

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

APRIL 7, 2024

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 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

Bicinium on Lasst Uns Erfreuen

John Barr

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 THE BELL

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

LITANY OF REDEDICATION (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

For the worship of God in prayer and praise, for the preaching of the word, for the celebration of the holy sacraments,

We rededicate this building.

For the comfort of those who mourn, for the help of those who are perplexed, with the guidance of those who seek strength,

We rededicate this building.

For the support and nurture of families, for the guidance of children, for the calling of youth to a life of service,

We rededicate this building.

For guarding against evil, for fostering faithfulness, for promoting peace and justice in all the earth,

We rededicate this building.

For the opening of minds to your truth, for the care of the needy, for the giving of hope and courage,

We rededicate this building.

For the unity of all believers in Christ, for the carrying of the gospel into all the world comma for the furtherance of the unity of all people,

We rededicate this building.

For the consecration of life and service in grateful remembrance of those who have gone before us, and in gratitude for our life together in this church,

We rededicate this building to the glory of God comma to the honor of Jesus Christ comma and to the praise of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God!

***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**

Thine Is the Glory
No. 193 – *Pilgrim Hymnal*

E. L. Budry

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

**Introduction (Responsive)*

Jesus Christ, we greet you! Your hands are pierced, your breath is warm and your conversation engaging; and with the memory of our names undimmed by three days of death you meet us, risen from the grave.

We fail to understand how; we puzzle at the reason why.

You have come: not to answer our questions, but to show us your face.

So confront us as you confronted your first disciples, and make our worship something to be felt and not merely spoken or sung.

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)*

Breathe on us with your very breath, Messiah, and touch us with your hands. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, and embrace us both within and without. We need to be reassured that we are truly yours. We have allowed doubts to get in the way of our faithfulness. We have hesitated to accept you because the truth is so hard to believe. And still you accept us. We are mystified at your grace, but thankful. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confession*

**Words of Assurance (Responsive)*

What can we do with such grace like that which God shows us in Jesus Christ?

Indeed, what *can't* we do, for that Spirit we share is power itself to overcome fear and regret!

Let us live, let us grow, in God's love.

For peace is ours. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**Singing God's Glory*

Halle-halleluja!

trad. Caribbean

No. 236 – *New Century Hymnal*

SHARING THE WORD

From the Gospels

John 20:19-31

p. 989

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Keeping Things Real"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH OTHERS

Opportunities to Give and Gather

**Song of Praise*

Doxology with Alleluias

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God above, you heavenly host –

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

You have blessed us, O God, with many things – the love of family and friends, a faith-filled community here, and, for most of us, work that gives a sense of purpose and which provides for ourselves and our loved ones. These are things we can feel with our hands and our hearts. Bless the gifts we give from out of the bounty you have provided, so that your blessings may extend beyond our reach to touch others in Christ’s name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S TABLE

Petitions (Joys and Concerns)

Invitation

Institution and Consecration

Song of the Supper

Iona Community

Refrain.

**Oh, the food comes from the baker,
The drink comes from the vine,
The words come from the Savior:
I will meet you in bread and wine.**

The 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.

Distribution

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.

**Prayer after Communion*

We thank you, God for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ’s gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

*We Live by Faith and Not by Sight
No. 256 – New Century Hymnal*

Henry Alford

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Postlude in C

J. S. Bach

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 at 10am. Go to 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.

Peter Kalulu and Lawrence Katumba TODAY – Adult Ed at 11:20 in Memorial Hall

Peter and Lawrence are both from Uganda and will be returning to their country after their graduate studies are concluded, to put those 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.

Coffee in the Narthex

Now that I've got your attention, the Facility & Finance Ministry plans to report every month or so to keep the congregation apprised of what we're doing. Our building is sizable and has a lot of moving parts, many of them quite old. There always seems to be something that needs to be replaced or repaired. The recent addition of a number of organizations leasing our space exacerbates the situation.

One recent issue involves the serving of coffee in the Narthex prior to the Sunday service. F&F is concerned about this practice and the potential for spills. Last month four of the carpet tiles were stained and required replacement. Our number of backup carpet tiles is limited. Having said that, we learned that there are NO replacement parquet tiles for the sanctuary. Any liquid spilled could easily flow down between tiles and cause warpage.

Two other issues:

The roof on building 3 (Memorial Hall/Sample Chapel) is over thirty years old and has outlived its usefulness. In addition, there are roof sections on buildings 1 and 2 that require attention. We

recently had the whole roof evaluated and expect a full report in the near future. Once that is submitted, we'll get competitive bids. Whichever option is selected will not be inexpensive. The project will likely be done in "affordable" increments.

Secondly, the wood doors leading into building 3 from the west side cannot be locked or unlocked from the outside. This creates a problem for our lessees who use it (Sts Clare & Frances and Patterson Performing Arts). Chip plans to install a new lock there, so they won't be required to use the aluminum doors in building 1.

Phil Shoulberg

Congratulations, Pastor Dave Denoon! Citizen of the Year — Webster Groves

Each year, the Webster Groves - Rock Hill - Shrewsbury - Brentwood Chamber of Commerce hosts a "Heart of the Community" Awards dinner, honoring at least ten people and businesses nominated by others for exemplary leadership in a variety of categories. This year, Pastor Dave Denoon was selected as Webster Groves Citizen of the Year. He will be honored at the Awards dinner on Friday, April 26 at 6:00pm, at Shrewsbury City Center.

Volunteer Opportunities

Signup forms to serve as worship leaders and/or Kids Church helpers are at
Liturgists - bit.ly/Liturgists-2024 | **Kids Church** - bit.ly/FCCWG-Kids-2024

Annual Reports Due on April 15

If you are the chair of one of the ministries, employees, or groups listed below, please submit your reports to Debbie by April 15. For those new to Annual Report writing, the period we need is from May of 2023 through April of 2024.

Church Historian • Treasurer • Moderator • Endowment Counselors
Communications Team • First Friends • Parish Life Ministry • Membership
Habitat for Humanity • Benevolence • Holiday Library
Facility and Finance Ministry • Christian Ed Ministry
Coordinator of Faith Formation • Music Director
Ministry of Imagination, Creativity and the Arts • Brown Baggers
Peace and Justice • Lady Elect Guild • Journeymen
Stillpoint Multi-faith Campus Ministry at Webster University • Pastor

Submitting Covenant News Articles, Information, Images and Reports !

If you would like something included in one of the issues for email and for the bulletin, please email it to Debbie by the 20th of the month prior to the month in which you want your item included.

For weekly inclusion, please be sure to email us by Tuesday afternoons.

Calling All Puzzlers

If you like jigsaw puzzles, there will be a storage tub full of them in the office. The tub will be located under the desk by the door leading to the kitchen. Help yourself and return when it's finished. If you have puzzles to donate, just drop them off in the tub. We've discovered there are many puzzlers in our church. Enjoy!

Habitat for Humanity Update

Our Habitat Work Day is Saturday, October 4th. First Church will be working along with Peace UCC. We need four workers. There will be a sign-up sheet in the office.

**What's Happening at First Church
Sunday, April 7**

**30th Anniversary of Sanctuary Dedication
Sacrament of Christ's Table
All Ages Worship
9:00AM Brown Baggers
9:45AM Nursery Care Available
10:00AM Worship
10:15AM Kids' Church
11:05AM Coffee Fellowship
11:20AM Adult Ed – Uganda Mission**

**Monday, April 8
OFFICE CLOSED**

**Tuesday, April 9
10:30AM Staff Meeting – Church Office**

**Wednesday, April 10
9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room
6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room
7:00PM Three Ministries – Hybrid
8:00PM Executive Ministry – Hybrid**

**Thursday, April 11
6:00PM Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary
7:30PM Chancel Choir – Music Room**

**Sunday, April 14
9:45AM Nursery Care Available
10:00AM Worship
10:15AM Kids' Church
11:05AM Coffee Fellowship
11:20AM Adult Ed – Racially Restrictive Covenants in Webster**

April Birthdays

Jane Brader	April 06
Valerie Paci	April 10
Phil Shoulberg	April 18
Sharon Love	April 18
Diane McCoy	April 23
Lizzie Monaco	April 23
Francis Byrne	April 25

April Meal-a-Month Shopping List

**Canned Turkey • Brown Rice • Canned Corn (low or no salt)
Applesauce (in plastic, no sugar added)
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Peanut Butter • Real Fruit Jelly • Dried Fruits**



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Contact Information

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Custodian & AV Tech – Mark Metcalf

Weekend & Events Custodians –
Kayla Skiles & Onyeka Igboanuzue

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

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

