



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. Amanda Conley, *preacher*
The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *worship leader*
Mary Anne Jacobson, *liturgist*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*
Henry Gillies, *crucifer*
Gregory Duncan and Dayna McCrary, *vergers*
The First Church Choir
Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*
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

Conditor alme siderum

Jehan Titelouze, 1623

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Mary Anne Jacobson

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: God has done great things for us!

People: God's love is heralded in the promise of Christ.

Leader: Holy is God's name!

People: God's promises are fulfilled in the coming of Christ.

Leader: God's mercy extends from generation to generation!

People: God's salvation is offered in the gift of Christ.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN
"O come, O come Emmanuel"

Veni Emmanuel, Plainsong
Latin prose, pre-9th c., trans. composite



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*INVOCATION

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

People. And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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,
 4. Ma - ry's gift be - yond all tel - ling was to give Christ room.
 long - ing for the Day of Glo - ry, "Come, Lord, soon," we say.
 She gave God a hu - man dwel - ling in a mo - ther's womb.
 Pain and sor - row, tears and sad - ness changed for glad - ness on that day.
 Who could guess the fin - al sto - ry? Cross and glo - ry, emp - ty tomb.

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Nate, Denise, and Donna Vogt

Leader: O God, you exalted the humble and meek:
 give us humble and contrite hearts.
 Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb:
 be planted also in our hearts and lives.
 Christ, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Holy Lord, you overshadowed Mary,
 that she might become the God-bearer:
 fill us with your heavenly gifts.
 Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

A moment of silence is observed as the candles are lighted.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Rev. Amanda Conley

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.**

INTRODUCTION OF REV. BECKY DAVID, INTERIM SENIOR MINISTER
 AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Sarah Reed and
 Dr. Greg Halbe

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 Dayna McCrary.*

Leader: A reading from the book of the prophet Micah, the fifth chapter.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to rule in Israel,
 whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
 in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;
 and he shall be the one of peace.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599, arr. Dale Adelman, 1997

“Lo, how a rose e’er blooming”

German carol, trans. Theodore Baker, 1894, and Harriet Spaeth, 1985

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming
 from tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse’s lineage coming,
 as seers of old have sung.
 It came, a blossom bright,
 amid the cold of winter,
 when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah ‘twas foretold it,
 the Rose I have in mind;
 Mary we behold it,
 the Virgin Mother kind.
 To show God’s love aright,
 she bore to us a Savior,
 when half-spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender
 with sweetness fills the air,
 Dispel in glorious splendor
 the darkness everywhere;
 True man, yet very God,
 from sin and death now save us,
 And share our every load.

Leader: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews, the tenth chapter.

When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*THE GOSPEL HYMN

Ihr kommen, John Carter, 2011

“When Jesus comes”

Mary Kay Beall, 2011

1. When Je-sus comes, when Je-sus comes, the wait-ing world will be made new; for on that
 2. (When Je-sus) comes, when Je-sus comes, a star will shine like none be-fore; and in its
 3. (When Je-sus) comes, when Je-sus comes, the sick will rise and be made well; the lame will
 4. (When Je-sus) comes, when Je-sus comes, we'll know the power of love di-vine; for in a

night, that ho-ly night, the words of pro-phets will come true. 2. When Je-sus
 light, its ho-ly light, we'll find a sta-ble's o-pen door. 3. When Je-sus
 leap, the blind will see, the mute will sing "Em-man-u-el!" 4. When Je-sus
 hum-ble man-ger bed we'll see the sleep-ing sa-cred sign.

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
 Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name.
 His mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
 He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
 and lifted up the lowly;
 he has filled the hungry with good things,
 and sent the rich away empty.
 He has helped his servant Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ADVENT MEDITATION

"Prophetic Praise and Blessed Assurance"

Rev. Conley

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us.

All: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,

for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE OFFERTORY

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



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Samuelson

Cash and designated gifts go to support **Huckleberry House**, which provides services to adolescents and young adults who are struggling with homelessness, family conflict, poverty, and violence. They work to provide safety and support to youth. They offer a range of services, including a teen crisis shelter available 24/7; a transitional living program; a counseling center and a youth outreach program. Operating since 1970, Huckleberry House helps hundreds of youth and families every year. Their website provides more details about services as well as volunteer opportunities. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Benjamin Britten, 1930

A Hymn to the Virgin

Anonymous, ca. 1300

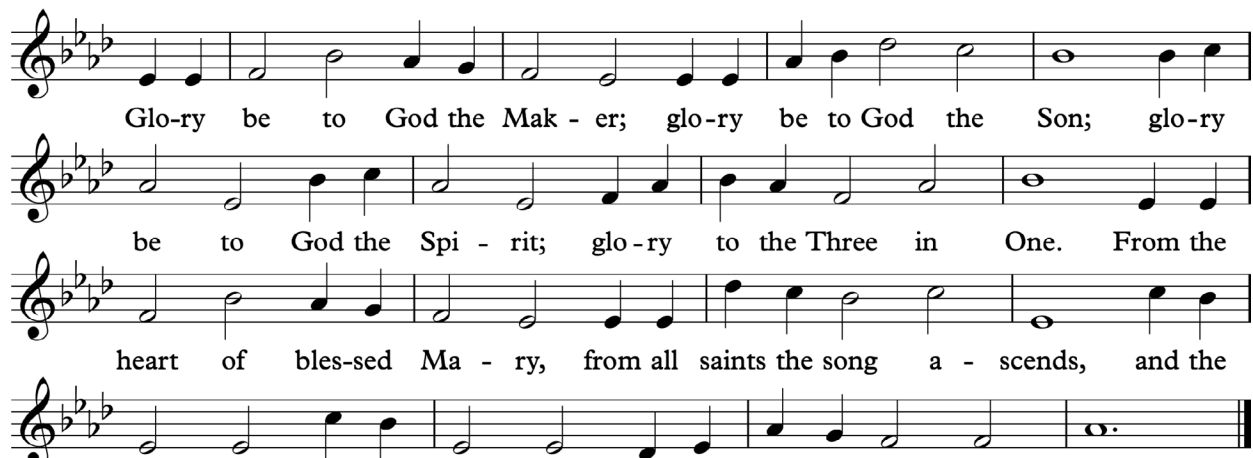
Of one who is so fair and bright
Velut maris stella,
(Like a star of the sea)
Brighter than the day is light,
Parens et puella:
(Both mother and maiden)
I cry to thee, thou see to me,
Lady, pray thy Son for me,
Tam pia, (so pure)
That I may come to thee.
Maria! (Mary)

All this world was forlorn,
Eva peccatrice,
(because of Eve, a sinner)
Till our Lord was yborn,
De te genetrice.
(through you, his mother)
With *ave* it went away,
Darkest night, and comes the day
Salutis; (of salvation)
The well springeth out of thee.
Virtutis. (of virtue)

Lady, flower of everything,
Rosa sine spina, (Rose without thorn)
Thou bare Jesu, heaven's king,
Gratia divina: (by divine grace)
Of all thou bearest the prize,
Lady, queen of paradise
Electa: (chosen)
Maid mild, mother
es effecta. (you are made)

*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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Holy One, this Advent season we wait in peace,

People: And we give in peace.

Leader: A peace deeper than our anxiety and fear.

People: A peace growing from our trust in your loving power.

Leader: Receive our offerings,

People: And use them to bring your peace to our world. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

Conditor alme siderum, Sarum plainsong, 9th c.

“Creator of the stars of night”

Latin hymn, 9th cent., trans. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt.



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you, hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Conley

POSTLUDE

Toccata on *Veni Emmanuel*

Andrew Carter, 1995

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 celebration of December birthdays and their 65th anniversary by Marty and Gerry Worth.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Conley — 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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Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

December 22, 2024

This Week at First Church

Sunday, December 22

- 8:30 a.m. BOBS Prep Work
(Kitchen & Parish Hall)
- 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
(Sanctuary & Virtual)
- 4 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 23

- 9 a.m. BOBS Prep Work
(Parish Hall & Kitchen)

Tuesday, December 24

- 12 Noon Church Office Closes
for Christmas Eve
- 3 p.m. Christmas Eve Family
Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service &
Pageant of the Nativity (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 p.m. Festive Prelude (Sanctuary)
- 11 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service
(Sanctuary)

Wednesday, December 25

- Church Office Closed in
Celebration of Christmas
- 7:30 a.m. Bethlehem on Broad Street

Sunday, December 29

- 10 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Bethlehem On Broad Street

Bethlehem On Broad Street is preparing again this year to serve as many as 300 of our downtown and nearby neighbors, with a hot, sit-down, Christmas dinner and a day of music, fellowship, worship, gifts, and kind shoulders to lean on. This is all made possible by volunteers who give their time on Christmas Day, by home bakers who bake and donate turkeys, hams, breakfast treats, and desserts, and by financial contributors. BOBS still needs this help for this year's program, now just days away. You can still volunteer to help:

Personal Volunteering

Sunday, Dec. 22 from 12:15 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Pre-Christmas Preparations

Monday, Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Pre-Christmas Preparations

Wednesday, Dec. 25 from 8:30 to 4 p.m.
Christmas Day Event Help

Delivering Your Baked Turkeys, Hams, and Desserts

Sunday, Dec. 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
to Church Kitchen

Monday, Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
to Church Kitchen

For more info, click the QR Code below to visit the BOBS website or call or text Jim Lowe (614-397-7512) or Gail Lowe (614-208-2905).



HoneyBaked Ham Sale

Faith Formation is partnering with HoneyBaked Ham to raise money for a summer mission trip and it couldn't be easier to support! If you like HoneyBaked Ham and goodies for the holidays, just order a gift card online to pay for your items and 20% of the purchase will go to First Church! You can take care of your whole menu in one spot – ham, brisket, BBQ, bacon (a Christmas morning favorite!) sides and desserts. Gift cards make great gifts too! Click the QR Code below to order.



Volunteers Needed for Laundry Love "Love Never Ends"

Laundry Love needs volunteers in January, February, and March at Washland at 1469 W. Broad Street. Volunteers help on the last Tuesday of the month and the hours are 5:15 p.m. until 7:15 p.m. If you are interested please join us on December 17 at Washland at 1469 W. Broad Street. Volunteering for Laundry Love is easy and very rewarding. Volunteers use a form to keep a tally of washers and dryers used. They put the detergent and fabric softener in the machines. The most important job is meeting and talking with the people who come in to do their laundry. The people we help are very appreciative and respectful to our volunteers. Please join us on December 17 at Washland if you are interested in supporting this important mission.



First Church Book Club: Wednesday, January 8, 2025

7 p.m. on Zoom

North Woods

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

7 p.m. on Zoom

*Master Slave, Husband Wife:
An Epic Journey from Slavery to
Freedom*

Questions? Want to receive book club emails?
Please call Kathy Reed, 614-442-7742.

Upcoming Missions

December 22 Huckleberry House

December 24 Good Samaritan

December 29 Sandy Hook Promise

Keep in Prayer

Members Allison Lowery Palmer; Steven and Katie Deliman's daughter, Caroline; Mike Weddle; Elaine Warren; Victor John; 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 BOBS volunteers, John Holly and Sandy Waters-Holly; Shelly Gies' brother, Mike Simms; Victor John's father, Charles and mother, Mary Jane; Amy Wagner's friends Lee Gatton and Bill Kelley; 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; George Ferzli's family, Tanios, Julie, Maher, Michel, Cynthia, Gabriel, and Lynn; Bob and Lorraine Quinichett's daughter, Susan Webster; 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 Cicenas.

Those who mourn Leslie Fulford on the death of her friends Ann Aldrich and Lew Wexler; John Matchett and family on the death of his brother, Nelson Matchett; Geneva Rice on the death of her sister-in-law, Margaret Leick; and Melva Fisher on the death of her sister, Mary Barbara Bittle.

We pray for Rev. Becky David and her family as she transitions to her new role as our interim senior minister.

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 Japan, North Korea, and South Korea. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission in Afghanistan.

Growing our Future Together Annual Stewardship Campaign Update

Family Units:

142 Family Units

57% of 250 Goal

Pledged Dollars

\$632,116

72% of \$877,854.00 Goal

- To pledge online, scan the QR Code
- 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

Interim Senior Minister: Rev. Becky David, M.Div.
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: Amanda Butler
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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www.firstchurcharts.org | home@first-church.org

