



### 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*

Donna Vogt, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Ann Eliot, *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

Donna Vogt

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

*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.

\*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,  
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 Leslie Fulford.*

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Donna Vogt

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.**

Psalm 78:23-29

The St. Helena Psalter

So you commanded the clouds above  
and opened the doors of heaven.

**You rained down manna upon them to eat  
and gave them grain from heaven.**

So mortals ate the bread of angels;  
you provided for them food enough.

**You caused the east wind to blow in the heavens  
and led out the south wind by your might.**

You rained down flesh upon them like dust  
and winged birds like the sand of the sea.

**You let it fall in the midst of their camp  
and round about their dwellings.**

So they ate and were well filled,  
for you gave them what they craved.

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.**

SERMON

“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

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. 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 HYMN  
"I danced in the morning"

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

COMMUNION

Revs. Ahrens and Samuelson

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. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is two sharps (D major). 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 piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

*Please be seated for the postlude.*

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*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**

**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”

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### **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.

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### **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

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## **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.

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## **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](mailto: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.

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## Upcoming Mission Offerings

<b>August 4</b>	<b>Good Samaritan</b>
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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*[www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx](http://www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx)*

