

Welcome!

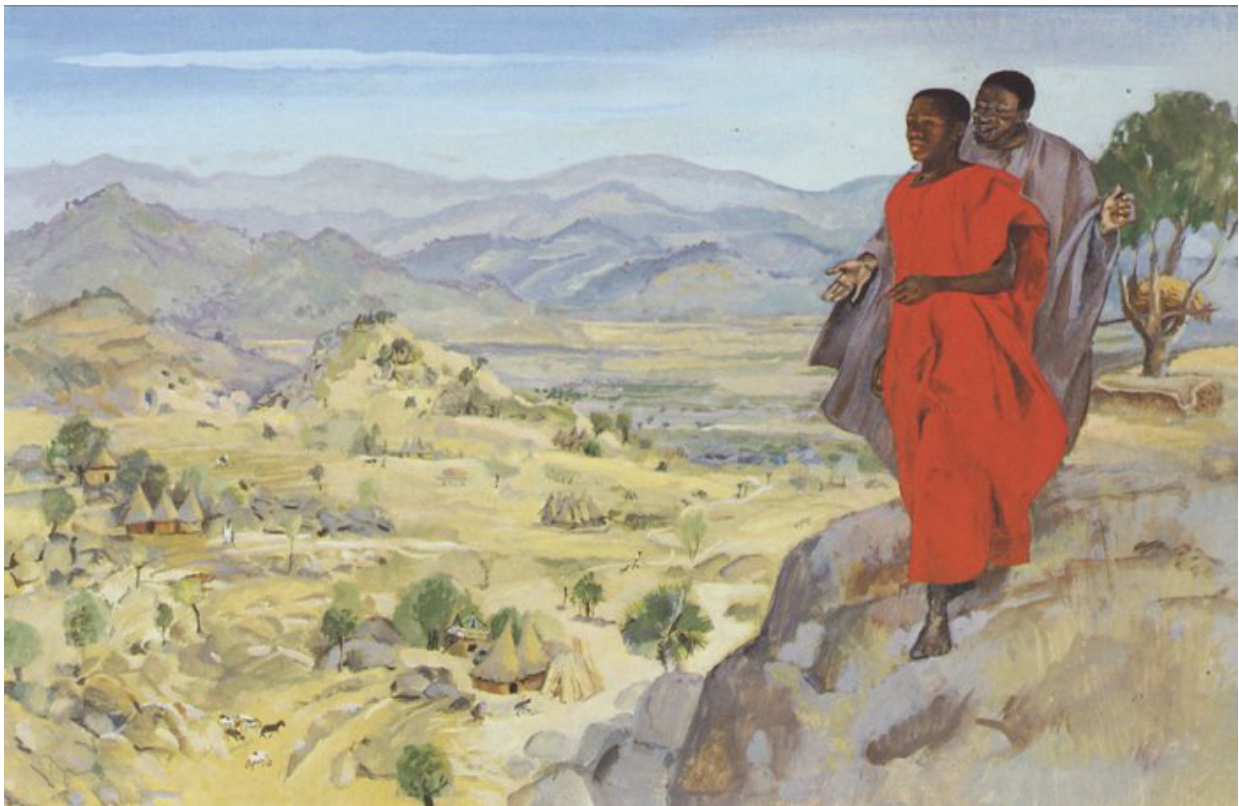
**First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ**



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

MARCH 9, 2025

FIRST 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.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE *Up the Downspout* Cliff Aerie
*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 Joan Musbach, *Liturgist*

TOLLING THE BELL

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

INTROIT *All Blues* Miles Davis

The sea . . . The sky . . . The you and I
Sea and sky and you and I . . . We're all blues
All shades . . . All hues . . . All blues

Some blues are sad . . . But some are glad
Dark and sad or bright and glad . . . We're all blues
All shades . . . All hues . . . All blues

***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.**

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

***Invitation** (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**) from Psalm 91

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of
the almighty, will say to the HOLY ONE,

“My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”

Because you have made the HOLY ONE your refuge, the Most High your dwelling
place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

**God will command angels concerning you to guard you in
all your ways.**

On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot
against a stone.

**Our God speaks: “Those who love me, I will deliver; I will
protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I
will answer them.”**

***Corporate Confession** (Sung) *Give Me a Clean Heart* Margaret J. Douroux

**Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.
God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.
Give me a clean heart, and I'll follow you.**

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)*

continuing Psalm 91

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the almighty, will say to the HOLY ONE,

“My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”

Because you have made the HOLY ONE your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

God will command angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

Our God speaks: “Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them.” Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Song of Praise*

Spirit of the Living God

Daniel Iverson

Spirit of the living God, breathe afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, breathe afresh on me.

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

Spirit of the living God, breathe afresh on me.

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

We Share Our Stories Before God

Cliff Aerie

Music

It's Not Easy Being Green

Joe Raposo

THE WORD SHARED

From the Gospels

Luke 4:1-13

Pew Bible, p. 936

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Equinox

Coltrane / Aerie

Imagine, Imagine! The story, unfolding
Just take a step and you will be on your way

A moment, is knocking! On your door, it's calling
Just take the leap and live into come what may.

Imagine, the moments! Cascading, around you
Just venture out and you will be blessed today.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY *“Controversies with the Christ: Satan”*
or *“The Meaning of Salvation”*

Rev. David Denoon
Pastor

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Opportunities for Giving and Gathering

**Song of Praise*

Doxology

Tune: JACOB'S LADDER

**Praise God, praise God for our blessings.
Praise God, praise God for our blessings.
Praise God, praise God for our blessings,
Sisters, Brothers, All!**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

based on Deuteronomy 26:5b-10a

A wandering Aramean was our ancestor, who went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, and who there became a great nation. We the spiritual descendants of the wanderer Abraham remember and celebrate the bounty you have given and the legacy of faith. So now we bring the first of the fruit that you, our God, have given us. Amen.

***HYMN OF PARTING**

Awake, Awake, to Love and Work
No. 89 – *New Century Hymnal*

G. A. Studdert-Kennedy

***BENEDICTION**

PARTING WORDS

POSTLUDE

Walk Spirit, Talk Spirit

McCoy Tyner/Cliff Aerie

Walk Spirit—walk with me as I search the Way.
Talk Spirit—talk and safely guide me each new day.
Lead Spirit, lead me through life and help me, come what may.
Sing Spirit—sing your song with a smiling face.
Dance Spirit—dance and fill each step with love and grace.
Give Spirit—give me strength so I can embrace:
Your Walk!
Your Talk!
Your Way . . . It's my way!

During this rather extended 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:

Artists from Cameroon who created the devotional series, *The Life of Jesus Mafa*, a set of 63 pictures from the life and teaching of Jesus, viewed by the artists as if the events had taken place in a village in Cameroon. Depicted on the cover of the bulletin today is an interpretation of Christ's wilderness "Temptations." Read about the series at <https://lentproject.wordpress.com/resources/visuals-video-painting-and-design/vie-de-jesus-mafa/> ;

and to

Members of the Oïkos Jazz Ensemble for their participation in the leadership of worship today. They are **Kim Fuller-Barnes**, vocals; **Carolbeth True**, piano; **Glen Smith**, bass; **David True**, percussion; **Tim Osiek**, trumpet; and Rev. **Cliff Aerie**, saxophone.

The Oïkos Jazz Ensemble is an outreach of our Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA). MICA takes part in Sunday morning jazz worship, seven times a year, and conducts two seasonal programs – Jazz Noel and Good Friday Blues – in addition to other occasional performances. If you would like to support MICA with a gift separate from your contribution to the church, please do so with

- a cash offering (in an envelope on which you have written, "MICA"),
- a check made payable to the church with "MICA" written in the memo line, or
- an electronic contribution on the Donate page of our website (find "MICA" in the pull-down menu.

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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

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**

Lenten Study, Sundays beginning TODAY!

Bread of Life is our Lenten devotional series for 2025. Adult Discussions about *Bread of Life* (and Kids Church sessions) begin **TODAY!** *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.**

About Our Lenten Worship

This Lenten season, as we journey with Jesus, we are reintroducing the practice of “**Sharing Our Stories Before God.**” The first five Sundays in Lent will include church members at different points in the worship service remembering their own experiences of resistance, even defiance, when faced with spiritual change. A new series of Stories Before God will begin on April 27. *Read more about our Lent 2025 at bit.ly/FCCWG-Lent25*

Thank you! from Habitat for Humanity

Members of the congregation donated \$175 to Habitat for Humanity through yesterday’s St. Pat’s Dinner at Samuel UCC. Every penny you contributed will go towards affordable housing for a deserving family. Don’t forget about the **AUCction for Humanity**, which ends tonight at 9:00pm. Bidding is still open for a number of items at new.biddingowl.com/AUCction

Gateway to a New Life

Churches Together for Justice invite you to attend a special screening of **Gateway to a New Life**, an important new documentary to be shown at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 W. Lockwood Ave. on Wednesday, March 19. Admission is free.

Watch a preview at GatewayToANewLifeFilm.com

Gala of Grace – Saturday, March 29

Registration for the Gala is now open! Register at the table set up in the Narthex, or at 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 St. Louis Black history. Read more about the Tour, including a detailed description, at FirstChurchWG.org/covenant-news/black-history-tour Register to attend, at bit.ly/Black-STL-Tour.

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 • 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

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 Devotional Study: "Bread of Life" - Library

Monday, March 10

7:00PM Scout Troops 301 – Dickens Room

7:00PM Three Ministries (Hybrid)

Tuesday, March 11

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

Wednesday, March 12

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

Thursday, March 13

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Sunday, March 16

Second Sunday in Lent

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

11:20AM Devotional Study: "Bread of Life" - Library



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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

Facebook

@FirstChurchWG

Instagram

@webstergroves_firstchurch

YouTube

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