

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

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

October 18, 2026

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

David Hill, Pastor

Thomas Bandy, Director of Music & Organist

Steve Johnson, Liturgist

Harold Slocum, Guest Organist

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 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
October 18, 2026
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost



Opening Music

Fantasy on "O Jesus Christ, to Thee May Hymns Be Rising" - Gerhard Krapf

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

***Congregational Song #451**

Be Now My Vision

***Opening Prayer**

***The Peace**

One: May peace be with you

All: **And also with you.**

Front Row Moment

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 22:15-22

One: A Word of God that is still speaking,

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

Reflection

Prayers

Hanson Place, "Shall We Gather at the River" - arr. Robert A. Hobby

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.**

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

Announcements

Stewardship Moment

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 #542**

Born of God, Eternal Savior

*Blessing

Closing Music

Toccata on "Deo Gratias" - Richard Keys Biggs

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

Thank you to Harold Slocum for filling in for Tom Bandy this morning!

FALL HARVEST SUPPER: Wednesday, October 21 @ 5:45 PM. Skip cooking tonight and join us for a delicious taste of autumn!

What's Cooking: Roast Pork & Savory Vegetarian; Squash & Sweet Potato Casseroles; Fresh Vegetable; Quick Breads; Homemade Applesauce & Freshly Baked Pies.

You don't need to cook anything this month—everything is provided. Just bring yourself and enjoy! If you can come early (at 5:00pm) to help set up or stay late to clean up, please indicate when you sign up for the supper.

Folk and Bluegrass Song Circle: NOT ON FOURTH WEDNESDAY THIS MONTH, returns on October 20, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Folk, Bluegrass, and Gospel music in the Fellowship Hall. Come prepared to play, sing, or just enjoy. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

REMINDER: Apple picking **this** Sunday October 18 at Hillcrest Orchards. Meet at 1:00pm in church parking lot

Monthly Communion at Kendal: Beginning in November, Pastor Hill will be offering a monthly communion service at Kendal at Oberlin. Each service will begin with a time of informal conversation followed by a brief celebration of the Lord's Supper. Services will be held the first Tuesday of the month, at 1pm, in the Whittier Lounge, starting on November 3. If you have any questions, please contact the Pastor directly.

The Ministry of Hospitality: Being able to host the After-worship Coffee Clatch is something to be proud of, for sure. It is a ministry that allows those in the congregation who want to spend time together after worship to be present with one another while, enjoying juice, coffee or water, store-bought cookies or homemade ones. If everyone volunteered... this delightful after worship time would be a time we could all count on and enjoy. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hall into Fellowship Hall. Please sign up a couple of times over the course of a year. Offerings can be as simple as juice or water. Cookies are nice but optional. The Fellowship Committee provides essentials like compostable plates, napkins, and cups, half and half, sugar, and juice. We keep some Gluten free cookies in the freezer, to be used during this time, as needed. If you feel like doing something more special, have at it. But, all offerings are much appreciated. There are very clear written instructions in the kitchen and there's no way you can make a mistake! We promise! If you want assistance, or have a question, speak with any member of Fellowship Committee and one of us can assist you. We are Denise Capers, Rhys Price Jones, Alana Kelley, Anne McCormick, Karla Sanderson and Lori Taylor.

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 November 1st. 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 November 15th.

First Church Trivia Contest: A drawback with Trivia Contests is that they imply a sense of "certainty" and confidence that the setter knows the "correct answer". I thought that a simple question asking how many rows of pews were in the center section of the meeting house before 1928 would have a simple answer. Here are three:

1. If you look at the photograph I hinted at in the Archives and try to count the rows shown, I'm pretty sure you come up with 16. *I'd appreciate it if one of our members with younger eyes would go up to the Archives and either confirm or deny this.*

Cont.

2. If you look at the numbers on the remaining pews, you will see that the center right pews are numbered 30, 28 ... This strongly suggests that there were 15 rows at the time the numbers were assigned.

3. If you talk to members who remember the 2020 renovations, there was at the time consideration given to removing up to 3 rows to make space for that stage at the front where the piano sits. In the event, there is a blueprint in the archives that makes it clear that only 1 row was removed in 2020. Together with the pew (donated back to the church I believe by Kristen Peterson) removed in 1928, this would also suggest that 15 is the "correct" answer to Trivia Contest #3.

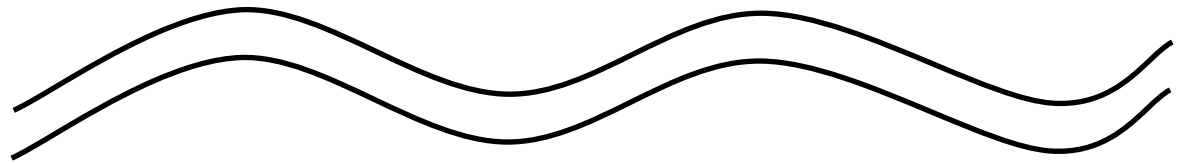
So, three winners this week:

Anne Conway who saw 14 rows in the 1928 photo; Karla Sanderson who, like me, thought there were 16, and Pete Richards who thought of looking at the numbers on the sides of the pews. All three receive the prize of a bucket of ammunition to shoot from the cannons at Hillcrest Orchard this Sunday. Please feel free to contact me with any more information related to the number of pews; I have a feeling this trivia question is far from settled.

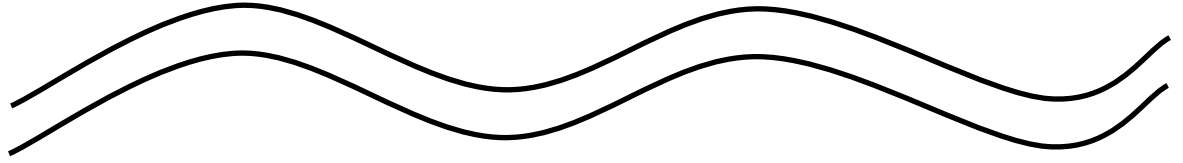
Trivia Contest #4: There is a pew on the main floor of the church buildings that is not in the meeting house itself.

- a. Where is it?
- b. What number(s) do you see on the sides?
- c. What is different about this one that distinguishes it from all the other pews on this floor?

Text your answers to 703-945-8916 **with your name** by noon on Tuesday October 20.



The Stewardship Campaign Week 6: This year's stewardship campaign theme is *Rooted in Faith, Growing in Generosity; Sowing Seeds of Hope*. Each week, we will reflect on a different part of this theme, beginning with the foundation of our faith, growing through generosity, and celebrating the hope made possible through our shared gifts. This week we focus on **Mission** is how faith moves from words into action, guiding us to serve others generously with love and compassion. Next week's focus is **Generosity**.



Mission Moment

October 18, 2026

Wisdom for the Way (10/18/2026)
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

In the 1920's when minister's wife Lesbia Scott's three children were young, she enjoyed writing simple hymns for them about everyday things. "Make us a hymn about a picnic," they would ask. Or "write a hymn about a foggy day." She collected the songs she wrote for her children in a long-out-of-print collection.

The only one that remains in regular circulation was not a favorite of hers, or her children's, but it continues to capture the imagination of singers generations later. *I Sing A Song of the Saints of God* (*#295 in *The New Century Hymnal*) canonizes the gospel writer Luke, queen Margaret of Scotland, Joan of Arc, John Donne and Ignatius of Antioch - not by name but by characteristics. Today will you sing this song in your church? Which image makes you smile? Which image makes you wonder? Which image makes you understand something about God's people you didn't before?

I sing a song of the saints of God,
Faithful their whole lives through
Who bravely labored, lived, and died
for the God they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
And another a shepherd in pastures green:
they were saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God, help me to be one too.

They loved their God and they lived that love,
It was loving that made them strong;
They did what was right for Jesus' sake,
Lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,
and another was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's no earthly reason, none in the least,

They lived not only in ages past:
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is filled with living saints,
Who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,
in church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea;
for the saints are folk like you and me,

And I mean to be one too.

**The New Century Hymnal*. Cleveland, Ohio. The Pilgrim Press; United Church of Christ.
© 1995 The Pilgrim Press. Hymn #295 Words, Lesbia Scott. Music, John H. Hopkins.

FIRST CHURCH EVENTS (October 18, 2026 - October 25, 2026)

Sun. (10/18)	9:00 AM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sun. (10/18)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
Sun. (10/18)	2:00 PM	OC Taiko ExCo	Room 3
Sun. (10/18)	5:00 PM	OC Taiko Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
Mon. (10/19)	1:00 PM	Kendal Gathering	Kendal at Oberlin
Mon. (10/19)	3:00 PM	Office Staff Meeting	Office
Mon. (10/19)	5:00 PM	OC Taiko Rehearsal	Meeting House
Tues. (10/20)	4:00 PM	Book Group	Zoom
Tues. (10/20)	6:30 PM	Folk and Bluegrass Song Circle	Fellowship Hall, JFO Room, & Lawn
Wed. (10/21)	4:00 PM	City Fresh	Outside/Hallway
Wed. (10/21)	4:30 PM	OC Taiko Rehearsal	Meeting House
Wed. (10/21)	5:45 PM	Wednesday Night Supper	Fellowship Hall
Thurs. (10/22)	6:00 PM	Line Dancing	Fellowship Hall
Thurs. (10/22)	6:45 PM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Fri. (10/23)	12:30 PM	Buckeye Harvest	JFO Room
Sat. (10/24)	11:00 AM	Let's Get Real Chili Cook Off	Fellowship Hall and JFO Room
Sat. (10/24)	12:45 PM	OC Taiko ExCo	Room 3
Sat. (10/24)	4:15 PM	OC Taiko Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
Sun. (10/25)	9:00 AM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sun. (10/25)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
Sun. (10/25)	After Worship	Adult Education	JFO Room
Sun. (10/25)	2:00 PM	OC Taiko ExCo	Room 3
Sun. (10/25)	5:00 PM	OC Taiko Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
Sun. (10/25)	7:00 PM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
