

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

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

David Hill, Pastor

Thomas Bandy, Director of Music & Organist

Nancy MacRae, 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
August 23, 2026
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Opening Music

Organ Sonata II (1937) - Paul Hindemith
II. *Ruhig bewegt*

Welcome

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 124)

One: If God had not been on our side, when our enemies attacked,
they would have swallowed us alive, their anger flaring.

**All: Protect us, O God, from all that threatens to harm us, and all
that pressures us into making choices that are not of you.**

One: The flood would have swept over us, raging waters washing us away.
But our help is in the name of God, who made heaven and earth.

**All: Whenever we turn to you, O God, you are there.
We find our help and our hope in you.**

One: Blessed be God! Let us worship God together!

***Congregational Song #25**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

***Opening Prayer**

***The Peace**

One: May peace be with you

All: And also with you.

Front Row Moment

The Word in Music

Nocturne in C-sharp minor, Op. 27 no. 1 (1836) - Frédéric Chopin

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 16:13-20

One: A Word of God that is still speaking,

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

Reflection

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

Prayers

Graceful Ghost Rag (1989) - William Bolcom

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.**

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 #306**

The Church of Christ in Every Age

*Blessing

Closing Music

From *Suite gothique*, Op. 25 (1895) - Léon Boëllmann

I. *Choral*

II. *Menuet gothique*

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

Folk and Bluegrass Song Circle: Fourth Wednesday of each month, returns on August 26, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Folk, Bluegrass, and Gospel music in the JFO, Fellowship Hall, or Cooper Terrace depending on number of attendees and weather. Come prepared to play, sing, or just enjoy. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

Are you interested in Creation Justice and our Environment? Join our next First Church FIRST GREEN TEAM meeting! New date: Wednesday, September 2, at 4 PM, Reading Room. See you there! Questions? Call Kathleen at (440) 503-0123.

New Great Grandparents: Bill and Robin Jindra are happy to announce to our First Church family that we have joined the Great Grandparent club! Warren Adam Harper was born June 12th to granddaughter and husband, Aimee and Justin Harper.

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!

Ever Wanted to Play the Steel Drum? O Steel, Oberlin College's steel drum band, will be offering an ExCo course this fall. The ExCo or Experimental College is run by college students and offers a variety of free classes that are led by students, faculty, and community members. Registration is not until early September but you can contact O Steel for more information by emailing either sgorby@oberlin.edu or osteel@oberlin.edu to learn more. O Steel performed at First Church as part of our Spring Festival in 2026. They will also be at the ExCo Fair.



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 - August 23, 2026

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

Be Transformed (08/23/2026)

This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! And let us have a pop quiz. I bet you never expected that in church, did you? But here we go.

What was the name of the baby found along the banks of the Nile? Moses. Correct.

That was easy. Now for one a bit harder. Name the two midwives who disregarded Pharaoh's edict to kill all Hebrew baby boys, and who delivered Moses.

Pharaoh gave this horrific order to curtail the rapid growth of the Hebrew population who were enslaved in Egypt. It didn't work. It just made God bless the community more.

But back to the question. What were their names?

They were Shiprah and Puah. Don't worry if you didn't know the answer. I didn't either when this question appeared on the Bible content part of my ordination exams. It had me stumped, and my friends as well.

It's noteworthy that the midwives' names live on in the ongoing story of salvation because women were often written out of the manuscripts by the male authors of the time.

But here in the story of Moses, all we have are women defying authority. We have the midwives as the heroines who prevented a genocide. We have Moses' mother who hid her baby the first few months of life, before putting him in a basket made of reeds and floating him in the Nile. We have Moses' sister watching the basket bobbing on the banks of the Nile to ensure her baby brother is safe. Then we have the daughter of Pharaoh who adopts the babe as her son and gives him the name "Moses," which means "drawn from the water."

Each decisive, risky and faithful act of these women builds upon the next, ultimately transforming the Israelites from the enslaved to desert wanderers to recipients of the Promised Land. And that is how a better tomorrow is created — in stages and with the help of people working together. Bringing about change isn't a solitary act.

The world, which is always in some stage of transformation because God is never done with us, needs your hands this day to deliver hope or weave a basket of safety or raise a child whose voice will say to a pharaoh, "Let my people go."

We all have a part to play in heralding in God's kingdom. May your name be one that is remembered in the who's who of God's children who dared, risked and spoke up.

Gracious God, Your plans for a better tomorrow will never be thwarted. Peace will reign. Justice will prevail. The outcasts and forgotten will be welcomed. And so, Great God, here are our hands. Bless them and use them in transforming Your broken world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

FIRST CHURCH EVENTS (August 23, 2026 - August 30, 2026)

Sun. (8/23)	9:00 AM	Reunion	Fellowship Hall
Sun. (8/23)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
Mon. (8/24)	2:00 PM	Office Staff Meeting	Office
Tues. (8/25)	10:00 AM	Executive Council Meeting	Fellowship Hall
Tues. (8/25)	5:00 PM	Cable Co op Board Meeting	JFO Room
Wed. (8/26)	3:15 PM	Stewardship Meeting	JFO Room
Wed. (8/26)	4:00 PM	City Fresh	Outside/Hallway
Wed. (8/26)	6:30 PM	Folk and Bluegrass Song Circle	Fellowship Hall, JFO Room, & Lawn
Thurs. (8/27)	4:00 PM	Grief Support Group	Room 4
Thurs. (8/27)	6:00 PM	Line Dancing	Fellowship Hall
Fri. (8/28)	12:30 PM	Buckeye Harvest	JFO Room
Sun. (8/30)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
