



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. Joanna Samuelson, *preacher and co-celebrant*
- The Rev. Amanda Conley, *worship leader*
- The Rev. Cynthia Adcock, *co-celebrant*
- Martha Worth, *liturgist*
- Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
- Lila Bendick, *crucifer*
- Dayna McCrary, *verger*
- Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*
- The First Church Choir
- 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

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

J.S. Bach, ca. 1731

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Martha Worth

Leader: The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

People: and all flesh shall see it together.

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

Leader: The days are shorter and darkness comes early to our lives.

People: Lord, hear our prayers through the darkness.

Leader: Come, seek the Lord. Place your hope in God's mercy and love.

People: Lord, we seek your presence among us.

Leader: Look closely! God is making us ready.

People: Brighten our spirits this day, and help us to receive your Good News. Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Truro, Musica Sacra, c. 1778

“Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates”

George Weissel, 1642, trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Amanda Conley

Leader: God be with you.

People. **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*RESPONSE

Angel Voices, Francis Pott, 1861

“Advent candles tell their story”

Mark Earey, 2002

1. Ad - vent can - dles tell their sto - ry as we watch and pray,
 long - ing for the Day of Glo - ry, "Come, Lord, soon," we say.
 Pain and sor - row, tears and sad - ness changed for glad - ness on that day.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pat, Jack, and Jayden Patterson

Leader: O God, you have created a universe of light: forgive us when we return to darkness.
 Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world: cleanse and heal our blinded sight.
 Christ, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Holy Spirit, you give us light in our hearts: renew us in faith and love.
 Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

A moment of silence is observed as the first candle is lighted.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

In Jesus Christ, God has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed. May our eyes be open to God’s truth, our hands be strengthened to do God’s will, and may we find the joy of God’s kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, our sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. 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 and Leslie Fulford

During the sermon time, the young children are welcome to participate in “Sunday Stories” with Melissa Kulwicki and Dr. Sandra Mathias.

Leader: A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah, the thirty-third chapter.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*THE GOSPEL HYMN

Stuttgart, Witt's Psalmodia Sacra, 1715

"Come, thou long-expected Jesus"

Charles Wesley, 1744

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
 2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
 3. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a King,
 4. By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
 Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: A reading from the gospel according to Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ADVENT MEDITATION

"A Fresh Perspective"

Rev. Samuelson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Conley

THE OFFERTORY

To give online, please scan this QR code, or see additional instructions in the Depart to Serve leaflet:



MISSION INVITATION

James Velo

Cash and designated gifts go to support **The Largest Table**. Every Wednesday, for more than twelve years, volunteers provide food for individuals and families in the community who are in need. This program transitioned to grab-and-go lunches during COVID in the Spring of 2020. The First Church meal team gathers on the third Wednesday of each month to make and pack up to 100 lunches. Your gifts will help purchase the supplies for our meal team to support this feeding ministry. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz, 1954

Revelation 22, adapt. Ruth Manz

Peace be to you, and grace from him
who freed us from our sins,
who loved us all and shed his blood
that we might saved be.

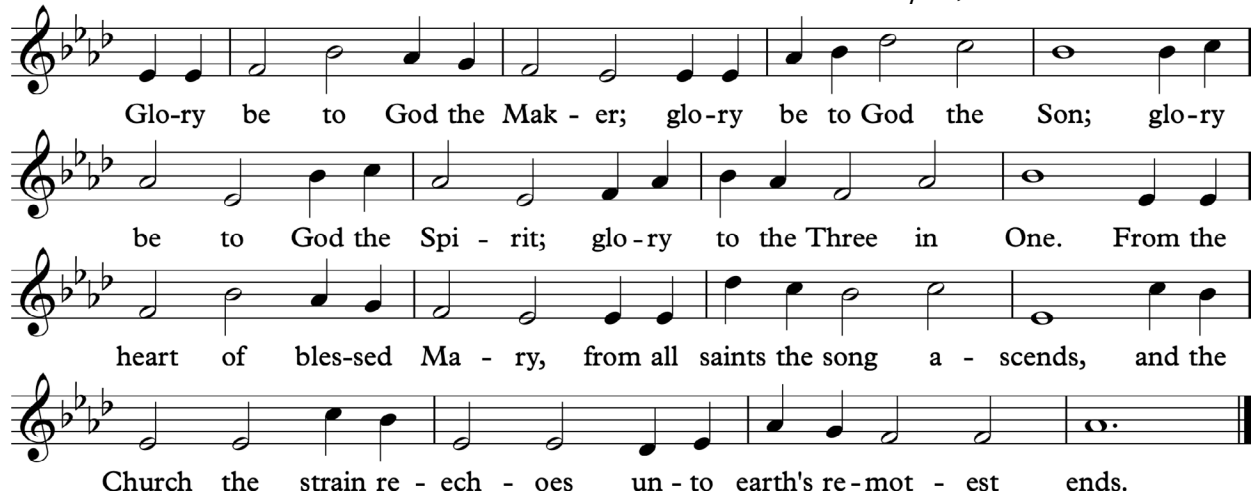
Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
the Lord, Almighty God,
who was and is, and is to come;
sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein;
rejoice on earth, ye saints below;
for Christ is coming, is coming soon;
for Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
and night shall be no more;
they need no light, nor lamp nor sun,
for Christ shall be their all.

*DOXOLOGY

Raquel, Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1985



Glo-ry be to God the Mak - er; glo-ry be to God the Son; glo-ry
 be to God the Spi - rit; glo-ry to the Three in One. From the
 heart of bles-sed Ma - ry, from all saints the song a - scends, and the
 Church the strain re - ech - oes un - to earth's re - mot - est ends.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We practice open communion: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Lord's table.

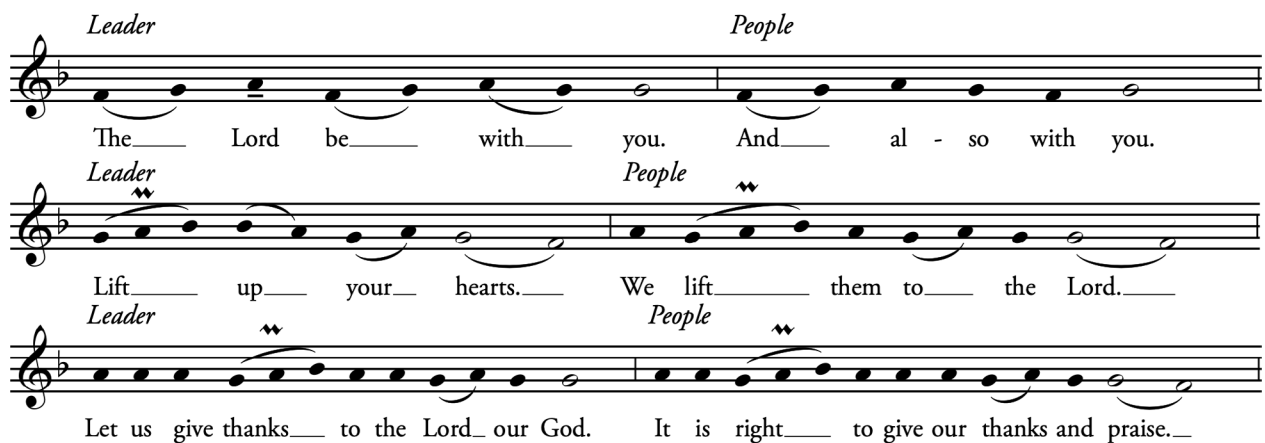
*INVITATION

Revs. Samuelson and Adcock

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

*SURSUM CORDA

Plainsong



Leader The Lord be with you. *People* And also with you.
Leader Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.
Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless. We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory.

We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day,

and then to live in glory. And now we give you thanks for the hope to which you call us in your Son, that following in the faith of all your saints, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, and with them receive the unfading crown of glory. We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons, daughters, and all children of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

*SANCTUS

New Plainsong, David Hurd, 1981

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The congregation may be seated.

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace with justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

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.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Please come forward as directed by the deacons to receive the common elements for communion.

Receive the bread and grape juice at one of the stations. You are invited to consume the elements as you receive them.

Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the tray. Place empty cups in the baskets on the tables by the transepts.

If you are worshipping online, you are invited to gather elements of communion in your home.

COMMUNION ANTHEM Never Weather-Beaten Sail

Charles Wood, publ. 1933
Thomas Campion, ca. 1612

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,
Never tired Pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more,
Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast.
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.

Ever-blooming are the joys of Heav'ns high Paradise,
Cold age deafs not there our ears, nor vapor dims our eyes;
Glory there the Sun outshines, whose beams the blessed only see:
O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope.

People: And we give in hope.

Leader: Hope for your coming reign;

People: Hope because of your presence with us even now.

Leader: Receive our offerings,

People: And use them for your work of healing and hope in our world. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

P: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

Helmsley, Thomas Olivers, 1763

“Lo! He comes with clouds descending”

Charles Wesley, 1758



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

*Benediction

Rev. Samuelson

POSTLUDE

Overture to *Messiah*, HWV 56

G.F. Handel, 1741

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 William and Mae Johannes and Bill Johannes by Barbara Clapham.

† JOIN US IN PARISH HALL FOR COFFEE HOUR sponsored by the Joyous Neighborhood Care Circle.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Samuelson — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

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

Rev. Adcock — West Door (Cleveland Avenue entrance by the Chapel)

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“Advent candles tell their story.” Words: Mark Earey, 2002.

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"Glory be to God the Maker" text copyright Estate of Roland Palmer. Raquel, copyright 1987, Estate of Skinner Chávez-Melo.

Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

December 1, 2024

This Week at First Church

Sunday, December 1

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)
Sunday School (Various Classrooms)
Parent Conversations (Adult Library)
Stewardship Mtg (Fanning Room)
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, December 2

- 12 Noon Card Care Ministry (Fanning Rm)
- 6 p.m. First Church Campanelle Rehearsal
(Bell Rm)
Designated Minister's Advisory Mtg
(Parlor)
- 7 p.m. House & Grounds Mtg
(Classroom C & Zoom)
Faith Formation Mtg (Fanning Rm)

Tuesday, December 3

- 4 p.m. Church Vitality Mtg (Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Justice & Mercy Mtg (Zoom)
Personnel Mtg (Zoom)
Communications & Technology Mtg
(Zoom)

Wednesday, December 4

- 12:15 p.m. Music at Midday (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Dinner

Thursday, December 5

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

Friday, December 6

- 9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution Day
(Good Sam Office)

Saturday, December 7

- 9 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 a.m. Sacred Earth Mtg (Adult Library)
Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

Sunday, December 8

- 9 a.m. Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
(Parish Hall & Virtual)
- 10 a.m. Bible Study (Classroom C)
Sunday School (Various Classrooms)
Parent Conversations (Adult Library)
Transition Team Listening Circle
(Classroom D)
Sunday Morning Choir Rehearsal
(Choir Rm)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service
(Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 5 p.m. Christmas Potluck & Carol Sing
(Parish Hall)
- 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant Rehearsal
(Parish Hall)

Music at Midday History of the Carol Wednesday, December 4

12:15 p.m.

**Elizabeth McConnaughey, *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!

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 all 9 a.m. services. Please contact Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org to sign up or learn more. Thank you!

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

We will gather on December 8, at 5 p.m. in Parish Hall for a Christmas Ugly Sweater 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!

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
(614) 235-8065

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

Bill Nirote
wnirote@gmail.com

Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated and sorted our Thanksgiving food items to the Gladden Community House and Broad Street Presbyterian Pantries! And a special thank you to Dawn George for her loading and delivering the boxes to Gladden House in the rain!

From our friends at The Gladden Community House: "Thank you, First Congregational Church, for the generous Thanksgiving donations!"

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 Victor John's father, Charles and mother, Mary Jane; Melissa Kulwicki's niece, Kaitlyn Fuller, and great nephew Oliver; 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; and Fran and Bruce Panek's friends, Richard and Beverly Cicenias.

Those who mourn David Wyatt and the Bell family (wife Kristen) on the passing of David's friend Rusty Bell; 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; and Gail and Jim Lowe's daughter and family, Andrea, Ben and Sam Sebastian, on the death of Ben's mother, Nancy Lemke.

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 Myanmar and Thailand. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Health and Education Foundation of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission in Turkey.

Growing our Future Together The 2025 Annual Stewardship Campaign Update

Family Units:
122 Family Units
48.8% of 250 Goal

Pledged Dollars
\$590,796
67.3% of \$877,854.00 Goal

- 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



Youth Pageant Update Calling All Middle and High School Students!

All Youth, Grades 6-12, are encouraged to participate in the beloved Pageant of the Nativity tradition. The pageant takes place at the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service and tells the story of Jesus' birth through beautiful music, dramatic lighting, and exquisite costumes. No experience is needed and there are no speaking parts.

Our first rehearsal will be Sunday, December 8th, at 7 p.m., following the Christmas Ugly Sweater Potluck and Carol Sing. Additional rehearsals will occur following Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 15, at 6 p.m. and Sunday, December 22, at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at the last two rehearsals.

If your youth would like to participate, please email Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org with the following information:

- Name
- Age / grade
- Previous roles played in the pageant
- Desired role this year

We look forward to kicking off the Advent season with our youth!

The Christmas Giving Tree First Serves December

Once again this year we will help the children at Childcare Wonderland for Christmas. Starting on Sunday, December 1, stop by the Giving Tree in the Education Wing Breezeway, to choose a children's wish ornament. The ornament will have a child's first name, age, gender, and wished-for gift (typically totally around \$50). Shop for the items and return the items, unwrapped in a bag with the wish ornament attached, to the Giving Tree by 10 a.m., December 15, when we will gather to wrap the gifts for our December First Serves activity.

In addition to wish ornaments, there will be snowmen with requests for Walmart gift cards in the amount of \$25. First Serves will match each \$25 gift card. We hope to give each Childcare Wonderland family and employee \$100 worth of Walmart gift cards. Gift cards can be returned to the offering plate or to the church office.

If you prefer to make a financial contribution, there are dedicated First Serves envelopes that can be dropped in the offering plate. Donations of gift bags, wrapping paper, and tape are also welcome!

The gifts will be delivered by our staff to Childcare Wonderland Center.

Thank you for your help and generosity!

Upcoming Missions

December 1 Largest Table

- December 8 Bethlehem on Broad Street
- December 15 Concert Fund/ YWCA Family Center
- December 22 Huckleberry House
- December 24 Good Samaritan
- December 29 Sandy Hook Promise

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: Jim Lowe
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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