

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

APRIL 16, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



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

"What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say." ~ RWE

PRELUDE

The Heavens Declare

MARCELO

WELCOME

Emily Polaske, *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 (Responsive)

L: Sing praises to God, you faithful, give thanks to the Holy One:

P: Weeping may linger for a night, but joy comes in the morning,

L: You turn our weeping to dancing, God;

You remove the garments of mourning and clothe us in gladness.

All: May we praise you and not be silent!

We will give thanks to you, O God, forever!

RAISING THE COVENANT (unison)

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

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

No. 71
New Century Hymnal

RITUAL OF APPROACH:

We Bring Our Stories before God

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of Love, we often find it hard to prioritize our own needs. We have internalized the message that we are not supposed to have needs, and if we do, we must be selfish or overdramatic or unfaithful. But the truth is that we do damage to people made in your image when we do damage to ourselves. Forgive us for our lack of self-compassion. Heal us from the impulse to neglect our own well-being.

Help us be as gentle with ourselves as you are with us, as we are with our loved ones. May we honor our limitations and meet our needs without shame. Amen.

Silence for Personal Confession

Words of Assurance

Through the gift of Jesus Christ and in the name of the One who dies and rose again, all is forgiven, and we can recommit ourselves to being God's messengers in this world.

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

*The children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.
Afterward, they may proceed to Kids' Church, or return to their seats.*

THE WORD SHARED

Psalm 30: 1-12

Pew Bible, p. 644

John 20: 19-30

Pew Bible, p. 967

Response

Reader: Here what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Reader and People: Thank be to God.

ANTHEM

Rejoice and be Glad

Cathy Moglebust

MESSAGE OF THE DAY *"Believing with a Side of Nopesauce"*

Rev. Janice Barnes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

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 OURSELVES

Opportunities to Give and Gather

Song of Praise

Doxology

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)

O Gracious God, bless our offering that it may read and touch those who hunger who hurt, who seek new hope. As members of the global village, we are about all of our sisters and brothers. We pray for disarmament and world peace, for liberty to those oppressed, for joy to those who are weary. In honor of our Sovereign God, Amen

HYMN OF PARTING

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

No. 82
New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata Eclatante

Thomas Chesterton

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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](http://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

## **All-Schubert Program Next edition of this year's Concert Series TODAY at 3:00 pm**

The First Church Concert Series continues on this afternoon at 3:00 pm, when the String Quintet in C Major by Franz Schubert is performed in our sanctuary by Wanda Becker, violin; Jessica Platt, violin; Anna Lackshewitz, viola; Andrew Ruben, cello; and Beverly Field, cello.

Dr. Leon Burke will fill out the program performing a selection of Schubert songs (Lieder).

## **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', their Youth and the WGPC Advocacy Team invite us to learn more and get some answers to tough questions about bigotry, hatred, and misinformation. For more information, contact Julie Burchett at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church: [burchett.juliekay@gmail.com](mailto:burchett.juliekay@gmail.com)

## **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 our websites 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.

## **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.

## **The Giant Church Clean Out Sale has happened!**

Thank you to all who worked to make it a success. There are some items remaining in Memorial Hall. You are invited to peruse the assortment and take home anything you wish. If you are so inclined, there is a basket for a free will donation. What is left will be hauled to a charity on Monday. If you can help please see Phil Shoulberg who will be coordinating the final clean out on Monday.

### **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.

### **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE**

**It's that time of the year that I will need annual reports from the following:**

- Church Historian
- Treasurer
- Moderator
- First Friends
- Endowment Counselors
- Communications Team
- Parish Life Ministry
- Habitat for Humanity
- Benevolence
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Facility & Finance Ministry
- Christian Education Ministry
- Pastoral Assistant
- Holaday Library
- Music Director
- Ministry of Imagination, Creativity and the Arts (MICA)
- Brown Baggers
- Lady Elect Guild
- Scout Troop 301
- Report of the Pastor

Please email them to me at [admin@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchwg.org) no later than April 20. If you have already submitted your report, I thank you!

Debbie

### **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 16**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

**3:00 PM** Schubert Quintet - Sanctuary

#### **Monday, April 17**

**7:00 PM** Executive Ministry (Zoom)

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

#### **Tuesday, April 18**

**9:00 AM** Staff CPR Training (WG Fire Department)

**10:30 AM** Staff Meeting

#### **Wednesday, April 19**

~~**9:30 AM** NO Yoga w/Jeanene (Inglis)~~

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

#### **Thursday, April 20**

**6:00 PM** Canterbury Bells

**7:30 PM** Chancel Choir

#### **Friday, April 14**

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

#### **Saturday, April 15**

**9:00 AM** Church Members CPR Training (WG Fire Department)

#### **Sunday, April 16**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship





10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
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## Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach  
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Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon  
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Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim  
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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  
cliff.aerie@gmail.com

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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