

Welcome!

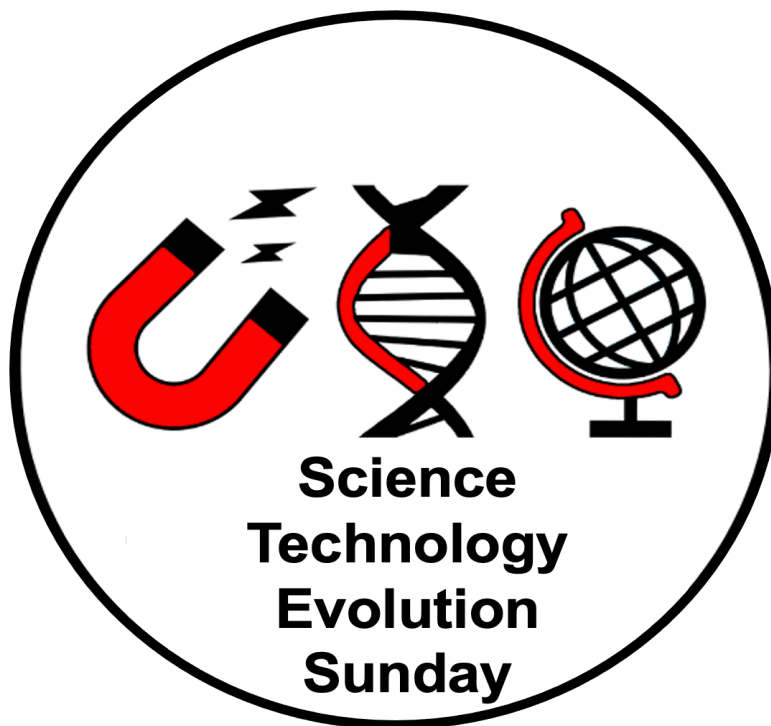
First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY / EVOLUTION SUNDAY
THIRD SUNDAY IN BLACK HISTORY MONTH



*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

Adagio
Leon Burke, piano

Joseph Bologne
Chevalier de Saint-Georges
("The Black Mozart")

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 OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 6:20-23, *First Nations Version*

(Responsive – Leader; **People**)

Jesus looked at his disciples and said,

**“Creator’s blessing rests on you who are poor and in need.
The good road is yours to walk.**

“Creator’s blessing rests on you who hunger now, for you will be filled to the full.

**“Creator’s blessing rests on the ones who weep now, for
your sorrow will turn into laughter.**

“Creator’s blessing rests on you when you are hated and rejected, looked down on and treated as worthless, all because you have chosen to walk the good road with the True Human Being.

**“When this happens, jump for joy! The spirit-world above
will honor you, for this is the same way your ancestors
treated the prophets of their day.”**

***GATHERING HYMN** *God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*
No. 556 – *New Century Hymnal*

C. Cameron

*RITUAL OF APPROACH

**Invitation* (Responsive)

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you;

But only say the word, and your servant shall be healed.

**Prayer of Confession* (Unison)

**From our blessing we say, blessed are you, O God! From your
gracious bounty you fulfill our every need; you answer the
hungers of our bodies and the thirsts of our souls. But we also
must acknowledge that too often we have put our confidence in
ourselves and turned away from you. Just as Jesus has been
raised from death and given new life, so raise us from the death
of our broken ways and renew in us true life. This we ask in the
Spirit of our Savior who died so that we might truly live. Amen.**

**Silence for Personal Confession*

*Words of Assurance (Responsive)

Remind us here and now that what you give is sufficient for our need,
that in Christ we are forgiven,
and that in Christ we shall know new and abundant life.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Singing God's Glory *Glory to God in the Highest* Tune: GLORIA (HAAS)

The congregation repeats each line of the following after the Minister:

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory in the highest!
To God be glory forever!

Next, the Minister leads the congregation in harmonizing the following:

Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

THE WORD SHARED

From the Epistles

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

First Nations Version

Pew Bible, p. 1048

From the Gospels

Luke 6:24-26

p. 939

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

BELL ANTHEM

Adoration

Florence Price

Canterbury Bells

arr. Charles Peery

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Despite Appearances"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Edwin Hatch

Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew

That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.

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 OFFER OF OURSELVES

Opportunities to Give and Gather

*Song of Praise

Doxology

Thomas Ken

**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)*

You our God have blessed the poor, the hungry, the downcast, and the marginalized, but voices still cry out for justice. Feebly we try to answer their call. Bless us by our gifts, that all your children may know your love and justice in Jesus' name. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

New Member Candidates Introduced

Preface

**Affirmation of Faith (Responsive)*

based on *Our Creed*, 1901

Do you believe in the kinship of all people as children of God? **I do.**

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Way and the Truth and the Life?

I do.

Do you believe in the clean heart, the unworldly life, and the service of love as Jesus taught and exemplified, and do you accept Christ's Spirit and Christ's teaching? **I do.**

**Questions of the Candidates*

**Raising the Covenant (Unison)*

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.

**Welcome to the Church (Unison)*

We as members of this church, gladly welcome you to be a part with us in the hopes, the labors, and the joys of our mutual ministry. We promise to walk with you in Christian love and sympathy, and to promote, as far as in us lies, your growth in the Christian life.

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship is ended.

People: Let our service begin.

POSTLUDE

Rabbit Foot
Anne Gerst, piano

Florence Price

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Connecting Remotely to Worship

Sunday worship each week is streamed live on YouTube. Past worship and videos are also available for viewing. Go to bit.ly/FCCWG-YT

How to Donate (and Pledge!) to First Congregational Church

If you would like to support First Church with a monetary gift, here are a few ways to do that:

- Take advantage of the brass offering plate on the small table in the Narthex
- Send a check made payable to FCCWG at:
First Congregational Church
10 W. Lockwood Ave.
Webster Groves, MO 63119
- Visit **FirstChurchWG.org/donate**
- Scan the **QR code**.



10 West Lockwood Seeks Additional Custodian

Our 10 West Lockwood enterprise is seeking an additional **Weekend & Events Custodian**. This is a “gig” job, often only four hours at a time, offering assistance and housekeeping for groups that are taking advantage of our facility for parties and other gatherings. If you know someone interested in occasional extra income, please have them contact the Pastor (aka Head of Staff).

Sunday Morning Volunteer Opportunities

Please, consider serving as

- **Liturgist** (conducting different portions of worship and reading scripture); sign up at bit.ly/Liturgist-2025, and/or
- **Slideshow Presenter** (advancing the slides displayed in worship); sign up at bit.ly/Slideshow-2025, and/or
- **A/V Assistant** (working closely with Mark Metcalf, coordinating the sound in the sanctuary and the live stream of the service online); sign up at bit.ly/Audio-Video-2025

Contact the Pastor, to volunteer or to learn more about these jobs.

Donation Drive! Period and Diaper Supplies **Sunday, February 23, 9am - 12 noon**

The Peace & Justice Team is trying something new for their latest donation drive – conducting it on a SUNDAY. Donations benefiting the St. Louis Area Diaper (and Period Supplies) Bank will be accepted in the Narthex prior to the worship service, and from 9am to noon in front of the Memorial Hall external doors (drive-thru). Please contact Andrea Welnick to volunteer as a drive-thru donation receiver.

AN AUCTION FOR HUMANITY – February 28-March 9

The title only looks like a misprint! A UCC-sponsored online auction to benefit Habitat for Humanity St. Louis will run from **February 28 to March 9**. In addition, Samuel UCC’s traditional St. Patrick’s Dinner will be held on **Saturday, March 15**. Mark your calendar! You can support **An AUCCtion for Humanity** by asking businesses and friends for items. You can also help with administrative tasks from home. Please call or text Kirkwood UCC member Bob Steen at 314-980-7699 or email Bob at AUCCTion4Humanity@outlook.com.

February Lady Elect Meeting **Tuesday, February 26, 11am**

You are cordially invited to the February meeting of Lady Elect, which will focus on Book & Media Reviews. The meeting will take place in the Inglis Room on Tuesday, February 26th at 11:00. Members and guests can share a brief summary of a book, film, or other form of media for the group. Bring a lunch. Please RSVP via email to Marilynb665@gmail.com.

**Samuel UCC's Annual St. Patrick's Day
Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
Saturday, March 8, 4-7pm**

At the end of the Rainbow, the pot of gold is an affordable house! Help us make a difference building affordable housing in Saint Louis with Habitat for Humanity! Please bring family and friends. Call the Samuel UCC church office for tickets (314) 727-9540, buy from your Church's Habitat Rep or purchase tickets at the door. If you can't make it, please send a contribution!

Gala of Grace Returns Saturday, March 29

Experience a fully catered, fine dining experience, plus the best desserts in town made by our very own First Church bakers. Stay tuned for more details!

With gratitude, your 2025 Gala of Grace Committee,
Rebecca Novak, Jeanene Harris, Rosemary Hensley,
Cathy Buerk, Laura Cooper

**American Red Cross Blood Drive
Monday, April 7, 2-6pm**

Johari Hunt and the Peace & Justice Team are hosting this charitable blood drive on the afternoon of Monday, April 7th. Please, mark your calendar. Come to Memorial Hall between 2 and 6 to donate. Donors must be age 17 or older, must weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health. Scheduling in advance will be possible soon at redcrossblood.org/give.html

Read All About It in the Covenant News!

Our weekly e-newsletter, the *Covenant News* will keep you up-to-date and informed about everything going on at First Church (and many things beyond). You can sign up to receive **Covenant News** at FirstChurchWG.org/contacts-map; scroll to the bottom of the page. Or go to conta.cc/40XEQHt to read the Feb 13 issue.

February Birthdays

Charlie Brader	February 5
Sandy Hoffsten	February 5
Mary Edwards	February 6
K Wentzien	February 6
Elyse von Weise	February 8
Kathy Hill	February 11
Phoenix Hill	February 14
Doug Barton	February 15
Erick Falconer	February 16
Pat Doyle-Grace	February 20
Martin Mills	February 21

What's Going on at First Church

Sunday, February 16

Science / Technology / Evolution Sunday

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

11:30AM Pastoral Relations Committee

2:00PM – 5:00PM Artist Presentation Society Recital

Monday, February 17

OFFICE CLOSED

President's Day

Tuesday, February 18

10:30AM Staff Meeting – Church Office

Wednesday, February 19

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room

Thursday, February 20

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Sunday, February 23

Seminary / Church Vocations Sunday

9:00AM – 12:00PM Diaper/Period Supplies Drive

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

Don't forget to sign up for Text Reminders and Alerts from First Church!

From your cell phone's texting app, send the message **"YES"** to **87447**



10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton
iyell4@aol.com

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Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt
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Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn
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Custodian & AV Tech – Mark Metcalf
Mark.Metcalf@FirstchurchWG.org

Weekend & Events Custodians –
Onyeka Igboanuzue

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie
cliff.aerie@gmail.com

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes
laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I
lesrhs@sbcglobal.net

THE VISION of First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, United Church of Christ, is to be a dynamic Christian community expressing God's love, hope, joy, and peace for all people.

OUR MISSION is to provide:

- Worship that praises God
 - ◇ Shows commitment to the teachings of Jesus
 - ◇ Celebrates the Holy Spirit in ways that express the diversity of our experiences
 - ◇ Encourages spiritual growth and commitment
- Educational activities that promote faith and intellectual growth for children and for adults.
- Advocacy and care for those in need in our community and throughout the world.
- Community that seeks justice, loves kindness, and walks humbly.
- Hope, love, and encouragement to all who seek our support.
- Grace and forgiveness for ourselves and all who seek the ministries we share in worship, music, and fellowship with others on life's journey.

Follow us on

Facebook

@FirstChurchWG

Instagram

@webstergroves_firstchurch

YouTube

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