

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

APRIL 28, 2024

FIFTH 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 *Hymn of Praise* A. Schreiner

WELCOME Phoenix Hill
*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**) Adrianna Hoepfer
Gathered as one people, let us praise God and pay our vows before those
who revere God.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek God
shall praise the HOLY ONE. May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember God's faithfulness toward us, and
will turn to the HOLY ONE; all the families of the nations shall worship
before our God.

**And we shall worship, too, for majesty belongs to the
HOLY ONE, who rules over the nations.**

***RAISING THE COVENANT** *Covenant of 1977* Ryder Hoepfer

**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** *Child of God* Daria Marmaluk-Hajioannou

If anybody asks you who I am,
who I am, who I am,
If anybody asks you who I am,
tell them I'm a child of God.

Mary rocked the cradle: peace on earth,
peace on earth, peace on earth.
Mary rocked the cradle: peace on earth
for every little child of God.

I'm walking and I'm talking now for peace on earth,
peace on earth, peace on earth.
I'm walking and I'm talking now for peace on earth
for every little child of God.

If anybody asks you who I am,
who I am, who I am,
If anybody asks you who I am,
tell them I'm a child of God.

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

Gwen Denoon

**Invitation*

**Silence for Personal Confession*

**Prayer of Approach (Unison)*

O God, we are branches of the vine who is Jesus the Christ. Cut the dead wood from our spirits, remove all those parts of us which have caused us to wither. Yes, forgive us, and help us to forgive one another and ourselves, so that we may worship you with lively praise. Then, cause us to feel the nourishment of your Holy Spirit, because you alone can cause our faithful discipleship to bear good fruit, to the honor and glory of your name. Amen.

**Words of Assurance*

We are branches of the True Vine,

tended by our Beloved Maker and Vine-dresser.

If we abide in them, through the Holy Spirit we will find forgiveness and encouragement to begin anew.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING THE WORD

From Christian History

Acts 8:26-39

Pew Bible, p. 1000

Laine Gomez, Lauren Gomez, Ruby Cohen

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***SINGING GOD'S GLORY**

Halle-halleluja!

Kids Church leading

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.

ANTHEM

We All Are God's Children

Brahms
arr. Harriet Ilse Ziegenhais

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Holy Troublemakers"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation

Nothing Can Trouble

Jacques Berthier

No. 772 – *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

Jennifer Jones, *Liturgist*

**Song of Praise*

Doxology with Alleluias

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**

Wade in the Water

Spiritual

Refrain

Wade in the water,

Wade in the water, children,

Wade in the water!

God's a-gonna trouble the water.

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

People: **Let our service begin.**

POSTLUDE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter Lutkin,
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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We welcome into leadership at the opening of our service, this morning, participants in Kids Church and some of our youth as well. Thanks to Johari Hunt and Noel Burke for their direction and inspiration to our young people!

Our **cover art** today, *Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch*, is from the fresco *Seckau Apocalypse*. It was painted, 1952-1960, on a wall of the Angel's Chapel at Seckau Abbey in Styria, Austria, by Herbert Boeckl (1894-1966).

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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

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.

Support for Martin!

Martin Mills had surgery, last 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. A volunteer signup sheet has been created, to cover him through post-op of his second surgery. Please, sign up at <https://bit.ly/Martin-01>

Paul Davis's Books to be Available in the Holaday Library

Paul's daughter Carol is bringing some of Paul's books to the Holaday Library: *A Bright Defiance* (poetry) and *Sermons Through Time*, (compilation of sermons), both written by Paul. They will be on display in the library for the month of May. These will be available to anyone who would like copies.

The Annual Lady Elect Spring Potluck Tuesday Evening May 28th

We will gather at 6:00 pm in the Inglis Room for a social time with dinner to follow at 6:30. Please RSVP with Faye Dyer and indicate if you will be bringing a main dish, salad, or dessert. Beverages will be provided. All women are invited!

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

Webster Rock Hill Ministries Trivia Night – Friday June 14 Memorial Hall – Doors open at 6:15 & the Game begins at 7:00

\$30 per person or \$240 per table of 8

To Register: Call WRHM office 314-961-5082 and ask for Janice or Derek
Prepayment is required for reservation.

Please bring canned goods to help the Ministries

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.

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.

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>**

May Birthdays

Dana Romeis	May 1
Cathy Buerk	May 3
Mark Edwards	May 3
Melissa Hill	May 3
Thomas Welnick	May 8
Garie Perry	May 9
Drue Hood	May 10
Kay Roush	May 12
Peter Bakker-Arkema	May 17
Jean Gray	May 19
Sophia Monaco	May 23
Linda Kopetti	May 24
Mark Thompson	May 26
Trevor A Zink	May 28

May Meal-a-Month Shopping List

Canned Chicken • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)
Canned Fruit in own juices
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Pudding or Jello (fat free/sugar free)
Shampoo/Conditioner • Soap • Deodorant

What's Happening at First Church

Thursday, April 25

6:00PM Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir – Music Room

Sunday, April 28

Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:30AM Kids Church & Youth Rehearse

9:30AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

4:00PM Baptism / Confirmation Class (Zoom)

Monday, April 29

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

Tuesday, April 30

10:30AM Staff Meeting – Church Office

6:00PM Practicing Our Faith – Parlor

Wednesday, May 1

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Thursday, May 2

6:00PM Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir – Music Room

Sunday, May 5

Sixth Sunday of Easter | Sacrament of Christ's Table

9:00AM Brown Baggers

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

11:30AM Adult Ed – Narcan Training – Inglis Room

4:00PM Baptism / Confirmation Class (Zoom)



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Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton
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Weekend & Events Custodians –
Kayla Skiles & Onyeka Igboanuzue

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

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