

**Welcome to the
First Church in Oberlin,
United Church of Christ**

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

March 9, 2025

First Sunday in Lent

David Hill, Pastor

Jennifer Bertoni, Director of Faith Formation

Thomas Bandy, Director of Music & Organist

Ruth Ann Clark, Liturgist

www.firstchurchoberlin.org

**No matter who you are or where you are on
life's journey, you are welcome here.**



Welcome to Worship!

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this United Church of Christ congregation. We invite you to become a part of our community of faith, to grow spiritually, to encounter God's inclusive and effusive grace in worship and fellowship, and to work and witness for greater justice and peace in our world.

- Large-print bulletins and hearing-assist devices are available, ask an usher.
- If you are moved to express gratitude or appreciation during the service, please respond by saying, "Amen!"
- Please remember to silence your cell phones as you enter worship.
- Our Wi-Fi network has the name "FC Guests" and the password is "CGFinney".

Children in Worship

We strive to welcome children - and their occasional restlessness - in worship. Materials are in the hallway outside the worship space for children who would like a quiet activity during worship. Nursery care is available for young children in the James Brand wing if parents would enjoy some quiet time. Please see an usher if you need directions or more information.

Older children are invited to join Children's Church during the worship service. They will leave for the childcare rooms after the Front Row Moment, and can be picked up there at the end of the service.

Are you interested in receiving our electronic newsletter—"First Things First"? Please contact the church office and we will add you to our mailing list.

Miranda Schaum: office@firstchurchoberlin.org
David T. Hill: pastor@firstchurchoberlin.org
Jen Bertoni: faith@firstchurchoberlin.org

Building and Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, with additional appointments as needed.
Our staff will gladly make arrangements to meet with you at other times.
Please call (440) 775-1711 to schedule an appointment.

You may write prayer requests/announcements here or email them to prayers@firstchurchoberlin.org.

Prayer Requests:

Announcements:

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 9, 2025

First Sunday in Lent



Opening Music

Чакона (Chaconne, 2007) - Svitlana Ostrova

Welcome

I Am Sure I Shall See - Taizé

*I am sure I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.*

*Yes, I shall see the goodness of our God.
Hold firm, trust in the Lord.*

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*Call to Worship

One: Gather to remember and share stories of faith;
rejoice in the goodness of the loving God.

All: **Before our stories began, there was God;
through all our days, God walks with us.**

One: Worship the one who gives and sustains life;
sing praises to the one who is our refuge.

All: **There is no place we can go where God is not;
amid life's terrors, God's promises hold true.**

One: Delight in God, whose protection we enjoy;
dance with the God, who frees us for new possibilities.

One: **We call out to God, expecting to be heard;
we listen, knowing there is truth to be received.**

*Congregational Song #460

Be Not Dismayed
(God Will Take Care of You)

*Opening Prayer

*The Peace

One: May peace be with you
All: **And also with you.**

Front Row Moment

*The asterisk invites all who are able to rise in body and/or spirit

The Word in Music

Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep - John Rutter, text by Jane Leeson (1807-1882)
Finney Choir

Scripture Lessons: Luke 4:1-13

One: A Word of God that is still speaking,
People: **And we are still listening. Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Prayers

Piano Sonata in G minor (1841) - Clara Schumann
II. *Adagio con espressione e ben legato*

During the musical offering you are invited to share joys and concerns via the tear off in your bulletin, FB chat, or email (prayers@firstchurchberlin.org)

Lord's Prayer

You are invited to use whatever language for God best fits your understanding of God. Some options are provided in the prayer.

**Our Creator/Mother/Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy Kingdom/Kin-dom/Realm 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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the Kingdom/Kin-dom/Realm,
the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Announcements

Offering

One: As we conclude our worship, what shall we offer in gratitude for God's love and care?

All: **As followers of Jesus, we seek to minister to one another, our community, and the world. To this ministry we bring our time, talents, and other resources as we are able, asking God's blessing as we go out to love and serve.**

*Congregational Song #209

O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free

*Blessing

Closing Music

Hommage à J. S. Bach: Eleven Variations on 'Heinlein' - Christa Rakich (2021)

You are welcome to remain for the Closing Music or to leave quietly for fellowship in Fellowship Hall.

Women Composers' Sunday is a global event originated by the Society of Women Organists and Royal College of Organists in the U.K., and adopted by the AGO, to encourage the use of music by women composers in worship services and concerts on the Sunday nearest International Women's Day.

Ostrova, the composer of the prelude, is a Ukrainian composer born in 1961; she lives and works in Kyiv and is a Member of the National Union of Composers of Ukraine.

Clara Schumann was one of the preeminent pianists of the 19th century and a pioneer in piano technique and interpretation.

Christa Rakich is currently a Visiting Professor of Organ at the Oberlin Conservatory.

Go deep for Lent! Mirroring the 2025 General Synod theme, "Into the Deep," our 2025 Lent Devotional invites reflection on God's mysterious depths.

As Mary Luti writes in the introduction, "God inhabits the depths of life, love, loss, ecstasy, and pain, God dwells in the profundities of prayer, in sighs too deep for words. God loves the deep."

What courage, what faith, what reckoning, what wonder might find us as we go deep into God's depths this Lent?

We have several FREE copies of this book on the Welcome Table. Donations are welcomed, but not required. For those that don't get a hard copy of the book, you are also able to purchase a PDF for \$3.00 and/or hardcopy version of the book for \$5.00 using the link in the eNews. If purchasing the PDF version, please purchase one PDF per reader. Upon purchase, a link will be emailed to you for downloading the PDF.

The Guatemalan Fundraising Dinner will be April 05 starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Church!

For over 20 years SEPA (Santa Elena Project of Accompaniment) has sponsored the Guatemalan Dinner. Our speaker will be Steven Volk, Emeritus Professor of History from Oberlin College. The menu will offer authentic Guatemalan cuisine along with the famous dessert auction. The money raised by this event will go directly to an elementary school in Santa Elena, Veinte de Octubre and a middle school in Copal AA La Esperanza. Both of these communities are rural and Indigenous. They are indigenous in that the people of Santa Elena are of the Qeq' chi' linguistic, cultural group while the people of Copal AA are from three different linguistic, cultural groups: Mam, Qan' jobal', and Qeq' Chi'. Tickets are \$15.00 dollars. To purchase tickets see Lori Taylor or John Gates. Lori and John will be selling tickets after church on Sunday.

Lori Taylor: 440-213-7991 or taylorlori@oberlin.net

John Gates: 440-320-1623 or jfgates@oberlin.net

The First Church GREEN TEAM invites you to participate in decorating the "Faith in Action for the Earth" Tree during Lent and Easter.

You will see the tree in the Welcome Table area with cards, markers, and clothespins to attach the cards to the tree. Please tell us what you and your family are doing to support our Earth, its Environment, and Creation. You can sign your name or be anonymous. We will read these cards on Creation Sunday, April 27. Look for suggestions of what you can do each week in First Things First and the Sunday bulletin. Please feel free to make suggestions, too! Contact Kathleen at kjbradley123@gmail.com for those good ideas.

First Suggestion: Use reusable bags for all shopping in stores.

Cooking Class in First Church Kitchen on Saturday, March 15, 10 am - noon: Pile on to PI Day by learning how to make Union City Diner's ever-popular Graham Cracker Cream Pie! Jan Heron, whose parents owned the diner and where Jan spent a lot of time preparing food, will lead this hands-on class. She'll share the recipe and guide participants through the steps to make this delicious dessert. (Yes, that's the way they spelled diner in Union City, PA.)

The class is limited to twelve (12) people and sign up is essential. Email Linda Slocum (lsruscum@gmail.com) or sign up in the hallway leading to Fellowship Hall at Church.

Celebrate the arrival of spring with a Spring Chicken Dinner at our Wednesday Night Supper, March 19th at 5:45 PM!

Ensure your place at the table! Sign up with link in the eNews. Or, there is a paper sign-up sheet in the hallway to Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. Vegetarian and gluten-free choices will be available.

Calling all pie bakers to make dessert! Sign up to bring a pie or two and add a sweet touch to our gathering.

To help make the evening run more smoothly, we could use some help in the kitchen. Indicate on the signup form whether you are available to help with setting up before the meal or cleaning up afterward. Linda Slocum will contact you a few days prior to the supper to confirm whether your help is needed.



**Donate from
your smart phone**

The First Church in Oberlin now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's QR code reader or go to www.firstchurchoberlin.org and click "Donate Online."

FIRST CHURCH EVENTS (March 9, 2025 - March 16, 2025)

Sun. (3/9)	9:00 AM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sun. (3/9)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
Sun. (3/9)	5:00 PM	Rental	Fellowship Hall
Mon. (3/10)	1:30 PM	Finance Committee Meeting	JFO Room
Mon. (3/10)	3:00 PM	Office Staff Meeting	Office
Mon. (3/10)	4:00 PM	Worship Committee Meeting	JFO Room
Mon. (3/10)	6:00 PM	Nominating Committee	Zoom
Tues. (3/11)	8:30 AM	AARP Tax Aides	JFO Room
Tues. (3/11)	2:30 PM	Sacred Music Skills Class	Meeting House
Tues. (3/11)	4:00 PM	Book Group	Zoom
Wed. (3/12)	8:30 AM	AARP Tax Aides	JFO Room
Wed. (3/12)	4:00 PM	Witness and Membership Meeting	JFO Room
Thurs. (3/13)	2:30 PM	Sacred Music Skills Class	Meeting House
Thurs. (3/13)	6:45 PM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sat. (3/15)	9:00 AM	Prayer Event	Meeting House
Sat. (3/15)	10:00 AM	Cooking Class	Kitchen
Sun. (3/16)	9:00 AM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sun. (3/16)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
