



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 be a congregation that graciously welcomes children (and their occasional restlessness) in the worship space. Books, journals, and coloring pages are in the hallway outside the worship space for children who would like to engage in quiet activity during worship. Nursery care is available for children under kindergarten age in Room 1 of the James Brand House if their 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, and return after the prayer time.

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 5, 2026
Easter Sunday



Opening Music

Saraband for the Morning of Easter (1949) - Herbert Howells

Greeting and Welcome

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

*Call to Worship

Christ the Lord is Risen Again - Melchior Vulpius, arr. Alinda Cooper
Roy Fuccio and Michael Feuerborn, trumpets

One: There are alleluias in the air,
that skip a beat as they dance over tombs,

Two: that push at stones and reveal a savior.

One: that explode with a slow beauty in the sunrise,

Two: that wake the birds and tear at the dawn.

One: It is God's special word:

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

One: There are alleluias in the air,
that are filled with the voice of God,

Two: that are spoken aloud in the halls of statehouse and Congress

One: that break open hope for the poor,

Two: that paint faith with the color of rainbows.

One: It is God's special word:

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

One: There are alleluias in the air,
that fill silence with song.

Two: that fill fear with hope,

One: that fill injustice with compassion,

Two: that fill worn out things with new life.

One: It is God's special word:

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

One: Let us worship amidst the alleluias.

*Congregational Song #233

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

*Call to Reconciliation

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

***Prayer of Confession**

One: Let us pray,

**We want to be people of trust, O God,
But we are fragile people who have known pain and loss,
and therefore, fear.**

We fear for ourselves and those we love.

We fear for our country and our neighbors.

We fear for our planet and our climate,

We fear for our politics and our divisions.

We fear for our economy,

We fear change — and everything is changing.

In this moment, we unburden our fears to You.

Give us the courage to trust, we pray. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

One: Hear the Good News: God, our Maker, Jesus our Teacher,
the Spirit our Advocate, the Triune God is for us, not against us.

All: We are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

***The Peace**

One: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Front Row Moment

The Word in Music

From Messiah (1741) - G. F. Handel

Roy Fuccio and Michael Feuerborn, trumpets

Chorus: *Hallelujah*

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 28:1-10

One: A Word of God that is still speaking,

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

Reflection

Prayers

Prelude in A Major, Op. 32 No. 9 (1910) – Sergei Rachmaninov

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

Announcements

*Congregational Song #231

Because You Live, O Christ

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.

Communion

*Invitation

*Communion Prayer

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God!

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is good to give God our thanks and praise.

Sanctus #793 (1st time Spanish; 2nd time English)

Remembering the Story

One: And so,
We remember...
We offer ourselves ...
We proclaim God's time...

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Prayer of Consecration

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 the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving (**Unison**)

Living Christ, thank you for this meal that nourishes our bodies and spirits. By feasting on this bread of life, your presence reminds us of our belovedness, even when broken. For you, Holy Mystery, companion us through all things. Thanks be for your sustaining love. Amen.

***Congregational Song #253**

*A toi la gloire, ô Ressuscité!
(Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!)*

***Blessing**

One: Now that morning has come

All: and the dawn has broken the darkness

One: Now that the stone has rolled

All: and set life free

One: Now that Christ is risen

All: let us go

One: not quietly, not gently

All: but with a great alleluia

One: that lets the world know

All: life says "Yes!"

One: And now may the Christ who has risen,
the God who sets free, and the Spirit who rolls stones,
be with us and go with us all into this world. Amen.

Closing Music

Toccata from Organ Symphony No. 5 in F Minor (1879) - Charles-Marie Widor

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

Come join the fun! Be a part of Oberlin's Big Parade! This year's theme is *Ye Olde Big Parade*, featuring knights, princesses, jesters, dragons, and more. Let's show the community what a vibrant and fun place First Church is by joining in with costumes, a float, flags, or just your shining faces - whatever you can think of! Contact Anne Sprague if you have ideas to share. The parade will be **Saturday, May 2**, and our annual Spring Festival will be the **following week, May 9**. Let's celebrate Spring and First Church!

Office Closed: The office will be closed tomorrow, April 6th, in recognition of Easter Monday. It will reopen on Tuesday, April 7th.

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.

David's Vacation: David will be on vacation from Monday, April 6 - Sunday April 12. Our Guest Preacher on Sunday, April 12 will be Jim Cunningham. If you have any timely concerns, please contact the office at 440-775-1711.

Wednesday Night Supper: At our Wednesday night supper on April 15 at 5:45 pm, we'll CELEBRATE SPRING the PA German way! Some churches in northeastern PA host Dandelion Suppers this time of year, when the young dandelions are just bitter enough to pair with hot bacon dressing. Fortunately, the traditional meal also includes ham and potatoes. At First Church we're also adding fresh asparagus, carrots, deviled eggs, and an alternative salad, meatless options, rolls, and dessert, What a feast! Lemon sponge pie would be among the desserts in Dutch country and you might like to sample that too! Experience and enjoy this ethnic tradition! We're looking for three people to make a dozen devilled eggs each and five folks to bring a seasonal dessert. Sign up today online in the eNews or in the hallway to fellowship hall.

Are You Interested in Learning More About Joining First Church? Please join us for an informal Inquirer's Gathering in the JFO Room following the worship service on October 12th. Wherever you are on your faith journey, your questions are welcome, and conversation is invited. ALL are invited! We look forward to seeing you! The church will receive new members on October 26th.

Dinner and Conversation: The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring an evening at Bella Luna's on Sunday, April 26th at 4:00 p.m. We will have the restaurant to ourselves! The cost will be \$33.00 person, to be paid in advance, plus the gratuity the night of the event. You can make your check out to First Church with "Bella Luna" on the memo line.

We will begin the evening with appetizers followed by a plated salad. Dinner will be served buffet style and will include pasta, steamed vegetables, salmon, chicken marsala, and roast pork loin, with cannoli's for dessert. Beverages are included but feel free to bring your own wine if you like. We need to give Bella Luna a total number of people attending by April 21st. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall hallway. Join us for an evening of good food and fellowship!!

One Great Hour of Sharing: is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

We can make a difference. We do make a difference. Your generosity makes all the difference. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing provide immediate aid and long-term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster, or crisis around the world.

The 2026 offering will be collected on Easter, April 5th. It is possible to contribute in one of three ways:

1. By mailing a check made out to The First Church in Oberlin with "OGHS" in the memo line to the church office,
2. By using the offering envelopes on the Welcome Table and depositing your donation in the donation boxes in the Meeting House by the doors exiting the room,
3. Or, by going to our First Church website, scrolling down and clicking on "Donate Online" and then going to the "One Great Hour of Sharing" section. Alternatively, scan the QR code in your pew **or below** and it'll bring you to the page.

See the resources in the eNews and the bulletin for more information on this special offering. More information can also be found on the UCC website.

Let your gift help to put prayer into action. The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. It's time to share.



**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 5, 2026

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

Stepping Toward New Life (4/5/2026)

John 20:1-18

There has always been something powerful about Mary's lonesome walk to the tomb that first Easter morning as each grief-filled step leads to renewed hope. And the beauty is that while we know what awaits her — not a lifeless body, but rather the Risen and Resurrected Lord — she doesn't.

In her pre-dawn funeral march, she has no clue that with just a few more difficult steps she will understand how God's promises are true. She will be awed to see how death doesn't get the victorious last word. She will hear the blessed new hellos that come after the heart-breaking good-byes.

Whenever I find myself moving in slow motion and the weight of loss makes it hard to take even one tiny shuffle forward, I take my side next to Mary. I imagine walking with her to the tomb of death that will be revealed as the tomb of life. I walk with her noticing how the darkness gradually changes color. One step forward and the black sky turns to gray. Another step forward and the gray lightens with twinges of pink. Yet another step and the pinks give way to dazzling golden hues. Each step, a step of faith. Each step, a step of promise. Each step leading to the promise of a resurrected life.

It happened to Mary, and it can happen to you on this day, the Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday!

Remember Mary and find the courage in your losses of life to keep stepping forward, for those are the steps leading to hope and healing. Those are the steps that will reveal to us the loving compassion of our Risen Lord and Friend.

God of Resurrection Hope, we praise You for the new day dawning. In Jesus, our hopes are renewed. In Jesus, grief will turn into joy. In Jesus, our tombs will indeed be made empty. May the steps of faith we take be strengthened by Your Love and may we never step moving forward toward Your beautiful promises. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver.”

- 2 Corinthians 9:7

YWCA of Palestine – Jalazone Kindergarten and Community Center

What better way to support a more sustainable and hopeful future than to support and educate future generations? The YWCA of Palestine, a United Church of Christ partner through Global Ministries and supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, has engaged local Palestinian communities since 1893.

Today, it offers programs of economic empowerment, women’s rights, youth leadership, and children’s education. An example of the latter is the YWCA’s nursery schools and kindergartens in refugee camps, schools the YWCA has run for decades. In addition to regular classes, the YWCA offers skill-based camps such as photography and sports, as well as other extra-curricular activities at its schools.

In the occupied Palestinian West Bank, roughly one-fourth of the 900,000 Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations live in 19 refugee camps. The YWCA kindergarten in the Jalazone Refugee Camp near Ramallah is a sign of hope for a community that has endured over 75 years of displacement.

The school and connected community center address the needs of over 80 children and their families within the camp. In a place that is often subjected to raids and night-time patrols by the Israeli military, children are not immune from the trauma the residents of the camp experience. As a result, the YWCA has added awareness and counselling sessions to regular classes to help improve the psychological well-being of the children there.

The opportunities that the YWCA affords the community through the kindergarten benefit the children, their families, and the teachers as well, providing a safe space for play and employing techniques to cope with the stress of daily life living in sub-par circumstances of a refugee camp under military occupation.

The pride the children have when they dress up for their graduation ceremony is palpable. They enjoy the celebration of their accomplishment, and anticipate their next stages of education and life better able and prepared for the challenges they will face.



FIRST CHURCH EVENTS (April 5, 2026 - April 12, 2026)

Sun. (4/5)	9:00 AM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sun. (4/5)	10:00 AM	Easter Worship Service	Meeting House
Mon. (4/6)	All Day	Easter Monday - Office Closed	Office
Mon. (4/6)	4:30 PM	Outreach and Service Meeting	JFO Room
Tues. (4/7)	8:30 AM	AARP Tax Aides	JFO Room
Tues. (4/7)	4:00 PM	Book Group	Zoom
Tues. (4/7)	7:00 PM	Facilities Committee	Zoom
Wed. (4/8)	8:30 AM	AARP Tax Aides	JFO Room
Wed. (4/8)	6:15 PM	Faith Formation Meeting	JFO Room
Thurs. (4/9)	6:00 PM	Line Dancing	Fellowship Hall
Thurs. (4/9)	6:45 PM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Fri. (4/10)	12:30 PM	Buckeye Harvest	JFO Room
Sun. (4/12)	9:00 AM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sun. (4/12)	10:00 AM	Guest Preacher Worship Service	Meeting House
Sun. (4/12)	1:45 PM	Recital	Meeting House
Sun. (4/12)	3:30 PM	Reception for Recital	Fellowship Hall
