



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, *minister*

Samantha Myers, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

Gregory Duncan, *verger*

Sebastian Kulwicki, *crucifer*

Emma Dean, *acolyte*

The First Church Choir

The First Church Ringers

Jennifer Fry, *director*

Aran Cunningham, *livestream ministry*

Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve. Please use this time for quiet preparation for worship.

'We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.' (Psalm 48:9)

PRELUDE

"Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart"

arr. Anna Laura Page, 2001

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Samantha Myers

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: Servants of God, lift up your heads—

People: That the Lord of life may behold our eyes!

Leader: Servants of God, lift up your hands—

People: That the Lord of life may bless our works!

Leader: Servants of God, lift up your hearts—

People: That the Lord of life may abide within!

All: The Lord of life will abide within!

1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.
 2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
 4 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,

She is his new creation by water and the word.
 her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
 she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:
 and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.
 One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
 yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
 O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
 And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternal-ly.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; 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. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

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.*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR AURELIA IVY STADIE

We welcome Aurelia, parents Sarah and Nathan (in absentia), sister Hazel, godparents Luke Ahrens, Dani Ahrens, Thalia Lewis (in absentia) and Deacon Tom Kiesel.

WELCOME

Dr. Ahrens

*BAPTISMAL HYMN

O Waly, Waly, Traditional English Melody

"Hymn of Water and Spirit" (vv. 1-2)

Timothy C. Ahrens, 1998



1. When you were born, our hearts took wing, to dance and laugh, to love and
2. Re - mem - ber now this grace, this gift, as we our voice, and spir - its



sing. You made our lives com-plete in joy, come now re - ceive this wa - ter joy.
lift. We hold you close to shield life's hurt, and ce - le - brate your se-cond birth.

ADDRESS

Leader: . . . But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

People: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

Leader: . . . the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

People: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATE

*CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Leader: . . . Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as Aurelia lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

Leader: Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

ACT OF BAPTISM

NAMING OF THE CHILD

Leader: Aurelia Ivy, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Rise from the waters of baptism and give glory to God all the days of your life.

People: Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

Leader: Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this newest member of the body of Christ.

People: Give to Aurelia strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

*BAPTISMAL HYMN

O Waly, Waly, Traditional English Melody

"Hymn of Water and Spirit" (vv. 3-5)

Timothy C. Ahrens, 1998



3. Far from this font, your feet will trod, in hard times you may ques - tion
4. Hold fast to what is good and true, Bring hurt to none, for hur - ting
5. When time has passed, and you are old, with no one's ba - by left to



God. But ne'er for - get this wa - ter gift. And let God's spir - it heal all rifts.
you. Strength-en the weak, up - hold the poor, And live your faith for - ev - er - more.
hold, thank God and walk your fi - nal mile, live in E - ter - nal bliss and smile.

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 12:1-3

Samantha Myers

Leader: A reading from the Book of Hebrews, the twelfth chapter.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*THE GOSPEL HYMN

Slane, Irish ballad

“Be thou my vision”

trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought, — by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 10:35-45

Dr. Ahrens

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

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Run with Perseverance the Race That is Set Before You”

Dr. 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

Karen Mozenter

Cash and designated gifts go to **Jewish Family Services**. Since 1908, Jewish Family Services has helped individuals and families achieve economic self-sufficiency and emotional stability. Rooted in a rich history of Jewish values, we serve people of all races, ethnicities, and religions, and from all economic circumstances. Their staff and board reflect the diversity of the people they serve. Jewish Family Services helps people find good jobs, navigate challenges related to aging, address mental health issues, and connect to community resources. They offer a variety of ways for volunteers to give back to the community. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Edward Elgar, 1903

“The Spirit of the Lord,” Prologue to The Apostles, Op. 49

Isaiah 61:1-3,11

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor:

he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the LORD;

to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning,

the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;

that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud,

and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth;

so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel.

*PRESENTATION HYMN

Ellacombe, Gesangbuch der Herzogl, Württemberg, 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.

CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF THE REV. DR. TIMOTHY C. AHRENS

Past Moderator Thomas Brownfield: On November 21, 1999, First Congregational Church, Columbus, Ohio extended its call to you, Timothy Carl Ahrens, to become our Senior Minister. God called you to a ministry of peace and justice. As you listened to that call, you have strengthened the course of this congregation and enriched its legacy of social justice. For 25 years First Congregational Church has grown in wisdom and in strength, guided by your care and insight.

Moderator Dr. Gregory Halbe: We called you to be our pastor: to proclaim God's Word, to baptize new members, to confirm our youth, to officiate marriages, and to preside at our celebration of the Lord's Supper. You comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones.

Dr. Ahrens: I have sought to proclaim the Word of God faithfully among you. Here is the Bible that expresses this. (The Bible is given to a member of the congregation.)

All: Thanks be to God.

Dr. Ahrens: I have shared, through God's grace, in your baptisms. Here is water from the river Jordan which symbolizes God's gift of belonging in Christ. (A vessel of water is given to a member of the congregation.)

All: Thanks be to God.

Dr. Ahrens: Prayer and our prayer in song is how our relationship with God grows. Here is our hymn book. (The book is given to a member of the congregation.)

All: Thanks be to God.

Dr. Ahrens: Bread and wine are the gifts of creation and the way we receive the true body and blood of Christ. (Bread and wine are given to a member of the congregation.)

All: Amen.

Dr. Halbe: Today we mark the end of your ministry here at First Congregational Church. This is a time to look back, and a time to look forward, a time of joy, and a time of sadness. In the words of the prophet, may "you leave with joy and be led away in safety" (Is 55:12).

Dr. Ahrens: I thank First Congregational Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last twenty-five years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. When I was impatient, or responded harshly, or dishonored you, please forgive me. I am grateful for your encouragement, acceptance and grace. You have enriched my ministry, and you will always be in my prayers.

All: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that your time with us is ending. Each of us is flawed and graced. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. We express our gratitude for your ministry among us. We give thanks for the ways that God has blessed you and the ways you have shared your blessings with us. Your influence on our faith and ministries will not leave us at your departure.

Dr. Ahrens: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

Dr. Halbe (to those gathered): Do you, the members and friends of First Congregational Church release Rev. Dr. Timothy Ahrens from his duties as Senior Minister?

All: We do, with the help of God.

Moderator-Elect Rev. Sarah Reed (to those gathered): Do you offer your encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

All: We do, with the help of God.

Rev. Reed: Rev. Ahrens, do you release First Congregational Church from seeking your counsel or support, or depending on you in any way?

Dr. Ahrens: I do, with the help of God. I have been challenged and blessed by ministry at First Congregational Church. I now separate from this ministry and take my leave from being your pastor. For the entirety of the interim, plus one year after the call of a new settled pastor, I will not lead or participate in the programs and ministries of First Church, until or unless invited by Council and the pastor.

Dr. Halbe: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry of First Church and for the relationship with others who will come to serve?

Dr. Ahrens: I do, with the help of God.

Association Minister Rev. Patricia Battle: On behalf of the Central Southeast Association of the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release.

Dr. Ahrens: I thank the United Church of Christ for the love and support shown me in my ministry. I ask forgiveness for my transgressions. I am thankful that the United Church of Christ has been a place for me to serve God and grow as a voice for the social gospel.

Rev. Battle: On behalf of the Association, I receive your gratitude and offer forgiveness. I ask your forgiveness for hurts caused by the Association. With First Congregational Church, we share our gratitude for your ministry. The member churches of our Association and Conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

Dr. Ahrens: I forgive the Association and accept its gratitude.

Dr. Halbe: Thanks be to God. Let us pray.

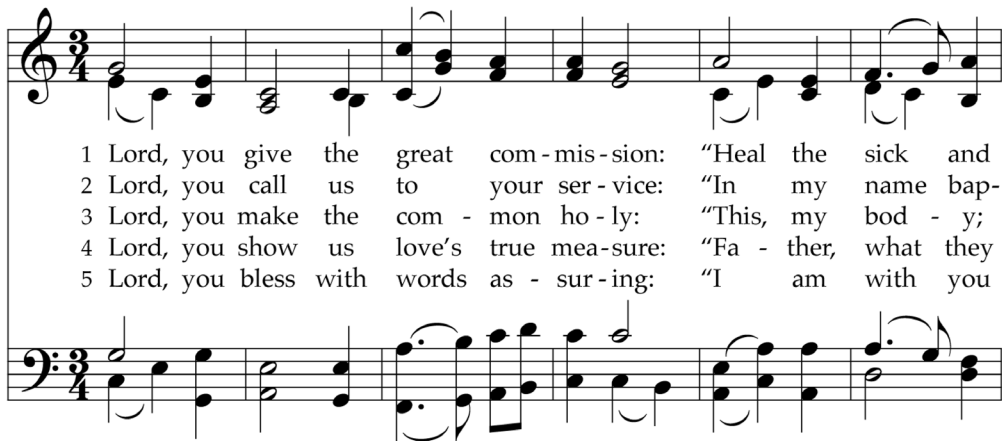
All: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. We give thanks for these twenty-five years together. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories, ready to move in new directions, until that time when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

“Lord, you give the great commission”

Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941

Jeffery W. Rowthorn, 1978



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This, my bod - y;
4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion, and the
tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise, life a -
this, my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry, dai - ly
do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure all that
to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing, may we



gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness to your
bun - dant meant for each, give us all new fer - vor,
lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the world a -
you so free - ly give. May your care and mer - cy
serve as you in - tend, and, a - mid the cares that



pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty: with the Spir - it's
lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

gifts em-power us for the work of min - is - try.

BENEDICTION

Dr. Ahrens

POSTLUDE

Toccata from Symphony No. 5

Charles-Marie Widor, 1879

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 memory of Otilie Helm, and Frank and Carol Hussey by the Hussey, Iannarino, and Trace families.

† JOIN US IN PARISH HALL FOR COFFEE HOUR sponsored by the Euphoric Neighborhood Care Circle.

† GREETINGS

Dr. Ahrens— Parish Hall (Lower level)

Rev. Samuelson— Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

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

Mrs. Fulford — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

PERMISSIONS AND COPYRIGHTS

The following is printed and/or livestreamed under permission of OneLicense #A-717661. All rights reserved.

“Lord, you give the great commission.” Words: Jeffery W. Rowthorn, 1978. © 1978 Hope Publishing Company. Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941. © 1942. Renewal 1970 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

This Week at First Church

Sunday, October 20

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion (Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. 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)

Monday, October 21

- 10 a.m. Stewardship & Church Growth Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 6 p.m. Beginners Bell Choir Rehearsal (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, October 22

- 7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Zoom)

Thursday, October 24

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

Friday, October 25

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

Saturday, October 26

- 9 a.m. Faith Mission Lunch Prep & Serve (Kitchen)

Sunday, October 27

- 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)
- 12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class (Classroom C)
- 4 p.m. Organ + Film (Sanctuary)

October 20, 2024

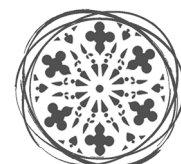
Dene Barnard

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.

Full Circle Connections Friday, October 25 10 a.m.

Join the Circle! Full circle connections will meet at 10 a.m. This month's focus will be "Change.....How We Handle It." For more information, contact Jan Hamilton (hamiltonjan30@yahoo.com)



*Full Circle
Connections*

Congregational Care Ministry

First Church is excited to announce the establishment of our Congregational Care Ministry. Led by our Stephen Ministry Leadership team comprised of 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.

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!



From the Archives

Who was Henry Howe?
As you explore the exterior of First Church, you'll notice several plaques attached to the building. One of these plaques claims that the property was once the site of Henry Howe's home. But who was Henry Howe, and where exactly is this plaque located? Click the QR code below to find out more.



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 and encouraged to wear your Halloween costume if you would like!

First Serves is an intergenerational service project that takes place during the 10 a.m. education hour on the fourth Sunday of each month. It's the perfect opportunity to connect with your First Church friends and make some new ones while doing a project to serve others in our community and beyond. Come join us!

October Mission Offerings

10/20 Jewish Family Services
10/27 BREAD

Save the Date

Healthy Congregations on Sunday,
November 17 following 11 a.m. worship!
More information coming soon!

First Stories Interviews with The Rev. Dr. Tim Ahrens

Today, the Heritage Committee is pleased to present the second of 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.

Join journalist and First Church member Nancy Gilson Braverman as she hosts a reflection by Dr. Ahrens on the rich history and beauty of our sanctuary, including:

- How our sacred space fosters deeper connections with God, the clergy, and fellow worshippers.
- The meticulous restoration of the one-million-piece Jeffrey stained-glass window above the Chancel.
- The stories behind the Friendship and Gladden Windows in the East and West Transepts, and the Rose Window, now partially obscured by the Beckerath Organ.
- The gift of 16th-century Belgian tapestries, donated by member Frederick Schumacher in the late 1930s.
- The addition of the Clerestory and Aisle windows in the 1980s and their Biblical symbolism.
- The restoration of the Kimball Organ, made possible by a bequest from Jean MacNevin.
- The Veterans Memorial in the southwest corner of the nave, completed as part of Adam Wade's Eagle Scout project.
- Our newest stained-glass windows: the Music Window, honoring G. Dene Barnard, and the Social Justice Window.

We are honored to share this final interview with Tim and hope you find it both meaningful and enjoyable.



Keep in Prayer

Members Malcolm Gillies; 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.

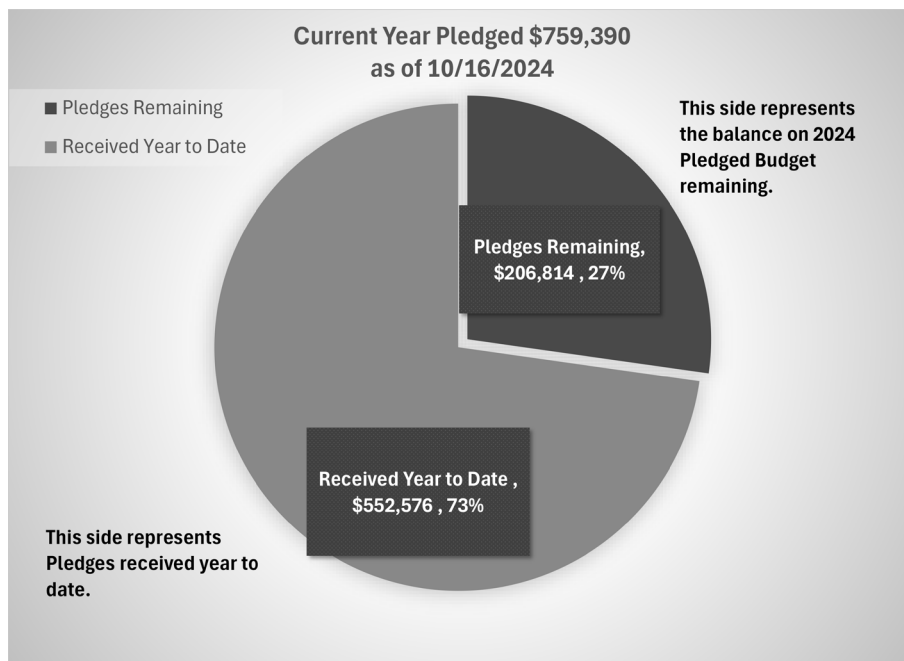
Family and friends Pat Patterson's brother, Dan Stone; Linda Patten; George Ferzli's family, Tanios, Julie, Maher, Michel, Cynthia, Gabriel, and Lynn; Bob and Lorraine Quinichett's daughter, Susan Webster; Rose and David Kandel's friend, Lou Kline; David Hogrefe's mother, Linda Hogrefe; Tim Ahrens' mother, 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 Cicenias; and Victor John's cousin, Devin Endlick, and his parents, Charles and Mary Jane, and sister.

Those who mourn David Wyatt on the death of his friend, Karen Eubanks; Melissa Kulwicki's cousin, Sandy Anschutz on the death of Sandy's husband Bob; Martha Wilson and family on the death of her mother, Jinny Welch; and family and friends of Lynn Roseberry on her passing.

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

We continue to pray for those in Florida and North Carolina who have endured devastating hurricanes that have brought destruction and death to so many in those states.

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

Bulletins are printed on recycled paper with a minimum 50% post-consumer content.

All music in the bulletin is reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-717661. All rights reserved.

Bulletins and audio podcasts of services are available on the website for each week:

www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx

