

# Covenant News

## LENT (MARCH & APRIL 2022)



### FROM THE PASTOR

#### **A Focus on the Female**

When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand pray in holy places and on street corners, in order that they may be seen by other people. Truly I tell you, they have received their recompense. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Creator who is in secret; and your Creator who is in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:5-6, *Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church (Year W)*  
by Wilda C. Gafney – New York: Church Publishing, Inc., 2021

Welcome to the season of Lent.

Welcome also to Women's History Month.

And, this year, the two of them have coincided in such a way that it has been irresistible to combine them. For the six Sundays in Lent, plus Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we will be reintroduced to a number of biblical women (and in some cases, just introduced). The Worship Notes for Lent will acquaint you with many whom we're talking about and where to find their stories in the Bible.

In keeping with our Lenten observance, we will depart from (or should I say, we will fast?) our usual Revised Common Lectionary readings and substitute translations of holy texts by the Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney, womanist theologian and Hebrew Bible scholar who has recently published the first volume in a new *Women's Lectionary*.

I have even prepared a rewording of the Prayer of Our Savior for us to say in worship, this season. My message on Ash Wednesday is designed to introduce our faith community to this prayer which we hold in common with Christians everywhere. You can watch that message on our YouTube channel - <https://youtu.be/4qlBn246zyU>, starting at 24:13.

Here is the prayer as, with much faithful research, I have rendered it:

**Our Mother in heaven,  
make your name holy.**

**Reveal your love, and teach us your way.**

**Make earth alike with heaven.**

**Provide bread for today, so that we do not worry about tomorrow.**

**And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**Keep us from things that would keep us from you,  
but deliver us from the evil one.**

**For here is your love:**

**where power and glory are shared, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

I hope that you may find Lent this year not only challenging but also refreshing, as together we explore our faith in new but traditional ways by God's grace.

Peace

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When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world, and in our own communities. When man-made or natural disasters strike, love responds. Not just for the immediate future, but for the long haul. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are working alongside families to restore not only structures, but hope. Your giving ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, **Love remains**.



**On Memorial Day 2019, tornadoes swept through the Miami Valley of Ohio, destroying thousands of homes and apartments and leaving a trail of downed trees and power lines in their wake.** Many of the tornado-affected families have had to relocate multiple times since the tornadoes due to substandard housing conditions and inflated rent.

Two years after the storm, the Stephens family were still unable to find adequate living quarters. The family of ten was forced to live apart. In addition to dealing with unscrupulous contractors, the family had to haggle with insurance companies as they tried to rebuild their home. The Stephenses, like so many other families, remained in temporary housing and separated, pending the completion of repairs.

Yet, all was not lost. The Stephens family connected with the Miami Valley Long-Term Recovery Operations Group, and volunteer teams finished the repairs.

Alongside these traditional home repair projects, and with support from One Great Hour of Sharing, the MVLTROG helped launch the Tornado Survivors' Pathways to Homeownership Project to help alleviate the housing crunch in the Dayton area. Volunteers and local nonprofits work together to transition "nuisance" properties and vacant lots into affordable, single-family housing options for tornado survivors who were displaced from rental housing, stabilizing both families and the community. First-time homeowners receive the support they need to build for their futures.

Sammy Deacon, Brethren Disaster Ministries Long-Term Project Leader, says "When you reach out to help someone else, the blessing comes back to you as well. An important aspect of the recovery effort is listening to people's stories and knowing you have the opportunity to help them—physically and spiritually."

With support for long-term recovery, including innovative programs like the Pathways to Homeownership project, One Great Hour of Sharing helps create opportunities for families to thrive after disasters. Because love remains.



## WORSHIP NOTES FOR LENT 2022

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

*All worship services will be offered in person and live streamed ([bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)).*

*At the time of publication, pandemic hygiene when attending in person includes masks rated K95, KN95, KF94, or surgical (**cloth masks are inadequate**); social distance between groups of at least 3 feet; and frequent hand-washing and sanitizing.*

**WORSHIPERS PLEASE NOTE:** *We acknowledge that the use of biblical imagery including women can be particularly upsetting for some. The Prayer of Our Savior throughout the season will be phrased in feminine terms. There will likely be a live serpent in worship on March 6. March 13, 20, and 27 include the stories of enslaved women, and on March 13 and 20 these women were “womb slaves.” **We know that such imagery can be triggering for some**, but we also consider it important to face challenging passages for the sake of discerning God’s will for us in our time.*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 7:00 PM — *Ash Wednesday; Sacrament of Christ’s Table. **Message: “Our Prayer”*** (Matthew 6:1-6, 9-13, 16-18) This Ash Wednesday will be our first Lenten worship with a congregation in the sanctuary in two years! The season of Lent begins with a service featuring the administration of ashes and the sharing of communion. Those in attendance participate in these moments, as always, according to their own preference. Pastor Dave Denoon offers a meditation on the Prayer of Our Savior and our adaptation of it reflecting feminine imagery for the season of Lent.’

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 10:00 AM — *First Sunday in Lent; Sunday of UCC Women’s Week; Sacrament of Christ’s Table; All-Ages Worship. For Women’s History Month and all the season of Lent, our sermons will fall under the heading of **Women of the Bible**. This will be a 7-part series tracing the lives and influence of biblical women. We will be aided strongly throughout the Lenten season by the new *Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church, Year W*, by Wilda C. Gafney (New York: Church Publishing, 2021). **Message of the Day: “Eve, Mother of the Intellect.”** (Genesis 3:1-7)*

Enrichment Session: *Eve* – 7:00 pm, Wednesday, March 9 on Zoom ([bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent))

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 10:00 AM, *Daylight Saving Time* — *Second Sunday in Lent. **Women of the Bible: “Hagar Who Gave God a Name.”** Of the two Sundays featuring women who were enslaved at least partly for the sake of maternal surrogacy, this Sunday reintroduces us to Hagar. There are theological battle lines drawn around her and her son Ishmael in all three of the great traditions emerging from the Middle East – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Not the least matter of controversy is that she did not cave to her victimization. Hagar was the first person to call God by a name! (Genesis ??? and 21: 1-8)*

Enrichment Session: *Hagar* – 7:00 pm, Wednesday, March 16 on Zoom ([bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent))

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 10:00 AM — *Third Sunday in Lent; “Amistad” Sunday. **Women of the Bible: “Zilpah and Bilhah, Jacob’s Concubines.”** (Genesis 30:9-12) We can say that it was a sign of the times, that people just did things differently back then, but eventually we have to deal with the fact that the ancient Hebrews practiced the enslavement of some women for the sake of bearing children. What we do with this knowledge affects how we practice our faith. Rev. Jan Barnes and Rev. Sue Leary team up to revisit this story.*

Enrichment Session: *Zilpah & Bilhah* – 7:00 pm, Wednesday, March 23 on Zoom ([bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent))

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 10:00 AM — *Fourth Sunday in Lent; One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering. **Women of the Bible: “Shiphrah and Puah, Rebel Midwives.”** (Exodus 1:15-20) In an era when midwifery has made a bit of a comeback, our society is still somewhat ambivalent about this practice of nurturing women through their pregnancies, welcoming their children, and guiding both into their neonatal relationship. The Israelite midwives credited with saving their people’s sons from Pharaoh’s sword staged a curious rebellion and made possible everything we know about the sovereign will of God!*

Enrichment Session: *Shiphrah & Puah* – 7:00 pm, Wednesday, March 30 on Zoom ([bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent))



SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 10:00 AM — *Fifth Sunday in Lent; Sacrament of Christ's Table; All-Ages Worship. Women of the Bible: "Huldah the Prophet."* (2 Kings 22:14-20) When the scroll of Deuteronomy was discovered during a renovation of the Temple, in 620 BCE, although the prophets Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Nahum, and Habakkuk all were around, Temple leaders approached Huldah, "keeper of the [royal] wardrobe," for advice about their discovery. The result was surely not what they expected, as in Huldah a true prophet came to light! Where might unexpected truth be arising for us?

Enrichment Session: Huldah – 7:00 pm, Wednesday, April 6 on Zoom ([bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent))

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 10:00 AM — *Sixth Sunday in Lent (Palm/Passion Sunday). Women of the Bible: "Mary of Nazareth, Mother of Salvation."* (Luke 1:46-55; John 19:25b-27) Our exploration of women in biblical history leads us to Mary who was Jesus' mother and with Eve, traditionally speaking, a mother of salvation. As with Eve who also lost a son unjustly, Mary's motherhood prominently features broken-heartedness. Here, on Jesus' triumphant day which will lead into a harrowing week, we recall Mary's triumph and seemingly unrelenting grief. Can we approach joy in the midst of such sadness?

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 7:00 PM — *Maundy Thursday; Sacrament of Christ's Table. Women at the Table.* Our Sunday series has led us here, to the table at which Jesus shared his Last Supper. In a dramatic presentation bracketed by rituals of Communion and Anointing, ten women who were with Jesus in Jerusalem on the night he was betrayed reflect on their lives before Jesus and with him.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 7:00 PM — *Good Friday Blues. Christ and the Texts of Terror.* As the Oikos Jazz Ensemble once again direct our Good Friday prayer and praise in song, four women observing Jesus' death upon the cross consider how his suffering and dying emulate the pain of women of the Bible and of our time.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 10:00 AM — *Easter; Resurrection Sunday. Women of the Bible: "Mary of Magdala and the Critical Importance of Believing."* (Luke 24:1-12; John 20:11-18) Mary Magdalene was considered so unreliable a witness to the Resurrection that, in Luke and John, Peter goes to the tomb to confirm her report. Two thousand years later, women's testimony remains suspect, very often. What kind of rebirth do we require, to accept the testimony of the powerless and abused?

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 10:00 AM — *Second Sunday of Easter; Armenian Martyrs' Day; "Break the Silence" Sunday; Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (UCC).* (Acts 1:3-5, 12-14; Psalm 41:1-4, 12-13; John 20:19-31) The second Sunday of Easter introduces us again to the experience of a disciple known to us only as "the twin" (in Greek, didymus; in Hebrew, thomas). Jesus presents himself to this disciple, unhealed since his suffering. On this Sunday when we claim solidarity with those who have been sexually assaulted (1 out of 6 women; 1 out of 33 men. [Source: RAINN.org](https://www.rainn.org/)), as well as with a population suffering more and more intolerance (anti-Asian hate crimes increased by 339% in 2021, compared to 2020. [Source: nbcnews.com](https://www.nbcnews.com/)), we join Thomas in an affirmation of faith to the one who identified with us. **Message of the Day: "The Disquieting Mirror."**

## MICA: OÏKOS IN WORSHIP

This Lenten season, Oikos will be sharing music on two occasions. On Sunday morning, March 13 Oikos will perform music by female jazz artists, Billy Holliday and Nina Simone. We'll also feature hymns by two female lyricists, Fanny Crosby and Clara Scott. Our regular members will be performing — Kim Fuller Barnes, Carolbeth True, Glen Smith, and David True. Everyone is well on the road to recovery after recent illnesses and accidents that forced us to cancel this year's Jazz Noel concert.

Oikos will once again perform at Good Friday Blues. This will be our fifth Good Friday Blues worship service, having had to cancel last year's due to the pandemic. This year's theme will focus on the women at the cross, continuing our Lenten and Holy Week themes. I hope you will join us as we share music from the soul.

## MODERATOR'S CORNER

This combined March/April “Lenten Special” of the Covenant News ushers in both a season of deep reflection and emergent joy. Ours is a thoughtful, meditative religion and one celebrating the joy of rebirth. How special is that? But as I write this on the last day of February, I am troubled. I am troubled by a despicable invasion of the Ukraine. I am troubled by persistent racism. I am troubled by the severe polarization of America; I am troubled by legislation in the Missouri House that is having chilling effect on history classrooms where I lived my professional life.

But John 14:1 KSV comes to my mind: “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, Believe also in me.” While I’m quite certain that a theologian would tell me that these words are not in the context of comforting me regarding the list of troubles I’ve enumerated, they comfort me, nonetheless. Part of the anguish over these troubles is the knowledge that I can do little about them. But other guidance is at my disposal. In my youth I liked the Sunday evening church services better than the morning worship, because the preacher preached less and we sang more, out of the “evening” hymnal, *Triumphant Service Songs*. We were encouraged to request hymns. Today I request page 167.

Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do,  
Do not wait to shed your light a-far.  
To the many duties ever near you now be true,  
Brighten the Corner where you are.

What do people who were not reared with these spiritual fall back positions do in times of trouble? High-achieving students at Yale flock to a course taught by Professor of Cognitive Science Laurie Santos, “Psychology and the Good Life.” In this course she tries to help students lead a more fulfilled life, as she also does in her podcast “The Happiness Lab.” Professor Santos was profiled in this weekend’s *New York Times Magazine*. During the interview this “happiness” professor was asked about the connection between developing a sense of meaning and religious practices. I will quote her at some length so as not to take her words out of context.

“Take the religious case. You could mean two things by saying you need a cultural apparatus around the behavior change: one is you need a rich sense of beliefs; you need to buy into theological principles to get the benefits. Another is that it’s your commitment to these groups that does it, and it doesn’t have to come with a set of spiritual beliefs. There’s a lot of evidence that religious people, for example, are happier in a sense of life satisfaction and positive emotion in the moment. But is it the Christian who really believes in Jesus and reads the Bible? Or, is it the Christian who goes to church, goes to the spaghetti suppers, donates to charity, participates in the volunteer stuff? Turns out, to the extent that you can disentangle those two, it seems to not be our beliefs but our actions that are driving the fact that religious people are happier.”

The GOOD NEWS is that First Congregational has a lot of ways in which you can raise your “happiness quotient.” You can participate generously in the Giving Together Benevolence Campaign. Thirteen agencies will benefit from your gift. You can support those who have been devastated by a tornado in Kentucky. You can help in the support of an Afghan refugee family. You can participate in the First Saturday activities. You can encourage our confirmation students in their service project. You can learn how to, and help grow the Endowment of our church. You can join with others in learning more about the women apostles at our Lenten observances. And, you can experience the joy of worshipping together.

And you can join me (and Ella Fitzgerald) in a stirring rendition of “*Brighten the Corner Where You Are*”!

Joan Musbach, Moderator

## FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



Hello all!

Are you ready for Lent? I must admit that I am not ready to leave the afterglow of Christmas. Now, with the Restart Committee's guidelines, the Canterbury Bells continue to prepare for an appearance in March in worship and on Palm Sunday as well as Easter! Due to the recent ban on "corporate singing" (even masked) and the lifting of that ban, the Chancel Choir will return to regular rehearsals on March 10! We are all happy to get back to a regular schedule, but this will be a time of transition for us as we re-acquaint ourselves with "normal." (It occurs to me that this is a metaphor for Lent!) The turbulent events within and without our country affirm our need for prayer and all the positivity we can muster: we can only control ourselves and, often,

influence the place where we are.

It may not come as a surprise to you that Music is how I talk to the Divine: Music is my prayer. I have two offerings for stoking your spirit during Lent. On March 20 at 3:00 pm Scott Kennebeck will offer us all a free to all St. Patrick's Day Concert which will feature Irish Tenor Classics. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch says "Kennebeck is a real talent; he has a gorgeous lyric instrument, and uses it well. His solo was a high point of the performance."

Since 1993 Scott has served as the Tenor section leader for the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis Choir and Archdiocesan Choir of St. Louis. He also serves as cantor for the Cathedral Parish, as well as at major Archdiocesan events. He was a cantor/soloist for 100,000+ in attendance and a worldwide television broadcast audience for the Papal Mass in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1999 and for 30,000 in attendance at the Eucharistic Congress in St. Louis in 2001. He has toured as soloist throughout the United States, Italy, England, Germany, and Austria. His performances have included Verdi's *Requiem* in Rome, Italy; Hector Berlioz's *Te Deum* in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, and numerous performances of Handel's *Messiah* as well as other oratorios. He has also performed with Union Avenue Opera and the St. Louis Muny. In addition to singing, Scott is the Executive Director of St. Louis Cathedral Concerts.

Accompanying him will be our dear friend John Powell Walsh. John Powell Walsh began piano and organ lessons in elementary school and has had a love affair with music ever since. Continuing his education through graduate school and even the Haarlem International Academy for Organists in the Netherlands. John is one of the most prominent church musicians in St. Louis. He was one of the Papal Organists for the Visit of John Paul II to St. Louis. He is featured with numerous musical organizations in St. Louis from the Bach Society to the Ronald Arnatt Chorale. He was the founder of The Archangel Players, The St. Cecilia Consort and the St. Louis Hills Arts Council. He is presently the Organist for the St. Louis Abbey and Priory School and for the High Holy Days at Central Reform Congregation.

On Palm Sunday, April 3 at 3:00 pm prepare to have your spirits lifted by a free to all piano recital by Ryan Fogg. The playing of pianist Ryan Fogg has been described as "brilliant, with a high level of polish, impressive technical command, musical understanding and sensitivity." As an artist, he strives to convey the musical line with clarity while capturing the coloristic sonority of the instrument. Audiences agree that his balanced and varied programming is quite effective in combining the standard masterpieces of the repertoire with less frequently heard but equally deserving works.

*Continued*

Originally from Houston, Texas, Dr. Fogg holds degrees in piano performance from The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Houston, and East Texas Baptist University. His major teachers include Gregory Allen, Danielle Martin, Robert Brownlee, and Randall Sulton. He pursued additional studies at the Aspen Music Festival with Gabriel Chodos and the Adamant Music School with Deirdre O'Donohue, and he has performed in masterclasses for pianists Horacio Gutierrez, Angela Cheng, Ann Saslov, Baruch Meir, and Menahem Pressler. He currently holds the position of Professor of Music and Director of Keyboard Studies at Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City, Tennessee, where he teaches a wide range of courses.

Because the free access to all for these concerts is a part of our music ministry here, please plan to attend and bring your music loving friends. These recitals will be memorable and normally a ticket will be costly to concerts by artists such as these. I hope your music department's contributions to services and these two free recitals will lift you in the penitential season of Lent.

Leon Burke

## FROM THE PASTORAL ASSISTANT

I am really thrilled about the theme our church is pursuing for this year's season of Lent and Holy Week: WOMEN. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to preach one of the messages on our biblical heroines (Huldah), and I am also executing the Wednesday night Lenten series which will be a discussion on the women featured each week from the pulpit — we will get contemplative about misogyny and its intersections! Dave, Cliff, and I are preparing deeply meaningful Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services that focus on the Women at the Table and the Women at the Cross, respectively. Truly, I am overwhelmed in the best way by the richness of this material!

Noel Burke, our new Kids Church Teacher, and I are collaborating on women-themed Sundays during Lent as well. Our children will be learning about inspiring women in Scripture (and women alive today) alongside their parents, giving the whole family an enriching feminine perspective!

Don't miss the indoor **Easter Egg Hunt** on April 16th at 10AM (Holy Saturday)! We will also be adorning the wooden cross with flowers in Jubilee Garden at this time. As for the egg hunt, in addition to *plenty* of candy, children will go home with a special red egg, which is a symbol of the resurrection — and feminism — that comes from a legendary story about Mary Magdalene.

And I've rescheduled **Youth Game Night** for April 23rd at 7pm. We will play board games, eat snacks, and hang out — I plan to wear my jammies so you should too!

May God our Mother bless you richly during Lent, from the ashes that begin this season somberly, and right up through the women's discovery of an empty tomb!

Halley Kim





## 2022 BENEVOLENCE GIVING – PANDEMIC STYLE

The Benevolence Giving officially kicked-off on Sunday March 6, 2022. *The Giving Store* is open and will be closing at noon on March 18. There are loads of wonderful items for sale; many new this year. This year we are also offering vacations that will be available on our *Silent Auction* page. The links for both of these are below.

### The Giving Store

<https://firstchurchwg.org/benevolence-giving/giving-store/>

### The Silent Auction

<https://firstchurchwg.org/benevolence-giving/benevolence-silent-auction/>

For any questions or more information, contact a committee member. We would all be happy to talk with you!  
Jeanene Harris, Joan Musbach, Jane Porchey and Kay Roush



## UCC HABITAT NEWS



### UCC CHURCHES GAVE \$75,676 TO THE UCC BUILD IN 2021!

The figures are just in! Treasurer Tim Weaver sent the final check for 2021 at the beginning of January from UCC churches and individuals who love providing affordable housing for our St. Louis neighbors. And the surprise is that Habitat had another \$20,176 from UCC folk and estates given directly.

### UCC WORKDAYS

Because of Covid and other logistical problems, we are still waiting to schedule Spring workdays. Please be patient so that we safely work on the Habitat Houses shown on the first page. Our work is important and HabitatSTL values all that we have done together for the last 27 and now 28 years.





## TREASURER'S REPORTS

Below are the FINAL church operating results for calendar year 2021:

- Pledge income remained above budget but ended the year \$7,756 less than prior year.
- Expenses were even to budget. Please note, Benevolence Expense is over budget because more benevolence auction funds were raised than budgeted, which means the church was able to disperse more funds to area agencies than was originally budgeted.
- The church transferred from the Endowment \$30,000 more this year compared to last to cover cash flow. Cash is down \$60,598 compared to 2020 as the church tries to meet the needs of the church while using as little of Endowment monies as possible.
- In both 2020 and 2021, CARES Act PPP funds of \$62,300 were received and recorded as income.

### Statement of Financial Activities

	2021	2020	Budget	Change to Prior Year	Change to Budget
Income				Higher/(Lower) Income	
Pledges and Gifts	\$ 373,748	\$ 381,504	\$ 315,000	\$ (7,756)	\$ 58,748
Transfer from Endowment	150,000	64,300	259,000	85,700	(109,000)
Benevolence	23,527	23,934	15,000	(407)	8,527
CARES Act PPP	62,300	62,300	-	-	62,300
Use of Space and Miscellaneous	41,645	32,285	47,115	9,360	(5,470)
Interest Income	20,654	18,247	11,600	2,407	9,054
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>671,874</b>	<b>582,570</b>	<b>647,715</b>	<b>89,304</b>	<b>24,159</b>
Expenses				(Higher)/Lower Expense	
Human Resources Expense	\$ 431,481	\$ 386,253	\$ 430,333	(45,228)	(1,148)
Facilities and Finance Expense	\$ 161,243	\$ 146,154	\$ 162,176	(15,089)	933
Benevolence Expense	\$ 38,565	\$ 41,569	\$ 32,000	3,005	(6,565)
Christian Education Ministry Expense	\$ 3,244	\$ 1,920	\$ 4,100	(1,324)	856
Parish Life Ministry Expense	\$ 8,550	\$ 4,170	\$ 11,200	(4,380)	2,650
Executive Ministry Expense	\$ 2,486	\$ 1,694	\$ 7,200	(792)	4,714
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>645,568</b>	<b>581,760</b>	<b>647,009</b>	<b>(63,807)</b>	<b>1,441</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 26,307</b>	<b>\$ 810</b>	<b>\$ 706</b>	<b>\$ 25,497</b>	<b>\$ 25,601</b>

### Statement of Financial Position

	2021	2020	Variance
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 186,433	\$ 245,395	\$ (58,962)
Prepaid expenses	-	9,700	(9,700)
Pledges receivable	17,032	-	17,032
Property and equipment	28,536	29,994	(1,457)
Minister housing long term receivable	60,000	60,000	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 292,001</b>	<b>\$ 345,089</b>	<b>\$ (53,087)</b>
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ -	\$ 788	\$ (788)
Unrestricted Designated Funds	6,732	31,917	(25,185)
Restricted funds for:			
Funds in Endowment Trust	45,815	45,815	-
Churchyard	36,259	34,007	2,252
Kishlar/Dickens Room Maintenance	53,946	58,096	(4,150)
Temporarily restricted funds for pledges	45,900	33,138	12,763
Memorial Funds	73,926	80,644	(6,718)
Long term liabilities	60,000	115,800	(55,800)
Unrestricted Net Assets	(30,576)	(55,115)	24,539
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 292,001</b>	<b>\$ 345,089</b>	<b>\$ (53,087)</b>

Below are the preliminary church operating results for January 2022:

- Pledge income for 2022 but received in 2021 has been recorded as revenue in January.
- The budget showing is the full year budget.
- Expenses are higher than prior year due to change in staffing and timing of when work has been done on the building

Statement of Financial Activities				
	2022	2021	Full Year Budget	Change to Prior Year
				Higher/ (Lower)
Income				
Pledges and Gifts	\$ 55,397	\$ 45,910	\$ 315,000	\$ 9,487
Transfer from Endowment	10,000	10,000	299,000	-
Benevolence	-	-	15,000	-
Use of Space and Miscellaneous	1,705	1,370	47,115	335
Interest Income	0	56	11,000	(56)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>67,102</b>	<b>57,337</b>	<b>687,115</b>	<b>9,766</b>
Expenses				(Higher)/ Lower
Human Resources Expense	\$ 38,007	\$ 28,413	\$ 458,354	(9,595)
Facilities and Finance Expense	\$ 15,657	\$ 8,239	\$ 163,375	(7,418)
Benevolence Expense	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 32,000	-
Christian Education Ministry Expense	\$ 416	\$ -	\$ 4,100	(416)
Parish Life Ministry Expense	\$ 647	\$ 124	\$ 11,400	(524)
Executive Ministry Expense	\$ 390	\$ -	\$ 17,200	(390)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>56,368</b>	<b>38,025</b>	<b>686,429</b>	<b>(18,343)</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 10,734</b>	<b>\$ 19,312</b>	<b>\$ 686</b>	<b>\$ (8,577)</b>

Statement of Financial Position			
	2022	2021	Variance
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 192,520	\$ 230,412	\$ (37,892)
Prepaid expenses	-	9,700	(9,700)
Pledges receivable	285,759	280,558	5,201
Property and equipment	28,536	29,861	(1,325)
Minister housing long term receivable	60,000	60,000	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 566,816</b>	<b>\$ 610,531</b>	<b>\$ (43,716)</b>
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ -	\$ 55,700	\$ (55,700)
Unrestricted Designated Funds	29,420	36,783	(7,363)
Restricted funds for:			
Funds in Endowment Trust	51,321	45,815	5,506
Churchyard	36,506	34,007	2,499
Kishlar/Dickens Room Maintenance	53,946	58,096	(4,150)
Temporarily restricted funds for pledges	281,647	280,558	1,089
Memorial Funds	73,926	77,144	(3,218)
Long term liabilities	60,000	60,000	-
Unrestricted Net Assets	(19,950)	(37,571)	17,621
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 566,816</b>	<b>\$ 610,531</b>	<b>\$ (43,716)</b>

If you have any other questions or want further detail on either of these reports, please let me know.  
Jennifer Jones, Treasurer

## **LADY ELECT — MARCH & APRIL**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 22**  
**AT JACQUIE BRYANT'S HOUSE**  
**7:00 PM**

We will be making framed wall plaques. There is some material preparation prior to the meeting, so, if you have not received this information from Jacquie, please let her know.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 26**  
**AT MARILYN DAVIS' HOUSE**  
**7:00 PM**

We will be sampling wines from the Piedmont region of Italy, along with paired tastings. Marilyn Davis is the hostess.

*All are welcome!*

## **ADULT EDUCATION IN MARCH** **MARCH 27 AFTER THE SERVICE** **INTRODUCING** **THE FIRST CHURCH LEGACY GROUP**

The Endowment Committee of First Congregational Church has formed the “First Church Legacy Group.” On March 27 after the service, there will be a presentation to outline why this group has been formed and why it is beneficial to the church to join the group. Tax wise and simple ideas will be presented to make joining this group easy. More details to follow!

## **FIRST SATURDAYS** **DRIVE THROUGH COLLECTIONS**

The first three First Saturday drive through collections have been incredibly successful! In January, First Church's Volunteers collected six full carloads of food and personal care items for Webster Rock Hill Ministries. In February we collected underwear and socks for the Walbridge Academy in North St. Louis, and on March 5, we collected two full trunk loads of period supplies and \$96 in cash donations for St. Louis Alliance for Period Supplies.

We will continue this new tradition on the first Saturday of each month (unless the weather throws a curve ball). Information regarding the First Saturday of April will be available in our eNews.



## THE STORY OF PALM SUNDAY & OUR EASTER CROSS

In 1995, on Palm Sunday, Maria Cereghino rode her horse through the parking lot portraying Jesus' ride into Jerusalem. Members of the congregation greeted her waving palms as crowds must have done in Jesus' day. This event was reintroduced in 2016 with our student ministers riding a donkey portraying Jesus on Palm Sunday.

In 2006, church members Bob Woodsmall and Bob McCoy went to Fenton to find the perfect dogwood tree for fashioning a large cross to be used during Lent and Holy Week, according to legend. In Jesus' time dogwoods grew in Jerusalem tall, large and strong, because of its strength. A dogwood tree was made into the cross on which Jesus was crucified. Since 2006, during Lent, our cross has been draped in black and placed in the Narthex. On Easter morning it is moved to the front of the sanctuary. In the earlier years the cross was covered with spring flowers on Easter. In recent years it has been draped in white. During the 2021 pandemic year when worship was happening virtually, a cross was fashioned by Building Manager Chip Isringhaus in the Jubilee Garden, and members were invited to bring flowers to adorn it.

-Kay Roush



*In the Narthex*



*Palm Sunday 1995*



*Palm Sunday 2016*



*Easter Morning 2018*



*Jubilee Garden 2021*



Joshua Shannon 3/7  
 Kathleen Ferrell 3/9  
 Brody Zink 3/13  
 Kristen Rinne 3/14  
 Kitty Pearl 3/18  
 Lauren Gomez 3/20  
 James Harris 3/21  
 Casen Hood 3/21  
 Amy Byrne 3/26  
 Joshua Walker 3/28

Marty Craig – April 1  
 Jane Brader – April 6  
 Valerie Paci – April 10  
 Diane Weber – April 10  
 Marshall Dyer – April 15  
 Phil Shoulberg – April 18  
 Diane McCoy – April 23  
 John Robinson – April 26  
 Liz Walker – April 30



## MEAL A MONTH SHOPPING LISTS

### March Shopping List

Canned Ham • Macaroni and Cheese  
 Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)  
 Canned Fruit in own juices  
 Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
 Toothbrushes • Tooth Paste • Dental Floss

### April Shopping List

Canned Turkey • Brown Rice • Canned Corn (low or no salt)  
 Applesauce (in plastic, no sugar added)  
 Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
 Peanut Butter • Real Fruit Jelly • Dried Fruits

## MISSING SOMEONE?

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March 2022</b>		<b>1</b> <b>10:30 AM Staff Meeting</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Communications Team - Church Office	<b>2</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room <b>6:00 PM - 9:30 PM</b> Bridge Club - Inglis Room <b>7:00 PM Worship</b>	<b>3</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Canterbury Bells - Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301G - Parlor	<b>4</b> <b>World Day of Prayer</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM First Saturday - Collection for Period Supplies
<b>6</b> <b>Sacrament of Christ's Table</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Brown Baggers <b>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Nursery Care Available <b>10:00 AM Worship (All Ages)</b> <b>11:05 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>2:00 PM</b> Announcers/Liturgists Conference - Zoom	<b>7</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall	<b>8</b> <b>10:30 AM Staff Meeting</b> <b>6:30 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Confirmation Class <b>6:30 PM</b> Practicing Our Faith - Inglis Room	<b>9</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room <b>6:00 PM - 9:30 PM</b> Bridge Club - Inglis Room <b>7:00 PM Lenten Study: Eve (Zoom)</b>	<b>10</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Canterbury Bells - Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301G - Parlor <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir - Practice	<b>11</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> AA #582 - Dickens Room	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Daylight-Saving Time Begins</b> <b>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Nursery Care Available <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> <b>10:15 AM</b> Kids' Church <b>11:05 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship	<b>14</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall <b>7:00 PM</b> Three Ministries (Zoom)	<b>15</b> <b>10:30 AM Staff Meeting</b>	<b>16</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room <b>6:00 PM - 9:30 PM</b> Bridge Club - Inglis Room <b>7:00 PM Lenten Study: Hagar (Zoom)</b>	<b>17</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Canterbury Bells - Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301G - Parlor <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir - Practice	<b>18</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> AA #582 - Dickens Room <b>8:00 PM</b> Webster Stamp Club	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>First Day of Spring</b> <b>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Nursery Care Available <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> <b>10:15 AM</b> Kids' Church <b>11:05 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>3:00 PM</b> Concert: The Irish Tenors	<b>21</b> <b>4:00 PM</b> Executive Ministry (Zoom) <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall	<b>22</b> <b>10:30 AM Staff Meeting</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Lady Elect - Jacquie Bryant's House	<b>23</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room <b>6:00 PM - 9:30 PM</b> Bridge Club - Inglis Room <b>7:00 PM Lenten Study: Zilpah &amp; Bilhah (Zoom)</b>	<b>24</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Canterbury Bells - Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301G - Parlor <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir - Practice	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Nursery Care Available <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> <b>10:15 AM</b> Kids' Church <b>11:05 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>11:20 AM</b> Adult Ed: "Legacy Group"	<b>28</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall	<b>29</b> <b>10:30 AM Staff Meeting</b> <b>6:30 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Confirmation Class	<b>30</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room <b>6:00 PM - 9:30 PM</b> Bridge Club - Inglis Room <b>7:00 PM Lenten Study: Shiphrah &amp; Puah (Zoom)</b>	<b>31</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Canterbury Bells - Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301G - Parlor <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir - Practice		



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>APRIL 2022</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>First Saturday</b> Drive Through
<b>3</b> <b>Sacrament of Christ's Table</b> 9:00 AM Brown Baggers 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Nursery Care Available 10:00 AM Worship (All Ages) 11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship 3:00 PM Ryan Fogg Piano Recital	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall	<b>5</b> <b>Election Day</b> 10:30 AM <b>Staff</b> <b>Meeting</b> 1:00 PM Communications Team - Church Office	<b>6</b> 9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room 7:00 PM Lenten Study: Huldah (Zoom)	<b>7</b> 6:00 PM Canterbury Bells - Practice 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G - Parlor 7:30 PM Chancel Choir - Practice	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:00 PM League of Women Voters Trivia Night
<b>10</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Nursery Care Available 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Kids' Church 11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship	<b>11</b> 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall 7:00 PM Three Ministries (Zoom)	<b>12</b> 10:30 AM <b>Staff</b> <b>Meeting</b> 6:30 PM Practicing Our Faith - Inglis Room	<b>13</b> 9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room 6:00 PM	<b>14</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship Service 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G - Parlor	<b>15</b> <b>Good Friday</b> 7:00 PM "Good Friday Blues" – Worship Service	<b>16</b> 10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 AM Cross Decorating in the Jubilee Garden
<b>17</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Nursery Care Available 10:00 AM Worship 11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship	<b>18</b> <b>Easter Monday</b> <b>(Office Closed)</b> 4:00 PM Executive Ministry (Zoom) 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall	<b>19</b> 10:30 AM <b>Staff</b> <b>Meeting</b>	<b>20</b> 9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>21</b> 6:00 PM Canterbury Bells - Practice 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G - Parlor 7:30 PM Chancel Choir - Practice	<b>22</b> <b>Earth Day</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Youth Game Night - Memorial Hall
<b>24</b> 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Nursery Care Available 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Kids' Church 11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship	<b>25</b> 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall	<b>26</b> 10:30 AM <b>Staff</b> <b>Meeting</b> 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Lady Elect – Marilyn Davis' House	<b>27</b> <b>Administrative</b> <b>Professionals Day</b> 9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>28</b> 6:00 PM Canterbury Bells - Practice 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G - Parlor 7:30 PM Chancel Choir - Practice	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM Webster Groves Herb Society Plant Sale



**10 West Lockwood Avenue  
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*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

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