

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

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

November 16, 2025

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

David Hill, Pastor

Thomas Bandy, Director of Music & Organist

Steve Johnson, 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
November 16, 2025
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost



Opening Music

Piano Sonata in C major, Op. 2 No. 3 - Ludwig van Beethoven
II. *Adagio*

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

***Congregational Song #484** *O Come to Me, You Weary*

***Opening Prayer**

***The Peace**

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

Front Row Moment

The Word in Music

My Lord, What a Morning - Spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh
Finney Choir

Scripture Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

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

Reflection

Prayers

Étude in F-sharp Major, Op. 42 No. 4 - Aleksandr Scriabin
During the musical offering you are invited to share joys and concerns via the prayer pad in the 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.

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

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 #532

Come, Labor On

*Blessing

Closing Music

Tocatta in D Minor ("Dorian"), BWV 538 – J. S. Bach

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

FINAL Wednesday Night Supper of 2025! As the colder winter weather arrives and with Thanksgiving and Christmas approaching, let's get together on Wednesday November 19 at 5:45 for our final supper in 2025! The organizing committee will supply meat and vegetarian chili, jambalaya, and various topping favorites. We'd like 4 people to sign up to bring corn bread and 6 to bring a dessert of your choice. There are sign-up sheets in the hallway on the way to fellowship hall. Or, you can sign up electronically in the eNews.

Adult Study this Sunday following worship in the JFO room: As the holiday season for family gatherings approaches, join us for an adult study to consider how we deal with conversations where we might fundamentally disagree with the person with whom we are in dialogue. We will view a brief 19 minute TED Talk video that presents a framework for these discussions. Then you are invited to share your reactions, ideas, and experiences regarding how this framework might apply to family gatherings, as well as gatherings throughout our lives where we might respectfully disagree with others while seeking to maintain strong relationships and being true to ourselves. If you are not familiar, a TED Talk is a short, powerful presentation about an “idea worth spreading” presented by experts and thought leaders. These curated talks, which are typically 19 minutes or less, cover a wide range of topics including technology, entertainment, design, science, and global issues. The TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) organization started as a conference in 1984 and now publishes videos of these talks online.

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.

Green Team Meeting: First Church GREEN TEAM will meet WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, in the Reading Room at 4:30 p.m. ALL ARE WELCOME! Plans for the NEW YEAR will be discussed (NO December meeting). Join the last 2025 Church Supper immediately following in Fellowship Hall.

Chocolate Chip Pumpkin Bread! Thanksgiving is Coming - and so is the Youth's November fundraiser! We had a real winner last year - chocolate chip pumpkin bread! We used Chelsey's famous recipe from Kendal Day Care, and it was delicious! The youth will be baking on November 22nd, and loaves will be ready for pickup after church on November 23rd. Reserve your loaf today! You can sign up at church on the sheet in the gallery, by clicking the link in the eNews, or by calling the church at 440-775-1711. Loaves are \$12, and payment is due at pickup. The funds raised will all go to buy gifts for children in the Holiday Helping Hands program at OCS. Please buy some pumpkin bread and help our youth help others!

2025 Advent Devotional: Soon and Very Soon

The Stillspeaking Writers invite you to plan your Advent observances around the theme, Soon and Very Soon, also the title of 2025's Advent Devotional. The theme acknowledges our need for radical hope, and encourages us to prepare for God's best.

The following worship resources are available as free PDF downloads:

- Advent Candle-Lighting Liturgy (on hope, peace, joy, love)
- Advent Candle-Lighting Liturgy (on the RCL texts from Matthew)
- Sermon Series ideas (3 distinct themes for Advent preaching)

Soon and Very Soon reflects the tenor of Romans 13:11-12, "Salvation is nearer to us than when we became believers. The night is far gone; the day is near."

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. Any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to the office at office@firstchurchoberlin.org or (440)775-1711.

Volunteer Opportunity: First Church supports the longstanding tradition of the Oberlin Weekday Community Meals (OWCM) program. OWCM has been serving regular hot meals in our community for over 30 years out of the Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall kitchen. Following the Covid pandemic OWCM currently provides meals 4 days a week with dine-in meals on Mondays and Thursdays from 5-5:45PM and take-out on Tuesdays and Fridays 5-5:45PM. Paid staff does most of the food prep, however opportunities exist for regular and periodic/substitute volunteers to provide plating, serving and clean-up. It can be a very enriching experience to share a good nutritious meal with members of our community that you may not normally have the opportunity to commune with. To volunteer, contact them at chef@christchurchoberlin.org.

Furniture Moving Group: Our Furniture Moving Group is such a hit among our renters that we are EXPANDING the group and adding some people so no one gets burnt out! Some questions you may have before joining the group:

- **What is the Furniture Moving Group?** Folks who rearrange furniture on the stage in the Meeting House for various community events for the church.
- **How often do you move furniture?** As often as you'd like! The amount of times Miranda asks for help from the group varies in the year, but the busiest times of year are usually the late fall, early winter, and general spring time. We do ask for help in the other times, though!
- **What do we ask to move?** Anything that is on the stage EXCEPT THE PIANO could be moved off of the stage, and the piano can be moved around the stage.
- **How will you know how to move these delicate items on this delicate stage?** We will train you! There are casters on everything that you may be moving, as well!

Please consider joining this crew because it takes a village to provide space for our community! Thank you for your consideration.



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 (November 16, 2025 - November 23, 2025)

Sun. (11/16)	9:00 AM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sun. (11/16)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
Sun. (11/16)	After Worship	Adult Education	JFO Room
Mon. (11/17)	1:00 PM	The Group Formerly Known as Kendal Lunch Bunch	Kendal at Oberlin
Mon. (11/17)	3:00 PM	Office Staff Meeting	Office
Tues. (11/18)	4:00 PM	Book Group	Zoom
Tues. (11/18)	7:00 PM	Executive Council Meeting	JFO Room
Wed. (11/19)	4:00 PM	City Fresh	Old Parish Lot or Hallway near Gallery
Wed. (11/19)	5:45 PM	Wednesday Night Supper	Fellowship Hall
Thurs. (11/20)	6:45 PM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Fri. (10/31)	12:30 PM	Buckeye Harvest	JFO Room
Sun. (11/23)	9:00 AM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sun. (11/23)	10:00 AM	Totenfest Worship Service	Meeting House