



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. Dr. William R. Nirote, *officiant*
- Nancy Braverman, *liturgist*
- Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
- Jamie Bobb, *organist and director*
- First Church Choir
- 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

- Arietta
- Deep River

- Thomas H. Kerr, 1915-1988
- Adolphus Hailstork, 1941

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Nancy Braverman

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: Wait for the Lord, like those who hope in God's mercy.

People: **God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader: Watch for God, like those who eagerly await the morning.

People: **We watch for God, whose power redeems us.**

Leader: Hear God's hopeful word, like those who long for pardon.

People: **Sing praise to God and rejoice in God's love.**

*OPENING HYMN
 "God of the ages"

National Hymn, George William Warren,
 Daniel Crane Roberts, 1876, alt.

(optional)

1 God of the a - ges, whose al-might - y
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
 past. In this free land by thee our lot is cast.
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.
 way. Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day.

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,
 Be thou our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay:
 Thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease.
 Fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.
 Thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. William R. Nirote

Leader: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Savior, 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. 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 Sebastian Kulwicki.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Lamentations 3:21 -33

Nancy Braverman

Leader: A reading from the Book of Lamentations, the third chapter.

This I call to mind,

and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

his mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,

"therefore I will hope in him."

The Lord is good to those who wait for him,

to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly

for the salvation of the Lord.

It is good for one to bear

the yoke in youth,

to sit alone in silence

when the Lord has imposed it,

to put one's mouth to the dust

(there may yet be hope),

to give one's cheek to the smiter,

and be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not

reject for ever.

Although he causes grief, he will have compassion

according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

for he does not willingly afflict

or grieve anyone.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“O Splendor of God Glory Bright”

Plainsong mode I, 15th cent.

O Splendor of God’s glory bright, O living Spring of light from light:
come, very Sun of truth and love; come with your radiance from above.

Teach us to love with all our might; drive envy out, remove all spite;
turn to the good each troubling care, and give us grace your name to bear.

As dawn speeds on across the sky, true Dawn, with haste come from on high,
O Word, through whom life came to be, come in your power and set us free. Amen.

Ambrose of Milan (340-397)

THE EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Nancy Braverman

Leader: A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, the sixth chapter.

As you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written,

“The one who had much did not have too much,
and the one who had little did not have too little.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*THE GOSPEL HYMN
"When the poor ones"

El Camino, Jose Antonio Olivar, 1939
Miguel Manzano, 1934

choir 1. When the poor ones, who have noth-ing, still are giv - ing;
all 2. When com - pas - sion gives the suf - f'ring con - so - la - tion;
3. When our spir - its, like a chal - ice, brim with glad - ness;
4. When the good-ness, poured from heav-en, fills our dwell - ings;

when the thrist - y pass the cup, wa - ter to share,
when ex - pec - ting brings to brith hope that was lost;
when our voic - es, full and clear, speak out the truth;
when the na - tions work to change war in - to peace;

when the wound-ed of - fer oth ers strength and heal - ing;
when we choose love, not the ha - tred all a - round us:
when our long - ings, free from en - vy, seek the hum - ble:
when the strang - er is ac - cept-ed as our neigh - bor:

We see God, here by our side, walk - ing our way;

we see God, here by our side, walk - ing our way.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 5:21-43

Rev. Ahrens

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

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Ending Poverty in America"

Rev. Ahrens

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Nirote

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 the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Larry Miller

Cash and designated gifts go to support **Horizon Prison Initiative**. Its mission is to transform inmates and break the cyclical tendency of incarceration and its societal impact. The yearlong program guides the incarcerated participants, living in dormitory style arrangements separate from the general prison population, in refocusing their lives. Courses focus on topics such as trauma recovery, victim awareness, and implicit bias, amongst others. Horizon is the only multi-faith program serving Ohio's prisons. Thank you for your generosity.

ANTHEM

"Cantate Domino"

Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612

Cantate Domino canticum novum,

cantate Domino omnis terra.

Cantate Domino et benedicite nomine ejus.

Sing to the Lord a new song,

sing to the Lord all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless God's name.

Psalm 96:1-3

*DOXOLOGY

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Ahrens

O Holy One, may the gifts that we offer this day reflect our deep desire for your love to transform our time, talents, and treasure into works of creative compassion for each other, for our wider community, and for the world beyond. In your precious name, we pray, Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Melissa Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

Wareham, William Knapp, 1738

“The Church of Christ in every age”

Fred Pratt Green, 1969

1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

POSTLUDE

Battle Hymn of the Republic

arr. Peter J. Wilhousky, 1902-1978, trans. Bobb

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 memory of Sue Ellen Kandel and Sheryl Kandel Loeffler by David and Rose Kandel.

† COFFEE HOUR THIS MORNING is hosted by the Euphoric Neighborhood Care Circle.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

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

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

† MUSIC NOTES

Two African American composers provide today's organ prelude. Thomas H. Kerr (1915-1988), a native of Baltimore and Professor of Piano at Howard University, was a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and served for many years as organist at Plymouth Congregational Church in Washington DC. His Arietta, dedicated to his parents, was published in 1957. Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941) studied composition with Nadia Boulanger and David Diamond, and received degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and the University of Michigan.

William Steffe (1830-1890), a Philadelphia bookkeeper and insurance agent is credited with collecting and adapting the melody for The Battle Hymn of the Republic from a traditional southern camp-meeting song with a "Glory, hallelujah" refrain around 1856. The music became the basis for poet Julia Ward Howe's (1819-1910) abolitionist hymn, written in November 1861 and first published in The Atlantic Monthly in February 1862. It became one of the most popular Union songs during the American Civil War. It is rich in scriptural allusions (Matthew 24:30, Isaiah 63:3, Revelation 19:15). Wilhousky's 1944 arrangement for chorus and band/orchestra includes these three of the original six stanzas and transcribes nicely for the Kimball organ.

Today's choral music represents the historic traditions of church music. The hymn Splendor paternae gloriae is attributed to Saint Ambrose (340-397) bishop of Milan, often called the father of Latin hymnody. Like many of these texts, speaks of God's radiance, constancy, love, justice, and the community of saints and believers as inspiration and models for our living. Hassler's motet is a joyful setting of Psalm 96 from the golden age of choral music. The four voices operate with vigorous rhythmic unity at times, and carefully crafted independence at other times. The effect of all creation engaging in a joyful conversation of praise is typical of Renaissance settings of doxological texts.

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

June 30, 2024

This Week at First Church

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)

Monday, July 1

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

Tuesday, July 2

- 7 p.m. Communications and Technology Commission Mtg (Zoom)
7 p.m. Justice & Mercy Commission Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)
7 p.m. Personnel Commission Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, July 3

- 4 p.m. Church Vitality Commission Mtg (Zoom)

Thursday, July 4

Church and Church Office are closed in Celebration of the 4th of July

Sunday, July 7

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion (Parish Hall & Virtual)
11 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12 Noon Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales

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 Kulwicki at mkulwicki@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 and placed in the offering plate.

Opportunity for a History Buff

Your archive team is interested in compiling information about the Gladden Lecture Series. As Tom Worley noted in his comments at this year's lecture, the series is in its 101st year of existence. It seems fitting that we create a document that chronicles that path.

All of the information that would be needed to create this document is in our church's archives. We need an interested history buff (or buffs) to go through the material and write it up. If writing gives you pause, we can find editors to do the polishing. The archive team will provide assistance to help you access the materials needed. This is a great opportunity to handle a lot of our church history and to have the joy and satisfaction of creating a new resource that helps tell our always-evolving story. Contact Greg Duncan interprep@earthlink.net or 404-401-8363 to enlist.

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.

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.

Church is Finalist in Grant Contest

In February, our church submitted a letter of interest seeking a \$250,000 building repairs grant. The National Fund for Sacred Places selected our church as one of 38 finalists from a group of nearly 500 submissions. A program of the Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Fund provides grants for urgent capital projects at historic religious buildings that are valued for their cultural importance as well as their role in providing human services, strengthening communities, and revitalizing neighborhoods.

The Fund was made possible by a gift from the Indiana-based Lilly Endowment Inc., with additional funding from the Gerry Charitable Trust. Since 2016, the Fund has awarded or pledged \$18 million to 97 community-serving congregations representing 24 faith traditions in 36 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. In 2023, Lilly awarded the grant program an additional \$28 million.

Our application met the Fund's specific list of eligibility requirements, which included: being located in the U.S. or its territories, having originally been built to be a house of worship, and currently owned by an active community of faith; possessing historical, cultural, or architectural value (designation as a local landmark or listing on the National Register of Historic Places preferred; property occupied by a congregation that is community-minded and also serves nonmembers; property must have urgent repair needs related to structural components, walls, roof, and/or other elements of the building envelope; and the congregation must demonstrate a need for project funds that exceeds the congregation's typical donor base and membership, and must exhibit several signs of positive organizational health including stable or growing membership, and financial strength and stability.

Application Process

Having met the eligibility requirements and having been designated as a finalist, our church is now busy completing the formal grant application that is due July 12. The application form is 24 pages long and includes over 60 questions. Each October, the Fund announces the actual grant award winners (about half of the designated finalists). In the meantime, keep your fingers crossed.

Keep in Prayer

Members Alex Palmer; Bill Rhodes; Sherri Moreen; Maddie McWilliams; Lila Bendick; Kathy Reed; 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 Tim Ahren's friend, Rev. Charles Watterson; the Gillies and Samuelson's neighbor and friend, Rev. Dr. George Zoehl; 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, niece and fiancé Josie and William; 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 Cicenas; 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.

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

We pray for all people involved in mass shootings, especially the victims both in Columbus and across the nation.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray for the people and churches in Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Paraguay.

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 30	Horizon Prison Initiative
July 7	Gladden Food Pantry
July 14	Sandy Hook Promise
July 21	Broad Street Food Pantry
July 28	Faith in Public Life

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

