



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. William R. Nirote, *preacher*

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *minister*

Antoinette Koolemans Beynan, *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

Antoinette Koolemans Beynan

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: Come, give to the Lord your praises of thanksgiving.

People: We come this day, grateful for God's wondrous gifts to us!

Leader: Sing with great enthusiasm of God's mighty power and love.

People: It is a wonderful thing to praise God!

Leader: May God's praise always be in our hearts and in our lives.

People: Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Ebenezer, Thomas John Williams, 1890

“Thy strong word did cleave the darkness”

Martin H. Franzmann, 1969

1. Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness;
 2. Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness,
 3. Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous;
 4. Give us lips to sing thy glo - ry,

at thy speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 dark as night and deep as death, broke the light of
 bright with thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we
 tongues thy mer - cy to pro - claim, throats that shout the

light we thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 thy sal - va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 press toward glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
 hope that fills us, mouths to speak thy ho - ly name.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
 Al - le lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! May the light which thou dost send

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 fill our songs with al - le - lu - ias, al - le - lu - ias with - out end!

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. William R. Nirote

Leader: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 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

Amos 7:7-15

Antoinette Koolemans Beynan

Leader: A reading from the book of Amos, the seventh chapter.

This is what the Lord God showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.'

And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Antoinette Koolemans Beynan

Psalm 85:8-13

The St. Helena Psalter

**I will listen to what you are saying,
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.**

Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.

**Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

**You, O God, will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.**

Righteousness shall go before you,
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

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

King Herod heard of Jesus and his disciples, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Truth Versus Power"

Rev. Nirote

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 the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

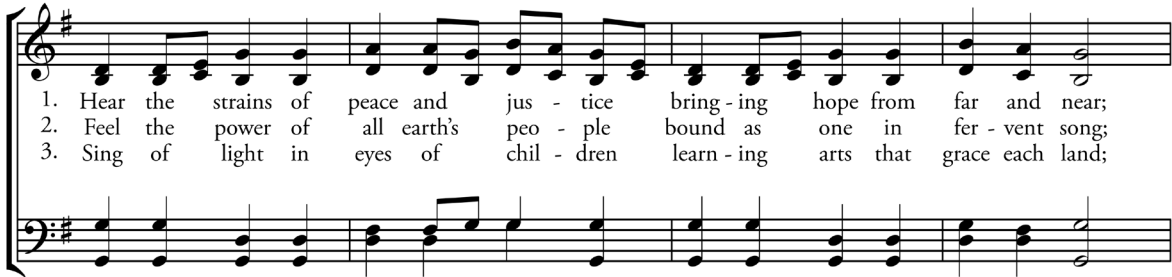
Cash and designated gifts go to support **Laundry Love**. Laundry Love is an initiative in partnership with individuals, groups and local laundromats throughout the country to wash the clothes and bedding of individuals and/or families living in poverty. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERING HYMN

“Hear the strains of peace and justice”

Holy Manna, William Moore, 1825

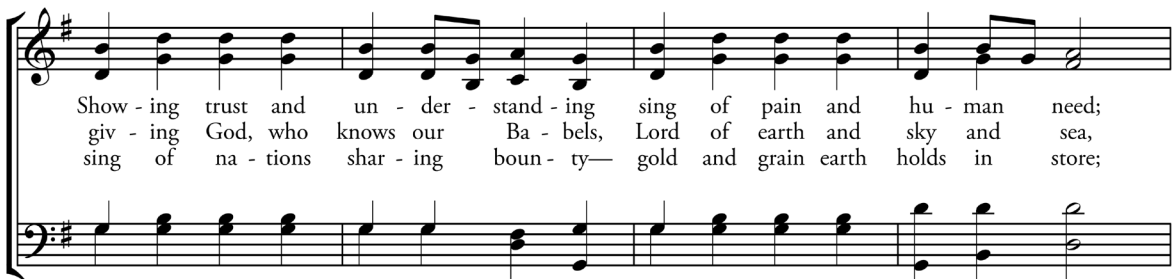
Jean E. Garriott, 1996



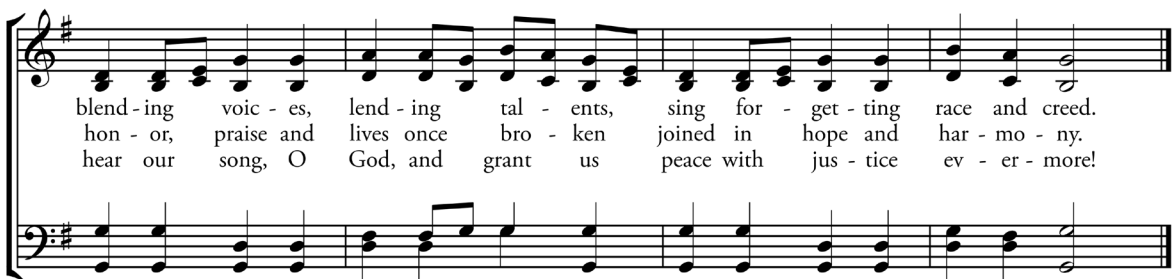
1. Hear the strains of peace and jus - tice bring - ing hope from far and near;
 2. Feel the power of all earth's peo - ple bound as one in fer - vent song;
 3. Sing of light in eyes of chil - dren learn - ing arts that grace each land;



come, O peo - ple, swell the chor - us, sing of liv - ing free from fear.
 gone are harm - ful words of mal - ice, si - lenced, too, are blame and wrong;
 sing of youth ma - tu - ring whol - ly know - ing ways of war are banned;



Show - ing trust and un - der - stand - ing sing of pain and hu - man need;
 giv - ing God, who knows our Ba - bels, Lord of earth and sky and sea,
 sing of na - tions shar - ing boun - ty— gold and grain earth holds in store;



blend - ing voic - es, lend - ing tal - ents, sing for - get - ting race and creed.
 hon - or, praise and lives once bro - ken joined in hope and har - mo - ny.
 hear our song, O God, and grant us peace with jus - tice ev - er - more!

COMMUNION
COMMUNION HYMN
"Come and fill our hearts"

Revs. Nirote and Samuelson
Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982

D Bm D A

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

Em C Em A D

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Nirote

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 score ends with a double bar line.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Nirote

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

July 14, 2024

This Week at First Church

Sunday, July 14

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

Tuesday, July 16

- 7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg
(Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, July 17

- 10 a.m. The Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery
(Kitchen)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Monthly Mtg
(Fanning Rm)

Sunday, July 21

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

First Serves July

Backpacks for Gladden House

Sunday, July 28, 10 a.m.

Classroom D

Pick an apple from the giving tree in the education wing and help us fill bookbags for 100 students from Gladden House. The amount of the donation on each apple range from \$5-\$20. The prices are based on supplies purchased from Walmart but you can purchase the supplies from any store. Please return the supplies to church by Saturday, July 27. Join us on Sunday, July 28 at 10 a.m. to put all the school supplies in the bookbags. Thank you for your donation!

Summer Sermon Series

“Then and Now: A Final Sermon Series”

The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens Preaching

Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m.

In-person and Livestreaming on YouTube and Facebook Live

Sunday, July 28 “Christian Nationalism: Not Christian or Patriotic”

Sunday, August 4 “The Devil and the Arch Villains”

Sunday, August 11 “Racism and Caste: The Skin and Bones of the Matter?”

Sunday, August 18 “A Parable of Madness”

Sunday, August 25 “What Does the Bible say about Homosexuality?”

Sunday, September 1 “To Love and to Work”

Columbus Clippers vs. the Memphis Redbirds

Friday, July 26, 2024

7 p.m. @ Huntington Park

Tickets are \$8

Join Church Vitality for an evening of baseball on Friday, July 26 at 7 p.m. when the Columbus Clippers play the Memphis Redbirds at Huntington Park. Tickets are \$8/ea so this is a great family deal for summer fun!

In addition to a good price, it's \$5 Friday when Huntington Park offers a small beer or wine for \$5 or a Donatos pizza and a soft drink for \$5.00. Please register on Realm by July 19 for your \$8 ticket!



Transition News

Interim ministry is not regular ministry!

Though “interim” means temporary, it does not mean partial, incomplete, or part-time.

The sense of loss when Rev. Tim leaves in October is like any loss. Without time to grieve the loss, our feelings can get stuck. Interim ministry can help provide an environment in which change can occur positively, creatively, and helpfully. After celebrating 25 years of ministry with Rev. Tim Ahrens, we can work with our interim ministers to focus on our future ministry in Columbus. Being future-focused will help the church discern God’s call and prepare for the arrival of new pastoral leadership.

The interim time is a time for discernment. The Transition Team of First Church asks for your participation in listening and discerning.

Upcoming Listening Circles, meeting in Classroom C

July 14, 10 a.m., Open meeting for members

July 16, 7 p.m., Council members

July 20, 9:30 a.m., Open meeting for members

July 28, 10 a.m., Open meeting for members

August 6, 10 a.m., Open meeting for members

August 14, 7 p.m., Zoom meeting for members

Your voice is important! Please join us once, or often, to share your perspectives. Let’s all be part of the change.

Intergenerational Tie Dye Party

Sunday, July 21, 5 - 7 p.m.

Join us for a Tie Dye and Pizza Party. We will provide pizza and the dye and dying supplies. Bring an item or two you would like to tie-dye and a snack, beverage, or dessert to share. We will have some t-shirts in various sizes available to. A free-will offering will be collected to cover the cost of supplies. Please register by clicking the QR Code below.

Hope to see you there.

It will be totally groovy!



Proposed National Grant Project: Broad Street Facade by Tom Worley

House and Grounds identified two major building projects that need immediate funding. One is replacement and expansion of the air conditioning system that has exceeded its intended life span. The second is the renovation of the front façade of the church (steps, front doors, Rose Window, tuckpointing). Both projects would meet the definition of urgent building repairs.

Because the grant program wants the church to conduct community fundraising (not just church fundraising), we need to consider what type of project would appeal to the wider community. For that reason, the Broad Street façade project was selected.

For proposed repairs, there are logistical issues. Scaffolding is needed to repair the stone tracery and stained glass of the Rose Window. The same scaffolding is needed for extensive tuckpointing repairs. Only once those repairs are complete would work begin on renovating front doors, restoring outdoor light fixtures, and replacing front steps.

Based upon past estimates and inflation adjustments, it is projected that the project’s cost would be \$750,000. We won’t know the actual costs until bids are sought when the grant is awarded. If bids come in higher, we will change our fundraising goal or the scope of the construction project. Construction would begin sometime in 2025. We will work around scheduled weddings and other special church events.

Even though it would be best to replace the Broad Street plaza and front landscaping at the same time, these features are not eligible for grant funding. For that reason, they will be addressed as a separate project if other funding is identified.

We are not just caretakers of a historic structure; we are caregivers based in a unique community center known for its religious, cultural, and social justice roots and fruits. As we restore this community landmark, we too must restore our vision and commitment to the many ministries it contains. Only then, can the true orchard grow.

Keep in Prayer

Members Pauline Fritz, Jean Wetmore; Alex Palmer; Bill Rhodes; Sheri Moreen; 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 the Gillies and Samuelson's neighbor and friend, Rev. Dr. George Zoebel; 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; 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; 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 Jim Griffin on the death of his friend, John Alatsis.

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

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray for the people and churches in Djibouti and Somalia. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Organization of African Instituted Churches in Kenya.

Trans Ohio Workshop Saturday, July 27

10 a.m. - Noon in Parish Hall

We will be welcoming Ginger Williams from Trans Ohio to discuss general topics about Trans issues, answer questions, and enable us better extend the church's extravagant welcome.

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 **Laundry Love**. Laundry Love is an initiative in partnership with individuals, groups, and local laundromats throughout the country to wash the clothes and bedding of individuals and/or families living in poverty. Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

July 14 Laundry Love
July 21 Broad Street Food Pantry
July 28 Faith in Public Life

Save the Date New Members Class Saturday, August 24, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

If you are potentially interested in joining our community of faith, we invite you to attend our new member class on Saturday, August 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church. A boxed lunch will be served.

You are not required to attend a new member class to join our church. We are a large congregation, however, so the class introduces you to lay leaders and clergy and the many opportunities for worship, fellowship, learning, and service.

If you would like to attend the new member class, please contact one of the ministers or the church office.

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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www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx

