



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. Yvonne V. Delk, *preacher*
The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *officiant*
The Rev. Sarah Reed, *liturgist*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
Cynthia Adcock, *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: Seek God; know God; trust God, O people.

People: Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion.

Leader: Declare God's deeds among the people, for the needy are remembered, the poor have hope.

People: Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion.

*OPENING HYMN

Winchester Old, Este's Psalmes, 1592

"God is our refuge and strength"

The New Metrical Version of the Psalms, 1909

1 God is our ref - uge and our strength, our
 2 Though hills a - mid the seas be cast, though
 3 Where God a - bides a riv - er flows; that
 4 Since God is in the midst of it, the

ev - er - pres - ent aid, and there - fore, though the
 foam - ing wa - ters roar, yea, though the might - y
 cit - y will re - joice. But na - tions fear and
 cit - y walls shall stand, se - cure and safe with

earth be moved, we will not be a - fraid;
 bil - lows shake the moun - tains on the shore.
 king - doms shake be - fore God's thun - dering voice.
 God's sure help, when trou - ble is at hand.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: God be with you.

People. And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; 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

Dr. 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.*

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

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16

Rev. Reed

Leader: A reading from the First Book of Samuel, the seventeenth and eighteenth chapters.

On David's return from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with the head of the Philistine in his hand. Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that he was wearing, and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him; as a result, Saul set him over the army. And all the people, even the servants of Saul, approved.

The next day an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house, while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand; and Saul threw the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.

Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul. So Saul removed him from his presence, and made him a commander of a thousand; and David marched out and came in, leading the army. David had success in all his undertakings; for the Lord was with him. When Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in awe of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David; for it was he who marched out and came in leading them.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Rev. Reed

Psalm 46:1-4

The St. Helena Psalter

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;**

Though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

**The God of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

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

When evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"There Is A River"

Dr. Delk

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dr. Ahrens

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

Dr. Ahrens

Cash and designated gifts go to support **Strengthen the Church (STC)**. The STC offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN
"Wade in the water"

Wade in the Water
African American Spiritual

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,
Wade in the wa - ter, God's - a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.
See that host all dressed in white, God's - a gon - na trou - ble the
See that band all dressed in red,
Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
wa - ter. The lead - er looks like the Is - real - ite,
Looks like the band that Mo - ses led,
The Ho - ly Ghost a - com - in' on me,
God's - a gon - na trou - ble the wa - ter.

COMMUNION

Revs. Ahrens and Reed

COMMUNION HYMN
"Come and fill our hearts"

Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982

Chords: D, Bm, D, A
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.
Chords: Em, C, Em, A, D
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!

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

Randolph, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

“God be with you till we meet again”

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.

*BENEDICTION

Dr. Delk

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 23, 2024

This Week at First Church

Sunday, June 23

- 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. Gladden Lecture (Sanctuary)

Monday, June 24

- 10 a.m. Church Growth Committee Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 11 a.m. Memorial Service for John Firebaugh
- 6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg

Tuesday, June 25

- 4:30 p.m. Church Vitality Commission Mtg (Zoom)
- 5:15 p.m. Laundry Love (Wash Land)
- 7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 26

- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Group Supervision Mtg (Fanning Rm)

Thursday, June 27

- 7 p.m. Celebration Committee Mtg (Zoom)

Friday, June 28

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

Sunday, June 30

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion (Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 1:30 p.m. Greenlawn Cemetery Tour (Greenlawn Cemetery)

2024 Gladden Lecture Series:

The Rev. Dr. Yvonne V. Delk

Today at 4 p.m.

Join us today 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.

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.

Memorial Service for

John Firebaugh

Monday, June 24 at 11 a.m.

in the Sanctuary

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!

The next Laundry Love day is Tuesday, June 25.

First Church Book Club News

Planning Your Summer Reading?

Come enjoy lively conversation and fellowship with the First Church Book Club. We'll be reading and discussing the following books in the next nine months. All are welcome! The book club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. on Zoom, excluding holidays.

July 10 - *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond (nonfiction; 284 pgs.); led by Todd Jacobson.

Aug. 7 - *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks (fiction; 401 pgs.); led by Janet Newcity.

Sept. 4 - *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng (fiction; 335 pgs.); led by Mary Jacobson.

Oct. 2 - *Gender Queer: A Memoir* by Maia Kobabe (nonfiction graphic novel; 239 pgs.); led by Kathy Reed. (According to the American Library Association, this was the most "challenged" books in 2022 for the second year in a row. From July 2021 to Dec. 2022, the book was banned in 56 school districts, the most of any book, according to PEN America. The book has been challenged for LGBTQIA+ and sexually explicit content.)

Nov. 6 - *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett (fiction; 309 pgs.); led by Andrew Welsh-Huggins.

Jan. 8, 2025 - *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride (fiction; 385 pgs.); led by Chris Farquhar.

Feb. 5, 2025 - *Master Slave, Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom* by Ilyon Woo (nonfiction; 410 pgs.); led by Jean Lebold. One of two winners of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Biography.

March 5, 2025 - *North Woods* by Daniel Mason (fiction; 372 pgs.); led by Fran Panek.

Questions? Want to receive book club emails? Please call Kathy Reed, 614-442-7742.

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.



T-shirts Still Available

We still have some First Church Open and Affirming shirts available in both the tie-dye and solid lavender, as well as a few lavender tank tops left in some sizes for \$21. If your size is not currently in stock, we are placing another order, and it will be in stock soon.

We also have the grey First Church BREAD shirts available for \$10.

If you are interested, please email Melissa Kulwicky at mkulwicky@first-church.org and include the size, color/style, and quantity, or see her after worship. Payments for shirts can be made through Realm, in person, or by placing cash or check in an envelope, marked with your name and a memo of either Pride Shirt or BREAD Shirt in the offering plate.

Volunteer Opportunity

Columbus Relief

Columbus Relief is moving its base of operations from 800 Frebis Avenue to 2000 Parsons Avenue. This is a locally funded, faith-based ministry to our unhoused friends. They focus on building relationships as they minister to immediate needs such as food, laundry, and showers. First Church began supporting this ministry in 2024 and plans to continue. Currently, Columbus Relief needs many volunteers to move their ministry. Anyone with plumbing, carpentry, or electrical skills is especially needed as they prep the new building. Other, less strenuous jobs are also available. More information can be found at <https://www.cbusrelief.org> or by contacting Debi Cunningham at 614-324-6319 or dinodebbblue@yahoo.com

Keep in Prayer

Congratulations to Katie and Steven Deliman on the birth of twins Caroline May and Holden James, born on June 15. Grandparents are Shelly and Tom Gies and Cindy and John Deliman.

Members Maddie McWilliams; Lila Bendick; Beverly Halbe; Nancy Burba; Tim Holt; Dene Barnard; Mary Kay Beall Carter and John Carter; Carol Lowy; Scott Warrick; Clinton Brown; Tom Bishop; Dan Axt; Rick Sayre; Anne Morganstern; Martha Huey; Twink Starr; and Janice White.

Family and friends Wendy Kennedy's stepfather, Chuck; Nancy Loy's friend, Rev. Peggy O'Connor; 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; Tim Ahrens' mother, Lorene Ahrens, sister, Debbie Ahrens, and 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 Cicenias; and Victor John's cousin, Devin Endlick, and his parents, Charles and Mary Jane, and sister.

Those who mourn Kate Erickson on the death of her father, John White; Francille Firebaugh on the death of her husband, John Firebaugh; and David Wyatt's friends Hugh and Joelle Endsley on the death of their son, Simon Endsley.

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 Kenya and Tanzania. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

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.

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Upcoming Mission Offerings

June 23
June 30

UCC Strengthen the Church
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: Sebastian Kulwicki

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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