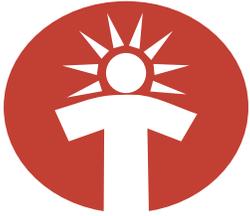


Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

FEBRUARY 27, 2022

SUNDAY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
SEMINARY / CHURCH VOCATIONS SUNDAY



*We respond to God's call
by welcoming everyone
regardless of ability, age,
ethnicity, race, gender identity,
sexual orientation or
socio-economic background.*

*To proclaim in word and deed
the love of Christ,
we affirm that all may share
in the full life, ministry, fellowship,
responsibilities
and blessing of our congregation.*

*No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

Order of Worship

An asterisk () indicates that worshipers are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

If you would like a personal joy or concern read aloud and you are at home, you may text 314-858-6710, or fill out a prayer card, found in the pew box.

We are requiring that everyone wear a mask in the sanctuary and the halls at First Congregational Church.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Marilyn Davis, *Announcer*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**) from Psalm 99

God reigns; let the peoples tremble! God sits enthroned on the cherubim; let the earth quake!

Our God is great on the highest hill in Jerusalem and towers over all the peoples. Let everyone praise God's greatness and awesomeness and holiness!

Mighty Ruler, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have ruled with justice and righteousness over your people.

Extol our God who rules over all; bow down and worship the holy One.

*RAISING THE COVENANT (Unison) *Covenant of 1977*

We who are called of God into this Christian community covenant together: to seek to know the will of God, to experience the joy and struggle of discipleship, to proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ, and to work for peace and justice among all people. We trust God's promise of grace and forgiveness and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our trials and rejoicing.

*GATHERING HYMN

Beautiful Jesus

Muenster Gesangbuch

(No. 44, vv. 1,3 – *New Century Hymnal*)

RITUAL OF APPROACH

Marilyn Davis

Introduction (Story)

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Every day you show us your glory, O brilliant God, and we miss these scenes because we imagine them to be nothing more than ordinary – ordinary people, ordinary events. When we miss noticing them, we miss noticing you. Your Child Jesus presented himself to others as an ordinary person whom many experienced but never received. We ache to be witnesses of the true nature you have created in every blessed thing. Forgive us for our lack of understanding. Open us to you, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

*The children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.
Afterward, they may proceed to Kids' Church, or return to their seats.*

SHARING THE WORD*From Christian History*

Acts 8:26-39

New Revised Standard Version

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)²⁷ So he got up and went.

Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah.

He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"

³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

From the Gospels

Luke 9:28-36

NRSV

²⁸ Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.

³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him.³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.

³³ Just as the two were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said.

³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Child, my Chosen; listen to him!"³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Response.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

MESSAGE OF THE DAY “*With the Aid of the Ethiopians*” Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*PARTING HYMN

Transfigure Me

Christopher Grundy

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

Marilyn Davis

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

It is requested that the Congregation remain standing out of respect for this piece of music, commonly known as “The Black National Anthem.”

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Sunday worship each week is shared in person for those who wish to attend and streamed live on YouTube, starting at 10:00am (bit.ly/FCCWG-YT).

Electronic Device Users

If you wish to access our wi-fi, our network connections are: fccwg1, fccwg2 or fccwg3. The password for each is firstchurch.

Finding Your Way at First Church

The Nursery: The Nursery is attended today. The Nursery is located through the double doors at the end of the Narthex (foyer), turn left. Nursery/Toddler Room is on your right (Dutch doors).

Restrooms: Family restrooms are located to the right of the Narthex (foyer) as you go to the library (look for the blue library banner) and to the left of the Narthex just before the double doors.

We Hold in Our Prayers

- Our residents in assisted living and skilled care – Sharon Beal, Joyce Berger, Paul Davis, Margery Gable, Shirley Moore
- All people who are living with dementia, their families, and their caregivers
- People we love who are living with cancer – Margaret Gustafson
- All those the world regards as disabled – especially David & Becky Scott
- People with mental illnesses, as well as the people who love and care for them
- Peace with justice

Lady Elect –Tuesday, February 22 in Memorial Hall at 7:00 pm

Masking and social distancing protocols will be observed. Hostesses for the evening will be Judy Borutta and Laura Cooper. RSVP to Laura Cooper lolaco18@yahoo.com

All are welcome to this gathering. The program for the evening will be presented by Joan Musbach from a series she does for OASIS on Religion and the Founding Fathers. Joan will be speaking about America's second president, John Adams: *"From Puritan to Unitarian: The Religious Journey of John Adams."* Learn about this interesting man who described himself as "a church going animal."

Adult Education Events

Wednesday, February 23

SAGE will host an afternoon viewing of an address by Heather Cox Richardson *"Telling the Story of America in Unsettled Times"*

Professor Richardson is speaking to a conference of Missouri history educators. She speaks about the 1619 Project and Critical Race Theory, exploring why they have become polarizing topics. She clarifies the realities of classroom instruction on topics revolving around race. Professor Richardson teaches nineteenth-century American history at Boston College. She is the author of the popular daily newsletter, *Letters from an American* (<https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/>), which explores the history behind today's politics. Her early work focused on the transformation of political ideology from the Civil War to the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt. Her history of the Republican Party, *To Make Men Free* (2014) examines the fundamental tensions in American politics from the time of the Northwest Ordinance to the present.

Viewing of her address will be followed by conversation about the issues raised and perspectives obtained. This gathering will be at 2:00 in the Inglis Room and on Zoom (<http://bit.ly/JehovahJava>).

Sunday, February 27

"Movement Toward a Balanced History Curriculum"

Become aware of changes made in writing about and teaching U. S. History in response to the need for diversity, equity and inclusion in telling our story. Specifically, learn about the Social Studies (History) curriculum adopted by the Webster Groves schools. This session will help you develop an understanding of how the teaching of history has changed since our youth. Joan Musbach will provide information on these topics and facilitate discussion about issues raised. We will meet after worship in the Kishlar Room and on Zoom (<http://bit.ly/JehovahJava>). If coffee fellowship has resumed, bring you coffee and gather about 11:20.

Window Shopping at the Giving Store

Our 2022 Benevolence Giving Store is now stocked with many delightful items. If you missed the chance to buy something in last year's store, here is a second chance. Many of the items you have loved in the past are available again along with some fun new things. Items are priced not as bargains, but as valuable premiums in exchange for your generous gift to the First Church Benevolent Fund. So, shop Extravagantly!

The Store will open for business on March 7, but you can browse beforehand and plan your shopping. To download a list with all the items currently offered, copy and paste the following link in your web browser. <https://tinyurl.com/giving-store>.

Tracey Harris to be Ordained!

In a Spirit of Celebration, the St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ in Covenant with First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, **Invites you to the Service of Ordination for Tracey Harris** Sunday, February 27 at 3:00 pm here at First Congregational Church of Webster Groves

The Parish Life Ministry has purchased a stole for Tracey. If you would like to donate towards this gift, please send a check made out to FCCWG and put Tracey in the memo line.

Wish Upon a Cloud – A Program for Off-Budget Projects is Starting off with a Bang Cloud Success Stories!

A camera to enhance our streaming services has been pledged! The toaster for the office has been purchased! A financial gift for the Minister's fund has been made! For more information on this program, grab a form off the board in the Narthex or visit the Wish Upon a Cloud page on our website at <https://firstchurchwg.org/donate/wuac>.

Covenant News

Starting in March, we will have two-month combined issues of Covenant News. If you would like to get something in the March / April edition, please email any articles, images, etc. to Debbie (admin@firstchurchwg.org) in the office by February 28th.

Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes Please deliver yours by February 28!

Worship for Ash Wednesday will be our first in the sanctuary in two years! Pastor Dave is looking for palms from last Palm Sunday, to burn and crush into the ashes for Ash Wednesday. Please bring your dry palm fronds or strips to the church, by Monday, February 28, and he will burn them on Fat Tuesday, March 1.

February Meal-a-Month

Canned Tuna, packed in Water • Tuna Helper • Canned Carrots (low or no salt)
Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Diapers • Diaper Wipes • Formula with Iron

How to Donate to First Congregational Church

You may leave a donation in the offering plate in the Narthex.
Send a check made out to FCCWG at:

First Congregational Church

10 W. Lockwood Ave.

Webster Groves, MO 63119

visit <http://firstchurchwg.org/donate> to make an electronic
contribution or scan the QR code



What's Going on at First Church This Week

(Debbie Tolstoi, our Office Administrator, will be away on vacation, February 21-25.)

Sunday, February 27

9:00 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:30 AM Adult Ed: "The Racial Divide," Part 3 (Kishlar Room & Zoom)

3:00 PM Ordination: Tracey Harris

Monday, February 28

7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B – Memorial Hall

Tuesday, March 1

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Communications Team – Office

Wednesday, March 2

Ash Wednesday

~~**9:30 AM** Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room~~

6:00 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room

7:00 PM Worship

Thursday, March 3

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells Practice

7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G – Parlor

8:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice



10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
JWMusbach@gmail.com

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon
DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org

Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim
Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi
Admin@FirstChurchWG.org

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke
Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org

Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie
cliff.aerie@gmail.com

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes
laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I
lesrhs@sbcglobal.net

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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YouTube

<http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT>

