

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! For more than 172 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.

- The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *preacher and co-celebrant*
- The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *co-celebrant*
- Fran Panek, *liturgist*
- Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
- Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*
- The First Church Choir & Alumni
- Jennifer Fry, *handbell director*
- The First Church Ringers
- Sebastian Kulwicki, *crucifer*
- Greg Duncan, *verger*
- Peter Murray, *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

Fantasia and Fugue in G Minor, BWV 542

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1720

*This work is the theme used in the creation of the Music Window,
given in honor of G. Dene Barnard in 2004.*

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Fran Panek

Leader: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

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

Leader: Alleluia! Praise God in the holy temple;

People: praise God in the firmament of power.

Leader: Praise God for every mighty act;

People: praise God's excellent greatness.

Leader: Praise God with the blast of the ram's-horn;

People: praise God with lyre and harp.

Leader: Praise God with timbrel and dance;

People: praise God with strings and pipe.

Leader: Praise God with resounding cymbals;

People: praise God with loud-clanging cymbals.

Leader: Let everything that has breath praise God.

People: Alleluia!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Coe Fen, Kenneth Nicholson Naylor, 1958

"How shall I sing that majesty"

John Mason, 1683

1. How shall I sing that ma - jes - ty which an - gels do ad - mire? Let dust in
2. Thy bright-ness un - to them ap - pears, while I thy foot - steps trace; a sound of
3. En - light - en with faith's light my heart, in - flame it with love's fire, then shall I
4. How great a be - ing, Lord, is thine, which doth all be - ings keep! Thy know-ledge

dust and si - lence lie; sing, sing, ye hea - venly choir. Thou - sands of thou - sands
God comes to my ears, but they be - hold thy face: I shall, I fear, be
sing and take my part with that ce - les - tial choir. They sing, be - cause thou
is the on - ly line to sound so vast a deep: thou art a sea with

stand a - round thy throne, O God most high; ten thou - sand
dark and cold, with all my fire and light; yet when thou
art their sun; Lord, send a beam on me; for where heaven
out a shore, a sun with - out a sphere; thy time is

times ten thou - sand sound thy praise; but who am I?
dost ac - cept their gold, Lord, trea - sure up my mite.
is but once be - gun, there al - le - lu - ias be.
now and ev - er - more, thy place is eve - ry - where.

INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 at the end of the pew, 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 and Jenny Provenzano.

ANTHEM

Gabriel Faure, 1887

Pavane

arr. Douglas Wagner, 2006

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Mrs. Panek

Leader: A reading from the book of Deuteronomy, the third chapter.

Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN-ANTHEM

"Come down, O Love divine"

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906, arr. Todd Wilson, 1992

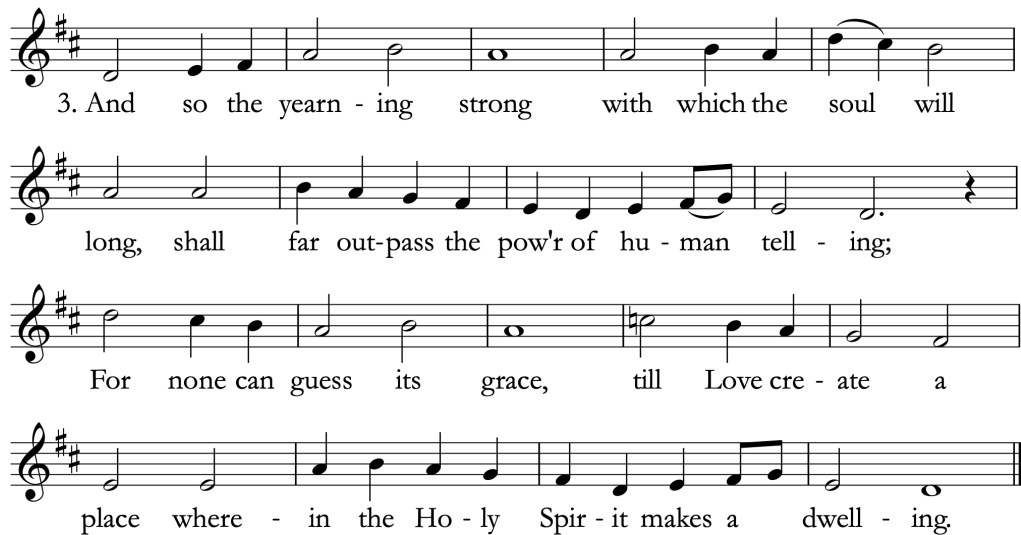
Bianco da Siena, c. 1367; trans. Richard Frederick Littledale, 1867

*Composed for G. Dene Barnard and the Gallery Choir
of First Congregational Church, Columbus, Ohio*

Come down, O Love Divine;
seek out this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near;
within my heart appear,
and kindle it
Thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming.
And let Thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round,
the while my path illuming.

The Congregation joins in singing:



3. And so the yearning strong with which the soul will
long, shall far out-pass the pow'r of human telling;
For none can guess its grace, till Love create a
place where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 2:23-3:6

Rev. Ahrens

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to Mark, the second chapter.

One sabbath Jesus and his disciples were going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Marti Rideout

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Barnard Music Fund**. This fund provides support for the church’s traditional and classical sacred music program. The Church Council, after consultation with the Minister of Music and Music Commission, approves requests for this fund. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY
“I was glad”

C. Hubert H. Parry, 1902
Psalm 122: 1-3, 6-7

I was glad when they said unto me, We will go into the house of the Lord.
Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity in itself.
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”

Old 100th
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1953

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit ever more; Praise Tri-une God whom we adore.
A - men.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table.

As directed by the deacons, please come forward down the center aisle, receive the elements of communion, partake them, and place the cup in the basket provided. Individual bread and cup will be offered to you by the communion ministers.

Gluten-free wafers are available. Please deposit the plastic cups in the bins by the side aisles.

*INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

*SURSUM CORDA

Plainsong

The musical notation is arranged in three systems, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first system shows the Leader's part (left) and the People's part (right). The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And also with you." The second system continues the Leader's part (left) and the People's part (right). The lyrics are: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third system continues the Leader's part (left) and the People's part (right). The lyrics are: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise." The notation uses a simple plainsong style with a few accidentals and rests.

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Revs. Ahrens and Samuelson

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless. We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory.

We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory. And now we give you thanks for the hope to which you call us in your Son, that following in the faith of all your saints, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and with them receive the unfading crown of glory. We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons, daughters, and all children of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The congregation may be seated.

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

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.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Please come forward as directed by the deacons to receive the common elements for communion.

Receive the bread and grape juice at one of the stations. You are invited to consume the elements as you receive them.

Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the tray. Place empty cups in the baskets on the tables by the transepts.

If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

David Hurd, 1993

“Love bade me welcome”

George Herbert, “The Temple,” 1633

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
Guiltie of dust and sinne.

But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lack'd any thing.

A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:

Love said, You shall be he.

I the unkinde, ungratefull? Ah my deare,
I cannot look on thee.

Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.

And know you not, sayes Love, who bore the blame?
My deare, then I will serve.

You must sit down, sayes Love, and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Let us pray.

People: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

“Love divine, all loves excelling”

Hyfrydol, Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

Charles Wesley, 1747

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Leo Sowerby, 1941

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 honor of Don Erickson's birthday by Kate Erickson.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Rev. Samuleson — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

Ms. Kulwicki — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

June 2, 2024

This Week at First Church

Sunday, June 2

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion (Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12:30 p.m. Celebration of Dene Barnard (Parish Hall)

Monday, June 3

- 12 Noon Congregational Care
- 6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg (Fanning Rm & Zoom)
House & Grounds Commission Mtg (Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Faith Formation Commission Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, June 4

- 9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution Day (Church)
- 6 p.m. Music Committee Mtg (Parlor)
- 7 p.m. Justice & Mercy Commission Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)
Personnel Commission Mtg (Zoom)
Communications & Technology Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 5

- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Monthly Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 7 p.m. Book Club (Zoom)

Sunday, June 9

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion (Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12:15 p.m. Confirmation Ice Cream Celebration (Sam Gordon Playground)
- 12:30 p.m. Healthy Congregations Workshop (Parish Hall)

Calling All Graduates!

If you or a family member is graduating from high school or college this year, please send us information, including the individual's name, the school they are graduating from, and their degree and possible future plans. We will be recognizing our graduates in an upcoming Connections email and in worship on June 9. Send the information to awagner@first-church.org. You also may include a photo (electronic image only).

**The Golden Jubilee Service
 for G. Dene Barnard
 June 2 at 11 a.m.**

**The 2024 Gladden Lecture
 Series:**

**The Rev. Dr. Yvonne V. Delk
 “Truth Telling: A Mission for
 the Church and Country in
 an Era of Afrophobia, Critical
 Race Theory, and Christian
 Nationalism”**

Sunday, June 23, 4 p.m.

Join us 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. The Rev. Delk will also preach at both worship services. The 2024 Gladden Lecture is being co-sponsored by the Washington Gladden Social Justice Park and a reception following the lecture will be held in the Social Justice Park.

**Healthy Congregations
Workshop
Sunday, June 9
12:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
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.

Hello, My Name is...

We've all been there; you instantly recognize someone's face, remember important details about their life, but can't recall their name, or even worse, call them by the wrong name.

As we continue in this time of transition, and before you find yourself in the middle of a real-life "Seinfeld" episode, or vow to only address people as "Hey You!" let's all return to wearing name tags. It can be the same name tag you wear to work, a volunteer position, one you design yourself, or even the one you wore for your summer job in 11th grade. Talk about a fun conversation starter! If you find yourself without a name tag or happen to forget, blank stick-on ones and markers will be placed at each entrance.

Thank you for your participation in this simple and fun way to connect with your First Church friends and guests!

Stonewall Columbus Pride March Saturday, June 15

March Steps Off at 10:30 a.m. at Broad and High Streets

Come join us for the Columbus Pride March on June 15 as we will be in this year's parade. Step-off is at 10:30 a.m. and will start at the State House (more details are coming). The walk is approximately 1.5 miles on asphalt pavement and will take approximately 2 hours. If you are interested in marching or supporting Columbus Pride please register by clicking the QR Code below.

T-shirts are available starting at \$21 and must be pre-paid. Today is the deadline to order your shirt. Please indicate the size needed. We will have two styles: t-shirt and tank top. This year's t-shirts will be lavender to symbolize empowerment as we continue to advocate and fight for LGBTQ+ rights and visibility.



First Serves June

Donations for Laundry Love

Thank you to all who participated in May First Serves by donating marigolds or their time working in the garden! It looks beautiful!!

For First Serves in June, we will be collecting supplies for Laundry Love. The Laundry Love initiative consists of regular opportunities to come alongside people who are struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry. On the last Tuesday of each month, First Congregational Church is proud to partner with Laundry Love and Washland laundromat on Columbus' Westside to help clean clothes and linens for low-income or no-income families and persons.

Laundry Love needs detergent and fabric softeners to continue this mission. Please donate any size and type of liquid laundry detergent (no pods or powder). Fabric softener sheets (not liquid) are also needed. Visit the Giving Tree to pick up a reminder tag. First Serves envelopes are also available if you wish to make a monetary contribution. Please place your Laundry Love donations in the baskets under the Giving Tree through Sunday, June 30. Thank you for your generosity!

Stephen Ministry: The Gift of Empathy

Have you considered The Gift of Empathy? Have you been a giver or receiver of empathy? Has someone non-judgmentally listened to your concerns, been present in your questioning, or loved you just as you are in the moment? As individuals, and as a church community, we face challenges, anxieties, and uncertainties. Stephen Ministry encourages you to read The Gift of Empathy and practice its offerings with yourself and others. It can be a life changer. Contact a Stephen Minister or Stephen Leader, or email us at StephenMinistry@first-church.org to receive your copy of this book.

A Message From Rev. Tim

Dear students and lovers of learning,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Yesterday I taught my last Wednesday morning book group. It has been a joy to teach this class for 24 ½ years. With about 190 + books read and shared through the years, it is a good time to stop. I am stopping now so that the next interim and/or permanent pastor will have the freedom to decide what they want to do and when the classes/teaching times will be held – should they bring the love of reading and teaching to this position.

Thank you to all who participated through the years. You have taught me so much. It has been an honor and a joy to learn and study texts of scripture and more with you.

God bless you all.

Tim Ahrens

Keep in Prayer

Members Kathy Reed; Beverly Halbe; Nancy Burba; Julia Myers; Tim Holt; 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 Liz Kuhn; Mike Kennedy's father, Allan Kennedy; Nan Kreimer's friend, Sabrina; Tim Ahrens' granddaughter and Sarah Ahrens Stadie's daughter, Aurelia Stadie; Janet Axt's mother, Alice Paugh; Annette McCormick's father, Charles McCormick; Margaret Cipriani's friend, Kathryn Schlarb; 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 Al Adcock on the death of his sister, Barbara Ontal; and Joanna Samuelson's friend, Elyshua Jackson, on the death of her husband, Aaron Jackson.

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

We pray 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 Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Eswatini. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Evangelical Hospital Khariar in Odisha, India.

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 **Barnard Music Fund**. This fund provides support for the church's traditional and classical sacred music program. The Church Council, after consultation with the Minister of Music and Music Commission, approves requests for this fund. Thank you for your generosity.

Full Circle Connections

June 14

10 a.m.

The 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.

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, 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 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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www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx

