

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

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

David Hill, Pastor

Thomas Bandy, Director of Music & Organist

Steve Johnson, Liturgist

[www.firstchurchoberlin.org](http://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.

Children of kindergarten age or older are invited to join Storytime during the worship service. They will leave for Room 3 after the Front Row Moment.

*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](mailto:office@firstchurchoberlin.org)  
David T. Hill: [pastor@firstchurchoberlin.org](mailto:pastor@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.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**February 1, 2026**  
**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**



**Opening Music**

From *Five Bagatelles, Op 23* - Gerald Finzi  
IV. *Forlana*

George Cyphers, clarinet; Marian Thomas, piano

**Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship**

One: With what shall I come before the Lord?

How shall I bow down before God the most High?

**All: Shall I bring some sort of sacrifice? Would that please the Lord?**

One: Shall I give up what I love most dearly in exchange  
for the sins I have committed?

**All: The Lord has shown us mortals what is good  
and what is required of us:**

One: To act justly. To love kindness. And to walk humbly with our God.  
Let's worship God together.

**\*Congregational Song**      *What Does the Lord Require of You?*  
See second to last page

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

**Compassionate God, we come before you to admit that we are not without blame, for we do not always do what is right. We do not always speak the truth as you desire for us to do. We can be unkind and hold grudges when you ask us to be kind and forgive. We can be ungenerous with our time and resources, when you ask us to share from our abundance. We can walk far from the path you desire for us to walk, and we can find it difficult to make our way back. Forgive us, O God, and dwell within our hearts, always. Amen.**

**\*Words of Assurance**

Leader: None of us is without sin. None of us is without blame.  
But the good news is that we have this promise from our God:  
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

---

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

## \*The Peace

One: May peace be with you

All: **And also with you.**

## Front Row Moment

### The Word in Music

*I Dream a World* - André Thomas

Poetry by Langston Hughes

*I dream a world where man  
No other man will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn  
I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.  
A world I dream where black or white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And everyone is free,  
Where wretchedness will hang its head  
And joy, like a pearl,  
Attends the needs of all mankind -  
Of such I dream, my world!*

### Scripture Lesson: Matthew 5:1-12

One: A Word of God that is still speaking,

People: **And we are still listening. Thanks be to God.**

## Reflection

### Prayers

*From Five Bagatelles, Op. 23 - Gerald Finzi*

*II. Romance*

*During the musical offering you are invited to share joys and concerns via the prayer pad in your pew, FB chat, or email ([prayers@firstchurchoberlin.org](mailto:prayers@firstchurchoberlin.org))*

## Announcements

### Offering

One: As we prepare ourselves to encounter the presence of Christ in the sacrament of communion, 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 come together to share this sacred meal.**

## **Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Retelling the Story and Blessing

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.**

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (**Unison**)

**O God, together we trust in this moment of transformation which is made possible by You. Give us the strength to continue on the journey and to set tables that are welcoming and ever expanding. Amen.**

**\*Congregational Song #436**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

**\*Blessing**

**Closing Music**

From *Five Bagatelles, Op. 23* - Gerald Finzi  
I. *Prelude*

---

---

*You are welcome to remain for the Closing Music or to leave quietly for fellowship on the patio (weather permitting) or in Fellowship Hall.*

---

---

---

---

Communion liturgy written by Rev. Teña T. Nock, who serves as The Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, United Church of Christ.

---

---

**Coffee Hour:** The Fellowship Committee is asking for volunteers to host coffee hour after church. Don't worry if you are not sure how to make the coffee. Training can be provided. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall hallway. If you have any questions please talk with Sandy Matthews.

---

---

**Regular Meeting of Congregation:** The regular meeting of the First Church congregation will be held immediately following worship TODAY, Sunday, February 1, 2026. At this meeting the 2026 budget recommended by the Executive Council will be presented for a congregational vote. A quorum is required, so please plan to attend.

---

---

**Birthday Lunch—Sunday February 8th:** The lunch will be a soup, salad, and bread Potluck. Last Names beginning with A-H - Soups, I-P- Salads, Q-Z- Bread. The sign up sheets are located in the Fellowship Hallway. A sign up sheet for volunteer cake-bakers is also on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. Everyone come and have a great time!! PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE EVENT! THANK YOU!

---

---



## 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](http://www.firstchurchoberlin.org) and click "Donate Online."

# What Does the Lord Require of You? 70

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm)  
 B<sup>b</sup> F Gm Dm

\*1.

What does the Lord re - quire of you?

2.

Jus - tice, kind - ness,

3.

To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness

(C) (G) (Am) (D) (G)  
 E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Cm F B<sup>b</sup> *Repeat as desired*

What does the Lord re - quire of you?

walk hum - bly with your God.

and walk hum - bly with your God.

\*The three melodic phrases may be sung consecutively, as a canon, or in any combination.

---

---

## FIRST CHURCH EVENTS (February 1, 2026 - February 8, 2026)

Sun. (2/1)	9:00 AM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sun. (2/1)	10:00 AM	Communion Worship Service	Meeting House
Sun. (2/1)	After Worship	Regular Meeting of the Congregation	Meeting House
Sun. (2/1)	2:00 PM	Service of Thanksgiving for Laurel Price Jones	Meeting House
Mon. (2/2)	2:00 PM	Office Staff Meeting	Office
Mon. (2/2)	4:45 PM	Outreach and Service Meeting	Zoom
Tues. (2/3)	1:30 PM	Personnel Meeting	Reading Room
Tues. (2/3)	3:00 PM	Personnel Meeting	Reading Room
Tues. (2/3)	4:00 PM	Book Group	Zoom
Tues. (2/3)	7:00 PM	Facilities Meeting	Zoom
Wed. (2/4)	4:00 PM	Witness and Membership Meeting	JFO Room
Wed. (2/4)	7:00 PM	Faith Formation Meeting	JFO Room
Thurs. (2/5)	10:30 AM	Personnel Meeting	JFO Room
Thurs. (2/5)	6:45 PM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Fri. (2/6)	12:30 PM	Buckeye Harvest	JFO Room
Sun. (2/8)	9:00 AM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sun. (2/8)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
Sun. (2/8)	After Worship	Birthday Luncheon	Fellowship Hall

---

---