

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

MARCH 13, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



*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.

Masking optional at First Congregational Church.

PRELUDE *Lenten Blues* Cliff Aerie

WELCOME Jane Porchey, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

INTROIT *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* Spiritual

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**) Philippians 2:5-11, ad.

Let the same mind be in all of us that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be seized, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

Then, being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted Jesus and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every heavenly and earthly knee should bend, along with those under the earth.

And now let every tongue here confess that Jesus Christ is Savior, to the glory of God the Sovereign.

***RAISING THE COVENANT** *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**

Blessed Assurance
(No. 473 – *New Century Hymnal*)

Fanny Crosby

RITUAL OF APPROACH

Jane Porchey

Introduction

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Mother God, you know our longings. You have created in us the capacity to love children and form families that are unique. The power of strong bonds between us have transformed us in ways that we could only have dreamed until they were realized. Our bonds have sometimes been challenged because of our imperfections. But, as you promised Hagar, we know that you are with us and all those who come after us. As your children, this promise provides us strength and comfort. In the strong name of your Child Jesus we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

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

Jane Porchey

From the Law

Genesis 16:7-13

Women's Lectionary

Now the messenger of the ALL-SEEING GOD found Hagar by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And the messenger said, "Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, from where have you come and where are you going?"

And she said, "From my mistress Sarai am I fleeing."

The messenger of the INSCRUTABLE GOD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and subject yourself to her."

The messenger of the WELLSPRING OF LIFE said to Hagar, "Greatly will I multiply your seed, so they cannot be counted for multitude." Then the messenger of the FOUNT OF LIFE said to her,

"Look! You are pregnant and shall give birth to a son, and you shall call him Ishmael (meaning *God hears*), for the FAITHFUL ONE has heard of your abuse.

He shall be a wild ass of a man,
with his hand against everyone,
and everyone's hand against him;

Silently now I wait for thee
Ready, my God, thy will to see
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with thy children thus to share
Silently now I wait for thee
Ready, my God, thy will to see
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

Jane Porchey

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Denoon

POSTLUDE

Feeling Good

as sung by Nina Simone

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. When you are ready, please enjoy refreshments in Memorial Hall.

Oikos Ensemble: Kim Fuller-Barnes (vocal), Carolbeth True (piano), Glen Smith (bass), David True (drums), Cliff Aerie (sax)

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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 16 at 7:00pm on Zoom (go to [bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent))** – Join us each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening, as we are reintroduced to important biblical women – **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.

**Maundy 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.

## **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 and war ravaged 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 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

### **Monday, March 14**

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

**7:00 PM** Three Ministries (Zoom)

### **Wednesday, March 16**

**6:00 PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

**7:00 PM** Lenten Study: Hagar (Zoom) <https://bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent>

### **Thursday March 17**

**6:00 PM** Canterbury Bells – Practice

**7:00 PM** Scout Troop 301G – Parlor

**7:00 PM** Chancel Choir – Practice



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[www.FirstChurchWG.org](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

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

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