

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

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

David Hill, Pastor

Thomas Bandy, Director of Music & Organist

Prue Richards, 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
July 26, 2026
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Opening Music

Sleepers, Wake, A Voice is Calling! (Based on a German Chorale Tune) - JS Bach
Marian Thomas, organ

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

One: Let us praise God our Maker!
All: **Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.**
(NCH # 1: Words by Walter C. Smith, 1867)

***Congregational Song #556** *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*
(Words: Catherine Cameron, 1967)

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

**Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.
God, fix my heart so I may be used by you.
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.**
(#188, Words by Margaret J. Douroux, 1970)

***Words of Assurance**

(# 509, Words by Sylvia Dunston, 1989)

***The Peace**

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

Front Row Moment #319

Sing Them Over Again to Me - Philip Bliss, 1874

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

The Word in Music

Berceuse, Opus 16 - Gabriel Faure

George Cyphers, clarinet; Marian Thomas, piano

Scripture Lessons: Psalm 113; Matthew 26:26-30

One: A Word of God that is still speaking,

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

Song of Praise #236 *Halleluja* (sing twice)

Reflection

How Can I Keep from Singing? #476 (Words anonymous, around 1869)

Guide My Feet While I Run This Race #497 (African-American traditional)

O God of Earth and Altar #582 (words by two authors, 1906 & 1985)

It Is Well With My Soul #438 (Words by Horatio G. Spafford, 1873)

Spirit of the Living God #283 (Words by Daniel Iverson, 1926)

Prayers

A Country Hymn - Ralph Vaughan Williams

George Cyphers, clarinet; Marian Thomas, piano

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 #575**

O For a World

(Words by Miriam Therese Winter, 1987)

***Blessing**

Closing Music

Two Versions of *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* - Martin Luther, c.1529

Version 1: #440 (rhythmic version)

Version 2: Setting by Johann Gottfried Walther, c. 1720

Marian Thomas, organ

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

Many Thanks to Marian Thomas for filling in for Tom Bandy and for her design and leadership of this morning's hymn-centered service of worship. Also, thanks to Carol Longworth and her assistance in leading the singing.

Special Musical Guest Today: George Cyphers, clarinet. We are grateful to have George joining us again this morning.

Prayer time opening prayer, Rosemary Godin (adapted); pastoral prayer, Robert McDowell (adapted).

Pastor's Vacation: The Pastor will be on vacation from Sunday, July 26 through Sunday, August 9. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact Becky Thompson, (440) 506-7376.

Miranda's Vacation: Miranda will be on vacation from Wednesday, July 29 through Friday, July 31. She will be back in the office on Monday, August 3rd.

You may be wondering how to help Venezuela! On June 29 Venezuela experienced devastating earthquakes, especially in the city of Caracas, with over 2500 people killed with homes and city services in ruins. The United Church of Christ has representatives on the ground assisting with aid and recovery. UCC is asking for a special donation to assist our efforts in Venezuela. Outreach & Service Committee has made a donation to this effort from our discretionary budget. You can also help with a donation through UCC. Use this link to donate ONLINE:

<https://www.ucc.org/ucc-issues-emergency-appeal-following-venezuela-earthquakes/>

Or CHECKS may be made payable to United Church of Christ with a note, "Venezuela Earthquakes 2026" on the memo line and left at the church office or in the offering on Sunday. You may also mail them directly:

United Church of Christ
P. O. Box 71957
Cleveland, OH 44194

Summer Storytime Sign-up! Come get to know the church's wonderful kids - by reading a story to them during the sermon portion of worship this summer! Stories will be provided, or you can bring your own, and our wonderful childcare workers will be there to lend a hand. A sign-up sheet is in the gallery. Thanks in advance for taking the time to get to know the children of the church!

COFFEE HOUR THROUGH THE SUMMER We've been loving after-church coffee hours! Good fair trade coffee, packaged cookies or home made and great conversation. Simple is best. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the kitchen. If you want to sign-up but need to learn how to make coffee and set up, let Alana Kelley know and she can help you. It's easy peasy. Promise! OR if you want to help out by delivering 2 dozen homemade cookies or pastries packed for the freezer in the kitchen, we will happily accept those donations! Thank you in advance!

What's Cooking This Fall at First Church?

Our **Third Wednesday Night Suppers** are a beloved tradition, and we'd like your creative ideas to make this fall's lineup the best yet!

If you enjoy bringing people together over good food, join our monthly Zoom planning team!

- **Next Planning Meeting:** Tuesday, August 18 at 10:00 AM (via Zoom)
- **Our First Goal:** Planning the September 16 menu. Then we'll toss out some ideas for the suppers in October and November.

To get the Zoom link, contact Miranda Schaum in the church office.
(office@firstchurchoberlin.org)

Questions? Contact Linda at Irslocum@gmail.com or **(440) 935-0487**. Let's make something delicious together and keep the tradition going!



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FIRST CHURCH EVENTS (July 26, 2026 - August 2, 2026)

Sun. (7/26)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
Sun. (7/26)	12:30 PM	Rental	Fellowship Hall
Wed. (7/29)	4:00 PM	City Fresh	Outside/Hallway
Thurs. (7/30)	4:00 PM	Grief Support Group	Room 4
Thurs. (7/30)	6:00 PM	Line Dancing	Fellowship Hall
Fri. (7/31)	12:30 PM	Buckeye Harvest	JFO Room
Sat. (8/1)	All Day	Family Reunion	Fellowship Hall
Sun. (8/2)	10:00 AM	Communion Worship Service	Meeting House



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