



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP AT ELEVEN
JANUARY 19, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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

In Quiet Mood

Florence B. Price, 1951

ENTER TO WORSHIP

Camilla Curren

Leader: How precious is the steadfast love of God.

People: All people may take refuge in the shadow of God's embrace.

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

Leader: Christ is the fountain of life.

People: In Christ we behold the Light of God.

Come, let us worship.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Puer nobis nascitur, Trier manuscript, 15th c.

"O splendor of God's glory bright"

Ambrose of Milan, c. 374, tr. composite

1 O Splen - dor of God's glo - ry bright, from light e -
 2 Come, Ho - ly Sun of heaven - ly love, rain down your
 3 O joy - ful be the pass - ing day with thoughts as
 4 O Lord, with each re - turn - ing morn, your im - age

ter - nal bring - ing light; O Light of Light, light's
 ra - diance from a - bove, and to our in - ward
 clear as morn - ing's ray, with faith like noon - tide
 to our heart is born; O may we ev - er

liv - ing spring, true Day, all days il - lu - min - ing:
 hearts con - vey the Ho - ly Spir - it's cloud - less ray.
 shin - ing bright, our souls un - shad - owed by the night.
 clear - ly view our Sav - ior and our God in you.

*INVOCATION

Rev. Joanna Samuelson

Leader: God be with you.

People. And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Creator God, Your steadfast love surrounds us, extending over all creation.

As we enter this worship, open our eyes and hearts

That we may see the miracles you surround us with every day.

Inspire us to use the blessing of our giftedness

As extend your love to a hurting world.

In Jesus' 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.*

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. David

Leader: God, you have given each of us many gifts,

**People: but sometimes we cannot recognize what gifts we have to share,
so we hide it under a bushel.**

Leader: God, you remind us that all gifts are needed,

**People: but sometimes we let ourselves be convinced
that some gifts are more special than others.**

Leader: God, you call us to work, to live, to love together as parts of one body,

**People: but sometimes we decide that membership in the body
is limited by our understandings.**

Leader: God, for the times we have ignored or mislabeled Your gifts,
for those times we have cut another off from the body,

**People: We offer words of repentance,
we ask for forgiveness and grace.**

Time of silent prayer

Leader: God is the giver of MANY gifts.

God is the Creator of the ONE body.

God is slow to anger and quick to forgive.

God helps us to share and honor the gifts of all,

God helps us to heal the wounds and reunite the body.

We are forgiven, loved, and accepted.

People: 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 Leslie Fulford.*

ANTHEM

Julian Darius Revie, 2018

"I am the true vine"

John 15:5

I am the true vine, and you the branches.

If you remain in me, and I in you, you will bear great fruit. Alleluia.

A reading from the Book of Isaiah, the sixty-second chapter.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
 and her salvation like a burning torch.
 The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
 and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the Lord will give.
 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
 You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
 and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
 but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
 and your land Married;
 for the Lord delights in you,
 and your land shall be married.
 For as a young man marries a young woman,
 so shall your builder marry you,
 and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
 so shall your God rejoice over you.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALTER

Psalm 36:5-10

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



Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,
 and your faithfulness to the clouds.
 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
 your justice like the great deep;
 you save both man and beast, O Lord. *Refrain.*

How priceless is your love, O God!
 your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.
 They feast upon the abundance of your house;
 you give them drink from the river of your delights. *Refrain.*

For with you is the well of life,
 and in your light we see light.
 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you,
 and your favor to those who are true of heart. *Refrain.*

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, the twelfth chapter.

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*THE GOSPEL HYMN
"We all are one in mission"

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein, Memmingen ms., 17th c.
Rusty Edwards, 1985, alt.

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - ery folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to John, the second chapter.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. David

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

Thomas Browfield

Cash and designated gifts go to **the Legal Defense Fund (LDF)**. Founded by Thurgood Marshall, for the past 84 years, the LDF has worked to create structural changes, expand democracy, and eliminate disparities. But today, there are unprecedented threats to hard-won gains. Efforts like Project 2025 and the recent passage of House Bill 9495, which would allow a presidentially appointed treasury secretary to unilaterally strip a nonprofit of its status if deemed a "terrorism-supporting" organization, pose a direct and deliberate threat to the civil rights and progress of Black communities as well as to non-profits generally. Please give generously to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund which works to create and restore justice through our legal system.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Draw us in the Spirit’s tether”

Harold Friedell, 1957
B.R. Percy Dearmer, 1931

Draw us in the Spirit’s tether; for when humbly, in thy Name,
two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them:
Alleluya! Alleluya! Touch we now thy garment’s hem.

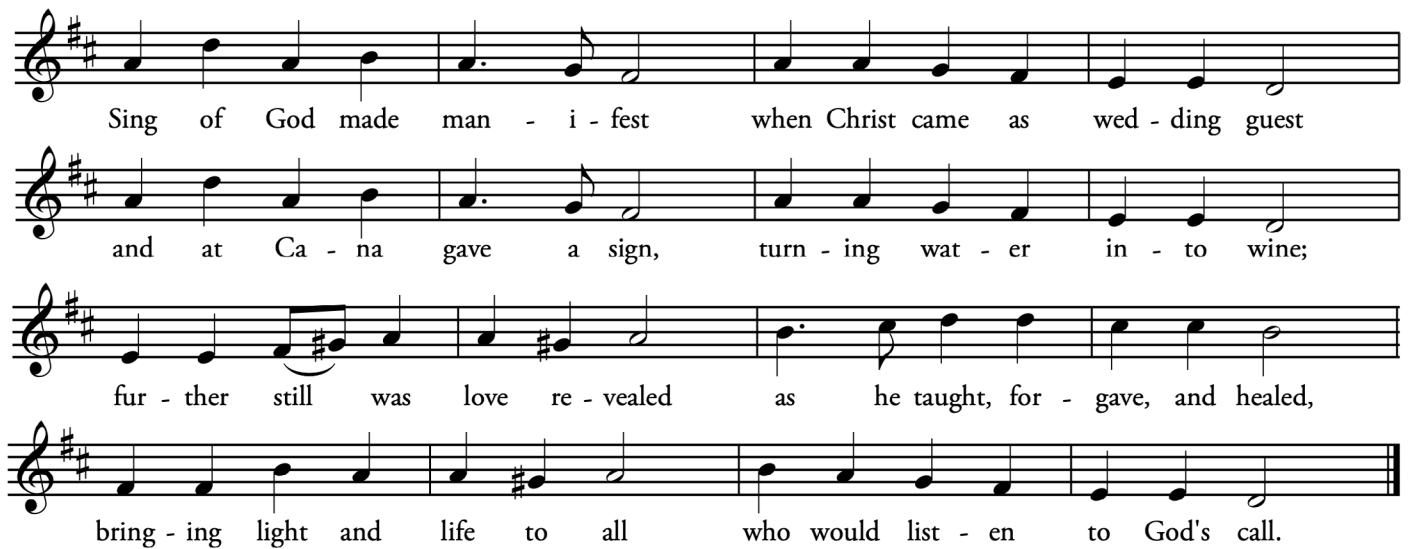
As the brethren used to gather in the Name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluya! Alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluya! Alleluya! We will serve thee faithfully.

*PRESENTATION HYMN

“Sing of God made manifest”

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



Sing of God made man - i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest
and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wat - er in - to wine;
fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,
bring - ing light and life to all who would list - en to God's call.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: O Gracious and Generous One,
we commit to sharing our gifts in service to you
and as co-creators with you and with one another
for “peace and justice to flow like a mighty stream.”
In Jesus’ name, we pray, amen.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader: Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

*CLOSING HYMN

“The Church of Christ cannot be bound”

McKee, African American Spiritual

Adam M.L. Tice, 2005

1 The church of Christ can - not be bound by
 2 True faith will o - pen up the door and
 3 True love will not sit i - dly by when
 4 If what we have we free - ly share to
 5 The church of Christ can - not be bound by

walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and
 step in - to the street. True ser - vice will seek
 jus - tice is de - nied. True mer - cy hears the
 meet our neigh - bor's need, then we ex - tend the
 walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and

love are found, there can the church be known.
 out the poor and ask to wash their feet.
 home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.
 Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.
 love are found, there can the church be known.

BENEDICTION

Rev. David

POSTLUDE

Finale from Sonata No. 1 for Organ

Florence B. Price, 1927

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 loving memory of Hugh and Douglas Stephens by Gleva Stephens.

† Join us in Parish Hall for Coffee Hour is hosted by the Celebrate Neighborhood Care Circle.

† GREETING AT THE EXITS

Rev. David — Narthex (Broad Street entrance)

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

Mrs. Fulford — East Door (Ninth Street entrance by the Church Office)

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S LITURGY

The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*

The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *worship leader*

Camilla Curren, *liturgist*

Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*

Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*

Ryan Jones, *crucifer*

Camille Bendick and Dayna McCrary, *vergers*

Joshua Stafford, *organist and director*

The First Church Choir

Peter Murray, *livestream ministry*

Nominating Committee 2024 Slate of Officers

Submitted by Sarah Reed, Moderator Elect

Officers

Moderator: Sarah Reed

Moderator Elect:

Treasurer: Ramona Moenter

Treasurer Elect:

Secretary: Amanda Butler

Secretary Elect:

Commissioners

Church Stewardship and Growth Commissioner:

Church Stewardship and Growth Commissioner Elect:

Church Vitality Commissioner: Pat Patterson

Church Vitality Commissioner Elect:

Communications and Technology Commissioner: Mike Kennedy

Communications and Technology Commissioner Elect: Stefan Duga

Faith Formation Commissioner: Cami Curren

Faith Formation Commissioner Elect: Mariner Taft

House & Grounds Commissioner: Eric Klintworth

House & Grounds Commissioner Elect:

Justice & Mercy Commissioner: James Lowe

Justice & Mercy Commissioner Elect: Janice Taft

Music, Arts, & Heritage Commissioner: Jim Griffen

Music, Arts, & Heritage Commissioner Elect: Cheryl Hoskinson

Personnel Commissioner: Sandra Mathias

Personnel Commissioner Elect:

At-Large Members

Adult Member At-Large: Martha Wilson

Youth Member At-Large: Sebastian Kulwicki

Trustees

Chair: Frank Cook (selected by Trustees)

2-year term: Melody Leidheiser

4-Year term:

Deacons

Senior Deacon: Martha Worth (elected by Deacons)

Senior Deacon Elect: elected by Deacons

3-year term:

3-year term:

3-year term:

3 year term:

3-year term:

Nominating Chair

Sarah Reed



Enter to Worship
Depart to Serve

January 19, 2025

This Week at First Church

Sunday, January 19

- 9 a.m. Morning Worship & Holy Communion (Parish Hall)
10 a.m. Sunday School (Various Classrooms)
Parent Conversations (Adult Library)
BREAD Mtg (Parish Family Rm)
11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour & Coffee Sales (Parish Hall)
4 p.m. Choral Evensong (Sanctuary)

Monday, January 20

Church Closed in Observance of
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Thursday, January 23

- 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 24

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

Sunday, January 26

- 10 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)
11 a.m. Congregational Annual Meeting (Sanctuary)

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.

The Annual Meeting will be recorded but will not be accessible through Zoom or Live-Stream. If your family is in need of nursery care during the annual meeting, please contact Rev. Joanna at jsamuelson@first-church.org by Friday, January 24, at 12 p.m.

Reaffirming the Dream Today at 2:30 p.m. in the Washington Gladden Social Justice Park Choral Evensong

The event will begin in the park at 2:30 p.m., rather than 2 p.m. as announced previously. Speaking at the event will be Rev. Becky David, interim senior minister of First Congregational Church; Steve Dimler, president of the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio; and W.D. Smith, minister of justice with the Church of Christ at Genessee Avenue.

Following the program, guests will move next door into the Parish Hall of First Congregational Church for refreshments and socializing.

The church will offer a concert of Choral Evensong and prayers for the nation in the sanctuary at 4 p.m. The concert will celebrate Dr. King's birthday and Inauguration Day and will offer inspiration for the new year.

Winter Sunday Stories Readers Needed

Our 2025 children's story time schedule is wide open for new and returning guest readers! Readers are needed for both 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., but the greatest need is for 9 a.m., which is most attended by children. Please contact Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org.

Adult Education

Calling New Programs and Leaders

Do you have a topic, expertise or talent you'd like to share with fellow members? If so, let's talk! We are planning new presentations for Adult Education and welcome new ideas! If you have something you're willing to share or have an idea of something you'd like to see, please contact Leslie Fulford at lfulford@first-church.org.

Full Circle Connections

Friday, January 24 at 10 a.m.
Church Parlor

This Friday's topic in Full Circle Connections is Crossing Thresholds. If you can't make it this time, be sure to mark your calendar for our next gathering. We meet for an hour on the second and fourth Fridays every month. All are welcome and bring a friend! Reach Jan Hamilton on Realm or by email (hamiltonjan30@yahoo.com).

Growing our Future Together Annual Stewardship Campaign Update

Family Units:

167 Family Units

67% of 250 Goal

Pledged Dollars:

\$690,518

79% 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

Members Beverly Halbe; 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; 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 David Hogrefe and family on the death of his mother, Linda Hogrefe; Sebastian Kulwicki and the Levert family on the death of Sebastian's chess coach Ernest Levert, Jr.; Todd, Catherine, and Aran Cunningham's family friends, the Baturin family on the death of Philip Baturin; family and friends of 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.

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 Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. We also pray for our UCC partner in mission, Evangelical Congregational Church of Brazil.

The Stephen Leader Training Course (SLTC)

Interactive Online Training to Fully Equip Laypeople as Stephen Leaders

The Stephen Leader Training Course is a live, interactive online training experience that prepares participants to serve as Stephen Leaders and is available to Stephen Ministry congregations. Stephen Ministries will offer courses during 2025 and our Stephen Ministry team is excited for the opportunity to grow and welcome another Stephen Leader. Click the QR Code below to access a short video, prepared for our congregation by Stephen Ministries, and designed to help members learn more about becoming a Stephen Leader. Please reach out to any of our leaders: Gary Glover, Wendy Kennedy, or Susie Loik for additional information. You can also email Gary directly at gglover@first-church.org.



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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