



WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! For more than 171 years our Covenant has been: 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.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *preacher*

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *co-celebrant*

Charlie Knerr, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Joshua Stafford, *pianist*

Geoff Dean, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve. Please use this time for quiet preparation for worship.

'We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.' (Psalm 48:9)

PRELUDE

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Charlie Knerr

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

Leader: Jesus prayed for his disciples, giving them into God's eternal care.

People: **Jesus prays for us, giving us into God's care.**

Leader: Know that you have been blessed with the love of the Savior.

People: **We live in that love and seek to serve God.**

Leader: Open your hearts and spirits now to hear God's word.

People: **May our lives be open to God's Spirit and reflect God's love. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN
"Hail the day that sees him rise"

Llanfair, Robert Williams, 1817
Charles Wesley, 1739

1 Hail the day that sees him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!
*3 See! he lifts his hands a - bove; Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Lord be - yond our mor - tal sight, Al - le - lu - ia!

glo - rious to his na - tive skies; Al - le - lu - ia!
lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates! Al - le - lu - ia!
See! he shows the prints of love: Al - le - lu - ia!
raise our hearts to reach thy height, Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, a - while to mor - tals given, Al - le - lu - ia!
Wide un - fold the ra - diant scene; Al - le - lu - ia!
Hark! his gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!
there thy face un - cloud - ed see, Al - le - lu - ia!

en - ters now the high - est heaven! Al - le - lu - ia!
take the King of glo - ry in! Al - le - lu - ia!
bless - ings on his Church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!
find our heaven of heavens in thee. Al - le - lu - ia!

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through**

Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

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, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor so you may greet them by name.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Melissa Kulwicki

During the sermon time, the young children are welcome to participate in "Sunday Stories" with Melissa Kulwicki.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 1:1-11

Charlie Knerr

Leader: A reading from the book of Acts, the first chapter.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Charlie Knerr

Psalm 98

The St. Helena Psalter

God is Sovereign,
clothed in splendid apparel;
God is robed in majesty
and is girded with strength.

**God has made the whole world so sure
that it cannot be moved;**

Ever since the world began,
your throne has been established;
you are from everlasting.

**The waters have lifted up, O God,
the waters have lifted up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.**

Mightier than the sound of many waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea,
mightier is the Holy One who dwells on high.

**Your testimonies are very sure,
and holiness adorns your house, O God,
forever and for evermore.**

THE GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

Rev. Ahrens

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Up"

Rev. Ahrens

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

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 OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Jenn Mrozek

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **CelebrateOne**. CelebrateOne and its partners take on the most significant factors that contribute to Columbus' high infant mortality rate: reducing premature births; eliminating sleep-related deaths; and connecting the disconnected. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN

“All hail the power of Jesus’ name!”

Coronation, Oliver Holden, 1793

Edward Perronet, 1779, John Rippon, 1787

Descant

4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the fall,
 3 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe on this ter - res - trial ball
 4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

COMMUNION
COMMUNION HYMN
"Eat this bread"

Rev. Samuelson
Berthier, Jacques Berthier, 1984
Robert J. Batastini and Taizé Community, 1984

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are: "Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and never be hungry. Eat this bread; drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst."

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Ahrens

Leader: Let us pray.

All: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have brought us from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from death to rebirth. Transform our lives with this heavenly food, that we may shine with your love and take to the world the risen life of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN
"God be with you till we meet again"

Randolph, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Jeremiah Eames Rankin, 1880

1. God be with you till we meet a - gain; Lov - ing coun - sels
guide, up - hold you, With a Shep-herd's care en - fold you:
God be with you till we meet a - gain.

The image shows a three-system musical score for a hymn. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "1. God be with you till we meet a - gain; Lov - ing coun - sels guide, up - hold you, With a Shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with clear phrasing and dynamics.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

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 anyone wearing a name tag. We would be delighted to assist you.

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

May 12, 2024

This Week at First Church

Sunday, May 12

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)
Sunday School Classes (Various Classrooms)
Confirmation Class (Fanning Rm)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)

Monday, May 13

- 10 a.m. Stewardship & Growth Commission Mtg
(Classroom C & Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Communications & Technology
Commission Mtg (Zoom)
Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, May 14

- 5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Committee Mtg
(Classroom C & Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Executive Committee & Council Joint Mtg
(Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, May 15

- 10 a.m. Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery
(Kitchen)
- 10:30 a.m. Book Study (Classroom C & Zoom)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Group Supervision Mtg
(Fanning Rm)

Thursday, May 16

- 3 p.m. Healthy Congregations Planning Mtg
(Parish Family Rm)
- 4:30 p.m. Choristers (Choir Rm)
- 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

Saturday, May 18

- 10:30 a.m. Confirmation Practice & Lunch (Sanctuary)

Sunday, May 19

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)

May First Serves

Sunday, May 26, at 10 a.m.

First Church Garden

Thank you to all who donated supplies, made a monetary contribution, and helped pack Disaster Hygiene kits for First Serves in April. Through your generosity, we were able to donate 150 kits to CWS.

The next First Serves happens on Sunday, May 26. We will be planting marigolds in the raised beds by the playground. You can bring marigold plants to plant in the garden or help plant the donated flowers. Bring your green thumb and help us with our First Serves Project in May. Stop by the giving tree to pick up a reminder or a First Serves envelope to make a monetary contribution.

Your generosity of time, talent, and treasure each month allows us to continue and expand this monthly intergenerational mission program. Thank you!

Choral Evensong for Pentecost

Sunday, May 19, at 4 p.m.

Worship in the beauty of holiness with the First Church Choir.

Nursery in Need of Donations

In recent months the Church Nursery has had a baby boom! As the weekly number of regular attendees grows, the nursery needs a few items to help accommodate the babies.

If your family no longer needs the gently used items listed below, please consider donating them to the Church Nursery. We ask that the items be gently used and manufactured within the past five years to keep up with current safety standards.

The items needed are:

1- baby swing

1- bouncy seat

1- exersaucer

If you would like to donate any of these items, please email Rev. Joanna (jsamuels@first-church.org). Thank you for your generosity!

Tickets for the Nehemiah Action

B.R.E.A.D. Network members will be distributing blue tickets to the Nehemiah Action on the next two Sundays. Tickets will also be available at the Church office, and online using the QR code that can be found on the B.R.E.A.D. website at www.breadcolumbus.com.

Please also note that on May 19 we will be selling B.R.E.A.D. t-shirts (from Adult S to XXXL, \$10 each) between services and at coffee hour from 12:15 to 1 pm. Melissa Kulwicki will be on hand on May 19 with art supplies to help us create posters that will be taken to the Celeste Center on May 21 to underscore our support for the issues presented by B.R.E.A.D. Please mark both May 19 as well as the May 21 Nehemiah Action dates on your calendars.

B.R.E.A.D. rises!



IACO Annual Main Event

Interfaith Engagement in Action

Sunday, May 19, 4 -7 p.m.

First Community North Campus

3777 Dublin Road,
Columbus OH 43221

Speakers and Awardees

· Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, Senior Pastor,
First Congregational Church

· Rev. Dr. Jefferey P. Kee, Pastor, New Faith
Baptist Church

A vegetarian potluck dinner will follow the program. There will also be a reception with cake to honor our awardees, and their service to Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity (B.R.E.A.D.).

If you are attending the dinner, please bring a covered vegetarian main dish, salad, side dish, or dessert that will serve 8 to share. Cost is free but we would greatly appreciate a donation of \$15 to underwrite event costs.

Click the QR Code to RSVP to attend by May 15, 2024.



Save the Date:

Healthy Congregations Workshop

Sunday, June 9

12:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Parish Hall

2024 Gladden Lecture:

The Rev. Dr. Yvonne V. Delk

Join us Sunday, June 23 at 4 p.m. for the 2024 Gladden Lecture series featuring The Rev. Dr. Yvonne V. Delk. For over 60 years, Rev. Delk has been a strong ally in the fight for human and civil rights for people of color, children, and the poor. In 1974, Rev. Delk became the first African American woman to be ordained as clergy in the UCC.

Rev. Delk is the editor of the book *Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ*. This is the story of faith, survival, and empowerment in the hostile environment of racism. This holy stream of African spirituality that flowed across the Atlantic Ocean up to the tidewaters of Virginia in 1619, the same stream that overflowed in 1957 into the worship and work of the United Church of Christ, is given its long-overdue place in the canon of UCC.

Rev. Delk will also preach at both the 9 and 11 a.m. worship services on Sunday, June 23.

The 2024 Gladden Lecture is being co-sponsored by the Washington Gladden Social Justice Park.

Full Circle Connections

Friday, May 24, 10 a.m.

Church Parlor

Everyone is invited to the circle to develop deeper conversations and connections. Full Circle Connections will meet regularly on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Church Parlor.

The Golden Jubilee Service

for G. Dene Barnard

Join us on **Sunday, June 2, at 11 a.m.** as we celebrate 50+ years with our beloved Minister of Music Emeritus, G. Dene Barnard. We'll honor Dene's half-century at First Church with a Festival Communion Service followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.

We invite all choir alumni to join the First Church Choir to sing the service. We'll gather for fellowship and rehearsal on Saturday morning, June 1. If you'd like to sing with us, please visit firstchurcharts.org/dene and fill out the linked form. If you have a memory, greeting, or photos you'd like to share, please email music@first-church.org

Schedule of Events

Saturday, June 1

Alumni Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Registration and Refreshments

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Rehearsal

Sunday, June 2

10 a.m. Alumni Choir Rehearsal

11 a.m. Golden Jubilee Service

12:30 p.m. Reception in Parish Hall

First Church Book Club:

Wednesday, June 5, 7 p.m. on

Zoom

The Fraud

Wednesday, July 10, 7 p.m. on

Zoom

Poverty, by America

Come enjoy lively conversation and fellowship this June and July with the First Church Book Club. Questions? Want to receive book club emails? Please call Kathy Reed, 614-442-7742.

Keep in Prayer

Members Steven and Katie Deliman; Dene Barnard; Mary Kay Beall Carter and John Carter; Carol Lowy; Scott Warrick; Clinton Brown; John and Francille Firebaugh; Tom Bishop; Dan Axt; Rick Sayre; Anne Morganstern; Martha Huey; Twink Starr; and Janice White.

Family and friends Al Adcock's sister, Barbara Ontal; Shane Gillies' mother, Marie Gillies; Annette McCormick's father, Charles McCormick, and niece, Abbie McCormick; Margaret Cipriani's friend, Kathryn Schlarb; Amy Wagner's friend, Brenda Jackson; Barry Moenter's brother-in-law, Tom Huss; Gilda Perry's friend, Kathryn Schlarb; L.J. and Gretchen Cooks' brother, Kione Cooks; Jim Griffin's friends, Andy Bell and John Alatsis; Jill Hultin's brother, Ken Hultin; Todd and Mary Anne Jacobson's friend, Lisa Lang, and Mary Anne's nephew, Peter Poppleton; Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples; Susie Loik's grandson, Alex Glover and his parents, Kristen and Wes; Arevena Nirote's sister and brother-in-law, Marlene and Gary Gallion; Fran and Bruce Panek's friends, Richard and Beverly Cicenas; and Victor John's cousin, Devin Endlick, and his parents, Charles and Mary Jane, and sister.

Those who mourn loved ones Matt Bendick on the death of his mother, Jan Bendick; and Kelly Dodd on the death of her mother, Estelle Stout.

We keep Stephen Ministers in prayer as they care for our church members.

Prayers for all people in war zones around the world including Gaza/Israel and other Middle East conflicts, Sudan, Ukraine, and Myanmar.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray for the people and churches in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Dbayeh Camp for Palestinian Refugees in East Beirut.

Give

At First Church, our financial resources enable us to "Enter to worship, depart to serve." You can support the mission and ministry of First Church now by using Realm, EasyTithe or PayPal, by visiting <https://www.first-church.org/give/>, or by sending your offering directly to First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information, please contact Annette McCormick at amccormick@firstchurch.org.

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **CelebrateOne**. CelebrateOne and its partners take on the most significant factors that contribute to Columbus' high infant mortality rate: reducing premature births; eliminating sleep-related deaths; and connecting the disconnected. Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

May 12	CelebrateOne
May 19	Bearing Hope
May 26	Deep Griha

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, D.Min., M.Div.

Designated Minister: Rev. Joanna Samuelson, M.Div.

Minister of Music: Joshua Stafford, M.M.

Administrative Manager: Amy Wagner

Communications Manager: Melissa Kulwicki

Office Assistant: Pat Patterson

Business Administrator: Annette McCormick

Building and Grounds Superintendent: Quang Pham

Custodians: Alexis Wayne, Bill McCabe

Wedding Coordinators: Amy Wagner, Shelly Gies, Margaret Cipriani

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 Program Coordinator: Gary Glover

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Training Coordinator: Wendy Kennedy

Stephen Leader and Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator: Susie Loik

Senior Deacon: Tom Kiesel

Deacons: Allen Baker, Heather Jones, Brian Kemp, Nan Kreimer, Allison Lowery Palmer, Dayna McCrary, Matt Myers, Fran Panek, Andy Smith Verhage, Thom Smith, Lynn Wallich, Martha Worth

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: Frank Cook

Trustees: Greg Halbe, Elizabeth Iannarino, Todd Jacobson, Victor John, Melody Leidheiser, Janet Miller, Judy Smith, (Secretary), Hugh Schultz

CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Moderator: Gregory Halbe

Moderator-elect: Sarah Reed

Treasurer: James Velo

Treasurer-elect: Ramona Moenter

Secretary: Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen

Secretary-elect: Martha Wilson

Nominating Chair: Sarah Reed

COMMISSIONERS

Church Stewardship and Church Growth: Janice Taft

Church Stewardship and Church Growth-elect:

Church Vitality: Pat Patterson

Church Vitality-elect:

Communications and Technology Commission: Mike Kennedy

Communications and Technology Commission-elect: Stefan Duga

Faith Formation Commission: Mariner Taft

Faith Formation Commission-elect: Cami Curren

House & Grounds: Eric Klintworth

House & Grounds-elect:

Justice & Mercy: Janet Miller

Justice & Mercy-elect:

Music, Arts & Heritage: Jim Griffin

Music, Arts & Heritage-elect: Cheryl Hoskinson

Member-at-Large: Jacquelyn Dean

Personnel: David Hogrefe

Personnel-elect: Sandra Mathias

Youth Member-at-Large:

WELCOME STATEMENT

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.

FIRST CHURCH IS A FAITH COMMUNITY

† Called together by God, the Creator 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.

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



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