



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. Amanda Conley, *worship leader*
- Scott Graham, *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

Scott Graham

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: Come worship the Lord who is in our midst today.

People: There is no Holy One like our God.

Leader: Like Hannah of old, we raise our voices to praise the Lord of strength.

People: There is no Rock like our God.

Leader: We prepare to listen to learn with open hearts and open minds.

People: There is no Source of knowledge like our God.

Leader: We trust that righteousness will come on the heels of God's judgment.

People: There is no Justice like our God.

Leader: May the Son of our God lead us into faith.

People: There is no Guide like our God.

Leader: Come worship the Lord who is in our midst today.

*OPENING HYMN

“Guide me, O thou great Jehovah”

Cwm Rhondda, John Hughes 1907

William Williams, 1762

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious
bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me
with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es
feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

People. And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WITNESSING STEWARD: GROWING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Sebastian Kulwicki

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Amanda Conley

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 Leslie Fulford.*

THE HEBREW LESSON

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17

Mr. Graham

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

Naomi her mother-in-law said to Ruth, "My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do." She said to her, "All that you tell me I will do."

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him." Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Mr. Graham

Psalms 127

The St. Helena Psalter

Unless God builds the house,
their labor is in vain who build it.

**Unless God watches over the city,
in vain the sentries keep their vigil.**

It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late;
vain, too, to eat the bread of toil,
for God gives to the beloved sleep.

**Children are a heritage from God,
and the fruit of the womb is a gift.**

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth.

**Happy are they who have their quivers full of them;
they shall not be put to shame
when they contend with their enemies in the gate.**

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

As Jesus taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“A Widow’s Provision”

Rev. Conley

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

Leslie Fulford

Cash and designated gifts go to **First Serves**. First Serves is one of First Church’s monthly outreach mission opportunities on the fourth Sunday of the month. Started in 2021, First Serves is a combined effort between Faith Formation and Justice and Mercy commissions to engage our community of faith in hands-on mission projects. From disaster relief kits for Church World Service to blankets to support children in foster care, First Church makes a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for your generosity.

AN INVITATION TO THE GATHERING OF PLEDGES AND GIFTS

Mrs. Fulford

*PRESENTATION HYMN
"For the fruit of all creation"

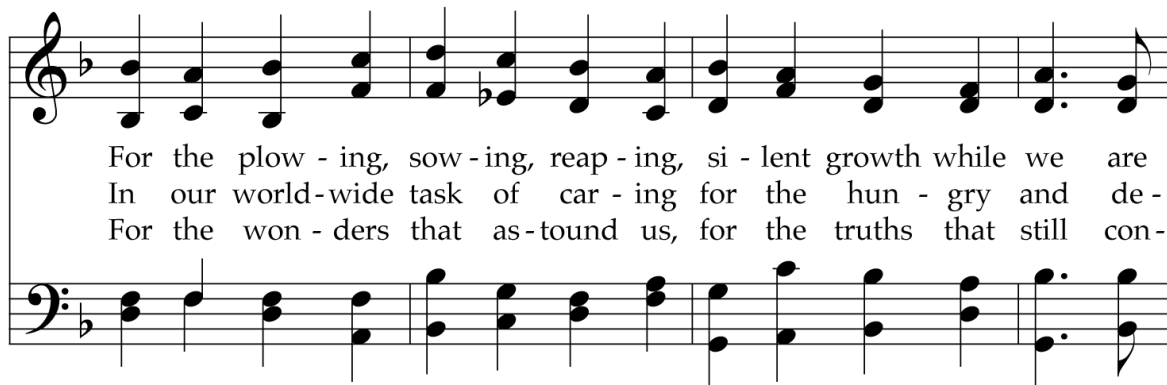
Ar Hyd y Nos, Welsh folk melody, c. 1784
Fred Pratt Green, 1970, alt.



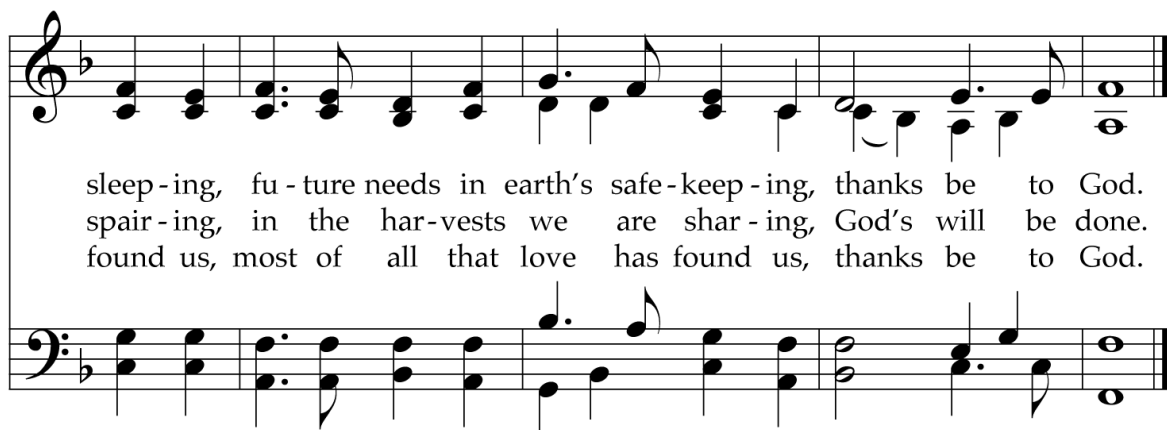
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

“Come and fill our hearts”

Revs. Conley and Samuelson

Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982

Jacques Berthier, 1982

Chord symbols: D, Bm, D, A, Em, C, Em, A, D

Lyrics: Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!

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

Bernadette Farrell, 1993

“Christ, be our light!”

Chord symbols: G, C, G, Em, Bm, Em, Am7, D, G, Dsus, D, Em, Em7, C, Am7, D, G, Am7, G

Lyrics: 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.

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.

† PERMISSIONS AND COPYRIGHTS

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

“For the fruits of all creation.” Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1970. © 1970 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

“Come and fill our hearts.” Words and music: Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community; ©1991 Less Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) All rights reserved.

“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 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)

Monday, November 11

- 6 p.m. Beginners Bell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, November 12

- 10 a.m. Archive Workday (Adult Library)
- 5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, November 13

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

Thursday, November 14

- 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)

Saturday, November 16

- 10 a.m. New Members Class (Classroom D)

Sunday, November 17

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion (Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)
Sunday School (Various Classrooms)
New Members Tour (Church)
Sunday Morning Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 12:15 p.m. Healthy Congregations Workshop (Parish Hall)
- 4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)

November 10, 2024
Healthy
Congregations
Workshop
Sunday,
November 17

Register by scanning the QR Code below!



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 13.

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 for 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 (interprep@earthlink.net) OR if you are able to lend a helping hand at the last minute, just come!

Growing Our Future Together 2025 Annual Stewardship Campaign Stewardship Sunday

Today we celebrate Stewardship Sunday. We will gather to express gratitude for God's gifts and commit to being generous and sharing those gifts to grow our future together.

At both the 9 and 11 a.m. worship services, we invite you to bring your completed pledge form forward and place it in the offering plate. If you have already submitted your pledge, you may participate by indicating that on a blank pledge form and bringing it forward. Your generous giving is vital to our future and will support the ministry and mission of First Congregational Church. Thank you!

- The Annual Stewardship Campaign runs through November 24.
- To pledge online, click the QR Code below.
- If you prefer, you can also fill out a hard copy and place the form in the offering plate during Sunday services or mail your pledge form to First Congregational Church, 444 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215



Expanding Our Crucifer Pool

Please consider this opportunity to be of service to the congregation. You may reach Greg Duncan at 404-401-8363 or interprep@earthlink.net to express your interest in participating.

Keep in Prayer

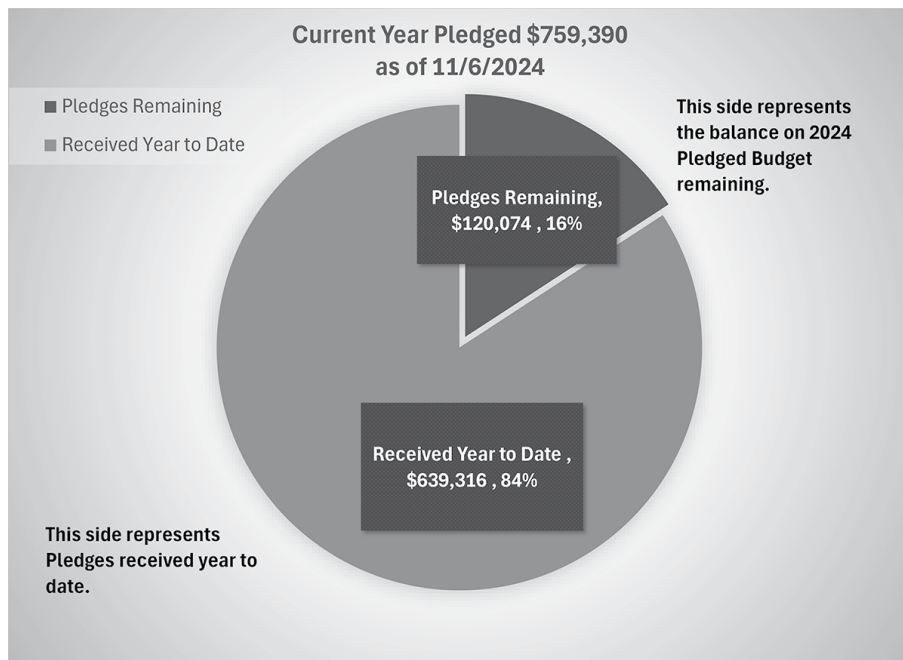
Members Sarah Giffen; Steven and Katie Deliman's daughter, Caroline; Malcolm Gillies; Mike Weddle; Elaine Warren; Victor John; Janice Taft; Ashton Smith; Margot Connor and John Anderson; Francille Firebaugh; Pauline Fritz; Nancy Burba; Mary Kay Beall Carter and John Carter; Carol Lowy; Clinton Brown; 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 parents, Charles and Mary Jane.

Those who mourn the family and friends of Twink Starr.

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 Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Igreja Protestante in Timor Leste (The Protestant Church in East Timor).



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
Maintenance: Mike Sharrock
Custodians: Alexis Wayne, Bill McCabe, Bob O'Brien
Handbell Director: Jennifer Fry
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



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
444 E Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 | 614-228-1741
www.firstchurcharts.org | home@first-church.org

