



Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

**MARCH 19, 2023
FOURTH 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 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 you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.

PRELUDE

Mr. Syms

John Coltrane

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

INTEROIT

*Prelude and Dance
Canterbury Bells*

Judy Hunnicutt

*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

*O God, How We Have Wandered
No. 202, v 1 & 3 – New Century Hymnal*

Kevin Nichols

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Gabriel Requadt, Student Minister

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

Matthew 7:3-5, Mark 2:16-18

**Invitation*

Why do you see the splinter that's in your brother's or sister's eye, but not the log in your own eye? How can you say to your brother or sister, 'Let me take the splinter out of your eye,' when there's a log in your eye? You deceive yourself!

Take the log out of your eye, and then you'll see clearly to take the splinter out of your sibling's eye.

When legal experts from among the Pharisees saw that Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples, "Why is he eating with them!?" Overhearing this, Jesus said to them,

"Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. I didn't come to call righteous people, but sinners."

*Confession as a Community (Unison)

Holy God, we so easily deceive ourselves. We are quick to judge others but slow to listen to thoughtful critique about ourselves. Forgive us for perceiving logs in other people's eyes while

neglecting the logs in our own. Forgive us for claiming to see things more accurately and objectively than we really do. Help us cultivate a community and a world where everyone can tell the truth about themselves: we are flawed yet beloved. Help us confess our failings and make amends when necessary. It is not the healthy who need a physician but the sick – we are the sick. Jesus, thank you for being a Friend of Sinners. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**Song of Assurance*

Contemplation

McCoy Tyner

THE WORD SHARED

From the Gospels

John 12: 1-8 *The Story We Tell*

The Logos Readers[†]

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“From Separation to Solidarity”

Halley Kim

ANTHEM

Come As You Are

The Many

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayers of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior

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. 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

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love
No. 498 – *New Century Hymnal*

Tom Colvin

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Bridge Over Troubled Waters

Simon and Garfunkel

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: Laurel Hayes, Nina Thompson, Terri Thompson, & Rebecca Novak.

Many thanks to the Oîkos Jazz Ensemble for their music this morning! Band members are Kim Fuller Barnes (vocal), Carolbeth True (piano), Glenn Smith (bass), David True (drums), and Rev. Cliff Aerie (sax). Oîkos and Logos Readers are manifestations of First Church's Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts.

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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

One Great Hour of Sharing – TODAY

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.

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:contact.Halley.at.halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org).

April / May Edition of Covenant News Deadline March 20

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

Easter Library Books Here in Our Holaday 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.

The Rummage Sale is Coming!

And it will not happen without YOUR HELP! Please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/rummage-sale> to sign up to volunteer, either in the days preceding the event or at the sale itself! We need movers, sorters, organizers, pricers, gophers, baggers, and sellers! You will also be able to sign up in the narthex each of the next 4 Sundays, a la Hanging of the Greens. Let's all pitch in and make The Great Church Clean Up a smashing success!

Habitat for Humanity Update

The Corned Beef Dinner at Samuel UCC was a huge success. The meal was truly delicious and there were members from 16 different UCC congregations that came together to enjoy it. \$10,000 was raised and every penny will go towards our UCC Habitat build that will provide affordable housing for a deserving family. Sincere thanks to members of the congregation who contributed to this effort.

Phil Shoulberg

The Not-So-Trivial Trivia Night was a great success! A lot of fun was had, and the total money raised will be announced next week.

Volunteers Needed at Emmanuel Episcopal on Bompart

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 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

Monday, March 20

7:00 PM Three Ministries (Zoom)

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

Tuesday, March 21

10:30AM Staff Mtg (Office)

12:00PM Lady Elect (Inglis)

Wednesday, March 22

9:30AM Yoga w/Jeanene (Inglis)

6:00PM Bridge Club (Inglis)

Thursday, March 23

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells

7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Saturday, March 25

10:00AM Ken Perry Memorial

Sunday, March 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

Monday, March 27

7:00PM Peace & Justice (Zoom)

7:00PM Troops 301B&G (Dickens)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of Webster Groves

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10 West Lockwood Avenue

Webster Groves, MO 63119

314-962-0475

www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

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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

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Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry

Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes

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Director, Center for Counseling & Healing

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Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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