

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

MARCH 20, 2022
THIRD 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.*

PRELUDE *If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee* Janis Dunson Wilson

WELCOME Roger Barnes, Liturgist

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

INTROIT *Lenten Acclamation* Kenneth T. Kosche
(Canterbury Bells)

CALL TO WORSHIP

***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** *This Is My Song* #591 (NCH)

RITUAL OF APPROACH Roger Barnes

Introduction

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Dear Mother God, we come to You with wounds aching to be healed, with emptiness aching to be filled, with feelings aching to be expressed, with stories aching to be told. Misogyny has wounded us, and we have wounded others by perpetuating misogyny in our unchecked assumptions and behaviors. Help us unlearn deep-rooted patterns of prejudice against femininity and all people who identify as women. Let your love soak into our spirits like a soothing salve, and leave a tingle where we feel an ache, so that all may say "we have met with God today," and no one is turned away. 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*From the Law*

Genesis 30:1-13

Roger Barnes

CEB Storyteller's Bible

When Rachel realized that she could bear Jacob no children, Rachel became jealous of her sister and said to Jacob, "Give me children! If you don't, I may as well be dead." Jacob was angry at Rachel and said, "Do you think I am God? God alone has kept you from giving birth!" She said "Here's my servant, Bilhah. Sleep with her and she will give birth for me. Because of her, I will also have children." So Rachel gave her servant Bilhah to Jacob as his wife, and he slept with her. Bilhah became pregnant and gave birth to a son for Jacob. Rachel said "God has judged in my favor, heard my voice and given me a son." So she named him Dan. Rachel's servant Bilhah became pregnant again and gave birth to a second son for Jacob. Rachel said, "I've competed fiercely with my sister, and now I've won." So she named him Naphtali.

When Leah realized that she had stopped bearing children, she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as his wife. Leah's servant Zilpah gave birth to a son for Jacob, and Leah said, "What good luck!" So she named him Gad. Leah's servant Zilpah gave birth to a second son for Jacob, and Leah said, "I'm happy now because women call me happy." So she named him Asher.

From the Gospel

Luke 13:6-9

CEB Storyteller's Bible

Jesus told this parable: "A man owned a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. He said to his gardener, "Look, I've come looking for fruit on this fig tree for the past three years, and I've never found any. Cut it down! Why should it continue depleting the soil's nutrients?" The gardener responded, "Lord, give it one more year, and I will dig around it and give it fertilizer. Maybe it will produce fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

Response

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.**ANTHEM***Let All Things Now Living*
(Canterbury Bells)

arr. Lloyd Larson

STORYTELLING FOR THE DAY *"By Any Other Name..."*Rev. Susan Leary
Rev. Jan Barnes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

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

PARTING HYMN

God Is My Shephard

#479 (NCH)

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

Roger Barnes

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Toccatina

Clara Wieck

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.

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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 23 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 – **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).

**A few Items Remain in the Giving Store!**

After worship today, you can view some of the remaining Giving Store items. Purchased items that are in the display case may be picked up after worship. The Benevolence Committee members will be available to assist you. If you would like to make a last-minute purchase, you can pay by check or online with a credit card. If you forget your checkbook, we can take your promise to purchase.

There are beautiful hand-crafted iridescent glass bowls and pendants, made by Jacquie Bryant.

It's not too late to sign up for the Garden Party, Cocktail Party, VIP Clydesdale Breeding Farm Tours. **YOU CAN SIGN UP ON SUNDAY!**

VIP Tour of Clydesdale Breeding Farm (limited to 16) \$50 each. Join with friends on a tractor-pulled wagon around the farm. Get up close and personal with Clydesdales who will nudge and whisper in your ear.

Garden Party – August- \$30 per person. Enjoy a lovely evening in Rosemary Hensley's back yard, sharing a potluck dinner with friends.

Cocktail Party – June 25 – \$35 each. Mike Lenard will host a wonderful event at his home with great food and beverage.

The money raised through Benevolence goes to agencies serving people in our community. See a complete list on the church's website.

**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/)

## First Saturday Collection for April

A “drive-thru” collection for supplies needed by families with newborn children will be conducted on Saturday, April 2, from 9:00am until 12:00 noon.

Go to the Nurses for Newborns website for a complete list of items requested:

<https://www.nursesfornewborns.org/donate/missouri-wishlists/>

Then, bring your donations in April.

Newcomers and seasoned members work alongside each other at each First Saturday event. If you would like to be part of the April First Saturday Collection team, please take advantage of our SignUp Genius page (<https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-nurses>).

## 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 20

**9:00 AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids' Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

### Monday, March 21

**4:00 PM** Executive Ministry

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

### Wednesday, March 23

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

### Wednesday, March 23

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

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

**7:00 PM Lenten Enrichment: “Zilpah and Bilhah”** – <https://bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent>

### Thursday, March 24

**6:00 PM** Canterbury Bells Practice

**7:00 PM** Scout Troop 301G – Parlor

**7:30 PM** Chancel Choir Practice

### Sunday, March 27

**9:00 AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids' Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
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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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<https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchwg/>

YouTube

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

