



JUNE 2019

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COVENANT NEWS

The Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves

FROM THE PASTOR

Your Own Personal Gospel

Your own, personal Jesus

Someone to hear your prayers, someone who cares.

Your own, personal Jesus

Someone to hear your prayers, someone who's there....

Reach out and touch faith. (Martin Lee Gore)

The above song, popularized almost twenty years ago by the group Depeche Mode and revisited a decade later by Johnny Cash, sums up something like the theme of this edition of From the Pastor.

Something's coming in July, and it's really good. And even though it's only June I want you to know about it.

As the Strategic Planning Committee and the Communications Team imagine what we say about ourselves as people of God, they've asked for some help from the rest of the Congregation.

So, starting on July 14 we will be including in each Sunday's worship a time we're calling "A Membership Moment." Members and friends of First Church are being encouraged to consider how their faith and beliefs are enlivened by being a part of this beloved community.

Do you have a story to relate about your life with God and others at First Church? How has your understanding of God changed? Of community? How has your religious or spiritual life been enhanced? Through a group activity? A class or program you've attended? Someone you've met? Is your practice of stewardship different? Do you read the Bible in new ways? Did you conclude somehow that the Spirit was calling you to make a change?

Many of us have our own, personal versions of the Good News to tell. Even though we may not think of our stories as Gospel, others may find inspiration from them. And certainly our church can become more sure of who we are, individually and collectively, when our news comes forward.

Stories may be told in person from the lectern on a Sunday, or may be submitted for the morning's Announcer to read on your behalf. We would love to hear yours.

For the purpose of developing the details of our Membership Moments, 45-minute-long, Story-Sharing Sessions will be held on Sundays after worship, beginning June 2 at 11:20am in the Parlor, and will continue weekly through the summer.

Please, plan to attend at least one of these.

If you would like to hear examples of others' Membership Moments, we have some recordings available online from our SoundCloud page - www.SoundCloud.com/FirstChurchWG

Peace.



WORSHIP NOTES FOR JUNE

This schedule is subject to change, as need may arise.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 6:00 PM — **Saturday Night Light: The JAZZ of Preaching** in the William E. Sample Chapel. Coordinator of Youth Ministries and Assistant Music Director Erick Falconer leads a service designed for and directed by young people, using “secular” music and perspectives that reveal an underlying spirituality you might not have expected.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 9:55 AM — **Seventh Sunday of Easter; Sacrament of Christ’s Table.** **Scripture:** selected verses from Revelation 22; John 17:2016. The first century Church understood that Christ would return almost immediately. Today, a few Christian traditions have retained this understanding of an imminent Return while the rest of us struggle with this part of our story. How can we retain the vibrancy of such expectation and still seem to be not crazy? **Message of the Day:** “Coming Soon”

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 9:55 AM — **Pentecost; “Strengthen the Church” special offering.** **Scripture:** Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17, 25-27. As John describes the scene at the table of the Last Supper, Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.” In the Aramaic that Jesus spoke and in many languages, this expression can mean something as simple as Farewell, but we find deeper meaning – even hidden meaning – in it. Why? **Message of the Day:** “When a Korean Says, Goodbye”

SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 6:00 PM — **Saturday Night Light: The JAZZ of Preaching** in the William E. Sample Chapel. Coordinator of Youth Ministries and Assistant Music Director Erick Falconer leads a service designed for and directed by young people, this time incorporating some of the lessons and songs the children have studied in Vacation Bible School (June 9-13).

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 9:55 AM — **Trinity Sunday; Fathers Day.** **Scriptures:** Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15. Readings from Romans and John direct our attention to the Three-in-One, our perplexing God. Pastor Dave Denoon reflects on relationship, which for Christians is not only the true basic need of human beings but also the true nature of God. **Message of the Day:** “As It Should Be”

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 9:55 AM — **Second Sunday after Pentecost.** Coordinator of Youth Ministries and Assistant Music Director Erick Falconer preaches.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 9:55 AM — **Third Sunday after Pentecost; Pride Weekend.** Student Minister and Director of Christian Education Tracey Harris preaches.

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 9:55 AM — **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost; Sacrament of Christ’s Table.** Rev. Janice Edwards Barnes preaches and celebrates communion.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHT: THE JAZZ OF PREACHING JUNE 15, 6:00 PM IN THE SAMPLE CHAPEL

Coordinator of Youth Ministries and Assistant Music Director Erick Falconer leads a service designed for and directed by young people. Using “secular” music and perspectives, Saturday Night Light (SNL) reveals an underlying spirituality you might not have expected.

The launch of Saturday Night Light “The Jazz of Preaching” has been wonderfully received by the community. Saturday June 1 st and June 15 th will be our last Saturday Night Light worship services for this Liturgical season.

Saturday Night Light worship services will resume September 7, 2019. We will be working with the youth during the summer (starting with Vacation Bible School), teaching songs, reading scriptures, sharing ancient and modern stories, with the hope and expectation that the youth will be trained and prepared to lead and participate in worship services at First Congregational Church of Webster Groves. This is truly the place where history meets the future.

Pastor Erick

Coordinator of Youth Ministries and Assistant Director of Music for Children & Youth

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) AND MORE

I am very excited to introduce our Vacation Bible School curriculum to you. This year we are using **RENEW: A Green Curriculum** by Sparkhouse. Sparkhouse offers resources that help people engage and build faith in their community by offering innovative curricula, workshops and more for all ages.

We will be sowing seeds to learn about the relationships we have to ourselves, to our community, and to our world. You can register for this wonderful program on the church website (<http://FirstChurchWG.org/vbs>) to register your children or to sign up as a volunteer.

VBS will start at 6:00 pm on June 9 with dinner! The classes follow dinner each evening through June 13, and will conclude at 8:30. I am grateful to all of the church ministries for volunteering to serve our meals. VBS can only happen with the support of the church community. Thank you to all that have already committed to volunteering!



*Tracey Harris,
Director of Christian Ed.*

I wish to thank Amy Brooks for all the work she did as Coordinator of Youth Ministry. We are sad to see her leave us, but we were fortunate to immediately be able to fill her position. We welcome former Student Minister, Pastor Erick Falconer, as Coordinator of Youth Ministry!!! We look forward to having the youth and parents connect with Pastor Erick. Welcome Pastor Erick! He will also be filling the supervising role I fill on Sundays in Sunday School this fall so that I, a third-year student at Eden Seminary, can stay in worship. I look forward to continuing team work with Erick.

Blessings to all,
Tracey Harris,
Director of Christian Education and Student Minister

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH



I am so happy to have Pastor Erick Falconer as our new Assistant Music Director! His main focus will be music for our youth but, obviously, his musical skills that you all have enjoyed during the interstitial time between me and my predecessor show him to be a good complement to my own skills. His *Saturday Night Light* series is already aimed at our youth and the young in spirit among us with a focus on music. I hope we will be able to have him occasionally lead songs in worship when his duties permit.

Speaking of song leading, I have found that when someone is in the lectern leading singing that your singing as a congregation is stronger and more confident. I am looking for a way to have song leaders lead us in hymn singing every Sunday. Obviously, the choir is my main resource, but I want to know if there are any of you that I don't know, can lead singing. There would be a 60-minute rehearsal with me on the week you would lead the hymns before

the service. For some this is a good way to offer your vocal talent if you don't have time for the weekly choir rehearsals.

I am putting organizational systems in place this summer for the Music Department. If you would like to help me as I take inventory, do data entry, or physically help me move equipment, please let me know. I am still getting to know you and love bumping into you at restaurants and at concerts. I look forward to seeing more of you socially in the coming months!

Leon Burke
Music Director and Organist

MODERATOR'S CORNER JUNE 2019

As I begin my term as Moderator, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Linda Kopetti for her tremendous leadership over the past three years. She has accepted the challenges confronting our church with commitment and determination. While being sensitive to everyone's viewpoint she has helped us make the decisions necessary to move forward. She has led us in celebrations and shed tears with us in our sorrows. Her energy has motivated us when facing difficult situations and helped us turn challenges into opportunities. Good leadership attracts willing followers and we have been blessed with the leadership of Linda Kopetti. We appreciate all you have done and will continue to draw on your leadership as you assume the role of Immediate Past Moderator.

I look forward to continuing the work done by Linda and will work hard to be worthy of the confidence you have placed in me. My goal as Moderator is to help us find the direction we want to travel as a church and develop a robust plan to get there. Although we recognize the challenges we face, it is hard not to be energized by the possibilities that lie before us. This will be a joint effort. Everyone will have an opportunity to help define how the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves can enhance our own spiritual life as well as contributing to the quality of life for all in our community. Our Covenant provides a great blueprint for what we want to accomplish and now we need to develop the plan that will help us reach this goal.

Together in Christ,
Mark Edwards

2019 GRADUATES

The future looks bright as we honor all of the 2019 graduates.

Eighth Grade Graduate

Ethan Falconer is graduating from Chaminade Middle School and will attend Chaminade High School. He is the child of Whitney and Erick Falconer.

High School

Ellie Paci daughter of John and Valerie Paci graduated from Webster High School. She will attend the University of Dayton in the Fall.

Elizabeth Oliphant, daughter of Terri and Todd Oliphant graduated from Webster High School and will attend Rockhurst University.

Higher Education

Sara Cox, daughter of Douglas and Pamela Coe of Leawood KS, granddaughter of Elaine Coe, niece of Andrea Welnick, graduated from St. Louis University with a degree in Pre-Law.

Erick Falconer of Kirkwood graduated with a Master of Divinity (M. Div.) from Eden Theological Seminary.

Jessica Oliphant, daughter of Terri and Todd Oliphant graduated from New York University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy. She is continuing with her studies their, seeking a Master's Degree.

Kate Stepleton graduated from Rutgers University with a PhD in Social Work. She is the daughter of Sue and Jim Stepleton.

FROM THE TREASURER

Below are the church operating results for the four months ending April 30:

Statement of Financial Activities

	2019	2018	Year to Date Budget	Change to Prior Year	Change to Budget
Income					Higher/(Lower) Income
Pledges and Gifts	\$ 104,580	\$ 129,153	\$ 117,667	\$ (24,573)	\$ (13,087)
Transfer from Endowment	40,000	30,000	56,333	10,000	(16,333)
Benevolence	22,883	12,895	15,000	9,988	7,883
Use of Space and Miscellaneous Income	29,408	26,049	19,893	3,359	9,515
Interest Income	5,883	3,429	4,333	2,454	1,550
Total Revenue	202,754	201,526	213,226	1,228	(10,472)
Expenses					(Higher)/Lower Expense
Human Resources Expense	\$ 134,463	\$ 128,423	\$ 132,638	(6,040)	(1,825)
Facilities and Finance Expense	\$ 50,329	\$ 71,225	\$ 51,784	20,896	1,455
Benevolence Expense	\$ 6,406	\$ 6,140	\$ 20,833	(266)	14,427
Christian Education Ministry Expense	\$ 825	\$ 1,075	\$ 1,667	250	842
Parish Life Ministry Expense	\$ 3,598	\$ 5,549	\$ 3,333	1,951	(265)
Executive Ministry Expense	\$ 1,270	\$ 3,859	\$ 2,475	2,589	1,205
Total Expenses	196,891	216,271	212,730	19,380	15,839
Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 5,863	\$ (14,745)	\$ 497	\$ 18,152	\$ 5,366

Statement of Financial Position

	2019	2018	Variance
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 172,401	\$ 207,157	\$ (34,756)
Property and equipment	32,511	34,101	(1,590)
Minister housing long term receivable	243,998	249,005	(5,007)
Total Assets	\$ 448,910	\$ 490,263	\$ (41,353)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 14,137	\$ 14,478	\$ (341)
Long term liabilities, Minister Housing	243,230	247,464	(4,234)
Designated funds for:			
Community Infrastructure *	31,901	29,001	2,900
Environment	28,708	25,139	3,569
Music, Arts and Worship	27,991	24,552	3,439
Youth and Education	30,913	25,738	5,175
Restricted funds for:			
Churchyard	31,268	31,389	(121)
Building Maintenance	68,715	67,710	1,005
Unrestricted Net Assets	(27,953)	24,792	(52,745)
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 448,910	\$ 490,263	\$ (41,353)

* **Community infrastructure** is defined as facilities, programs, and social networks that aims to improve people's quality of life .

Items to note:

- The church received a large one-time gift in 2018 for approximately \$25,000. Pledges received are equivalent to the amount received last year through April.
- Benevolence Expense will meet budget once the auction receipts have been distributed to area agencies

If you have any other questions or want further detail, please let me know.

Thank you,

Jennifer Jones
Treasurer

**"A VOLCANO AWAKENS"
NEW EXHIBIT AT THE ST. LOUIS SCIENCE CENTER!
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12TH**

Relive the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius and the rediscovery of the Roman city of Pompeii with more than 150 authentic artifacts and engaging interactives. Travel back in time to 79 A.D. when Pompeii flourished as a commercial port and strategic military and trading city and experience the lives of the city's residents and how they lived, loved, worked and played.



On Wednesday, June 12th, SAGE, First Church members and friends will be visiting the Science Center to see the Pompeii exhibit and movie. The group exhibit tour price is \$14.95 for seniors, and the OmniMax movie is an additional \$7.00. We will go to a new restaurant, "Bloom" for lunch, at 5200 Oakland, close to the Science Center. (Bloom is casual dining helping people with disabilities grow thru a job training program and the reviews are good!) People wishing to carpool will leave the church at 9:15 so we can see the 45 minute movie at 10:00; then we will tour the exhibit and plan to leave for lunch about 12:00. Group tickets will be purchased ahead of time by Pat Doyle Grace. Sign up sheet will be in the office and/or call Pat at 314-452-1845.

**UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS
PALLIATIVE CARE, A NEW AID FOR SERIOUS ILLNESS
SUNDAY, JUNE 23 • 11:30 IN THE INGLIS ROOM
SPEAKER: CATHLEEN COLEMAN, NP**

Palliative Care is specialized medical care focused on treating symptoms and stress, and improving quality of life for people living with life-threatening illness. This type of care is provided by a team of healthcare providers who work together with a patient's doctors to provide an extra layer of support.

Palliative care is separate from hospice, providing a broader range of services and support as well as a different approach to healthcare.

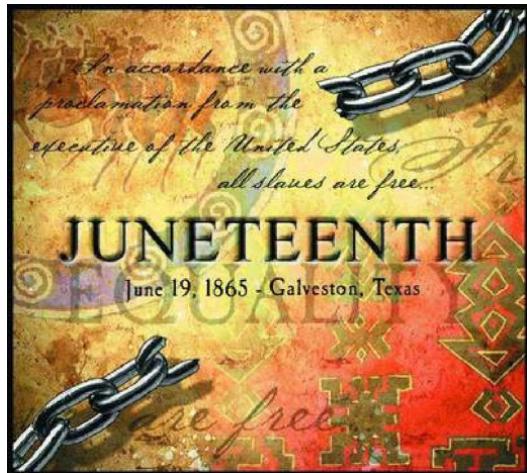
Our speaker, Cathleen Coleman, is a palliative care nurse practitioner at St. Luke's Hospital. She has over 30 years of nursing experience with an advanced certification in this field.

**"SEGREGATION IN ST. LOUIS"
PRESENTED BY FAITH FOR THE SAKE OF ALL
SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH • 11:30 IN MEMORIAL HALL**



This workshop explores the *Segregation in St. Louis: Dismantling the Divide* report. The report details the extensive history of segregation driven by policies and practices across multiple sectors of society, and segregation's systematic exclusion of African American families from areas of opportunity that support positive economic, educational, and health outcomes.

The presentation offers an opportunity for faith communities to learn and reflect about the data and findings from the report, and respond with concrete action steps based on the report's recommendations.



HAPPY JUNETEENTH!

JOIN IN FOR A TIME OF REFLECTION AND CELEBRATION!!!

Live Music • Food • Entertainment • Activities and More...

Enter Contests for Best Sweet Potato Pie & Best Red Velvet Cake
(Local Celebrity Judges)

Wednesday, June 19, 2018 from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Deer Creek Park, South Pavilion • 3200 N. Laclede Station Road,
Maplewood, MO 63143

Ticket Information: Adult \$15 Children 5-10 \$5 | Under 5-Free

To purchase tickets, register at: www.tinyurl.com/WGJuneteenth Advanced registration required by June 15, 2019
For more information or questions, email: sisterscarestl@gmail.com or call Kathleen Martin at 314-249-3968

HISTORY...DID YOU KNOW?

The Inglis Room is on the second floor of the Sunday School Building, built in 1929 and now called Building B. In earlier years the room had a center assembly area with six Sunday school classrooms on the north and south walls. It was considered the most progressive design, at that time, for religious education. In 1952, it was designated the Laura Inglis Room. As our minister's wife, Laura, among many other endeavors, had long worked in religious education efforts. The Laura Inglis Guild was formed in the early 1960s. Laura held in high esteem by our church members died in 1952 and the new guild was named after her. In the 1980s the Sunday schoolroom walls were removed to make one large area. In the 1990s a small kitchen area was added in the southeast corner. It was renamed then the Inglis Room remembering both Laura Inglis and Irvine Inglis, our minister from 1939 to 1962.



Today the room is home to pictorial history display panels mounted on the wall under a wood carving of our church crest. There is a large table that was refurbished by August Uthoff in memory of his wife, Alice, and a Irvine Inglis portrait painted by Dorothy Quest in 1949. The oblong walnut table under the history display came from Faith Church, which was an outgrowth of our South Webster Mission Sunday School. In 1985 Faith Church disbanded and all records, assets, and some furniture came to our church.

WALLACE AND BESS RINEHART

Funds realized from the sale of the property supports the Faith Fund from which we allocate monies for outreach. In 1993-4 the hospitality area of the Inglis Room was renovated by Wallace (Wally) & Bess Rinehart.

Donna Hull – June 1
Jenny Jones – June 3
Nolan Breitenbach – June 4
Christina Hood – June 5
Michael Monaco – June 8
Payton White-Lenard – June 8
Charles Griffith – June 9
Lauren Bakker-Arkema – June 11
Suzie Barnes – June 11
Ryan White-Lenard – June 11
Ginny Conlee – June 16
Laszlo Kopetti – June 17
Nick Paci – June 18

Cliff Aerie – June 19
Mia Genazzi – June 19
Darryl White-Lenard – June 22
Gus McLean – June 23
Abigail Monoco – June 23
Jonathan Brader – June 24
Bob McCoy – June 24
Lucy Corelli – June 27
Rosemary Hensley – June 27
Ron Gomez – June 29
Aiden Kaalberg – June 29
Randy Whitman – June 29

June
Birthdays





**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH** of Webster Groves
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Director of MICA
Rev. Cliff Aerie
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Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

June Meal-A-Month

Boxed Whole Wheat Pasta
Pasta Sauce (Low salt and sugar)
Canned Mixed Vegetables (low or no salt)
Canned Fruit in own juices
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Baby Fruits • Baby Vegetables
Baby Cereal

Missing Someone?

Have you been missing someone for a while from worship and other church events? Please, let Pastor Dave Denoon or Parish Life Chair, Joan Musbach know. Either will be happy to follow up for you.

