



Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 12, 2019
10 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 faith traditions or from no faith tradition; anyone who is searching for deeper meaning and purpose in life.

We are an Open and Affirming congregation committed to equality, diversity, and personal and spiritual growth. We follow the way of Jesus as our teacher and model toward becoming more fully human, as part of our church's belief statement states: "We strive to follow the path of Jesus Christ while recognizing other pathways to the divine."

(Please recycle your bulletins and any inserts if you are not taking them with you. Recycling bins are located at each exit. Thank you.)

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Block of Wood Sunday



I understand vocation not [as] a goal to be achieved but as a gift to be received. Discovering vocation does not mean scrambling toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess. Vocation does not come from a voice "out there" calling me to become something I am not. It comes from a voice "in here" calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God.

-Parker Palmer, Let Your Life Speak

May 12, 2019

10 am South Campus

THE CALL TO CONTEMPLATION

For the time during the prelude, we invite you to prepare for worship in silent meditation.

THE PRELUDE

Ave Maria

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP ⁽¹⁾

Leader: Let us begin our worship together by worshipping God, our Mother and Father, the Ground of our Being, the Source of our life, the Spirit who sets us free.

All: In memory of all the women who have sung praise to God before we were born, and in unison with all women living today, we join to praise the Spirit of God in our midst.

Leader: To worship is to open our beings to the power of God's truth and love. To worship is to heighten our awareness of the core of our existence, the meaning of life.

All: Let us celebrate with joy in the hope that our awareness and openness will bear the fruit of increased union with God's Spirit in each of us.

†THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN #429

God, Bless Our Homes

Charterhouse

†THE COMMISSIONING ⁽²⁾

Leader: On this Block of Wood Sunday, when our youth make a deeper commitment to their spiritual journey and a deeper relationship with this household of faith, let us review our commission based on Jesus' Beatitudes:

Blessed are those who are convinced of their basic dependency on God, whose lives are emptied of all that doesn't matter, those for whom the riches of this world just aren't that important.

People: The Reign of heaven is theirs.

Leader: Blessed are those who know that all they are is a gift from God, and so they can be content with their greatness and their smallness, knowing themselves and being true to themselves.

People: For they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Leader: Blessed are those who wear compassion like a garment, those who have learned how to find themselves by losing themselves in another's sorrow.

People: For they too shall receive comfort.

Leader: Blessed are those who are hungry for goodness, those who never get enough of God and truth and righteousness.

People: For they shall be satisfied.

Leader: Blessed are the merciful, those who remember how much has been forgiven them, and are able to extend this forgiveness into the lives of others.

People: For they too shall receive God's mercy.

Leader: Blessed are those whose hearts are free and simple, those who have smashed all false images and are seeking honestly for truth.

People: For they shall see God.

Leader: Blessed are the creators of peace, those who build roads that unite rather than walls that divide, those who bless the world with the healing power of their presence.

People: For they shall be called children of God.

Leader: Blessed are those whose love has been tried, like gold, in the furnace, and found to be precious, genuine, and lasting; those who have lived their faith out loud, no matter what the cost or pain.

People: For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

THE WELCOME

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Act of Baptism

†The Congregational Covenant

Leader: Would all rise in body or spirit?

I ask you to join with me in declaring our part in helping these children and youth discover the grace of God within themselves.

All: We receive these children and youth now as new persons in Christ. We promise to give their parents our support as they live with their children in the pathways of Christ. We offer ourselves also, as ones who take them into our love, our prayers, and our daily lives, striving for their nurturing, to build in this place a community rich in the spirit of God. We promise this so that they may come to know the wondrous love of God and may live with us for Christ, showing forth God's love for all people. Thanks be to God!

THE ANTHEM

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Howard Helvey (b 1968)

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 prayers, the children in K-5 will be invited to leave for their Sunday school classes.)

THE OFFERTORY

The Offertory Sentence

The Receiving of the People's Gifts

The Anthem

O, How I Love Jesus

arr. Lloyd Larson (b 1954)

†The Presentation of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication

Leader: As the gifts are presented, would all rise in body or spirit?

And let us pray:

All: Holy God, Divine Shepherd, you anoint us with the oil of gladness; your love overflows our hearts. Accept our offering for the good of the world as we joyfully give thanks for our life in you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Adoring praises now we bring
 And with the heav'nly blessed sing:
 "Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
 Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
 Repeat their song of glory here:
 "Christ has triumphed! Christ is living!"
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE LESSON FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. ³⁶You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Leader: This is the good news for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

BELONGING: MAKING OUR WAY HOME

Part 1 – God Plays No Favorites

THE SERVICE FOR THE BLOCK OF WOOD

THE HYMN OF AFFIRMATION #351 (*remain seated to sing*)

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

Borne Cry

THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Would the 2019 Block of Wood Class please stand?

Through baptism, God receives you into the family called the Church. God invites you to share this life, to come to know God's loving purpose for you, and to learn the support of God's people. Thus I now ask you:

Do you confirm today the vows that are made at baptism, intending to live in the new life that God gives in baptism?

- to strive to follow the path of Jesus Christ;
- to hear God's word and gather around Christ's table;
- to proclaim the good news of Christ through word and deed;
- to see God in all people and be a servant of all;
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

(The class will answer in unison.)

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Do you, then, as persons who have declared your faith before this gathered company, seek to become one in spirit with the membership of First Community Church?

In so doing, do you pledge to enter into an honest and open relationship of mutual support and nurture with this congregation? Do you pledge to maintain this body through your personal efforts, talents, and financial resources?

Finally, do you pledge to challenge the limits of your faith through education, prayer, reflection, and examination?

(The class will answer in unison.)

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

THE RECEIVING OF THE BLOCK OF WOOD AND THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES AND THE SONG

By Name I Have Called You⁽³⁾

Carey Landry (b 1944)

(As the names are read the congregation is invited to join in singing the following refrain after each of the verses sung by the choir.)

Choir: Be still, be still, and know that I am your God.
Be still, be still, and know that I am with God.

All singing: *(Everyone please join in singing the refrain.)*

By name I have called you, by name I will
save you, by name you are Mine, you are pre - cious to
Me; by name I have called you, by name I will
send you, for - ev - er, with you I will be.

Choir: Before you were born I knew you; within your mother's womb
I formed you; I appointed you to speak in my name.

**All: By name I have called you, by name I will save you,
By name you are mine, you are precious to me;
By name I have called you, by name I will send you,
Forever, with you I will be.**

Choir: Comfort, comfort my people; speak, speak to their hearts;
speak tenderly, tenderly to them.

All: By name I have called you . . .

THE CONGREGATION'S RESPONSE

Leader: Together let us welcome these young people.

**All: We rejoice with you today. We welcome you as new
members of our faith community and as fellow travelers with
us in this "church of the infinite quest." We promise you our
love and support as we continue to follow the way of Christ
with you. May the blessings of God be with you always.**

THE CLASS COLLECT (*The class prays.*)

Leader: I invite the class to now join together in prayer. Let us pray.

**Class: Dear God, we thank you for bringing us to this sacred
day in our lives. We rejoice in the opportunity to proclaim
publicly our faith and our commitment to Christ's Church.
We are grateful to those through whom your spirit worked
to guide us to this moment: our family, our friends, and
our fellow church members. As they have shown your love
to us, so strengthen us to show your love to others. Amen.**

THE PARENTS' PRAYER (*The parents stand to pray.*)

Leader: Would the parents of these youth please stand? Let us pray.

**Parents: O God, as we witness our sons and daughters affirm their
baptism, we are touched with a quiet sense of joy. We are
aware that they have grown in wisdom and in stature, and
in favor with you and their fellow human beings. We are
grateful for the spiritual enrichment that you have provided
for them through the Church, and we rejoice in the
opportunity to now call them brothers and sisters in the
faith. May our relationship as a family deepen as our
relationship with you grows. Amen.**

†A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Leader: Would all rise in body or spirit? Let us together pray.

All: Holy One of blessing, remind us of our need to reaffirm our baptism. Deepen our faith, direct our lives, empower us for service, give us patience in suffering, and bring us always to newness of life. We ask this not simply for ourselves but for all those of the household of faith. May the world know your power and love, and the new life that is ours in Christ. Amen.

†THE HYMN

Great Work Has God Begun In You ⁽⁴⁾

Tallis' Cannon

1 Great work has God be - gun in you, so let the Spir - it
 2 In love, God calls you to this day, and gives you strength, these
 3 Great work has God be - gun in you; take on God's love in
 fol - low through; The mark of Christ up - on your brow, bap -
 vows to say; Take up the faith that you were shown, and
 all you do, And may that love in you in - crease now
 tis - mal touch re - mem - ber now.
 grow, as - sured you are God's own.

†THE BENEDICTION

†THE CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Lord Bless You and Keep You Pete Christian Lutkin (1858-1931)

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
And give you peace,
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, Amen. (Numbers 6:24-26)
(The congregation is asked to remain standing until the Block of Wood class has completely left the Sanctuary.)

†THE ORGAN POSTLUDE

Psalm of Glory

Dorothy Wells (1926-2008)

~ The End of Worship, the Beginning of Service ~

† All rise in body or spirit

PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: The Reverend Dr. R. Glen Miles
Senior Minister

Liturgists: The Reverend Mr. James M. Long
Minister of Pastoral Care

Leigh Anne Easterling
*Director of Early Childhood Ministries &
Mary Evans Child Development Center*

Julie Richards
Director of K-12 Ministry

Gabrielle Whitcomb
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Deacons Assisting: Ann Patrick, Michael Barger

Ushers: Group A-Jim Howe

Baptisms

Celia Elizabeth Hutcheson	Lillian Elizabeth Rudinsky
George Harrison Kinsey	Daxon Finn Weinandy
Zoe Nicole Kirby	Leo Allan Weinandy
Owen Daniel Pelzer	Mason James Yeager

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

THE CHANCEL CHOIR

Sally R. Beske, *Associate Organist*
C. Andrew Blosser, *Interim Director of Music*

⁽¹⁾ *More Than Words: Prayers and Rituals for Inclusive Communities*, Janet Schaffran and Pat Kozak, (Meyer-Stone Books, 1988).

⁽²⁾ *Seasons of Your Heart* by Macrina Wiederkehr (Harper One, 1991).

⁽³⁾ *By Name I Have Called You*. Words and music by Carey Landry. © 1980 by North American Liturgy Resources, Phoenix, AZ. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-708978.

⁽⁴⁾ *Great Work Has God Begun in You*. Words © 1995 The Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-708978.

2019 BLOCK OF WOOD CLASS

Ryan Baxley
Kennedy Beebe
Marissa Blake*
Avery Catalano
Luke Eriksen
Lauren Gomez
Andrew Graves
Jackson Hargett

Jacob Hartman*
Aidan Horan
Ethan Howe
Zebediah Loring
Christopher Mazzaferri
Ian McGovern
Thea Obergefell
Jamison Ringlien

Geoffrey Schoeny
Olivia Seiler
Madeline Spaine
Skylar Trent
Dylan Trent
Kyrsten Willimott
**baptizand*

BLOCK OF WOOD LEADERS

Gabrielle Whitcomb
Jeff DeRoberts

Cat Hiller
Heidi Orsini

TODAY AT FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

North Campus

9 am Worship: Grace Hall
Crib to 5 years: Rose Wing
Children and youth begin in worship.
K-3 grades: children released to their
classes in the Rose Wing.
4-5 grades: children and youth
released to classes in the
Education Wing.

11 am Worship: Grace Hall
Crib to 5 years: Rose Wing
Children and youth begin in worship.
K-3 grades: children released to their
classes in the Rose Wing.
4-8 grades: children and youth released
to classes in the Education Wing.

5:30 pm Worship
No childcare. Children are welcome
in worship.

South Campus

8:30 am Adult Education
"Portals of Wonder" 3-week series
designed and led by Gail Evans
addresses creativity and the arts as
sources of spiritual inspiration and
healing. FCC artists will be featured.

10 am Worship:
Crib to 5 years: Rooms 221 & 222
Children and youth begin in worship.
K-5 grades: children released to their
classes in Lincoln Road Chapel.

Crossroads for Middle and High School youth 7 pm in room 130 at North Campus
Christianity: Perspectives and Insights, 7-8:30 pm, Centennial Room, North Campus

- **Welcome visitors!** Stop by our Welcome Center for information on programs and activities and pick up a copy of our newspaper.
- **Church Membership:** Please text joinfcc to 42828 or contact Kristy Glaser at (614) 488-0681 ext.161 or kglaser@FCchurch.com if you're interested in becoming a member.
- **Baptisms:** Our next Baptism Sunday is July 7. 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 all worship services 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 heard in lobby areas.
- Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available; ask an usher.

Our Pastoral Care staff is available if you desire a visit or call during an illness, hospitalization, rehab or time of need.

Parish Register

As of 5/8/19

Recently Hospitalized

Rebecca Wolfe

Deaths

Jeane Wilkin 5/1/19
Mother of Pat Heier

Monk Clifford 5/3/19
Husband of Anne Clifford
Father of Cristin (Craig) Sturtz
Grandfather of Erin & Kara Sturtz

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

Send notifications of weddings, births, hospitalizations/rehab or deaths to Paula Russell at prussell@FCchurch.com or (614) 488-0681 ext. 228
Private/unpublished notifications by request.

Prayer Chain: To add a name to the Prayer Chain contact Paula Russell, Director of Congregational Care. All prayers are held in confidence.

If you are in need of pastoral care, call Robin, Pastoral Care Administrative Assistant at (614) 488-0681 ext. 235. If you need a minister in an emergency, call (614) 488-0681 ext. 5 (there may be a moment of silence during the transfer).

Household Prayers for the Fourth Week of Easter*

Morning

Holy God, you have called a people to be your family out of every tribe, language, and nation, to love and serve you daily in a world of beauty, complexity, and diversity. Help us to honor and respect the dignity of difference as we seek to be one with you and each other this day and always. Amen.

Evening

O Shepherd of all, you have brought us to the close of another day; for this gift and the blessings we now name, we give you thanks...

All that we have and all that we are come from you; and so, trusting in the goodness of your divine care, let us lie down this night in peace, that tomorrow we may rise to greet you in resurrection joy. Amen.

*From *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long (Westminster John Knox Press, 2012).

THE PROGRAM STAFF OF FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

R. Glen Miles, *Senior Minister*
David S. Hett, *Minister of Religious Life and Learning*
James M. Long, *Minister of Pastoral Care*
Katherine H. Shaner, *Minister of Mission*
Paul Anderson, *Executive Director of Operations*
Sally Beske, *Associate Organist/Director of Youth Choirs*
C. Andrew Blosser, *Interim Director of Music*
Leigh Anne Easterling, *Director of Early Childhood Ministries
& Mary Evans Child Development Center*
Pam Jameson, *Director of Facilities Ministry*
Bobbi Mueller, *Director of North Campus Administration/Akita Operations*
Morgan Mulgrew, *Director of Communications*
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*
Lois Zook, *Worship and Arts Coordinator*