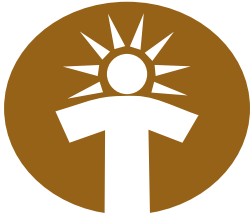


# Welcome!

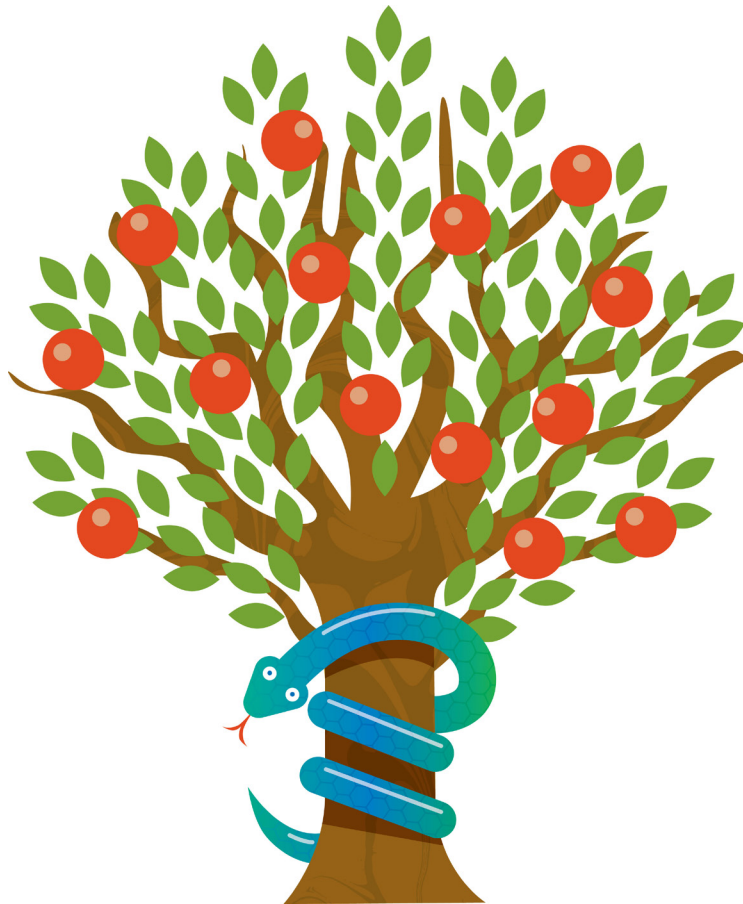
First Congregational Church of Webster Groves  
United Church of Christ



*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

MARCH 6, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT  
SUNDAY IN UCC WOMEN'S WEEK



*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.*

*Due to the surge of infections from the Omicron variant of Covid 19, we are requiring that everyone wear a mask indoors at First Congregational Church.*

**PRELUDE** *Erbarm' Dich Mein, O Herre Gott* (BWV 721) J. S. Bach

**WELCOME** Laura Cooper, *Liturgist*

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive – Leader; **People**) Laura Cooper

*Adapted from Ecclesiasticus 24 (with echoes of John 1)*

Wisdom is telling her story in the midst of her people:

**“I was born out of the heart of the Most High,” she says.**

“Alone I searched for a place to rest.

**I looked everywhere to live.**

Then the Creator of all things instructed me:

**‘Pitch your tent here in this place.’**

So in the beloved community I took up residence.

**I have taken root in these people.**

I have grown tall as an oak tree,

**I have taken on many colors.**

I have spread out my branches like a candelabra.

**My blossoms bear the fruit of openness and care. Approach and take your fill.”**

Come, let us seek Wisdom at work in all lives,

**and especially in the lives of her daughters!**

**\*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.**

**\*HYMN** *God of the Women* C. W. Gillette  
(Tune: SLANE)

God of the women who answered your call, trusting your promise, giving their all,  
women like Hagar and Hannah and Ruth\_\_ give us their courage to live in your truth.

God of the women long put to the test, left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed, quiet-ly asking: “Who smiled at my birth?”\_\_ in Jesus’ dying you show us our worth.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all, may we be joyful in answering your call.

Give us the strength of your Spirit so near\_\_ that we may share in your ministry here.

### RITUAL OF APPROACH

*Prayer of Confession* (Responsive)

Laura Cooper

Holy God, you spoke to Eve in a garden, to Hagar in the wilderness, to Sarah in three persons, to Mary of Nazareth through an angel, to Mary of Bethany at Jesus’ feet, and to Mary of Magdala, as the resurrected Christ.

**They brought us new insight, new promise, renewing hope, revolutionary ideas, resounding blessing, and good news.**

However, your Church for generations chose to curse Eve, to belittle Hagar, to shame Sarah, to dehumanize the Nazarene Mary, to shy from the Bethanite, and to doubt the Magdalene.

**We have been slow to accept, hesitant to allow, resistant to submit, and reluctant to change. Forgive us, we pray. Remake us so that we may be ready ever more, to attend your word of loving kindness, of compassion, of faithfulness, of truth, no matter whose mouth may utter it, in Christ’s name. Amen.**

*Silence for Personal Confessions*

*Assurance of Pardon* (Responsive)

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

The goal of salvation was Christ, is Christ, and Christ leads us on unto a new day, full of purpose and renewal.

**What’s past is past. God’s grace in Jesus sets us free to be the Church we are called to be. Thanks be to God.**

### RETELLING THE STORY

as remembered by Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

*From the Law*

Genesis 3:1-7

*Women’s Lectionary*

Now the serpent had more naked intelligence than any other animal of the field that the SOVEREIGN GOD had made. and it said to the woman, “Indeed, did God say, ‘You two shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of any tree in the garden we may eat, though of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden God said, ‘You two shall not eat and shall not touch it lest you two die.’”

Then the serpent said to the woman, “You two will certainly not die, for god knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you two will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her man, who was with her, and he ate.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

*Response.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*Adoration*

Florence Price

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*“Eve, Mother of Human Intellect”*

Rev. Denoon

**SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S TABLE**

*Prayers of Joy and Concern*

*Invitation*

*Preparation for Communion*

*Song of the Supper*

Iona Community

*Refrain.*

Oh, the food comes from the baker, the drink comes from the vine;

The words come from the Savior, “I will meet you in bread and wine.”

*Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)*

Translation by Denoon

**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.**

*Distribution*

*Communion is served in the pews, first the bread and then the cup. The bread is gluten-free. Wine is white; grape juice is red. Each is consumed at the indication of the Pastor, unless this presents a hardship for the individual.*

*\*Prayer after Communion (Unison)*

**We give you thanks, O God, for blessing us around this table with the presence of Christ. Send us forth, rejoicing, with our siblings in faith, to share your abundant love and grace with all we meet. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*Praise the Source of Faith and Learning*

Thomas Troeger

(Tune: HYFRYDOL)

Praise the source of faith and learning that has sparked and stoked the mind with a passion for discerning how the world has been designed.

Let the sense of wonder flowing from the wonders we survey keep our faith forever growing and renew our need to pray.

As two currents in a river fight each other’s undertow,  
till converging they deliver one coherent steady flow,  
blend, O God, our faith and learning till they carve a single course,  
till they join as one, returning praise and thanks to you, their Source.

**OPPORTUNITIES ARISING**

Laura Cooper

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Denoon

**POSTLUDE**

*Two Settings of 'O Sacred Head'*

J. Pachelbel,  
Flor Peeters

*During the Postlude, we encourage you to greet those around you safely, or to remain at your seat to enjoy the music until it has ended. In the spirit of diversity, please be attentive to the possibility that one who is seated may be meditating.*

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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](https://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

**Lenten Enrichment Session, this Wednesday, March 9 at 7:00pm on Zoom (go to [bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent))** – Reflecting on “*Eve, Mother of Human Intellect.*” After an opening devotion, including music by our friend Katie Noland, we will do a deep dive together into the person and legacy of Eve.

Join us each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening, as we are reintroduced to important biblical women – **Eve** (today and Wednesday); **Hagar** (March 13 and 16); **Zilpah and Bilhah** (March 20 and 23, presented by Jan Barnes and Sue Leary); **Shiphrah and Puah** (March 27 and 30, Dave Denoon); **Huldah** (April 3 and 6, Halley Kim). Sermons on **Mary of Nazareth** and **Mary of Magdala** also will be featured on Palm Sunday and Easter, respectively, but without enrichment sessions.

**Maunder Thursday** worship, on April 14 at 7:00pm, and **Good Friday Blues**, on April 15 at 7, will also present perspectives of and about biblical women – the ten who were likely at the Last Supper table (Thursday) and others who suffered similar fates to that of Jesus (Friday).

### **The Giving Store is Officially Open for Business!**

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

There are loads of food, parties, outings, vacation opportunities and other fabulous items for sale. Every purchase goes towards our Benevolence Fund, allowing us to assist needy organizations.

## **Bringing Our Stories Before God – A Zoom Orientation Sunday, March 6, at 2:00pm**

For the Sundays in February, we have heard examples from Pastor Dave, Halley our Pastoral Assistant, and church member Marilyn Davis of personal stories about foibles, missteps, or simply a sense of isolation that eventually led them to consider how God was present with them and drawing them into new ways of being. We all have stories like this to share, and it is helpful for others to hear them. Thus, we know we are not alone on our spiritual journeys.

Our Worship Planning team is inviting members and friends of the church to consider offering such stories as well about themselves, and to serve as Liturgists when they do. We're beginning by inviting our team of Announcers, but even if you aren't in the regular rotation of Announcers, you're welcome to join in!

**This afternoon, at 2:00pm on Zoom using the link [bit.ly/FCCWG-Stories](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-Stories)**, Pastor Dave Denoon and Pastoral Assistant Halley Kim will offer an orientation to such story-sharing, as well as a process by which you can make your story part of some Sunday worship soon.

## **Mayfield Mission Fundraiser INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AWESOMENESS—March 10, 2022!**

On December 10, 2021, a violent long-tracked tornado hit the city of Mayfield. Many of us saw the devastating videos that day and in the days to come of the effects of such a horrific storm.

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves invites you to participate in the **International Day of Awesomeness on March 10, 2022**. This is a day in which we can choose to participate in a remarkable thing, to be awesome! We invite you to join **IN AWESOMENESS** by providing support to Mayfield, Kentucky, through your gifts of financial aid.

For information on how you can help, go to: <https://firstchurchwg.org/mayfield-mission-fundraiser/>

## **Aid Sought for South Sudanese Tailors**

Some of you will remember our friend and former church member, the Rev. Gershon Dotse. Gershon, a minister in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana, became a chaplain in the Ghanaian military in 2019 and is currently serving with a peacekeeping unit in a sorely impoverished region of South Sudan.

His battalion has partnered with churches there in a relief effort, and Gershon now is appealing to friends in America for aid. As part of his battalion's assistance in these Christian communities, they have committed resources to training some of the locals in tailoring. They are teaching on sewing machines provided by the military, but the poor tailors of South Sudan will need their own so that they may practice their new trade. Gershon is asking us to consider donating to this cause. Read more about Gershon's mission: [https://firstchurchwg.org/donate/south\\_sudan/](https://firstchurchwg.org/donate/south_sudan/)

## **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

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

### **Sunday, March 6**

**9:00 AM** Nursery Care Available

**9:00 AM** Brown Baggers

**10:00 AM** Worship (All Ages)

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

**2:00 PM** Announcers/Liturgists Conference (Zoom)

### **Monday, March 7**

**7:00 PM** Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall

### **Tuesday, March 8**

**10:30 AM** Staff Meeting

**6:30 PM** Confirmation Class

**7:00 PM** Practicing Our Faith – Inglis Room

### **Wednesday, March 9**

**9:30 AM** Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

**6:00 PM** Bridge Club - Inglis Room

**7:00 PM** Lenten Enrichment: "Eve, Mother of the Intellect" - Zoom (link TBA)

### **Thursday, March 10**

**6:00 PM** Canterbury Bells Practice

**7:00 PM** Scout Troop 301G – Parlor

**7:30 PM** Chancel Choir Practice

### **Sunday, March 13**

***Daylight Saving Time Begins***

**9:00 AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids' Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
[www.FirstChurchWG.org](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

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Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

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*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

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

