

Welcome!

**First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ**

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

**SEMINARY AND CHURCH VOCATIONS SUNDAY
SOLEMNITY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**



*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 blessings
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 *In Humility, Our Savior* Margaretha Christina de Jong

WELCOME Doug Miller, *Liturgist*
At this time, we invite you to complete an entry in the Friendship Booklet in your pew and to silence the ringer on any cellular device you may have with you.

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

***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** *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding* C. P. Daw, Jr.
No. 182 – *New Century Hymnal*

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

Invitation to Confession (Responsive) based on 1 John 1:8-9 and 2:1
If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate in Jesus Christ the righteous.
Therefore, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Almighty God, you shed light on all people. As we approach the light of your holy mountain, disturb our bleakness, break through our shadows. Pour into our hearts that radiant light which reveals all that we would keep hidden. Cause us to deal honestly with who and how we have been. Let us, with your forgiving Spirit, plot out new directions that engage your word and proclaim your promise. Let us witness and reflect your glory in our present day; through Jesus Christ our Transfigured Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in glory everlasting. Amen.

Silence for Personal Confession

Words of Assurance (Responsive)

Christ is the atonement for our sins, and not for ours alone but for all the sins of the world.

In Christ we know, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary

John Stanley

During the Postlude, we encourage you to greet those around you, 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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Wi-Fi Info

Recommended: fccwg1, fccwg2 or fccwg3
Password for all: firstchurch.

Connecting Remotely to Worship

If you need to join us remotely, Sunday worship each week is streamed live on YouTube, starting at 10am (bit.ly/FCCWG-YT).

How to Donate to First Congregational Church

You may leave a donation in the offering plate in the Narthex, OR
Send a check made payable 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 accompanying QR code.

Finding Your Way at First Church

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

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 members who are homebound, in assisted living, or skilled care – Sharon Beal,
- Marj Courtney, Margery Gable, Shirley Moore, Kitty Pearl, Jan Ver Hagen, Joan Whitford
- All people who are living with dementia, their families, and their caregivers
- People we love who are living with cancer – Margaret Gustafson
- Leo Gomez
- David & Becky Scott
- People with mental illnesses, and those who love and care for them
- Peace with justice

Lady Elect

Tuesday, February 21 at 12:00 noon

Bring your lunch and join Lady Elect in the Parlor for Karaoke! Desserts and drinks will be provided.

Help Needed as we get ready for the Great Church Clean-Out & Rummage Sale

Wednesday, February 22 from 9:00 to 11:00 am

We are looking for any/all helpers to move items to the stage.
Join Phil Shoulberg and others as we clean out the church!

Lent Bible Study

Sundays, Starting February 26 at 11:20 AM

Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week – By Amy-Jill Levine

During Lent this year we will study Amy-Jill Levine's book *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, which focuses on the last week of Jesus' life. Every chapter (and every corresponding Sunday service) considers a particular risk that Jesus or his followers engaged during his final days: risking reputation, righteous anger, challenge, rejection, loss of friends, and temptation. There will be a book discussion every Sunday after church in the Inglis Rm starting on February 26th & culminating on April 2nd. If you would like a copy of the book, please [contact Halley at halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org).

2023 Benevolent Giving Campaign

The 2023 Benevolence Giving Campaign is underway with features of previous campaigns and some new activities.

How can you help?

1. Watch your mailbox for a letter from your BGC Coordinators. We ask you to please make a contribution by writing a check to the church with "Benevolence Campaign" on the memo line or by contributing through the Donate page on our web site.
2. Watch next week's E-News for a first glimpse at the inventory of the Giving Store. Window shop, then read the directions for purchasing some of the appealing goods and services.
3. Watch next week's E-News for information about how to reserve your space or an entire table at the **Not-So-Trivial Trivia Night on March 11**. Register a table of friends, come solo and join a table of friends or make new friends. Tickets are \$25 per person in advance and \$30 at the door. A table can be reserved for \$175. Questions are being prepared to give everyone a chance to show off!
4. Buy something at the Silent Auction or the Oral Auction that will be part of our Trivia Night. Donations to the Benevolence Fund can also be made at that occasion. And, enjoy the spectacular dessert buffet provided by members of Lady Elect.

We look forward to our joint effort at raising money to continue our well-established habit of proclaiming in deed the love of Christ.

For more information or to offer assistance contact Kay Roush, Jeanene Harris, Jane Porchey or Joan Musbach.

Alliance for Interracial Dignity presents Pillars of Community – A Celebration of Local Black History

February 26, 2023 – 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Music, Food, History and More

Eden Seminary Commons at 475 East Lockwood Ave

Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations Committee is composed of church members given the responsibility of fostering a healthy relationship between the pastor and church members. The committee meets bi-monthly and seeks to maintain open communication between pastor, staff, and congregants; it is not a personnel or policy making committee. The discussions of the committee are confidential, thus allowing members the freedom to express varying views.

Current members include Jared Cohen, Annie Sampath, Liu Lin Thio, Patrick Byrne, Jane Porchey, Doug Barton, Pat Doyle-Grace, Moderator Joan Musbach, ex-officio, and Pastor David Denoon.

We encourage all congregants to feel free to discuss with committee members their concerns and views, both positive and negative, about what is going on in the life of the church and bring to light any issues that ought to be discussed.

Habitat for Humanity Update

Back in 1995, St Louis UCC churches assembled an ad hoc group to work with Habitat for Humanity. During the 28-year period since this group of 13 churches has been responsible for 27 affordable homes. First Church's initial representative to this group was Rev. O'Ray Graber. Bob Woodsmall took over for roughly 15 years, and more recently I've had the privilege of representing our church. Unfortunately, Covid and supply chain issues during the last 3 years have slowed progress. Those problems are now pretty much behind us, and we are ready to resume new construction.

In order to build these homes, Habitat requires us to provide dollars as well as sweat equity. First Church makes a sizable contribution from our Benevolence funds. In addition, Samuel UCC in Clayton is once again hosting a St. Patrick's dinner, this year on Saturday March 4. \$20 gets you a Corned Beef dinner with all the trimmings and a choice desert. Every cent raised goes directly to our Habitat effort to provide an affordable home for a deserving family. See me for tickets.

Our UCC group will begin working on our 2023 home in the Look Away Summit neighborhood south of the Chain of Rocks bridge, beginning in March and then through the summer and fall. Once I have a specific date, I will put out a call for workers.

Please consider supporting this project that builds self-reliance as well as stable communities through affordable housing. I will have tickets available today and next Sunday for the Samuel Corned Beef Dinner

Phil Shoulberg

Together Again: The Gateway Open & Affirming Convocation

March 4, 2023 from 9 am – 3 pm

In person at Parkway UCC or on Zoom

For more information or to register: <https://tinyurl.com/ona-convocation>

What's Happening at First Church

Sunday, February 19

Transfiguration Sunday & Seminary Sunday

9:45 AM Nursery Care

10:00 AM **Worship**

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

Monday, February 20

Presidents Day – Office Closed

7:00PM Executive Ministry (Zoom)

Tuesday, February 21

10:30AM Staff Meeting (Office)

6:30PM Lady Elect (Parlor)

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday

9:00 AM Yoga (Inglis Room)

7:00 PM Bridge Club (Inglis Room)

7:00 PM Adult Confirmation (Zoom)

Thursday, February 16

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells

7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, February 26

9:45 AM Nursery Care

10:00 AM **Worship**

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:20 AM Lent Bible Study



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Webster Groves, MO 63119
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Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
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erequadt@eden.edu

Custodian – Mark Metcalf

Weekend & Events Custodians –
Dianna Konopka and Kayla Skiles

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
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Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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