



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.

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *preacher and co-celebrant*

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *co-celebrant*

Dr. Lynn Wallich, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*

James Bobb, *organist*

First Church Choir

Aran Cunningham, *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

Dies sind die heiligen zehn Gebot, BWV 678

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Lynn Wallich

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: Blessed be the Lord of Hosts, who cleanses and heals our lives.

People: Praise be to God!

Leader: Blessed be the Holy One, who brings us from despair to hope.

People: Praise be to God!

Leader: Blessed be the Giver of Life, who nurtures and comforts us.

People: Let us praise God with our whole hearts and souls. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Austrian Hymn, Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732-1807

"Glorious things of thee are spoken"

John Newton, 1725-1807

1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.
 2 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
 3 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,

God, whose word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.
 for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.

On the rock of a - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
 Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows, their thirst to as - suage?

With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.
 Grace, so like the Lord the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.

INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: God be with you.

People. And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; 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. 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 at the end of the pew, sign it and pass it on to your neighbor so we may 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 Dr. Wendy Kirkland.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Dr. Wallich

Leader: A reading from the book of Exodus, the sixteenth chapter.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL HYMN

Lord of the Dance, American Shaker melody, adapt. Sydney Carter, 1915-2004

"I danced in the morning"

Sydney Carter, 1915-2004



1. I danced in the morn - ing when the
2. I danced for the scribe and the
3. I danced on the Sab - bath and I
- softly and slower* 4. I danced on a Fri - day when the
5. They cut me down and I



world was be - gun, and I danced in the moon and the
 Phar - i - see, but they would not dance and they
 cured the lame. The ho - ly peo - ple
 sky turned black. It's hard to dance with the
 lept up high. I am the life that will



stars and the sun, and I came down from heav - en and I
 would not fol - low me. I danced for the fish - er - men, for
 said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they
 dev - il on your back. They bur - ied my bod - y and they
 nev - er, nev - er die. I'll live in you if you'll



danced on the earth. At Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 James and John. They came with me and the dance went on.
 hung me high, and left me there on a cross to die.
 thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on.
 live in me, I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.



Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll



lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

Rev. Ahrens

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

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

“The Devil and the Arch Villians”

Rev. Ahrens

Second in a six part sermon series entitled "Then and Now"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Samuelson

THE OFFERTORY

To give online, please scan this QR code, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Good Samaritan Fund**. The Good Samaritan Fund provides help every month to those who come to First Church in need. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Eric H. Thiman, 1900-1975

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908

*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”

Old 100th

Genevan Psalter, 1551

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table.

As directed by the deacons, please come forward down the center aisle, receive the elements of communion, partake them, and place the cup in the basket provided. Individual bread and cup will be offered to you by the communion ministers.

Gluten-free wafers are available. Please deposit the plastic cups in the bins by the side aisles.

*INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

*SURSUM CORDA

Plainsong

The musical notation consists of three staves of plainsong. The first staff has two parts: 'Leader' and 'People'. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And also with you.' The second staff also has two parts: 'Leader' and 'People'. The lyrics are: 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has two parts: 'Leader' and 'People'. The lyrics are: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Samuelson

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless. We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory.

We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory. And now we give you thanks for the hope to which you call us in your Son, that following in the faith of all your saints, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and with them receive the unfading crown of glory. We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons, daughters, and all children of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The congregation may be seated.

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

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.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Please come forward as directed by the deacons to receive the common elements for communion.

Receive the bread and grape juice at one of the stations. You are invited to consume the elements as you receive them.

Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the tray. Place empty cups in the baskets on the tables by the transepts.

If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Heinrich Isaac 1450-1517, harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

“O Bread of Life from Heaven”

Latin hymn, c. 1661, tr. Hugh T. Henry, 1862-1946

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Let us pray.

People: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ’s gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

Cwm Rhondda, John Hughes, 1873-1932

“Guide me, O thou great Jehovah”

William Williams, 1717-1791

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Grand Chœur in Bb

Theodore Dubois, 1837-1924

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 celebration of their 58th wedding anniversary on July 31 by Sandy and Joel Mathias.

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

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

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

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

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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

August 4, 2024

This Week at First Church

Sunday, August 4

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

Monday, August 5

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

Tuesday, August 6

- 9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution Day
(Church)
- 10 a.m. Transition Listening Circle (Classroom C)
- 12 Noon Healthy Congregations Planning
Committee Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 4 p.m. Church Vitality Commission Mtg (Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Personnel Commission Mtg (Zoom)
Communications & Technology
Commission Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, August 7

- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Monthly Mtg
(Fanning Rm)
- 7 p.m. Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, August 8

- 2 p.m. Top Golf Youth Outing
(Topgolf Columbus)
- 6 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, August 9

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

Sunday, August 11

- 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 Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)

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. Church Parlor

Each Sunday at 10 a.m. during the Summer Sermon Series, join Rev. Tim in the Church Parlor for an open discussion time.

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

Transition News

In her sermon on July 21, Rev. Joanna reminded us of the importance of setting boundaries. She cited Jesus' model to pause and rest, making space for renewal. When Rev. Tim leaves First Church later this year, it's both appropriate and important for him and members of the church to establish healthy boundaries of separation. During this time, Rev. Tim creates a time for rest and renewal, First Church creates a space to reflect on the ministry of the last twenty-five years and the next twenty-five, and our Interim Ministers have clear opportunities to build relationships with this congregation. This will be an exciting time for all of us!

The Transition Team's focus this week: developing a plan for the church's spiritual and pastoral care during the time between Rev. Tim's departure and the beginning of Interim leadership; ongoing small group engagement to understand our past and envision our future; and review of interim ministry profiles.

Upcoming Listening Circles, meeting in Classroom C

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

August 11, 10 a.m. Open meeting for members

Your voice is important! Please join us once, or often, to share your perspectives

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.

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

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.

A buffet lunch from Freedom ala Cart will be served. Register by scanning the QR code. Registration deadline is Thursday, August 15 at noon.



Keep in Prayer

Prayers of joy for the encouraging news of Beverly Halbe's medical treatment.

Members Margot Connor and John Anderson; 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 Joanna Samuelson's friend, Anne 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; 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 Cicenas; and Victor John's friend Dollie Farrow and mother, his cousin, Devin Endlick, and his parents, Charles and Mary Jane, and sister.

Those who mourn Jim Griffin on the death of his friend, Carla Fontaine; Mike Kennedy on the death of his father, Allan Kennedy.

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 Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Equatorial Guinea. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Waldensian Church of Italy.

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 Good Samaritan Fund. **The Good Samaritan Fund** provides help every month to those who come to First Church in need. Thank you for your generosity.

Upcoming Mission Offerings

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| August 4 | Good Samaritan |
| August 11 | Ohio Council of Churches |
| | Anti-Racism Ministry |
| August 18 | Pathway Clubhouse |
| August 25 | Equitas |

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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