

Welcome!

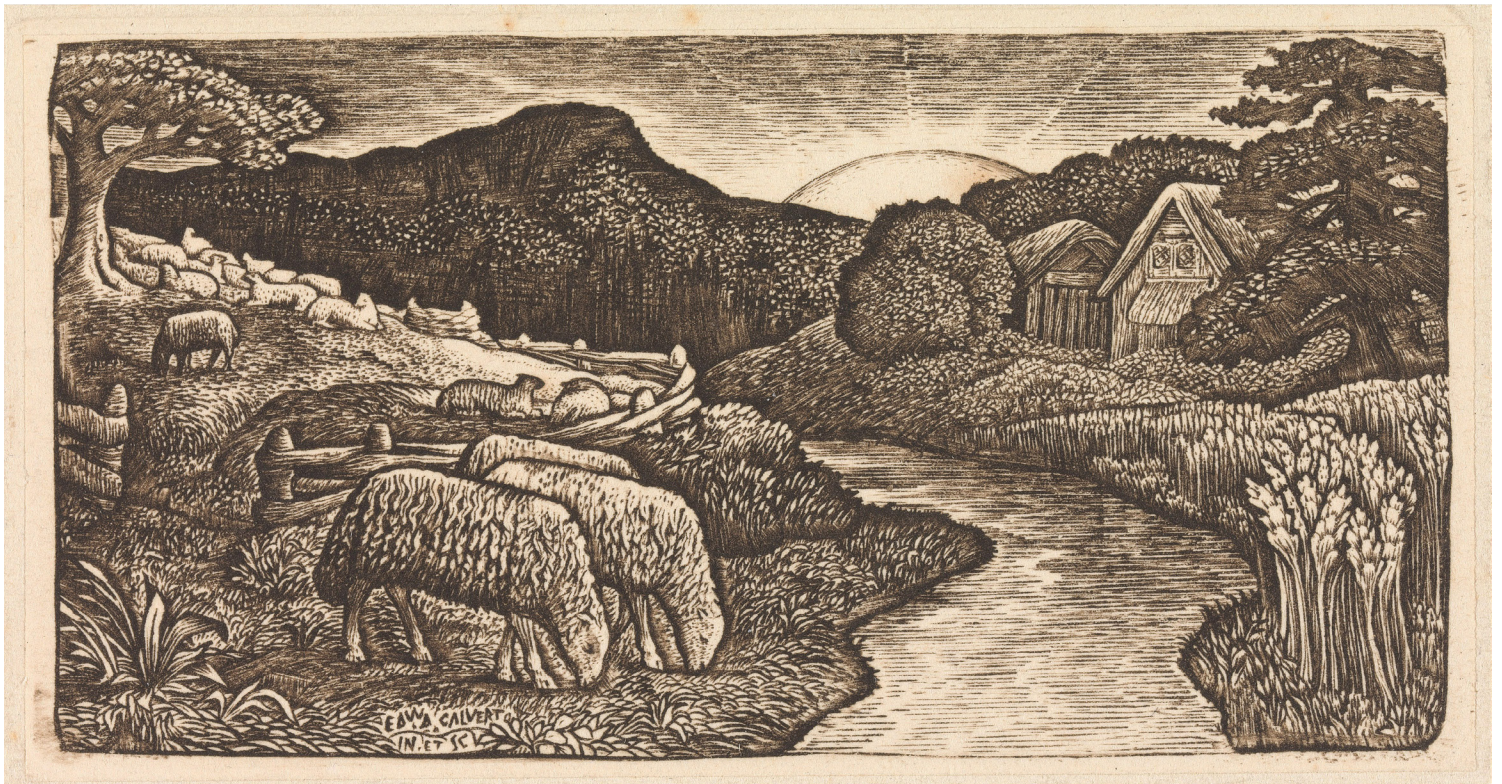
First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

APRIL 21, 2024

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
(GOOD SHEPHERD)**



*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 *Adoro Te Devote* from *Processionale*
Cliff Aerie, saxophone French plainsong, 1697

WELCOME Mark Edwards, *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 *For the Beauty of the Earth* Tune: ADORO TE DEVOTE
Cliff Aerie, saxophone; Leon Burke, vocal

***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** *For the Beauty of the Earth* F. S. Pierpont, alt.
Tune: ADORO TE DEVOTE

For the beauty of the earth – sing, oh sing today.
Of the sky and of the earth – sing, oh sing always.
Nature human and divine all around us lies.
Lord of all to thee we raise grateful hymns of praise.

Daystar shines to fill the sky – sing, oh sing today.
Oceans flow and mountains sigh– sing, oh sing always.
Nature human and divine all around us lies.
Lord of all to thee we raise grateful hymns of praise.

Dance your days, recall your birth – sing, oh sing today.
Sow your seeds and live your worth – sing, oh sing always.
Nature human and divine all around us lies.
Lord of all to thee we raise grateful hymns of praise.

***PRAYER OF APPROACH** *“Knee-bowed and Body-bent”* James Weldon Johnson
Poem alternately spoken with Psalm 23
(Responsive – Leader; **People**)

Sovereign God, we come this morning knee-bowed and body-bent before
your throne of grace.

**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me
to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the
still waters; he restoreth my soul.**

God of our creation – this morning – bow our hearts beneath our knees,
and bow our knees in some lonesome valley.

**He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s
sake, yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow**

**of death! I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod
and thy staff they comfort me.**

Redeeming God, we come this morning like empty pitchers to a full fountain, with no merits of our own.

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine
enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup
runneth over!**

Mighty God, open up a window of heaven, and lean out far over the battlements of glory, and listen this morning.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, all the days of
my life. And I will dwell in the house of the LORD, for ever.
Amen.**

***SINGING GOD'S GLORY**

Halle-halleluja!

Trad. Caribbean

No. 236 – *New Century Hymnal*

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

The children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.

Afterward, they may proceed to Kids' Church, or return to their seats.

SHARING THE WORD

From the Epistles

1 John 3:16-24

Pew Bible, p. 1111

From the Gospels

John 10:11-18

p. 978

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth (Dix)
Canterbury Bells

arr. Kevin McChesney

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Like Little Children"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation

Nothing Can Trouble

Jacques Berthier

No. 773 – *New Century Hymnal*

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)*

God of our lives and livelihoods, you have given us so much. May we never take it for granted. The fruit of our labors abounds, and we continue to grow in you. Through your Spirit, the work and witness of your church touches hearts and changes lives all around us and beyond ourselves. Bless our gifts so that the blessings may continue, in Jesus' name. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

The Blue Green Hills of Earth
from *Missa Gaia (Earth Mass)*

Paul Winter

For the earth forever turning, for the skies, for ev'ry sea,
for our lives, for all we cherish, sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the mountains, hills, and pastures in their silent majesty;
for the stars, for all the heavens, sing we our joyful song of peace.

For the sun, for rain and thunder, for the seasons' harmony,
for lives, for all creation, sing we our joyful praise to Thee.

For the world we raise our voices, for the home that gives us birth;
in our joy we sing returning home to our blue-green hills of earth.

***BENEDICTION**

***WORDS OF PARTING**

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.

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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](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 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.

## Adult Ed – The Fear and Freedom of Books TODAY at 11:20 in Memorial Hall

Censorship, bans, debates, threats, lawsuits, protests. Books are currently not a peaceful subject. School librarian Janet Mees Reinert shares information about how we got here and thoughts on why we must enter the storm.

## Outstanding Annual Reports Due on April 15

*If you are the chair of one of the ministries, an employee, or lead one of the groups listed below, please submit your reports to Debbie as soon as you are able. For those new to Annual Report writing, the period we need is from May of 2023 through April of 2024.*

Moderator • Parish Life Ministry • Benevolence • Peace and Justice • 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

## Support for Martin – Thank you!

Martin Mills had surgery, earlier this week, to remove a cataract from his right eye. All went well, down to the wonderful response of church members to our request for assistance with his medicated eye drops. All four slots, each day for four days, have been filled! (Did you miss this opportunity? Martin’s left cataract will be removed in a week. Sign up then!)

## Concern for Janet Fales

On Tuesday of this week, we received word that our dear sister Janet Fales had suffered a devastating stroke. On Thursday, she was transferred to the Evelyn's Home hospice in Chesterfield. Please, pray for Janet and her dear family and friends.

## Lady Elect Field Trip!

The April 23rd Lady Elect meeting will be a field trip to tour the Hindu Temple on Weidman Road. Afterwards we'll enjoy lunch out together. We'll gather at church at 10:30 to carpool to the temple. All women of the church are welcome. PLEASE RSVP to Faye Dyer

## 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)

### **Submitting Covenant News/Bulletin 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**

Sunday June 2 is the day for the dedication of five new Habitat homes in the Lookaway Summit neighborhood. First Church volunteers worked on these homes last August. Watch this space for details. The published date for our 2024 First Church Habitat Workday is wrong. **The accurate date is Saturday, October 26.** There are still openings. Sign-up sheet is hanging in the office. We will be working with a group from Peace UCC.

### **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 Webster Groves 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.

### **New Display Case Exhibit**

Take time on your way to Memorial Hall to enjoy the new display in the display case. Charlie Schoenherr had shared items from his school lunch box collection and Kathy Hill has shared her bird collection. Together they provide a "breath of Spring" for us all to enjoy. Thank you Charlie and Kathy for sharing. If you would like to share something for a new display later this year, please see or contact Joan Musbach.

### **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!

**The St. Louis Association Spring Fellowship Gathering**, a non-delegate, no-business, fellowship gathering, will be held on May 2 with dinner between 5:30 - 6:30 PM at St. Lucas United Church of Christ in Sunset Hills.

The keynote speaker is the Rev. Dr. **Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.** Rev. Thompson was elected at the 2023 General Synod held last summer in Indianapolis, Indiana. Her theme is: *The Outpouring of God's Spirit: Spirituality and the Church* based on Joel 2:28.

The registration fee is \$20.00. All are welcome! **Register here at <https://bit.ly/SLA-Spring24>**

### **April Birthdays**

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Jane Brader</b>    | <b>April 6</b>  |
| <b>Julie Cohen</b>    | <b>April 10</b> |
| <b>Valerie Paci</b>   | <b>April 10</b> |
| <b>Phil Shoulberg</b> | <b>April 18</b> |
| <b>Sharon Love</b>    | <b>April 18</b> |
| <b>Diane McCoy</b>    | <b>April 23</b> |
| <b>Lizzie Monaco</b>  | <b>April 23</b> |
| <b>Francis Byrne</b>  | <b>April 25</b> |

### **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 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)

#### **Monday, April 22**

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

#### **Tuesday, April 23**

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

**6:00PM** Practicing Our Faith – Parlor

#### **Wednesday, April 24**

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

**6:00PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

#### **Thursday, April 25**

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

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir – Music Room

#### **Sunday, April 28**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**4:00PM** Baptism / Confirmation Class (Zoom)



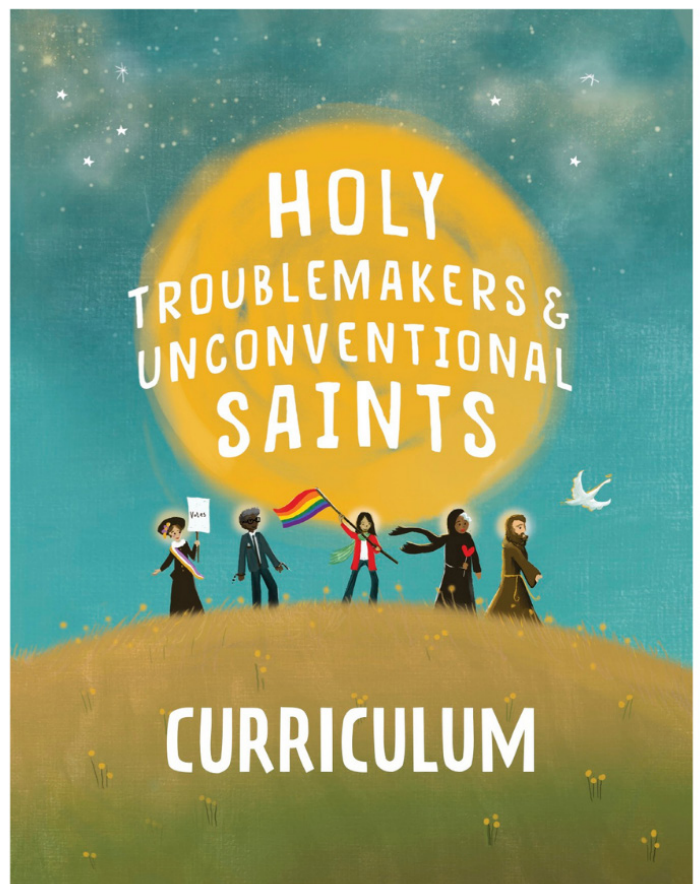
## Coordinator of Faith Formation April Report

Spring is Here! Crazy weather aside, it's nice to see the heat slowly rolling in, along with the activities that accompany them like the farmers market, food truck Fridays, and all the picnic parties that are getting planned!

Christian Education is meeting spring in stride, we have quite a few adult education presentations planned (I hope you have enjoyed what has come so far) after church so please stick around because we have some phenomenal presenters that are addressing conversations, I think the congregation will find interesting. Furthermore, Kid's church will be starting the *Holytroublemakers* curriculum. I look forward to revisiting some notable figures with the kids, as well as, introducing some new people they may not know about and bringing to the forefront anyone they may find admirable and inspiring in their lives or in their communities.

Other Notable Sundays to keep an eye out for is April 28th, our older youth will be helping to lead church, May 12th a special Mother's Day song, and a birthday cake on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th.

Thanks,  
Johari Hunt





# UGANDA WATER PROJECT



For the last several months, Ugandans Peter Kalulu and Lawrence Katumba have been attending our church. They are completing their master's in public health from Washington University and will be finished in May.

60% of Uganda's rural population lacks access to clean, safe drinking water. Children and families are drinking, bathing, and washing clothes in polluted rivers, ponds and lakes. Families are at great risk for waterborne diseases. Lawrence and Peter have stepped forward with their Field for Humanity Uganda Water Project to give villages a way to establish a sustainable and cost effective means for clean water.

Under the direction of both Lawrence and Peter the Field for Humanity has provided for the construction costs, from the government rural water lines to the first kiosk built that provides safe drinking water to four villages. This benefits 375 households and over 2250 children and adults. In addition, five ceramic water filters and 25 Sato toilets have been installed.

Their goal is to construct additional community water kiosks, water filters and toilets across all 44 villages. The total cost of a kiosk filter and toilets is \$1,000. The team has the capability to construct 10 kiosks per year.

Our church members are a giving group. Lawrence and Peter's project has touched my heart because of my involvement with similar projects through Rotary.

I am undertaking the solicitation of church donations for Field for Humanity. Checks can be made payable to FCCWG with notation in the memo line "Uganda Water Project." Donations may be given from one's IRA directly to the church; contact your financial advisor.

Thank you for your support.

Rod Cooper



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

## Contact Information

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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  
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