



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*  
Henry Wade, *liturgist*  
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*  
Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*  
The First Church Choir  
Pat Patterson, *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  
Obangiji

Fela Sowande, 1955

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Henry Wade

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: In the midst of struggle and strife, God is with us.

**People: Praise be to God for God's steadfast presence.**

Leader: Even though many things in life hurt and disappoint us, God is with us.

**People: We seek God's mercy and grace to heal our wounded souls.**

Leader: Come, bring your needs and wants to God,  
for God will hear your cries and restore your souls.

**People: Praise be to God for mercy, peace, and hope. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN

“Come Christians, join to sing”

*Spanish Hymn*, Spanish Folk Melody

Christian Henry Bateman, 1843

1 Come, Chris - tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
3 Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;  
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;  
On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

\*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. 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 many greet one another by name.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Melissa Kulwicki

*During the sermon time, the young children are welcome to participate in "Sunday Stories" with Melissa Kulwicki and Leslie Fulford.*

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 2:18-24

Mr. Wade

Leader: A reading from the book of Genesis, the second chapter.

The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones

and flesh of my flesh;

this one shall be called Woman,

for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*GOSPEL HYMN  
 “Jesu, Jesu”

*Chereponi*, Ghanaian folk melody  
 Tom Colvin, 1969; rev. 1997, alt.

Refrain

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their  
 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and  
 3 These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should  
 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, will - ing to wash oth - ers'

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
 race; neigh-bors are near us and far a - way.  
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.  
 feet; this is the way we should live like you.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 10:2-16

Rev. Ahrens

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

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION MEDITATION

“Divorce and Children”

Rev. Ahrens

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

Matt Stevens

Cash and designated gifts go to support **Church World Service (CWS) Emergency Response Fund**. When disaster and conflict strike, the CWS Emergency Response Fund supports vulnerable communities in their time of greatest need. On September 26, 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall as a Category 4 storm and carved a devastating path from Florida’s Gulf Coast to Tennessee. The massive surge resulted in power outages for millions of individuals across several states. Thousands of homes sustained major structural damage or were destroyed, and so far, there have been 200 confirmed fatalities. Extensive flooding from Helene has severely impacted western North Carolina and multiple communities in several states, hampering the delivery of critical supplies. CWS is distributing 3,296 Emergency Cleanup Buckets 4,360 Hygiene Kits to partners in impacted states and will also be involved in long-term recovery to help meet the needs of those impacted in the months and years to come. Your contributions ensure that CWS can provide critical and life-saving resources when it is most needed. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

William H. Harris, 1954

“Behold, the tabernacle”

Sarum Antiphon for the Dedication of a Church

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with you,  
and the Spirit of God dwelleth within you:  
for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are:  
for the love of whom you do this day  
celebrate the joys of the temple with a season of festivity. Alleluia.

\*DOXOLOGY

*Old 100th*

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow”

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.*

## \*INVITATION

Revs. Ahrens and Samuelson

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 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 in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise." The first staff shows the Leader's part for "The Lord be with you." and the People's part for "And also with you." The second staff shows the Leader's part for "Lift up your hearts." and the People's part for "We lift them to the Lord." The third staff shows the Leader's part for "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." and the People's part for "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The notation includes treble clefs, a key signature of one flat, and various note values and rests.

## \*COMMUNION PRAYER

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

Percy Whitlock, 1930

“Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face”

Horatius Bonar, 1855

Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;  
here faith can touch and handle things unseen;  
here would I grasp with firmer hands thy grace,  
and all my weariness upon thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the Bread of God;  
here drink with thee the Royal wine of heaven;  
here would I lay aside each earthly load,  
and taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Ahrens

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  
"In Christ there is no east or west"

*McKee*, American Spiritual  
John Oxenham, 1908 alt.

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.

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on *McKee*

Robert McCormick, 2020, trans. Bryan Dunnewald, 2024

*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 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 Martha Huey's October birthday by Barbara Clapham.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Ahrens and Mrs. Fulford — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Ms. Kulwicki — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

Rev. Samuelson — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

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“Jesu, Jesu.” Music: Ghanaian folk melody. Words: Tom Colvin. © 1969, Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.



*Enter to Worship*  
**Depart to Serve**

## **This Week at First Church**

### **Sunday, October 6**

- 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)  
BREAD House Mtg (Parish Family Rm)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion  
(Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 4:30 p.m. Evensong Service in remembrance of G. Dene Barnard  
(Sanctuary)

### **Monday, October 7**

- 10 a.m. Stewardship & Growth Commission Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 12 Noon Congregational Care Ministry Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 6:30 p.m. House & Grounds Commission Mtg  
(Classroom D & Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Transition Listening Session (Zoom)

### **Tuesday, October 8**

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

### **Wednesday, October 9**

- 7 p.m. Faith Formation Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

### **Thursday, October 10**

- 4:30 p.m. Choristers (Choir Rm)
- 6 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

### **Friday, October 11**

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

### **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)

**October 6, 2024**

## **Choral Evensong in Remembrance of G. Dene Barnard**

We celebrate the life of our beloved Dene Barnard this afternoon with a service of choral evensong. An extended prelude will be offered at 4:30 p.m., with Evensong following at 5 p.m.. Choir alumni will return to sing with the First Church Choir, and we welcome the return of Dene's successors Timothy Smith, Jamie Bobb, and Kevin Jones to play for the service. A reception follows in the Parish Hall where you will be welcome to share remembrances of Dene.

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## **Dene Barnard Items**

In his lifetime, Dene Barnard amassed an impressive collection of books, vinyl records, CDs, travel guides, city & 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.

## 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

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## 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](mailto:jfry@first-church.org).

## Transitions News: A Time for Service

During our transition time, we have a great opportunity to share the gifts we have been given. In our Engagement Fair, we learned of the many ministries and opportunities to serve First Church. Please consider what excites you about these ministries and where you will offer your services. If you are passionate about our extravagant welcome, then become a Deacon. If you have ideas about the future of First Church, consider a position on our leadership team. If children and youth excite you, raise your hand to help with faith formation.

We have so many gifts and so many opportunities! Contact Moderator Greg Halbe ([greghalbe@gmail.com](mailto:greghalbe@gmail.com)) or Moderator-Elect Sarah Reed ([sjr1800@gmail.com](mailto:sjr1800@gmail.com)) to let them know of your interest. Remember, today, tomorrow and the tomorrow after that, together, we serve our God!

Upcoming Listening Circle:

**10/7, 7 p.m.**, Open Zoom Meeting,  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89952811834?pwd=cgAo782HmtOxFYs6EYyAUvooo0bO9n>.

Meeting ID: 899 5281 1834

Passcode: 474080

**10/13, 10 a.m.**, Classroom D

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## 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.



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## **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.

## What is Bridge Ministry?

*For everything there is a season  
and a time for every matter under heaven.*

In just two short weeks we will gather together as a congregation to celebrate the Rev. Dr. Timothy Ahrens and his vibrant and visionary ministry at First Church during these past 24-plus years. During these next two weeks, our focus as a congregation, will be on thanking and saying good-bye to Rev. Tim before he retires.

Meanwhile, our Transition Team has been meeting frequently and is hard at work to plan and prepare for the next chapters of ministry, here at First Church, including hiring an "intentional interim senior minister."

It is in keeping with best practices of interim ministry to plan for what is described as a "bridge time" which refers to the "gap time" between the departure of a settled pastor and the arrival of the intentional interim minister. Bridge ministry offers the congregation a "breathing space" and provides continuity of pastoral leadership including worship planning, pastoral care/visitation, staff support, and the overseeing of administrative tasks.

We are pleased to announce that our First Church Bridge Team includes those who are already known and familiar to our congregation. Rev. Joanna Samuelson will lead our bridge team which will include First Church members Rev. Ron Botts, Rev. Amanda Conley, and Rev. Dr. William Nirote. Each one of them has graciously agreed to serve First Church throughout this upcoming bridge time until an intentional interim minister is hired. Please click the QR Code to read more about the Bridge team.

If you need additional information about our bridge team plans, please contact Rev. Samuelson ([jsamuelson@first-church.org](mailto:jsamuelson@first-church.org)) or Rev. Sarah Reed ([sjr1800@yahoo.com](mailto:sjr1800@yahoo.com)), who is our moderator-elect and coordinator of our Transition Team.



## Keep in Prayer

**Members** Mike Weddle; Twink Starr; Victor John; Elaine Warren; 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** 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 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 Cicenias; 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; friends and family of Lynn Roseberry on her passing; Greg Buzzell and family on the death of his father, Robert Buzzell; and Sallie Danneberger on the death of her friend, Lisa Colosimo.

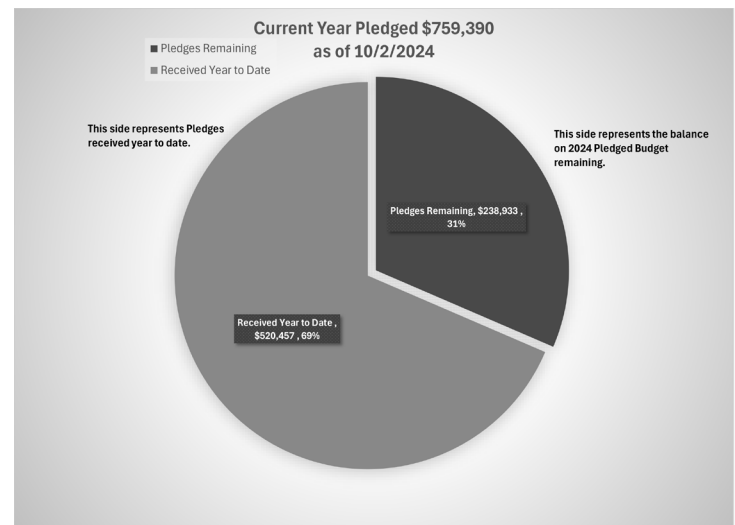
We keep Stephen Ministers in prayer as they care for our church members.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray for the people and churches in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Peace Bible Schools in El Salvador.

## 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).

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# 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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