

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves  
United Church of Christ



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

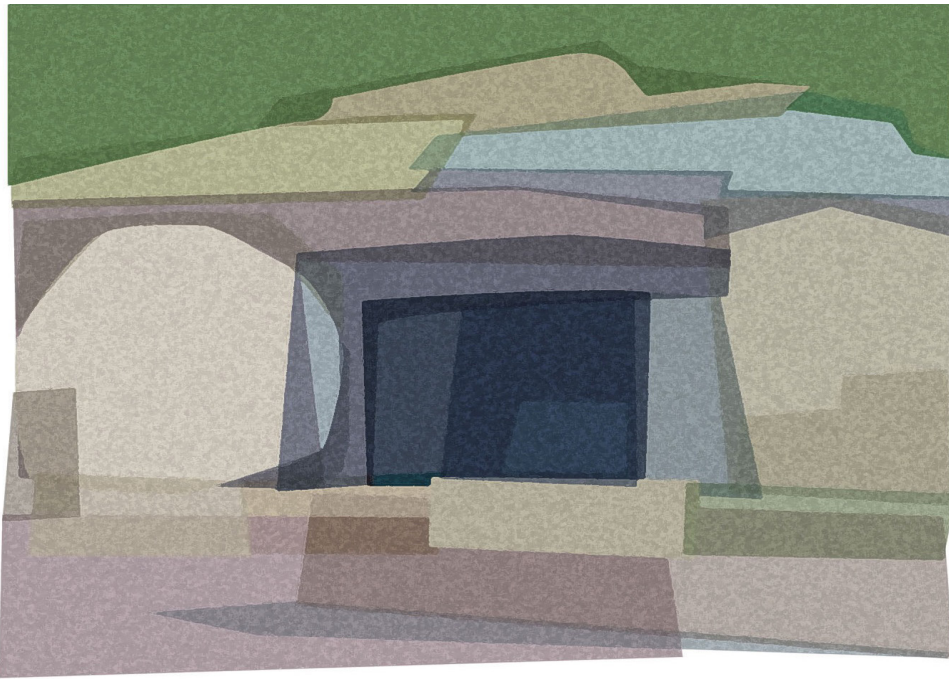
APRIL 27, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

“BREAK THE SILENCE” SUNDAY

PACIFIC ISLANDER / ASIAN AMERICAN

MINISTRIES SUNDAY



*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** *Reflection on “O Perfect Love”* John Carter  
*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** Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes, *Liturgist*

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

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

We gather today, a community of hope,  
**surrounded by the grace of God,**  
filled with the love of Jesus,  
**trusting in the Spirit’s presence.**  
We gather today, a community of compassion,  
**to listen to what may break our hearts,**  
to hear the pain of our siblings in faith,  
**to speak together words of comfort and commitment.**  
We gather today, a community of justice,  
**to worship,**  
to pray,  
**to break the silence!**

**\*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.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** *Praise to God* Nobuaki Hanaoka  
No. 230 – *New Century Hymnal*

**RITUAL OF APPROACH**

*Introduction*

Our observances today call to mind the inaction and avoidance that so often are qualities of our responses – or lack of response – to societal sins and violence.

**God calls all of us – especially as a community of faith – to  
pursue restorative justice for those who have been made  
victims of violence and cruelty.**

*Silent Confession*

*Corporate Confession* (Unison)

God of our ancestors, we confess that there is innocent blood on our collective hands, as we have stood by unsure what to do when our siblings have been treated as if they were not human or as if they do not matter. We know that no superhero will come to protect the defenseless, but we also know that oftentimes we have not intervened. Can a Savior give forgiveness of our sins? We desire not to stand by, not to maintain silence, not to let misery pass unanswered. Guide us into new ways of being your people and of assuring others that your salvation means something true, merciful, and compassionate for them. Amen.

*\*Words of Assurance*

*\*Song of Praise*

*Halleluja*  
No. 236 – *New Century Hymnal*

trad. Caribbean

**NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY**

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

**THE WORD SHARED**

*From the Gospels*

John 20:19-31

Pew Bible, p. 989

*Response*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*“The Irreplaceable Advantages of Fact-checking”* Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Preparation for Prayer*

*Alleluia*  
No. 765 – *New Century Hymnal*

Jerry Sinclair

*We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God*

*Prayer of the Day*

*Prayer of Our Savior*

in words of Mary Baker Eddy

**Our Father-Mother God, all-harmonious and adorable One:  
your kingdom is come, you are ever-present. Enable us to know  
– as in heaven, so on earth – you are omnipotent, supreme. Give  
us grace for today; feed the famished affections; and let Love be  
reflected in love. God, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from sin, disease, and death. For you are infinite, all-powerful,  
Life, Truth, and Love, over all, and All. Amen.**

**WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS**

*Opportunities to Give and Gather*

*Song of Praise*

*Doxology (with Alleluias)*

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God above, you heavenly host –  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

**God of love and salvation, you have heard our prayers for those who have suffered violence and intimidation simply because of who they are. Now we ask that you bless our gifts, so the ministries of your church may offer caring and sanctuary, and build a sense of agency, for your children in peril. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*We Live by Faith*  
No. 256 – *New Century Hymnal*

Henry Alford

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

**People: Let our service begin.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Hymn to Joy*

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.*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

### **New Members Class Forming**

If you are interested to know more about us, we are hoping to conduct a Newcomers Orientation, soon. Attendees would be eligible to join the church on Sunday, May 18. Please go to [bit.ly/FCCWG-New](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-New) to let us know your preference of meeting dates and times. Thank you!

### **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**

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](mailto: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.



### **An Apology regarding our Livestream Challenges**

If you have tried to view our livestream of worship on Sunday mornings at 10AM on YouTube (or any other real time transmission from the sanctuary), you almost certainly have noticed that the presentation is filled with buffering and glitchiness. This seems to have coincided with a change in our internet service provider (ISP). We changed our ISP because, although the prior one provided us with a great connection, their billing was inconsistent in terms of price and required a lot of office time in protesting and negotiating. The new ISP promised that they would provide similar service and the same upload and download speeds, but this has not been the case.

We regret the difficulty, recognize the importance of correcting the problem, and are trying to work with the ISP to remedy the inconvenience. We appreciate your patience and encourage you, if watching a recording of worship might be acceptable, to wait for the uploaded version of worship to appear on our Videos tab (rather than the Live tab).

### **First Church Hospitality**

When you come to First Church do you notice the person that opened the door? Or handed you a bulletin? Maybe invited you to coffee? These are the First Friends! There are six people on each of the six teams and they serve one Sunday every six weeks. We have a few openings and would love to have you join us. It is a great way to meet people and to increase your sense of belonging. Please ask any First Friend, on Sundays, and we will tell you more!

### **Using The Breeze App on Your Phone or Computer**

**If you would like to access the church directory, change your listing there, or check on your donations, Breeze is the app for you!**

Here are a few simple steps to access info from and about the church on your personal device:

1. Download the Breeze app via the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play store (Android)
2. The app will ask you to provide your Church ID, which is: **fccwgstlmo**
3. Use your Username and Password to log into the app! (If you don't know your Username, contact the Church Office.)

### **Gala of Grace Photos**

Phil Shoulberg took some wonderful photos at last month's Gala of Grace! Check them out at [bit.ly/2025GalaPix](http://bit.ly/2025GalaPix)

### **Video Screens Proposed for Sanctuary**

Recently, thanks to donations to the "Wish Upon a Cloud" fund, we were able to purchase three 85-inch diagonal screens - two for the front of the sanctuary and one for the back. To see suggested placement of the two screens in front, [go to the latest edition of Covenant News](#). The third screen will go over the double doors at the foot of the center aisle. The hope is to have all three installed by the end of May.

### **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.

### **GospelFest 2025 – Community Concert and Celebration TODAY at 2pm, Webster Groves United Methodist**

You are invited to rejoice and attend Webster Groves' 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual GospelFest, taking place this afternoon at Webster Groves United Methodist, 600 N. Bompert Ave. Admission is free and open to the entire community.

**An AMAZING! St. Louis Black History Tour**  
**Saturday, May 10, 9:45am – 2:00pm**  
**Fr. Gerry Kleba, Tour Director**

With the original date washed out, Father Gerry Kleba's St. Louis Black History Tour has been rescheduled! Fr. 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 this 3-hour bus tour of St. Louis sites crucial to understanding African-American history. **Very limited seating remains. Contact Doug Miller for more information.**

**Sacred Grove Project Planting Day**  
**Eden Theological Seminary**  
**Saturday, May 10, 9AM – 12PM**

You are invited to join the students, faculty, and staff of Eden Seminary, along with neighbors, friends, local organizations and other congregations for a community planting day on May 10. Eden's "Sacred Grove" will provide a sanctuary for native plants and animals, and will serve as a sanctuary for worship, meditation and learning. Learn more at [bit.ly/EdenSacredGrove](http://bit.ly/EdenSacredGrove)

**Webster Groves Community Dog Walk, May 24**

Enjoy an easy walk with your best friend, Saturday, May 24, from Old Orchard Gazebo Park. Gathering begins at 7:45am, walking begins at 8:00. Starbucks Coffee and Pup Cups available for free.

**Race for Reconciliation, June 14, 8:30AM**

Webster Groves Churches Together for Justice, Metropolitan Congregations United, and the St. Louis Reconciliation Network are seeking runners, walkers, and rollers for this year's Race for Reconciliation. This year's race takes place, the Saturday before Juneteenth. For more information, go to [stlr4r.com](http://stlr4r.com)

**Silent Summer Directed Retreat, Mid-July**  
**Mercy Conference and Retreat Center**

Step away from the busyness of life and enter the deep well of stillness and silence. Give yourself the gift of time away from the everyday to listen for the still, small voice of God. Group contemplative practices and individual spiritual direction will be offered daily. Six- and four-day options available. This all-inclusive, residential retreat provides private bedroom and bathroom, and all meals. Register at [MercyCenterSTL.org](http://MercyCenterSTL.org)

**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

**May Birthdays**

Dana Romeis	May 1	Drue Hood	May 10
Cathy Buerk	May 3	Kay Roush	May 12
Mark Edwards	May 3	Peter Bakker-Arkema	May 17
Melissa Hill	May 3	Jean Gray (turning 99)	May 19
Adrianna Hoeper	May 4	Mila Falconer	May 23
Warner Prange	May 8	Sophia Monaco	May 23
Thomas Welnick	May 8	Linda Kopetti	May 24
Garie Perry	May 9	Leo Gomez	May 27



## **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 27**

#### **Second Sunday of Easter**

#### **"Break the Silence" Sunday**

#### **Pacific Islander & Asian American Ministries Sunday**

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM Worship**

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

3:00PM Collegium Vocale concert

### **Monday, April 28**

7:00PM Scout Troop 301 - Dickens Room

### **Tuesday, April 29**

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

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

### **Wednesday, April 30**

9:30AM Yoga w/ Jeanene - Inglis Room

### **Thursday, May 1**

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

### **Sunday, May 4**

#### **Sacrament of Christ's Table**

9:00AM Brown Baggers

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM Worship**

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Annual Congregational Meeting

11:20AM Coffee Fellowship



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
[www.FirstChurchWG.org](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton  
[iyell4@aol.com](mailto:iyell4@aol.com)

Pastor – Rev. David Denoon  
[DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org)

Office Administrator – Adam Levin  
[Admin@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Admin@FirstChurchWG.org)

Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt  
[Johari.Hunt@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Johari.Hunt@FirstChurchWG.org)

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
[Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org)

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
[ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org)

Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn  
[Events@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Events@FirstChurchWG.org)

Custodian & AV Tech – Mark Metcalf  
[Mark.Metcalf@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto: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@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Cliff.Aerie@FirstChurchWG.org)

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry  
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes  
[Laurel.Hayes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Laurel.Hayes@sbcglobal.net)

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

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