

PROSPECTUS

July 2, 2018

**FIRST TRUST/CONFLUENCE
SMALL CAP VALUE FUND**

TICKER SYMBOL

CLASS A

FOVAX

CLASS C

FOVCX

CLASS I

FOVIX

The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

NOT FDIC INSURED MAY LOSE VALUE NO BANK GUARANTEE

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Additional Information on the Fund's Investment Objective and Strategies	9
Fund Investments	9
Additional Risks of Investing in the Fund	11
Fund Organization	12
Management of the Fund	12
Share Classes	14
Investment in Fund Shares	17
Account Services	17
Redemption of Fund Shares	18
Dividends, Distributions and Taxes	20
Federal Tax Matters	20
Distribution and Service Plan	22
Net Asset Value	23
Fund Service Providers	24
Shareholder Inquiries	24
Frequent Trading and Market Timing	24
Total Return Information	25
Financial Highlights	26

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Investment Objective

The First Trust/Confluence Small Cap Value Fund (the "Fund") seeks to provide long-term capital appreciation.

Fees and Expenses of the Fund

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. You may qualify for sales charge discounts if you and your family invest, or agree to invest in the future, at least \$50,000 in the Fund or in other First Trust Advisors L.P. mutual funds. More information about these and other discounts, as well as eligibility requirements for each share class, is available from your financial advisor and in "Share Classes" on page 14 of this prospectus, "Investment in Fund Shares" on page 17 of this prospectus and "Purchase and Redemption of Fund Shares" on page 32 of the Fund's statement of additional information ("SAI").

Shareholder Fees

(fees paid directly from your investment)

	Class A	Class C	Class I
Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	5.50%	None	None
Maximum Deferred Sales Charge (Load) (as a percentage of the lesser of purchase price or redemption proceeds) ⁽¹⁾	None	1.00%	None
Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Reinvested Dividends	None	None	None
Exchange Fee	None	None	None

Annual Fund Operating Expenses

(expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

	Class A	Class C	Class I
Management Fees	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Distribution and Service (12b-1) Fees	0.25%	1.00%	—
Other Expenses	2.31%	2.45%	2.22%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses	3.56%	4.45%	3.22%
Fee Waiver and Expense Reimbursement ⁽²⁾	1.96%	2.10%	1.87%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waivers and Expense Reimbursements	1.60%	2.35%	1.35%

(1) For Class A shares purchased at net asset value without a sales charge because the purchase amount exceeded \$1 million, a contingent deferred sales charge of 1% may be imposed on any redemption within 12 months of purchase. The contingent deferred sales charge on Class C shares applies only to redemptions within 12 months of purchase.

(2) The Fund's investment advisor and sub-advisor have agreed to waive fees and reimburse expenses through February 28, 2019 so that Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses (excluding 12b-1 distribution and service fees, interest expenses, taxes, acquired fund fees and expenses, fees incurred in acquiring and disposing of portfolio securities, and extraordinary expenses) do not exceed 1.35% of the average daily net assets of any class of Fund shares. Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses (excluding 12b-1 distribution and service fees, interest expenses, taxes, acquired fund fees and expenses, fees incurred in acquiring and disposing of portfolio securities, and extraordinary expenses) will not exceed 1.70% from March 1, 2019 through February 28, 2028. Fees waived or expenses borne by the Fund's investment advisor and sub-advisor are subject to reimbursement by the Fund for up to three years from the date the fee was waived or expense was incurred, but no reimbursement payment will be made by the Fund at any time if it would result in the Fund's expenses exceeding (i) the applicable expense limitation in place for the most recent fiscal year for which such expense limitation was in place, (ii) the applicable expense limitation in place at the time the fees were waived, or (iii) the current expense limitation. Expense limitations may be terminated or modified prior to their expiration only with the approval of the Board of Trustees of the First Trust Series Fund.

Example

The following example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's annual operating expenses (excluding 12b-1 distribution and service fees, interest expense, taxes, acquired fund fees and expenses, fees incurred in acquiring and disposing of portfolio securities, and extraordinary expenses) remain at current levels until February 28, 2019 and then will not exceed 1.70% from March 1, 2019 until February 28, 2028. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

Redemption				No Redemption			
Share Class	A	C	I	Share Class	A	C	I
1 Year	\$ 704	\$ 338	\$ 137	1 Year	\$ 704	\$ 238	\$ 137
3 Years	1,097	805	502	3 Years	1,097	805	502
5 Years	1,514	1,399	890	5 Years	1,514	1,399	890
10 Years	2,673	3,006	1,979	10 Years	2,673	3,006	1,979

Portfolio Turnover

The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 28% of the average value of its portfolio.

Principal Investment Strategies

The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing, under normal market conditions, at least 80% of its net assets (including investment borrowings) in equity securities of U.S. listed companies with small market capitalizations ("*Small-Cap Companies*") at the time of investment. Currently, a company will be considered to be a Small-Cap Company if its market capitalization at the time of purchase is within the range of companies in the Russell 2000 Index or the S&P SmallCap 600 Index during the most recent 12-month period (based on month-end data). Because market capitalization is measured at the time of initial purchase, if the market capitalization of a company included in the Fund grows above "small-cap," the Fund shall not be required to sell such security solely because it is no longer a Small-Cap Company. The market capitalization range of companies in the Russell 2000 Index or the S&P SmallCap 600 Index may vary in a 12-month period. As of December 31, 2017, the market capitalization of the Fund's holdings ranged from approximately \$305.1 million to \$11.2 billion.

The portfolio managers seek to invest in Small-Cap Companies that in the portfolio managers' opinion have produced solid returns over extended periods of time. The portfolio managers' investment strategy is based on the rationale that a company which creates superior value, reflected in above-average operating returns, will ultimately have a stock price reflecting that superior performance.

The portfolio managers follow a disciplined, research driven, investment process which seeks to uncover companies trading at discounts to their intrinsic values. By investing in stocks according to a value-based investment philosophy, the portfolio managers seek to enhance the long-term growth potential while limiting downside risk. Companies in which the portfolio managers invest are those that the portfolio managers expect to create above-average growth in value relative to their industries and to the overall market. These companies may include real estate investment trusts ("*REITs*") and business development companies ("*BDCs*"). BDCs lend to and invest in private companies, often working with companies that are not large enough to efficiently access the public markets. Each BDC has a unique profile, determined by its respective management team. Some specialize in particular industries, while others apply a more generalized approach and maintain a diversified portfolio. Once such a company is identified, an extensive valuation analysis is performed to determine if its stock price reflects its underlying value. As of April 30, 2018, the Fund had significant investments in industrial companies.

Principal Risks

You could lose money by investing in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of a bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency. There can be no assurance that the Fund's investment objective will be achieved.

BDC RISK. The Fund may invest in BDCs which may carry risks similar to those of a private equity or venture capital fund. BDCs are not redeemable at the option of the shareholder and they may trade in the market at a discount to their net asset value. The BDCs held by the Fund may employ the use of leverage their portfolios through borrowings or the issuance of preferred stock. While leverage often serves to increase the yield of a BDC, this leverage also subjects a BDC to increased risks, including the likelihood of increased volatility and the possibility that a BDC's common share income will fall if the dividend rate of the preferred shares or the interest rate on any borrowings rises.

CONCENTRATION RISK. A fund concentrated in one or more industries or sectors is likely to present more risks than a fund that is broadly diversified over several industries or sectors. Compared to the broad market, an individual industry or sector may be more strongly affected by changes in the economic climate, broad market shifts, moves in a particular dominant stock, or regulatory changes.

CYBER SECURITY RISK. As the use of Internet technology has become more prevalent in the course of business, the Fund has become more susceptible to potential operational risks through breaches in cyber security. A breach in cyber security refers to both intentional and unintentional events that may cause the Fund to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption or lose operational capacity. Such events could cause the Fund to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, additional compliance costs associated with corrective measures and/or financial loss. Cyber security breaches may involve unauthorized access to the Fund's digital information systems through "hacking" or malicious software coding, but may also result from outside attacks such as denial-of-service attacks through efforts to make network services unavailable to intended users. In addition, cyber security breaches of the Fund's third party service providers, such as its administrator, transfer agent, custodian, or sub-advisor, as applicable, or issuers in which the Fund invests, can also subject the Fund to many of the same risks associated with direct cyber security breaches. The Fund has established risk management systems designed to reduce the risks associated with cyber security. However, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, especially because the Fund does not directly control the cyber security systems of issuers or third party service providers.

EQUITY SECURITIES RISK. Because the Fund invests in equity securities, the value of the Fund's shares will fluctuate with changes in the value of these equity securities. Equity securities prices fluctuate for several reasons, including changes in investors' perceptions of the financial condition of an issuer or the general condition of the relevant stock market, such as market volatility, or when political or economic events affecting the issuers occur. In addition, common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, as the cost of capital rises and borrowing costs increase.

INDUSTRIALS AND PRODUCER DURABLES COMPANIES RISK. The Fund invests in the securities of industrials and producer durables companies, which convert unfinished goods into finished durables used to manufacture other goods or provide services. Some industrials companies are involved in electrical equipment and components, industrial products, manufactured housing and telecommunications equipment. General risks of industrials companies include the general state of the economy, intense competition, consolidation, domestic and international politics, excess capacity and consumer demand and spending trends. In addition, they may also be significantly affected by overall capital spending levels, economic cycles, technical obsolescence, delays in modernization, labor relations, government regulations and e-commerce initiatives.

INVESTMENT COMPANIES RISK. If the Fund invests in investment companies, Fund shareholders bear both their proportionate share of Fund expenses and, indirectly, the expenses of the investment companies. Also, the investment companies are subject to the risks of the underlying securities that they hold. In addition, the Fund will incur brokerage costs when purchasing and selling shares of ETFs and closed-end investment companies. Closed-end investment companies may be leveraged, in which case the value and/or yield of their shares will tend to be more volatile than shares of unleveraged funds. In addition, for index-based ETFs, the performance of an ETF may diverge from the performance of such index (commonly known as tracking error). Moreover, shares of closed-end investment companies and ETFs may be sold at a discount from their net asset value.

MARKET CAPITALIZATION RISK. The Fund normally invests at least 80% of its assets in Small-Cap Companies. Because the market capitalization is measured at the time of its initial purchase, the Fund will not be forced to sell a stock because the stock has exceeded or fallen below the market capitalization range. Because of market movement, there can be no assurance that the securities held by the Fund will stay within the given market capitalization range. As a result, the Fund may be exposed to additional risk or investors may not be given the opportunity to invest fully in a certain market capitalization range.

MARKET RISK. Market risk is the risk that a particular security owned or shares of the Fund in general may fall in value. Securities are subject to market fluctuations caused by such factors as economic, political, regulatory or market developments, changes in interest rates and perceived trends in securities prices. Shares of the Fund could decline in value or underperform other investments.

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES RISK. The Fund invests in companies in the real estate industry, including REITs. Therefore, the Fund is subject to the risks associated with investing in real estate companies, which may include, but are not limited to, fluctuations in the value of underlying properties; defaults by borrowers or tenants; market saturation; changes in general and local economic conditions; decreases in market rates for rents; increases in competition, property taxes, capital expenditures or operating expenses; and other economic, political or regulatory occurrences affecting companies in the real estate industry.

REIT INVESTMENT RISK. Because the Fund invests in REITs, the Fund is subject to the risks associated with investing in real estate, which may include, but are not limited to, fluctuations in the value of underlying properties, defaults by borrowers or tenants, market saturation, changes in general and local operating expenses, and other economic, political or regulatory occurrences affecting companies in the real estate industry. In addition to risks related to investments in real estate generally, investing in REITs involves certain other risks related to their structure and focus, which include, but are not limited to, dependency upon management skills, limited diversification, the risks of locating and managing financing for projects, heavy cash flow dependency, possible default by borrowers, the costs and potential losses of self-liquidation of one or more holdings, the risk of a possible lack of mortgage funds and associated interest rate risks, overbuilding, property vacancies, increases in property taxes and operating expenses, changes in zoning laws, losses due to environmental damages, changes in neighborhood values and appeal to purchasers, the possibility of failing to maintain exemptions from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") and, in many cases, relatively small market capitalization, which may result in less market liquidity and greater price volatility. REITs are also subject to the risk that the real estate market may experience an economic downturn generally, which may have a material effect on the real estate in which the REITs invest and their underlying portfolio securities.

SMALL CAP RISK. The Fund invests in Small-Cap Companies. Such companies may be more vulnerable to adverse general market or economic developments, and their securities may be less liquid and may experience greater price volatility than larger, more established companies as a result of several factors, including limited trading volumes, products or financial resources, management inexperience and dependence on a few key people, and less publicly available information. Accordingly, such companies are generally subject to greater market risk than larger, more established companies. The market movements of equity securities issued by issuers with smaller capitalizations may be more abrupt or erratic than the market movements of equity securities of larger, more established companies or the stock market in general. Historically, smaller capitalization companies have sometimes gone through extended periods when they did not perform as well as larger companies. In addition, equity securities of Small-Cap Companies may be less liquid than those of larger companies.

SMALL FUND RISK. The Fund currently has fewer assets than larger funds, and like other smaller funds, large inflows and outflows may impact the Fund's market exposure for limited periods of time. This impact may be positive or negative, depending on the direction of market movement during the period affected.

VALUE INVESTING RISK. The Fund focuses its investments on securities that the portfolio managers believe are undervalued or inexpensive relative to other investments. These types of securities may present risks in addition to the general risks associated with investing in them. These securities generally are selected on the basis of an issuer's business and economic fundamentals or the securities' current and projected credit profiles, relative to current market price. Such securities are subject to the risk of misestimating certain fundamental factors. Disciplined adherence to a "value" investment mandate during periods in which that style is "out of favor" can result in significant underperformance relative to overall market indices and other managed investment vehicles that pursue growth style investments and/or flexible style mandates.

Annual Total Return

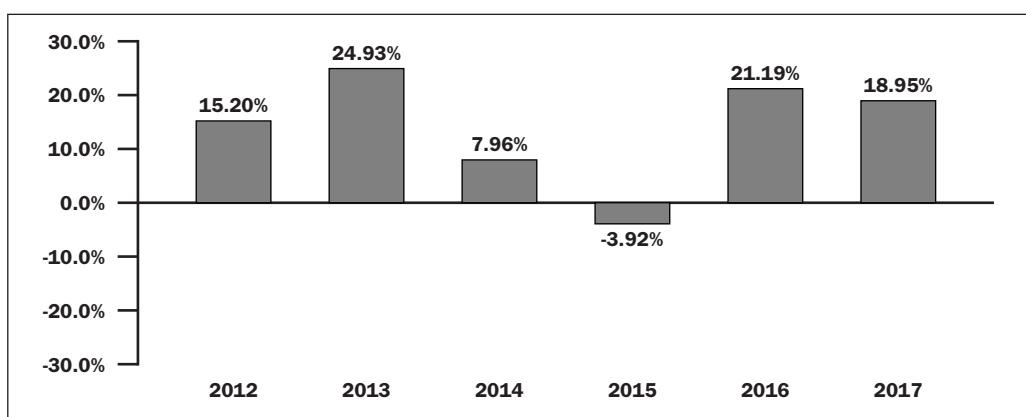
The bar chart and table below illustrate the calendar year returns of the Fund's Class A shares of the Fund based on net asset value as well as the average annual Fund and Index returns. The bar chart and table provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund's performance from year-to-year and by showing how the Fund's Class A shares' average annual total returns compare to those of two broad-based securities market indices. See "Total Return Information" for additional performance information regarding the Fund. The Fund's performance information is accessible on the Fund's website at www.ftportfolios.com.

Returns before taxes do not reflect the effects of any income or capital gains taxes. All after-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of any state or local tax. Returns after taxes on distributions reflect the taxed return on the payment of dividends and capital gains. Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of shares assume you sold your shares at period end, and, therefore, are also adjusted for any capital gains or losses incurred. Returns for the market indices do not include expenses, which are deducted from Fund returns, or taxes.

Your own actual after-tax returns will depend on your specific tax situation and may differ from what is shown here. After-tax returns are not relevant to investors who hold Fund shares in tax-deferred accounts such as individual retirement accounts (IRAs) or employee-sponsored retirement plans.

Imposition of the Fund's sales load is not reflected in the bar chart below. If the sales load was reflected, returns would be less than those shown.

**First Trust/Confluence Small Cap Value Fund – Class A Shares
Calendar Year Total Returns as of 12/31**



The Fund's calendar year-to-date total return based on net asset value for the period 12/31/17 to 3/31/18 was 1.80%.

During the periods shown in the chart above:

Best Quarter		Worst Quarter	
8.91%	September 30, 2013	-7.82%	September 30, 2015

The Fund's past performance (before and after taxes) is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

Average Annual Total Returns for the Periods Ended December 31, 2017

	1 Year	5 Years	Since Inception	Inception Date
Class A - Return Before Taxes	12.41%	12.04%	10.48%	2/24/2011
Class C - Return Before Taxes	17.18%	12.40%	9.94%	3/2/2011
Class I - Return Before Taxes	18.72%	13.56%	11.58%	1/11/2011
Class A - Return After Taxes on Distributions	10.66%	10.74%	9.45%	2/24/2011
Class A - Return After Taxes on Distributions and Sale of Shares	7.92%	9.19%	8.10%	2/24/2011
Russell 2000® Value Index ⁽¹⁾ (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	7.84%	13.01%	10.72%	1/11/2011
Russell 2000® Index ⁽¹⁾ (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	14.65%	14.12%	11.44%	1/11/2011

(1) Since Inception Returns are based on inception date for Class I shares.

Management

Investment Advisor

First Trust Advisors L.P. (“*First Trust*” or the “*Advisor*”)

Investment Sub-Advisor

Confluence Investment Management LLC (“*Confluence*” or the “*Sub-Advisor*”)

Portfolio Managers

The following persons are members of Confluence’s investment committee and serve as the portfolio managers of the Fund:

- Mark Keller, CFA, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer of Confluence;
- Daniel Winter, CFA, Senior Vice President and Portfolio Manager of Confluence;
- Chris Stein, Vice President and Portfolio Manager of Confluence; and
- Thomas Dugan, CFA, Associate Vice President and Portfolio Manager of Confluence.

The portfolio managers are primarily and jointly responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund. Mark Keller, Daniel Winter and Chris Stein have served as a part of the portfolio management team of the Fund since 2011. Thomas Dugan has served as a part of the portfolio management team of the Fund since 2015.

Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

You may purchase, redeem or exchange shares of the Fund through a financial advisor on any day the New York Stock Exchange (“*NYSE*”) is open for business. The minimum initial purchase or exchange into the Fund is \$2,500 (\$750 for a Traditional/Roth IRA account; \$500 for an Education IRA account; and \$250 for accounts opened through fee-based programs). The minimum subsequent investment is \$50. Class I shares are subject to higher minimums for certain investors. There are no minimums for purchases or exchanges into the Fund through employer-sponsored retirement plans.

Tax Information

The Fund’s distributions will generally be taxed as ordinary income or capital gains, unless you are investing through a tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account, in which case, your distribution will be taxed upon withdrawal from the tax-deferred account. Additionally, a sale of Fund shares is generally a taxable event.

Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries

If you purchase shares of the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), First Trust and related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary’s website for more information.

Additional Information on the Fund's Investment Objective and Strategies

The Fund's investment objective is fundamental and may not be changed without approval by the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. Unless an investment policy is identified as being fundamental, all investment policies included in this prospectus and in the Fund's SAI are non-fundamental and may be changed by the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the First Trust Series Fund (the "Trust"), of which the Fund is a series, without shareholder approval upon 60 days' prior written notice. The Fund has adopted a non-fundamental investment policy pursuant to Rule 35d-1 under the 1940 Act (the "Name Policy") whereby the Fund, under normal market conditions, will invest at least 80% of its net assets (including investment borrowings) in equity securities of U.S. listed companies with small market capitalizations at the time of investment. Accordingly, if the market capitalization of a company included in the Fund grows above "small-cap," the Fund shall not be required to sell such security. The Name Policy may be changed by the Board without shareholder approval upon 60 days' prior written notice. If there is a material change to the Fund's principal investment strategies, you should consider whether the Fund remains an appropriate investment for you. There is no guarantee that the Fund will achieve its investment objective.

Confluence seeks to invest in stocks of companies with small market capitalizations that, in Confluence's opinion, have produced solid returns over extended periods of time. Confluence deems a company to be suitable if it possesses substantial competitive advantages, such as an ability to maintain the pricing of its products and to operate in markets in which there are considerable barriers against potential competitors. These competitive advantages may include strong brand names, highly differentiated services or products, dominant market share, flexible pricing power, protected technology or specialized industrial skill set. These companies typically generate cash in amounts that exceed their reinvestment needs and operating obligations with managements that are predisposed to return such free cash flow to shareholders. Desirable companies generally have senior management with large personal investments in their companies' shares and that have proven track records of value-enhanced capital allocation decisions.

Confluence defines risk as the probability of permanent loss of capital. To protect against this risk, Confluence seeks quality businesses at attractive valuations that are diversified across a variety of markets. In Confluence's opinion, this discipline has the potential to help protect against losses, while enhancing upside potential. Confluence may decide to sell a company's stock if, in Confluence's opinion: (i) the share price reaches Confluence's estimate of full valuation; the company's fundamentals deteriorate; (iii) more attractive opportunities are identified — the least attractive or most overpriced stock held may be sold to raise cash to fund the new purchase; or (iv) the relative price performance trails its peer group or appropriate market index.

The Fund may invest in securities of other investment companies, including exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), that invest primarily in securities of Small-Cap Companies. Confluence generally expects that it may invest in such other investment companies either during periods when it has large amounts of uninvested cash or in anticipation of orderly purchases of securities of Small-Cap Companies at prices Confluence considers to be reasonable. Securities of such investment companies will be considered Small-Cap Companies for purposes of the Fund's Name Policy. Confluence may also use various investment techniques to increase or decrease the Fund's exposure to changing security prices or other factors that affect security values. If Confluence's strategies do not work as intended, the Fund may not achieve its investment objective.

Fund Investments

Principal Investments

Business Development Companies

BDCs are a type of closed-end fund regulated under the 1940 Act that typically invest in and lend to small and medium-sized private and certain public companies that may not have access to public equity markets for capital raising. BDCs invest in such diverse industries as healthcare, chemical and manufacturing, technology and service companies. BDCs are unique in that at least 70% of their investments must be made in private and certain public U.S. businesses, and BDCs are required to make available significant managerial assistance to their portfolio companies. Unlike corporations, BDCs are not taxed on income distributed to their shareholders provided they comply with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. BDCs, which are required to distribute substantially all of their income to investors in order to not be subject to entity level taxation, often offer a yield advantage over other types of securities. The Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any management and other expenses, and of any performance based or incentive fees, charged by the BDCs in which it invests, in addition to the expenses paid by the Fund.

Equity Securities

The Fund invests in equity securities, which may include common stocks, preferred securities, warrants to purchase common stocks or preferred securities, securities convertible into common stocks or preferred securities, and other securities with equity characteristics, such as real estate investment trusts, master limited partnerships and depositary receipts.

Investment Companies

The Fund may invest in securities of other open-end or closed-end investment companies, including closed-end funds and ETFs, that invest primarily in securities of the types in which the Fund may invest directly. The Fund's ability to invest in other investment companies is limited by the 1940 Act and the related rules and interpretations. The Fund may invest in other investment companies in excess of the limits imposed under the 1940 Act pursuant to exemptive orders obtained by certain investment companies and their sponsors from the SEC, subject to certain conditions and pursuant to a contractual arrangement between the Fund and such investment companies. ETFs trade on a securities exchange and their shares may, at times, trade at a premium or discount to their net asset value.

As a shareholder in an investment company, the Fund will bear its ratable share of such investment company's expenses, and would remain subject to payment of the investment company's advisory and administrative fees with respect to assets so invested. Shareholders would therefore be subject to duplicative expenses to the extent the Fund invests in other investment companies. In addition, the Fund will incur brokerage costs when purchasing and selling shares of ETFs and closed-end investment companies. Closed-end investment companies may be leveraged, in which case the value and/or yield of their shares will tend to be more volatile than shares of unleveraged funds.

The Fund's ability to invest in other investment companies is limited by the 1940 Act and the related rules and interpretations. The Fund may invest in other investment companies in excess of the limits imposed under the 1940 Act pursuant to exemptive orders obtained by certain investment companies and their sponsors from the SEC, subject to certain conditions and pursuant to a contractual arrangement between the Fund and such investment companies.

Real Estate Investment Trusts

REITs are financial vehicles that pool investors' capital to purchase or finance real estate. REITs are companies that often actively manage income-generating commercial real estate. Some REITs make or invest in loans and other obligations that are secured by real estate collateral. Most REITs are publicly traded and are generally a highly liquid method of investing in real estate. REITs are a creation of the tax law. REITs essentially operate as a corporation or business trust with the advantage of exemption from corporate income taxes provided the REIT satisfies certain requirements.

REITs are generally categorized as equity REITs, mortgage REITs or hybrid REITs. Equity REITs invest in and own properties, and thus are responsible for the equity or value of their real estate assets. Their revenues come principally from their properties' rents. Mortgage REITs deal in investment and ownership of property mortgages. These REITs loan money for mortgages to owners of real estate or purchase existing mortgages or mortgage-backed securities. Their revenues are generated primarily by the interest that they earn on the mortgage loans. Hybrid REITs combine the investment strategies of equity REITs and mortgage REITs by investing in both properties and mortgages.

Small-Cap Equity Securities

Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets (including investment borrowings) in equity securities of U.S. listed Small-Cap Companies at the time of investment.

Non-Principal Investments

Cash Equivalents and Short-Term Investments

Normally, the Fund invests substantially all of its assets to meet its investment objective. The Fund may invest the remainder of its assets in securities with maturities of less than one year or cash equivalents, or it may hold cash. The percentage of the Fund invested in such holdings varies and depends on several factors, including market conditions. For temporary defensive purposes and during periods of high cash inflows or outflows, the Fund may depart from its principal investment strategies and invest part or all of its assets in these securities or it may hold cash. During such periods, the Fund may not be able to achieve its investment objective. The Fund may adopt a defensive strategy when the portfolio managers believe securities in which the Fund normally invests have elevated risks due to political or economic factors and in other extraordinary circumstances. For more information on eligible short-term investments, see the SAI.

Illiquid Securities

The Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in securities and other instruments that are, at the time of investment, illiquid (determined using the Securities and Exchange Commission's standard applicable to investment companies, *i.e.*, securities that cannot be disposed of by the Fund within seven days in the ordinary course of business at approximately the amount at which the Fund has valued the securities). For this purpose, illiquid securities may include, but are not limited to, restricted securities (securities the disposition of which is restricted under the federal securities laws), securities that may only be resold pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "*Securities Act*"), that are deemed to be illiquid, and certain repurchase agreements.

Portfolio Holdings

A description of the policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the Fund's portfolio securities is included in the Fund's SAI, which is available on the Fund's website at www.ftportfolios.com.

Additional Risks of Investing in the Fund

Risk is inherent in all investing. Investing in the Fund involves risk, including the risk that you may lose all or part of your investment. There can be no assurance that the Fund will meet its stated objective. Before you invest, you should consider the following supplemental disclosure pertaining to the Principal Risks set forth above as well as additional Non-Principal Risks set forth below in this prospectus.

Principal Risks

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY RISK. The Fund may invest in BDCs which may carry risks similar to those of a private equity or venture capital fund. Securities that are not publicly registered may be difficult to value and may be difficult to sell at a price representative of their intrinsic value. Small and medium-sized companies also may have fewer lines of business so that changes in any one line of business may have a greater impact on the value of their stock than is the case with a larger company. An investment in BDCs is also subject to additional risks, including management's ability to meet the fund's investment objective, and to manage the fund's portfolio when the underlying securities are redeemed or sold, during periods of market turmoil and as investors' perceptions regarding the funds or their underlying investments change. BDCs are not redeemable at the option of the shareholder and they may trade in the market at a discount to their net asset value.

The BDCs included in the Fund may employ the use of leverage in their portfolios through borrowings or the issuance of preferred stock. While leverage often serves to increase the yield of a BDC, this leverage also subjects a BDC to increased risks, including the likelihood of increased volatility and the possibility that a BDC's common share income will fall if the dividend rate of the preferred shares or the interest rate on any borrowings rises.

EQUITY SECURITIES RISK. Equity securities may decline significantly in price over short or extended periods of time, and such declines may occur in the equity market as a whole, or they may occur in only a particular country, company, industry or sector of the market.

REIT INVESTMENT RISK. An investment in REITs also involves certain additional risks, which include, among others, adverse changes in national, state or local real estate conditions (such as the turmoil experienced since 2007 in the residential and commercial real estate markets); obsolescence of properties; changes in the availability, cost and terms of mortgage funds; and the impact of changes in environmental laws. In addition, a REIT that fails to comply with federal tax requirements affecting REITs may be subject to federal income taxation, or the federal tax requirement that a REIT distribute substantially all of its net income to its shareholders may result in a REIT having insufficient capital for future expenditures. The value of a REIT can depend on the structure of and cash flow generated by the REIT. In addition, like investment companies, REITs have expenses, including advisory and administration fees, that are paid by their shareholders. As a result, you will absorb duplicate levels of fees when the Fund invests in REITs. In addition, REITs are subject to certain provisions under federal tax law. The failure of a company to qualify as a REIT could have adverse consequences for the Fund, including significantly reducing return to the Fund on its investment in such company.

Non-Principal Risks

BORROWING AND LEVERAGE RISK. The Fund may borrow for temporary or emergency purposes, including to meet redemption requests, pay dividends or clear portfolio transactions. Such borrowing may, in some instances, effectively leverage the Fund's portfolio, which could exaggerate changes in the net asset value of the Fund's shares and affect the Fund's net income. If the Fund borrows money, it must pay interest and other fees, which may reduce the Fund's returns if such costs

exceed the returns on the portfolio securities purchased or retained with such borrowings. Any such borrowings are intended to be temporary. However, under certain market conditions, including periods of low demand or decreased liquidity, such borrowings might be outstanding for longer periods of time. As prescribed by the 1940 Act, the Fund will be required to maintain specified asset coverage of at least 300% with respect to any bank borrowing immediately following such borrowing. The Fund may be required to dispose of assets on unfavorable terms if market fluctuations or other factors reduce the Fund's asset coverage to less than the prescribed amount.

DEPENDENCE ON KEY PERSONNEL RISK. The Sub-Advisor is dependent upon the experience and expertise of Messrs. Mark Keller, Daniel Winter, Chris Stein and Thomas Dugan in providing advisory services with respect to the Fund's investments. If the Sub-Advisor were to lose the services of any of these portfolio managers, its ability to service the Fund could be adversely affected. There can be no assurance that a suitable replacement could be found for any of Messrs. Keller, Winter, Stein and Dugan in the event of their death, resignation, retirement or inability to act on behalf of the Sub-Advisor.

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT AND RECOUPMENT RISK. First Trust has entered into an agreement with the Trust in which the Advisor has agreed to waive certain fees and/or reimburse the Fund for expenses exceeding an agreed upon amount. First Trust is also entitled to recoup from the Fund any waived or reimbursed amounts pursuant to the agreement for a period of up to three years from the date of waiver or reimbursement. Any such recoupment or modification or termination of the agreement could negatively affect the Fund's returns.

FAILURE TO QUALIFY AS A REGULATED INVESTMENT COMPANY. If, in any year, the Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company under the applicable tax laws, the Fund would be taxed as an ordinary corporation. In such circumstances, the Fund could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make substantial distributions before requalifying as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment. If the Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company, distributions to the Fund's shareholders generally would be eligible for the dividends received deduction in the case of corporate shareholders. See "Federal Tax Matters."

INFLATION RISK. Inflation risk is the risk that the value of assets or income from investments will be less in the future as inflation decreases the value of money. As inflation increases, the value of a Fund's assets can decline as can the value of a Fund's distributions. Common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, as the cost of capital rises and borrowing costs increase.

ISSUER SPECIFIC CHANGES RISK. The value of an individual security or particular type of security can be more volatile than the market as a whole and can perform differently from the value of the market as a whole.

LEGISLATION/LITIGATION RISK. From time to time, various legislative initiatives are proposed in the United States and abroad, which may have a negative impact on certain companies in which the Fund invests. In addition, litigation regarding any of the issuers of the securities owned by the Fund, or industries represented by these issuers, may negatively impact the value of the securities. Such legislation or litigation may cause the Fund to lose value or may result in higher portfolio turnover if the Sub-Advisor determines to sell such a holding.

MANAGEMENT RISK. The Fund is subject to management risk because it has an actively managed portfolio. The Sub-Advisor will apply investment techniques and risk analyses in making investment decisions for the Fund, but there can be no guarantee that the Fund will achieve its investment objective.

Fund Organization

The Fund is a series of the Trust, an investment company registered under the 1940 Act. The Fund is treated as a separate fund with its own investment objective and policies. The Trust is organized as a Massachusetts business trust. The Trust's Board is responsible for the overall management and direction of the Trust. The Board elects the Trust's officers and approves all significant agreements, including those with the investment advisor, the Sub-Advisor custodian and fund administrative and accounting agent.

Management of the Fund

First Trust Advisors L.P., 120 East Liberty Drive, Wheaton, Illinois 60187, is the investment advisor to the Fund. In this capacity, First Trust is responsible for overseeing the Sub-Advisor in the investment of the Fund's assets, managing the Fund's business affairs and providing certain clerical, bookkeeping and other administrative services.

First Trust is a limited partnership with one limited partner, Grace Partners of DuPage L.P., and one general partner, The Charger Corporation. Grace Partners of DuPage L.P. is a limited partnership with one general partner, The Charger Corporation, and a number of limited partners. The Charger Corporation is an Illinois corporation controlled by James A. Bowen, the Chief Executive Officer of First Trust and Chairman of the Board of the Trust. First Trust discharges its responsibilities subject to the policies of the Board.

First Trust serves as advisor or sub-advisor to seven mutual fund portfolios, 10 exchange-traded funds consisting of 130 series and 16 closed-end funds and is also the portfolio supervisor of certain unit investment trusts sponsored by First Trust Portfolios L.P. ("FTP"), an affiliate of First Trust, 120 East Liberty Drive, Wheaton, Illinois 60187. FTP specializes in the underwriting, trading and distribution of unit investment trusts and other securities. FTP is the principal underwriter of the shares of the Fund.

The Fund and First Trust have retained Confluence to serve as the Fund's investment sub-advisor. Confluence is a St. Louis, Missouri based, Securities and Exchange Commission registered investment advisor founded in December 2007, specializing in equity portfolio management, asset allocation portfolio management and alternative investment management.

The Confluence value-oriented investment team formerly with A.G. Edwards has a track record dating back to 1994 and has more than \$8.4 billion in assets under management or supervision as of January 31, 2018.

Confluence's investment philosophy is driven by focused research and portfolio management to achieve long-term, risk-adjusted returns. Confluence employs a long-term, value-oriented, bottom-up approach to investing. Its proprietary investment research focuses on determining the intrinsic value of an investment opportunity. Through its research process, Confluence determines the intrinsic value of an investment opportunity and look to invest at a significant discount to intrinsic value, providing investments with a margin of safety.

Mark Keller, Daniel Winter, Chris Stein and Thomas Dugan serve as the Fund's portfolio managers and share responsibilities for the day-to-day management of the Fund's investment portfolio. The core investment team is led by Mark Keller.

- Mark Keller, serves as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer of Confluence. Mr. Keller has more than 30 years of investment experience, with a focus on value-oriented equity analysis and management. From 1994 to May 2008, he was the Chief Investment Officer of Gallatin Asset Management, and its predecessor organization, A.G. Edwards Asset Management, the investment management arm of A.G. Edwards, Inc. From 1999 to 2008, Mr. Keller was Chairman of the A.G. Edwards Investment Strategy Committee, which set investment policy and established asset allocation models for the entire organization. Mr. Keller began his career with A.G. Edwards in 1978, serving as an equity analyst for the firm's Securities Research Department from 1979 to 1994. During his last five years in Securities Research, Mr. Keller was Equity Strategist and manager of the firm's Focus List. Mr. Keller was a founding member of the A.G. Edwards Investment Strategy Committee, on which he served over 20 years, the last 10 years of which as Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Keller was a Senior Vice President of A.G. Edwards & Sons and of Gallatin Asset Management, and was a member of the Board of Directors of both companies. Mr. Keller received a Bachelor of Arts from Wheaton College (Illinois) and is a CFA charterholder.
- Daniel Winter, serves as Senior Vice President and Portfolio Manager of Confluence. Prior to joining Confluence in May 2008, Mr. Winter served as a Portfolio Manager and Analyst with Gallatin Asset Management, the investment management arm of A.G. Edwards, Inc. While at Gallatin, Mr. Winter chaired the portfolio management team responsible for the firm's six value-oriented equity strategies. His responsibilities also included directing the strategy implementation and trading execution for the equity portfolios. Additionally, Mr. Winter co-managed the First Trust/Gallatin Specialty Finance and Financial Opportunities Fund (NYSE: FGB), a closed-end fund whose primary focus was on Business Development Companies, a role he continues in his current capacity at Confluence. Mr. Winter also served as a portfolio manager for the Cyclical Growth ETF Portfolio and the Cyclical Growth and Income ETF Portfolio which were offered through variable annuities. He was also a member of the firm's Allocation Advisor Committee which oversaw the A.G. Edwards exchange-traded fund focused strategies. Prior to joining the firm's Asset Management division in 1996, Mr. Winter served as a portfolio manager for A.G. Edwards Trust Company. Mr. Winter earned a Bachelor of Arts in business management from Eckerd College and a Master of Business Administration from Saint Louis University. Mr. Winter is a CFA charterholder.
- Chris Stein, serves as Vice President and Portfolio Manager of Confluence. Mr. Stein joined Confluence in August 2008. Previously, Mr. Stein served as a Portfolio Manager and Analyst with Gallatin Asset Management, the investment management arm of A.G. Edwards, Inc. Mr. Stein was part of the portfolio management team

responsible for Gallatin's Large Cap Value, Small Cap Value, Equity Income, Value Opportunities and All Cap Global separately managed accounts. His analytical coverage was primarily focused on companies within the consumer discretionary sector. Additionally, Mr. Stein assisted the A.G. Edwards Trust Company in constructing and managing individual stock portfolios. Prior to joining the Asset Management division in 2001, Mr. Stein was an associate analyst covering the media and entertainment sector for A.G. Edwards' securities research. Prior to joining A.G. Edwards in 1998, he was a financial consultant with Renaissance Financial. Mr. Stein earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Dayton. Mr. Stein also received a Master of Business Administration from St. Louis University.

- Thomas Dugan, serves as Associate Vice President and Portfolio Manager for Confluence. Prior to joining Confluence in 2008, Mr. Dugan served as an equity analyst with Gallatin Asset Management, the investment management arm of A.G. Edwards, Inc. Before joining Gallatin, Mr. Dugan was an equity analyst with Martin Capital Management in Elkhart, Indiana. Mr. Dugan graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration in finance and economics from Rockhurst University. He earned his Master of Business Administration degree from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University and is a CFA charterholder.

Additional information about the portfolio managers' compensation, other accounts managed by the portfolio managers and the portfolio managers' ownership of securities in the Fund is provided in the SAI.

Management Fees

For providing management services, the Fund pays First Trust an annual fund management fee of 1.00% of average daily net assets. Information regarding the Board's approval of the continuation of the Fund's investment management agreement and sub-advisory agreement is available in the Fund's Annual Report for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2017.

The Fund pays for its own operating expenses such as custodial, transfer agent, administrative, accounting and legal fees; brokerage commissions; distribution and service fees; any extraordinary expenses; and its portion of the Trust's operating expenses. First Trust and Confluence have agreed to limit fees and/or pay expenses to the extent necessary through February 28, 2019, to prevent the Fund's Total Annual Operating Expenses (excluding 12b-1 distribution and service fees, interest expense, taxes, acquired fund fees and expenses, fees incurred in acquiring and disposing of portfolio securities, and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.35% of the average daily net assets of any class of shares of the Fund. From March 1, 2019 through February 28, 2028, the Fund's Total Annual Operating Expenses (excluding 12b-1 distribution and service fees, interest expense, taxes, acquired fund fees and expenses, fees incurred in acquiring and disposing of portfolio securities, and extraordinary expenses) will not exceed 1.70% of the average daily net assets of any class of shares of the Fund. Expenses borne by First Trust and Confluence are subject to reimbursement by the Fund for up to three years from the date the fee or expense was incurred, but no reimbursement payment will be made by the Fund at any time if it would result in the Fund's expenses exceeding (i) the applicable expense limitation in place for the most recent fiscal year for which such expense limitation was in place, (ii) the applicable expense limitation in place at the time the fees were waived, or (iii) the current expense limitation. Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses are not taken into consideration in the expense limitation because they are not Fund operating expenses, but rather, are imputed fees and expenses.

Share Classes

The Fund offers three classes of shares: Class A, Class C and Class I. Each class represents an interest in the same portfolio of investments but with a different combination of sales charges, fees, eligibility requirements and other features. Consult with your financial intermediary representative for additional information on whether the shares are an appropriate investment choice. The Fund may not be available through certain of these intermediaries and not all financial intermediaries offer all classes of shares. Contact your financial intermediary or refer to your plan documents for instructions on how to purchase, exchange, or redeem shares. With certain limited exceptions, the Fund is available only to U.S. citizens or residents.

Please refer to the SAI for more information about Class A, Class C and Class I shares, including more detailed program descriptions and eligibility requirements. If your financial intermediary offers more than one class of shares, you should carefully consider which class of shares to purchase. Certain classes have higher expenses than other classes, which may lower the return on your investment. Additional information is also available from your financial intermediary. Information regarding the sales charge applicable to the purchase of Fund shares is included in this prospectus and the Fund's SAI, both of which are available free of charge at www.ftportfolios.com/Retail/MF/MFSummary.aspx?Ticker=FOVAX. Information regarding the

sales charge applicable to the purchase of Fund shares is not available on the Fund's website separately from the Fund's prospectus and SAI.

Class A Shares

You can purchase Class A shares at the offering price, which is the net asset value per share plus an up-front sales charge. The sales charge may be waived, as described in "Class A Sales Charge Waivers." Class A shares are also subject to an annual service fee of 0.25% of the Fund's average daily net assets attributable to Class A shares, which compensates your financial advisor and other entities for providing ongoing service to you. FTP retains the up-front sales charge and the service fee on accounts with no financial intermediary of record. The up-front Class A sales charges for the Fund are as follows:

Amount of Purchase	Sales Charge as % of Public Offering Price	Sales Charge as % of Net Amount Invested	Maximum Financial Intermediary Commission as % of Public Offering Price
Less than \$50,000	5.50%	5.73%	5.00%
\$50,000 but less than \$100,000	4.75%	4.97%	4.25%
\$100,000 but less than \$250,000	4.00%	4.21%	3.50%
\$250,000 but less than \$500,000	3.75%	3.96%	3.50%
\$500,000 but less than \$1,000,000	3.25%	3.45%	3.00%
\$1,000,000 and over*	—	—	1.00%

* You can purchase \$1 million or more of Class A shares at net asset value without an up-front sales charge. First Trust pays financial intermediaries of record a commission equal to 1.00% of the first \$2.5 million, plus 0.50% of the next \$2.5 million, plus 0.25% of the amount over \$5 million. You may be assessed a contingent deferred sales charge of 1.00% if you redeem any of your shares within 12 months of purchase. The contingent deferred sales charge is calculated on the lower of your purchase price or your redemption proceeds. You do not pay a contingent deferred sales charge on any Class A shares you purchase by reinvesting dividends or capital gains.

For purposes of determining whether you qualify for a reduced sales charge as set forth in the table above, you may include purchases by (i) you, (ii) your spouse (or legal equivalent if recognized under local law) and your children under 21 years of age, and (iii) a corporation, partnership or sole proprietorship that is 100% owned by any of the persons in or (ii). In addition, a trustee or other fiduciary can count all shares purchased for a single trust, estate or other single fiduciary account that has multiple accounts (including one or more employee benefit plans of the same employer). See the SAI for more information.

Class C Shares

You can purchase Class C shares at the offering price, which is the net asset value per share without any up-front sales charge. Class C shares are subject to annual distribution and service fees of 1.00% of the Fund's average daily net assets attributable to Class C shares. The annual 0.25% service fee compensates your financial advisor for providing ongoing service to you. The annual 0.75% distribution fee compensates FTP for paying your financial advisor an ongoing sales commission as well as an advance of the first year's service and distribution fees. FTP retains the service and distribution fees on accounts with no financial intermediary of record. If you redeem your shares within 12 months of purchase, you will normally pay a 1.00% contingent deferred sales charge ("CDSC"), which is calculated on the lower of your purchase price or your redemption proceeds. You do not pay a CDSC on any Class C shares you purchase by reinvesting dividends or capital gains.

The Fund has established a limit to the amount of Class C shares that may be purchased by an individual investor. See the SAI for more information.

Class I Shares

You can purchase Class I shares at the offering price, which is the net asset value per share without any up-front sales charge. Class I shares are not subject to sales charges or ongoing service or distribution fees. Class I shares have lower ongoing expenses than the other classes. Class I shares are available for purchase in an amount of \$1 million or more, or using dividends and capital gains distributions on Class I shares. Class I shares may also be purchased by the following categories of investors:

- Certain employees, officers, directors and affiliates of First Trust and Confluence Investment Management LLC.
- Certain financial intermediary personnel.
- Certain bank or broker affiliated trust departments, pursuant to an agreement.
- Certain employer-sponsored retirement plans.

- Certain additional categories of investors, including certain advisory accounts of First Trust and its affiliates, and qualifying clients of investment advisors, financial planners, or other financial intermediaries that charge periodic or asset-based fees for their services.

See the SAI for more information.

Class A Sales Charge Waivers

Class A shares of the Fund may be purchased at net asset value without a sales charge as follows:

- Purchases of \$1,000,000 or more.
- Reinvestment of distributions from Class A Shares of the Fund.
- Purchases by officers, trustees and former trustees of the First Trust Mutual Funds, as well as full-time and retired employees of First Trust, any parent company of First Trust, and subsidiaries thereof, and such employees' immediate family members (as defined in the SAI).
- Purchases by any person who, for at least the last 90 days, has been an officer, director, or full-time employee of any financial intermediary or any such person's immediate family member.
- Purchases by bank or broker-affiliated trust departments investing funds over which they exercise exclusive discretionary investment authority and that are held in a fiduciary, agency, advisory, custodial, or similar capacity.
- Purchases made by investors purchasing on a periodic fee, asset based fee, or no transaction fee basis through a broker-dealer sponsored mutual fund purchase program; and clients of investment advisors, financial planners, or other financial intermediaries that charge periodic or asset-based fees for their services.

Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC (“Morgan Stanley”) Class A Sales Charge Waivers. Notwithstanding the list above, effective July 1, 2018, shareholders purchasing Class A shares of the Fund through a Morgan Stanley Wealth Management transactional brokerage account will only be eligible for a waiver of the up-front sales charge applicable to Class A shares under the following circumstances (these conditions differ from and may be more limited than those disclosed above and elsewhere in the Fund’s prospectus or statement of additional information):

- Purchases by employer-sponsored retirement plans (e.g., 401(k) plans, 457 plans, employer-sponsored 403(b) plans, profit sharing and money purchase pension plans and defined benefit plans). For purposes of this provision, employer-sponsored retirement plans do not include SEP IRAs, Simple IRAs, SAR-SEPs or Keogh plans.
- Purchases by Morgan Stanley employee and employee-related accounts according to Morgan Stanley's account linking rules.
- Shares purchased through reinvestment of dividends and capital gains distributions when purchasing shares of the same Fund.
- Shares purchased through a Morgan Stanley self-directed brokerage account.
- Class C shares that are no longer subject to a contingent deferred sales charge and are converted to Class A shares of the same Fund pursuant to Morgan Stanley Wealth Management’s share class conversion program.
- Shares purchased from the proceeds of redemptions of other First Trust Mutual Funds; provided that, (i) the repurchase occurs within 90 days following the redemption, (ii) the redemption and purchase occur in the same account, and (iii) the redeemed shares were subject to an up-front or deferred sales charge.

You may need to provide the Fund or your financial advisor information or records, such as account statements, in order to verify your eligibility for a sales charge waiver (or reduction as set forth in the table above in “Share Classes – Class A Shares”). This may include account statements of family members and information regarding First Trust Mutual Fund shares held in accounts with other financial advisors. You or your financial advisor must notify First Trust at the time of each purchase if you are eligible for any of these programs that result in a sales charge waiver or reduction. The Fund may modify or discontinue these programs at any time.

Right of Accumulation. You may purchase Class A shares of the Fund at a reduced sales charge determined by aggregating the dollar amount of the new purchase (measured by the offering price) and the total prior day’s net asset value (net amount invested) of all eligible shares (as set forth herein) and applying the sales charge applicable to such aggregate amount. Shares eligible for aggregation include Class A shares of the Fund and other First Trust Mutual Funds then held by you. In order for your purchases and holdings to be aggregated for purposes of qualifying for such discount, they must have been made through one financial intermediary and you must provide sufficient information to your financial intermediary at the time of initial purchase of shares that qualify for the rights of accumulation to permit verification that the purchase qualifies for the reduced

sales charge. The right of accumulation is subject to modification or discontinuance at any time with respect to all shares purchased thereafter.

Letter of Intent. You can also reduce the sales charge on the purchase of Class A shares by signing a Letter of Intent indicating your intention to purchase \$50,000 or more of Class A shares (including Class A shares in other First Trust funds) over a 13-month period. The term of the Letter of Intent will commence upon the date you sign the Letter. In order to apply purchases towards the intended amount, you must refer to such Letter when placing all orders.

When calculating the applicable sales charge to a purchase pursuant to a Letter of Intent, the amount of investment for purposes of applying the sales load schedule includes: (i) the historical cost (what you actually paid for the shares at the time of purchase, including any sales charges) of all Class A shares acquired during the term of the Letter of Intent; minus the value of any redemptions of Class A shares made during the term of the Letter of Intent. Each investment made during the period receives the reduced sales charge applicable to the total amount of the investment goal. A portion of shares purchased may be held in escrow to pay for any applicable sales charge. If the goal is not achieved within the period, you must pay the difference between the sales charges applicable to the purchases made and the charges previously paid, or an appropriate number of escrowed shares will be redeemed. Please contact your financial intermediary to obtain a Letter of Intent application.

Investment in Fund Shares

Shares of the Fund may be purchased on any business day, which is any day the NYSE is open for business. Generally, the NYSE is closed on weekends and national holidays. The share price you pay depends on when the transfer agent or authorized intermediary receives your order. Orders received before the close of trading on a business day (normally, 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time) will receive that day's closing share price; otherwise, you will receive the next business day's price.

Fund shares may be purchased only through a financial intermediary. The Fund has authorized one or more financial intermediaries, or the designees of such intermediaries, to receive purchase and redemption orders on the Fund's behalf. The Fund will be deemed to have received a purchase or redemption order when an authorized financial intermediary, or the designee of an authorized financial intermediary, receives the order.

A financial intermediary, such as a financial advisor or broker, is paid for providing investment advice and services, either from the Fund sales charges and fees or by charging you a separate fee in lieu of a sales charge. Financial intermediaries may charge a service fee in connection with the purchase or redemption of the Fund shares. Service fees typically are fixed dollar amounts and are in addition to the sales and other charges described in this prospectus and the SAI. For more information, please contact your financial intermediary.

For purposes of the 1940 Act, the Fund is treated as a registered investment company, and, absent an available exemption or exemptive relief, the acquisition of shares by other registered investment companies and companies relying on Sections 3(c)(1) or 3(c)(7) of the 1940 Act is subject to the restrictions of Section 12(d)(1) of the 1940 Act.

Investment Minimums

The minimum initial purchase or exchange into the Fund is \$2,500 (\$750 for a Traditional/Roth IRA account; \$500 for an Education IRA account; and \$250 for accounts opened through fee based programs). Subsequent investments must be in amounts of \$50 or more. Class I shares are subject to higher minimums for certain investors. There are no minimums for purchases or exchanges into the Fund through employer-sponsored retirement plans. The Fund reserves the right to reject purchase or exchange orders and to waive or increase the minimum investment requirements.

Account Services

The following is a description of additional account services available to investors at no additional cost. Investors can obtain copies of the necessary forms from their financial advisor.

Exchanging Shares

Shares of the Fund may be exchanged into an identically registered account for the same class of another First Trust Mutual Fund available in your state. The exchange must meet the minimum purchase requirements of the fund into which you are exchanging. You may also, under certain limited circumstances, exchange between certain classes of shares of the same Fund, subject to the payment of any applicable CDSC. Please consult the SAI for details.

The Fund may change or cancel its exchange policy at any time upon 60 days' notice. The Fund reserves the right to revise or suspend the exchange privilege, limit the amount or number of exchanges, or reject any exchange. See "Frequent Trading and Market Timing" below.

Because an exchange between funds is treated for tax purposes as a purchase and sale, any gain may be subject to tax. An exchange between classes of shares of the Fund may not be considered a taxable event. Please consult a tax advisor about the tax consequences of exchanging your shares.

Reinstatement Privilege

If shares of the Fund are redeemed, you may reinvest all or part of your redemption proceeds in the Fund up to one year later without incurring any additional charges. You may only reinvest into the same share class you redeemed. The reinvestment privilege does not extend to Class A shares or Class C shares, where the redemption of the shares triggered the payment of a CDSC. This reinstatement privilege may be used only once for any redemption.

Redemption of Fund Shares

An investor may redeem shares on any business day. Investors will receive the share price next determined after the Fund has received a redemption request. Redemption requests must be received before the close of trading on the NYSE (normally, 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time) in order to receive that day's price. The Fund will normally mail a check the next business day after a redemption request is received, but in no event more than seven days after a request is received. Redemption requests for payment by a method other than by check will typically be processed the next business day after a redemption request is received, but in no event more than seven days after a request is received. If you are selling shares purchased recently with a check, your redemption proceeds will not be mailed until your check has cleared, which may take up to ten days from your purchase date. Proceeds from a written redemption request will be sent to you by check unless another form of payment is requested. The Fund typically expects to meet redemption requests through holdings of cash or cash equivalents and the sale of portfolio assets in both regular and stressed market conditions. Under unusual circumstances that make cash payments unwise and for the protection of existing shareholders, the Fund may meet redemption requests in-kind.

Shares of the Fund must be redeemed through your financial intermediary. A financial intermediary may charge a fee for this service.

Contingent Deferred Sales Charge

If Class A or Class C shares that are subject to a CDSC are redeemed, an investor may be assessed a CDSC. When an investor is subject to a CDSC, the Fund will first redeem any shares that are not subject to a CDSC, and then redeem the shares owned for the longest period of time, unless requested otherwise. No CDSC is imposed on shares bought through the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. The CDSC holding period is calculated on a monthly basis and begins on the first day of the month in which the purchase was made. When you redeem shares subject to a CDSC, the CDSC is calculated on the lower of your purchase price or redemption proceeds, deducted from your redemption proceeds, and paid to FTP. The CDSC may be waived under certain special circumstances as described below.

Reduction or Elimination of Class A and Class C Contingent Deferred Sales Charge

Class A shares are normally redeemed at net asset value, without any CDSC. However, in the case of Class A shares purchased at net asset value without a sales charge because the purchase amount exceeded \$1 million, a CDSC of 1% may be imposed on any redemption within 12 months of purchase. Class C shares are redeemed at net asset value, without any CDSC, except that a CDSC of 1% is imposed upon redemption of Class C shares that are redeemed within 12 months of purchase (except in cases where the shareholder's financial advisor agreed to waive the right to receive an advance of the first year's distribution and service fee).

In determining whether a CDSC is payable, the Fund will first redeem shares not subject to any charge and then will redeem shares held for the longest period, unless the shareholder specifies another order. No CDSC is charged on shares purchased as a result of automatic reinvestment of dividends or capital gains paid. In addition, no CDSC will be charged on exchanges of shares into another First Trust non-ETF open-end fund. The holding period is calculated on a monthly basis and begins on the date of purchase. The CDSC is assessed on an amount equal to the lower of the then current market value or the cost of the shares being redeemed. Accordingly, no sales charge is imposed on increases of net asset value above the initial purchase price. FTP receives the amount of any CDSC shareholders pay.

The CDSC may be waived or reduced under the following circumstances: (i) in the event of total disability (as evidenced by a determination by the federal Social Security Administration) of the shareholder (including a registered joint owner) occurring after the purchase of the shares being redeemed; (ii) in the event of the death of the shareholder (including a registered joint owner); (iii) for redemptions made pursuant to a systematic withdrawal plan, up to 1% monthly, 3% quarterly, 6% semiannually or 12% annually of an account's net asset value depending on the frequency of the plan as designated by the shareholder; (iv) involuntary redemptions caused by operation of law; (v) redemptions in connection with a payment of account or plan fees; (vi) redemptions in connection with the exercise of a reinstatement privilege whereby the proceeds of a redemption of the Fund's shares subject to a sales charge are reinvested in shares of certain funds within a specified number of days; (vii) redemptions in connection with the exercise of the Fund's right to redeem all shares in an account that does not maintain a certain minimum balance or that the Board of Trustees has determined may have material adverse consequences to the Fund; (viii) in whole or in part for redemptions of shares by shareholders with accounts in excess of specified breakpoints that correspond to the breakpoints under which the up-front sales charge on Class A shares is reduced pursuant to Rule 22d-1 under the Act; (ix) redemptions of shares purchased under circumstances or by a category of investors for which Class A shares could be purchased at net asset value without a sales charge; (x) redemptions of Class A or Class C shares if the proceeds are transferred to an account managed by an affiliated advisor and the advisor refunds the advanced service and distribution fees to FTP; and (xi) redemptions of Class C shares in cases where (a) you purchase shares after committing to hold the shares for less than one year and (b) your advisor consents up front to receiving the appropriate service and distribution fee on the Class C shares on an ongoing basis instead of having the first year's fees advanced by FTP. If the Fund waives or reduces the CDSC, such waiver or reduction would be uniformly applied to all Fund shares in the particular category. In waiving or reducing a CDSC, the Fund will comply with the requirements of Rule 22d-1 under the 1940 Act.

In addition, the CDSC will be waived in connection with the following redemptions of shares held by an employer-sponsored qualified defined contribution retirement plan: (i) partial or complete redemptions in connection with a distribution without penalty under Section 72(t) of the Code from a retirement plan: (a) upon attaining age 59½, (b) as part of a series of substantially equal periodic payments, or (c) upon separation from service and attaining age 55; (ii) partial or complete redemptions in connection with a qualifying loan or hardship withdrawal; (iii) complete redemptions in connection with termination of employment, plan termination or transfer to another employer's plan or IRA; and (iv) redemptions resulting from the return of an excess contribution. The CDSC will also be waived in connection with the following redemptions of shares held in an IRA account: (i) for redemptions made pursuant to an IRA systematic withdrawal based on the shareholder's life expectancy including, but not limited to, substantially equal periodic payments described in Code Section 72(t)(A)(iv) prior to age 59½; and (ii) for redemptions to satisfy required minimum distributions after age 70½ from an IRA account (with the maximum amount subject to this waiver being based only upon the shareholder's First Trust IRA accounts).

Involuntary Redemption

From time to time, the Fund may establish minimum account size requirements. The Fund reserves the right to liquidate your account upon 30 days' written notice if the value of your account falls below an established minimum. Accounts may be involuntarily redeemed when the value of the account falls below the minimum either because of redemptions or because of market action. The Fund has set a minimum balance of \$250. You will not be assessed a CDSC on an involuntary redemption. This policy does not apply to retirement accounts (IRA, 401(k)).

From the time to time, certain dealers that do not have dealer agreements with the Fund's principal underwriter, FTP, may purchase shares of the Fund. Upon 30 days' written notice to such dealers, the Fund reserves the right to involuntarily redeem these accounts if a dealer agreement is not executed within the 30-day period. The account will not be assessed a CDSC on an involuntary redemption.

Redemptions In-Kind

The Fund generally pays redemption proceeds in cash. Under unusual conditions that make cash payment unwise and for the protection of existing shareholders, the Fund may pay all or a portion of your redemption proceeds in securities or other Fund assets. Although it is unlikely that your shares would be redeemed in-kind, you would probably have to pay brokerage costs to sell the securities distributed to you, as well as taxes on any capital gains from that sale. While the Fund does not intend to effect redemptions in-kind under normal circumstances, if the Fund does so, you may receive a pro-rata share of the Fund's securities, individual securities held by the Fund, or a representative basket of securities in the Fund's portfolio. See the SAI for additional information.

Medallion Signature Guarantee Program

Certain transactions, including establishing or modifying certain services such as changing bank information on an account, will require a signature guarantee or signature verification from a Medallion Signature Guarantee Program member or other acceptable form of authentication from a financial institution source. In addition to the situations described above, the Fund reserves the right to require a signature guarantee, or another acceptable form of signature verification, in other instances based on the circumstances of a particular situation.

A signature guarantee assures that a signature is genuine and protects shareholders from unauthorized account transfers. Banks, savings and loan associations, trust companies, credit unions, broker-dealers and member firms of a national securities exchange may guarantee signatures. Call your financial intermediary to determine if it has this capability. A notary public is not an acceptable signature guarantor. Proceeds from a written redemption request will be sent to you by check unless another form of payment is requested.

Dividends, Distributions and Taxes

Dividends from net investment income, if any, are declared and paid semi-annually by the Fund. The Fund distributes its net realized capital gains, if any, to shareholders at least annually.

Unless you request otherwise, the Fund reinvests your dividends and capital gain distributions in additional Fund shares of the same class of shares with respect to which such dividends or distributions are paid. If you do not want your dividends and capital gain distributions reinvested in Fund shares in this manner, you may contact your financial advisor to request that your dividends and capital gain distributions be paid to you by check or deposited directly into your bank account. If adequate information is not received from a shareholder or its financial advisor to permit the Fund to direct reinvestment proceeds into the account from which they were paid, the Fund reserves the right to redirect such amounts into the appropriate account at a later date. For further information, contact your financial advisor.

Federal Tax Matters

This section summarizes some of the main U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning shares of the Fund. This section is current as of the date of this prospectus. Tax laws and interpretations change frequently, and these summaries do not describe all of the tax consequences to all taxpayers. For example, these summaries generally do not describe your situation if you are a corporation, a non-U.S. person, a broker-dealer, or other investor with special circumstances. In addition, this section does not describe your state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences.

This federal income tax summary is based in part on the advice of counsel to the Fund. The Internal Revenue Service could disagree with any conclusions set forth in this section. In addition, counsel to the Fund was not asked to review, and has not reached a conclusion with respect to, the federal income tax treatment of the assets to be included in the Fund. This may not be sufficient for you to use for the purpose of avoiding penalties under federal tax law.

As with any investment, you should seek advice based on your individual circumstances from your own tax advisor.

Fund Status

The Fund intends to continue to qualify as a "regulated investment company" under the federal tax laws. If the Fund qualifies as a regulated investment company and distributes its income as required by the tax law, the Fund generally will not pay federal income taxes.

Distributions

The Fund's distributions are generally taxable. After the end of each year, you will receive a tax statement that separates the distributions of the Fund into two categories, ordinary income distributions and capital gain dividends. Ordinary income distributions are generally taxed at your ordinary tax rate, however, as further discussed below, certain ordinary income distributions received from the Fund may be taxed at the capital gains tax rates. Generally, you will treat all capital gain dividends as long-term capital gains regardless of how long you have owned your shares. To determine your actual tax liability for your capital gain dividends, you must calculate your total net capital gain or loss for the tax year after considering all of your other taxable transactions, as described below. In addition, the Fund may make distributions that represent a return of capital for tax purposes and thus will generally not be taxable to you; however, such distributions may reduce your tax basis in your shares, which could result in you having to pay higher taxes in the future when shares are sold, even if you sell the shares at a loss from your original investment. The tax status of your distributions from the Fund is not affected by whether you reinvest your

distributions in additional shares or receive them in cash. The income from the Fund that you must take into account for federal income tax purposes is not reduced by amounts used to pay a deferred sales fee, if any. The tax laws may require you to treat distributions made to you in January as if you had received them on December 31 of the previous year.

Income from the Fund may also be subject to a 3.8% "Medicare tax." This tax generally applies to your net investment income if your adjusted gross income exceeds certain threshold amounts, which are \$250,000 in the case of married couples filing joint returns and \$200,000 in the case of single individuals.

Dividends Received Deduction

A corporation that owns shares generally will not be entitled to the dividends received deduction with respect to many dividends received from the Fund because the dividends received deduction is generally not available for distributions from regulated investment companies. However, certain ordinary income dividends on shares that are attributable to qualifying dividends received by the Fund from certain corporations may be reported by the Fund as being eligible for the dividends received deduction.

Capital Gains and Losses and Certain Ordinary Income Dividends

If you are an individual, the maximum marginal stated federal tax rate for net capital gain is generally 20% (15% or 0% for taxpayers with taxable income below certain thresholds). Some capital gain dividends may be taxed at a higher maximum stated tax rate. Capital gain received from assets held for more than one year that is considered "unrecaptured section 1250 gain" (which may be the case, for example, with some capital gains attributable to equity interests in real estate investment trusts that constitute interests in entities treated as real estate investment trusts for federal income tax purposes) is taxed at a maximum marginal stated federal tax rate of 25%. In the case of capital gain dividends, the determination of which portion of the capital gain dividend, if any, is subject to the 25% tax rate, will be made based on rules prescribed by the United States Treasury. Capital gains may also be subject to the Medicare tax described above.

Net capital gain equals net long-term capital gain minus net short-term capital loss for the taxable year. Capital gain or loss is long-term if the holding period for the asset is more than one year and is short-term if the holding period for the asset is one year or less. You must exclude the date you purchase your shares to determine your holding period. However, if you receive a capital gain dividend from the Fund and sell your shares at a loss after holding it for six months or less, the loss will be recharacterized as long-term capital loss to the extent of the capital gain dividend received. The tax rates for capital gains realized from assets held for one year or less are generally the same as for ordinary income. The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, treats certain capital gains as ordinary income in special situations.

Ordinary income dividends received by an individual shareholder from a regulated investment company such as the Fund are generally taxed at the same rates that apply to net capital gain (as discussed above), provided certain holding period requirements are satisfied and provided the dividends are attributable to qualifying dividends received by the Fund itself. Distributions with respect to shares in real estate investment trusts are qualifying dividends only in limited circumstances. The Fund will provide notice to its shareholders of the amount of any distribution which may be taken into account as a dividend which is eligible for the capital gains tax rates.

Sale of Shares

If you sell or redeem your shares, you will generally recognize a taxable gain or loss. To determine the amount of this gain or loss, you must subtract your tax basis in your shares from the amount you receive in the transaction. Your tax basis in your shares is generally equal to the cost of your shares, generally including sales charges. In some cases, however, you may have to adjust your tax basis after you purchase your shares.

Treatment of Fund Expenses

Expenses incurred and deducted by the Fund will generally not be treated as income taxable to you. In some cases, however, you may be required to treat your portion of these Fund expenses as income. You may not be able to deduct some or all of these expenses.

Non-U.S. Tax Credit

Because the Fund invests in non-U.S. securities, the tax statement that you receive may include an item showing non-U.S. taxes the Fund paid to other countries. In this case, dividends taxed to you will include your share of the taxes the Fund paid to other countries. You may be able to deduct or receive a tax credit for your share of these taxes.

Non-U.S. Investors

If you are a non-U.S. investor (*i.e.*, an investor other than a U.S. citizen or resident or a U.S. corporation, partnership, estate or trust), you should be aware that, generally, subject to applicable tax treaties, distributions from the Fund will be characterized as dividends for federal income tax purposes (other than dividends which the Fund properly reports as capital gain dividends) and will be subject to U.S. federal income taxes, including withholding taxes, subject to certain exceptions described below. However, distributions received by a non-U.S. investor from the Fund that are properly reported by the Fund as capital gain dividends may not be subject to U.S. federal income taxes, including withholding taxes, provided that the Fund makes certain elections and certain other conditions are met. Distributions from the Fund that are properly reported by the Fund as an interest-related dividend attributable to certain interest income received by the Fund or as a short-term capital gain dividend attributable to certain net short-term capital gain income received by the Fund may not be subject to U.S. federal income taxes, including withholding taxes when received by certain non-U.S. investors, provided that the Fund makes certain elections and certain other conditions are met.

Distributions may be subject to a U.S. withholding tax of 30% in the case of distributions to (i) certain non-U.S. financial institutions that have not entered into an agreement with the U.S. Treasury to collect and disclose certain information and are not resident in a jurisdiction that has entered into such an agreement with the U.S. Treasury and (ii) certain other non-U.S. entities that do not provide certain certifications and information about the entity's U.S. owners. Dispositions of shares by such persons may be subject to such withholding after December 31, 2018.

Investments in Certain Non-U.S. Corporations

If the Fund holds an equity interest in any passive foreign investment companies ("*PFICs*"), which are generally certain non-U.S. corporations that receive at least 75% of their annual gross income from passive sources (such as interest, dividends, certain rents and royalties or capital gains) or that hold at least 50% of their assets in investments producing such passive income, the Fund could be subject to U.S. federal income tax and additional interest charges on gains and certain distributions with respect to those equity interests, even if all the income or gain is timely distributed to its shareholders. The Fund will not be able to pass through to its shareholders any credit or deduction for such taxes. The Fund may be able to make an election that could ameliorate these adverse tax consequences. In this case, the Fund would recognize as ordinary income any increase in the value of such PFIC shares, and as ordinary loss any decrease in such value to the extent it did not exceed prior increases included in income. Under this election, the Fund might be required to recognize in a year income in excess of its distributions from PFICs and its proceeds from dispositions of PFIC stock during that year, and such income would nevertheless be subject to the distribution requirement and would be taken into account for purposes of the 4% excise tax. Dividends paid by PFICs are not treated as qualified dividend income.

Distribution and Service Plan

FTP serves as the selling agent and distributor of the Fund's shares. In this capacity, FTP manages the offering of the Fund's shares and is responsible for all sales and promotional activities. In order to reimburse FTP for its costs in connection with these activities, including compensation paid to financial intermediaries, the Fund has adopted a distribution and service plan under Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act. See "Share Classes" for a description of the distribution and service fees paid under this plan.

FTP receives a service fee for Class A and Class C shares to compensate financial intermediaries, including FTP, for providing ongoing account services to shareholders. These services may include establishing and maintaining shareholder accounts, answering shareholder inquiries, and providing other personal services to shareholders. Under the plan, FTP receives a distribution fee for Class C share for providing compensation to financial intermediaries, including FTP, in connection with the distribution of shares. These fees also compensate FTP for other expenses, including printing and distributing prospectuses to persons other than shareholders, and preparing, printing and distributing advertising and sales literature and reports to shareholders used in connection with the sale of shares. Because these fees are paid out of the Fund's assets on an ongoing basis, over time these fees will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more than paying other types of sales charges. Long-term holders of Class C shares may pay more in Rule 12b-1 fees than the economic equivalent of the maximum front-end sales charge permitted under the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Conduct Rules.

Other Payments to Financial Intermediaries

In addition to the sales commissions and certain payments related to 12b-1 distribution and service fees paid by FTP to financial intermediaries as previously described, First Trust or its affiliates may from time to time make additional payments, out of their own resources, to certain financial intermediaries that sell shares of First Trust Mutual Funds in order to promote the

sales and retention of fund shares by those firms and their customers. The amounts of these payments vary by financial intermediary and, with respect to a given firm, are typically calculated by reference to the amount of the firm's recent gross sales of First Trust Mutual Fund shares and/or total assets of First Trust Mutual Funds held by the firm's customers. The level of payments that First Trust is willing to provide to a particular financial intermediary may be affected by, among other factors, the firm's total assets held in and recent net investments into First Trust Mutual Funds, the firm's level of participation in First Trust Mutual Fund sales and marketing programs, the firm's compensation program for its registered representatives who sell fund shares and provide services to fund shareholders, and the asset class of the First Trust Mutual Funds for which these payments are provided. First Trust or its affiliates may also make payments to financial intermediaries in connection with sales meetings, due diligence meetings, prospecting seminars and other meetings at which First Trust or its affiliates promotes its products and services. First Trust may also make payments to certain financial intermediaries for certain administrative services, including record keeping and sub-accounting of shareholder accounts pursuant to a sub-transfer agency, omnibus account service or sub-accounting agreement. All fees payable by First Trust under this category of services may be charged back to the Fund, subject to approval by the Board.

In connection with the availability of First Trust Mutual Funds within selected mutual fund no transaction fee institutional platforms and fee based wrap programs (together, "*Platform Programs*") at certain financial intermediaries, First Trust or an affiliate also makes payments out of its own assets to those firms as compensation for certain recordkeeping, shareholder communications and other account administration services provided to First Trust Mutual Fund shareholders who own their fund shares in these Platform Programs. These payments are in addition to the 12b-1 service fee and any applicable omnibus sub-accounting fees paid to these firms with respect to these services by the First Trust Mutual Funds out of Fund assets.

Net Asset Value

The net asset value is determined for each class of shares of the Fund as of the close of trading (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on each day the NYSE is open for business. Net asset value for each class is calculated for the Fund by taking the market price of the Fund's total assets attributable to such class, including interest or dividends accrued but not yet collected, less all liabilities attributable to such class, and dividing such amount by the total number of shares of the class outstanding. The result, rounded to the nearest cent, is the net asset value per share. Differences in net asset value of each class of the Fund's shares are generally expected to be due to the daily expense accruals of the specified distribution and service fees and transfer agency costs applicable to such class of shares and the differential in the dividends that may be paid on each class of shares. All valuations are subject to review by the Board or its delegate.

The Fund's investments are valued daily in accordance with valuation procedures adopted by the Board, and in accordance with provisions of the 1940 Act. Certain securities in which the Fund may invest are not listed on any securities exchange or board of trade. Such securities are typically bought and sold by institutional investors in individually negotiated private transactions that function in many respects like an over-the-counter secondary market, although typically no formal market makers exist. Certain securities, particularly debt securities, have few or no trades, or trade infrequently, and information regarding a specific security may not be widely available or may be incomplete. Accordingly, determinations of the fair value of debt securities may be based on infrequent and dated information. Because there is less reliable, objective data available, elements of judgment may play a greater role in valuation of debt securities than for other types of securities. Typically, debt securities are valued using information provided by a third-party pricing service. The third-party pricing service primarily uses broker quotes to value the securities.

The Fund's investments are valued at market value or, in the absence of market value with respect to any portfolio securities, at fair value, in accordance with valuation procedures adopted by the Board and in accordance with the 1940 Act. Portfolio securities listed on any exchange other than The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC ("*Nasdaq*") and the London Stock Exchange Alternative Investment Market ("*AIM*") are valued at the last sale price on the business day as of which such value is being determined. Securities listed on Nasdaq or the AIM are valued at the official closing price on the business day as of which such value is being determined. If there has been no sale on such day, or no official closing price in the case of securities traded on Nasdaq or the AIM, the securities are fair valued at the mean of the most recent bid and ask prices on such day. Portfolio securities traded on more than one securities exchange are valued at the last sale price or official closing price, as applicable, on the business day as of which such value is being determined at the close of the exchange representing the principal market for such securities. Portfolio securities traded in the over-the-counter market, but excluding securities trading on Nasdaq or the AIM, are fair valued at the mean of the most recent bid and asked price, if available, and otherwise at the closing bid price. Short-term investments that mature in less than 60 days when purchased are fair valued at cost adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discount, provided the Advisor's Pricing Committee has determined that the use of amortized cost

is an appropriate reflection of fair value given market and issuer-specific conditions existing at the time of the determination. Net asset value may change on days when investors may not sell or redeem Fund shares.

Certain securities may not be able to be priced by pre-established pricing methods. Such securities may be valued by the Board or its delegate, the Advisor's Pricing Committee, at fair value. The use of fair value pricing by the Fund is governed by valuation procedures adopted by the Board and in accordance with the provisions of the 1940 Act. These securities generally include, but are not limited to, restricted securities (securities which may not be publicly sold without registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended) for which a pricing service is unable to provide a market price; securities whose trading has been formally suspended; a security whose market or fair value price is not available from a pre-established pricing source; a security with respect to which an event has occurred that is likely to materially affect the value of the security after the market has closed but before the calculation of net asset value of each class of shares of the Fund or make it difficult or impossible to obtain a reliable market quotation; and a security whose price, as provided by the pricing service, does not reflect the security's fair value. As a general principle, the current fair value of a security would appear to be the amount which the owner might reasonably expect to receive for the security upon its current sale. When fair value prices are used, generally they will differ from the current market quotations or official closing prices on the applicable exchange. A variety of factors may be considered in determining the fair value of such securities. See the SAI for details.

Because foreign securities exchanges may be open on different days than the days during which an investor may purchase or sell shares of a Fund, the value of the Fund's securities may change on days when investors are not able to purchase or sell shares of the Fund. The value of securities denominated in foreign currencies is converted into U.S. dollars at the exchange rates in effect at the time of valuation.

Fund Service Providers

Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. is the administrator, custodian and fund accounting agent for the Fund. BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc. is the transfer agent for the Fund. Chapman and Cutler LLP, 111 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603, serves as legal counsel to the Fund. First Trust serves as the fund reporting agent for the Fund.

Shareholder Inquiries

All inquiries regarding the Fund should be directed your financial advisor who can contact the Fund on your behalf by calling (888) 373-5776, or by mail to the Trust, c/o BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc., P.O. Box 9788, Providence, RI 02940.

Frequent Trading and Market Timing

The Fund is intended for long-term investment and should not be used for excessive trading. Excessive trading in the Fund's shares can disrupt portfolio management, lead to higher operating costs and cause other operating inefficiencies for the Fund. However, the Fund is also mindful that shareholders may have valid reasons for periodically purchasing and redeeming the Fund shares.

Accordingly, the Trust has adopted a Frequent Trading Policy that seeks to balance the Fund's need to prevent excessive trading in Fund shares while offering investors the flexibility in managing their financial affairs to make periodic purchases and redemptions of the Fund's shares.

The Trust's Frequent Trading Policy generally limits an investor to two "round trip" trades within a 90-day period. A "round trip" is the purchase and subsequent redemption of the Fund's shares, including by exchange. Each side of a round trip may be comprised of either a single transaction or a series of closely spaced transactions. The Trust may also suspend the trading privileges of any investor who makes a round trip within a 30-day period if the purchase and redemption are of substantially similar dollar amounts.

The Fund primarily receives share purchase and redemption orders through third party financial intermediaries, some of whom rely on the use of omnibus accounts. An omnibus account typically includes multiple investors and provides the Fund only with a net purchase or redemption amount on any given day where multiple purchases, redemptions and exchanges of shares occur in the account. The identity of individual purchasers, redeemers and exchangers whose orders are aggregated in omnibus accounts, and the size of their orders, will generally not be known by the Fund. Despite the Fund's efforts to detect and prevent frequent trading, the Fund may be unable to identify frequent trading because the netting effect in omnibus accounts often makes it more difficult to identify frequent traders. FTP, the Fund's distributor, has entered into agreements with financial intermediaries that maintain omnibus accounts with the Fund's transfer agent. Under the terms of these agreements, the

financial intermediaries undertake to cooperate with FTP in monitoring purchase, exchange and redemption orders by their customers in order to detect and prevent frequent trading in the Fund through such accounts. Technical limitations in operational systems at such intermediaries or at FTP may also limit the Fund's ability to detect and prevent frequent trading. In addition, the Trust may permit certain financial intermediaries, including broker-dealer and retirement plan administrators, among others, to enforce their own internal policies and procedures concerning frequent trading. Such policies may differ from the Trust's Frequent Trading Policy and may be approved for use in instances where the Fund reasonably believes that the intermediary's policies and procedures effectively discourage inappropriate trading activity. Shareholders holding their accounts with such intermediaries may wish to contact the intermediary for information regarding its frequent trading policy. Although the Trust does not knowingly permit frequent trading, it cannot guarantee that it will be able to identify and restrict all frequent trading activity.

The Trust reserves the right in its sole discretion to waive unintentional or minor violations (including transactions below certain dollar thresholds) if it determines that doing so would not harm the interests of the respective Fund's shareholders. In addition, certain categories of redemptions may be excluded from the application of the Frequent Trading Policy, as described in more detail in the statement of additional information. These include, among others, redemptions pursuant to systematic withdrawal plans, redemptions in connection with the total disability or death of the investor, involuntary redemptions by operation of law, redemptions in payment of account or plan fees, and certain redemptions by retirement plans, including redemptions in connection with qualifying loans or hardship withdrawals, termination of plan participation, return of excess contributions, and required minimum distributions. The Trust may also modify or suspend the Frequent Trading Policy without notice during periods of market stress or other unusual circumstances.

The Trust reserves the right to impose restrictions on purchases or exchanges that are more restrictive than those stated above if it determines, in its sole discretion, that a transaction or a series of transactions involves market timing or excessive trading that may be detrimental to Fund shareholders. The Trust also reserves the right to reject any purchase order, including exchange purchases, for any reason. For example, the Trust may refuse purchase orders if the Fund would be unable to invest the proceeds from the purchase order in accordance with the Fund's investment policies and/or objective, or if the Fund would be adversely affected by the size of the transaction, the frequency of trading in the account or various other factors. For more information about the Trust's Frequent Trading Policy and its enforcement, see "Purchase and Redemption of Fund Shares – Frequent Trading Policy" in the SAI.

Total Return Information

The information presented for the Fund is for the period indicated. The total returns would have been lower if certain fees had not been waived and expenses reimbursed by First Trust.

"Average annual total returns" represent the average annual change in the value of an investment over the period indicated. The returns shown in the table below assume reinvestment of all dividend distributions and do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or the redemption or sale of shares of the Fund. The investment return and principal value of shares of the Fund will vary with changes in market conditions. Shares of the Fund may be worth more or less than their original cost when they are redeemed or sold in the market. The Fund's past performance does not predict future results.

First Trust/Confluence Small Cap Value Fund Total Returns as of October 31, 2017

	Without Sales Charge			With Sales Charge			
	Average Annual			Average Annual			
	1 Year	5 Years	Since Inception	1 Year	5 Years	Since Inception	Inception
Class A	25.53%	13.43%	11.09%	18.66%	12.16%	10.15%	2/24/2011
Class C	24.58%	12.49%	9.62%	23.58%	12.49%	9.62%	3/2/2011
Class I	24.99%	13.57%	11.28%	24.99%	13.57%	11.28%	1/11/2011

Financial Highlights

The financial highlights table is intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the periods shown. Certain information reflects financial results for a single share of the Fund. The total returns represent the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost) on an investment in the Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). The information for the periods indicated, excluding the unaudited information for the six months ended April 30, 2018, has been derived from financial statements audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, whose report, along with the Fund's financial statements, is included in the Fund's Annual Report to Shareholders dated October 31, 2017 and is incorporated by reference in the Fund's SAI, which is available upon request. The information with respect to the six months ended April 30, 2018 is unaudited and is included in the Fund's semi-annual report, which is available upon request.

First Trust/Confluence Small Cap Value Fund

Financial Highlights

For a Share outstanding throughout each period

Class A Shares	Six Months Ended April 30, 2018 (Unaudited)	Year Ended October 31,				
		2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$34.48	\$27.81	\$26.34	\$28.03	\$26.77	\$21.58
Income from investment operations:						
Net investment income (loss) ^(a)	(0.07)	(0.16)	(0.10)	0.04	0.00 ^(b)	0.10
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	1.42	7.20	1.97	0.31	2.39	5.46
Total from investment operations	1.35	7.04	1.87	0.35	2.39	5.56
Distributions paid to shareholders from:						
Net investment income	—	—	—	—	—	(0.27)
Net realized gain	(1.93)	(0.37)	(0.40)	(2.04)	(1.13)	(0.10)
Total distributions	(1.93)	(0.37)	(0.40)	(2.04)	(1.13)	(0.37)
Net asset value, end of period	\$33.90	\$34.48	\$27.81	\$26.34	\$28.03	\$26.77
Total Return ^(c)	3.92%	25.53%	7.22%	1.22%	9.23%	26.16%
Ratios to average net assets/supplemental data:						
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$6,256	\$5,656	\$3,767	\$1,413	\$1,144	\$1,288
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	2.83% ^(d)	3.56%	5.69%	7.61%	8.65%	11.29%
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	1.60% ^(d)	1.60%	1.61% ^(e)	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	(0.39)% ^(d)	(0.50)%	(0.38)%	0.16%	0.00% ^(f)	0.42%
Portfolio turnover rate	12%	28%	15%	17%	39%	31%

(a) Per share amounts have been calculated based on the average shares method.

(b) Amount is less than \$0.01.

(c) Assumes reinvestment of all distributions for the period and does not include payment of the maximum sales charge of 5.50% or contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC). On purchases of \$1 million or more, a CDSC of 1% may be imposed on certain redemptions made within twelve months of purchase. If the sales charges were included, total returns would be lower. These returns include Rule 12b-1 service fees of 0.25% and do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or the redemption of Fund shares. The total returns would have been lower if certain fees had not been waived and expenses reimbursed by the investment advisor. Total return is calculated for the time period presented and is not annualized for periods of less than one year.

(d) Annualized.

(e) Includes excise tax. If this excise tax expense was not included, the net expense would have been 1.60%.

(f) Amount is less than 0.01%.

First Trust/Confluence Small Cap Value Fund

Financial Highlights

For a Share outstanding throughout each period

Class C Shares	Six Months Ended April 30, 2018 (Unaudited)	Year Ended October 31,				
		2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$31.47	\$25.61	\$24.51	\$26.44	\$25.51	\$20.59
Income from investment operations:						
Net investment income (loss) ^(a)	(0.17)	(0.36)	(0.28)	(0.14)	(0.19)	(0.10)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	1.28	6.59	1.78	0.25	2.25	5.23
Total from investment operations	1.11	6.23	1.50	0.11	2.06	5.13
Distributions paid to shareholders from:						
Net investment income	—	—	—	—	—	(0.11)
Net realized gain	(1.93)	(0.37)	(0.40)	(2.04)	(1.13)	(0.10)
Total distributions	(1.93)	(0.37)	(0.40)	(2.04)	(1.13)	(0.21)
Net asset value, end of period	\$30.65	\$31.47	\$25.61	\$24.51	\$26.44	\$25.51
Total Return ^(b)	3.48%	24.58%	6.28%	0.33%	8.36%	25.11%
Ratios to average net assets/supplemental data:						
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$4,105	\$3,962	\$3,237	\$2,247	\$1,977	\$1,956
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	3.80% ^(c)	4.45%	6.28%	7.93%	8.81%	10.45%
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	2.35% ^(c)	2.35%	2.36% ^(d)	2.35%	2.35%	2.35%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	(1.14)% ^(c)	(1.25)%	(1.12)%	(0.57)%	(0.73)%	(0.43)%
Portfolio turnover rate	12%	28%	15%	17%	39%	31%

(a) Per share amounts have been calculated based on the average shares method.

(b) Assumes reinvestment of all distributions for the period and does not include payment of the maximum CDSC of 1%, charged on certain redemptions made within one year of purchase. If the sales charge was included, total returns would be lower. These returns include combined Rule 12b-1 distribution and service fees of 1% and do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or the redemption of Fund shares. The total returns would have been lower if certain fees had not been waived and expenses reimbursed by the investment advisor. Total return is calculated for the time period presented and is not annualized for periods of less than one year.

(c) Annualized.

(d) Includes excise tax. If this excise tax expense was not included, the net expense would have been 2.35%.

First Trust/Confluence Small Cap Value Fund

Financial Highlights

For a Share outstanding throughout each period

Class I Shares	Six Months Ended April 30, 2018 (Unaudited)	Year Ended October 31,				
		2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$35.07	\$28.40	\$26.84	\$28.52	\$27.15	\$21.81
Income from investment operations:						
Net investment income (loss) ^(a)	(0.02)	(0.09)	(0.05)	0.10	0.08	0.16
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	1.41	7.13	2.01	0.26	2.42	5.60
Total from investment operations	1.39	7.04	1.96	0.36	2.50	5.76
Distributions paid to shareholders from:						
Net investment income	—	—	—	—	—	(0.32)
Net realized gain	(1.93)	(0.37)	(0.40)	(2.04)	(1.13)	(0.10)
Total distributions	(1.93)	(0.37)	(0.40)	(2.04)	(1.13)	(0.42)
Net asset value, end of period	\$34.53	\$35.07	\$28.40	\$26.84	\$28.52	\$27.15
Total Return ^(b)	3.94%	24.99%	7.46%	1.23%	9.51%	26.85%
Ratios to average net assets/supplemental data:						
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$9,328	\$7,273	\$2,101	\$ 813	\$ 592	\$ 276
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	2.43% ^(c)	3.22%	5.63%	8.46%	11.05%	17.52%
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	1.35% ^(c)	1.35%	1.35%	1.35%	1.35%	1.35%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	(0.12)% ^(c)	(0.28)%	(0.16)%	0.38%	0.28%	0.66%
Portfolio turnover rate	12%	28%	15%	17%	39%	31%

(a) Per share amounts have been calculated based on the average shares method.

(b) Assumes reinvestment of all distributions for the period. These returns do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or the redemption of Fund shares. The total return would have been lower if certain fees had not been waived and expenses reimbursed by the investment advisor. Total return is calculated for the time period presented and is not annualized for periods of less than one year.

(c) Annualized.

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First Trust/Confluence Small Cap Value Fund

For More Information

For more detailed information on the Fund, several additional sources of information are available to you. The SAI, incorporated by reference into this prospectus, contains detailed information on the Fund's policies and operation. Additional information about the Fund's investments is available in the annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders. In the Fund's annual report, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly impacted the Fund's performance during the last fiscal year. The Fund's most recent SAI, annual and semi-annual reports and certain other information are available free of charge by calling the Fund at (800) 621-1675, on the Fund's website at www.ftportfolios.com or through your financial advisor. Shareholders may call the toll-free number above with any inquiries.

You may obtain this and other information regarding the Fund, including the SAI and the Codes of Ethics adopted by First Trust, FTP and the Trust, directly from the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). Information on the SEC's website is free of charge. Visit the SEC's online EDGAR database at www.sec.gov or in person at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C., or call the SEC at (202) 551-8090 for information on the Public Reference Room. You may also request information regarding the Fund by sending a request (along with a duplication fee) to the SEC's Public Reference Section, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549-1520 or by sending an electronic request to publicinfo@sec.gov.

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