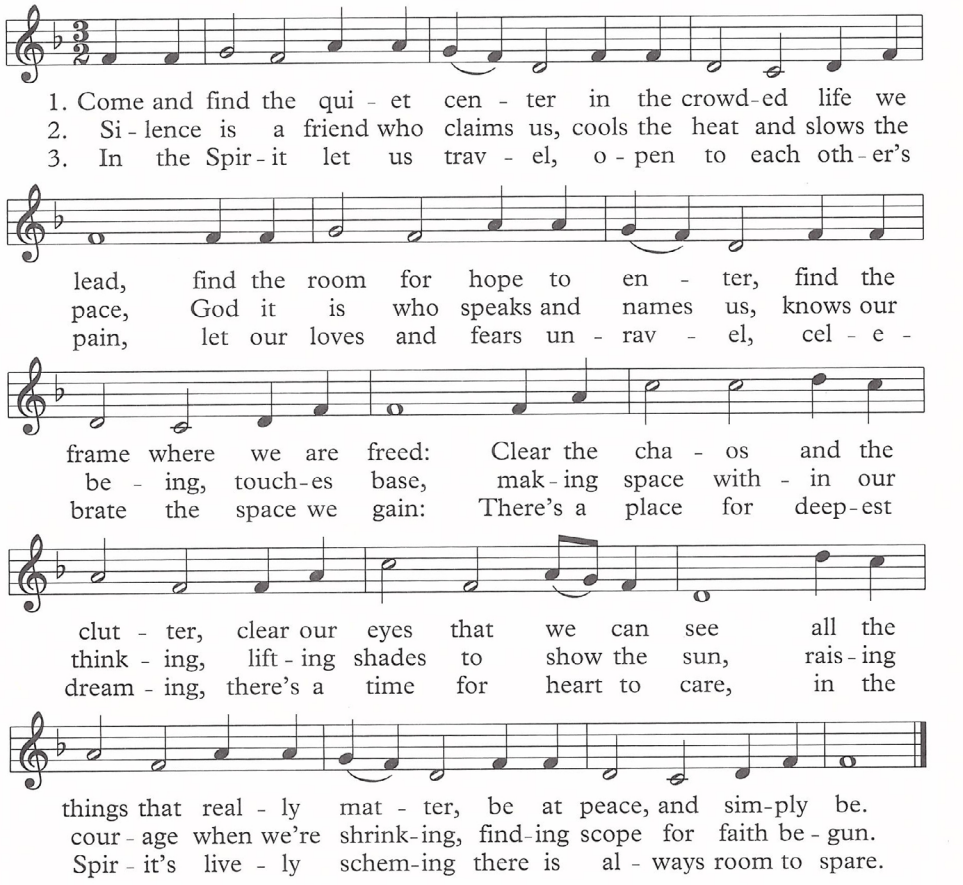
Leader: God of Hidden Places:
we are conceived in the dark, formed in the dark,
and birthed, with noise and anxiety into the light.
Time and again, the circumstances of life
thrust us into the dark, into the hidden, into the unknown.
We are there now, Creator God, in the dark, in the unknown,
and it feels less safe and scarier than the first time.

People: Remind us, O God, that the dark is where things grow,
and that without time in the dark to rest,
there can be no time for growth in the light.
Remind us that even in the unknown, we are safe and held by You,
If only we will surrender to You,
if only we will take Your hand and follow.
Here we are, Lord. Lead us.
Amen.

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

*Hymn *Beach Spring*, The Sacred Harp, 1844

"Come and find the quiet center" Shirley Erena Murray, 1992



The Scripture Reading Isaiah 55:1-2, 8-12 Rev. Becky David

Leader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, the fifty-fifth chapter.

"All you who are thirsty, come to the water!
You who have no money, come, buy food and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk, without money, without price!
Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy?
Heed me, and you will eat well, you will delight in rich fare;
Seek me, YHWH, while I may still be found, call upon me while I am near!
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways, my ways," says YHWH.
"As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.
For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down
and do not return there till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the sower and bread for food,
so will my word be that goes forth from my mouth:
it will not return to me empty, but will carry out my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it.
And you will go out joyfully, and be led out in peace;
the mountains and hills before you will break into cries of joy,
and all the trees in the countryside will clap their hands.

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

Reflection — Rev. David

Anthem — Ken Medema, 2011

"Healer of our every ill" — Marty Haugen, 1986

Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.

In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love.

Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.

You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.

Naming the Unknown

A Litany of Hurting and Healing — Jacquelyn Dean and Rev. young chang

Leader: God be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray.

God, we come to You this day beset on all sides by the fog of confusion.
The earth beneath our feet trembles with our anxiety.
We need You, God. Lord, have mercy.
People: Christ, have mercy.
Leader: Lord, have mercy on us, on your children who are hurting, who are struggling.
We come to You for healing.
People: God, restore me to myself. Let this breath be a mending.
Leader: Grounding, Stabilizing God, we bring our frustration to You,
our turmoil, our disappointment.
Our hearts are broken. Why can't things be different than they are?
Why can't things be the way we want them to?
This much change feels unsafe.
We have felt betrayed by those who said they loved us,
by the unpredictability and unknowability of transformation.
God, we lay ourselves before You, body, mind, and spirit.
Pour out Your Spirit on us and remind us that despite the unknown, we are safe in You.
People: God, restore me to myself. Let this breath be a mending.
Leader: God who listens, we pray for those of us whose spirits are broken
by the weight of conflict poorly met,
for those of us whose minds are consumed by a longing that cannot be satisfied.
We pray for the toll it has taken on our peace of mind, on our relationships,
and on our connection with You.

In the tradition of our congregational ancestors of faith,
we hold space for the prayers of Your people, God.
Into this moment, we lift our voices and
speak the name of one who is hurting, who needs healing.

A pause while the people take a moment to speak into the held silence the name of those for whom they wish to pray for healing or support.

Leader: God of the Grieving, we pray for those of us who,
beneath the pain and the anger, are experiencing grief.
We pray for those grieving the loss of a relationship, a friend, a loved one,
a hope or desire that has gone unmet.
We pray for those who will not allow themselves to grieve, for whom sadness feels unsafe.
Be our soft Place to land, God, and remind us that just as in moments of joy,
in moments of sorrow, You are present with us.
Into this moment, we speak the name of one who is struggling,
who is grieving, who is mourning.

A pause while the people take a moment to speak into the held silence the name of those for whom they wish to pray for grieving.

Leader: God of Forgiveness, we confess that we have been an arrogant,
stiff-necked people in need of humility.
We have believed that we could proceed into a future of our own vision
and our own shaping, with no need to surrender to You.
We have assumed that we knew our future, and now, in this season of unknown,
we are at sea in unease.
Our disquiet has made us less loving, less faithful, and less Christlike.
We have tended only to our victimhood, ignoring the harm we have done.

People: God, restore us to ourselves. Let this breath be a mending.

Leader: God, forgive us this shortsightedness.
Forgive us our pride, our ignorance, our pettiness, in body and in spirit.
Forgive us our clinging to what is known over stretching out in faith.
Forgive us our mistrust. Forgive us for failing to live out Your love.

People: God, restore us to ourselves. Let this breath be a mending.

Leader: God, we want better than this for ourselves and for one another.
Have mercy on us when we choose our own certainty over your call into the unknown.
Have mercy on us when we resist following You into the void.
Let us be reunited to You in the waters of your acceptance, in the cleansing of Your love,
and the grounding of Your presence.
Teach us how to exhale, how to practice surrender and
how to embody the peace we are meant to choose today.

People: God, restore us to ourselves. Let this breath be a mending.

Leader: People of God, let your soul receive this rest:
The God who sends the sun and the rain on us all never forgets you and never leaves you.
There are two constants in our experience of faith in the world:
the first constant is change; the other constant is the love and presence of our Beloved God.
Did you know your body is between 60-75% water?

Take a deep breath in, and a deep breath out, knowing that the breath
God sent over the waters of creation is the same breath that moves through you.
Take another breath, knowing that the same water God put in the seas
is the same water that allows the songs and prayers to move through you,
literally vibrating your cells into a new way of being, of knowing, of loving.
God's forgiveness, God's love, and God's care are all for you.
May you bathe in the love and peace that is God's presence, always here, always for you.

People: Amen.

Releasing the Unknown

This part of our service will not show participants on livestream.

Ritual of Safety — Rev. David

The first step to healing our pain and trauma is to establish an environment of safety. Our one sure place of safety is our own bodies. This ritual will allow us to ground ourselves securely in our bodies as well as in the sacred so that we can name and find a path for our pain.

Ritual of Experiencing — Rev. David

Having established a sense of safety, we can begin to explore with trust and hope the way our pain has manifested in our bodies. This ritual helps us to safely explore the physical and emotional residue of our painful experiences. This creates a pathway for our pain, now fully seen, to transform into something that allows for connection to ourselves and to those around us.

Ritual of Alchemy — Rev. Reed

With this deepening felt-sense of the pain you have been carrying, you are now invited to name it in a way that is meaningful for you. Once named, you are invited to write it on the special paper provided.

When you are ready, bring your paper and anxiety to the bowl.

Release it, Let it melt away.

Allow yourself to feel into the space where the anxiety once was. Perhaps it is gone. Perhaps it has lessened. When finished, you are invited to come to one of the healing stations to receive an anointing - a reminder that the healing continues. A reminder that you are beloved.

Anthem — Ola Gjeilo, 1999

"Ubi caritas" — North Italian or Burgundian, ca. 8th c.
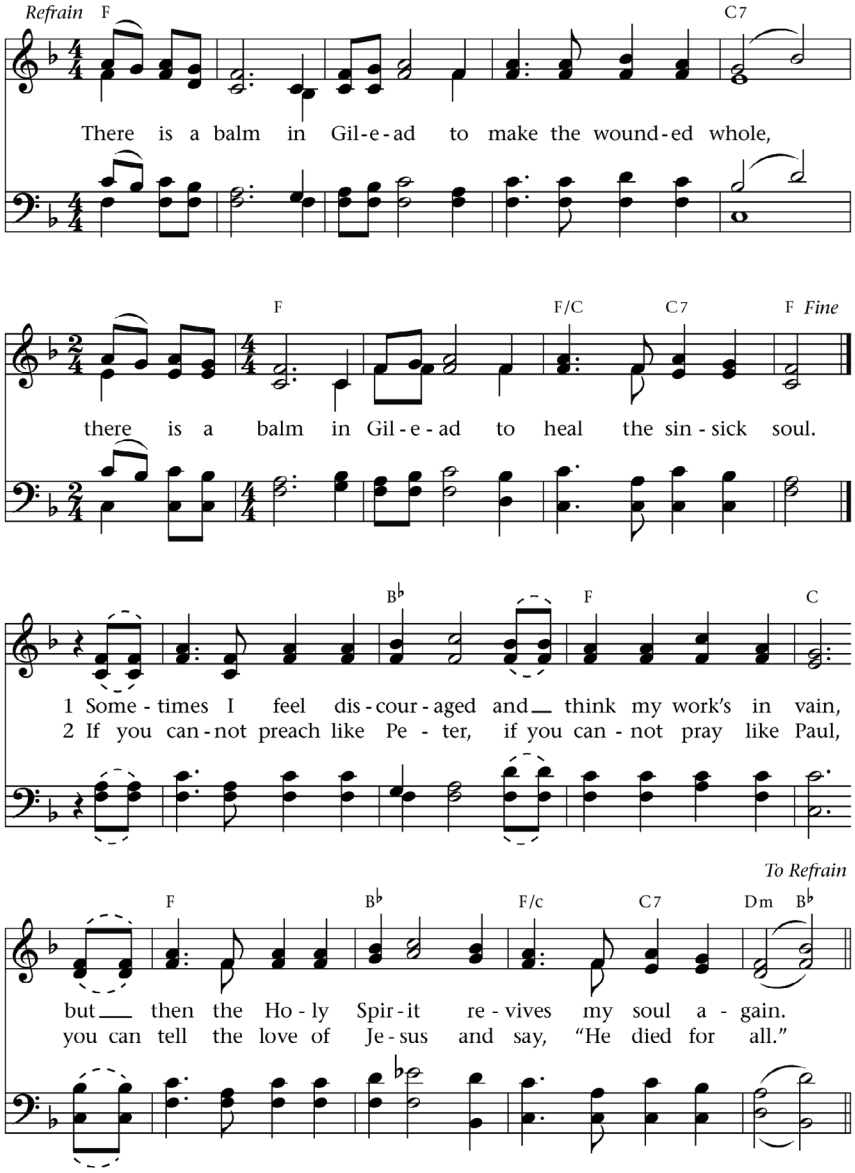
Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

Where charity and love abide, there is God.
The love of Christ hath joined us into one.
Let us rejoice and be glad in him.
Let us fear and let us love the living God.
And let us love each other in sincerity of heart.

Embracing the Unknown

Hymn — *Balm in Gilead*, African American Spiritual

"There is a balm in Gilead" — African American Spiritual



Ritual of Repair — Rev. David

A short ritual to ground yourself in your body followed by a rich sharing of the peace of Christ to ground us in the Body of Christ.
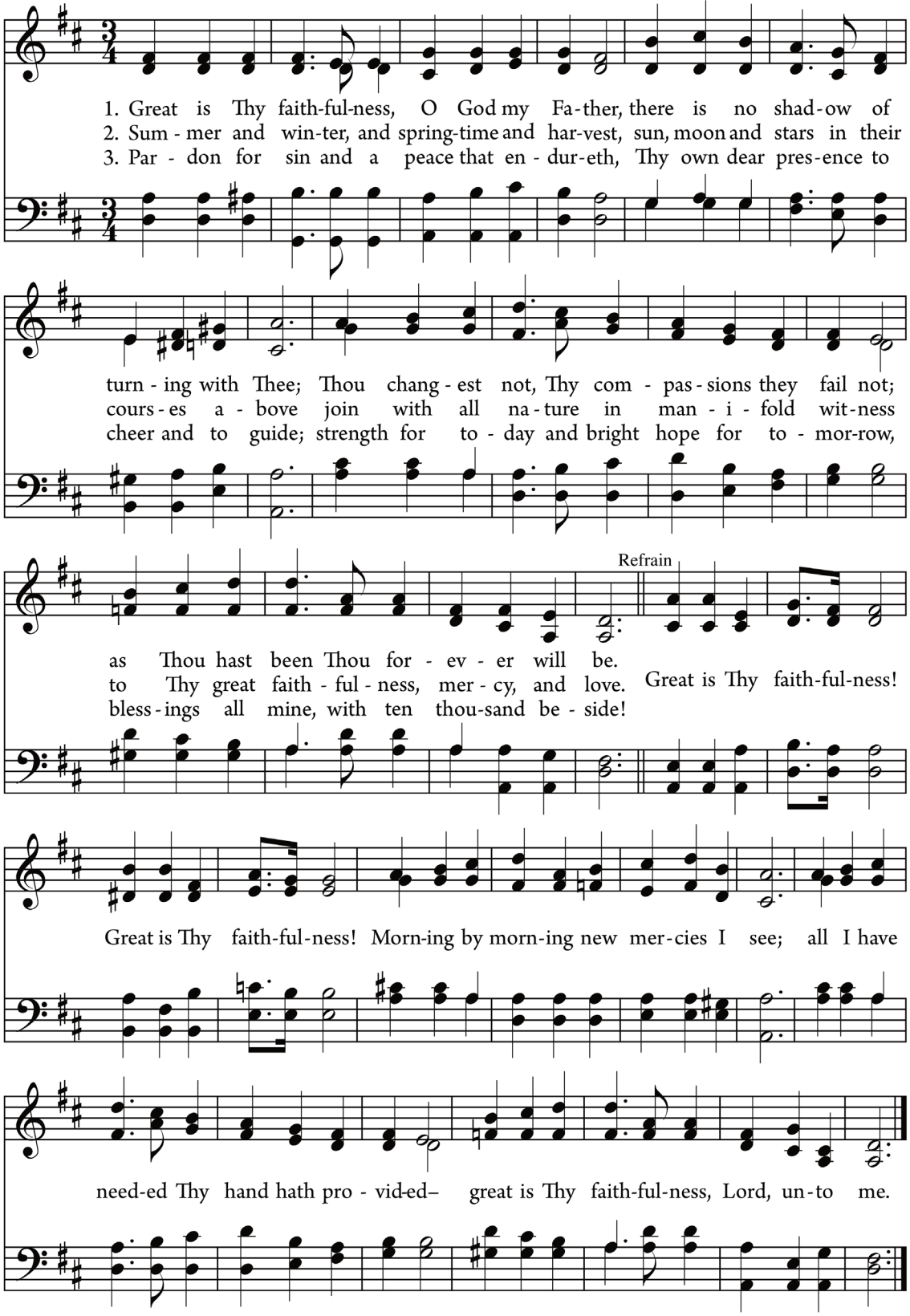
Blessing — Rev. Reed

"When We Breathe Together" by Jan Richardson

This is the blessing we cannot speak by ourselves.
This is the blessing we cannot summon by our own devices,
cannot shape to our own purposes, cannot bend to our own will.
This is the blessing that comes when we leave behind our aloneness,
when we gather together, when we turn toward one another.
This is the blessing that blazes among us when we speak the words strange to our ears,
when we finally listen into the chaos, when we breathe together at last.

*Hymn *Faithfulness*, William Marion Runyan, 1923

"Great is thy faithfulness" Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923



Voluntary

"The peace may be exchanged" Dan Locklair, 1988

Please be seated for the postlude.

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 and lasting memory of Marjorie "Marge" and Richard "Dick" Lyden by Vicki Lyden.

† Please Join Us in Parish Hall for Coffee Hour, hosted by the Bethlehem on Broad Street (BOBS), led by Jim and Gail Lowe.

† Greeting at the Exits

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

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All scripture readings used in today's service are from *The Inclusive Bible*.

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Leadership in Today's Liturgy

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*
The Rev. jessica young chang, *worship leader*
Rev. Rev. Sarah Reed, *worship leader*
Jacquelyn Dean, *worship leader*
Joshua Stafford, *director and organist*
The First Church Choir
John Bierley, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship

Depart to Serve

November 22, 2026

This Week at First Church

Sunday, November 22

10 a.m.	A Service of Healing (Sanctuary)
11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
	First Serves (Classroom D)
	Hanging of the Greens (Parish Hall)

Monday, November 23

6 p.m.	First Church Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
7 p.m.	Personnel Commission Mtg (Teams)

Tuesday, November 24

5 p.m.	Laundry Love (Wash Land)
6:30 p.m.	Sacred Journeys through Reproductive Justice (Classroom C & Teams)
7 p.m.	Deacons Mtg (Zoom)

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving Day and the Church is closed

Friday, November 27

Church is closed for Thanksgiving

11:30 a.m.	Faith Mission Food Prep & Serve (Kitchen)

Sunday, November 29

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)

Justice & Mercy Missions

Upcoming missions will be:

Nov. 22 - Bethlehem on Broad Street
Nov. 29 - World Central Kitchen
Dec. 6 - Gladden Christmas Fund

Thoughts on Gratitude

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one."

- Mother Teresa

First Serves
Today at 11:15 a.m. in Classroom D

Join us when we assemble boxes of donated food items to be delivered to the Broad Street Food Pantry at Broad Street Presbyterian Church. We will meet in Classroom D after the 10 a.m. service. Thank you to all who donated food to this mission!

Hanging of the Greens
Today at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall

Come join us to help deck the halls of First Church for the Advent and Christmas seasons! We will gather in Parish Hall following the 10 a.m. worship. Crews will be formed with some people staying downstairs to decorate and the rest will go upstairs to decorate.

There are jobs for everyone – of every age and ability. Many hands make light work so please join us. There will be food!

Low Stress Handbell Festival
Today at 7 p.m.
at St. John Lutheran Church, Dublin

Five local handbell choirs (200+ bells and chimes) will perform in an exciting free program. Some of the handbell choirs, including First Church Campanelle, will present a solo selection. Six pieces will be performed all together. The concert will be an hour.

Come and enjoy Campanelle at this Festival. Also, there will be a spaghetti dinner at St. John beginning at 5:30. The cost is $10.00.

St. John Lutheran is at 6135 Rings Road in Dublin.

Adult Education
Sunday, November 29, at 10 a.m. in Classroom C

Join us as Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen presents **St. Nicholas & Santa: Journey from European Bishop to Jolly Christmas Symbol** and the December traditions that go with him.

Discover the Dutch December celebrations centering on Saint Nicolas (Sinterklaas) that reach back across the centuries and which are still practiced in many European countries. Learn where these traditions originated, how they've been celebrated over the years, and how the patron saint of Russia evolved into the shopping mall staple we know today. Dutch born Antoinette will share what is known about him along with her own childhood traditions and samples of Dutch St. Nicolas holiday baked goods.

Christmas Cookie Decorating & Exchange Party
Sunday, December 6, at 11 a.m. in Parish Hall

Spread Christmas cheer, one cookie at a time! Join us for a festive morning of cookie decorating, sharing and giving. We'll decorate cookies to donate to teens in crisis at Huckleberry House and exchange our favorite homemade treats to take home.

Here's how to join the fun:
We'll provide Christmas cookie cutouts and decorating supplies for our Huckleberry House donation.

Bring a dozen of your favorite homemade cookies to exchange with others if you wish.

Bring extra if you'd like to share yours with Huckleberry House!

For everyone's safety, please bring nut-free cookies. No nuts or peanut butter, and please use containers that have not held nuts.

Come in your favorite festive attire or ugly Christmas sweater and enjoy Christmas music, hot chocolate, and plenty of holiday spirit with your church friends!

Please register using the QR code so we can plan for cookies and supplies.

Let the Christmas sweetness begin!

Lunch Bunch
Thursday, December 10, at 12 Noon at La Chatelaine in Worthington

Join us for lunch at La Chatelaine in Worthington. In a French country setting, with a song of Edith Piaf in the background, surrounded by the irresistible aroma of the freshly baked bread, you will feel transported in Stan's Family Normandy Manor and enjoy the authentic taste of French cuisine.

All are invited to the table. Please reserve your place on Realm.

Annual Christmas Pageant Call for Cast & Crew

Do you have an eye for pageant fashion? Good at tech set up or cuing cast members walking in the dark with fire? Then we want you for the Christmas Pageant team! Many hands go into running this show and we need more of them! Adults and young adults are welcome!

There's nothing like being part of the pageant! Great costumes, fun rehearsals and dinners and the chance to be a part of a magical Christmas Eve tradition. We are assembling our cast so please let Leslie Fulford know if you are interested! We will adjust rehearsal schedules for what works best for our cast.

Use the QR Code to fill out your interest information or email Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org with questions. We'd love to have you!

Just so you know

First Serves in December

We will be collecting gift cards and cash donations for Childcare Wonderland to support families, and for Huckleberry House to support teens and young adults in crisis. We will have more information in the coming weeks.

Keep in Prayer

Members Greg Halbe; Barbara Clapham; Sam Spofforth; Lee Wetmore; Melva Fisher; Margaret Cipriani; Matt Stevens and Jim Velo; 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; Melva Fisher's cousin, Ray James; 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; 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 and Heather Jones and family on the death of their friend Arthur W. Marks, and Dameon's Aunt Belinda Kay Tracey; the family and friends of Lorene Ahrens; 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 East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, and the Philippines. We also pray for our UCC partner, the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe.

Sacred Earth & Fair Trade Products

Our Congregation believes in environmental stewardship and love for neighbors around the world. If you drink coffee, consider switching to Fair Trade to live your values. Fair Trade coffee, tea, and cocoa may be purchased at Fellowship Hour on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month. Fair Trade products can now be ordered by emailing Bev Cook at bcook@first-church.org.

Email Bev the products you would like to purchase. Payment can be made by sending a check to the church or placing it in the offering with Fair Trade on the memo line, or online indicating Fair Trade. We will arrange for order pickup, most orders will be available for pickup in the office during office hours.

Product information:

Fair Trade **coffee** is $11/bag for ground coffee: Columbian, Café Salvador, Mind Body Soul, Love Buzz, French Roast, and Decaf.

Fair Trade **tea** is $5/box (20 tea bags/box): Chamomile, Peppermint, Black Tea, Green Tea, Ginger, Earl Grey, Irish Breakfast.

Fair Trade **cocoa** (12 oz. can) is $7, and **chocolate candy** is $.35 a piece or 3 pieces for a $1.

Thank you for supporting this mission. The profits from sales support small-scale farmers.

Exploring the Navajo Nation: Adult Mission Trip to their Arizona Reservation

We are securing potential dates in 2027 for an adult mission trip to the Navajo Nation Reservation in Arizona.

If you are interested in this mission trip and would like more details, or would like to be kept informed about this trip, please contact Vicki Lyden at vlyden@gmail.com.

Please use the QR Code for information on this Road Scholar program:

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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