

MAY 3 2026
Confirmation



**First
Congregational
Church of
Tallmadge**
United Church of Christ

**CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY,
May 3, 2026**

LITURGY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Liturgist: Rev. John Phillips

The chimes call us to a time of worship

GREETING

Liturgist

PRELUDE

“All My Hope on God is Founded” – arr. Burkhardt

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

C. 1968 Novello & Co. This arr. © 2001 Novello and Co. All rights reserved.

(Please stand.)

INTROIT

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Holy One,

Congregation: who made heaven and earth.

Leader: As we have gathered here to worship, let us

stand and greet one another in the love of Christ.

(Please stand.)

***GATHERING SONG #652**

"This Is the Day"

Words and Music © 1967 Scripture In Song (a division of Integrity Music.)

***This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;***

***we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.***

***This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.***

***This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made.***

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Written by the 2026 Confirmands

One: We gather in the presence of God to celebrate the commitment of our confirmands.

All: **We cherish and acknowledge their desire to uphold their baptismal covenant.**

One: We invite the presence of the Holy Spirit, who moves among us,

All: **let your presence be known to each of these confirmands as they deepen their relationship with God.**

One: Raise your voices in celebration!

All: **Let us praise God on this special day!**

***OPENING HYMN**

"On This Confirmation Sunday"

Written by the 2026 Confirmands

(Sung to the tune of "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant")

“ON THIS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY”

*Written by the 2026 Confirmands
(Sung to the tune of “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant”)*

*On this confirmation Sunday
Give us guidance from above
On this journey we continue
Holy spirit make us one.*

*Vowing to become church members
Serving with our family
Share in love and hope together
We commit our lives to thee.*

*Striving, learning this past church year
God we grew in love for you
Help us follow in your footsteps
Hold us in your love this day.*

***OPENING PRAYER**

Written by the 2026 Confirmands

Gracious God, we give thanks that the confirmands knowledge has grown along their journey this past year. Bless them with your guiding wisdom that can take them further on their faith journey. We thank you for the collective journey of faith that has brought them to this place and we ask you, in the power of your Spirit, to continue to guide their words and actions. Amen.

(Please be seated.)

ANTHEM

**“A Song Unending” – Dengler
Chancel Choir Director: Nancy Lynn Robinson
Flute: Cindy Dodge**

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A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Naming our Prayers before God

Moments of Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

HEARING GOD'S WORD FOR THE DAY

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Liturgist

John 15.9-17 (atl. DJD) NRSV

⁹As God has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from God. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that God will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

MORNING MESSAGE

"Our Confirmation Stoles"

CONFIRMATION: THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Invitation

We invite to come forward those who wish to affirm their baptism by being confirmed.

Introduction of Confirmands

Katie Higham

Marcus Hoffman

Lauren Scovern

Leader

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. **Katie, Lauren, and Marcus** have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study have been led by the Holy Spirit to be baptized or to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts, which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Scripture Sentence

Leader

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in Christ; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The Examination

L: Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Conf. I do.

L: Will you seek to live a life of fullness, turning away from actions that are hurtful, violent, or corrupt, and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Conf: I do.

L: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Conf: I do.

L: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to live your lives guided by Jesus' message of peace, to be Christ's ambassadors, turning away from actions that are hurtful, violent, or corrupt, to show love and justice, and to be a living example of the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Conf: I promise, with the help of God.

L: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith, and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence, and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Conf: I promise, with the help of God.

Affirmation of Faith

PASTOR: Let us all unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

L: Do you believe in God?

C: **I believe in God**

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

C: **I believe in Jesus Christ**

L: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: **I believe in the Holy Spirit**

Prayer of the Confirmands

CONFIRMANDS: O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen.

Prayers of the Congregation

L: Let us pray in silence Let us pray together:

P: Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, and self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Act of Confirmation

Act of Confirmation

PASTOR:

Strengthen, O God, this your servant _____ with your heavenly grace that *he/she may continue yours forever; and daily increase in him/her your Holy Spirit, until you receive him/her at last in your eternal home. And let the people say:*

PEOPLE:

Amen

Prayer of Confirmation

PASTOR

We rejoice, O merciful God, with **Katie, Lauren, and Marcus** in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life. We give you thanks that they have been moved to affirm their baptism. Help them to live not for themselves but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ. And let God's people say:

CANDIDATES AND PEOPLE

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

Prayer of the Parents

"Borning Cry" #680

(words and music on the following page)

Borning Cry

Unison G Gmaj7 $\frac{Am}{G}$ G $\frac{Am}{G}$ Gmaj7 $\frac{Am}{G}$

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 2 When you heard the won - der of the Word I was
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too

G Gmaj7 $\frac{Am}{G}$ G $\frac{Am6}{G}$

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you

G $\frac{Am}{G}$ G $\frac{C}{E}$ Am7 D7sus D7 G (Fine)

were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing Lord to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.

C $\frac{G}{B}$ Am G

I was there when you were but a child with a
 If you find some - one to share your time, and you
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

Am D D9 G Am $\frac{G}{B}$ C2 $\frac{Am6}{C}$

faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wear - y eyes, I'll be there as I have

Bm7 Em A $\frac{G}{A}$ $\frac{F\#m}{A}$ $\frac{Em}{A}$ D D7

wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise. D.C. (vs. 1) al fine

The Address/Questions About Participation

PASTOR :

By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith, which has brought you to this time and place. We celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

L: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

C: **I promise, with the help of God.**

Confirmation Litany—*written by the 2026 Confirmands*

Confirmands:

Let the light of God descend upon us as we go out into the world.

ALL:

May they share the light of the Lord with all the lives they touch.

Confirmands:

God brings light into our personal darkness

ALL:

God is the guiding light that reaches all hearts

Confirmands:

God has blessed us with life and faith

All:

May you continue to worship the Lord with gladness and come before God with joyful songs of praise!

The Welcome

L: Let us the members of First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

C: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

Pastor, Youth Ministries Coordinator & Moderator:

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, United Church of Christ, we extend to you the hand of Christian love.

The Concluding Prayer

L: Let us pray: O God, we praise you for calling us to faith and for gathering us into the church, the body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this local church and rejoice that you have increased our community of faith. Together may we live in the Spirit, building one another up in love, sharing in the life and worship of the church, and serving the world for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Benediction

L: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Amazing Grace" - arr. Diane Bish

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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GIVE ONLINE HERE



(Please stand.)

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Take our gifts and bless them with your courageous Love, oh Holy Spirit, that our communities may dance in life-giving transformation. Possibility: sweep into our lives, shake us up, and set us free! Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSERCRATION W/ LORD'S PRAYER

(using debts/debtors)

SHARING IN THE BREAD AND THE CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

O God, we thank you for uniting us by baptism in the body of Christ and by this meal filling us with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung your praises may

speaking the truth; our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world; our hands which have held this loaf and cup may be active in your service. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #590**

Rise Up, O Saints of God
(words and music on the following page)

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Daniel Doty

***CONGREGATION RESPONSE**

“Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you, each hour of every day.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.”

Go Now in Peace—Besig, © Harold Flammer Music, A division of Shawnee Press, Inc.

POSTLUDE

“He Is Exalted” - Paris/Bock

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR SERVICE TODAY

Technical Team: Scott Newcomer, Diana Fiocca, Megan Farnsworth

Liturgist: Rev. John Phillips

Ushers: Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell

Greeters: Bill Westfall and Mary Flohr

Preparation of Holy Communion and Confirmation Reception: Deacon’s Ministry

Service of Holy Communion: Katie Higham, Marcus Hoffman, Lauren Scovern

THE PRAYER CHAIN CONNECTION

We pray for the names listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723. *Bless be God who did not refuse me the kindness I sought in prayer. Psalm 66:20*

Debbie B.

The Becking Family

Katie Ann Bickett

Joyce Bojarski

Margarete Boschert

John Calvarese

Patti Calvarese

Sue Canavan

Jim Caplinger

Mark Clark

Patty Conely

Rylin Davis and family

Jim Divoky

Sean and Sara Doty

Mark Downey

Elaine Engle

Ron Evans

Bonnie Fordham

Darrell Goodson

Eleanor Hall

Sue Hamilton

Jim Jackson

Gene Jarjabka

Nancy Johnson

Anita Kelly-Lahrmer

The Klinginsmith Family

Yvonne Larson

Roberta Lewis

Kitty Maddox

Gary Miller

Ron Mitchell

Spenser Moreno

Lynn Norton

Arlene Luna Pena

Bob Poff

LTJG John Norton

Richard Reynolds

Ensign 5 Kaylie Spear

Lt. Maxwell Spear

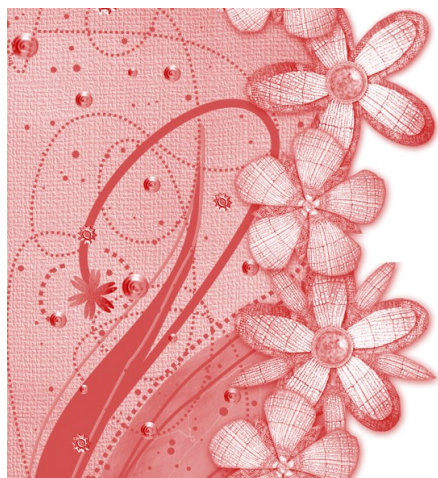
Richard & Karen Thomason

Kim and Noel Walters

PO3 Kaitlyn Wetter

Don Woerz

Alzheimer's Care Giver Support Group



Today's altar flowers are provided by Jim Chapman

"Honoring Noma Spencer's May 1st Birthday and never forgetting 14 years of our loving companionship."

Rev. Daniel J. Doty, *Senior Minister*

Nancy Lynn Robinson, *Choir Director/Organist*

Wendy Brown, *Director of Family Ministries*

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 am—3:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am—12:00 pm

IN PERSON | PARKING LOT | ONLINE WORSHIP

85 HERITAGE DR | TALLMADGE, OH 44278

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING BOOK AND BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, Beginning
April 29

12:00 PM

The book for the spring 2026 Book/Bible Study has arrived. We have copies in the office for \$16 each. Remember, there will only be one 12 noon class for the spring study in the David Bacon Room. That study will begin on Wednesday, April 29 and run through May 27.

SUMMIT BELLS CONCERT

Monday, May 11

7:00 PM

Join us for a concert on Monday, May 11, at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. The "Summit Bells," directed by Chuck Kobb, will perform hymn arrangements, original handbell music, and a transcription of a Bach organ work and a Scott Joplin rag.

WF MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH AND TEA

Thursday, May 14

12:00 PM

All ladies are invited to join us for a Mother's Day Brunch and Tea on Thursday, May 14, at 12:00 PM. Please bring your favorite brunch dish to share as we enjoy fellowship together. Sign-ups will be available on Sundays - April 26, May 3, and May 10 - at our table in the atrium. We will also be hosting a fun baby picture contest! Be sure to submit your baby photo by May 10 at the Women's Fel-

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Sundays, May 24 and 31

9:00 AM

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge will offer two membership orientation classes on Sundays, May 24 and 31, at the 9:00am hour before worship. If participants are led to join FCC in membership, the New Member Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, June 7th. Please let the church office know if you are interested. You can email Cathy Cotter, the church's Office Administrator, at info@fcctallmadge.org

VOTING BAKE SALE

May 5 is voting day and the Board of Christian Education will be hosting a bake sale. We would love to have some volunteers offer to make some items for the bake sale. Things that went well last year: Homemade bread, Muffins, Chocolate covered items- peanuts, pretzels, etc., Homemade Cookies, and Savory pastries.

We will take anything you are willing to provide, but we would like them to be single servings or ½ dozen portions (things that you would buy for \$7 or less). We are happy to make smaller portions if that is helpful to you. The funds raised will support our youth programming.

Please bring all items the church on Sunday, May 3 or Monday, May 4, before 3 pm. We also could use a few helpers willing to sit at the table to sell items; you can contact Wendy or Anne to fill a two hour time slot.

