

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

MARCH 10, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

“ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING” OFFERING



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 the Congregation standing, in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE *Erbarm' dich mein, o Herre Gott* J. S. Bach

WELCOME Andrea Welnick, *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 THE BELL

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**)

Draw as close as you dare, children of God. Press into community and fellowship.

**For Christ is found, not only in solitude but in the noise
and chaos of the crowd.**

Draw close and press in, for together in worship, we truly become the body of Christ.

**Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of
many.**

There is a time to find God by ourselves and a time to find God together.

**We gather as a community of saints to praise and worship
our God in unity. Come, let us worship!**

***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.**

***GATHERING HYMN** *My Song Is Love Unknown* Samuel Crossman
No. 222, vv. 1,2,5 – *New Century Hymnal*

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

**Invitation*

**Prayer of Confession* (Unison)

**God, we confess that we have trespassed boundaries. We have
listened in when we should have walked away. We have hugged
or kissed when we should have asked for permission. We have
given gifts when we were asked to refrain. We have stayed late
when we should have left on time. We have given advice when
we were not asked. We have spoken words of judgment about
someone else's situation. We have shared secrets that were not
ours to share. We have embarrassed someone for a laugh. We
have shamed someone for a few more clicks. We have posted or
commented when we should have been silent. Please, forgive**

our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. May we learn to love each other better and more carefully. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confession*

**Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)*

Friends and siblings in Christ, though we may have work to do to repair our relationships, we can rest in the assurance we are forgiven by God.

Let us persevere in peace, facing our consequences with determination and obedience. Amen.

**Singing God's Glory*

Sing Amen!

S. C. Molefe

No. 760 – *New Century Hymnal*

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

THE WORD SHARED

From the Epistles

Ephesians 2:1-10

Pew Bible, p. 1064

From the Gospels

John 3:14-21

p. 968

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Heal Us Now

Leon Sher

Chancel Choir with Leslie Caplan, soloist

Translation of the Hebrew:

We pray for healing of the body.
We pray for the healing of the soul,
For strength of flesh and mind and spirit.
We pray to once again be whole.

Oh, please, heal us now.
Oh, please, heal us please, heal us.
Heal us now.

We pray for healing of our people.
We pray for the healing of the land
And peace for every race and nation—
Every child, every woman, every man.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Positively Vulnerable"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior

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.

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Opportunities to Give and Gather

*Song of Praise

Doxology

Tune: OLD 100TH

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)

Generous life-giver, thank you for the opportunity to bring our offerings together. This is one way we can participate in community restoration and healing, for when we combine our gifts, we can serve you more effectively than if we act alone. Take these gifts as offerings of love and dedication. Help us steward them responsibly so the crowds of our community may be blessed by our ministries. Amen.

*PARTING HYMN

As Moses Raised the Serpent Up
No. 605 – *New Century Hymnal*

Anonymous

*BENEDICTION

*PARTING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE

O Perfect Love

arr. Hal Hopson

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.

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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 at 10am

Go to [bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](http://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 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 QR code.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Signup forms 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 11:20am)

Our devotional study for all ages during Lent continues **through Palm Sunday, March 24**. 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.

The booklets for adults or families are available in print or PDF format. Print copies may be found on the large narthex table. The download link for the Families booklet is <https://bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent01>. The download link for the Adult booklet is <https://bit.ly/FCCWG-02Lent>

### Consider Sponsoring Our Easter Flowers!

During Easter we enjoy having our sanctuary beautifully decorated with a variety of beautiful spring flowers. You are invited to make a contribution to defray this expense. A donation of \$20.00 is suggested. You may also like to designate your contribution in celebration, honor or memory. We hold many in our hearts especially during the Easter season as we celebrate the hope and joy of the season. This is a lovely way to show those feelings. The flowers will be available for pickup after Easter Sunday. Come early for flower selection! (Or you may donate a flower to one of our homebound members.)

Order your flowers online at [tinyurl.com/fccwg-easter-flowers](https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-easter-flowers) or pick up a form in the narthex.

### “Gala of Grace” — A Night of Giving and Gratitude Saturday, April 6th

Please be sure to pick up an invitation this morning and register for this exciting upcoming event where we will raise money for more than fifteen local charities and covenanted ministries. “Gala of Grace: A Night of Giving & Gratitude” is your opportunity to attend a dazzling event featuring a multi-course dinner, with music by artists Jared Cohen, Jonathan Brader, and the Oikos Ensemble, plus a live auction hosted by the legendary Rod Cooper. Don’t miss this once in a lifetime event to treat yourself, while helping those in need.

Dinner tickets for \$35 (soft drinks) or \$45 (beer & wine) may be purchased after worship at the table in the narthex. Cash, check, and cards are accepted. *Childcare is available, upon reservation.* Tickets are also available online at [FirstChurchWG.org/donate](https://FirstChurchWG.org/donate)

To offer you just a taste of items being auctioned, you’ll want to check out “Temptations 1 & 2” – [bit.ly/FCCWG-Temptation1](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-Temptation1) (this is a PDF download).

### Contribute to The Giving Tree

Your Benevolence Event planners are excited to announce that the *Gala of Grace: A Night of Giving & Gratitude* on April 6 will include a Giving Tree. Yes, it’s a tree... with gifts that you can purchase. We are looking for folks who would like to contribute a gift or service that can be sold on the Giving Tree. Bakers, perhaps you can bake something, or if you are handy around the house, perhaps donate a couple of hours of service. These items will be bought from the Giving Tree at the Gala, and the recipients will let you know when they would like their gift. Please see Nancy Rudolph or Jeanene Harris with your contribution. **Thank you and we look forward to seeing you.**

### The Peace & Justice Team says...

During Coffee Fellowship in Memorial Hall, watch for *Marilyn Claggett* who will be collecting signatures from registered voters, to include abortion rights on an upcoming ballot.

### **Lady Elect to meet next, March 26 at 12:00noon**

The next gathering of the Lady Elect will feature a program about handmade Guatemalan baskets. Alexandra Wechsler helps employ Guatemalan women in making these beautiful, unique baskets. The baskets are woven from recycled plastic threads. Come, hear her story. Bring a sack lunch, and join the Lady Elect at noon in the Inglis Room. All women of the church are welcome to attend. To RSVP, or for more information, please contact Faye Dyer.

### **Peter Kalulu and Lawrence Katumba Coming April 7 to Adult Ed at 11:20 in Memorial Hall**

Peter and Lawrence are both from Uganda and will be returning to their country in May to put their studies into practice. Peter is from northern Uganda and promotes global health equity and accessibility for vulnerable populations. He strives to provide clean and safe water, and good sanitation to rural communities. Lawrence comes from Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. He is a Ugandan health worker specializing in emergency medicine. At Washington University, he specialized in epidemiology and biostatistics. The two of them met just prior to moving to the States, and they will be teaming up to improve rural communities' health by providing clean and safe water, and a project on reducing malnutrition through food banks in Uganda.

Come, learn about their projects and their plans when they return to their country. They are truly remarkable men and how lucky we are to have them part of our congregation during their Washington University study.

### **First Church's New (Extended) Holy Week Schedule**

**Saturday, March 23, 10:00am** – Easter Egg Hunt (begins in Memorial Hall)

Download an Easter Egg Hunt flier to share with others from [bit.ly/FCCWG-Eggs](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-Eggs)

**Sunday, March 24, 10:00am** – Palm / Passion Sunday Worship

**Thursday, March 28, 7:00pm** – Union worship for Maundy Thursday  
with Sts. Clare & Francis Ecumenical Catholic Communion (Wm. E. Sample Chapel)

**Friday, March 29, 7:00pm** – Good Friday Blues with the Oikos Ensemble and Logos Readers

**Sunday, March 31**

**9:45am**

*Concert: Music for the Resurrection*

featuring

Canterbury Bells, conducted by Leon Burke, and  
Metropolitan Brass Works, led by Tom Bruce

**10:00am**

*Festival Worship and Kids Church*

**11:10am**

*Coffee Fellowship* with homemade coffee cakes

### **March Meal-a-Month Shopping List**

Canned Ham • Macaroni and Cheese • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)  
Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Toothbrushes • Toothpaste • Dental Floss

### **March Birthdays**

Kristin Rinne.....March 14  
Kitty Pearl.....March 18  
Jim Harris.....March 21  
Amy Byrne.....March 26

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** Office Administrator Debbie Tolstoi will be away from the office through March 12. Pastor Dave will be out of the office, March 12-15.

#### **Sunday, March 10**

#### **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

#### **“One Great Hour of Sharing” Special Offering**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:20AM** Lenten Study - Memorial Hall

#### **Monday, March 11**

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

**7:00PM** Three Ministries (Hybrid)

#### **Wednesday, March 13**

**9:30AM** Yoga – Inglis Room

**6:00PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

#### **Thursday, March 14**

**6:00PM** Canterbury Bells rehearsal - Sanctuary

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir rehearsal - Music Room

#### **Sunday, March 17**

#### **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

#### **St. Patrick's Day**

#### **Jazz Worship**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care

**10:00AM** Worship with the Oikos Ensemble

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:20AM** Lenten Study - Memorial Hall

#### **Monday, March 18**

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

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



## TREASURER’S REPORT

Below are the church operating results for January 2024 (Statement of Activities below; Statement of Financial Position on next page):

- Cash on hand is \$74k lower than prior year at the end of this month. The church has 2.0 months of cash on hand. While I was hoping to be able to hold back the Endowment transfers for a few months, pledge income is down compared to prior year and expenses are up. Therefore, we will reinstitute the \$15k Endowment transfer in March.
- Income is \$1,188 higher than budget but is \$9,970 lower than prior year
- Expenses are \$2,545 higher than budget. The annual budget was primarily spread evenly over the year. The Three Ministries expenses do not all hit evenly throughout the year. For example, in F&F repairs hit when incurred or needed.

### Statement of Financial Activities

|                                              | 2024              | 2023             | Budget            | Variance to<br>Budget |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Income                                       |                   |                  |                   | Higher/<br>(Lower)    |
| Pledges and Gifts                            | \$ 33,165         | \$ 44,437        | \$ 26,250         | \$ 6,915              |
| Transfer from Endowment                      | 15,000            | 15,000           | 21,917            | (6,917)               |
| Benevolence                                  | -                 | -                | -                 | -                     |
| Use of Space and Miscellaneous Income        | 7,878             | 6,848            | 6,912             | 966                   |
| Interest Income                              | 306               | 35               | 83                | 222                   |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                         | <b>56,349</b>     | <b>66,319</b>    | <b>55,162</b>     | <b>1,188</b>          |
| Expenses                                     |                   |                  |                   | (Higher)/<br>Lower    |
| Human Resources Expense                      | \$ 38,546         | \$ 37,100        | \$ 38,888         | \$ 342                |
| Facilities and Finance Expense               | 17,735            | 17,469           | 15,170            | (2,565)               |
| Benevolence Expense                          | 1,250             | 1,250            | 950               | (300)                 |
| Christian Education Ministry Expense         | 370               | 61               | 417               | 47                    |
| Parish Life Ministry Expense                 | 1,218             | 49               | 300               | (918)                 |
| Executive Ministry Expense                   | 400               | 190              | 1,250             | 850                   |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                        | <b>59,519</b>     | <b>56,119</b>    | <b>56,974</b>     | <b>(2,545)</b>        |
| <b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b> | <b>\$ (3,170)</b> | <b>\$ 10,200</b> | <b>\$ (1,812)</b> | <b>\$ (1,358)</b>     |



## Statement of Financial Position

|                                         | 2024              | 2023              | Variance           |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents               | \$ 118,058        | \$ 192,179        | \$ (74,122)        |
| Property and equipment                  | 25,224            | 26,681            | (1,457)            |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                     | <b>\$ 144,282</b> | <b>\$ 218,861</b> | <b>\$ (74,579)</b> |
| Unrestricted Designated Funds           | 31,262            | 25,578            | 5,684              |
| Restricted funds for:                   |                   |                   |                    |
| Funds in Endowment Trust                | 62,344            | 56,839            | 5,505              |
| Churchyard                              | 38,876            | 38,617            | 259                |
| Kishlar/Dickens Room Maintenance        | 49,046            | 49,046            | -                  |
| Memorial Funds                          | 63,420            | 76,148            | (12,728)           |
| Unrestricted Net Assets                 | (100,666)         | (27,367)          | (73,299)           |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b> | <b>\$ 144,282</b> | <b>\$ 218,861</b> | <b>\$ (74,579)</b> |

## *GALA OF GRACE: TEMPTATIONS #1 & #2*

Adam tempted Eve with but a single apple. This year's auction offerings can beat that apple all day long with these two opportunities for an **Evening Out with Friends**.



### **Being "Grapeful" Wine and Cheese Pairing**

A wine and cheese tasting for eight friends that promises to combine the rich flavors of wine harmoniously paired with a variety of exquisite cheese from around the world. Whether you are a seasoned connoisseur or a curious enthusiast, this will be a very enjoyable and memorable evening in the city with Rebecca and Ernie Carter-Novak.



### **Bourbon Trail of Fenton**

You need not travel to Kentucky to taste bourbon from the Kentucky Bourbon Trail when Rod and Laura Cooper will drive down and bring it back for you to enjoy in Fenton. You are invited to taste six bourbons from the Trail and to dine on appetizers and smoked ribs. Wine will be offered for those who do not enjoy the rich flavors of genuine Kentucky bourbon. "Bourbon" is not truly bourbon unless it is from Kentucky, Rod's home state.

# EASTER EGG HUNT

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



OF WEBSTER GROVES  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**MARCH 23**  
**10 AM - 11 AM**  
**10 WEST LOCKWOOD**  
**WEBSTER, MO**

**FREE**  
**INDOOR EVENT**  
**PUBLIC WELCOME**  
**AGES: 2 - 11**



For more information, call  
(314) 962-0475, ext. 112  
or visit [FirstChurchWG.org](http://FirstChurchWG.org)



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
[www.FirstChurchWG.org](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

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Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon  
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Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi  
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Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
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Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
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Custodian & AV Tech – Mark Metcalf

Weekend & Events Custodians –  
Kayla Skiles & Onyeka Igboanuzue

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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