

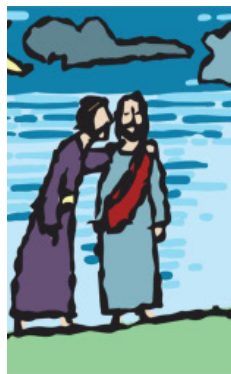
Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

APRIL 13, 2025
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION



*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.*

Hymns today will be sung from both our hymnals –

The Pilgrim Hymnal, *a red volume located underneath the pew ahead of you,*
and The New Century Hymnal, *a black volume in the pew racks.*

PRELUDE

Toccata

Flor Peeters

WELCOME

Andrea Welnick, *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 THE CANDLES

OPENING WORDS

Luke 19:28-40

Pew Bible, p. 957

*HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor
No. 155 – Pilgrim Hymnal

Theodulph of Orleans

*During the Hymn, palm branches will be distributed
by the children to the Congregation.*

*BLESSING OF PALMS (Responsive – Minister; **People**)

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to our Sovereign God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Indeed it is right to praise and bless you, eternal God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Child Jesus Christ our Savior.

We remember the day when he entered your holy city of Jerusalem and there was proclaimed King by those who spread their garments and palm branches in his path.

As we recall his coming in victory, so we ask, O God, that you will bless these branches, that they may be for us signs of the victory which is yet to come.

We pray that as we carry them in Christ's name, so we may ever acknowledge Christ in the way that leads to eternal life. All praise to you, O God, in Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

*HOSANNA

led by the Children and the Minister

*After the Hosanna, children are excused to Kids' Church,
or to sit with their families if that is preferred.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

The Congregation

Prayer of the Day

Rev. David Denoon

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 to Give and Gather

**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.**

**Raising the Covenant*

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.

THE WORD SHARED / MESSAGE OF THE DAY

The Passion, according to Luke

Chapters 22-23

Pew Bible, pp. 960-963

***HYMN**

*My Song Is Love Unknown
No. 222 – New Century Hymnal*

Samuel Crossman

***CONCLUSION**

The Passion concludes

Luke 23:50-56

Pew Bible, p. 963

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***BENEDICTION**

Philippians 2:5-11

Pew Bible, p. 1069

***PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

People: Let our service begin.

POSTLUDE

O Sacred Head (Partita Variation)

Johann Pachelbel

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.

Our thanks to Liturgist Andrea Welnick, Rev. Jan Barnes, Rev. Sue Leary, Sharon Love, Cindy Matlock, Ashley Merideth for contributing their skills and gifts to this morning's reading of the Passion according to Luke.

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

Please connect to the network **first_church_guest** using the passcode **firstguest**

"Listen Everywhere" Hearing-Assisted System Active!

We have replaced our Sennheiser hearing-assisted system with the **Listen Everywhere** system. **Listen Everywhere** can be downloaded to your phone, for use with or without hearing aids. Please see Mark Metcalf to get started using the **Listen** system. Even if you have already downloaded the app to your phone, we recently changed the password for the church wifi network, which will need to be changed on your phone to use **Listen Everywhere**. To get set up, you can email Mark at markmetcalf@firstchurchwg.org or see him before or after the service.

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**

Easter Flower Sponsorships

For Easter we enjoy having our sanctuary decorated with a variety of potted spring flowers. You are invited to sponsor an Easter flower in celebration, honor or memory of a loved one or event, and they are available to take home after Easter worship for \$20 each. Forms for ordering flowers are available from the Narthex Table, or at bit.ly/Easter-Flower.

Lenten Study

Remember that the final Bread of Life is today! It serves as curriculum for Kids Church (through Easter Sunday) and as subject matter for our adult devotional series. Our final discussion will begin 15 minutes after the Postlude, in the library (study booklets available from the Narthex table).

Gala of Grace Items Still Available TODAY!

The Gala of Grace Committee will be selling Giving Tree items, remaining sign-up slots, and providing opportunities for additional donations! Keep an eye out for Chairwoman Rebecca Novak's table in Memorial Hall, after worship today.

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:00PM

Maundy Thursday was the night on which Jesus was betrayed. This was also when, at table for his Last Supper, Jesus blessed the bread and cup and characterized them as his body and his blood. The gospel according to John says that, in the midst of supper, he got up, prepared a basin, wrapped a towel around himself, and washed his disciples feet which for some reason had gone unwashed since they'd entered the building of the Upper Room. All of these actions will be remembered on Thursday, April 17 at 7:00PM in the newly renovated William E. Sample Chapel with Sts. Clare & Francis Ecumenical Catholic Communion.

Good Friday Blues, April 18, 7:00PM

This Friday we will conduct our annual Good Friday Blues program, led by Pastor Maggie Gann of Sts. Clare & Francis Church and Pastor Dave Denoon, with music by the Oikos Jazz Ensemble and narration by the Logos Readers. This year's Good Friday Blues is entitled, **Resistance**. Together, we'll reflect on the resistance to his ministry Jesus faced, from his temptations in the wilderness, to his anointing by Mary of Bethany. These are not unlike the challenges we face to the purpose and practice of our work on behalf of the most vulnerable in our society.

Holy Saturday Flowers, all day on April 19

While the children are searching for Easter eggs (10AM beginning in Memorial Hall), and throughout the day on Saturday, April 19, members and friends are encouraged to bring their favorite flowers to decorate the Cross in the Jubilee Garden, for Easter. Wire cages on the cross create a medium in which you can insert stems, as celebration of the new life Christ has made possible through the Resurrection.

Easter Brass Festival Concert begins at 9:45AM

Our worship for the Celebration of the Resurrection, April 20, will begin at 9:45AM, with a festival concert played by a brass quintet. Please, plan to arrive early, so you don't miss a note.

Coffee Cakes Needed for Easter Sunday, April 20

On Easter Sunday, April 20th, please bring coffee cakes to share during Coffee Fellowship. The Lady Elect Guild requests that cakes be pre-plated and ready-to-serve. **Remember not to use nuts.**

Lady Elect April Event, April 22, 6:00PM

You are invited to the April Lady Elect meeting on Tuesday evening, April 22nd in the Inglis Room. Socializing is at 6:00, and the meeting begins at 6:30. The program "**Digital Scrapbooking**" will show members how to create their own **free** 6x6 hard-cover photo album in Shutterfly. Participants are invited to install the free Shutterfly app on their phone, tablet, or laptop device in advance and then bring the device to the meeting. Make sure that your device is fully charged.

All are welcome. Please RSVP to Marilyn via email at blades1st@aol.com.

Kids' Church Mission & Visioning, May 5, 5:00PM

We have chosen a date and time for the mission and visioning meeting for Kid's Church! Help Johari and Christian Education guide the direction of religious education at FCCWG.

Meal-A-Month April Shopping List

Canned Turkey • Brown Rice • Canned Corn (low or no salt)
Applesauce (in plastic, no sugar added) • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Peanut Butter • Real Fruit Jelly • Dried Fruits

April Birthdays

Jane Brader	April 6
Valerie Paci	April 10
Diane Weber	April 10
Anne Gerst	April 15
Sharon Love	April 18
Phil Shoulberg	April 18
Lizzie Monaco	April 23
Beatrice Byrne	April 25
John Robinson	April 26
Annie Sampath	April 26



Holy Week

Palm / Passion Sunday

April 13 – Worship at 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday

April 17 – Worship at 7:00 pm

with Sts. Clare & Francis Ecumenical Catholic Communion

Good Friday Blues: Jazz Lament

April 18 – Program at 7:00 pm

Easter Egg Hunt

April 19 – 10:00 am (Indoors – Public Invited)

Celebration of the Resurrection

April 20 - Worship at 10:00 am

(Festival Music begins at 9:45 am)



10 West Lockwood Ave. at Elm
Webster Groves, MO 63119

314-962-0475

www.FirstChurchWG.org

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.org/Calendar

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday of the Passion

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall

11:20AM Lenten Study - Library

Monday, April 14

7:00PM Scout Troops 301 – Dickens Room

Tuesday, April 15

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

(Staff might not be immediately available, from 10:30 to 12:00)

Wednesday, April 16

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday

7:00PM Worship - Sample Chapel

Friday, April 18

Good Friday (Office Closed)

7:00PM Good Friday Blues - Sanctuary

Saturday, April 19

10:00AM Easter Egg Hunt - begins in Memorial Hall

ALL DAY - bring flowers to **Decorate the Jubilee Garden Cross**

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunday / Festival of the Resurrection

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

9:45AM Resurrection Festival Concert

10:00AM Worship

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall

Easter Monday, April 21

Office Closed



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

Moderator – Doug Barton
iyell4@aol.com

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Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt
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Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke
Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org

Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn
Events@FirstChurchWG.org

Custodian & AV Tech – Mark Metcalf
Mark.Metcalf@FirstchurchWG.org

Weekend & Events Custodians –
Onyeka Igboanuzue and Stuart Chase

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

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[@FirstChurchWG](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG)

Instagram
[@WebsterGroves_FirstChurch](https://www.instagram.com/WebsterGroves_FirstChurch)

YouTube
[bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](https://www.youtube.com/bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)