



WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! For nearly 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. Joanna Samuelson, *preacher*

The Rev. Sarah Reed, *officiant*

Alejandro Rodriguez, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Cynthia Adcock and Dianne Frazer, *pianists*

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

Alejandro Rodriguez

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, out of your busy lives to a quiet time and place.

People: **Our souls thirst for some peace and quiet.**

Leader: Come, and rest in the Lord who will restore your souls.

People: **Our lives need moments of rest.**

Leader: Come, and find the quiet center. Come, be at peace.

People: **Praise God who offers to us a shelter and resting place. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

Westminster Abbey, Henry Purcell, c. 1680

“Christ is made the sure foundation”

7th century, Latin, trans. John Mason Neale, 1851

1. Christ is made the sure foun-da-tion, Christ the head and cor-ner-stone,
 2. To this tem-ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of Hosts, to-day;
 3. Here be-stow on all Your ser-vants What they ask of You to gain,
 4. Laud and hon-or to the Fa-ther, Laud and hon-or to the Son,

Cho-sen of the Lord and pre-cious, Bind-ing all the church in one;
 With Your wont-ed lov-ing-kind-ness Hear Your peo-ple as they pray,
 What they gain from You for-ev-er With the bless-ed to re-tain,
 Laud and hon-or to the Spir-it, Ev-er three and ev-er one;

Ho-ly Zi-on's help for-ev-er, And our con-fi-dence a-lone.
 And Your full-est ben-e-dic-tion Shed with-in its walls al-way.
 And here-af-ter in Your glo-ry Ev-er-more with You to reign.
 One in might and one in glo-ry While un-end-ing a-ges run.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Sarah Reed

Leader: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son 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 we many greet one another 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 Janice Taft.*

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Alejandro Rodriguez

Leader: A reading from the book of Jeremiah, the twenty-third chapter.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Alejandro Rodriguez

Psalm 23

The St. Helena Psalter

O God, you are my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

**You make me lie down in green pastures
and lead me beside still waters.**

You revive my soul

and guide me along right pathways for the sake of your Name.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

**Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of God forever.**

THE GOSPEL

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Rev. Samuelson

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

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Gathering around Jesus"

Rev. Samuelson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reed

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:



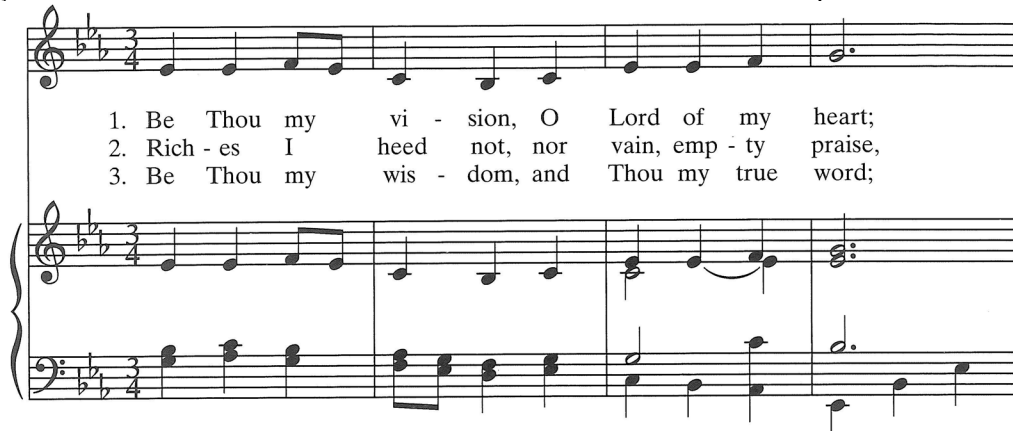
MISSION INVITATION

Kathy Reed

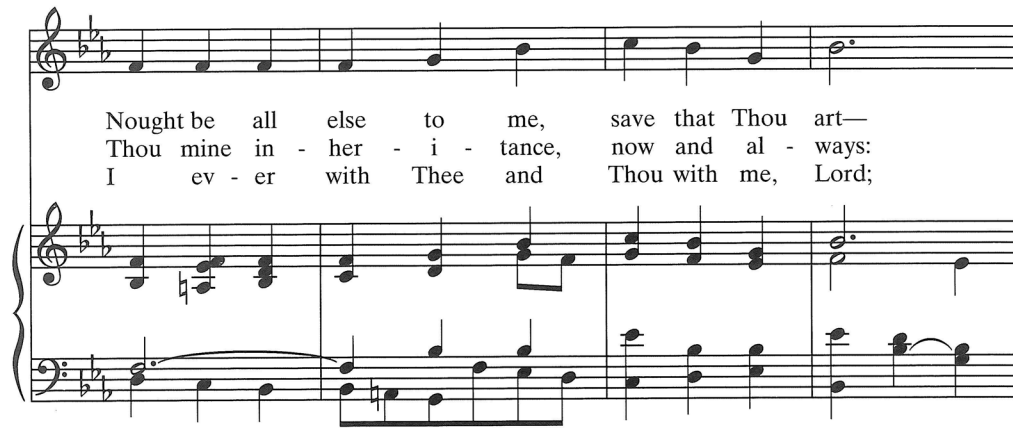
Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Broad Street Food Pantry**, whose mission is to honor their neighbors by serving as a reliable source for ingredients to create healthy meals. In 2023, the Broad Street Food Pantry provided food to 15,219 households, a 10% increase from 2022 and more than double the number of households served before the pandemic. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN
"Be Thou my vision"

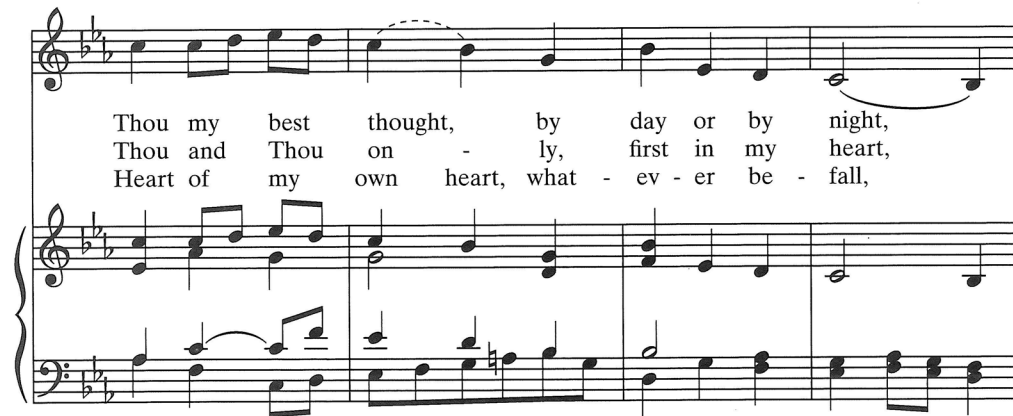
Slane, Irish Ballad
Irish poem, trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905



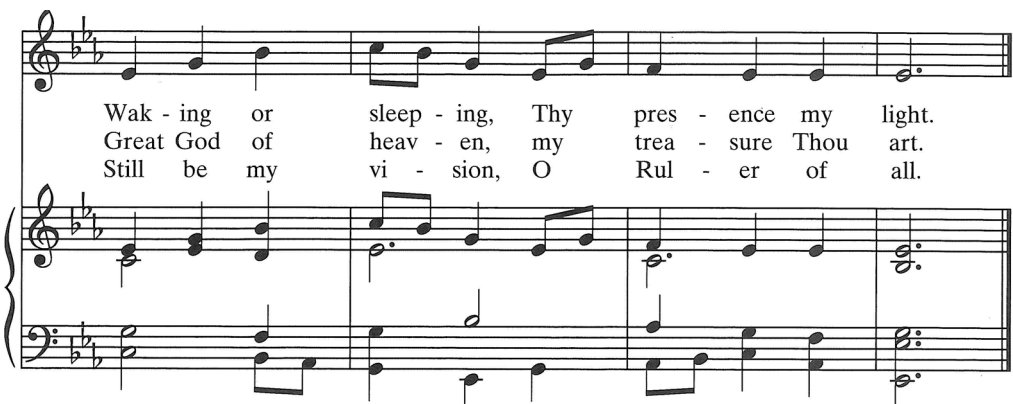
1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
3. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;



Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art—
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;



Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

COMMUNION
COMMUNION HYMN
"Come and fill our hearts"

Rev. Reed
Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982

Chord markings: D, Bm, D, A, Em, C, Em, A, D

Lyrics: 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. Samuelson

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. Samuelson

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 21, 2024

This Week at First Church

Sunday, July 21

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

Monday July 22

- 6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg
(Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, July 24

- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Group
Supervision Meeting
(Fanning Room)

Friday, July 26

- 10 a.m. Full Circle Connections (Parlor)
12 Noon Faith Mission Meal Prep (Kitchen)
7 p.m. Clippers Game (Huntington Park)

Saturday, July 27

- 10 a.m. TransOhio Informational Session
(Parish Hall)

Sunday, July 28

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
10 a.m. First Serves (Classroom D)
Transition Listening Circle
(Classroom C)
Open Discussions with Rev. Tim (Parlor)
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
12 Noon Coffee Hour

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”

First Serves July Backpacks for Gladden Community 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 Community House. The amount of the donation on each apple ranges 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!

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 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.

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.

First Church Book Club:

Wednesday, August 7

Horse

Wednesday, September 4

Our Missing Hearts

7 p.m. on Zoom

Come enjoy lively conversation and fellowship this August and September with the First Church Book Club.

On Wednesday, August 7, Janet Newcity will lead a discussion of Geraldine Brooks’ *Horse*.

On Wednesday, September 4, Mary Jacobson will lead a discussion of *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng.

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

Save the Date

New Members Class

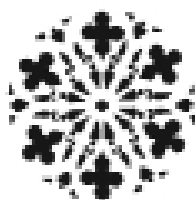
Saturday, August 24,

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.



Join us in Celebrating
the Ministry and Retirement of
The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Saturday, October 19, 2024

Arrival & Welcome at Five o'clock

Dinner at Six o'clock

A Program of Honor and Gratitude to Follow

Columbus Museum of Art

480 East Broad Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Please RSVP and purchase tickets for the event before
September 24 by clicking the QR Code or by visiting
www.first-church.org/celebrating-rev-tim/.



Keep in Prayer

Members Albert Adcock; Francille Firebaugh; Pauline Fritz; Jean Wetmore; Alex Palmer; Bill Rhodes; 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 Reber's cousin, Marie Disney and family; 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; Leslie Huntington's friend, Becky Edwards Williams; Annette McCormick's father, Charles McCormick; 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 Mike Kennedy on the death of his father, Allan Kennedy; 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 Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Argentina.

Give

At First Church, our financial resources enable us to "Enter to worship, depart to serve." You can support the mission and ministry of First Church now by using Realm, EasyTithe or PayPal, by visiting <https://www.first-church.org/give/>, or by sending your offering directly to First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information, please contact Annette McCormick at amccormick@firstchurch.org.

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Broad Street Food Pantry**, whose mission is to honor their neighbors by serving as a reliable source for ingredients to create healthy meals. In 2023, the Broad Street Food Pantry provided food to 15,219 households, a 10% increase from 2022 and more than double the number of households served before the pandemic. Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

July 21	Broad Street Food Pantry
July 28	Faith in Public Life
August 4	Good Samaritan
August 11	Ohio Council of Churches Anti-Racism Ministry

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

