

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

MARCH 12, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

AMISTAD SUNDAY



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 *Reflection on O Perfect Love* John Carter

WELCOME

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**) Iona Community

Our lips sing praise and our whole selves rejoice in the God who makes us free.

We gather, recognizing that not all human beings have known this freedom.

The divine will was made known in Eden and in Egypt; in Gettysburg and in Cape Town.

Born in freedom, redeemed from slavery, our destiny in Christ is liberty.

***RAISING THE COVENANT** (Unison)

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**

In Egypt under Pharaoh
No. 574 – *New Century Hymnal*

Dosia Carlson

THE WORD SHARED

From the Gospels

Mark 12:13-17, 41-44

The Logos Readers[†]
Pew Bible, pp. 923, 924

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.

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

A prayer for *Amistad* Sunday

**Invitation*

Jesus, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.

But only say the word, and your servant will be healed.

**Confession as a Community* (Unison)

We are thankful, God, for all the blessings of our lives. Our joys are great enough that we might imagine ourselves impossibly distant

from the suffering and pain of enslaved people, past and present. Or we might consider ourselves powerless to address the sufferings of such people today. But today we remember the heritage we have in the cause of human freedom. We celebrate our spiritual ancestors who worked for the freedom of the Mendi people on the slave ship, *Amistad*. May that ship, like the cross, remind us that human evil persists. May that ship, like the cross, remind us of the power of your love. Forgive us, we pray, when we have surrendered to powers of injustice. May we, through the same Holy Spirit that guided our forebears in faith, shed the false, un-neighborly, covetous, and dishonorable desires of human sin and turn instead into the way that brings life; in Christ's name. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**Words of Assurance (Responsive)*

The God who brought the Israelites out of Egypt is the Power freeing us from our sin.

If we live in the grace of God's love, as we go in the way of Jesus, then surely we shall find mercy along our road toward freedom. Amen.

**Song of Praise*

Sing Amen

Trad. S. African

No. 760 (English) – *New Century Hymnal*

ANTHEM

Draw the Circle Wide
(Chancel Choir)

Gordon Light, Mark Miller

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side-by-side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: No one stands alone!
Standing side-by-side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Risking Challenge"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayers of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

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

Opportunities to Give and Gather

**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)

Gracious God, works of faith and labors of love have made possible our gifts to you. By your own faithfulness and love, bless these gifts, we pray, so that through your church your message and mission may be shared not in word only but in power and Spirit and with full conviction. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life
No. 543, vv. 1,5,6 – *New Century Hymnal*

F. Mason North

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Recessional

John Carter

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.

† Today's Logos Readers are (in order of appearance) Gabriel Requadt, Jan Barnes, Nina Thompson, and Andrea Welnick.

~ ~ ~

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 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 are studying 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 are in the Inglis Room. If you would like a copy of the book, please [contact Halley at halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org).

April / May Edition of Covenant News Deadline March 20

Please email any/all information to Debbie at admin@firstchurchwg.org.

Town Hall on Racial Covenants – Today at 2:00 PM 627 Cornell Avenue | 314-962-6488

The Webster Groves Clergy Alliance will host a Town Hall Meeting about racial covenants, today at 2pm at Unity United Methodist Church. This informational session will address concerns about the presence of racially restrictive covenants in the deeds of many Webster Groves properties. Although discrimination of this kind has been illegal since 1948, many homeowners and others want something done about the racist language. Find out what you can do, by attending this important meeting.

Easter Library Books Here in Our Holiday Library

There are several books in our library for adults and children relating to Easter. They are on display waiting to be checked out! Just sign the card in the back of each book you take out and leave the cards in the basket on the library desk.

One Great Hour of Sharing – Special Collection on March 19

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

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. 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. 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.

Phil Shoulberg

Volunteers Needed at Emmanuel Episcopal on Bompat

You may know that we house a food center that serves Webster and neighboring communities. Unfortunately, three of our regular volunteers are out on extended medical leave.

Typically, volunteers choose one shift a week (2.5 hours long) but many of our volunteers come in less often. Training will be provided (about one hour long). Volunteers often have time to read or work on other hobbies in between client visits.

If you are interested, please contact Katie Gregston. kgregston@emmanuelepiscopal.org

What's Happening at First Church

Sunday, March 12

Amistad Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Begins

9:00 AM Brown Baggers

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

2:00 PM Webster Groves Town Hall on Racial Covenants (Unity United Methodist Church)

Monday, March 14

7:00 PM Three Ministries

Tuesday, March 14

1:00 PM Communications Team (Office)

Wednesday, March 15

10:30AM Staff Meeting (Office)

7:00 PM Bridge Club (Inglis Room)

7:00 PM Adult Confirmation (Zoom)

Thursday, March 16

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells

7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Friday, March 17

4:00 – 7:00 PM Visitation: Paul Davis

Saturday, March 18

10:00 AM Memorial Service: Paul Davis

Sunday, March 19

"One Great Hour of Sharing" Special Offering

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



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.

Follow us on

Facebook

www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchwg/>

YouTube

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

