



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, *worship leader*

Katarina Cochrane Yamaguchi and Henry, *liturgists*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

David Hogrefe, *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

Kat Cochrane-Yamaguchi and Henry

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.

*OPENING 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.

*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.

*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.*

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Rev. Ahrens and Leslie Fulford

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 EPISTLE

Hebrews 4:12-16

Kat Cochrane-Yamaguchi and Henry

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 PSALTER

Kat Cochrane-Yamaguchi and Henry

Psalms 90:12-17

The St. Helena Psalter

So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Return, O God; how long will you tarry?

Be gracious to your servants.

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

**Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us
and the years in which we suffered adversity.**

Show your servants your works
and your splendor to their children.

**May the graciousness of our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands;
prosper our handiwork.**

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 Depart to Serve:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Ahrens

Cash and designated gifts go to support the **Children’s Defense Fund**. The Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) is 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 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.

COMMUNION
COMMUNION HYMN
"Eat this bread"

Revs. Ahrens and Samuelson
Berthier, Jacques Berthier, 1984
Robert J. Batastini and Taizé Community, 1984

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are: "Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and never be hungry. Eat this bread; drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst."

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Samuelson

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 one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The score ends with a double bar line.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Please be seated for the postlude.

Thank you for attending worship this morning. We hope that you have found peace and grace here and invite you to return often. If you would like more information or have any questions about First Church, please ask anyone wearing a name tag. We would be delighted to assist you.

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



Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

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.

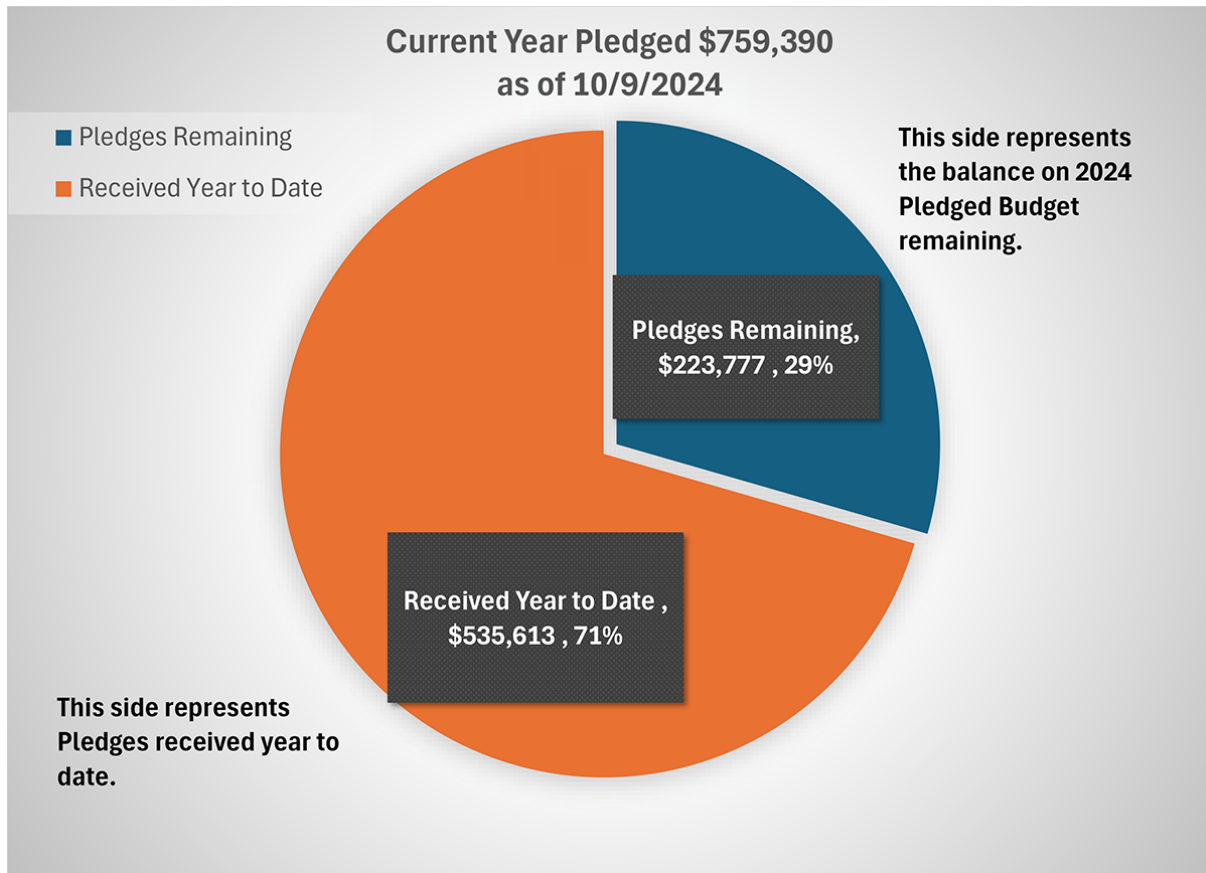
Family and friends Susan Sitler and Tim Ahrens's friend, Gabby Shepherd; Pat Patterson's brother, Dan Stone; Linda Patten; George Ferzli's family, Tanios, Julie, Maher, Michel, Cynthia, Gabriel, and Lynn; Bob and Lorraine Quinichett's daughter, Susan Webster; Rose and David Kandel's friend, Lou Kline; 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

