



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.

*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)*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

SHARING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Becky David and Rev. Joanna Samuelson

*When you return to your seat, please find the blue Welcome notebook,
sign the pad and pass it on to your neighbor so you may greet them by name.*

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

*GATHERING HYMN
"All who hunger gather gladly"

Holy Manna, William Moore's Columbian Harmony, 1825
Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1990

1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.

Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.

You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.

Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

*OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Samuelson

Leader: Holy God,

People: **We have gathered as your holy people in this holy place.
Open our hearts to your presence;
Open our minds to your Word;
Open our will to see the giftedness you have granted us;
Through this worship, make us one people, your beloved,
Now and forever. Amen.**

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 them 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.*

LISTENING

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

I CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

Dean Hafey

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.

PSALM 36:1-5

Dean Hafey

Transgression speaks to the wicked
deep in their hearts;
there is no fear of God
before their eyes.

**For they flatter themselves in their own eyes
that their iniquity cannot be found out and hated.**

The words of their mouths are mischief and deceit;
they have ceased to act wisely and do good.

**They plot mischief while on their beds;
they are set on a way that is not good;
they do not reject evil.**

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

JOHN 2:1-11

Rev. David

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.

REFLECTION

Rev. David

RESPONDING

HYMN OF PREPARATION


“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.

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 Depart to Serve:



MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Samuelson

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 MUSIC

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Samuelson

**All: Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God.
Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people.
And let the called and redeemed of God say, “Amen.”**

COMMUNION

Revs. David and Samuelson

COMMUNION HYMN

Confitemini Domino, Jacques Berthier, 1982

“Come and fill our hearts”

Jacques Berthier, 1982

Chords: D, Bm, D, A, Em, C, Em, A, D

Lyrics: Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. David

Leader: Let us pray.

All: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have brought us from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from death to rebirth. Transform our lives with this heavenly food, that we may shine with your love and take to the world the risen life of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

SENDING

COMMUNITY NOTICES - DEPART TO SERVE

Ms. Kulwicki

Leader Let us depart with a heart to serve.

People: Thanks be to God.

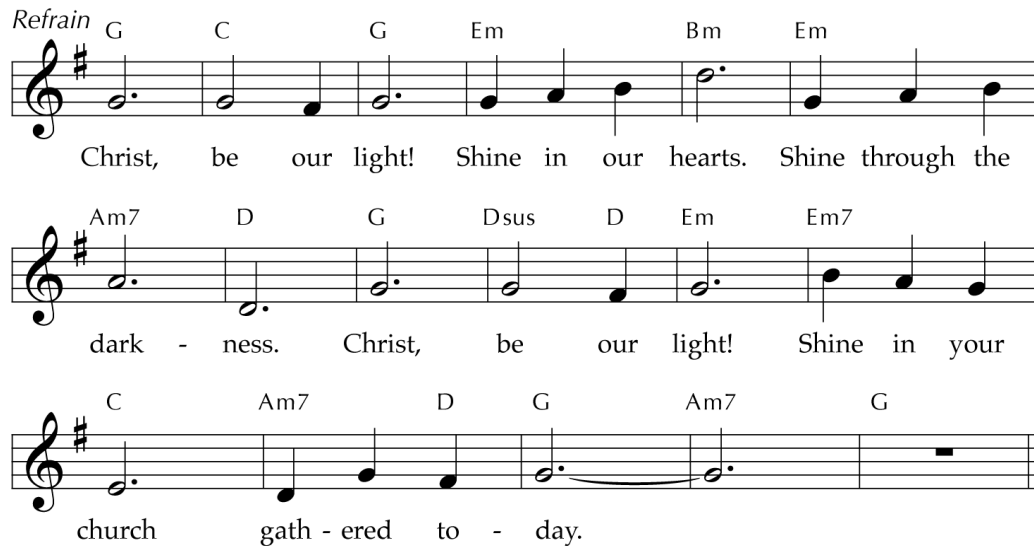
*BENEDICTION

Rev. David

*CLOSING HYMN
"Christ, be our light"

Bernadette Farrell, 1993

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

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.

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"Christ be our light." Words and music by Bernadette Farrell. ©1993 OCP. All rights reserved.

LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S LITURGY
The Rev. Becky David, *preacher*
The Rev. Joanna Samuelson, *worship leader*
Dean Hafey, *liturgist*
Melissa Kulwicki, *worship leader*
Leslie Fulford, *worship leader*
Joshua Stafford, *pianist*
Geoffrey Dean, *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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