



FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Heart to Heart Sunday
Transfiguration
February 11, 2018
11 am
Sanctuary, South Campus

Welcome to First Community Church

We are a Christian church, affiliated with the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ denominations. We welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith, and those who are searching.

Christian worship has been offered by First Community Church for over 108 years. By worshipping with us today, you become a part of that living tradition. Our regular worshippers and church members, supported by members of the staff and a large number of volunteers, make up our church community. We are committed to diversity, equal opportunities and personal and spiritual development of all who work and worship here, because, as our church's belief statement says, "we strive to follow the path of Jesus Christ while recognizing other pathways to the divine."

Thank you for being with us for worship today. If you desire a pastoral call, please indicate this on the welcome pad. If you are in need of prayer, please fill out a prayer card located in the welcome pad booklet and place it in the offering plate. Our prayers go with you as you return to your home.

(The paper we use for the order of service is recycled. You are welcome to take it away with you, but, if you would like us to recycle it, please place it in one of the bins at an exit, as we are also committed to our environment, God's Creation.)

The Service of the Word

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

HEART TO HEART SUNDAY

Transfiguration



Love gives naught but itself and takes naught but from itself.

Love possesses not nor would it be possessed;

For love is sufficient unto love.

— Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931)

*What you are the world is. And without your transformation,
there can be no transformation of the world.*

— Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895-1986)

THE CALL TO CONTEMPLATION

*For the quiet time during the organ prelude, we invite you to be in prayer.
As you leave the service of worship, join in rejoicing with your neighbor.*

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

Aria, Op. 51

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Blessed are all who seek the realm of God,
who hunger to find meaning in their lives.

**People: We intend to give our best to our Creator,
bearing fruit in all we say and do.**

Leader: Blessed are the ones who serve God with joy,
in faithfulness and hope.

**People: We come now to worship and find new life,
to receive healing and empowerment for our journey.**

†THE HYMN

Standing at the Future's Threshold⁽¹⁾

Austrian Hymn



1 Stand - ing at the fu - ture's thresh - old, grate - ful for God's guid - ing hand,
2 Midst the teem - ing cit - ies' mil - lions, wit - ness to God's bound - less love,
3 Build - ing jus - tice as the bul - wark of the peace that God would give,
4 Je - sus Christ, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and truth and grace,



Ask - ing no pro - tect - ed strong - hold, called to be a pil - grim band,
Reach - ing for each sys - tem's lost ones, seek - ing jus - tice with each move;
Mak - ing sac - ri - fice the hall - mark of the life we're called to live:
We would ask no spe - cial fa - vor, with the hum - ble seek our place,



Seek - ing ev - er for new vi - sion of the gos - pel for our day,
Grant us cour - age, strength and pa - tience to con - tend with self - ish power,
Grant us, God, to bear our wit - ness to this peace in Christ, and move
Know the 'in - as - much' of serv - ing, have your cross as our com - mand:



We move for - ward in God's mis - sion with our faith to show the way.
Lead us for - ward in the faith that gives us hope in test - ings's hour.
For - ward with our faith's own ac - cess to the life of hope and love.
Lead us in this faith un - swerv - ing for - ward as your pil - grim band.

†THE PRAYER⁽²⁾

Leader: Holy God, we come before You with awe, for You are great in
love and power.

**People: Some of us come with joy and some with sadness or anxiety,
yet we come, confident that You receive us as we are.**

Leader: Mighty God, stay with us as we worship and as we share the
risk and challenge of living our faith.

People: Turn our fear to courage and our confusion to confidence.

Leader: Give us a heart to love the loveless, the lonely, the hungry, and the wounded.

People: Touch us, O God.

Leader: Give us pure hearts, that we may see You;

People: Humble hearts, that we may hear You;

Leader: Hearts of love, that we may serve You;

People: And hearts of faith that we may abide in You.

Leader: We pray with the full assurance of Your steadfast love,

All: Amen.

†THE ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

Leader: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law.” Therefore, let us live in love and bear one another’s burdens, in the assurance that we are forgiven and made alive in the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God!

†THE HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevail⁽³⁾

Ubi caritas et amor

Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

THE WELCOME

A Moment for Heart to Heart

THE HYMN for Heart to Heart Sunday (*remain seated to sing*)

Bless the Arms That Comfort⁽⁴⁾

Cranham

1 Bless the arms that com - fort strong to shoul - der care.
 2 Bless the ears that lis - ten, shar - ing joys and fears
 3 Bless the feet that fol - low, like Na - o - mi's Ruth
 gen - tle in their heal - ing, reach - ing thru de - spair.
 laugh - ing in our tri - umphs, weep - ing with our tears.
 con - stant friend thru sor - row, speak - ing ho - ly truth:

Bless the hands that la - bor: Mar - tha's dai - ly deeds;
 Bless the eyes whose wis - dom sees thru pride's fa - cade.
 though our jour - neys lead us far in time and space,

Ma - ry's pre - cious oint - ment, balm for dif - frent needs.
 cher - ish - ing our weak - ness with the heart of God.
 God a - noints com - pan - ions, min - is - ters of grace.

THE PSALTER READING

Psalm 121 (NRSV)

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills---from where will my help come?

People: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.

People: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Leader: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

People: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

Leader: The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.

All: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

THE HANDBELL ANTHEM

Seasons of the Heart

Karen Lakey Buckwalter

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

(Following the Lord's Prayer, the children in K-5 and Middle School youth will be invited to leave for their classes.)

THE OFFERTORY

The Offertory Sentence

Today we will receive a special Mission offering for the Heart to Heart Ministry. Please include your designated gift in the envelope inserted in your worship bulletin. All loose offerings will go to the general ministry of our church.

The Receiving of the People's Gifts

The Handbell Anthem

Siyahamba

Traditional South African Folk Song (Zulu)
 arranged by Robert J. Ward (b 1946)

†The Presentation of the Gifts and the Prayer of Dedication
Leader: As the gifts are presented, would all rise in body or spirit?
Let us together pray.

All: O God, through the offering of these gifts may we become a more open people.

Leader: Open-minded in hearing Your Word and wisdom,

People: Open-hearted in healing a broken world,

Leader: Open-handed in heeding Your call for charity and enacted love.

All: With thanks for all good gifts, we present a portion of our substance and the whole of ourselves. Amen.

†The *Doxology*

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below:
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

†THE GOSPEL READING

Mark 9:2-9 (NRSV)

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Leader: These words are breathed into us by the Holy Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

GO [TRANS]FIGURE

†THE HYMN

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding⁽⁵⁾

Beach Spring

**We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
Where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.**

**Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain,
Searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.**

Light breaks through our clouds and shadows;
 splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word;
 Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.
 Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
 how the law and prophets meet;
 Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
 stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
 fearful lest our faith decline,
 We like Peter find it tempting to remain and build a shrine.
 But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess,
 That our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

†THE BENEDICTION

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE

Trumpet Air and Interlude

Stanley Vann (1910-2010)

~ *The End of Worship, the Beginning of Service* ~

† *All rise in body or spirit*

PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: The Reverend Mr. David S. Hett
Minister of Religious Life and Learning

Liturgists: The Reverend Mr. James M. Long
Minister of Pastoral Care
 Paula Russell
Director of Congregational Care

Heart to Heart Speaker: Lamar Graham
Director of Heart to Heart

Acolyte: Anna Obergefell

Ushers: Group B, Ron Arledge

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Robert A. Griffith, *Organist*

THE WHITECHAPEL RINGERS

Carol T. Neff, *Director*

Toni Ballentine
 Lara Belliston Cobb
 Jane Briggs
 Biddie Clark
 Betty Drobny

David Evans
 Kim Harris
 Carol Hofer
 Laurie Johannsen
 Terry Johannsen

Rachel Kauderer
 Deb Linville
 Annita Meyer
 Janet Shearron
 Meg Wagner

- **Welcome visitors!** Stop by our Welcome Center for information on programs and activities and pick up a copy of our newspaper.
- **Church Membership:** Please contact Kristy Glaser at (614) 488-0681 ext. 161 or kglasser@FCchurch.com if you are interested in becoming a member.
- **Baptisms:** Our next Baptism Sunday will be March 11. For more information go to FCchurch.com/baptisms. To schedule a baptism, contact Paula Russell at (614) 488-0681 ext. 228 or prussell@FCchurch.com
- Watch the 11 am South Campus service live on Facebook and FCchurch.tv
- Watch *First Edition* on WWHO-TV, The CW, Sunday mornings at 8:30 am.
- If you need to step out during worship – restless child, coughing spell, etc. – the service can be viewed in Gallery Court.
- Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available; ask an usher.

TODAY AT FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

North Campus

9:15 am Worship: Grace Hall
 Crib to 5 years: Rose Wing
 K-5th grades: Begin in worship, then excused to classes in the Rose Wing.

10:30 am Worship: Grace Hall
 Crib to 5 years: Rose Wing
 K-5th grades: Begin in worship, then excused to classes in the Rose Wing.
 Middle School: Begin in worship, then excused to classes in Room 130.

South Campus

8:30 am Worship: Burkhart Chapel
 Communion served.

9:30 am Adult Education: Wicker Room
The Apocryphal Jesus series begins.

11 am Worship: Sanctuary
 Crib to 5 years: Rooms 221 & 209
 K-5th grades: Begin in worship, then excused to Lincoln Road Chapel.
 Middle School: Begin in worship, then excused to Lincoln Road Chapel.

Grades 6-12 are invited to **Crossroads** tonight, 7 - 8:30 pm, North Campus.

Christianity 101 discussion group meets 7 - 8:30 pm, Room 211, North Campus.

⁽¹⁾ Words © 1985; rev. 1994 Rev. Paul R. Gregory. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-708978.

** "Inasmuch" in stanza four is a reference to the command Jesus gives in Matthew 25:40. The hymn text was written by Paul Gregory who served as East and Southeast Asia secretary of the United Church Board for World Ministries from 1957 to 1986.

⁽²⁾ The second half of the prayer is adapted from a prayer by Dag Hammarskjöld.

⁽³⁾ *Where Charity and Love Prevail*. © World Library Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-708978.

⁽⁴⁾ Words: by Mary Louise Bringle. © 2001, The Hymn Society. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-708978.

⁽⁵⁾ *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*. Text © 1988 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-708978.

FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mission Statement

First Community Church is called to embody the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and the eternal love of God, honoring and expanding our heritage of innovative ministry with a commitment to growth.

To that end, we will provide:

- a center for worship, celebration, study, fellowship, and sanctuary;
- resources for support for new forms of ministry;
- opportunities for learning and spiritual growth through all the seasons of life;
- motivation and resources for empowering service to each other and to the world;
- an inclusive Christian community respecting pluralism, agreeing to differ, resolving to love and uniting to serve.

Vision Statement

A diverse community of individuals, each actively seeking to make Christ's example of God's love for every person real in our world through service, study, worship and giving:

- celebrating life in groupings of families and individuals,
- risking with innovation while honoring tradition,
- encouraging search and empowering belief,
- standing with those who suffer,
- loving unconditionally.

Belief Statement

First Community Church is "the church of the infinite quest." This is the description of our church given by the Reverend M. H. Lichliter in 1924.

Remaining true to that spirit, our church believes:

- All people are included in God's unconditional love and grace.
- In Jesus Christ whose life revealed God's love at work in the human family.
- In the Holy Spirit as the power by which we are brought into closer harmony with our Creator.

Therefore we:

- Strive to follow the path of Jesus Christ, while recognizing other pathways to the Divine.
- Encourage each person's spiritual journey, embracing a variety of spiritual disciplines.
- Understand that the words we use to express our faith are to be lived out by loving and compassionate action.
- Take the Bible seriously, not literally; finding more grace in the search for meaning than in absolute certainty.
- Agree to disagree, resolve to love and unite to serve.

THE PROGRAM STAFF OF FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

R. Glen Miles, *Senior Minister*
Paul E. Baumer, *Minister to the Staff*
David S. Hett, *Minister of Religious Life and Learning*
Ronald J. Jenkins, *Minister of Music and Liturgy*
James M. Long, *Minister of Pastoral Care*
Katherine H. Shaner, *Minister of Mission*
Sally Beske, *Associate Organist/Director of Youth Choirs*
Leigh Anne Easterling, *Director of Early Childhood Ministries
& Mary Evans Child Development Center*
Cindy Sue Gepfert, *Foundation Administrator*
Pam Jameson, *Director of Facilities Ministry*
Bobbi Mueller, *Director of North Campus Administration/Akita Operations*
Scot Nicoll, *Executive Director of Camp Akita*
Missy Obergefell, *Director of Older Adult Ministry*
Julie Richards, *Director of K-12 Ministry*
Paula Russell, *Director of Congregational Care*
Linda Silva, *Director of Stewardship and Development*

Our Pastoral Care staff is available if you desire a visit or call during an illness, hospitalization or time of need. Please send notifications of weddings, births, hospitalizations or deaths to prussell@FCchurch.com or call (614) 488-0681 ext 228

Parish Register

As of 2/8/18

Births

Celia Hutcheson 8/10/17
Daughter of Sara & Matt Hutcheson
Samantha Grace Patterson 2/4/18
Daughter of Karen & Wes Patterson
*Granddaughter of Linda Sheppard
& Dave Franklin*
Wyatt Wood Walker 2/6/18
Son of Kelsey & Scott Walker
Grandson of Patty & Dick Vesper

Memorial Services

Paul Becher (2/6/18)
Saturday, February 17, 2 pm
Sanctuary/Rev. James Long
Reception in Brownlee Hall

Deaths

John Scurlock 2/2/18
Martha Johnson 2/3/18
*Grandmother of Cassy (Adam)
Kaparos-Johnson*
Great-grandmother of Anna Johnson
Paul Becher 2/6/18
Husband of Leitsa Becher
Melea Claydon 2/7/18
*Daughter of Jenna &
Jonathan Claydon*
*Granddaughter of Mary Ann
& Chuck Claydon*

Visit FCchurch.com/parish-register to view listings of upcoming Memorial Services.