



WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!

If you are visiting today and looking for a church home, welcome! For more than 172 years, our Covenant has been: We covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ and one another, and bind ourselves in the presence of God to live together in all God's ways as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit and holy scripture. The church acknowledges that all members have the right of individual interpretation of the principles of the Christian faith and respects them in their honest convictions. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord, the church recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Dr. Emlyn Ott, *preacher*
The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *worship leader*
Kat Cochrane-Yamaguchi and Henry, *liturgists*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
Ann Eliot, *pianist*
Peter Murray, *livestream ministry*

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

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

PRELUDE

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Kat Cochrane-Yamaguchi and Henry

Leader: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Please stand as you are able. (indicates congregation standing)*

Leader: 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.

*OPENING HYMN

Old 113th, Attr. Mattäus Greiter, 1525

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

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



1 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice
 2 How hap - py they whose hopes re - ly on Is - rael's God,
 3 The Lord pours eye - sight on the blind; the Lord sup - ports
 4 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice

is lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.
 who made the sky and earth and seas with all their train;
 the faint - ing mind and sends the la - boring con - science peace.
 is lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.

My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought
 whose truth for - ev - er stands se - cure, who saves the op - pressed
 God helps the strang - er in dis - tress, the wid - owed and
 My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought

and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.
 and feeds the poor, and none shall find God's prom - ise vain.
 the par - ent - less, and grants the pris - oner sweet re - lease.
 and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.

*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

Amanda Butler

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 SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Kat Cochrane-Yamaguchi and Henry

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.

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
 I have said to the Holy One, "You are my God,
 my good above all other."

**All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,
 upon those who are noble among the people.**

But those who run after other gods
 shall have their troubles multiplied.

**Their libations of blood I will not offer,
 nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.**

O God, you are my portion and my cup;
 it is you who uphold my lot.

**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
 indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

I will bless you, O God, who gives me counsel;
 my heart teaches me, night after night.

**I have set you always before me;
 because you are at my right hand I shall not fall.**

My heart, therefore, is glad and my spirit rejoices;
 my body also shall rest in hope.

**For you will not abandon me to the grave,
 nor let your holy one see the Pit.**

You will show me the path of life;
 in your presence there is fullness of joy,
 and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

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.

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

The Rev. Dr. William R. Nirote

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.

*PRESENTATION HYMN

“The days are surely coming”

Llangloffan, Welsh folk melody

David Gambrell, 2009

1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,
3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last

when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.

My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land
Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,
Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land

and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

COMMUNION

Revs. Ott and Samuelson

COMMUNION HYMN

Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982

“Come and fill our hearts”

Jacques Berthier, 1982

Chords: 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. Ott

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!”

Chords: 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.

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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

November 17, 2024

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)

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 contact any 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](mailto: 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

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 lfulford@first-church.org 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 begin 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 Cicenias; 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
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
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