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. Emlyn Ott, preacher
The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, worship leader
Nancy Braverman, liturgist
Melissa Kulwicki, worship leader
Camille Bendick, crucifer
Gregory Duncan, verger
Joshua Stafford, organist and director
The First Church Choir
Pat Patterson, livestream ministry

Enter to Worship – Depart to Serve. Please use this time for quiet preparation for worship. 'We have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of your temple.' (Psalm 48:9)

Prelude

Air Gerre Hancock, 1963

Enter to Worship Nancy Braverman

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: How shall we enter the house of the Lord?

People: With songs of great praise and rejoicing!

Leader: How shall we prepare ourselves to receive the blessings?

People: With hearts, minds, and spirits that are open. Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord and bow down.

People: Let us offer our praise to God who has redeemed us. Amen.

"My soul gives glory to my God"



*Invocation The Rev. Dr. Emlyn Ott

Leader: God be with you. **People.** And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,

forever and ever. Amen.

Witnessing Steward: Growing Our Future Together

Ramona Moenter

*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 at the end of the pew, sign it 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 Dr. Wendy Kirkland.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Nancy Braverman

Leader: A reading from the first book of Samuel, the first chapter.

On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem "Sing, my soul, his wondrous love"

Ned Rorem, 1962 Anonymous, Baltimore, 1800

Sing, my soul, his wondrous love, who, from yon bright throne above, ever watchful o'er our race, still to man extends his grace.

Heav'n and earth by him were made, all is by his scepter sway'd, what are we that he should show so much love to us below?

God, the merciful and good, bought us with the Savior's blood, and, to make our safety sure, guides us by his Spirit pure.

Sing, my soul, adore his Name; let his glory be thy theme: praise him till he calls thee home, trust his love for all to come.

THE EPISTLE Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25 Nancy Bravermen

Leader: A reading from the book of Hebrews, the tenth chapter.

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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

People: Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL Mark 13:1-8 Rev. Ott

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

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "A Covenant of Birth Pangs"

Rev. Ott

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

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston

Cash and designated checks go to support the **United Church of Christ Christmas Fund**. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory Anthem

Gerre Hancock, 1988

"Judge eternal"

Henry Scott Holland, 1902

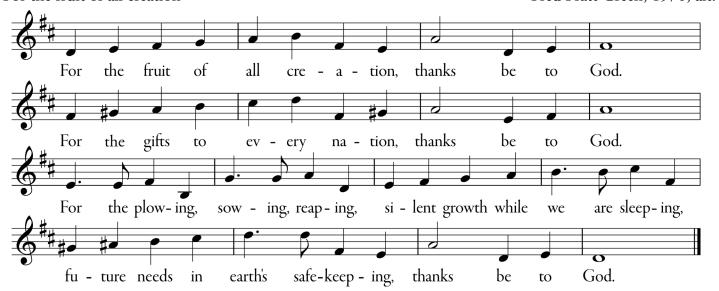
Judge eternal, throned in splendor, Lord of lords and King of kings, with thy living fire of judgment purge this land of bitter things; solace all its wide dominion with the healing of thy wings. Still the weary folk are pining for the hour that brings release, and the city's crowded clangor cries aloud for sin to cease; and the homesteads and the woodlands plead in silence for their peace.

Crown, O God, thine own endeavor; cleave our darkness with thy sword; feed all those who do not know thee with the richness of thy word; cleanse the body of this nation through the glory of the Lord.

*Presentation Hymn

"For the fruit of all creation"

East Acklam, Francis Jackson, 1957 Fred Pratt Green, 1970, alt.



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.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Closing Hymn

Old 113th, Attr. Mattäus Greiter, 1525

"I'll praise my maker while I've breath"

Isaac Watts, 1719, adapt. John Wesley, 1736, alt.



Benediction Rev. Ott

Postlude Sortie in B-flat Major

Guy Ropartz, 1896

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 loved ones by Gerry Worth.

† Greeting at the Exits

Rev. Ott — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Rev. Samuelson — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

Ms. Kulwicki — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

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



November 17, 2024

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Choral Evensong Today at 4 p.m.

Bridge Team Contact Information

During this time of transition we are thankful for our Bridge Team. If you need to contactany of the Team Members, you will find a list of contact information below.

Leader: Rev. Joanna Samuelson jsamuelson@first-church.org (214) 995-3525

Rev. Ron Botts cabo@copper.net (614) 235-8065

Rev. Amanda Conley aconley025@gmail.com (614) 599-5661

Rev. Dr. Bill Nirote wnirote@gmail.com (419) 615-3027

World Day of Remembrance 2024 Today at 1 p.m. Washington Gladden Social Justice Park

This Week at First Church

Sunday, November 17

9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion

(Parish Hall & Virtual)

10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)

First Serves (Classroom D) 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)

Monday, November 18

6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)

Tuesday, November 19

7 p.m. Church Council Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, November 20

10 a.m. The Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery (Kitchen)7 p.m. Transition Team Listening Mtg (Classroom C)

Thursday, November 21

4:30 p.m. Choristers (Music Activities Rm) 6 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Room)

7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

Friday, November 22

10 a.m. Full Circle Connections (Parlor)

12 Noon Faith Mission Dinner Prep & Serve (Kitchen)

Sunday, November 24

9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion

(Parish Hall & Virtual)

10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)

Sunday School (Various Classrooms)

Annette McCormick's Stewardship 101 (Fanning Rm)

Sunday Morning Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary & Virtual) 12:15 p.m. Lay Leaders Reception (Parish Hall)

4 p.m. Organized Rhythm & Percussion with Organ (Sanctuary)

Sunday Stories Readers Needed!

Story time reading is an easy and fun way to get to know the children of First Church and helps them get to know a wider range of church members. Could you help for 30 minutes this season? Here's how it works. You go out with Miss Melissa after Children's Time in the service, read a story that is pre-chosen for you, have a short discussion or activity and return to church at the end of the sermon. Easy peasy! If you have a suggestion for a children's book you would like to read, please email Melissa at mkulwicki@first-church.org and let her know.

Readers are needed for the following services. Please contact Leslie Fulford at <u>lfulford@first-church.org</u> to sign up or learn more. Thank you!

November 17, 9 a.m.

Nov 24, both services

Dec 1, 9 a.m.

Dec 8, 9 a.m.

Dec 15, both services

Dec 22, both services

Dec 29, both services

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

Come join us to help deck the halls of First Church for the Advent and Christmas seasons! We will gather at 6 p.m. for a quick dinner and then divide into teams for the various decorating tasks. There are jobs for everyone – of every age and ability!

We would like to say a big thank you to the team of volunteers who have been working since last year to help organize all of the decorations and streamline the "Hanging" and "Unhanging" process.

Many hands make light work! Please register by clicking the QR code below so we can plan for dinner accordingly.



Transition News

This week we announced the hiring of Rev. Rebecca David as our Interim Senior Minister. Her time with us will be-gin on December 15, 2024. Rev. Becky comes to us from the Western Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, with ten years of intentional transition ministry and eighteen years as Director of Spiritual Care. She holds Master of Divinity and Master of Pastoral Studies degrees from Loyola University in Chicago. She also has certifications as Appreciative Inquiry Facilitator, Intentional Interim Minister, Professional Co-Active Coach, and Spiritual Director.

Rev. Becky will serve First Congregational Church as our temporary pastor, while we prepare for calling a new settled pastor. She will be with us for about two years, helping us to grieve and heal, as well as guiding our efforts to discern how God is calling us into ministry for the future. The Transition Team continues to hold Listening Circles to address both tasks as well. Please join us for one or more sessions. Your voice makes a difference.

Upcoming Transition Team Listening Circles 11/20, 7 p.m., Classroom C 12/8, 10 a.m., Classroom D

Keep in Prayer

Members Sarah Giffen; Steven and Katie Deliman's daughter, Caroline; Malcolm Gillies; Mike Weddle; Elaine Warren; Victor John; 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 Amanda Butler's aunt, Hattie Coatney, 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; 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; and family and friends of Sharon Reed on her passing.

We keep Brian Kemp in prayer as he travels to Uganda on a mission trip for the Give a Goat organization.

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 East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, and Philippines. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Council of Swaziland Churches in Eswatini.

Growing our Future Together The 2025 Annual Stewardship Campaign Update

Stewardship Giving as of November 13, 2024
Family Giving Units: 92 Family Giving Units (36.8% of 250 Goal)
Stewardship Giving in Dollars \$415,856.00 (47.37% of \$877,854.00 Goal)

- The Annual Stewardship Campaign runs through November 24.
- To pledge online, scan 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.



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

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 Commissioned Minister for Spiritual Formation and Direction: Communications and Technology Commission-elect: Stefan Duga

Faith Formation Commission: MarinerTaft 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



