

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

MARCH 5, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
UCC WOMEN'S WEEK



*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 *Andante Religioso* Léon Boëlmann

WELCOME Julie Cohen, *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 THE BELL

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP *Disciples of Christ* A Reading for Women's Week
Recorded for March 7, 2021

Readers

Halley Kim, Linda Kopetti, Elyse von Weise, Marilyn Davis, Jane Porchey,
Margaret Gustafson, Gwen Denoon, Kedra Tolson, Pat Doyle-Grace, Andrea Welnick,
Nina Thompson, Joan Musbach, Kelsey Tolson

***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** *God of the Women* Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
(Tune: SLANE)

God of the women who answered your call,
trusting your promise, giving their all,
women like Hagar and Hannah and Ruth___
give us their courage to live in your truth.

God of the women long put to the test,
left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" ___
in Jesus' dying you show us our worth.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
may we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near___
that we may share in your ministry here.

RITUAL OF APPROACH

We Bring Our Stories Before God

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God, we often find it difficult to navigate life. We'll feel as if we must choose mercy or justice, silence or speaking, grace or retribution. We struggle to know how we should respond to many situations: is this a time for mercy and understanding, we wonder, or is this a time for anger in the service of justice? Sometimes we tell ourselves that we are being merciful when really we are avoiding discomfort. Sometimes we tell ourselves that we are being just when really we are causing harm. Forgive us for these blunders, usually caused by our desire to see ourselves in the best possible light. Help us to approach our circumstances with wisdom, and to engage based on what's needed and not on what's easy. Amen.

Silence for Personal Confession

Words of Assurance

**Song of Praise*

Sing Amen

Trad. S. African

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

THE WORD SHARED

From the Prophets

Isaiah 56:6-8

Logos Readers[†]
Pew Bible, p. 672

From the Gospels

Mark 11:15-17

p. 922

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Put Your Hand in the Hand

Gene MacLellan

Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea
Take a look at yourself and you can look at others differently
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee

Every time I look into the Holy Book I want to tremble (tremble)
Or when I read about the part where the carpenter cleared the temple (temple)
For the buyers and the sellers were no different fellas than what I profess to be
And it causes me shame to know we're not the people we should be

So, put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea
Take a look at yourself and you can look at others differently
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Risking Righteous Anger"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

WE OFFER OF OURSELVES

Invitation

**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)*

To your house the Christ came, O God, and found there hypocrisy and falsehood. Now here we are, each of us a temple to you with gifts toward your work. We pray that the gifts may be worthy of your blessing. For we know ourselves, but we also seek your will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE

Setting composed by Zipporah Lee, 2014

Entrance to the Table (Responsive – Celebrant; People)

It feels like a new beginning, ... and a wide, accepting love.

We embrace fully that all are welcome to partake of this meal, given to us in the love of Christ.

Prayer (Unison)

Divine Spirit, we thank you most gladly. You walk beside us every moment in love and light, inviting us to live out the life for which we are meant. You have taught us justice and peace. You sustain us in our trials and rejoicing. You are there when we seek you and desire your presence in this place or wherever we go. We are ever so thankful for the transformation we experience in ourselves because of the love of Christ, given to us through his life, death, and resurrection. We ask you to bless this bread and cup of which we will partake. Through it, make us the body of Christ, one with another and with God's entire creation. May this meal be the beginning of our renewed vision of a healing world. Amen.

Blessing of the Elements (including Prayer of Our Savior in Unison)

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

We remember on the night when Jesus and his disciples shared this same meal...

Let us sow love, faith, light, joy, and hope.

Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples saying.

This is my body, broken for you. Take, eat, and remember me.

Grant that we may not so much seek as we find...

In the same way, he took the cup, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples saying: This is the cup of covenant, poured out for all people.

Take, drink, and remember me.

For it is in giving that we receive, in seeking to understand that we have understood...

United in the Spirit, let us pray in words like those Christ our Savior has taught:

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.

Distribution of the Elements

Communion is served in the pews, first the bread and then the cup. The bread is gluten-free.

Wine is white; grape juice is red. Each is consumed at the indication of the Pastor, unless this presents a hardship for the individual.

Sending from the Table

We give thanks for the refreshment at your table that we have received, loving and treasured God.

For Christ has no body but ours, no hands and no feet on earth but ours; ours are the eyes with which God looks with compassion on this world.

Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Ours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

***PARTING HYMN**

We Would Be Building
No. 607, vv. 1,3 – *New Century Hymnal*

Purd E. Deitz

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Andante from Grande Pièce Symphonique

César Franck

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: Jan Barnes, Laurel Hayes, Rebecca Novak and Gabriel Requadt

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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 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).

The 2023 Giving Store has Officially Opened for Business!

The Giving Store opened on March 1 at 7:00 am and the items are “flying off the shelves!” To make a purchase visit: <https://firstchurchwg.org/benevolence-giving/giving-store/>

Items not bought and paid for by noon on Friday, March 10, will be available in the Silent Auction at *The Not-So-Trivial Trivia Night* on March 11.

It is Time to Make Your Reservations for *The Not-So-Trivial Trivia Night* Saturday, March 11, 2023

It's not too late to register a table of friends or come solo and join a table. 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 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-giving. 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.

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. 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.

Phil Shoulberg

What's Happening at First Church

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 (All Ages)**

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:20 AM Lent Bible Study

7:00 PM Bridge Club (Inglis Room)

Thursday, March 9

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells

7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Saturday, March 11

6:15 PM Doors Open for Trivia Night

7:00 PM Let the game begin!

Monday, March 6

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

Tuesday, March 7

10:30AM Staff Meeting (Office)

Wednesday, March 8

9:30 AM Yoga (Inglis Room)

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



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

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