



Covenant News

April & May 2023



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FROM THE PASTOR

Naming and Glorifying

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father/Mother, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Mother/Father, glorify your name."

(John 12:27-28, NRSV)

In the gospel according to John, Jesus says the words above, only a few paragraphs after riding into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. Through most of the season of Easter, this year, I am committed to sharing messages with you that focus on the concepts of identity and naming, and of acting or praying in someone's name. The last of these messages will come on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, when I will invite us to be wondering together what it means to be an *ekklesia* (Greek for, "those who are called out") in God's name, in Jesus' name, and as people of a Holy Spirit. How shall we assume and adopt such an identity for ourselves?

I'm planting a bit of a seed now, as we are approaching Easter, in the interest of that message, come Pentecost.

As I write this, there are movements across the country to stifle the voices and sully the reputations of LGBTQ+ people, literally to *unname them*, in the belief that doing so will be to protect young children. Men in drag shouldn't read to little ones from storybooks, they argue. Others are persisting that no one ought to be talking about their sexuality in a classroom setting. Gender-affirming care, these folk assert, is child abuse, and gender-affirming surgery for children must be outlawed (even though there is no such practice). I have watched with pride and admiration as one colleague of mine and her transgender son, age 10, have appeared on national and local news and in the halls of power in Jefferson City, testifying to the importance of affirming *who her son is*, wherever he may be.

We already exist in a culture which systemically discriminates against Black and brown people, women, and people with disabilities, using all kinds of prejudices and other assumptions about the differences between people as its excuses. There is no need for more such measures, when we are desperately trying to emerge from an already-discriminatory past.

If our acceptance of the label "Open and Affirming" is anything more than a label, then it would appear that we have some work to do, to prevent the damage that is being done by some in God's name and by even more in the name of little children. It is indeed "for this reason that [we] have come to this hour."

This Resurrection season, may we be glorifying God's name in our advocacy and action, as those of a Holy Spirit gathered in Christ's name.

Peace.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY HOSTS SEVERAL ENRICHMENT EVENTS COMING UP THAT WE HOPE YOU WILL ATTEND!

**Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty (MADP)
Sunday, April 30th at 11:15 am during Coffee Hour.**



A statewide organization working to repeal the capital punishment in Missouri. They educate both citizens and legislators about the costs of the death penalty. Join us to learn about MADP's work on this important topic. ***Childcare Provided.***

**After you hear from MADP,
join us to watch the movie *Just Mercy*!
We will gather in the Kishlar Room on Wednesday, May
3rd at 5:30pm for pizza, snacks, and the movie.**

The film, starring Michael B. Jordan and Jamie Foxx, is based on the book and NYT bestseller written by Bryan Stevenson. *Just Mercy* tells the true story of Walter McMillian, a black man who was put on death row for a murder he did not commit, and the work of Stevenson, his attorney, to exonerate him. It is an incredible story and a searing indictment of our criminal justice system.



**On Sunday, May 7th at 11:30am
Join us again in Memorial Hall to hear from CHADS COALITION.**

CHAD's creates awareness around depression and suicide prevention. They provide social-emotional wellbeing programs for adolescents, young adults, parents, and educators. We hope you will appreciate this opportunity to learn about their offerings. ***Childcare Provided.*** (This event will take place immediately following the congregational meeting).

WORSHIP NOTES FOR APRIL & MAY 2023

This schedule is subject to change, as need may arise.

All worship services noted below will be offered in person and live streamed (bit.ly/FCCWG-YT), at 10:00 am on Sundays.

- APRIL 2** — PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF CHRIST; SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE; ALL AGES WORSHIP. Scriptures: Matthew 21:1-11; 26:36-46. Once the palms have been blessed and communion served, using our imaginations we will go to Gethsemane and recollect in story and song the things that happened there. As Jesus prayed in that garden, "Take this cup away," we reflect on times we may have wished we would not have to face. Theme of the Day: ***"Risking Temptation"***
- THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 7:00 PM** — First Congregational worshipers are invited to join Sts. Clare & Francis Ecumenical Catholic Communion in the William E. Sample Chapel for a service remembering the night of the Last Supper. (not live-streamed)
- FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 7:00 PM** — GOOD FRIDAY BLUES: "WHAT WE RISK." Three women who have been traveling with Jesus on his final pilgrimage to Jerusalem reflect together about what they've left behind and what lies ahead. The narrative leans heavily on the discussions we have been having about Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. The women's conversation is punctuated with music of Billie Holiday, John Coltrane, Jon Batiste, Sting, and more – all according to the stylings of the Oikos Jazz Ensemble.
- APRIL 9** — EASTER: CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION. "Christ is risen! Alleluia!" we shout for joy, upon the discovery of his empty tomb. Our series of messages, based closely on the scholarship of Prof. Amy-Jill Levine, concludes with ***"The Next Supper (or Breakfast)"*** as the pastor focuses on where to expect Jesus will be showing up.
- APRIL 16** — SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER. Guest preacher Rev. Jan Barnes brings the Message of the Day while the pastor enjoys some vacation.
- APRIL 23** — THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER. Student Minister Gabriel Requadt partners with Pastor Dave Denoon for a dialogue Message of the Day, largely reflective of Gabriel's experiences both in Contextual Education and in seminary generally.
- APRIL 30** — FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER; "BREAK THE SILENCE" SUNDAY (observed); PACIFIC ISLANDER AND ASIAN-AMERICAN MINISTRIES (PAAM) SUNDAY. Pastor Dave Denoon begins a new series of Messages – *"In the Name of..."* In an era – truly, an era! – of reflection on personal and collective identities, it is time for us to consider the importance of the names we bear and the names we assume and how these names affect our senses of self and group. On this "Break the Silence" Sunday in the United Church of Christ, an occasion for recognizing the importance of ending sexualized violence in our society and affirming its victims, the pastor zeroes in on the mystery and sanctity of self with a reflection on the name of God, ***"I Am."*** Scripture: Exodus 3:13-16; Mark 14:53-64a.
- MAY 7** — FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER; SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE; ALL AGES WORSHIP (in Memorial Hall). *"In the Name of..."* continues with some thoughts about Jesus' practice of renaming his disciples, and what it might mean for us to invite Jesus to guide us into new understandings of ourselves. Message of the Day: ***"Change My Name."*** Scriptures: Genesis 32:23-30; Matthew 16:13-20.
- MAY 14** — SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER; MOTHERS DAY. Message of the Day: ***"True to Yourself."*** On this day which also is called, the Festival of the Christian Home, we may be brought to mind of the importance of the names of all those who have made our own identity possible, by bloodline or adoption. When parents tell children going out on their own to "remember who you are," what sort of expectations are they setting? Scriptures: Ruth 1:1-20; 2 Timothy 1:5-7.
- MAY 21** — SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER; MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY. What are we hoping for when we pray "in Jesus' name" or in "the name of the [Holy Trinity]"? There can be power associated with naming, especially when we are identifying with the One whose name(s) we invoke in prayer. With warnings in mind about the use of God's name "in vain," we approach the Message of the Day: ***"A Hundred Names."*** Scriptures: Exodus 20:1-8; Acts 3:1-10; John 12:23-28.
- MAY 28** — PENTECOST; SUNDAY OF MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND. As the seasonal series of messages concludes, we focus on how we might identify ourselves as the Church. Who are we hoping to be? What are we intending to do? How can we gauge whether or not we are realizing success in God's name? Message of the Day: ***"In the Name of..."*** Scriptures: Acts 2:1-20; 4:32-35.

MODERATOR'S CORNER

The time has come to write my last Moderator's Corner. It amazes me how quickly the time has passed. It has been my privilege to serve. May will mark the end of my two years as Moderator and the end of the third year of a four-year commitment. I will continue to serve on the Executive Ministry and be of whatever assistance I can be to our new Moderator, Doug Barton. I am pleased with the vibrancy and conviviality of First Church. It is hard to imagine a more congenial and dedicated group of people with whom to serve. Thank you for your support and extending the privilege to me to serve you.

I have just returned from the Memorial Service for our former pastor, the Rev. Paul Davis. The sanctuary was filled with people giving witness to his life of service to us. Mark Davis read a portion of a sermon in which Rev. Davis expressed appreciation for the service of First Church to him in a time of need. The reciprocity of service in this Christian Community to which we are called resonated with me. We serve each other when we "covenant together." I was inspired by his testimony. May we continue to live out this legacy of affirmation of and support for each other in our joys and struggles.

We have just finished this year's **Benevolence Giving Campaign**. Hopefully by now you have all made a contribution to the 2023 benevolence budget. As I write, we do not yet have a total for this year's campaign but that will be forthcoming. Thank you to all who worked and contributed. After two years of virtual, it was good to have an in-person event. Over a hundred participants enjoying themselves at our **Not-So-Trivial Trivia Night**.

As we approach Easter there are a variety of activities in which you can participate, from the inspirational to the fun. April 7th it's **Good Friday Blues**. The next morning at 10:00 am is our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The joyous Easter service will feature music from both the bell and chancel choirs. Watch the E-News for weekly updates.

After months of work by members and ministries of the church, the **Giant Church Clean-Out Sale** will happen April 14 and 15. Workers are needed both before and during the event. Spread the word. We have a huge quantity of interesting things that need to be re-purposed. In the process we have cleaned out a number of spaces that will be excellent office spaces. These will be available for lease in the near future. Please mention this to individuals and groups looking for space. They would benefit from reasonable rent in an excellent location. We would benefit by increasing our monthly income. A win-win.

The Nominating Committee is diligently working to fill the open slots for church officers and ministries. Their deadline is April 17 when the Executive Ministry meets to confirm the slate. The ministry will then call the required Congregational Meeting to hold the election. We anticipate that meeting to be Sunday, May 7. In May we will transition to new leadership. Our ministry structure fosters both continuity and change. In the teaching and learning of history we are challenged to comprehend the interplay of change and continuity while avoiding the assumption that either is more natural or more to be expected. Similarly in our Christian Community of diverse people we are challenged to find a workable balance between our institutional culture and the changing culture in which we live. Through God's grace, we can do this.

Joan Musbach
Moderator

TREASURER'S REPORT

Below are the year to date church operating results through February 2023:

Statement of Financial Activities

| | 2023 | 2022 | Full Year Budget | Change to Prior Year | Change to Budget |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Income | | | | | |
| | | | | Higher/ (Lower) Income | |
| Pledges and Gifts | \$ 67,998 | \$ 78,320 | \$ 315,000 | \$ (10,322) | \$ (247,002) |
| Transfer from Endowment | 15,000 | 25,000 | 290,000 | (10,000) | (275,000) |
| Benevolence | 1,252 | - | 15,000 | 1,252 | (13,748) |
| Use of Space and Miscellaneous | 12,736 | 5,203 | 62,115 | 7,533 | (49,379) |
| Interest Income | 4,605 | 4,309 | 21,000 | 295 | (16,395) |
| Total Revenue | 101,590 | 112,832 | 703,115 | (11,242) | (601,525) |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| | | | | (Higher)/ Lower Expense | |
| Human Resources Expense | \$ 76,273 | \$ 77,130 | \$ 482,928 | 858 | 406,655 |
| Facilities and Finance Expense | \$ 25,914 | \$ 29,469 | \$ 163,375 | 3,555 | 137,461 |
| Benevolence Expense | \$ 2,500 | \$ 2,500 | \$ 32,000 | - | 29,500 |
| Christian Education Ministry Expense | \$ 146 | \$ 437 | \$ 3,600 | 291 | 3,454 |
| Parish Life Ministry Expense | \$ 509 | \$ 1,569 | \$ 11,400 | 1,060 | 10,891 |
| Executive Ministry Expense | \$ 1,050 | \$ 390 | \$ 9,700 | (660) | 8,650 |
| Total Expenses | 106,391 | 111,495 | 703,003 | 5,103 | 596,612 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets | \$ (4,802) | \$ 1,337 | \$ 112 | \$ (6,139) | \$ (4,914) |

Statement of Financial Position

| | 2023 | 2022 | Variance |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 180,814 | \$ 168,448 | \$ 12,367 |
| Pledges receivable | 240,163 | 259,168 | (19,005) |
| Property and equipment | 26,549 | 28,139 | (1,590) |
| Minister housing long term receivable | 60,000 | 60,000 | - |
| Total Assets | \$ 507,527 | \$ 515,755 | \$ (8,228) |
| Unrestricted Designated Funds | 23,876 | 26,262 | (2,386) |
| Restricted funds for: | | | |
| Funds in Endowment Trust | 56,839 | 51,334 | 5,505 |
| Churchyard | 38,617 | 36,506 | 2,111 |
| Kishlar/Dickens Room Maintenance | 49,046 | 53,946 | (4,900) |
| Temporarily restricted funds for pledges | 240,163 | 259,168 | (19,005) |
| Memorial Funds | 77,329 | 62,231 | 15,098 |
| Long term liabilities | 60,000 | 60,000 | - |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | (43,219) | (33,692) | (9,527) |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$ 507,527 | \$ 515,755 | \$ (8,228) |

Continued

Items to note:

- Revenue is lower than prior year with the following contributing factors:
 - ◇ Starting off slower in receiving pledge income for 2023 in February
 - ◇ As the cash position is still good, we will continue to hold our transfers from the Endowment until the cash is needed
 - ◇ Use of Space income is more than twice this year to date compared to last
- Expenses are lower to last year with the following items to be noted:
 - ◇ Human Resources expenses are higher in wages which is offset by savings in employee insurance costs due to changes on staff coverage.
 - ◇ F&F expenses are lower due to less grounds maintenance expense this year

If you have any other questions or want further detail, please let me know.

Thanks

Jennifer Jones, Treasurer

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

To meet the many challenges being faced by First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, in 2018 the Strategic Planning Committee was formed.

The goal of the Strategic Planning Committee is to draft and implement a plan to restore the financial health of the church consistent with the church's mission. Increasing financial needs and diminishing revenue have resulted in an increased dependence on the use of the invested portion of the Endowment Fund to meet the obligations of the budget. In June 2021, the Strategic Planning Committee agreed to focus on marketing church spaces for events, creating 10 West Lockwood Event Space (currently defined as Memorial Hall, the kitchen, Inglis Room and Kishlar Room).



In 2022, the Committee consulted with NMBL Strategies, a marketing firm that frequently works with not-for-profit groups. Through November 2022, NMBL Strategies helped the Committee get 10 West Lockwood Event Space off the ground. In 2022, the church received nearly \$19,000 of revenue for events in those rooms.

In December 2022, as approved in the budget, the Committee started looking to replace the consulting firm with a part-time event coordinator. With ten viable candidates, the Committee hired Alicia McMinn in January 2023. Alicia has taken on the role with great enthusiasm and energy. By the end of February 2023, 10 West Lockwood Event Space had received \$3,300 from individuals and organizations having their events here.

FROM HALLEY, THE PASTORAL ASSISTANT

I have some big news: I have been accepted into the Brown School's Master of Social Work program at Washington University! I will begin my coursework in August. I intend to pursue macro social work, more specifically in the policy arena. I am thrilled to begin a new chapter of my life ("17th Grade," as I explained it to my children) and pursue a large-scale expression of loving my neighbors as Jesus commanded us to do.

Because I will be going to school full time, and because I also have three young children and would like to sleep here and there, I am resigning from my position as Pastoral Assistant here at FCCWG. I will remain in my role through most of July; my last Sunday will be July 23rd, and my last workday will be July 27th.

It has been a gift to serve you all, the last two years. It's hard for me to put into words how powerful it's been for me to have been entrusted with significant church leadership, particularly the privilege of the pulpit. I long-ago put aside the misogynistic doctrine that women cannot lead and preach, but the corrective experiences of actually doing those things was profound. I'll never forget tearing up at the end of my first sermon about how my daughters, unlike me, will never think gender has anything to do with leadership potential. You invited me not only into a job, but an opportunity for personal healing – thank you.

Thank you, also, for entrusting me with your children. It has been a delight to get to know them, to laugh with them, to support them through challenges, and to watch them grow. I remember with fondness the Sunday that I had an animated conversation about the with the Byrne sisters and one of their friends; what an honor it was to hold space for their frustrations and questions. Of course, every Sunday I look forward to the commentary "from the mouths of babes" during Not for Children Only – it never disappoints.

I'm so grateful for Carina and Noel and what they bring to Kids Church, each and every week. It has been a joy to work with them, and I breathe easier knowing their capable care will continue here at First Church. Thank you to my volunteers who serve again and again and again. Thank you for your openness to new things, to shift from the educational focus of Sunday School towards the spiritual formation focus of Kids Church. (Thank you for your good-natured spirits with the growing pains!)

It has been a joy to be part of the staff here at FCCWG. I have learned from and been changed for the better by Dave, Debbie, Cliff, Leon, Chip, Darrell, Mark, Alicia, and three seminary students: Merrimon, Elston, and Gabriel. I will miss staff meeting silliness and birthday celebrations with this crew! Dave has been a wonderful mentor and boss. I'm so glad he took a chance on me, an outsider, to exercise my gifts in this small but mighty church.

Rest assured that the Christian Education and Executive Ministries are getting to work quickly to hire a new Pastoral Assistant. The hope is that my replacement will start work here in mid-July so that I may provide two weeks of training. I am confident the church will weather this transition well, and that the new Pastoral Assistant will be a blessing to FCCWG.

Halley Kim

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



A happy Easter season to all! Your music department is planning goodies for Easter and I am planning Spring Chamber Music concerts for us all.

First, I am offering to all the Schubert C Major Quintet with Anna Lackschewitz on April 16 at 3:00 pm. This string quintet performed weeks ago at Eliot Chapel as part of their Friends of Music series of concerts and it was so exceptional that I invited them to reprise their performance here. I will fill out the program with some Schubert songs.

It promises to be a tuneful afternoon, hearkening back to intimate salon concerts that wealthy people used to sponsor in the 1800s. You need not be wealthy to attend; as always these

concerts are open to all and free to all. Also, as usual, we will accept a freewill offering to support music at First Church.

The other event I am excited about will be on May 21 when the Xylem Ensemble will present wind-based chamber music for us. This concert will feature Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* so please bring the kids for this family friendly concert. The leader of Xylem Ensemble is also the leader of Klezundheit! which plays klezmer music for us in the fall. Bob Herman is the lead instigator of both ensembles, so there will probably be a little klezmer music thrown in too. This concert will also start at 3pm and be free and open to all. It will also include a freewill offering to support music at First Church.

I have one more concert yet to schedule: young scholarship winners from the Community Music School on the Webster U campus. This will be a concert to send us into summer. But that is a story for a future Covenant News.

Happy Easter and Welcome to Spring!

Leon Burke, Music Director

CHECK OUT OUR LIBRARY

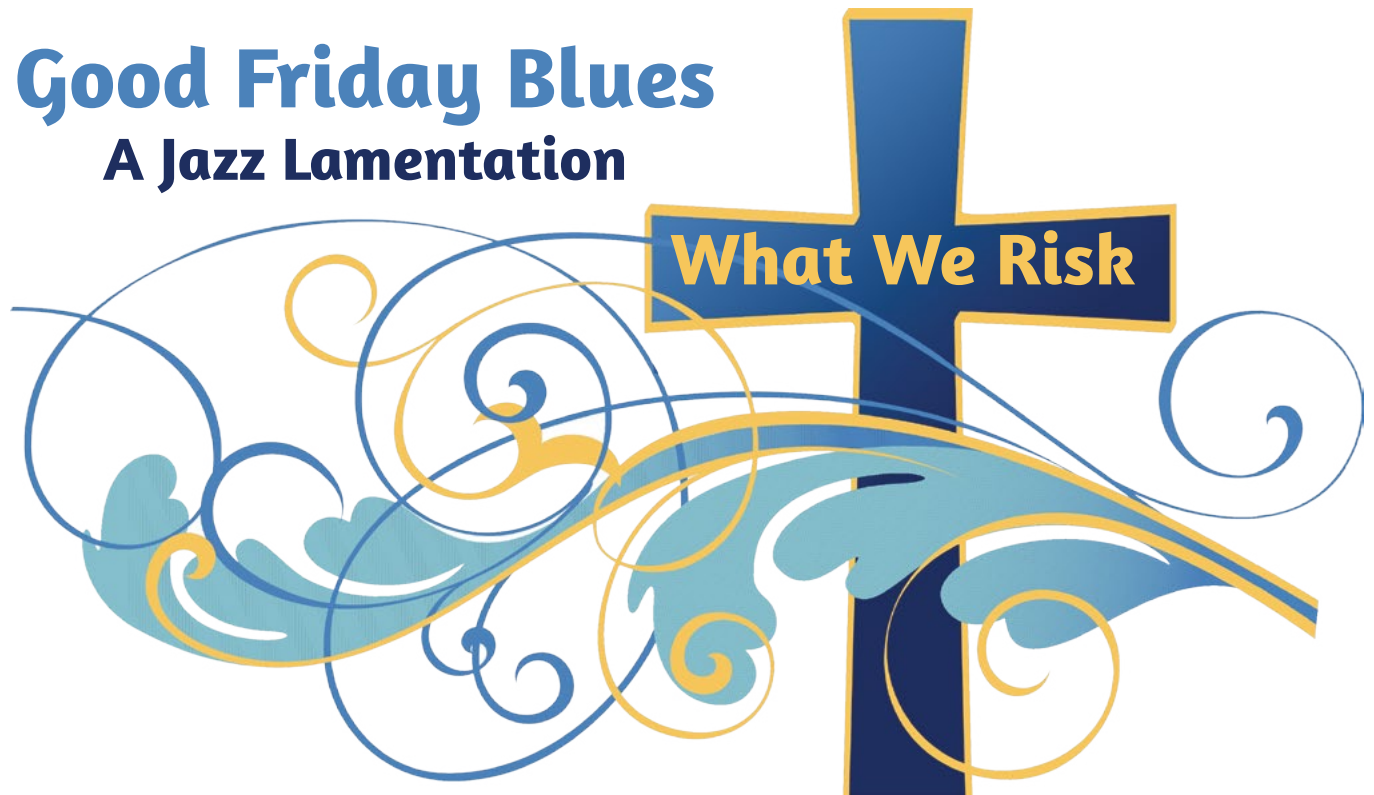
Looking for books relating to Easter? There are several for both adults and children displayed in the library, ready to be checked out! Just sign the cards along with the checkout date in the back of the books and leave the card(s) in the basket on the library desk.

Four new books have recently been added to the library:

- ***Amazing Webster Groves*** by Don Corrigan tells stories of this area from the early days to current times.
- ***Lucado Treasury of Bedtime Prayers*** is a collection of classic and new prayers for parents and grandparents to share with children in their lives.
- ***My Bible Friends Read and Do Book*** is an easy to read collection of stories about major Old and New Testament people.
- ***Whistle For Willie*** by Ezra Keats, a well known author of children's books. It is a story of a boy walking his dog in the summer time.

Good Friday Blues

A Jazz Lamentation



Friday, April 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM

The Oîkos Jazz Ensemble

Kim Fuller & Jordyn Patterson – Vocalists • Cliff Aerie – Saxophone
Carolbeth True – Piano • Glen Smith – Bass • David True – Drums

Jazz is a powerful art form for sharing grief and lamentation. Good Friday Blues features music of jazz greats Billie Holiday, John Coltrane, Jon Batiste, Sting, and others expressing the pain of Jesus' crucifixion and modern injustices.

Free And Open To All!

*A free will offering will be received to benefit MICA
(Ministry of Imagination, Creativity and the Arts)*



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314/962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

LADY ELECT

Remaining Lady Elect meetings: in April, we will provide help and nourishment for “Great Church Sale” volunteers on Saturday morning, April 15.

On Tuesday, May 23, we will meet for our “end-of-the-year” potluck: Happy Hour starts at 6:00 PM and potluck at 6:30. At this meeting, we invite (and provide rides) for older church members who would like to participate. We also invite ALL women of the church to join us for fellowship and camaraderie

Lady Elect is one of the last guilds of our church. Not only do we provide support to one another, we fill a unique position in the church. We are an “unofficial” ministry (not one of the Three Ministries) in that we provide help with many events, we keep alive traditions of the church (making sure some things are not forgotten), and our voluntary dues frequently help fund needed items.

Each year, for the months of September through May, we plan a variety of monthly meetings. But we frequently “fill in the gaps” of church volunteer needs.

We started out as an eventing guild, as we were all working, but now, since most of us are retired, we have moved to a noontime lunch format, with a few exceptions. (Always watch for updates!).

We are hoping that younger women of the church will join us for our May 23 potluck this program year and for events next program year.

HABITAT REPORT

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. Almost \$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

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO MEET ON APRIL 4

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 and ex-officio member, Moderator Joan Musbach, 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.

FIGHTING BIGOTRY AND HATRED

A PRESENTATION BY ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE REGIONAL DIRECTOR JORDAN KADOSH

Sunday, April 16th, 6:00pm

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church | 45 W. Lockwood Avenue



Why has racist and antisemitic rhetoric become so normalized? Why has hate speech increased by 33% over the last year? Why were several Webster Groves churches along Lockwood al tagged with a swastika during the summer of 2020?

As part of our WGPC's youth study of 'othering' which included a trip to the Holocaust Museum, our Youth and the WGPC Advocacy Team invite you learn more and get some answers to tough questions about bigotry, hatred, and misinformation with the Anti-Defamation League's Heartland Regional Director, Jordan Kadosh on Sunday April 16 at 6:00pm.

This event is open to our congregation and to the community at large, with special invites going to other area church's youth groups. (Topics being discussed are best suited for people of middle/high school age and older.) For more information, contact Julie Burchett at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church: burchett.juliekay@gmail.com

2023 BENEVOLENCE GIVING



We are getting close to wrapping up this year's **Benevolence Giving Campaign**. The campaign kicked off on March 1st with our **online Giving Store**. Almost every item was sold prior to March 10 and the few remaining items were sold at the event on March 11. In addition to the Giving Store and the ticket sales, we had a variety of donated silent and oral auction items for sale.

There were about 111 participants at our ***Not-So-Trivial Trivia Night***. It was our first live event in three years and it turned out to be a fun evening for all! The first place winners were a table from Operation Food Search, one of our benevolence recipients.

This year we earned the following:

- \$2,667.70 – Trivia Tickets
- \$1,710.00 – The Giving Store
- \$5,828.04 – Donations
- \$4,970.00 – Event Purchases which included: Auction items, Raffle tickets and Mulligans
- \$15,175.74 – TOTAL**

If you have not made a contribution yet, there is still plenty of time! You can write a check to the church and put Benevolence on the memo line, or you can donate at www.firstchurchwg.org/donate. Select ***Benevolence – Giving*** from the drop down menu.

The Great Church Clean Out (AKA Rummage Sale) is Coming!



And it will not happen without YOUR HELP! Please sign up to volunteer.

You can go to <https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-sale> 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 few Sundays, a la Hanging of the Greens. Let's all pitch in and make The Great Church Clean Up a smashing success! Please feel free to donate gently used items from home after April 10. ***Please no junk!***

CPR TRAININGS, APRIL 18 AND 22



The Webster Groves Fire Department will offer two sessions of CPR training to members and staff of First Church. The trainings, which include compression-only resuscitation and introduction to use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), will take place at the Webster Groves Firehouse across Elm Avenue from the church. Sessions are on Tuesday, April 18 at 9:00am, and on Saturday, April 22 at 9:00am.

There is no cost to the participants for the training. A certificate of completion will be presented to everyone who attends. Please, contact the office to sign up, or use the handy wall-mounted clipboard in the office.

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Jane Brader | April 6 |
| Valerie Paci | April 10 |
| Diane Weber | April 10 |
| Marshall Dyer | April 15 |
| Phil Shoulberg | April 18 |
| Diane McCoy | April 23 |
| John Robinson | April 26 |
| Elizabeth Walker | April 30 |



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



MAY BIRTHDAYS



| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Dana Romeis | May 1 |
| Cathy Buerk | May 3 |
| Mark Edwards | May 3 |
| Garie Perry | May 9 |
| Drue Hood | May 10 |
| Kay Roush | May 12 |
| Peter Bakker-Arkema | May 17 |
| Jean Gray | May 19 |
| Margery Gable | May 22 |
| Mark Thompson | May 26 |
| Trevor Zink | May 28 |

MEAL-A-MONTH APRIL SHOPPING LIST

Canned Turkey • Brown Rice • Canned Corn (low or no salt)
 Applesauce (in plastic, no sugar added)
 Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
 Peanut Butter • Real Fruit Jelly • Dried Fruits

MAY SHOPPING LIST

Canned Chicken
 Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)
 Canned Fruit in own juices
 Powdered Milk, Shelf Stable Milk, Soy Milk
 Pudding of Jello (fat free/sugar free)
 Shampoo/Conditioner • Soap • Deodorant

MISSING SOMEONE?

Have you been missing someone for a while from worship and other church events? Please, let Pastor Dave Denoon or Amy Byrne, know. Either will be happy to follow up for you.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



APRIL



| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| <div><div></div><div>APRIL</div><div></div></div> | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 Palm Sunday Sacrament of Christ's Table 9:00am Brown Baggers 9:45am - Nursery Care Available 10:00am Worship (All Ages) 11:05am Coffee Fellowship 11:20am Lent Bible Study: "Entering the Passion of Jesus" | 3 7:00pm Christian Ed & Parish Life Meeting (not on 10th) Hybrid 7:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room | 4 General Election 1:00pm Communications Team - Church Office 6:30pm Pastoral Relations Committee 6:30pm Practicing Our Faith - Parlor | 5 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm - 9:30pm Bridge Club - Inglis Room | 6 Maundy Thursday 5:30pm - 6:30pm Canterbury Bells 7:00pm Worship (Sts. Clare & Francis ECC) - Sample Chapel | 7 Good Friday 7:00pm Worship: Good Friday Blues | 8 10:00am Easter Egg Hunt |
| 9 Easter Sunday 9:45am - Nursery Care Available 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship | 10 Easter Monday (office closed) 7:00pm Facility & Finance Ministry (Hybrid) | 11 Rummage Sale Set Up | 12 Rummage Sale Set Up 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm -Bridge Club - Inglis Room | 13 Rummage Sale Set Up 6:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 14 12:00pm - 5:00pm All Church Rummage Sale | 15 8:00am - 2:00pm All Church Rummage Sale |
| 16 9:45am - Nursery Care Available 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship 3:00pm Schubert Quintet - Sanctuary | 17 7:00pm Executive Ministry (Zoom) 7:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room | 18 9:00am - 10:00am Staff CPR Training (WG Firehouse) 10:30am Staff Meeting | 19 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Memorial Hall 6:00pm -Bridge Club - Memorial Hall | 20 6:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 21 | 22 Earth Day 9:00am - 10:00am Church Members CPR Training (at WG Firehouse) |
| 23 9:45am - Nursery Care Available 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship | 24 7:00pm Peace and Justice Team (Zoom) 7:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room | 25 10:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm WG Al-Anon - Kishlar | 26 Administrative Professionals Day 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - Bridge Club - Inglis Room | 27 6:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:45am - Nursery Care Available 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship 11:20am Adult Ed - Death Penalty? - Memorial Hall | | | | | | |



MAY



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| | 1 7:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room | 2 1:00pm Communications Team - Church Office 6:30pm Practicing Our Faith - Parlor 7:00pm WG Al-Anon - Kishlar | 3 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm - Bridge Club - Inglis Room 6:00pm Viewing of Just Mercy (Movie) & Pizza - Kishlar Room | 4 6:00pm - Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - Chancel Choir | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Sacrament of Christ's Table 9:00am Brown Baggers 9:45am - Nursery Care Available 10:00am Worship (All Ages) 11:05am Annual Congregational Meeting 11:15am Coffee Fellowship | 8 7:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room 7:00pm Three Ministries (Hybrid) | 9 10:30am Staff Meeting | 10 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - Bridge Club - Inglis Room | 11 6:00pm - Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - Chancel Choir | 12 5:00pm Webster Rock Hill Ministries - Trivia Night | 13 |
| 14 Mother's Day 9:45am - Nursery Care Available 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship | 15 7:00pm Executive Ministry (Zoom) 7:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room | 16 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Lady Elect - Inglis Room | 17 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - Bridge Club - Inglis Room | 18 6:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - Chancel Choir | 19 | 20 <i>Covenant News deadline!!</i> |
| 21 9:45am - Nursery Care Available 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship | 22 7:00pm Peace and Justice Team (Zoom) 7:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room | 23 10:30am Staff Meeting | 24 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - Bridge Club - Inglis Room | 25 6:00pm - Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - Chancel Choir | 26 12:00pm AA #582 - Dickens Room | 27 |
| 28 Pentecost 9:45am - Nursery Care Available 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship | 29 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED | 30 10:30am Staff Meeting | 31 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - Bridge Club - Inglis Room | | | |



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Contact Info

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Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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