



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, *officiant*
- The Rev. Sarah Reed, *liturgist*
- Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
- David Hogrefe, *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

The Rev. Sarah Reed

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
"My faith looks up to thee"

Olivet, Lowell Mason, 1831
Ray Palmer, 1830

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day; wipe sor - row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -

guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way; nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

People. And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. 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.*

High School Graduates

Saturn Cooks
 Madalyn Dean
 Adam Ghose
 Hector Gonzalez
 Ethan Murray
 AnnaSophia Severson

College Graduates

Chutney Anderson
 Erin Murray
 Anna Rambo
 Nina Zimmerman

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God of Community, we thank you for those among us who have been called by you to minister to the children, adolescents, and adults within our church family. We lift our prayers of gratitude for the significant roles that our Sunday school teachers, confirmation leaders, chorister instructors, and Bible study guides play in the spiritual nurture and faith formation of our congregation.

On this day of worship, O God, we also celebrate the graduates in our lives. We pray that you would inspire each one of them as they step into the future with faith, courage, and a heart for justice. May they remain grounded in your love and always be guided by your light. It is in your name that we pray, Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Melissa Kulwicki

During the sermon time, the young children are welcome to participate in "Sunday Stories" with Melissa Kulwicki and Antoinette Koolemans-Beynen.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Genesis 3:8-15

Rev. Reed

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

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
 cursed are you among all animals
 and among all wild creatures;

upon your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and hers;

he will strike your head,
 and you will strike his heel."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Out of the depths have I called to you;
 O God, hear my voice;
 let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

**If you were to note what is done amiss,
 O God, who could stand?**

For there is forgiveness with you,
 therefore you shall be feared.

**I wait for you, O God; my soul waits for you;
 in your word is my hope.**

My soul waits for you,
 more than sentries for the morning,
 more than sentries for the morning.

**O Israel, wait upon God,
 for with God there is mercy.**

With God there is plenteous redemption;
 God shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

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

The crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his disciples could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

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:



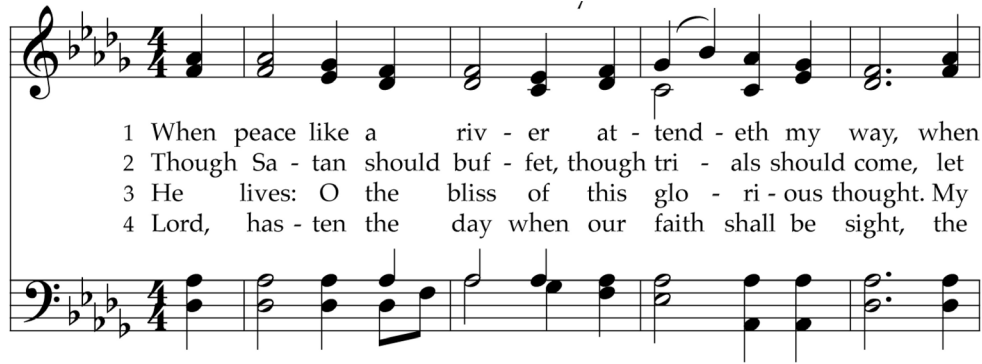
MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Samuelson

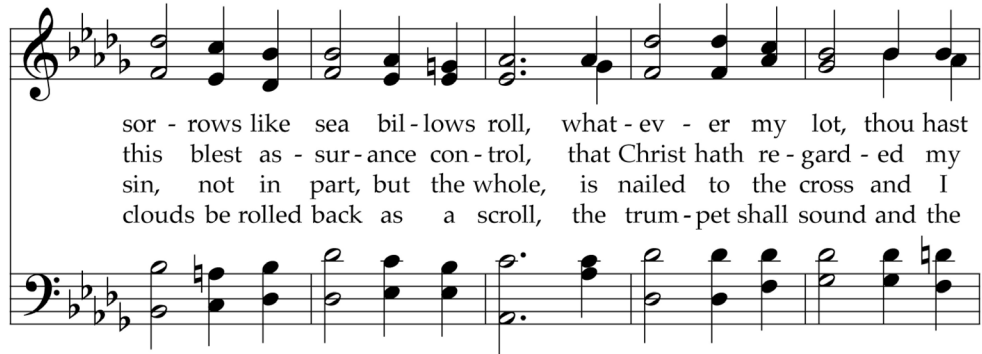
Cash and designated gifts go to support **Kaleidoscope Youth Center**. Kaleidoscope operates a drop-in center in Columbus that provides services and support for LBGTQ+ youth. The center works to provide a safer place, programming, and leadership opportunities so that youth can be free to explore who they are and empowered to become their confident, truest selves. Their Community Based Wellness program improves the lives of transitional-aged LBGTQIA+ youth, 16-24, identifying the health conditions and environmental factors in a young person's life that are associated with barriers to wellness. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN
"It is well with my soul"

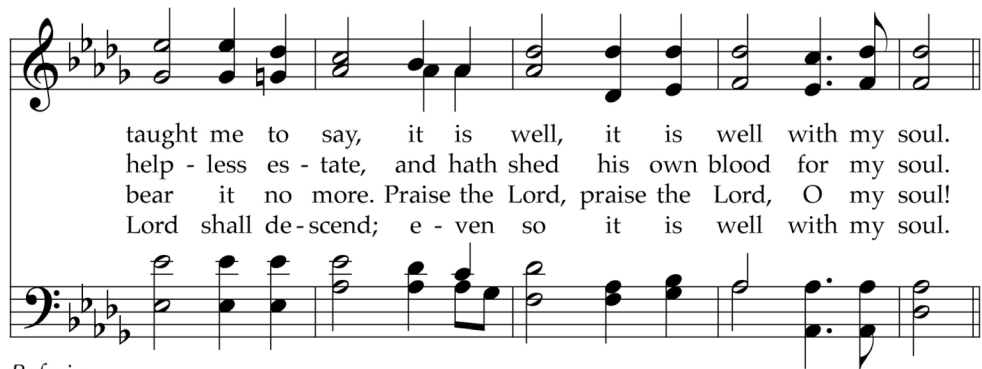
Ville du Havre, Philip P. Bliss, 1876
Horatio G. Spafford, 1876



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives: O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought. My
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul;
It is well with my soul;



it is well; it is well with my soul.

COMMUNION
COMMUNION HYMN
"Come and fill our hearts"

Rev. Samuelson
Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!

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: "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 score ends with a double bar line.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Please be seated for the postlude and use this time for quiet reflection.

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 9, 2024

This Week at First Church

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)

Monday, June 10

- 10 a.m. Stewardship & Growth Commission
Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 12 Noon BREAD Premeeting (Fanning Rm)
- 6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg
(Fanning Rm & Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, June 11

- 11 a.m. BREAD Mtg (Parish Hall)
- 5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg (Parlor)
- 7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Zoom)

Thursday, June 13

- 4:30 p.m. Gladden Lecture Planning Mtg
(Zoom)

Friday, June 14

- 10 a.m. Full Circle Connections (Parlor)

Sunday, June 16

- 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. Coffee Hour and Coffee Sales offered
by Sacred Earth (Parish Hall)

The 2024 Gladden Lecture Series:

The Rev. Dr. Yvonne V. Delk Sunday, June 23, 4 p.m.

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. She is the editor of the book *Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ*.

The Rev. Delk will also preach at both the 9 and 11 a.m. worship services; her sermon is entitled "There Is A River". 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.

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.

Stonewall Columbus Pride March

Saturday, June 15

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

If you are interested in marching or supporting Columbus Pride please register by clicking the QR Code below

If you missed out on ordering a t-shirt, the good news is we ordered a few extras of this year's lavender t-shirt and tank. Wait, there is more good news. We had many requests for last year's tie-dye design, so we have ordered some of those as well. Quantities and sizes are limited. If you would like to reserve one, please email Melissa Kulwicki at mkulwicki@first-church.org ASAP. Be sure to include the size, which shirt you would like, and the quantity. The price of the shirts is \$21; payment can be made in person with a check or cash at pick-up. See Melissa after 11 a.m. worship.



First Serves June

Donations for Laundry Love

For First Serves in June, we will be collecting supplies for Laundry Love. 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!

Transition News

The Transition Team for First Congregational Church is holding small group discussions, called Listening Circles. This name describes the way members of the group build connections and equally share thoughts about the future ministry of the church. The first of these groups met last Thursday, with about 25 participants. It was exciting to hear the love for First Church and the desire to see its membership and ministry thrive.

A significant theme so far is the importance of communication from the Transition Team. As we continue, look for transition news in Connections newsletters and Sunday worship programs, on a dedicated bulletin board near the Gladden Chapel, as well as in emails and letters. Transition Team members Todd Cunningham, Jackie Dean, Scott Graham, Greg Halbe, Nancy Loy, Allison Lowery Palmer, Pavan Peter, Sarah Reed, Rev. Joanna Samuelson, and Joshua Stafford want to hear your concerns and dreams for First Church.

On Saturday, October 19, 2024, the congregation, friends, and family of Rev. Dr. Timothy Ahrens will gather to celebrate the ministries of First Church in the last twenty-five years. On October 20, Rev. Ahrens will lead worship for the last time as Senior Minister. Then he will take a month-long vacation, with his employment at First Congregational Church ending on November 21. The Transition Team plans for an Interim Minister to begin on December 1, 2024. The interim time is an important opportunity for the church to reflect on itself and listen for how the Spirit is guiding its ministry forward. We want to be faithful to this time of celebration and future planning.

Greenlawn Cemetery Tour

Sunday, June 30

1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Jim Griffin will lead a tour of the Greenlawn Cemetery highlighting the famous Ohioans buried there. Register by clicking the QR code below.



Keep in Prayer

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

Family and friends Kate Erickson's father, John White; Melva Fisher's sister and brother-in-law, Velma and Jamie Christy, and her daughter-in-law, Mindy Fisher; Torrence; Leslie Huntington's friend, Becky Edwards Williams; Annette McCormick's father, Charles McCormick; 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; 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 Francille Firebaugh on the death of her husband, John Firebaugh; David Wyatt's friends Hugh and Joelle Endsley on the death of their son, Simon Endsley; 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 Botswana and Zimbabwe. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana.

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 **Kaleidoscope Youth Center**. Kaleidoscope operates a drop-in center in Columbus that provides services and support for LBGTQ+ youth. The center works to provide a safer place, programming, and leadership opportunities so that youth can be free to explore who they are and empowered to become their confident, truest selves. Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

June 9	Kaleidoscope Youth Center
June 16	Bikes for all People
June 23	UCC Strengthen the Church
June 30	Horizon Prison Initiative

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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www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx

