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

Sunday Worship
10:00 AM
November 22, 2026
Totenfest

David Hill, Pastor
Thomas Bandy, Director of Music & Organist
Kathleen Bradley, 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 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.

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."

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ORDER OF WORSHIP
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Faith in Action
FIRST CHURCH†OBERLIN

Opening Music

Sonata No. 1 for Violin and Piano in D Major, Op. 12 No. 1 - Ludwig van Beethoven
I. *Allegro con brio*
Adelaide Bandy, violin

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

One: There are many who have walked the path toward God before us, showing us the way with their lives.
All: We come to give thanks for them.
One: As they were called, so are we called to live as Jesus did, answering the call of God, saying, "Here I am! Send me:'
All: We come to ask for guidance and courage.
One: We are, each of us, like those who have gone before us, a strange mixture of saint and sinner.
God accepts us that way and fills us with the Spirit, who empowers us to act.
All: We come to worship the Holy God.

***Congregational Song** #295 *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

***Opening Prayer**

***The Peace**

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

Front Row Moment

The Word in Music

At the River - Aaron Copland, arr. R. Wilding White
Finney Choir

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.

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

Guided Meditation

Prayers

Das alte Jahr vergangen ist 'The old year has gone' (BWV 614) - J. S. Bach

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)

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silence

A Litany for Saints

Leader: Thank you for your saints, O God.

People: and help us to be like them.

Lighting of Candles

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** #299 *For All the Saints*

***Blessing**

Closing Music

Nun danket alle Gott 'Now thank we all our God' (1915) - Heinrich Wettstein

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

Members & Family to Remember
November 24, 2025 – November 22, 2026



Laurel Price Jones	*January 12, 2026*
W. Jeanne McKibbben	*March 2, 2026*
Bob VanDale	*July 20, 2026*
Barbara Evans	*September 19, 2026*
George Andrews, Jr.	*October 12, 2026*
Mary Simons	*October 31, 2026*

Adult Education: TODAY, the Outreach and Service Committee will host our Adult Education hour with a presentation from the Ruby N. Jones Scholarship Board chair, Brittany Lovett and members of the board. The Ruby N. Jones Scholarship is one of several beneficiaries of the generosity the congregation of First Church, and the O and S committee believes that First Church members would like to know more about the recipients of our funds. Our own Nancy MacRae is a member of the Scholarship Board. Each year since 1998 when Ms. Jones retired from the Oberlin Public Schools and established the scholarship, students have been recipients of the scholarship. In 2026, 6 students each received four year scholarships of 10,000. We hope you will join us to learn more about the Ruby N. Jones Scholarship Fund.

Pick up your pumpkin bread now! Our Youth Group will be baking and selling pumpkin bread to raise funds for Oberlin Community Services (OCS) Helping Hands holiday gifts. If you ordered a loaf, be sure to pick it up TODAY!

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24 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS FOR THE MEETING HOUSE: If you would like to assist with the purchase of 24 poinsettias to decorate the meeting house for Christmas you may make a donation in any amount and include information to make your donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one. This information will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Please use the form in the bulletin or in the church office. Donations may be given to Miranda in the church office. The 24 Poinsettias will be available after Christmas Eve evening worship to those who have made a donation, until the poinsettias are gone. Suggested donation of $10/poinsettia. Funds collected exceeding the cost of poinsettias will be donated to The UCC Christmas Fund.

Keyboards: Becky Thompson is hoping to secure two used keyboards in good condition. They will be given to three little girls to support them in learning to play the piano. If you know of any available keyboards free of charge or for a good price, please let her know. Her email and phone number are listed in the First Church directory.

Welcome to our Newest Member! Hal Gober was received on Sunday, November 15, 2026. Welcome! He says he's been an "off and on resident of Oberlin since 1992, now he intends to end his days in this wonderful town." See the eNews for a few pictures of him being received and say hello next time you get a chance!

Front Row Moment: Do you like chatting with children? Are you patient and flexible? During our weekly worship service we make time to speak directly with the children - sharing how God's love is in their lives. When Pastor Hill is away, we need some dedicated volunteers to spend these few minutes with the children on Sunday morning. Are you able to help out? We need 3-4 people who can rotate thru the weeks that Pastor Hill cannot be in worship. These folks would also be called upon in case Pastor Hill has an unplanned absence. You are encouraged to be creative with your topic. Lesson plans - very casual - are available, too. Coaching from those who have enjoyed this time with children in the past is also readily available. This message is coming from your Worship Committee members. Please let Miranda know of your interest! Thanks for considering how you will make a positive impact in the life of the children who spend some time with us on Sunday mornings!

Patrick Wilburn's Eagle Scout Project: My name is Patrick Wilburn and I am a 17 year old from Oberlin, OH. I have been a scout for 10 years and I am now working on my Eagle Project. My Eagle Project combines my concern for helping the needy and my belief in the dignity of everyone. I am collecting toiletries and warm clothes for the unhoused living in the Cleveland area, which will be distributed through the Labre ministry at my high school, St. Ignatius High School. Every Sunday for the past 23 years, boys from St. Ignatius have distributed food and companionship to people living on the streets in Cleveland. My drive will collect toiletries and clothing items that will help the unhoused live more dignified lives on the streets. Collection bins are located in the entrance hall near the parking lot. **I will be collecting items until Sunday December 6.** If you would like to contribute monetarily, you can follow the QR code or contribute checks payable to Drew Wilburn (my dad), with "Patrick Eagle Scout" in the memo line. Thank you all for your support.

Trivia Contest #8: Because we're all so busy I'll give you another week on this one. Find out what you can about First Church's Gothic Chapel (1873-1908) much of which is still visible. Send a photo of a surviving piece of the Chapel to Rhys by Tuesday 24th Nov. There are photographs of the Gothic Chapel in the Church. There's a photo of its interior hanging on a wall not far from the office. Feel free to talk to other church members and share their knowledge. We are a sharing community and our (mostly) noble history is a source of pride especially now as we approach our bicentennial.

Book Group: The First Church Book Group meets via Zoom every week from 4:00-5:15 during the academic year, taking breaks for the holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter). The reading schedule for this year is posted on the First Church Bulletin Board in the gallery leading to the Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Linda Gates (linda.gates@oberlin.edu) or any member of BG. To join the group, contact the church office: office@firstchurchoberlin.org or (440) 775-1711.

2026 Advent Devotional: *Suddenly*

Urgent times demand God's sudden in-breaking.

Mark's Gospel presents the story of Jesus at the break-neck speed of "suddenly": Suddenly Jesus was driven into the wilderness. Suddenly the fishermen left their nets. Suddenly the woman was cured, suddenly the girl woke up, suddenly the man could see. Maybe the nativity is a "suddenly" story, too: Suddenly, a birth interrupts business-as-usual. Molly Baskette writes in the introduction of Suddenly:

"Both human history and natural history offer this truth: things seem to change very slowly, or not at all. But then suddenly, everything changes all at once. The old world passes away and a new one is born, thanks to the labors that were happening all along."

What divine interruption does the world need?

What holy "suddenly" does your life need?

"When we worry that God is not in a hurry to answer our prayers," Molly continues in the introduction, *"maybe God is answering our needs with a long slow start, and a sudden splashy finish is just about to arrive."*

The Suddenly Advent Devotional includes daily reflections and prayers for the season of Advent through the celebration of Epiphany (November 29, 2026 - January 6, 2027). Suddenly also includes weekly Advent candle-lighting rituals for at-home use.

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.

24 Christmas Poinsettias for the Meeting House

If you would like to assist with the purchase of 24 poinsettias to decorate the Meeting House for Christmas you may make a donation in any amount and include information to make your donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

The 24 poinsettias will be available after Christmas Eve evening worship to those who have made a donation, until the poinsettias are gone.

Funds collected exceeding the cost of poinsettias will be donated to the UCC Christmas Fund.

Orders must be received by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH.**

If you're using a check to donate, please make it out to FIRST CHURCH and mark "POINSETTIA DONATION" in the memo line.

In HONOR Of

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

In MEMORY Of

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

GIVEN BY: _____

(Please print all names clearly)

PLEASE INCLUDE DONATION WITH YOUR ORDER FORM.

Thank you for helping to beautify the Meeting House this Christmas season.