

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves  
United Church of Christ



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

MARCH 16, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



*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.*

**MARCH 16, 2025**  
**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

*An asterisk (\*) indicates the Congregation standing, in body or in spirit.*

**PRELUDE** *Meditation on "Beach Spring"* Hal Hopson  
*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** Sharon Love, *Liturgist*

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

Come, you who are hungry for the goodness of life!

**For our God is the One who satisfies our hunger and  
restores our souls.**

Come with empty pockets and open hands!

**Our God loves us and knows our needs.**

Let us gather from all walks of life, celebrating in unity our common needs  
and singular purpose.

**The Creator has made us, the Christ has redeemed us, the  
Spirit sustains us. Let us worship our God together!**

**\*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  
rejoicing.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

*Great Is Your Faithfulness*  
No. 423, vv. 1,2 – *New Century Hymnal*

Thomas O. Chisholm

**\*RITUAL OF APPROACH**

*\*Introduction*

*\*Silent Confession*

*\*Corporate Confession* (Unison)

based on Psalm 27

**Sovereign God, you are our light and our salvation, our  
stronghold, our help. "Come," say our hearts, "seek the face of  
God!" And we say we seek your face, but beyond this place it  
seems as if you hide from us. Enemies seem to be everywhere,  
armies of them, false witnesses rising, everywhere violence. We  
imagine that you must be angry with us too, or that you have  
forsaken us. We know we have sinned and wandered from your**

**way. But please, hear us when we cry aloud; be gracious and answer. Teach us your way, Holy One. Forgive us, and do not turn away.**

*\*Words of Assurance (Responsive)*

Do you want to see the goodness of your God in the land of the living?  
Wait; be strong.

**Hear, O God, when we cry aloud. Be gracious and answer.**

Though wars rise up against you, yet still be confident.

**We shall behold the beauty and grace of our Redeemer.**

*\*Singing God's Glory*

*Sing Amen*

S. C. Molefe

No. 760 – *New Century Hymnal*

**NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY**

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

**THE WORD SHARED**

*From the Gospels*

Luke 13:31-35

Pew Bible, p. 950

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*Wondrous Love*  
Canterbury Bells

Traditional  
arr. Lloyd Larson

**WE SHARE OUR STORIES BEFORE GOD**

Sharon Love

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*“Controversies with Jesus: Herod”*  
or  
*“A Fox in the Henhouse”*

Rev. David Denoon  
*Pastor*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Preparation for Prayer*

*Spirit of the Living God*

Daniel Iverson (ad. Aerie)

**Spirit of the living God, breathe afresh in me.**

**Spirit of the living God, breathe afresh in me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, breathe afresh in me.**

*We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God*

*Prayer of the Day*

*Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)*

**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 BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS**

*Opportunities for Giving and Gathering*

\**Song of Praise*

*Doxology*

Tune: OLD 100TH

**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)

**Generous and gracious God, help us steward the gifts you give us with imagination and a spirit of abundance. May a little go a long way, as you inspire us to share what we have with those in need. Teach us how to use the resources you give to thrive in a world of scarcity. Amen.**

\***PARTING HYMN**

*O Jesus Christ, My Grateful Hymns*  
No. 212 – *New Century Hymnal*

B. G. Webster

\***BENEDICTION**

*The Breastplate*

Patrick of Ireland

\***PARTING WORDS**

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

\***POSTLUDE**

*Meditation*

John Carter

*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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### **New Members Class Forming**

*If you would like to know more about First Congregational Church, an **Inquirers Class** is forming.*

Please contact the Pastor if you're interested in participating.

### **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 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**

### **Lenten Study Sundays Continue!**

**Bread of Life** is our Lenten devotional series for 2025. Adult Discussions (and Kids Church sessions) began last Sunday! *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.

### **Help Room at the Inn – Sundays, March 16 & 23**

Room At The Inn is hosting a Trivia Night fundraiser and has asked for our help! The event is sold out but they are looking for donations of gift cards for the auction. The gift cards should be \$20 or more, and can come from any appropriate location. **Julie McHugh will collect any donations March 16th & 23rd after church in Memorial Hall and deliver them to RATI.** Thanks for your support of this important ministry!

### **“Gateway to a New Life” – Wednesday, March 19**

Churches Together for Justice invite you to attend a special screening of **Gateway to a New Life**, ([GatewaytoaNewLifeFilm.com](http://GatewaytoaNewLifeFilm.com)), an important new documentary to be shown at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 W. Lockwood Ave. The film covers a group of Afghan immigrants and their impact on life in St. Louis.

### **Lady Elect Meeting – Tuesday, March 25**

You are cordially invited to the March Lady Elect meeting, featuring Joan Musbach's presentation on the Marquis de Lafayette. The meeting is hosted by Diane Weber and Rosemary Hensley and will take place on Tuesday, March 25, at 11:00AM. Participants should bring a sack lunch. RSVP by contacting Marilyn Barton.

### **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:



### **St. Louis Black History Tour – Saturday, April 5, 9:45am - 2:00pm**

Father Gerry Kleba is a life-long St. Louisan. As a priest, he has served African-American communities, typically with a focus on justice and equity issues. Based on his experiences, he has developed a bus tour of St. Louis sites crucial to understanding African-American history. Register at [bit.ly/Black-STL-Tour](https://bit.ly/Black-STL-Tour). **An FCC congregational group will leave FCCWG at 9:00 AM that day. Bring \$10 cash and, if staying for the post-tour discussion, your own lunch and beverages.**

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

Led by our very own Johari Hunt, this charitable blood drive will take place on the afternoon of Monday, April 7th. Come to Fellowship 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.

### **Passion Readers Sought – Sunday, April 13**

For Palm Sunday of the Passion, April 13, our worship will include not only the blessing of palms, but also a complete reading of the Passion according to Luke. If you are interested in reading, please contact the Pastor.

### **Easter Egg Hunt – Friday, April 19**

Please meet in Memorial Hall at 10AM for this beloved hour-long egg hunt!

### **Easter Coffee Cake Reminder – Sunday, April 20**

Please bring your coffee cakes the morning of Easter, April 20! The Lady Elect Guild request that all cakes be brought to the Kitchen, plated and ready to serve. Also, please be respectful of potential allergies and do not include nuts or nut by-products in your cakes (and clearly label cakes if they have nuts).

### **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 • Toothpaste • 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**

For a complete schedule of all church events, observances, and building use,  
please visit our online calendar at  
**FirstChurchWG/Calendar**

### **Sunday, March 16**

#### **Second Sunday in Lent**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

### **Monday, March 17**

#### **St. Patrick's Day**

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

**7:00PM** Executive Ministry (Zoom)

### **Tuesday, March 18**

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

(Staff might not be immediately available, between 10:30 and 12:00.)

### **Wednesday, March 19**

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

### **Thursday, March 20**

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

**12:00 PM** Committee on Ministry: Preparation - Parlor

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

### **Sunday, March 23**

#### **Third Sunday in Lent**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:20AM** Lenten Study - Library





10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
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## Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton  
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Onyeka Igboanuzue

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Director, Center for Counseling & Healing  
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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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@FirstChurchWG

Instagram

@webstergroves\_firstchurch

YouTube

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