

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

APRIL 9, 2023

FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION



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 *The Rejoicing* G. F. Handel

WELCOME Linda Kopetti, *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

OPENING WORDS John 20:1-18 Pew Bible, p. 988

***ACCLAMATION** (Responsive shouts)
Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***GATHERING HYMN** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* Charles Wesley
No. 182 – *Pilgrim Hymnal*

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

**Invitation to Confession*

Prayer of Confession* (Responsive – Leader; **People) Iona Community

Almighty God, through the rising of your Child from the grave you broke the power of the grave, you broke the power of death, and condemned death itself to die. As we celebrate your great triumph may we also make it the model of our living.

Help us to identify in our lives all that should rightly die – redundant relationships, tired habits, fruitless longings. Resurrect our lives of faith, hope, and love as surely as you raised Jesus Christ from the grave.

The vacant cross and the empty tomb vindicate your claim that the love which suffers is the love which saves. So fill your people with joy and your church with celebration...

...that the world may know that your holy Child Jesus is not a dead hero we commemorate, but the living Majesty we worship to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be our praise forever. Amen.

**Singing God's Glory* *Halle-halleluja!* Trad. Caribbean
No. 236 – *New Century Hymnal*

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.*

SHARING THE WORD
From the Gospels

Gabriel Requadt, *Student Minister*
John 21:1-13
(compare Luke 24:33-43
Response.
Pew Bible, p. 989
p. 964)

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Catch the Vision! Share the Glory!
Chancel Choir with Erin Prange, flute

Richard Jeffrey
arr. Mark Kellner

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"The Next Supper"

Rev. Denoon

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayer 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

WE OFFER OF OURSELVES

Opportunities to Give and Gather

**Song of Praise*

Doxology with Alleluias

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God, all creatures here below! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, above, you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

God of ceaseless new beginnings, work your new creation among us. Where we have assumed scarcity, help us to recognize the abundance you are supplying. Then let your abundance be seen in our giving, that by our gifts blessing and hope may come to those who have lost heart. Amen.

RITUAL FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

Introductory Words (Responsive)

Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Blessing the Water

**Confession of Faith*

based on "Our Creed," 1901

Brothers and sisters in Christ, do you believe in the kinship of all people as children of God? **I do.**

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Way and the Truth and the Life? **I do.**

Do you believe in the clean heart, and will you live the unworldly life in the service of love as Jesus taught and exemplified? **I will, with the help of God.**

Do you accept Christ's Spirit, and Christ's teaching? **I do, God helping me.**

**Renewal of Baptismal Vows*

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ? **I do.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being? **I will, with God's help.**

**Distribution of Water*

Wade in the Water

Spiritual

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,

Wade in the water! God's a-gonna trouble the water.

**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.

**Benediction*

***POSTLUDE**

"Hallelujah!" (from *Messiah*)

G. F. Handel

Worshippers are invited to come forward to sing with the choir.

Copies of the score will be provided.

***WORDS OF PARTING**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

People: **Let our service begin.**

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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](https://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, 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

## Easter Flower Sponsorships

It's not too late to grab a flower! You can find the forms on the table in the narthex. Flowers are \$20 each.

## Benevolence Campaign

Thank you so much to the generous donors who have supported Benevolence this year. The Benevolence Committee is making one last plea for money to support our partner agencies.

If you have not had a chance to give, please take time now and write your check with Benevolence in the memo line or go to the website donate page.

The Benevolence Committee will meet the week of April 24 to make awards to agencies. Please plan to get your donation to us by April 20.

**Pastoral Relations Committee  
Tuesday, April 18**

Confidentiality, acceptance, and trust: these are the primary values of the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC). Our PRC 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. We encourage all congregants to feel free to discuss with PRC 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.

**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.

**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 all tagged with a swastika during the summer of 2020? As part of WGPC's youth study of 'othering' which included a trip to the Holocaust Museum, their Youth and the WGPC Advocacy Team invite us to learn more and get some answers to tough questions about bigotry, hatred, and misinformation.

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](mailto:burchett.juliekay@gmail.com)

**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.*

**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.

***What's Going on at First Church***

**Sunday, April 9**

***Easter Sunday***

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** Celebration of the  
**Resurrection**

**10:15 AM** Kids Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

**Monday, April 10**

***Office Closed***

**7:00 PM** Facility & Finance Ministry (Parlor)

**7:00 PM** Parish Life (Inglis)

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

**Tuesday, April 11**

**9:00 AM** Rummage Sale Setup begins!

**Wednesday, April 12**

**9:00 AM** Rummage Sale Setup

**9:30 AM** Yoga w/Jeanene (Inglis)

**10:30 AM** Staff Meeting

**6:00 PM** Bridge Club (Inglis)

**Thursday, April 13**

**6:00 PM** Canterbury Bells

**7:30 PM** Chancel Choir

**Friday, April 14**

**12:00 - 5:00 PM** Rummage Sale Opens!

**Saturday, April 15**

**8:00 AM - 2:00 PM** Rummage Sale



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

## Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach  
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Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon  
DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org

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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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***Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.***

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