

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

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

November 1, 2026

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

David Hill, Pastor

Thomas Bandy, Director of Music & Organist

Sarah Colson, 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."

ORDER OF WORSHIP
November 1, 2026
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Opening Music

Interlude (1960) - Leo Sowerby

Welcome

Call to Worship (Psalm 107:1-9) *The Testimony of the Refugees

As of the end of December 2025, there were 41.6 million refugees in the world

One: Speak up, you who believe in the Lord;

**All: give thanks to God, for God is good;
God never stops loving.**

One: Say it publicly.

All: If we fail to tell of God's goodness, how will anyone know?

One: We are the people of God, wherever we are:

All: north or south, east or west, rich or poor, powerful or helpless.

One: We wander homeless among people who don't want us,

All: we drift like ice floes in the Arctic.

One: We lack food and drink;

All: we lack companionship and compassion;

One: we are ready to give up.

All: But you heard our cries, Lord.

One: You gave us a sense of our own worth.

All: You pointed us towards a new home;

One: we will dwell in the house of our Lord forever.

All: This is our story, and this is our God.

One: God sustains us.

All: When we are thirsty, we receive something to drink;

One: when we are hungry, we are fed.

All: Thanks be to God.

***Congregational Song #422**

Come, O Thankful People, Come

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Gracious God, help us to be honest with ourselves, with one another, and with you. We have searched for life amid temporary attractions. We have sought excitement in places that turned out to be desert wastelands. We have burdened others with our mistakes. We have sought honors and made comparisons to look better than those around us. We have devoted little time to thanking and praising you, the Source of all things. Open us now, O God, to the Word we need from you.

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

***Words of Assurance**

***The Peace**

One: May peace be with you

All: And also with you.

Front Row Moment

The Word in Music

Tantum ergo (communion text by Thomas Aquinas) - Gabriel Fauré

Samantha Lewis, soprano

Therefore, so greatly the Sacrament

Let us venerate with heads bowed

And let the old practice

Give way to the new rite;

Let faith provide a supplement

For the failure of the senses.

To the Begetter and the Begotten,

Be praise and jubilation,

Hail, honour, virtue also,

And blessing too:

To the One proceeding from Both

Let there be equal praise.

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

One: A Word of God that is still speaking,

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

Reflection

Prayers

Nocturne in F-sharp major, Op. 15 No. 2 - Frédéric Chopin

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)

Announcements

Stewardship Moment

Offering

One: As we prepare ourselves to encounter the presence of Christ in the sacrament of communion, 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 come together to share this sacred meal.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Communion Prayer

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Remembering the Story

One: And so,

We remember... *[pause]*

We offer ourselves ... *[pause]*

We proclaim God's time...

People: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Prayer of Consecration

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.**

Sharing of the Elements

Hymn during distribution: #332 *As We Gather at Your Table*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

God of all grace, may we live in expectation and hope, and may the gifts we have received at this table remind us not only of the gift of your Christ, but of your steady presence among us, that we may act faithfully in response to your love. Amen.

*Blessing

Closing Music

Festal Flourish - Gordon Jacob

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

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.

SAVE THE DATE! Friday November 20th. 11-1 and 4-6 TRANS DAY of REMEMBRANCE will be observed here at First Church. We will have a labyrinth on the floor in the social hall and everyone is invited to walk the labyrinth and prayerfully reflect. Additionally, there will be a VIGIL at the college from 7-8 PM, open to the entire community. Please stay tuned for more information. Brought to you by your ONA workgroup. TOTENFEST (All Saints) will be observed this same weekend on Sunday, November 22. This liturgical time of remembering those who have died in the past year can be understandably difficult for some. Alternatively (or additionally) the indoor labyrinth for Trans Day of Remembrance can provide a meaningful time of reflection and commemoration for others who have died. Please know that you are welcome to utilize the labyrinth for whatever purposes best suit your spiritual needs.

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!

Myths and Hymns - Adult Education Slide Show: Following worship on Sunday, October 11, Director, Quinn Renbarger-Miller ('27) and Assistant Professor of Theater Juliana Frey-Méndez provided some background on this Oberlin College Theater production that will be presented in the Meeting House November 11th -15th. To view the slide show from their presentation, follow this link (also in the eNews): <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1QSB-k0T1Y8NFWTWyp6xxaBJq5auinKhRMRZTsCI93sQ/edit?usp=sharing> To RSVP for a performance, scan the QR Code on the bulletin board or the link in the eNews.

Trivia Contest #5 Result: The winner this week is Anne Elder. She wins the first prize of a fistful grab of chocolates from my Halloween Bowl.

Trivia Contest #6: I think you'll need to visit the archives to solve this one. Remember you can visit the archives in Room 8 on the Second floor during the week by asking Miranda and anytime on Sundays between 9am and noon when you will find an open door. Here's the Question:

What is Hymn Number 276 in the first hymnal of the United Church of Christ?

I will accept either the words of the first line, or the name of the tune, or a recording of you singing it.

Text your answer to 703-945-8916, or write it on a piece of paper and leave it in the office, or find Rhys and sing it in his ear. Don't forget to include your name! Answer deadline is noon on Tuesday 3 November.

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?

Cont.

"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.

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 Stewardship Campaign Week 8: The Stewardship Campaign nears its final week when commitment pledges will be collected during worship on November 8th. Today we celebrate **Bearing Fruit** together, and our hymns focus on various ways we welcome people to share in our feast of the faith we have been nurturing. In our opening hymn we will "raise the song of harvest home," thanking God for all the blessings we have received. During the ritual of Communion, everyone will sing about how "the plowing, sowing, reaping," provide us with the food we need, and we'll thank God for the love that nourishes our spirits and helps us bear fruits of kindness. Fred Pratt Green, in the hymn "For the Fruit of All Creation," emphasizes "the harvests we are sharing," including "harvests of the spirit."

