



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN  
JANUARY 5, 2025  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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.*

The Rev. Sarah Reed, *preacher and co-celebrant*

The Rev. Cynthia Adcock, *co-celebrant*

Fran Panek, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*

Neal Brower, *crucifer*

Gregory Duncan and Gary Glover, *verggers*

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

The First Church Choir

Aran Cunningham, *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

*Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*, BuxWV 223

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Fran Panek

Leader: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

**People: And we have seen his glory.**

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

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

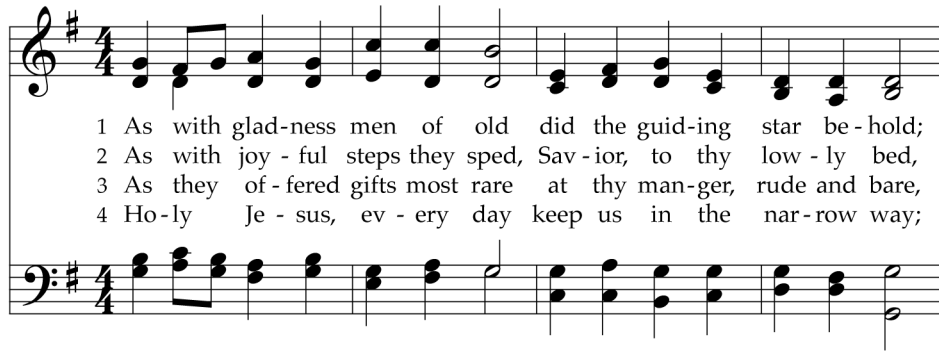
**People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!**

Leader: Like sages from afar, come and behold your Christ!

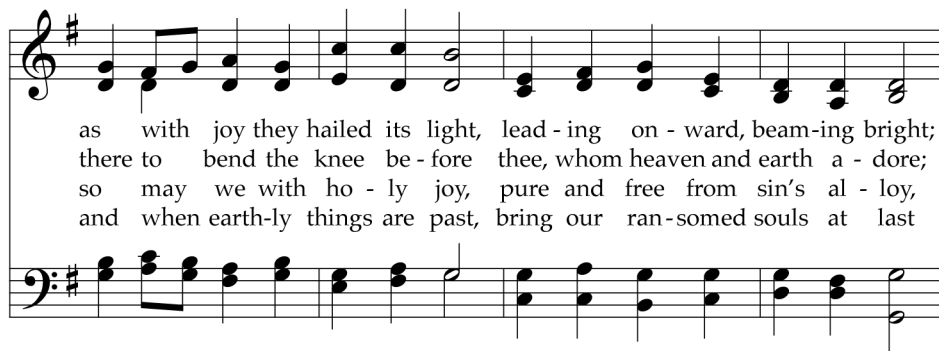
**People: Let us fall on our knees in his honor! Let us lift our hearts in praise of his name!**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN  
"As with gladness men of old"

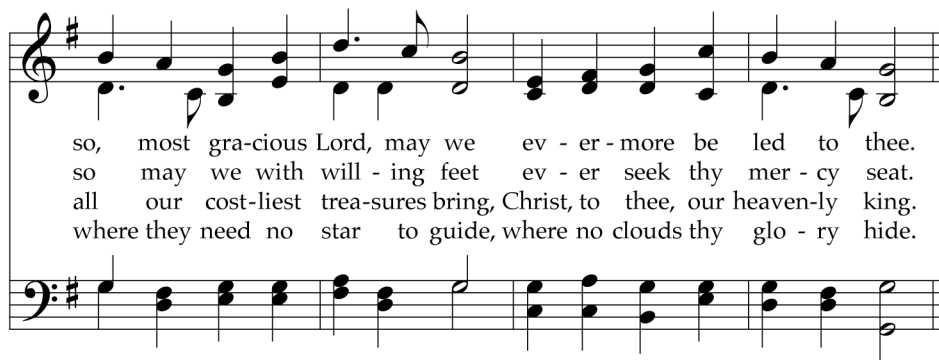
Dix, Conrad Kocher, 1838  
William Chatterton Dix, c. 1858



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,  
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy man-ger, rude and bare,  
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the nar-row way;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heaven and earth a-dore;  
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,  
and when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led to thee.  
so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.  
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav-en-ly king.  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

INVOCATION

The Rev. Cynthia Adcock

Leader: God be with you.

**People. And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

\*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Rev. Sarah Reed

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 we may greet one another by name.*

*During the sermon time, the young children are welcome to participate in "Sunday Stories" with  
Melissa Kulwicki and Leslie Fulford.*

## THE HEBREW LESSON

Sirach 24:1-8

Fran Panek

Leader: A reading from the book of Sirach, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Wisdom praises herself  
and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.  
In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,  
and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:  
"I came forth from the mouth of the Most High  
and covered the earth like a mist.  
I encamped in the heights,  
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.  
Alone I compassed the vault of heaven  
and traversed the depths of the abyss.  
Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,  
and over every people and nation I have held sway.  
Among all these I sought a resting place;  
in whose inheritance should I abide?  
"Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,  
and my Creator pitched my tent.  
He said, 'Encamp in Jacob,  
and in Israel receive your inheritance.'

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL HYMN

*Julion*, David Hurd, 1983

"Come and seek the ways of Wisdom"

Ruth C. Duck, 1996



1. Come and seek the ways of Wis - dom, she who danced when earth was new,
2. Lis - ten to the voice of Wis - dom, cry - ing in the mark - et place.
3. Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who seek re - birth.



fol - low close - ly what she teach - es, for her words are right and true.  
Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us, full of glo - ry, truth, and grace.  
Spi - rit - guide and close com - pan - ion, bring to light our sa - cred worth.



Wis - dom clears the path to jus - tice show - ing us what love must do.  
When the word takes root and rip - ens, peace and right - eous - ness em - brace.  
Free us to be - come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## COMMUNION MEDITATION

"A Word for Us"

Rev. Reed

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Adcock

Gracious and loving God,  
we come to you with hearts to be opened  
to your word and your love.

**Hear our prayers for all who need  
your tender touch of healing in their lives –  
those we name, and those who are known  
only to you within our hearts.**

God of life and death, we pray for those who are facing the end of life.  
May they know that your love reaches out to enfold them, even in death.

**We pray for those in our world for whom it always seems winter,  
who have no hope of warmth, those who have no food,  
no home, no money, no work.**

**Help us to find ways to share what we have with them.**

We pray for all of creation. May we care for all that we see,  
knowing that you are present in this time and place.

**Guide our leaders and those of all nations  
that this world might truly be as you created it to be—  
a world of peace, hope and love.**

In this season of change, we pray for our congregation  
as we face challenges for the future and seek your will for us.  
Help us to be wise in deciding what, if anything, to discard,  
and what new vision we might pursue.

**In all our decisions, keep us focused on the mission and ministry  
to which you call us and lead us forward.**

God, you have heard our prayers on this day, those spoken and those whispered.

Pour out your blessing on each one. **Amen.**

## THE OFFERTORY

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



### MISSION INVITATION

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston

Cash and designated gifts go to support **UCC Hurricane Relief Appeal**. Hurricane Helene landed in Florida on September 26 as a category-four storm. It brought a devastating 20-foot storm surge and 140 mph winds. Less than two weeks after Hurricane Helene devastated the region, Hurricane Milton landed on Florida's west coast. Now, months later, as cold weather has hit the Carolinas, families are still living in tents and trailers. The National Ministries of the United Church of Christ has a long history of supporting communities as they recover from disaster and their plight fades from the headlines. Please give generously.

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Felix Mendelssohn, 1846

"There shall a star"

Numbers 24:17, Psalm 2:9, Philipp Nicolai, 1597

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,  
and a sceptre from Israel rise up.  
And dash in pieces princes and nations.  
As bright the star of morning gleams,  
so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams  
of light and consolation!  
Thy word, O Lord,  
radiance darting, truth imparting,  
gives salvation.  
Thine be praise and adoration.

### \*PRESENTATION CAROL

*Greensleeves*, English Ballad, 16<sup>th</sup> c.

"What child is this," v. 3

William Chatterton Dix, 1871

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the son of Mary.**

# 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. Reed 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*

The musical notation is arranged in three systems, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first system shows the Leader's part for the first line of text and the People's part for the second line. The second system shows the Leader's part for the third line and the People's part for the fourth line. The third system shows the Leader's part for the fifth line and the People's part for the sixth line. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise." The notation uses a simple, rhythmic style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes, and rests, with some notes beamed together.

## \*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.

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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 and 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.**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

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

Paul Edwards, 1983

### No Small Wonder

Paul Wigmore in Carols for Today, 1983

Small wonder the star,  
small wonder the light,  
the angels in chorus,  
the shepherds in fright;  
*but stable and manger for God—*  
no small wonder!

Small wonder the kings,  
small wonder they bore  
the gold and the incense,  
the myrrh to adore;  
*but God gives his life on a cross—*  
no small wonder!

Small wonder the love,  
small wonder the grace,  
the power, the glory,  
the light of his face;  
*but all to redeem my poor heart—*  
no small wonder!

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Reed

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

L: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

**P: Thanks be to God.**



\*CLOSING HYMN  
 “On this day earth shall ring”

*Personent Hodie*, Piae Cantiones, 1582  
 trans. Jane Marion Joseph, c. 1917



1 On this day earth shall ring with the song  
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came  
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three  
 4 On this day an - gels sing; with their song



chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to  
 down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth; ox and ass be -  
 to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be -  
 earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, heav - en's King, born on earth to



save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.  
 side him from the cold would hide him. \*Id - e - o - o - o - o,  
 fore him, praise him and a - dore him.  
 save us; peace and love he gave us.



id - e - o - o - o - o, id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Reed

POSTLUDE

*Sortie pour Noël*

César Franck, 1858

*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 one of our pastors or anyone wearing a name tag. We would be delighted to assist you.*

† THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by the Flower Fund.

† COFFEE HOUR THIS MORNING is hosted by the Bliss Neighborhood Care Circle.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. Reed — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

Rev. Adcock — 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**

January 5, 2025

**This Week at First Church**

**Sunday, January 5**

- 9 a.m. Morning Worship & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Sunday School (Various Classrooms)  
Parent Conversations (Adult Library)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)
- 12:30 p.m. Unhanging of the Greens (Church)

**Monday, January 6**

- 9 a.m. Good Samaritan Distribution Day
- 10 a.m. Stewardship Commission Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 12 Noon Card Care Ministry (Fanning Rm)
- 7 p.m. House & Grounds Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

**Tuesday, January 7**

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

**Wednesday, January 8**

- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers Monthly Mtg (Fanning Rm)  
Book Club (Zoom)

**Thursday, January 9**

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

**Friday, January 10**

- 10 a.m. Full Circle Connections (Parlor)

**Saturday, January 11**

- 10 a.m. Family Organ Day (Sanctuary)

**Sunday, January 12**

- 9 a.m. Morning Worship & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
- 10 a.m. Sunday School (Various Classrooms)  
Parent Conversations (Adult Library)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Welcome Reception for Rev. Becky David (Parish Hall)

**Unhanging of  
the Greens  
Today  
12:30 p.m.- 4 p.m.**

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**Welcome Rev.  
Becky David  
Sunday,  
January 12  
Following 11 a.m.  
Worship**

Join us as we celebrate and welcome Rev. Becky David, Interim Senior Minister, into the life and ministry of First Congregational Church.

We can also help welcome Rev. Becky by wearing a name tag. Stick-on name tags can be found at all the doors. If you would like a new name tag, please email [home@first-church.org](mailto:home@first-church.org).

**The Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 26  
One Worship Service  
at 10 a.m.  
Meeting at 11 a.m.**

Everyone is encouraged to attend this very important yearly event in the life of our church. Childcare will be provided during worship and the annual meeting.

Voting Members are active members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio. Voting Members must be present to vote. Non-Voting Members are Associate Members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, and Guests.

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**Upcoming Missions**

**January 5 UCC Hurricane Recovery Appeal**  
January 12 Columbus Relief  
January 19 NAACP Legal Defense Fund  
January 26 Trustees' Knight-Perry Fund

**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.

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**First Church Arts  
The 2nd Annual  
Family Organ Day  
Saturday, January 11  
at 10 a.m.**

Join First Church Arts for the 2nd annual Family Organ Day on Saturday, January 11 starting at 10 a.m.: an opportunity for the young and young-at-heart to meet the two magnificent pipe organs at First Church!

Click the QR Code below to view the event.  
All are welcome - please reach out to us if you or your child(ren) need any accommodations!



## Keep in Prayer

**Members** Bernie Martin; 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** Rev. Joanna Samuelson's neighbor and friend, Rev. Dr. George Zoehl; 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 friend Lee Gatton; 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; Bob and Lorraine Quinichett's daughter, Susan Webster; David Hogrefe's mother, Linda Hogrefe; Melva Fisher's daughter, Susan Wood; Annette McCormick's father, Charles McCormick; Janet Axt's mother, Alice Paugh; Diana and Bob Kutschbach's cousin, Carson Samples; 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 family and friends** of Rev. Dr. Jeffrey P. Kee; Jill Hultin on the death of her brother-in-law, Kris Hultin; Jonathan and Finnegan Miller on the death of Jonathan's mother and Finnegan's grandmother, Ann Wall Richards; Leslie and David Fulford on the death of her of friends Ann Aldrich and Lew Wexler.

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 Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon.

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## Growing our Future Together Annual Stewardship Campaign Update

**Family Units:**  
**150 Family Units**  
**60 % of 250 Goal**

**Pledged ]Dollars**  
**\$655,008**  
**74.61% 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



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