

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



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

**FEBRUARY 4, 2024**

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE  
ALL AGES WORSHIP**



*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 blessing 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** *Adoration* Florence Price

**WELCOME** Linda Kopetti, *Liturgist*

*At this time, we invite you to complete an entry in the Friendship Booklet  
and to silence the ringer on any cellular device you may have with you.*

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive – Leader; **People**) adapted from Psalm 147

Praise your God!

**How good it is to sing praises to our God.**

God is gracious. A song of praise is fitting. So sing to the Holy One with thanksgiving.

**We will make melody to our God with our voices and instruments.**

**\*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** *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* Isaac Watts  
*No. 27 – New Century Hymnal*

**\*RITUAL OF APPROACH** inspired by Isaiah 40

*\*Invitation*

*\*Prayer of Confession* (Unison)

**God of majesty and humility, you came to us as a mighty liberator who shared our common life. When you did, your word and your touch made whole many who were broken and marginalized, so that none could ignore them anymore. Faces once downcast were upturned, and the powerful were upset. In this month and in this moment, we will remember modern prophets and apostles who called and still call for the upsetting of power and the upturning of the downcast. Guide us, we pray in Christ's name, into a new day in which we may overcome with you the powers that beset us and prevent us from being the servants and disciples you pray us to be. Amen.**

*\*Silence for Personal Confession*

*\*Words of Assurance* (Responsive)

Our God gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.

**Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted,**

But those who wait for our God shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

**they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.**

*\*Singing God's Glory*                      *Glory to God in the Highest*                      Tune: GLORIA (HAAS)

*The congregation repeats each line of the following after the leader(s):*

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory in the highest!

To God be glory forever!

*Next, the leader(s) direct the congregation in harmonizing the following:*

Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

## THE WORD SHARED

*From the Gospels*

Mark 1:29-39

Pew Bible, p. 911

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE OF THE DAY

*"Jesus the Guest"*

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

## WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

*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)*

**Creator and Redeemer, you are the One who sustains us in every moment. Without your grace, none of the gifts we offer would be possible. Thank you for being present with us, now let our offerings help your servants to be where they are needed for us and for others, in Christ's name. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE

*\*We Share Our Joys and Concerns*

*\*Invitation*

*\*Sursum Corda (Responsive)*

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God most high.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*\*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*\*Sanctus*

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty. The whole universe speaks of your glory. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest!**

*Fraction*

*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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

*Communion*

*Communion is served in the pews, first the bread and then the cup. The bread is gluten-free. Wine is white; grape juice is red. Each is consumed at the indication of the Pastor, unless this presents a hardship for the individual.*

*\*Concluding Prayer (Unison)*

**In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us from this time to live as people changed because we have shared the Living Bread, the Saving Cup, and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. Thus, holy One, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand  
No. 472 – New Century Hymnal*

Dosia Carlson

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.  
People: **Let our service begin.**

**POSTLUDE**

*O How Blessed are You*

Johannes Brahms

*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.*

**Cover art** is a mural painted on the side of a thrift store in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago. An accompanying panel says, “This racial reconciliation mural – designed by youth & adult artists of Uptown Baptist Church. More than 40 artists of all ages of this street, Uptown, & Chicago painted for the glory of God. First completed, 1995. Restored, 2001.”

**The cross image gracing the sanctuary vault** is a depiction of the three basic strokes in Japanese *sumi-e* painting, representing physical reality (vertical), the passage of time (horizontal), and movement (circle). They closely resemble the Celtic cross in which the lines and circle are associated heaven (vertical), earth (horizontal), and eternity (circle). The intersection of these meanings, and the membership here of *sumi-e* painter Chiura Obata from 1943 to 1945, led planners of our 150<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 2016 to commission this work. It was crafted by metal-worker Kem Williams and made possible by a grant from the Dr. Rodney M. Coe Memorial Fund.

### 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)

### 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.

### 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.



### Church Merch – Stained Glass Window Stickers

There are still some stickers remaining, after our initial public offering at Christmastime! **Round stickers depicting the "Paul Davis Window"** over the chancel in the sanctuary are available from the office for purchase. Terrific as a gift or to put on your own water bottle, computer, or any other surface you decide to decorate with a reminder of your beloved sacred space, they are three inches in diameter and \$5 in cost.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Signups to serve as worship leaders and/or Kids Church helpers are at

**Liturgists** - [bit.ly/Liturgists-2024](https://bit.ly/Liturgists-2024)

**Kids Church** - [bit.ly/FCCWG-Kids-2024](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-Kids-2024)

### Lent Devotional Study – “This Is My Body” After Worship (about 11:30am) during Lent and in Kids Church

The Pastor and the Coordinator of Faith Formation announce a devotional study for all ages during Lent, starting Sunday, February 18 and continuing through Palm Sunday, March 24. The devotional booklets, *This Is My Body* by Illustrated Ministry, are designed for home use (one for adults and the other for families) and group discussion. Participants will explore how Jesus lived in his body on earth and invite us to take care of – and embrace the goodness of – our own bodies.

Each week highlights a different story from Jesus’ life and connects it to shared human experiences – like growing up, taking naps, or drinking water. By engaging with these stories through a broad lens of embodiment, *This Is My Body* seeks to inspire curiosity, wonder, and awe. Adult discussions will take place on Sundays during Coffee Fellowship; young people will talk about *This Is My Body* in Kids Church.

The booklets for adults or families are NOW AVAILABLE FOR FREE in print or PDF format. Please, contact Pastor Dave or Mr. Johari for yours!



**Quilt Auction! Saturday, February 17, 2024**

**Doors open at noon. The auction will begin at 1:00 PM in Memorial Hall**

- Fourteen antique and vintage quilts will be auctioned, and the proceeds will benefit local charities through the First Church Benevolence Fund.
- A certified quilt appraiser has authenticated their provenance and quality.
- Each lovingly cared for quilt is hand pieced, hand quilted and in excellent condition.
- Details about their history and construction will be available on our website at [firstchurchwg.org/quilts](http://firstchurchwg.org/quilts).
- The quilts were donated by member and quilt collector, the late Marj Courtney.

For more information, contact Laura Cooper.

**Peace & Justice Team – Next Meeting, Sunday, February 11**

All members and friends of First Church are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings of our Peace & Justice Team (P&J). P&J considers a wide variety of social and environmental justice issues that are before us, every day. P&J also organizes our First Saturday collections. If you have an issue that you are especially concerned about, and want to discuss how the church might address it, or if you would just like to connect with others who have a heart like yours, please consider attending.

**St. Pat’s Dinner to Benefit Habitat for Humanity**

**March 9 from 4:00 to 7:30 PM at Samuel UCC, 320 N. Forsyth Blvd., Clayton**

For 30 years, Samuel and our United Churches of Christ have built houses with Habitat for Humanity St. Louis. For more than a dozen years, Samuel has hosted the St. Pat’s Dinner to help raise funds. **Tickets:** A suggested donation of \$20 or more for adults and \$6 for children **EVERY CENTER YOU GIVE goes to support the UCC Habitat Build.** All meat and other foods are given by the Kern Meat Company and others.

Call (314) 727-9540 or (314) 374-4183 for tickets or reservations.

**The Parish Life Ministry of First Congregational Church presents**

**“An Evening to Remember” Saturday, April 6th**

Please join us in our effort to raise over \$20,000 dollars for local charities and ministries in need. Do you remember the exciting feeling of dressing up for a party, date, or special occasion? Here's your opportunity to attend this formal event featuring a multi-course dinner, live music, live auction, and fellowship. **SAVE the DATE. Details to follow.**

**February Birthdays**

Charlie Brader .....	5
Mary Edwards .....	6
K Wentzien .....	6
Chris von Weise .....	8
Kathy Hill .....	11
Phoenix Hill .....	14
Doug Barton .....	15
Erick Falconer .....	16
Pat Doyle-Grace.....	20
Martin Mills.....	21

## **What's Happening at First Church**

### **Sunday, February 4**

**Sacrament of Christ's Table**

**All Ages Worship**

**9:00AM** Brown Baggers

**9:45AM** Nursery Care

**10:00AM** All Ages Worship

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

### **Monday, February 5**

**7:00PM** Scout Troops 301B & 301G – Dickens Room

### **Tuesday, February 6**

**1:00PM** Communications Team – Church Office

**6:30PM** Practicing Our Faith – Parlor

### **Wednesday, February 7**

**9:30AM** Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

**10:30AM** Staff Meeting – Church Office

**6:00PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

### **Thursday, February 8**

**6:00PM** Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir – Music Room

### **Sunday, February 11**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

**also Scout Sunday, Racial Justice Sunday, and Science & Technology Sunday**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care

**10:00AM** Worship

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:20AM** Peace & Justice Team

### **February Shopping List**

Canned Tuna, packed in Water • Tuna Helper • Canned Carrots (low or no salt)

Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk

Diapers • Diaper Wipes • Formula with Iron



## FROM THE PASTOR

### *This Is My Body*

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...  
full of grace and truth.  
(John 1:14)

I am always brought to wonder at the heart of our religion – the Incarnation of the eternal God who so longed to know our human condition as to be born and dwell among us.

A new devotional guide by Illustrated Ministry, ***This Is My Body***, explores the depth and breadth of the actual Atonement – which only partly includes the matter of Christ suffering and dying for the sins of the world. Crucially important for our understanding of who God is for us and with us, is that the Almighty

- became a baby,
- grew up, enduring adolescence and young adulthood,
- appears to have been occasionally sassy with his parents,
- required rest and food and drink,
- loved and forgave.

I encourage you to take part with others in this wonderful weekly study of Jesus' earthly life. You can participate in the way that you feel most apt to do. You can simply pick up a printed copy of the devotional, or you can download it (see the weekly *Covenant News* to find out how).

You can engage with others in a group discussion led by me on Sundays after worship. On Sundays when Kids Church is in session, Johari and Noel will use the weekly Family Edition to spark wondering and conversation with the young people.

Worship services during Lent will include prayers and other liturgy based on the devotional guide, too. This promises to be a meaningful season, as we look toward the Resurrection.

Peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PASTOR DAVE DEATON". The signature is stylized and cursive.





## WORSHIP NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 2024

*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](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)), at 10:00am on Sundays, except Ash Wednesday.*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4** – *Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany; Sacrament of Christ's Table; All Ages Worship.* Scriptures: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11; Mark 1:29-39. As the season After the Epiphany draws to a close, we are reminded of the profound call to hospitality which is so central to the Abrahamic faiths. But it is not only important for us to understand how to “entertain strangers,” as the author of the letter to the Hebrews insisted, but how to be a good guest. In an interactive sermon, Pastor Dave Denoon will prompt children and adults to think about how often Jesus was a guest in others’ homes, and what it means to be invited to Christ’s table. Message of the Day: **“Jesus the Guest”**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11** – *Transfiguration Sunday; Racial Justice Sunday; Evolution & Science Sunday; Scout Sunday* – 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9. The final Sunday before Lent begins, we recall how it was that Jesus’ true identity as God’s Child was revealed to three disciples. Simon Peter, James, and John witnessed Jesus transfigured. Jesus told them to say nothing about it until after his resurrection. But what could they have said?! Pastor Dave Denoon offers his thoughts on what Progressive Christian evangelism can look like. Message of the Day: **“What Do You Say?”**

– **Prayers and other parts of the liturgy during the season of Lent will include the theme for each week in our Lenten study, *This Is My Body*.** –

**ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 7:00PM** *in the Jubilee Garden with Sts. Clare & Francis Ecumenical Catholic Communion* – Psalm 90; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. This brief but meaningful service around an open fire will include the burning of last year’s palms from Palm Sunday and the imposition of ashes. Afterward, enjoy hot chocolate together with other worshipers; it may seem a little out of character for the holy day, but the clergy hope that it may affirm our unity for the Lenten journey.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18** – *First Sunday in Lent* – Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15. Our emphasis in worship, this morning, will be on the meaning of Christ’s baptism and our own... and on how these events affirm God’s oneness with us. Message of the Day: **“We’re in It with Him”**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25** – *Second Sunday in Lent; Seminary Sunday; Church Vocations Sunday* – Psalm 22:25-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38. We celebrate our historic relatedness with the UCC seminaries of the Midwest (Chicago, United in the Twin Cities, and Eden), collecting an offering to their benefit. The scriptures direct our attention to the faithfulness of Abraham and Sarah, and to the character of our faithfulness to Jesus – taking up our crosses and following. What, the Pastor asks, might be possible with faith? Message of the Day: **“Believing that Christ CAN”**



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[www.FirstChurchWG.org](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

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