



WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! For 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, *worship leader*
- Erin Murray, *liturgist*
- Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
- Joshua Stafford, *organist & director*
- The First Church Choir
- Peter Murray, *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

Praeludium in E Major, BuxWV 141

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Erin Murray

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: The realm of God is at hand.

People: We want to enter this realm.

Leader: The mercy of God is made known.

People: We want to receive this mercy.

Leader: The grace of God is abundant for all.

**People: We praise you, O God, for your compassion and your love.
Accept our grateful praise as we come to worship you today. Amen.**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN
"O Word of God incarnate"

Munich, Neuvermehrtes Meiningsches Gesangbuch, 1693
William Walsham How, 1867, alt.

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The church from you, dear Sav - ior, re - ceived this gift di - vine;
3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
and still that light is lift - ed on all the earth to shine.
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this our path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
a - mid the rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, we see you face to face.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: God be with you.

People. And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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 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 Dr. Sandra Mathias.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Ms. Murray

Leader: A reading from the Book of Amos, the fifth chapter.

Seek the Lord and live,

or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

Therefore, because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,

you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;

you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.

For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—

you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.

Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;

and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.

Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;

it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Peter Hallock, 1977

“Thy word is a lantern”

The Book of Common Prayer

Thy word is a lantern unto my feet; thy laws a pathway for my soul.

Lead us out of the darkness of our sin, to the light and joy of thy redeeming love. Amen.

THE EPISTLE Hebrews 4:12-16

Ms. Murray

Leader: A reading from the book of Hebrews, the fourth chapter.

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*THE GOSPEL HYMN

St. Helena, Calvin Hampton, 1977

“There's a wideness in God's mercy”

Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt.



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness
2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure



of the sea; there's a kind - ness in his jus -
up in heaven; there is no place where earth's fail -
of the mind; and the heart of the E - ter -



tice, which is more than lib - er - ty. There is wel - come
ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given. There is plen - ti -
nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were



for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good; there is mer - cy
ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for
but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word; and our life would

Interlude/Conclusion

with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 10:17-31

Rev. Ahrens

Leader: A reading from the gospel according to Mark, the tenth chapter.

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Word of God is Living and Active”

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 the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

Dr. John Stanford

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Children's Defense Fund** (CDF), a non-profit child advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly for nearly 40 years to ensure a level playing field for all children. They champion policies and programs that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure their access to health care, quality education, and a moral and spiritual foundation. Please give generously.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Benjamin Britten, 1961

Jubilate Deo

Psalm 100

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise.
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting:
and his truth endureth from generation to generation
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end, Amen.

*PRESENTATION HYMN

Ellacombe, Gesangbuch der Herzogl, Wuertemberg, 1784

“Shine forth, O Light, that we may see”

Washington Gladden, 1904

**Shine forth, O Light, that we may see,
With hearts all unafraid,
The meaning and the mystery
Of things that Thou hast made;
Shine forth, and touch the darkling past
Beneath Thy beam grow bright;
Shine forth, and touch the future vast
With Thine untroubled light.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Let us pray.

People: For gifts given and received, O God, we offer our praise. May we share our abundance with all who have need, and may we share our hope in like measure. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

Nettleton, Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813

"Come, thou Fount of every blessing"

Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Fugue in G Major, BWV 577

J.S. Bach, ca. 1705

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.

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the entire First Church community of members and friends by the Flower Fund.

† 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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“There’s a wideness in God’s mercy.” Music: Calvin Hampton. © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

This Week at First Church

Sunday, October 13

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)
Sunday School (Various Classrooms)
Sunday Morning Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)
Transition Listening Session (Classroom D)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)

Monday, October 14

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

Tuesday, October 15

- 7 p.m. Church Council Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, October 16

- 10 a.m. Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery (Kitchen)

Thursday, October 17

- 9 a.m. Clergy Practice Group (Parlor)
- 4:30 p.m. Choristers (Choir Rm)
- 6 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

Saturday, October 19

- 11 a.m. BOBS Mtg (Zoom)
- 5 p.m. A Celebration of 25 years of Ministry
(Columbus Museum of Art)

Sunday, October 20

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)
Sunday School (Various Classrooms)
Sunday Morning Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Sales & Reception (Parish Hall)

October 13, 2024

Dene Barnard

Items

In his lifetime, Dene Barnard amassed an impressive collection of books, vinyl records, CDs, travel guides, city and country maps, art work, organ music, and more. Much of it has been sorted and arranged in the basement room directly under the Fanning Room, which is next to the Parlor. Please come and view it before and/or after services and take whatever you would like. Dene's treasures in this room will be available to you only until the end of October.

October Mission Offerings

10/13 Children's Defense Fund
10/20 Jewish Family Services
10/27 BREAD

Congregational Care Ministry

First Church is excited to announce the establishment of our Congregational Care Ministry. Lead by our Stephen Ministry Leadership team: Wendy Kennedy, Susie Loik, and Gary Glover, this ministry will coordinate and support member care. A network of groups and their volunteers will work together to provide service to the congregation promoting the care and well-being of our faith community, by our faith community, through loving service.



Congregational Care
Ministry

Beginning Bells

First Church continues to provide new ways for the congregation to participate in the music program. Starting this fall, we will have a Beginning Handbell Choir meeting on Monday evenings. Bell ringers can find a new way to share their love of music, and become part of a new community of musicians, learning the joy of playing handbells. The group will build coordination skills while learning various handbell techniques. A knowledge of rhythms and the ability to read music are essential for success in this new group. We will share music in worship a few times each season. If you are interested in joining this new group, please contact Jennifer Fry, handbell director, by emailing her at jfry@first-church.org.

Transitions News: Saying Goodbye

It seems like the time since Rev. Ahrens announced his retirement has just flown by. Some have reflected that this is the year of the long goodbye, but the fact is we are just over one week from having Rev. Tim stand before us to proclaim the Good News for the final time as Senior Minister at First Congregational Church in Columbus. On October 20 he will stand before us to welcome, affirm, and share God's love just one more time. With great anticipation, we look forward to that day as a time to come together to celebrate his ministry.

When I imagine God having arms, I see God's arms extending wide to embrace each of us in love. In this season of transition, I especially see God reaching out to enfold Rev. Tim and his family, to show God's love and to keep them safe. This is a time to embody this loving-God quality. In these final days of Tim's ministry, I hope that you will share your love and good wishes for him. As we say goodbye, may we first exchange our forgiveness for hurts we have caused each other, as well as thank you for our ministry together. Thanks be to God for Timothy Carl Ahrens!

Upcoming Transition Team Listening Circles
10/13, 10 a.m., Classroom D

Time Out Tuesday Tuesday, October 29 at 6 p.m. Napa Kitchen & Bar

Join us on Tuesday, October 29 at 6 p.m. at Napa Kitchen & Bar in Dublin! Located at 7148 Muirfield Drive, this great restaurant offers sophisticated New American meals with a Mediterranean influence and wine flights. Tuesdays are half-price wine nights and a wonderful collection of wines are offered! Scan the QR code below to register!



"Purse" for Rev. Ahrens

We have entered the final month of Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens's ministry at First Congregational Church. This is a time like no other, a time to remember, reflect, and celebrate. We will receive donations as a gift for Rev. Tim between now and Tuesday, October 15. Please make your check payable to First Congregational Church with the memo indicating your gift to Rev. Ahrens. Checks may be placed in the Sunday offering plates, delivered to the church office, or mailed to Annette McCormick, Business Administrator, First Congregational Church, 444 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3885. You can also click the button below to donate online through Realm or Easytithe. Please select "Staff Purse" from the dropdown menu.

Thank you for your generosity as we thank, bless, and release the only Senior Minister a whole generation of our church family has ever known.



First Serves October: Halloween Candy for Gladden Community House Sunday, October 27 at 10 a.m.

The First Serves project for October is assembling bags of Halloween candy for the children who attend the yearly Gladden Community House Halloween Party. We are asking for donations of bagged Halloween candy. Donated candy can be placed in the baskets around the Giving Tree, located in the Education Wing Breezeway, now through the morning of First Serves.

Quality control will be conducted as we bag the candy to ensure it is all of the highest (and yummiest) grade. All ages are invited to join this fun research opportunity.

First Stories Interviews with The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

The Heritage Committee is pleased to present two interviews with the Rev. Dr. Timothy Ahrens, shared through First Stories, as he nears the conclusion of nearly 25 years of ministry at First Congregational Church.

In the first interview, hosted by journalist and First Church member Nancy Gilson Braverman, hear Dr. Ahrens reflect on:

- How First Church's call specifically emphasized his role as a minister of social justice.
- Some of the highlights and challenges of his tenure.
- The challenges posed by the pandemic, especially the extended separation of members.
- Tips for fostering longevity in a congregation (Tim compares First Church's 172 years of existence to the average lifespan of most congregations).
- The influence of Washington Gladden on both his ministry and the church.
- How the beauty and majesty of our sanctuary, along with art and music, combine to create awe-inspiring worship experiences.

This is an interview you will not want to miss. Click the QR Code below to listen.

Next Thursday in Connections, the second interview will be released. In this follow-up, Nancy and Tim walk through the sanctuary as Tim highlights and comments on elements of the church's interior that hold special meaning.



Keep in Prayer

Members Mike Weddle; Elaine Warren; Twink Starr; Victor John; Janice Taft; Ashton Smith; Margot Connor and John Anderson; Francille Firebaugh; Pauline Fritz; Nancy Burba; Mary Kay Beall Carter and John Carter; Carol Lowy; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt; Anne Morganstern; Martha Huey; and Janice White.

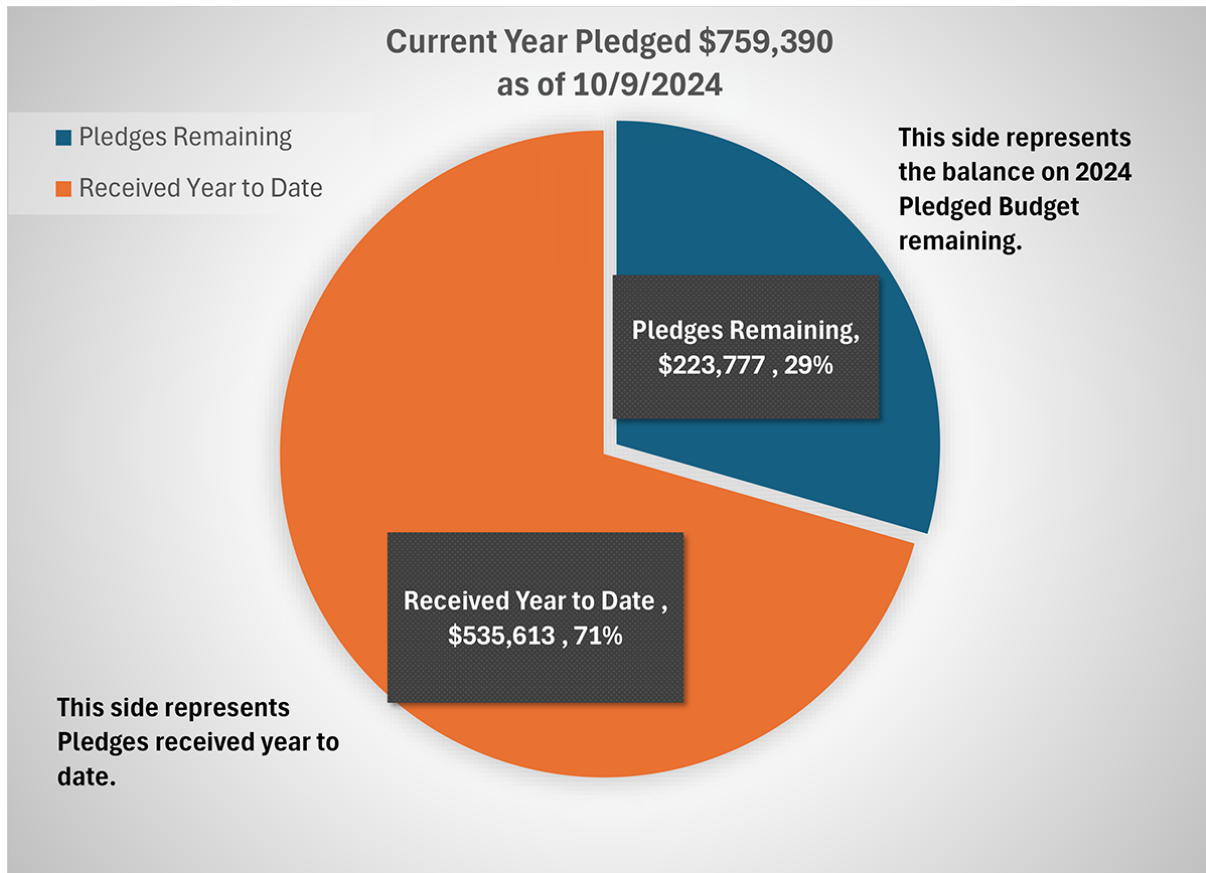
Family and friends Susan Sitler and Tim Ahrens's friend, Gabby Shepherd; Pat Patterson's brother, Dan Stone; Linda Patten; George Ferzli's family, Tanios, Julie, Maher, Michel, Cynthia, Gabriel, and Lynn; Bob and Lorraine Quinichett's daughter, Susan Webster; Rose and David Kandel's friend, Lou Kline; David Hogrefe's mother, Linda Hogrefe; Tim Ahrens' mother, Lorene Ahrens, and his granddaughter and Sarah Stadie's daughter, Hazel Stadie; Melva Fisher's daughter, Susan Wood, and her sister and brother-in-law, Velma and Jamie Christy; Annette McCormick's father, Charles McCormick; Janet Axt's mother, Alice Paugh; Jill Hultin's brother, Ken Hultin; 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 Martha Wilson and family on the death of her mother, Jinny Welch; family and friends of Lynn Roseberry on her passing, and for Melissa Kulwicki's cousin, Sandy Anschutz on the death of Sandy's husband Bob.

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

We keep in prayer those in Florida who have endured two devastating hurricanes that have brought destruction and death to so many in that state.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray for the people and churches in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Church of Christ in Congo in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



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:

Nominating Chair: Sarah Reed

COMMISSIONERS

Church Stewardship and Church Growth:

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

