

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

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

May 31, 2026

Trinity Sunday

David Hill, Pastor

Thomas Bandy, Director of Music & Organist

Ralph Thompson, 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
May 31, 2026
Trinity Sunday



Opening Music

Adagio e dolce from Trio Sonata No 3 in D minor - J. S. Bach

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

One: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

All: You have set your glory above the heavens.

One: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established.;

**All: What are humans that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**

One: Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.

**All: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet.**

One: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
Let us worship God together!

***Congregational Song #12**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

***Opening Prayer**

***The Peace**

One: May peace be with you

All: And also with you.

Front Row Moment

The Word in Music

Menuet from Le tombeau de Couperin - Maurice Ravel

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

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 8

One: A Word of God that is still speaking,
People: **And we are still listening. Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Prayers

More Precious Than Silver - Lynn DeShazo, arr. Mark Hayes
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 #567 *Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit*

*Blessing

Closing Music

Processional - Grayston Ives

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

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!

ATTENTION! THURSDAY, JUNE 4TH LINE DANCING CLASS HAS BEEN MOVED TO WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3RD. It will still be at 6 PM and will still be in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Jeanne McKibben Memorial Service and Reception: Sunday, July 12, 2:00 PM, The First Church in Oberlin, UCC. Details to follow

REMINDER: All Church Welcome to the Celebration of Dylan Gargas and Kirstynn Hofman on June 6th, 2026 here at First Church at 2:30 PM. Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us to extend First Church's Open & Affirming welcome!

We are hosting a table/booth at Oberlin PRIDE on Saturday, June 27 from 12-4pm at Oberlin College Science Center (119 Woodland St) rain or shine!

Help us convey this welcome to all!

We are seeking volunteers to host a shift at our table! The shifts will be as follows: 11-12 (help set-up), 12-1, 1-2, 2-3, 3-4 (break down). We will have

copies of our new O&A flyer, bumper stickers, candy and other goodies to hand out. Come prepared to have fun and extend our radical welcome message and affirm in person that First Church is truly open and affirming to all God's children. Please sign up at the welcome table after worship on Sunday or email to Barbara and Scott Reed (barscoreed@aol.com).

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 this summer. O Steel recently performed at First Church as part of our Spring Festival.



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 - May 31, 2026

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

This is Good (05/31/2026)

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

In the beginning, God created ... the heavens, the earth, the creatures of the land and sea, day and night, and then man and woman. After each phase of creation, we are told that God “saw that is was good.”

Repeating the phrase “it was good” isn’t some literary technique to make the story more poetic and profound. It is a theological statement of how carefully God thought through each phase of Creation, marking each finished phase as completed — and good. As God brought the ball of chaos into diverse, colorful life, God gave it a divine stamp of approval.

It’s no wonder the early saints held God’s act of creation in great reverence and awe — more than we tend to do so today.

St. Basil (329-379) wrote that he wanted “creation to penetrate you with so much admiration that wherever you go, the least plant may bring you clear remembrance of the Creator.” While St. John Chrysostom (347-470) said, “From the creation, learn to admire the Lord!” And St. John of Damascus (675-749) simply and powerfully stated what was completely obvious to him: “The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God.”

Let that last saintly observation linger in your heart for a bit. And as it does, ask yourself what your days would be like if you viewed all of Creation as a living icon of the face of God.

I can tell you that after lingering on St. John of Damascus’ words, I went for my daily walk into the Vermont woods with fresh eyes. Every budding leaf, swaying grass blade and buzzing bee seemed different when viewing them as “a living icon of the face of God.”

I began understanding more deeply God’s assessment of each little thing created as being “good.” But beyond the natural world, I continued my “it is good” quest to see all of Creation as the living icon of the face of God. And that meant looking into the eyes of each human I passed as I walked down the grocery store aisles getting my weekly shopping done. Rather than being focused on where I could find pinto beans, I focused on people. I noticed how some faces seemed tired, some seemed agitated, some seemed peaceful, others seemed radiant. Yet no matter what the expression, all the faces seen with my “it is good” lenses were all stunningly beautiful. It is amazing how different the world seems when seen as a living icon of the face of God.

In the beginning, God created ... you and me. May we remember that we each bear the imprint of the divine on our souls. And despite our flaws, God still deems that what has been made is indeed good.

Creating God, Your handiwork is perfection. Forgive us for all the times we have taken Your beauty for granted. Forgive us for the times we might have marred Your pristine canvas with the blotches of sin. May this day we begin to see everything in this world as a living icon of Your face. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

FIRST CHURCH EVENTS (May 31, 2026 - June 7, 2026)

Sun. (5/31)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
Sun. (5/31)	1:00 PM	Grad Party	Fellowship Hall
Mon. (6/1)	2:00 PM	Office Staff Meeting	Office
Mon. (6/1)	3:30 PM	Allan Peck Reception	Fellowship Hall & JFO Room
Mon. (6/1)	4:30 PM	Outreach and Service	Room 4
Tues. (6/2)	7:00 PM	Facilities Committee	Zoom
Wed. (6/3)	3:30 PM	Open and Affirming	Fellowship Hall
Wed. (6/3)	4:00 PM	Witness and Membership	JFO Room
Wed. (6/3)	6:00 PM	Line Dancing	Fellowship Hall
Wed. (6/3)	7:30 PM	Faith Formation	JFO Room
Thurs. (6/4)	4:00 PM	Grief Support Group	Room 4
Thurs. (6/4)	4:00 PM	BLOCKED	Fellowship Hall
Fri. (6/5)	9:00 AM	OHC Tour	Meeting House
Fri. (6/5)	12:30 PM	Buckeye Harvest	JFO Room
Fri. (6/5)	12:00 PM	Set up	Whole church
Fri. (6/5)	4:00 PM	Wedding Rehearsal	Meeting House & Fellowship Hall
Sat. (6/6)	2:30 PM	Wedding	Whole church
Sun. (6/7)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
Sun. (6/7)	12:00 PM	Baby Shower	Fellowship Hall
