



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. Joanna Samuelson, *preacher*

The Rev. Ronald W. Botts, *worship leader*

Leslie Fulford, *liturgist*

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

Leslie Fulford

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: On our pilgrimage of faith, in a changing and uncertain world –

People: we do not walk alone: the Lord is with us.

Leader: We remember all those who taught us faith –

People: that cloud of martyrs whose examples burn bright in our memory.

Leader: God of grace, by whose love the world exists –

People: show us your face once again and reveal to us your glory.

*OPENING HYMN
"Shall we gather at the river"

Hanson Place, Robert Lowry, 1864
Robert Lowry, 1864

1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er; soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;

gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Ronald W. Botts

Leader: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

** When you return to your seat, please find the blue Welcome notebook,
sign the pad and pass it on to your neighbor so you may greet them by name.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Melissa Kulwicki

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

THE HEBREW LESSON

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9

Mrs. Fulford

Leader: A reading from the book of the Wisdom of Solomon, the third chapter.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself;
like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them.

In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.

They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them forever.

Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Mrs. Fulford

Psalm 24

The St. Helena Psalter

The earth is God's and all that is in it,
the world and all who dwell therein.

**For it is God who founded it upon the seas
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.**

"Who can ascend the hill of the Most High,
and who can stand in God's holy place?"

**"Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud.**

They shall receive a blessing from the Holy One
and a just reward from the God of their salvation.”

**Such is the generation of those who seek God,
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors,
and the One who reigns in glory shall come in.

“Who is this who reigns in glory?”

**“The Holy One, strong and mighty,
the Holy One, mighty in battle.”**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors,
and the One who reigns in glory shall come in.

“Who is this who reigns in glory?”

**“This is God, the God of Hosts,
who reigns in glory.”**

THE GOSPEL

John 11:32-44

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: A reading from the gospel according to John, the eleventh chapter.

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Gifts of Grief”

Rev. Samuelson

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
A Great Cloud of Witnesses

Rev. Samuelson and Rev. Botts
The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Rowthorn, 2007

Leader: We give thanks to you, O God, for all your servants and witnesses of time past.
For Abraham, the father of believers, and Sarah his wife:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For Moses, the lawgiver, and Aaron, the priest:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For Miriam and Joshua, Deborah and Gideon:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For Samuel with Hannah his mother:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For Isaiah and all the prophets:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For Mary, the mother of our Lord:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For Peter and Paul and all the apostles:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For Mary and Martha, and Mary Magdalene:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For Stephen, the first martyr:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: For all the martyrs and saints in every age and in every land:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

Leader: In your mercy, O God, give us, as you gave to them, the hope of salvation and the promise of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the first-born of many from the dead.

All: Amen.

Please remain standing for the Necrology.

*THE NECROLOGY

Rev. Samuelson

Robert W. Saari

April 15, 1947–December 8, 2023

James A. Monsul

September 18, 1939–January 23, 2024

James Borling

July 23, 1963–February 9, 2024

Barbara Jane Sterrett

March 14, 1027–March 23, 2024

John D. Firebaugh

March 27, 1934–June 5, 2024

Tim Holt

July 3, 1951–August 1, 2024

G. Dene Barnard

October 17, 1932–August 10, 2024

Richard M. (Rick) Sayre

May 5, 1943–August 25, 2024

James Kyle

July 23, 1941–September 21, 2024

CLOSING PRAYER

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend these your servants. Acknowledge, we humbly pray, these sheep your own fold, lambs of your own flock, children of your own redeeming. Receive them into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

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

Jim and Gail Lowe

Designated gifts go to support **World Central Kitchen (WCK)**. Since 2010, World Central Kitchen has often been first to the frontlines when natural disasters and human calamities have struck, providing fresh meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. Over the 14 years since then, WCK has served over 400 million meals, on every continent and in every corner of the world, including nearby communities that were devastated by tornadoes or floods, like Dayton, Ohio, Gaylord, Michigan, and Ashville, Kentucky. Today, WCK is at work helping the survivors of wildfires in the west, hurricanes in our southern states, and the humanitarian crises in the Middle East. Food is essential to life every single day, everywhere, but it is more important than ever in the wake of a crisis. A thoughtful, freshly prepared meal is one less thing someone has to worry about, but it is also a reminder that you are not alone, someone is thinking about you, and someone cares. Mobilizing immediately when a crisis occurs, volunteer chefs team up with local culinary workers and other volunteers onsite to use their culinary knowledge and talent to help. The WCK teams are guided by local food preparation practices, respecting the traditions that will fit the needs of the people being served, while helping to ease the emotional impact of a crisis. For World Central Kitchen, it is not just about feeding hundreds or thousands of people, it is about listening, learning, and cooking side by side with the people impacted by the crisis. This is the real meaning of comfort food, and it's the core value that drives WCK. Your gifts to WCK will be felt and appreciated by people in crisis around the world. Please give generously.

*OFFERTORY HYMN
 "For all the saints"

Sine Nomine, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
 William Walsham How, 1864



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
 3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
 5 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

COMMUNION

Rev. Samuelson

COMMUNION HYMN

Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982

"Come and fill our hearts"

Jacques Berthier, 1982

D Bm D A

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Em C Em A D

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Botts

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

Bernadette Farrell, 1993

“Christ, be our light!”

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 church gath - ered to - day.

*BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL

Rev. Samuelson

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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“Christ be our light.” Words and music by Bernadette Farrell. ©1993 OCP. All rights reserved.

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

This Week at First Church

Sunday, November 3

- 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 & Holy Communion
(Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)

Monday, November 4

- 11 a.m. Stewardship Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 12 Noon Card Care Ministry (Fanning Rm)
- 6 p.m. Beginners Bell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 6:30 p.m. House & Grounds Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, November 5

- 7 p.m. Communications & Technology Mtg (Zoom)
Justice & Mercy Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)
Personnel Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 6

- 12:15 p.m. Music at Midday (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Monthly Mtg (Off Campus)
- 7 p.m. Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, November 7

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

Friday, November 8

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

Sunday, November 10

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)
Sunday School (Various Classrooms)
Transition Team Listening Circle (Classroom D)
Sunday Morning Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)

November 3, 2024

Music at Midday:

Owen Reyda,

organ

Wednesday,

November 6,

12:15 p.m.

Join us for a midday treat! This 45-minute program will feature both the Kimball and Beckerath organs of First Church. Owen Reyda is a second-year organ performance major at Oberlin Conservatory of Music, studying with Jonathan Moyer. In the summer of 2024, Owen worked with First Church minister of music Joshua Stafford as an organ scholar at Chautauqua Institution. He has played for local churches in his hometown Westfield, NY, as well as participating in summer organ events and academies. Owen also enjoys playing the piano, singing in choirs, and accompanying musicals. Owen plays for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Amherst, Ohio.

Save the Date

Hanging of the Greens
Monday, November 25, 6 p.m

New Member Class
Saturday, November 16
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Visitors and friends interested in joining our faith community should register for our new member class on Saturday, November 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church.

The class is an opportunity to meet our minister and lay leaders, to learn our church's history, and to see how you might serve and grow spiritually through our activities and programs. The class includes a boxed lunch. Potential new members also are invited for a special tour of our historic church building on Sunday, November 17, from 10 to 10:45 a.m.

You may register for the new member class by noting your interest on the pew pad, by calling the church office at (614) 228-1741 or by sending an email message to home@first-church.org. Please register by Wednesday, November 6.

First Church Book Club
Wednesday, November 6, 2024
Tom Lake
On Zoom

Come enjoy lively conversation and fellowship this November with the First Church Book Club.

Questions? Want to receive book club emails? Please call Kathy Reed, 614-442-7742.

Healthy Congregations
Sunday, November 17

Register by scanning the QR Code below!



Full Circle Connections
Friday, November 8, at 10 a.m.
In the Church Parlor

This Friday's topic in Full Circle Connections is "Change and How We Grow With It." If you can't make it this time, be sure to mark your calendar for our next gathering. We meet for an hour on the second and fourth Fridays every month. All are welcome and bring a friend! Reach Jan Hamilton on Realm or by email (hamiltonjan30@yahoo.com).

Expanding Our Crucifer Pool

Ever grateful for our high school crucifers, we would like to expand our crucifer ranks to include adults who would be interested in serving in this capacity. Being a crucifer is a wonderful way to participate in worship leadership, and the bonus (at least for some of us) is that it does not require public speaking! For those who are interested, there will be a short training session offered immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service in the near future. Please consider this opportunity to be of service to the congregation. You may reach Greg Duncan at 404-401-8363 or interpret@earthlink.net to express your interest in participating.

Calling All Archives
Supporters!

We need many willing hands to help file important documents from our church history into the appropriate year boxes. We will work on November 12 from 10 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.—come as little or as long as you like and feel free to bring your lunch, if you choose. The work session will start in the Adult Library at 10 a.m.; if you come later, please go straight to the Lower Narthex which will be the main staging area. Please let Greg Duncan know of your availability (interpret@earthlink.net) OR if you are able to lend a helping hand at the last minute, just come!

Keep in Prayer

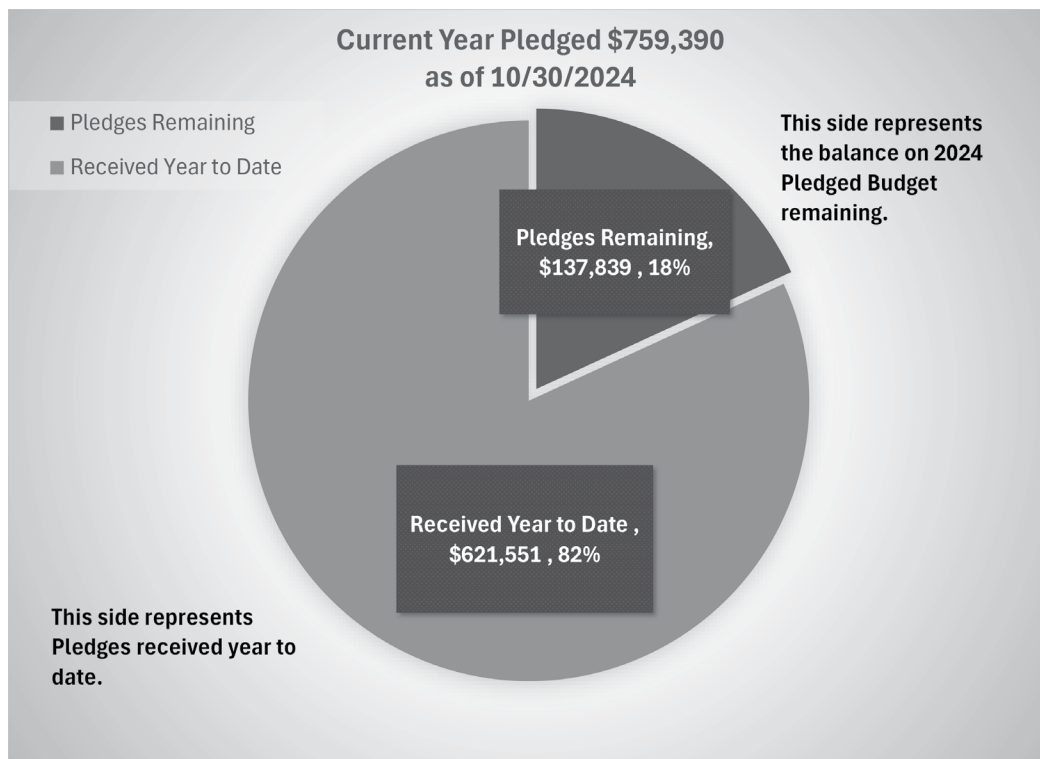
Members Sarah Giffen; Steven and Katie Deliman's daughter, Caroline; Malcolm Gillies; Mike Weddle; Elaine Warren; Twink Starr; Victor John; Janice Taft; Ashton Smith; Margot Connor and John Anderson; Francille Firebaugh; Pauline Fritz; Nancy Burba; Mary Kay Beall Carter and John Carter; Carol Lowy; Clinton Brown; Dan Axt; Anne Morganstern; Martha Huey; and Janice White.

Family and friends Sharon Reed; Leslie Fulford's sister-in-law, Donna Fulford; Gail and Jim Lowe's daughter and family, Andrea, Ben and Sam Sebastian, for Ben's mother, Nancy Lemke; Joshua Stafford's mother, Lori Stafford; Jennifer Provenzano's friend, Anita Wright; 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; 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 David Wyatt on the death of his friend, Karen Eubanks; and 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.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we pray for the people and churches in Canada, and the United States of America. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Asian Rural Institute in Japan.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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, Bob O'Neil
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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