

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

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Easter

David Hill, Pastor

Thomas Bandy, Director of Music & Organist

Nancy MacRae, 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.

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
David T. Hill: 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
April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday after Easter



Opening Music

His Eye is on the Sparrow - Charles Gabriel, arr. Craig Curry

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

***Congregational Song #70** *God Is Here! As We Your People Meet*

***Opening Prayer (unison)**

O Lord, our God, for all these years, those who believe in Jesus have gathered to praise your name, to seek your truth, and to discern how to live our lives within this world. We thank you for our community of faith, for our church, and how it can be a place of nurture and fellowship as well as a springboard for mission and making a difference in the name of Jesus. Be with us as we worship you this day, praising you with glad and generous hearts in this sanctuary. Amen.

***The Peace**

One: May peace be with you

All: **And also with you.**

Front Row Moment

The Word in Music

Sanctus from St. Cecilia Mass (1855) - Charles Gounod
Yifan Luo, tenor

Scripture Lesson: Acts 2:42-47

One: A Word of God that is still speaking,

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

Reflection

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

Reception of New Members (page 44)

Affirmation of Faith (#885)

Welcome and Reception (page 46)

Prayers

Psalm Prelude, Op. 32 No. 2 - Herbert Howells

Based on Psalm 37:11 - "But the meek will inherit the earth, and will delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

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)

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 #337**

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

*Blessing

Closing Music

Toccata in G major (1886) - Théodore Dubois

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

First Church in the Big Parade! Come join the fun and be a part of the annual Big Parade. Dress like a knight or a princess, or wear your First Church t-shirt. Bring a noisemaker, wave a flag, toss candy to the crowds, and show the community what a fun group we are! We'll have a truck you can ride in if you don't want to walk. Just come to the Mudd parking lot **between 11:30 and noon next Saturday, May 2**. Contact Anne Sprague if you have any questions. See you there!

Annual First Church Spring Festival: Are you looking for more ways for First Church to connect with the community? Come and bring your friends to our annual Spring Festival on **Saturday, May 9, 10am-2pm**. Representatives from local non-profit agencies will be sharing information. Entertainment will include a jazz quartet, a rock band (with our own choral scholar, Lydia Romel), a folk/bluegrass ensemble, Oberlin Steel, and jugglers and aerialists from OCircus! A soccer game on the front lawn, cookies, popcorn and Lorenzo's pizza will round out the fun. **Volunteers are needed to make the day go smoothly**. Let Anne Sprague know if you are willing to help.

Regular Meeting of the Congregation: Our Constitution directs us to have a regular meeting of the congregation to elect officers and committee members, as reported by the Nominating Committee. We have scheduled this meeting to occur in person immediately after the close of Sunday morning worship on **April 26th (TODAY)**. At that time we will also vote on the recommendation for a minor wording change to our church constitution. A full narrative report in hard copy and an electronic version will be available prior to the meeting. A 50 person quorum is required to pass any motions, **so please plan to attend the meeting that day**.

Miranda On Vacation April 30th and May 1st to Celebrate Her Birthday: Our Office Manager, Miranda Schaum, is taking some time off on April 30th and May

1st. Please note that during this time: The office voicemail will be periodically checked by a volunteer. Please call the office and leave a voicemail with your name, number, and what you'd like us to know. She will not be checking emails during her vacation. Requests for reserving space at the church, submissions for the eNews, and matters that require Miranda's assistance need to be addressed in advance of her vacation. Namely, by Monday, April 27th. Miranda will resume her Office Manager responsibilities on Monday, May 4th. Thank you for your patience and understanding to ensure vacations are as relaxing as possible!

Archives Adult Education: Following service on May 3rd there will be an adult education session all about our Archives at First Church. Our 2025 Archives Intern will be giving an overview of the material held in our Archives, as well as highlighting special pieces on display in our Archives room. She will also be explaining the process of using and donating to the First Church Archives. Following the session all are welcome to join her upstairs in the Archives room for its grand opening.



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."

Mission Moment - April 26, 2026

Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the UCC and author of today's Mission Moment

Powerful Witness (4/26/2026)

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

With that opening verse, Psalm 23 soars to the top of the greatest psalms of all time chart, becoming words whispered when lonely shadows are our only friends or when a sea of mourners need a blessed balm for broken hearts.

Psalm 23 is our perennial witness of the powerful truth that with the Lord we do not need anything else. But as popular as the psalm is, have you ever stopped to truly understand what the psalmist was saying about this incredible provision of love? For example, what does it mean to have a table prepared for us in the presence of our enemies?

Personally, I would not welcome such a dinner party in my life. But understanding ancient Middle Eastern culture helps us see better what God is up to for the host of a meal was not just offering a delectable leg of lamb. The host, through the meal, was offering protection for the guest that was invited. Once a seat was taken at the host's table, no enemy was allowed access to the guest. So that table prepared for us among all our enemies is God saying, "I got you. In the presence of danger, no harm will come to you because you are at my table."

While we are here unpacking familiar verses, let's take a closer look at the Lord anointing our head with oil. Yes, anointing one's head is a symbolic act of consecrating a person chosen by God, and we are all chosen — called — by God to care for one another. But anointing with oil was also a common practice among shepherds for their sheep. The oil would be poured on the sheep's head to act as a barrier against pesky flies. The oil would also act as a soothing balm, helping to heal scratches on the sheep's head from either branches, thorny brush or the occasional head-butting from another sheep.

So, when we hear the Lord anoints our heads, he is not just setting us aside for the holy work of loving our neighbors. He is providing us with a barrier against those proverbial buzzing insects and confrontational head-butts in life, because such annoyances just don't happen to sheep, do they?

Yes, the Lord is our shepherd. With him, we lack nothing. His protection of us is abundant.

Shepherding God, it is a joy and a privilege to be part of your Son's flock. We thank You for the constant care You give us each day. May we never take such love for granted. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

FIRST CHURCH EVENTS (April 26, 2026 - May 3, 2026)

Sun. (4/26)	9:00 AM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sun. (4/26)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
Sun. (4/26)	After Worship	Regular Meeting of the Congregation	Meeting House
Sun. (4/26)	4:00 PM	Dinner at Bella Luna	Bella Luna
Mon. (4/27)	2:00 PM	Office Staff Meeting	Office
Tues. (4/28)	4:00 PM	Book Group	Zoom
Tues. (4/28)	5:30 PM	Russian Diction Concert	Meeting House
Tues. (4/28)	7:00 PM	Executive Council	Fellowship Hall
Thurs. (4/30)	4:00 PM	Grief Support Group	Room 4
Thurs. (4/30)	6:00 PM	Line Dancing	Fellowship Hall
Thurs. (4/30)	6:45 PM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Fri. (5/1)	10:00 AM	OHC Tour	Meeting House
Fri. (5/1)	12:00 PM	OHC Tour	Meeting House
Fri. (5/1)	12:30 PM	Buckeye Harvest	JFO Room
Sat. (5/2)	10:00 AM	Big Parade	Downtown Oberlin
Sat. (5/2)	11:30 AM	Rental	Fellowship Hall
Sat. (5/2)	12:00 PM	Performance	Meeting House
Sun. (5/3)	9:00 AM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sun. (5/3)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
Sun. (5/3)	After Worship	Archives Adult Education	JFO Room
