

# Welcome!

**First Congregational Church of Webster Groves  
United Church of Christ**



*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

**MARCH 3, 2025**

**SUNDAY OF UCC WOMEN'S WEEK**

**FEAST OF CHRIST'S TRANSFIGURATION**

**SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE**



*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**                      *God's Got the Whole World in Her Hands*                      Mark Miller  
Chancel Choir

*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.*

**WELCOME**                                              Jane Porchey, *Liturgist*

**TOLLING THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**                      Adapted from Ecclesiasticus 24, with echoes of John 1  
(Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

Wisdom is telling her story in the midst of her people:

**“I came forth from the heart of the Most High,” she says.**

“Alone I searched for a place to rest.

**I looked everywhere to live.**

Then the Creator of all things instructed me:

**‘Pitch your tent here in this place.’**

So in the beloved community I took up residence.

**I have taken root in these people.**

I have grown tall as an oak tree,

**I have taken on many colors.**

I have spread out my branches like a candelabra.

**My blossoms bear the fruit of openness and care.**

**Approach and take your fill.”**

Come, let us seek Wisdom at work in all lives,

**and especially in the lives of her daughters!**

**\*RAISING THE COVENANT**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**                      *God of the Women*                      Carolyn Winfrey Gillette  
Tune: SLANE

God of the women who answered your call,  
trusting your prom-ise, giving their all,  
women like Hagar and Hannah and Ruth\_\_\_  
give us their cour-age to live in your truth.

God of the women long put to the test,  
left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,  
quiet-ly asking: “Who smiled at my birth?” \_\_\_  
in Jesus’ dying you show us our worth.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all,  
may we be joyful in answering your call.  
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near\_\_\_  
that we may share in your ministry here.

## **RITUAL OF APPROACH**

*Reflection*

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

*Prayer of Confession and Supplication (Unison)*

**Truth-loving God, we gather today to celebrate your presence in the lives of all people and your call for us to be our authentic selves. Challenging God, as we enter UCC Women's Week, we acknowledge how women have been too long dismissed, misrepresented, hurt. Send your Spirit to meet us here and help us to face our faults. Guide us into your depths so that we may begin to glimpse your grace: what eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived – all you have prepared for those who love you. We pray this in the name of Jesus, your Mystery, your Glory, your Wisdom. 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

## **THE WORD SHARED**

*From the Gospels*

Luke 9:28-36

Pew Bible, p. 944

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*"Unmasking Glory"*

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

## **WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS**

*Opportunities to Give and Gather*

*\*Song of Praise*

*Doxology*

Tune: OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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)*

**O God, please take our gifts and multiply them; let them be a means to create the justice and peace you long for in this world.**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE**

*\*Intercessory Prayers (Joys and Concerns)*

*\*Invitation*

*\*Sursum Corda (Responsive)*

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks to God most high. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*\*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*\*Sanctus (Unison)*

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God most high. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest!**

*Fraction*

*As the Grains and Seeds*

Marty Haugen, ad.

*Refrain*

As the grains and seeds once scattered on the hill  
were gathered into one to become our bread;  
so may all your people from all ends of the earth  
be gathered into one in you.

*Consecration*

*Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)*

*Womanist Lord's Prayer, Yolanda Norton*

**Our Mother, who is in heaven and within us, we call upon your names. Your wisdom come. Your will be done, in all the spaces in which you dwell. Give us each day sustenance and perseverance. Remind us of our limits as we give grace to the limits of others. Separate us from the temptation of empire, and deliver us into community. For you are the dwelling place within us, the empowerment around us, and the celebration among us, now and 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 when indicated, unless this presents a hardship for the individual.*

*\*Prayer after Communion (Unison)*

**We give you thanks, O God, for blessing us around this table with the glorious presence of Christ. Send us forth, rejoicing, with our siblings in faith, to share your abundant love and grace with all we meet. Amen.**

*\*HYMN OF PARTING*

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
No. 43, vv. 1,4 – New Century Hymnal*

Charles Wesley

*\*BENEDICTION*

*\*PARTING WORDS*

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

People: Let our service begin.

*POSTLUDE*

*Twinklin' Toes  
Anne Gerst, piano*

Florence Price

*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.*

**Credits** for portions of our worship service go to

- **The Rev. Cara B. Hochhalter.** Rev. Hochhalter, who created the woodcut *Transfiguration* on the bulletin cover is a United Church of Christ (UCC) minister. She is a graduate of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in Minnesota, where she studied the intersections of art, theology, and justice. She lives in Hyde Park, New York;
- **The Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.** Rev. Gillette, who wrote the lyrics of our Gathering Hymn, is a hymn writer and Presbyterian pastor. She has written over 400 hymns. Gillette and her husband Bruce are the pastors of First Presbyterian Union Church in Owego, New York; and
- **The Rev. Yolanda M. Norton.** Rev. Norton, who adapted the Prayer of Our Savior we use in this service, is clergy in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She is the Executive Director of the Global Arts and Theology Experience (GATE), a Visiting Scholar at Moravian Theological Seminary, and the creator / curator of the *Beyoncé Mass.* – from [beyoncemass.com](http://beyoncemass.com)

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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](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)

### **Wifi Connection**

Recent challenges with our internet service have prompted us to revise connection protocols. Please connect to the network, **first\_church\_guest** using the passcode **firstguest**

### **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.



Please be sure to sign up for **Text Reminders and Alerts** from First Church! From your cell phone's texting app, send the message "YES" to 87447

### **Girl Scout Cookies! – TODAY**

Looking to replenish your girl scout cookie supplies? Support our local Girl Scout 231 Clark School Daisy Troop, in Memorial Hall today after church until 12:00! This Troop is all 1st graders and features our very own Ellie amongst its members!

**If you've already ordered, you can pick your order up after the service.**

- To purchase cookies from Ellington Heiser-Fisher, visit <https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/ellington107143>
- To purchase cookies from Elle Polaske, visit <https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/elle664189>
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### **Diaper Supply Drive Success!**

Thanks to your generosity, the supply drive for the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank was an enormous success! We collected:

960 diapers, 987 tampons, 864 pads, 234 wipes, & \$200

**A hearty thanks to everyone who donated!**

### **Lenten Study, Sundays beginning next week!**

**Bread of Life** is our Lenten devotional series for 2025. Adult Discussions (and Kids Church sessions) begin, **next Sunday, March 9**. *Bread of Life* highlights how Jesus fed people—not just their bodies but their souls—with good news, redemption, and stories of God’s kin(g)dom. From wedding feasts to eating with tax collectors to feeding thousands, people left Jesus’ presence with full hearts and bellies. **Get your copy of Bread of Life today**, from the rack on the Narthex table.

### **Seeking Weekend & Events Custodian**

Our 10 West Lockwood enterprise is seeking an additional Weekend & Events Custodian. This is a “gig” job, usually four hours at a time, providing assistance and housekeeping for parties and gatherings. If interested, please have them contact the Pastor.

### **Uganda Water Project Donation Instructions**

Here’s how to donate to new member Peter Kalulu’s Uganda Water Project, which provides clean water and other public health benefits to villages across northwest Uganda:

1. Visit [firstchurchwg.org/donate/](https://firstchurchwg.org/donate/)
2. Click the triangle at the end of the line labeled “Give To Church General Offering (40302)”
3. From that dropdown menu, select “Give To Special Projects Fund (31125)”
4. Fill out the rest of your donation details and submit.
5. Make sure to fill in the Amount box above the dropdown menu.

Thank you for your generosity!

### **Habitat for Humanity News and Events**

Phil Shoulberg wrote a great explainer about Habitat for Humanity, its 40-year relationship with UCC, and the activities they have planned this year, like the AUCCtion to raise funds for our UCC building efforts, and Samuel UCC’s St. Pat’s Dinner, March 15! Read more: [bit.ly/Our-H4H-2025](https://bit.ly/Our-H4H-2025)

### **Gala of Grace – Saturday, March 29**

Registration for the Gala is now open! Register at [bit.ly/Gala-2025](https://bit.ly/Gala-2025) or scan this QR Code:



### **Black History Tour – Saturday, April 5**

Father Gerry Kleba is a life-long St. Louisan. As a priest, he has served African-American communities, typically with a focus on equity and justice issues. He has developed a 3-hour bus tour of St. Louis sites crucial to understanding black history. Stay tuned for registration!

### **Donate Blood, Monday, April 7!**

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be Monday, April 7th. Come to Memorial Hall between 2 & 6 to donate. Donors must be age 17 or older, must weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health.



**Meal-A-Month**  
**March Shopping List**

Canned Ham • Macaroni and Cheese • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)  
Canned Fruit in own juices  
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Toothbrushes • Tooth Paste • Dental Floss

**March Birthdays**

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Elle Polaske          | March 5  |
| Emery "Birdie" Fisher | March 9  |
| Kris Rinne            | March 14 |
| Kitty Pearl           | March 18 |
| Lauren Gomez          | March 20 |
| Jim Harris            | March 21 |
| Casen Hood            | March 21 |
| Amy Byrne             | March 26 |

**What's Going on at First Church**

**Sunday, March 2**

**Sacrament of Christ's Table**  
**Sunday in UCC Women's Week**  
**Feast of Christ's Transfiguration**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**Monday, March 3**

**7:00PM** Scout Troops 301 – Dickens Room

**Tuesday, March 4**

**1:00PM** Communications Team - Church Office

**Wednesday, March 5**

**Ash Wednesday**

**9:30AM CANCELLED** Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

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

**6:00PM** Bridge Club - Inglis Room

**Thursday, March 6**

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

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

**Sunday, March 9**

**Daylight Saving Time Begins**  
**First Sunday in Lent**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Jazz Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:20AM** Discussion: *Bread of Life* - Library



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## Contact Information

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Onyeka Igboanuzue

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**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

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