



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
JANUARY 12, 2025
BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

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.

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

Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam, BWV 684

J.S. Bach, 1739

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Henry Gillies

Leader: The voice of the Spirit resounds upon the water

People: The Spirit of God hovers over the stream.

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

Leader: The Son of God is named "Beloved"

People: And all who worship shout out, "Glory!"

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength

People: Let us worship God in this holy place.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Beach Spring, The Sacred Harp, 1844

“Wash, O God, your sons and daughters”

Ruth Duck, 1987



1 Wash, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, new - born crea - tures
2 Ev - ery day we need your nur - ture; by your milk may
3 O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - i - mag - ined,

(D) (Bm)
F Dm



of your womb. Num-ber them a - mong your peo - ple, raised like
we be fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of
all your ways! To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our

(G) (D) (A)
Bb F C



Christ from death and tomb. Weave them gar - ments bright and
bless - ing, liv - ing bread. God, re - new us; guide our
lives we wor - ship, praise! We your peo - ple stand be -

(Bm) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (A) (D)
Dm Am Dm Bb C F



spark-ling; com- pass them with love and light. Fill, a - noint them;
foot - steps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in
fore you, wa - ter-washed and Spir - it - born. By your grace, our

(Bm) (G) (D)
Dm Bb F



send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.
liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.
lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

*INVOCATION

Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

People. And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Holy God, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus for the healing of the human race and all creation.

People: By water and word, you lovingly invite us into this same life-giving mission. May your Spirit, moving like a stream of water flowing from its source, work in us this day to realize your vision of a world made new in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Becky David

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.*

*ANTHEM

The Baptism of Jesus

Peter Hallock, 1980

English, c. 1500

Jesus autem hodie regressus est a Jordane.

[But Jesus on this day returned from the Jordan.]

When Jesus Christ baptised was,
the Holy Ghost descended with grace;
the Father's voice was heard in the place:

Hic est Filius meus: ipsum intende. [This is my Son: hear him.]

There were Three Persons and one Lord,
the Son baptised with one accord,
the Father said this blessed word:

Hic est Filius meus: ipsum intende.

Now Jesus, as thou art both God and man,
and were baptised in from Jordan,
at our last end, we pray thee, say then:

Hic est Filius meus: ipsum intende.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Rev. David

Leader: My Friends, on this day as we remember the Baptism of Jesus, we also take a moment to recall our own. And whether or not the baptismal promises were made for us or we were old enough to speak them ourselves, today we recommit ourselves. We recommit ourselves to the life-saving path of Jesus and to His mission of love, compassion, and inclusion. And so I ask you now...

Do you promise, by the grace of God,
to be a disciple, to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, to resist oppression,
to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ,
as best you are able?

People: I do.

Leader: And do you promise, according to the grace given to you,
to grow in your faith and to be a faithful member of the church,
celebrating Christ's presence and furthering God's mission in all the world?

People: I do.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

Rev. David

As you are sprinkled with the waters of Baptism, you are invited to respond in gesture (with a sign of the cross or by placing your hand over your heart) and to respond with the words, I belong to God.

There is one Lord, one faith, one bap - tis-m,

There is one God who is Fa - ther of all.

PRAYER

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Holy God, We stand before you overwhelmed by your love and grace.
People: **In this moment, recommitted to you and your mission in the world,
Fill our hearts with wonder and awe for what you have done for us.
May we spread that love and good will everyday
As we move through this amazing world you have created for us.
And may we never forget that we are your children,
And that we are your Beloved.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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.

LESSONS

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:1-7

Mr. Gillies

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, the forty-third chapter.

Thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth--
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 129

Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett, 2007

The Choir introduces the Antiphon, after which the People join in singing the Antiphon, repeating as indicated after the Choir chants the verses.



Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. *Antiphon.*

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon; *Antiphon.*

The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.

The LORD shall give strength to his people;
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace. *Antiphon.*

Leader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the eighth chapter.

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*THE GOSPEL HYMN

Caithness, Scottish Psalter, 1635

"Christ, when for us you were baptized"

F. Bland Tucker, 1979

1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spi - rit on you came,
 2 God called you his be - lov - ed Son, called you his ser - vant true,
 3 Straight - way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed his call
 4 Bap - tize us with your Spi - rit, Lord, your cross on us be signed,

as peace - ful as a dove and yet as ur - gent as a flame.
 sent you his king - dom to pro - claim, his ho - ly will to do.
 free - ly as Son of Man to serve and give your life for all.
 that, like - wise in God's ser - vice we may per - fect free - dom find.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Rev. David

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

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. David

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

Debi Cunningham

Cash and designated gifts go to **Columbus Relief**, a faith based, non-profit organization serving our community since 2015. Their mission is to journey into communities of homelessness to bring life-transforming guidance through God's love and relationship building. Columbus Relief meets people where they are, in the streets of Columbus, where they build trust through a consistent and accessible approach. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

John Gardner, 1966

“Tomorrow shall be my dancing day”

Traditional Cornish Carol

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance.

*Sing, O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
this have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance;
thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance. *Refrain.*

In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor this was my chance,
betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance. *Refrain.*

Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
my Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love to my dance. *Refrain.*

*PRESENTATION HYMN
"Sing of God made manifest"

Salzburg, Jakob Hintze, 1678
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1990

Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,
"I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."
Then from heaven a dou - ble sign— dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Let us pray.

People: For gifts given and received, O God, we offer our praise. May we share our abundance with all who have need, and may we share our hope in like measure. Amen.

CELEBRATING THE BEGINNING OF THE MINISTRY OF REV. REBECCA DAVID

Moderator: Today marks a new beginning in the life of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We are here to install Rev. Rebecca David as Interim Senior Minister. She is here to lead us in our ministries and guide us as we prepare to call new settled pastors for our future.

Rev. David, will you faithfully preach and teach the Word of God, administer the sacraments and offer pastoral support and encouragement in this setting for ministry?

Rev. David: I will, seeking God's guidance and grace.

Congregation: We invite you to lead us in our journey of transition to call new settled pastors.

Rev. David: I accept this challenge and responsibility. I seek your love, support and prayers as I become part of this Church family and offer my skills in this time of transition.

Congregation: We wish to have you join us in service and fellowship. We receive you as our pastor and spiritual leader in discerning the future ministries of this church. God, give us courage to look where she is looking and to see what You are doing through her and through us. Give us grace to respond to her leadership with gratitude and peace, energy and love. Amen.

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

Canonbury, Robert Schumann, 1839

“O radiant Christ, incarnate word”

Ruth Duck, 1991

1. O ra - diant Christ, in - car - nate Word, e - ter - nal love re - vealed in time:
2. Our bar - tered, bus - y lives burn dim, too tired to care, too numb to feel.
3. Your glo - ry shone at Jor - dan's stream, the font where we were born a - new.
4. O Light of Na - tions, fill the earth; our faith and hope and love re - new.

come, make your home with - in our hearts, that we may dwell in light sub - lime.
Come shine up - on our shad - owed world: your ra - diance bathes with power to heal.
At - tune your church to know you near; il - lu - mine all we say and do.
Come, lead the peo - ples to your peace, as stars once led the way to you.

BENEDICTION

Rev. David

POSTLUDE

(Allegro) from Concerto in G Major, BWV 592

Johann Ernst, trans. J.S. Bach, ca. 1715

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 in appreciation of the lay leaders, volunteers, and staff of First Church by Amy Wagner.

† Join us in Parish Hall for a reception and question and answer session with Rev. David.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. David — 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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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *worship leader*

Henry Gillies, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*

Sebastian Kulwicki, *crucifer*

William Davis and Gregory Duncan, *vergers*

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

The First Church Choir

Pat Patterson, *livestream ministry*



Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

January 12, 2025

This Week at First Church

Sunday, January 12

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

Monday, January 13

- 10 a.m. Stewardship Mtg (Fanning Rm)
- 6 p.m. Transition Team Mtg (Fanning Rm & Zoom)
First Church Campanelle Rehearsal (Bell Rm)
- 7 p.m. Trustees Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Tuesday, January 14

- 5:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Mtg (Zoom)
- 7 p.m. Joint Executive Committee/Council Mtg (Classroom C & Zoom)

Wednesday, January 15

- 10 a.m. The Largest Table Food Prep & Delivery (Kitchen)

Thursday, January 16

- 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)

Saturday, January 18

- 9 a.m. Transition Team Mtg (Parlor)

Sunday, January 19

- 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 (Sanctuary)
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)
- 4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)

**Welcome
Rev. Becky David
Today
Following Both
9 and 11 a.m.
Worship**

Celebrate and welcome Rev. Becky David, Interim Senior Minister, into the life and ministry of First Congregational Church following both worship services.

Rev. Becky will be in Parish Hall for a Q&A session following 9 a.m. worship. A Welcome Reception and Q&A session in Parish Hall will follow 11 a.m. worship. Parents, please keep in mind the 10 a.m. Godly Play Baptism Celebration for all children and youth. It is an excellent activity for your children to participate in while you spend some time with Rev. Becky and First Church friends.

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.

Reaffirming the Dream
Sunday, January 19 at 2 p.m.
Washington Gladden
Social Justice Park

Make Washington Gladden Social Justice Park your destination to reaffirm the ideals of Martin Luther King, Jr. and to use his inspiration to advance social justice goals. From a 2 p.m.* welcome and interfaith speakers, to blessings and music, attendees will be inspired at the foot of the MLK-inspired Garment of Destiny sculpture in Gladden Park. Guests will adjourn to the First Congregational Church Parish Hall for refreshments and socializing and then to the sanctuary to enjoy a 4 p.m. Evensong Concert**and prayers for the nation. Plan to join in this program to inspire your new year and to celebrate King's birthday and Inauguration Day. Free parking is available adjacent to the park.

*The outdoor program will run ~45-minutes followed by indoor refreshments and fellowship.

**A concert of Choral Evensong will be presented by First Church Arts beginning at 4 p.m.

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.

Growing our Future Together Annual Stewardship Campaign Update

Family Units:
155 Family Units
62% of 250 Goal

Pledged Dollars
\$659,448
75% 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



Keep in Prayer

In Celebration of the wedding of David Wyatt's brother, Brian Rosenblithe to Edward Verdonk.

Members Beverly Halbe; Malcolm Giffen; 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 BOBS volunteers, John Holly and Sandy Waters-Holly; Shelly Gies' brother, Mike Simms; Victor John's father, Charles John and mother, Mary Jane John; Amy Wagner's friends Bill Kelley and Lee Gatton; Michael Russell's friend, Teresa Elliott; Amanda Butler's aunt, Hattie Coatney; 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 First Church member Bernard (Bernie) Martin; Rev. Joanna Samuelson's neighbor, Veronica Zoehl on the death of her husband, Rev. Dr. George Zoehl; family and friends of Rev. Dr. Jefferey 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.

We pray for Rev. Becky David and her family as she begins 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 Iran, Iraq, and Syria. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, the Youth Desk at the Council of Churches of Sierra Leone.

Upcoming Missions

January 12	Columbus Relief
January 19	NAACP Legal Defense Fund
January 26	Trustees' Knight-Perry Fund

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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