

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

FEBRUARY 26, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



**“BEHOLD,
YOUR
KING
IS COMING
TO YOU.”**

MATTHEW 21:5, ESV

*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.*

Hymns and songs in our order of worship are to be found in the New Century Hymnal, a large black volume in the rack directly in front of you; or in the Pilgrim Hymnal, a smaller red volume in the rack underneath. Lyrics are also displayed on the monitor in front.

PRELUDE

Prelude in G Minor

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Cliff Aerie, *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

OPENING WORDS (Responsive – Leader; **People**)

adapted from Zechariah 9

Rejoice greatly and shout aloud! Look, your Ruler comes to you triumphant and victorious.

Humble and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Your Ruler shall cut off the chariot and the war-horse from your capitals, and the battle-bow shall be cut off.

Our Ruler commands peace to the nations, governing from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Your Savior announces, “Because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the pit.”

What goodness and beauty! Grain and new wine shall make the people flourish.

*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

Hail to the Lord’s Anointed
No. 105, vv. 1 & 4 – *Pilgrim Hymnal*

J. Montgomery

*RITUAL OF APPROACH

We Share Our Stories Before God

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious, Loving God, you are close to the brokenhearted and you save the crushed in spirit. When our belonging is at stake, we are poorly equipped to defend the vulnerable, and sometimes we choose self-preservation over risking our reputation. We ask your forgiveness for our regrettable actions, and we rest in the assurance of your grace.

Sometimes what we really need is help in forgiving ourselves. Our shame is such a heavy burden. As far as the east is from the west you have removed our transgressions from us – help us to believe it. Help us to be free. May your radiant light obliterate our shame. Amen.

Silence for Personal Confession

Words of Assurance

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

THE WORD SHARED

From the Gospels

Matthew 21:1-11

Logos Readers

Pew Bible, p. 898

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Memorial Acclamation from “Gospel Mass”

Robert Ray

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“Risking Our Reputation”

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Share Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE OFFER OF OURSELVES

Invitation

Offertory Music

**Song of Praise*

Doxology

Tune: OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

Praise God, above you heavenly host:

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

What blessings you have given us, O God, and here we make gifts to you from our substance and our skills. Taking risks with love and labor, we would extend your Spirit of love and justice into the world, in Christ’s name. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Jesus Shall Reign

Isaac Watts, alt.

No. 300, vv. 1,3,5 – *New Century Hymnal*

***BENEDICTION**

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.

Logos Readers today: Cliff Aerie, Roger Barnes, Terri Thompson and Andrea Welnick

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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, Becky Scott 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 Scott
- People with mental illnesses, and those who love and care for them
- Peace with justice

Lent Bible Study
Sundays, Starting Today 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 disciples of Jesus face: questionable reputation, righteous anger, challenge, rejection, loss of friends, and temptation. Book discussions begin today in the Inglis Room and continue through April 2nd. If you would like a copy of the book, please [contact Halley at halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org).

Preview The 2023 Giving Store

The Giving Store is now open for "Window Shopping." See the insert to preview all the exciting parties, goods and services that await you.

You may begin actual purchases on March 1 at 7:00 am. Directions for buying and paying will be in next week's eNews.

Payment for all purchases must be in the church office no later than noon on Friday, March 10. To pay for a purchased item, you may also be able to pay online. Items not bought and paid for by that time will be made available in the Silent Auction at **The Not-So-Trivial Trivia Night** on March 11.

The Not-So-Trivial Trivia Night
Saturday, March 11, 2023

It is time to make your reservations for the **Not-So-Trivial Trivia Night**.

Register a table of friends or come solo and join a table of friends and make new friends. Tickets are \$25 per person in advance and \$30 at the door. A table of eight can be reserved for \$175. Bring your preferred party food and beverages. Beer and wine are allowed. Coffee, tea, water and lemonade will be provided. Doors will open at 6:15. The trivia competition will begin at 7:00. There will be both a silent auction and an oral auction during the evening of competition. In addition, the members of Lady Elect will provide a delicious dessert buffet to "sweeten" the evening.

Registration forms are available on the table in the narthex or register on our website at www.firstchurchwg.org/benevolence.

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**

Today, from 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Music, Food, History and More
Eden Seminary Commons at 475 East Lockwood Ave

**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>

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

What's Happening at First Church

Sunday, February 26

First Sunday in Lent

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

Monday, February 27

7:00PM Peace & Justice Team (Zoom)

7:00PM Scout Troop 301B & 301G (Dickens Room)

Tuesday, February 28

10:30AM Staff Meeting (Office)

Wednesday, March 1

9:30 AM Yoga (Inglis Room)

7:00 PM Bridge Club (Inglis Room)

Thursday, March 2

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells

7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, March 5

Sacrament of Christ's Table

UCC Women's Week begins

9:00 AM Brown Baggers

9:45 AM Nursery Care

10:00 AM Worship

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:20 AM Lent Bible Study



10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
JWMusbach@gmail.com

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon
DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org

Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim
Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi
Admin@FirstChurchWG.org

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke
Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org

Student Minister – Gabriel Requadt
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
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes
laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I
lesrhs@sbcglobal.net

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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YouTube

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

