

Welcome!

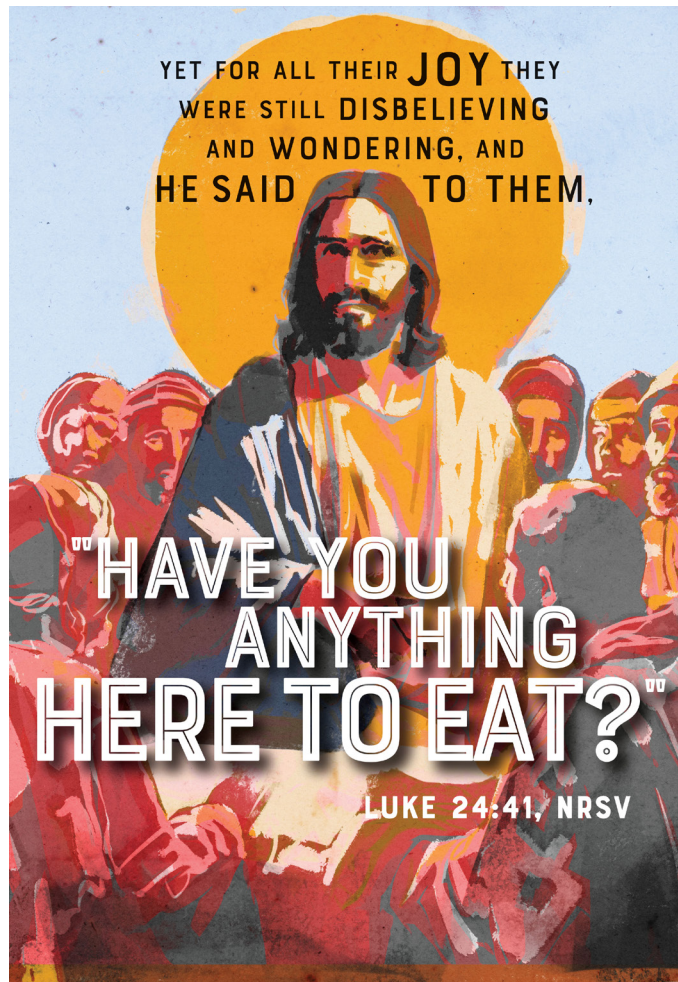
First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

APRIL 14, 2024

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 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

Air from Suite 3

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Roger Barnes, *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**)

from Psalm 4

Offer proper offerings to God, and put your trust in the HOLY ONE.

There are many who say, “O that we might see some good.

Let the light of your face shine on us, O HOLY ONE.”

God has put gladness in our hearts, more than when grain and wine abound.

May God be gracious to us and hear our prayers.

***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**

***GATHERING HYMN**

Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain
No. 230, vv. 1,3,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

St. John Damascus

***RITUAL OF APPROACH** (Unison)

**Invitation*

**Silence for Personal Confession*

**Prayer of Approach*

**Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty and,
through Christ’s victory over death, you have restored all things
to glory. You therefore not only know us as we are, no matter
who we are where we are on our journey, but you know how far
we may miss the mark of your expectations for us. Like Peter,
we have been forgiven and chosen for ministry. Like Mary
Magdalene, through you all impediments have been lifted that
were before us. Like Paul, we have been singled out to serve no
matter our past. For your forgiveness, your blessing, and your
call to service, we will always be thankful. Now receive this
prayer that, wherever your victory is being disfigured by
poverty, sickness, selfishness, war, or greed, the new creation in
Jesus Christ may appear – as it has for us as persons and as a
people – in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

**Singing God's Glory*

Halle-halleluja!
No. 236 – *New Century Hymnal*

Trad. Caribbean

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

SHARING THE WORD

From Christian History
From the Gospels

Acts 3:12-19
Luke 24:36b-43

Pew Bible, p. 993
p. 965

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Shalom Alechem

Traditional

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"The Author Who Writes, Life!" Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Nothing Can Trouble
No. 773 – *New Century Hymnal*

Jacques Berthier

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

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 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)*

It was your gift first, O gracious God, that led to ours. You have given us all we have and are and hope for. With gratitude for your salvation and preservation of the world we offer our gifts. Bless and receive them in Jesus' name. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Peace I Leave with You
No. 249, vv. 1,3 – *New Century Hymnal*

Ray Repp

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Marche

Lefébure-Wély

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.

Outstanding 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.

Moderator • Parish Life Ministry • Habitat for Humanity
Benevolence • Facility and Finance Ministry • Music Director
Brown Baggers • Peace and Justice • Lady Elect Guild • Journeymen
Stillpoint Multi-faith Campus Ministry at Webster University • Pastor

**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.

Racially Restrictive Covenants in Webster – Samantha Enlund TODAY – Adult Ed at 11:20 in Memorial Hall

Webster Groves High School sophomore Samantha Enlund has been working on a project to End Racially Restrictive Covenants on property deeds in Webster Groves. She is supported by the STL Changemakers at the Missouri History Museum, the Chelsea Center of WGHS, and the City of Webster Groves. Samantha will be offering a presentation about her work, in an Adult Ed. session, today! This will include the spreadsheet catalogue she created for identifying properties with Racially Restrictive Covenants. Whether or not you live in Webster Groves, this is a fascinating and enlightening presentation.

New Location for Puzzles

The puzzle collection has grown by leaps and bounds! There were too many to keep in the tub, so we have moved them to a shelf in the hallway between the kitchen and the office. Take one or two and bring back one or two. Enjoy!

Gala of Grace Credit Card Malfunction

As many of you know, the credit card processor had a meltdown and malfunctioned during the check-out process at the event on Saturday evening. If you weren't able pay, please send in (or pay today. We will be in the narthex after church to receive what's owed. Thank you!

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/FCCWVG-Kids-2024

Submitting Covenant News Articles, Information, Images and Reports!

If you would like something included in one of the issues for the *Covenant News* weekly 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. Alternatively, for *Covenant News* the same week, please be sure to email us by Tuesday afternoons.

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.

Police & Fire Event at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church April 20th from 11am to 3pm

You are welcome to bring your children and grandchildren to an event sponsored by the Old Webster Trade Association at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday April 20th from 11-3! The Webster Groves Police will be providing fingerprinting services for children and the Fire Department will providing some summer water safety tips. There will also be some additional fun activities for children. This looks to be a fun and interesting event!

Kids' Church on First Sundays

Beginning in May, Kids Church will include first Sundays! All Ages Worship will be scheduled for four Sundays a year, not including special services like Blessing of the Animals and Hanging of the Greens.

Baptism / Confirmation Classes Begin Video Premiere!

Some youths and an adult recently approached Pastor Dave Denoon about being baptized. Additionally, the pastor became aware of a church family the eldest child of which was unable to take part in the Class of 2023 Confirmation program. To accommodate all of these, the pastor has begun an intensive Baptism / Confirmation program which will conclude on June 2 in worship, that day, when all will affirm their vows.

The first of a set of videos has been uploaded to our YouTube channel. If you would like to see what our students are learning about “Water and Water Imagery in Christianity,” please feel free to watch it at <https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-baptism>.

Meanwhile, plans are in the works for a Confirmation Class to begin in September of this year, after the pastor's return from sabbatical. That class will be received into membership in June 2025. If you have a seventh or eighth grader in your household who would like to be a part of the Class of 2025, please alert Pastor Dave.

April Birthdays

Jane Brader	April 6
Julie Cohen	April 10
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**

What's Happening at First Church

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

4:00PM Baptism / Confirmation Class (Zoom)

Monday, April 15

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

Tuesday, April 16

10:30AM Staff Meeting – Church Office

Wednesday, April 17

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Thursday, April 18

6:00PM Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir – Music Room

Sunday, April 21

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

11:20AM Adult Ed – Book Ban Presentation

4:00PM Baptism / Confirmation Class (Zoom)



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Contact Information

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Kayla Skiles & Onyeka Igboanuzue

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Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry
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YouTube

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

