



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.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

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

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *celebrant*

Thom Smith, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

David Hogrefe, *pianist*

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

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Thom Smith

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: Let us lift up the name of our God!

People: Let us praise the faithfulness of the Lord!

Leader: For just as the Lord's greatness fills the heavens,

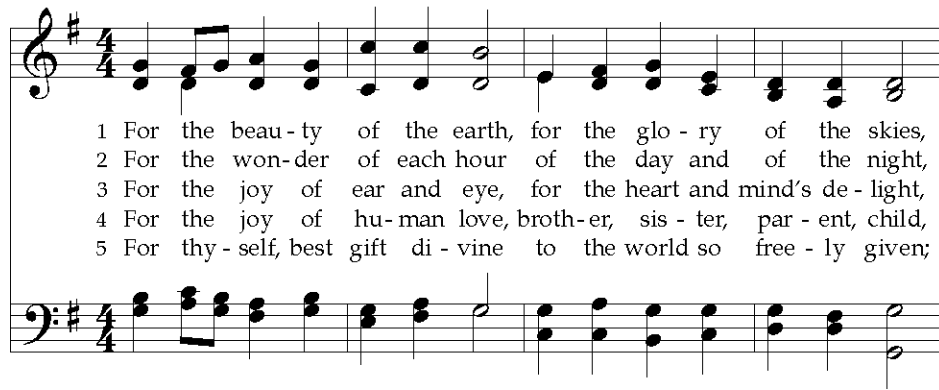
People: The Lord's love embraces the earth,

Leader: Preserving our life in the midst of trouble.

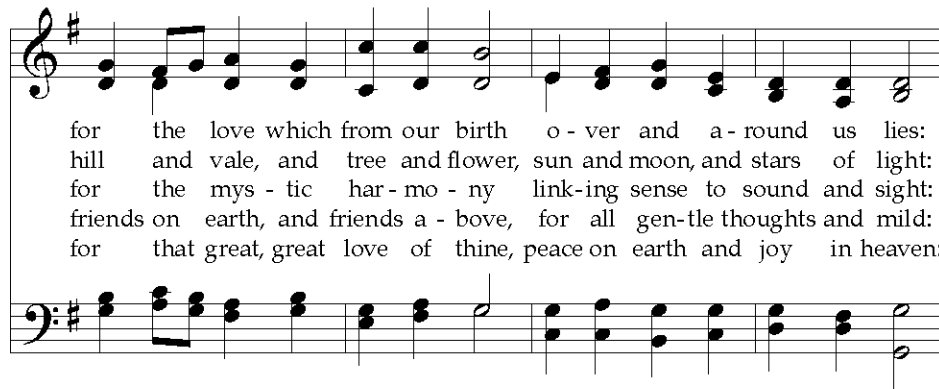
People: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

*OPENING HYMN
"For the beauty of the earth"

Dix, Conrad Kocher, 1838
Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864

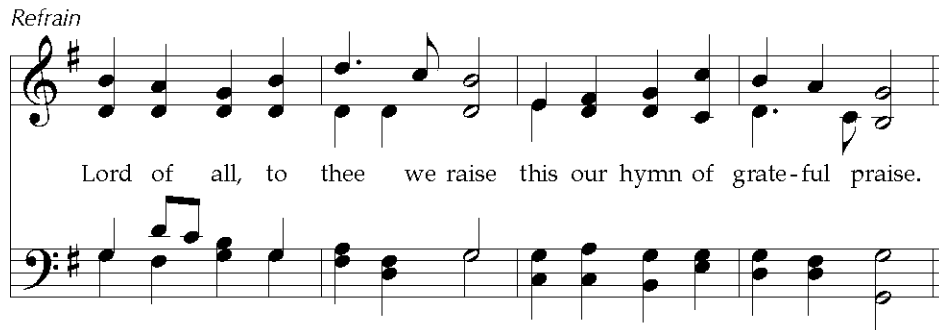


1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: God be with you.

People. And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: O God, your never-failing providence sets in order all things both in heaven and earth: Put away from us, we entreat you, all hurtful things, and give us those things which are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

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

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

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Mr. Smith

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.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 81:1-10

Mr. Smith

The St. Helena Psalter

Sing with joy to God our strength,
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

**Raise a song and sound the timbrel,
the merry harp, and the lyre.**

Blow the ram's-horn at the new moon
and at the full moon, the day of our feast.

**For this is a statute for Israel,
a law of the God of Jacob.**

God laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph,
when he came out of the land of Egypt.

**I heard an unfamiliar voice saying:
"I eased Israel's shoulder from the burden;
their hands were set free from bearing the load."**

You called on me in trouble, and I saved you;
I answered you from the secret place of thunder
and tested you at the waters of Meribah.

**Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you:
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!**

There shall be no strange god among you;
you shall not worship a foreign god.

**I am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said,
"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."**

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.

SERMON

"To God Alone the Glory"

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

Victor John

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 HYMN

“Come down, O Love divine”

Down Ampney, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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

1 Come down, O Love Di - vine; seek out this soul of mine,
 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with your own ar - dor glow - ing.
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing.
 shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing.

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear,
 And let your glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 For none can guess God's grace, till Love cre - ates a place

and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

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 the hymn "God be with you till we meet again". 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 printed below the vocal line. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody.

*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

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)

Thursday, June 6

- 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 7 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

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

