



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. Dr. William R. Nirote, *worship leader*
Jill Hultin, *liturgist*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
The First Church Choristers
Joshua Stafford, *director*
David Hogrefe, *pianist*
Cynthia Adcock, *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

Jill Hultin

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: With thankful hearts we pause this day to be reminded of our grandest hope:

People: **that the calamities, the demands, even the blessings of this world
do not have the last word.**

Leader: You are the one who was and is, and who is yet to come—
a ruler of a different kind.

People: **Open our hearts to the comfort, the challenge,
and the mystery of this good news.**

*OPENING HYMN
"Crown him with many crowns"

Diademata, George Job Elvey, 1868
Matthew Bridges, 1851

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
but down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Dr. William R. Nirote

Leader: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WITNESSING STEWARD: GROWING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

The Rev. Sarah Reed

*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 Leslie Fulford.*

THE HEBREW LESSON

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Jill Hultin

Leader: A reading from the second book of Samuel, the twenty-third chapter.

These are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,
the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:

The spirit of the Lord speaks through me,
his word is upon my tongue.

The God of Israel has spoken,
the Rock of Israel has said to me:

One who rules over people justly,
ruling in the fear of God,
is like the light of morning,
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Is not my house like this with God?

For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.

Will he not cause to prosper
all my help and my desire?

But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;
to touch them one uses an iron bar
or the shaft of a spear.

And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

O God, remember David
and all the hardships he endured;

**How he swore an oath to God
and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:**

“I will not come under the roof of my house,
nor climb up into my bed;

**I will not allow my eyes to sleep,
nor let my eyelids slumber;**

Until I find a place for you, O God,
a dwelling for you, O Mighty One of Jacob.”

**“The ark! We heard it was in Ephratah;
we found it in the fields of Jearim.**

Let us go to God’s dwelling place;
let us fall upon our knees before God’s footstool.”

**Arise, O God, into your resting-place,
you and the ark of your strength.**

Let your priests be clothed with righteousness;
let your faithful people sing with joy.

**For your servant David’s sake,
do not turn away the face of your Anointed.**

You have sworn an oath to David;
in truth, you will not break it:

**“A son, the fruit of your body,
will I set upon your throne.**

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

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

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

Debi Cunningham

Cash and designated checks go to support the **Good Samaritan Program**. The Good Samaritan Program helps those who contact us each month for financial support. Every effort is made by those administering the fund to meet the unique needs of each person seeking assistance. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Allen Pote, 1982

“I will greatly rejoice”

adapted from Isaiah 6:1

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my song shall be full of his praise,
for he loves me, he cares for me, he believes in me and I believe in him.
I will sing unto God and honor him this day.
God is my help in time of trouble. He is with me in time of fear.
Darkness surrounds me, evil thoughts confound me,
yet I know my God is near.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my song shall be full of his praise,
for he loves me, he cares for me, he believes in me and I believe in him.
I will sing unto God and honor him this day.
Rejoice. Alleluia. Amen.

COMMUNION

Revs. Nirote and Samuelson

COMMUNION HYMN

Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982

“Come and fill our hearts”

Jacques Berthier, 1982

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. Nirote

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
"Christ, be our light!"

Bernadette Farrell, 1993

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

November 24, 2024

This Week at First Church

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 & Coffee Hour (Parish Hall)
- 4 p.m. Organized Rhythm & Percussion with Organ (Sanctuary)

Monday, November 25

- 10 a.m. Stewardship & Growth Commission Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 6 p.m. Hanging of the Greens (Classroom C & Beyond)
First Church Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 6:30 p.m. Transition Team Mtg (Fanning Rm & Zoom)

Tuesday, November 26

- 5:15 p.m. Laundry Love (Wash Land)
- 7 p.m. Deacons Mtg (Zoom)
- 7:15 p.m. First Church Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29

Church and Church Office are closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Sunday, December 1

- 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)

**First Church Arts
Concerts at
First Church
Organized Rhythm
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: Joanna Samuelson
jsamuelson@first-church.org
(214) 995-3525

Ron Botts
[cabo@copper.net](mailto: cabo@copper.net)
(614) 235-8065

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

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

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!

Dec 1, 9 a.m.

Dec 8, 9 a.m.

Dec 15, both services

Dec 22, both services

Dec 29, both services

Save the Date Christmas Potluck and Carol Sing Sunday, December 8, at 5 p.m.

We will gather on December 8, at 5 p.m. in Parish Hall for a Christmas Potluck and Carol Sing. Everyone is invited to share in the food and fun. Children and Youth will help serve as judges for the "Ugly Sweater Contest," so everyone is encouraged to wear their most "festive" holiday attire.

More details and a link to sign-up are coming soon!

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.



Youth Pageant Update

Parents and youth grades 6 through 12 keep an eye out on your email for information about how you can participate in the Christmas Eve Pageant of the Nativity. The first rehearsal will be Sunday, December 8, following the Christmas Potluck and Carol Sing.

Music at Midday History of the Carol Wednesday, December 4 12:15 p.m. Elizabeth McConaughy, *soprano* Sean Ferguson, *lute*

Take a break from the busy holiday season to listen to some of your favorite carols from around the world and learn the stories behind them!

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 Amy Wagner's friend Bill Kelley; David Wyatt's friend, Rusty Bell; Michael Russell's friend Teresa Elliott; Amanda Butler's aunt, Hattie Coatney; Leslie Fulford's sister-in-law, Donna Fulford; 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 Cienas; and Victor John's parents, Charles and Mary Jane.

Those who mourn Marti Rideout and Lissa Wade and family, on the death of husband and father Rob Rideout; Nancy Livingston on the death of her mother, Mildred Livingston; Gail and Jim Lowe's daughter and family, Andrea, Ben and Sam Sebastian, on the death of Ben's mother, Nancy Lemke; 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 Brunei, Malaysia, and Singapore. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea.

Growing our Future Together The 2025 Annual Stewardship Campaign Update

Family Units:
110 Family Units
44% of 250 Goal

Pledged Dollars
\$526,946
60.03% 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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