



WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! For more than 172 years, our Covenant has been: We covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ and one another, and bind ourselves in the presence of God to live together in all God's ways as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and holy scripture. The church acknowledges that all members have the right of individual interpretation of the principles of the Christian faith and respects them in their honest convictions. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord, the church recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *preacher*

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *celebrant*

The Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

James Bobb, *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. Dr. Jack Sullivan

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: Out of the depths of our struggles, we cry to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our cries!

Leader: In the inner darkness when we feel so alone, we cry to the Lord.

People: Lord, hear our cries!

Leader: We wait for the Lord with patient and hopeful hearts.

People: Lord, be with us today. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, alt.; harm Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

“All creatures of our God and King”

Francis of Assisi, 1225, trans. composite



1. All crea - tures of our God and King, lift
 2. O broth - er fire, so warm and bright, chase
 3. All who for love of God for - give, all
 4. O sis - ters, broth - ers, take your part, and



up your voice and with us sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 off the shad - ows of the night. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 who in pain or sor - row grieve, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 wor - ship God with hum - ble heart, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! O broth - er sun with gold - en
 lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, who day by
 lu - ia! Christ bears your bur - dens and your
 lu - ia! All crea - tures bless the Fa - ther,



beam, O sis - ter moon with sil - ver gleam,
 day un - flods such bless - ings on our way,
 fears; so, e - ven in the midst of tears,
 Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Three ins One:



sing — prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

People. And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

** When you return to your seat, please find the blue Welcome notebook,
sign the pad 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 Rev. Samuelson.*

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Kings 19:4-8

Rev. Sullivan

Leader: A reading from the First Book of Kings, the nineteenth chapter.

Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Psalms 34:1-8

Rev. Ahrens

The St. Helena Psalter

I will bless God at all times,
and praise shall ever be in my mouth.

**I will glory in the Most High;
let the humble hear and rejoice.**

Proclaim with me the greatness of God;
let us exalt God's Name together.

**I sought, and God answered me
and delivered me out of all my terror.**

Look upon the Most High and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

**I called in my affliction, and God heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.**

The angels encompass those who fear God,
and God will deliver them.

**Taste and see that God is good;
happy are they who trust in the Most High!**

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

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

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

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Racism and Caste: The Skin and Bones of the Matter"
Third in a six part sermon series entitled "Then and Now"

Rev. Ahrens

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 Depart to Serve:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Jack Sullivan

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Ohio Council of Churches (OCC) Anti-Racism Ministry**. With over 104 years of ministry, the OCC is one of the oldest state ecumenical councils in the United States, representing the largest and most diverse group of Christians in Ohio which encompasses 4,000 congregations and two million members. The OCC Anti-Racism Ministry identifies, challenges, and changes the values, structures, and behaviors that perpetuate systemic racism. They have a long history of confronting racism and being a leading voice in the anti-racism movement as it impacts all of their member denominations and humanity in general. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN

McKee, African American spiritual, adapt. Henry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

“In Christ there is no east or west”

John Oxenham, 1852-1941

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com -
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet

south or north, but one great fel - low -
 mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
 race may be. All chil - dren of the
 south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

COMMUNION

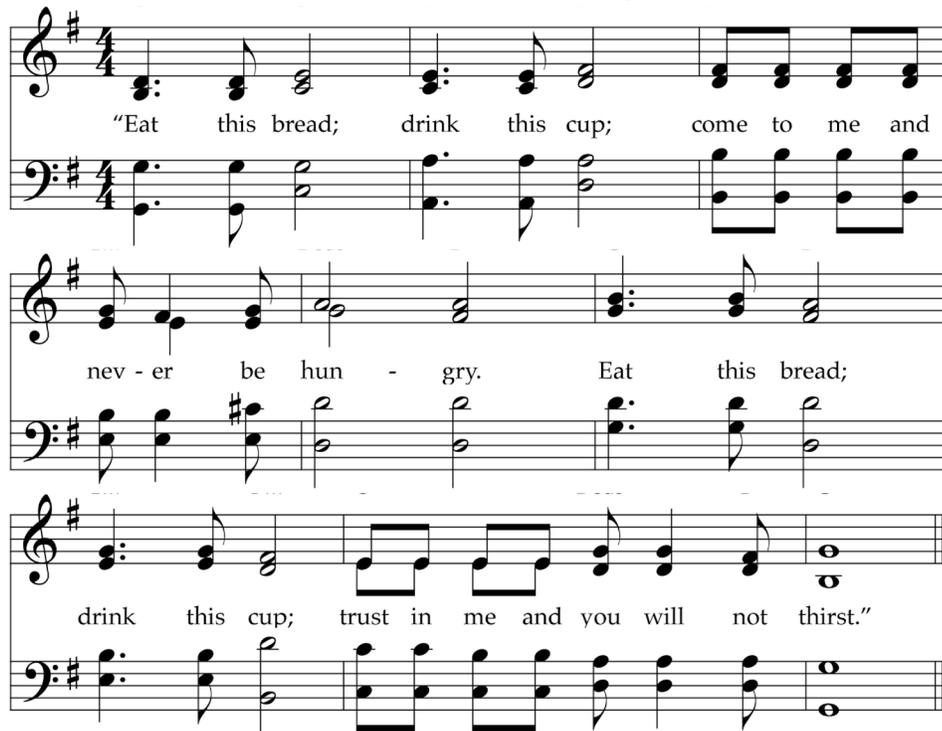
Revs. Samuelson and Sullivan

COMMUNION HYMN

Berthier, Jacques Berthier, 1984

“Eat this bread”

Robert J. Batastini and Taizé Community, 1984



“Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and
 nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread;
 drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst.”

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Ahrens

Leader: Let us pray.

All: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have brought us from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from death to rebirth. Transform our lives with this heavenly food, that we may shine with your love and take to the world the risen life of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

“God be with you till we meet again”

Randolph, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Jeremiah Eames Rankin, 1880

1. God be with you till we meet a - gain; Lov - ing coun - sels
guide, up - hold you, With a Shep-herd's care en - fold you:
God be with you till we meet a - gain.

The image shows a three-system musical score for the hymn "God be with you till we meet again". Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written 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. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

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 anyone wearing a name tag. We would be delighted to assist you.

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“Eat this bread.” Words: Robert Batastini and the Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier; ©1984 Less Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) All rights reserved.

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

August 11, 2024

This Week at First Church

Sunday, August 11

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Open Discussions with Rev. Tim (Parlor)
BREAD Team Mtg (Parish Family Rm)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12 Noon Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)

Monday, August 12

- 10 a.m. Stewardship & Growth Commission
Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, August 13

- 5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Commission Mtg
(Classroom C & Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg
(Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, August 14

- 7 p.m. Transition Team Listening Circle
(Zoom)

Sunday, August 18

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Open Discussions with Rev. Tim (Parlor)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12 Noon Healthy Congregation Workshop
(Parish Hall)

Upcoming Mission Offerings

- August 11** Ohio Council of Churches
Anti-Racism Ministry
- August 18 Pathway Clubhouse
- August 25 Equitas

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: Neither Christian nor 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”

Open Discussion with Rev. Tim 10 a.m. in the Parlor

Each Sunday at 10 a.m. during the Summer Sermon Series, join Rev. Tim in the parlor for an open discussion time. The parlor is located on the main floor across from the church office.

Need a Name Tag?

Come Make One!

If you need of a name tag, we invite you to come this Sunday to Parish Hall after both worship services. Steve Sterrett and Melissa Kulwicki from the Church Growth Committee will be there with all the supplies needed to make a new one or add some personality to your current name tag. It will also be a great chance to visit with others and maybe make a new friend or two!

Healthy Congregations Workshop **Sunday, August 18** **12:15 - 2:15 p.m. in Parish Hall**

Plan to join us for our next Healthy Congregations workshop on Sunday, August 18, from 12:15 – 2:15 p.m. in Parish Hall. First Church Archivist Greg Duncan will complete the historical overview that we began in our June workshop, and we will delve deeper into how understanding our history connects us with our need for healing and moving forward.

You do not need to have attended previous sessions to participate in this one!

A buffet lunch from Freedom a la Cart will be served. Register by clicking the button below. Registration deadline is Thursday, August 15 at noon.



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.

Spiritual Gifts Workshop **Saturday, September 7** **1-3 p.m. in Room C**

Have you ever wondered what your spiritual gifts are and how you can be of service to the life and mission of First Congregational Church? Have you ever felt that you would step up and volunteer if you just knew where your gifts fit in?

Please come on Saturday, September 7, for a Spiritual Gifts Workshop where these and other pertinent questions will be answered.

The workshop will be led by Jacquelyn Dean, our Commissioned Minister in Spiritual Formation and Direction, from 1-3 p.m. in Room C in the Education Wing.

You can register by contacting Jackie Dean at jelainestith@hotmail.com.

Deadline to register is Tuesday, September 3.

First Church Engagement Fair **Sunday, September 8** **10-11 a.m., 12:15-1:15 p.m.** **Parish Hall**

Get ready to take your next steps at First Church! Join us on Sunday, September 8, right after either worship service in Parish Hall for an exciting opportunity to deepen your connection with our church community at our Engagement Fair.

Come chat with fellow members, explore the wonderful opportunities that await you, see which speak to your passions, and take that next step – whatever next step may be for you. See you there!

**Celebrating the Ministry and Retirement of
The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens.
Saturday, October 19, 2024
Arrival and Welcome at 5 p.m.
Dinner at 6 p.m.
A Program of Honor and Gratitude to Follow
Columbus Museum of Art**

If you would like to join with the generosity of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Celebration and Remembrance Committee in sponsoring this event see the levels below. Sponsorships will provide those in need the opportunity to attend this event. The remaining contributions will offset the total cost of the event. Thank you for your generosity.

Contribution Levels

Up to \$50: Friendship Window

\$51-\$100 Rose Window

\$101-\$250 Social Justice Window

\$251-\$500 Music Window

\$501-\$750 Jeffrey Window

\$751 and above Gladden Window

Click the QR Code below to RSVP and purchase tickets for the event before Tuesday, September 24.



Keep in Prayer

Prayers of joy for the birth of Nalani Este Panahon, daughter of Carly Kutschbach Panahon and Ray Panahon, and granddaughter of Diana and Bob Kutschbach; and for the encouraging news of Beverly Halbe's medical treatment.

Members Margot Connor and John Anderson; Francille Firebaugh; Pauline Fritz; Jean Wetmore; Bill Rhodes; Beverly Halbe; Nancy Burba; 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 David Hogrefe's mother, Linda Hogrefe; Joanna Samuelson's friend, Ann Nay; Tim Ahrens' granddaughter and Sarah Stadie's daughter, Aurelia Stadie; 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; Annette McCormick's father, Charles McCormick; Janet Axt's mother, Alice Paugh; Margaret Cipriani's friend, Kathryn Schlarb; 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 Cicenas; and Victor John's cousin, Devin Endlick, and his parents, Charles and Mary Jane, and sister.

Those who mourn family and friends of Timothy Holt on his death; Victor John's friend Dollie Farrow on the passing of her mother; Barry Moenter on the death of his brother-in-law, Tom Huss; and Jim Griffin on the death of his friend, Carla Fontaine.

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 Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Botswana Council of Churches, the Botswana Synod of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA), and Kgolagano College in Botswana.

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 **Ohio Council of Churches (OCC) Anti-Racism Ministry**. With over 104 years of ministry, the OCC is one of the oldest state ecumenical councils in the United States, representing the largest and most diverse group of Christians in Ohio and encompasses 4,000 congregations and two million members. The OCC Anti-Racism Ministry identifies, challenges, and changes the values, structures, and behaviors that perpetuate systemic racism. They have a long history of confronting racism and being a leading voice in the anti-racism movement as it impacts all of their member denominations and humanity in general. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

Interim Director of Faith Formation: Leslie Fulford

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

