

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



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

APRIL 23, 2023  
THIRD 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

*An asterisk (\*) indicates that worshipers are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

**PRELUDE** *Prelude in F Minor* Léon Boëlmann

**WELCOME** Ernestine Carter, *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 OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**\*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** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* Isaac Watts, alt.  
No. 12 – *New Century Hymnal*

**RITUAL OF APPROACH**

*We Share Our Stories Before God*

*Confession as a Community (Unison)*

**Holy God, sometimes we do not notice the Christ before us because you have sent him in ways we were not expecting. And sometimes our own fear and doubt cloud our ability to see your Son. Help us to open our spiritual eyes to see the Christ in all, however they may be embodied. May your love burn in us to take action, to help bring about the restorative vision you have for the world and your creation, and to make us co-creators of that love. Amen.**

*Silence for Personal Confessions*

*Words of Assurance*

**\*Singing God's Glory** *Halleluja* trad. Caribbean  
No. 236 – *New Century Hymnal* (twice through)

**NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY**

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

*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**

*From the Gospels*

Luke 24:13-35

Pew Bible, p. 964

*Response.*

Liturgist: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*Frostiana: The Road Not Taken*  
Chancel Choir

Randall Thompson

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*"The Journey Ahead"*

Gabriel Requadt, Seminarian  
with Pastor Dave Denoon

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God*

*Prayer of the Day*

*Prayer of Our Savior*                      adapt. Gabriel Requadt

**O Loving One, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your peace come, your 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For you are the peace, the power, and the glory. Amen.**

**WE OFFER OF OURSELVES**

*Opportunities to Give and Gather*

*\*Song of Praise*

*Doxology*

Tune: OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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**

*Jesus, Sovereign, Savior*  
No. 255 – *New Century Hymnal*

Patrick M. Kirkland

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*WORDS OF PARTING**

Our worship has ended.  
**Let our service begin.**

**POSTLUDE** *Basse et Dessus de Trompette* Louis-Nicolas Clérambault  
*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.*

~~~~~

**Wi-Fi Info**

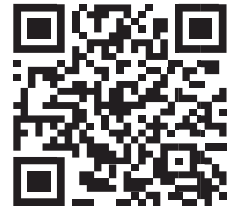
Recommended: fccwg1, fccwg2 or fccwg3 | Password for all: firstchurch.

**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



### **Huge Thanks!**

A big thank you to all who helped with the “Great Church Clean Out” this past weekend and over the last four months! Many of you pulled things out of closets, dragged it up and down stairs, put up tables, sorted & priced, fixed lunch for workers, helped dispose of remaining items and so much more. It was truly an all-church effort! Special thanks to Moderator Joan Musbach for her foresight and gentle prodding! We made over \$2,900, but more importantly we were able to rid the church of a lot of

unnneeded stuff. We are in a far better position to rent and lease our excess space.

Phil Shoulberg

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

A statewide organization working to repeal capital punishment in Missouri. They educate citizens and legislators both 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.

### **An Invitation from Treasurer Jennifer Jones**

Your generosity at the end of 2022 made it possible for us to avoid transfers from the Endowment in February, March, and April!

However, we are currently lagging in pledge income for 2023.

Please consider paying your pledge earlier in the year, to better preserve the Endowment.

## Eagle Scout Project



Brendan Yn of BSA Troop 301 has launched a project on his journey to becoming yet another Eagle Scout from the Boy Scout Troops sponsored by our church.

His project is a clothing drive in support of **Helping Hand Me Downs**, a non-profit organization helping single parents in the St. Louis area. He is asking for our help in collecting 500 items for newborns to eighteen years of age. He is requesting gently used clothing and baby gear, for example: sleepers, onesies, shorts, pants, shirts, skirts, dresses, socks, coats, hats, scarves, mittens, stroller, car seats, and pack-and-plays.

Brendan has placed a collection box in the narthex. Please help him achieve his goal. His collection will end on May 15.



## “Peter and the Wolf” and other favorites Family Concert with Xylem Ensemble Sunday, May 21, 3:00pm

The Xylem Ensemble will present wind-based chamber music in the sanctuary of the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, 10 W. Lockwood Ave., on Sunday, May 21, at 3:00pm. This concert will feature Prokofiev’s Peter and the Wolf. So, please bring the kids for this family friendly musical extravaganza!

Xylem is led by Bob Herman of Klezundheit!, a band which plays klezmer music at First Church in the fall, for the weekend of the Jewish festival of *Simchas Torah*. So there will be some fun klezmer thrown in, too.

The event is “almost free.” Concert goers are invited to pay what they can afford for this magnificent event (suggestion: Adults - \$10 each; Kids and teens, free!). All proceeds benefit the church’s music program.

To buy advanced tickets — <https://tinyurl.com/fcc-peter-wolf>

## What's Going on at First Church

### **Sunday, April 23**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** **Worship**

**10:15 AM** Kids Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

### **Monday, April 24**

**7:00 PM** Peace & Justice Team (Zoom)

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

### **Tuesday, April 25**

**10:30 AM** Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday, April 26**

**Administrative Professionals Day**

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

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

### **Thursday, April 27**

**6:00 PM** Canterbury Bells

**7:30 PM** Chancel Choir

### **Sunday, April 30**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** **Worship**

**10:15 AM** Kids Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:15 AM** Adult Ed: Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (Memorial Hall)



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

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

**Follow us on**

**Facebook**

**[www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/](http://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/)**

**Instagram**

**<https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchwg/>**

**YouTube**

**<http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT>**

