

Welcome!

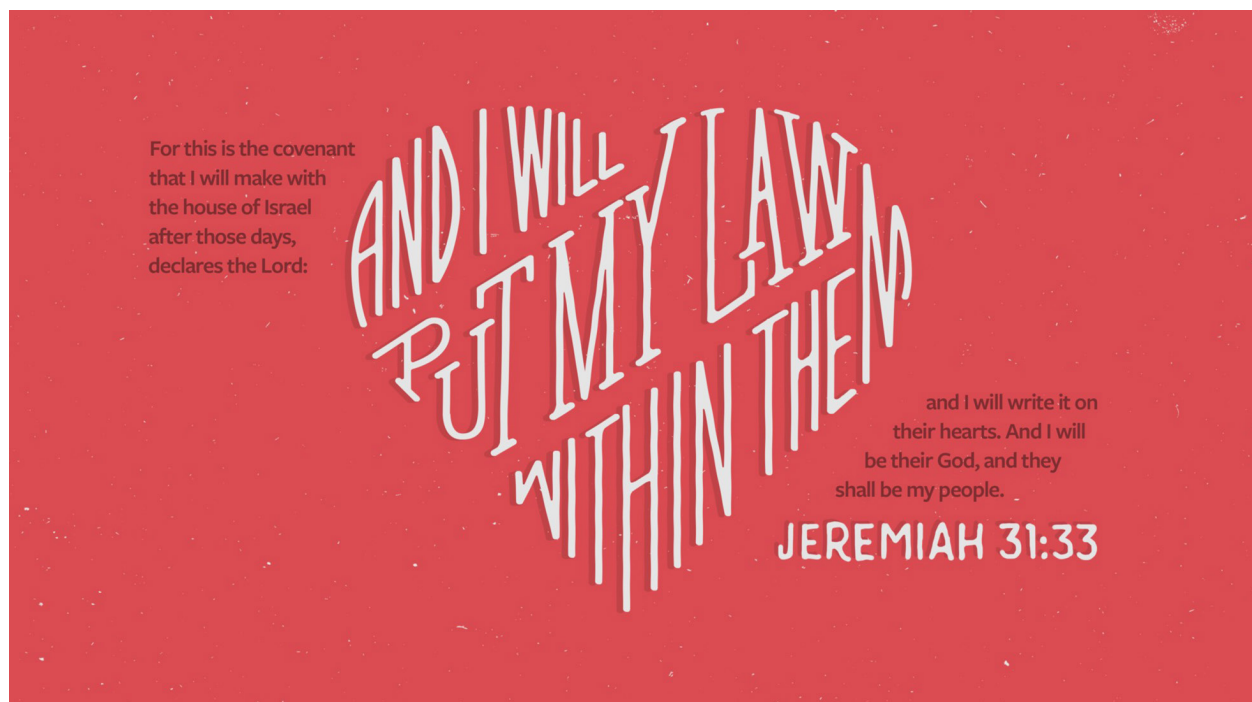
First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

MARCH 17, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



***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 *Maiden Voyage* Herbie Hancock

WELCOME Jane Porchey, *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

INTROIT *Dahomey Dance* John Coltrane
Lyrics by Cliff Aerie

No one, no one knows,
Where the future goes,
Only trust your soul.

Look back, see the past.
Move on, free at last.
Blessings, live your path.

Dream on, seek the way.
Wake up, brand new day.
Keep on, come what may.

***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** *Morning Has Broken* Eleanor Farjeon
No. 38 – *Pilgrim Hymnal*

***RITUAL OF APPROACH (Unison)**

Invitation

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God who has created and is creating, forgive us for hoarding when we should take and use only what we need. Forgive us for wasting when we throw away food, clothing, and other resources. Forgive us for choosing to make more and more money instead of spreading out the blessings. And forgive us for letting some go hungry and unhoused amidst all of our wealth. Reorient our hearts to a better way so all of humanity might thrive and be well. Amen.

Silence for Personal Confession

Words of Assurance (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

Thanks be to God we are forgiven because of Jesus' saving work. Be comforted that God promises to, "satisfy every need of yours according to God's riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

May our needs be met and may our hands be generous to share our abundance with others. 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 Prophets

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Pew Bible, p. 721

From the Epistles

Hebrews 5:5-10

p. 1091

From the Gospels

John 12:20-33

p. 980

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Blue Monk

Thelonious Monk

Lyrics by Cliff Aerie

Going along, singing a song, keeping on with each new day.

A fork in the road, I must carry my load, the question is: which is the way?

It takes some doing, but the journey calls and I'm on my way,

hear now what I say:

Life is a school, unless you're a fool, and learning can bring you some pain.

Playing the game, it all seems the same, trial and error loss and gain.

It takes some doing, but the journey calls and I'm on my way,

bringing sunshine and rain.

Running the race, keeping the pace, often stumbling on the way.

Shallow or deep, learning's not cheap, but blessings make the challenge okay.

It takes some doing, but the journey calls and I'm on my way,

hoping for a brand-new day.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"A Sixth Sense"

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: TALLIS' CANON

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)

God of the harvest, just as Joseph fed his family, and Boaz would leave grain in his fields for gleaning, and just as you called Peter to feed your sheep, you desire that we would use our resources to feed others. So, we dedicate our offering to you as an act of cooperation and service. Receive these gifts so they may be a blessing to our community and those in need. Give us the wisdom to steward them well. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Be Thou My Vision

Ancient Irish

Tune: SLANE

tr. Mary E. Byrne

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that though art;
thou my best thought by day or by night
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
thou ever with me and I with thee, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

People: **Let our service begin.**

POSTLUDE

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

African American Spiritual

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

All of our music is provided today by the **Oikos Jazz Ensemble**, part of our Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA). Members of the Oikos Ensemble include Kim Fuller, vocals; Carolbeth True, piano; Glen Smith, bass; and Kyle Honeycutt, percussion.

MICA takes part in Sunday morning jazz worship, seven times a year, and conducts two seasonal programs – Jazz Noel and Good Friday Blues (coming, March 29 at 7pm!!!) – in addition to other occasional performances. If you would like to support MICA with a gift separate from your contribution to the church, please do so with

- a cash offering (in an envelope on which you have written, “MICA”),

- a check made payable to the church with “MICA” written in the memo line, or
- an electronic contribution on the Donate page of our website (find “MICA” in the pull-down menu).

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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](http://bit.ly/Liturgists-2024) | **Kids Church** - [bit.ly/FCCWG-Kids-2024](http://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](http://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](http://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-TemptationI](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-TemptationI) (this is a PDF download).

### **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 12:00 Noon**

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.

### **Coffee Cakes Needed for Easter Sunday!**

On Easter Sunday, April 20th, please bring coffee cakes to share during Coffee Fellowship. Lady Elect requests that the cakes are pre-plated and ready-to-serve. We hope to see you as we bring back this popular tradition!

## **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

## **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.

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

### **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)

### **Tuesday, March 19**

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

### **Wednesday, March 20**

**9:30AM** Yoga – Inglis Room

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

**6:00PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

### **Thursday, March 21**

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

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

### **Sunday, March 24**

#### **Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion**

**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



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

## Contact Information

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Weekend & Events Custodians –  
Kayla Skiles & Onyeka Igboanuzue

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