

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

APRIL 6, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

Down to the River to Pray
Alleluia Sound

Trad., arr. Sheldon Curry

*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

Cindy Matlock, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*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.**

MUSICAL OFFERING

Festival Sanctus
Good Vibrations

Cathy Moglebust

RITUAL OF APPROACH

Julie Cohen

We Share Our Stories Before God

Corporate Confession (Unison)

**Faithful God, we approach you with humility. During this
season, some of us have taken on fasts or adopted disciplines to
make us mindful of you in our day-to-day lives. This has not
been for show; it's been to help us recognize how we might be
closer with you, truer to you. Forgive us, God, for the times we
have failed to reflect your faithfulness. Open us to the
possibilities we know may await us through our fasts and our
disciplines. Amen.**

Moment of Silence

Words of Assurance

Song of Praise

Cantate Domino
Alleluia Sound

Giuseppe Pitoni, arr. Greyson

*Cantate Domino canticum novum;
laus ejus in ecclesia sanctorum.
Laetetur Israel in eo, qui fecit illum,
et filiae Sion exultent in rege suo.*

Sing to the Lord a new song;
His praise is in the congregation of the saints.
Let Israel rejoice in Him who made all.
and let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

*Children are invited forward to the front pews on either side
of the center aisle, for a moment of enrichment.*

Reading Matthew 5:3-12 Pew Bible, p. 880

Music *Rhythmic Praise* Jason Krug
Good Vibrations

*After the music ends, young people are welcome to return to their seats.
(Kids Church is out of session, today.)*

THE WORD SHARED

From the Psalms Psalm 100 Pew Bible, p. 541

Music *Adoramus Te* Jacques Clement
Alleluia Sound

*Adoramus te, Christe,
et benedicimus tibi:
Quia per sanctam crucem tuam
redemisti mundum.*

We adore you, O Christ
and we bless you:
For by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.

Reading *A Blessing Called Sanctuary* Jan Richardson

Music *Blessed Be Your Name* Redman, arr. MacDonald
Alleluia Sound

Reading *Introduction to "Transitions of the Heart"*

Music *Transitions of the Heart* Matthew Compton
Good Vibrations

Reading *Both, Please* Sarah Speed

Music *Hold Me, Rock Me* Brian Tate
Alleluia Sound

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Opportunities to Give and Gather

Song of Praise *Knock, and the Door Will Be Opened* Tom Vos
Alleluia Sound

This original composition was written in 1997 by Tom Vos to commemorate the choirs' 25th anniversary. Vos, a composer and professional violinist, grew up in Crystal Lake, attending Crystal Lake Central High School and singing in the FCC Choirs from preschool through his graduation in 1988.

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE

Prayers of Petition and Intercession (Joys and Concerns)

Invitation

**Sursum Corda*

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to our Sovereign God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**Great Thanksgiving*

**Sanctus*

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!

Consecration and Fraction

Prayer of Our Savior

Denoon

Provider and nurturer who has birthed and rebirthed us, make your name holy. Reveal your majesty, and teach us your way. Make earth alike with heaven. Give bread for today, so that we do not worry about tomorrow. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Keep us from things that would keep us from you, but deliver us from the evil one. For here is your love: where power and glory are shared, now and forever. Amen.

Distribution and Communion

Aria

Michael Helman

Good Vibrations

Grazioso

Arnold Sherman

Good Vibrations

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 waiting presents a hardship for the individual.*

**Prayer after Communion (Unison)*

Holy God, here at this table, we have encountered your Spirit bringing us wholeness, so that we might be satisfied by the bread of life. Because Jesus faced death and emerged victorious, this bread does not spoil; this cup never runs dry. As we leave this place of worship, our spirits are renewed and rejuvenated. There is enough for each of us. Therefore, we will share this joy and love with others. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

People: **Let our service begin.**

POSTLUDE

Bell Boogie

James C. Smith

Good Vibrations

This Little Light of Mine

Traditional, arr. Johnson

Alleluia Sound

Soloists: Daniel Meyer, Adam Kyrrouac, Eli Irwin

*During this extended Postlude, we encourage you to remain at your seat
to enjoy the music until it has ended.*

But if you need to depart before the music is over, we'll understand.

We welcome among us today the **Alleluia Sound** high school choir and **Good Vibrations** handbell choir from the First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake, Illinois, a local church of the United Church of Christ. The choirs are enjoying their 53rd annual concert tour. The choirs are directed by **Ann Tucker**, Director of Music. **Jackson Pierzina** is the Assistant Director; Accompanist is **Danielle Cairoli**.

The choirs are made up of students ages 14-18 from Crystal Lake Central High School, Crystal Lake South High School, Prairie Ridge High School and Woodstock High School. In addition to providing weekly music at their church's worship services, they prepare a variety of musical selections for their annual tour.

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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 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

Bread of Life serves as curriculum for Kids Church and as subject matter for adult devotional discussions which begin 15 minutes after the Postlude, in the library (study booklets available from the Narthex table). *Bread of Life* highlights how Jesus fed people—not just their bodies but their souls—with good news 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.

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 after worship today.

IF YOU MISSED YESTERDAY'S BLACK HISTORY TOUR...

... with Fr. Gerry Kleba, for whatever reason, the Peace & Justice Team wants you to know that there are alternative opportunities available on **May 17 and June 7**. Same time schedule (9:45am meetup at St. Cronan's, followed by 10am bus-boarding with \$10 cash per person for the driver, tour, BYO lunch at 1:00pm, and adjournment at 2:00). Register by email at Paul.Loida@Bayer.com, with tour date, your name, email, and phone number.

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

Led by 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.

St. Louis County Elections – Tuesday, April 8

First Congregational will serve as a polling location for the St. Louis County election this Tuesday. Polls open at 6:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM!

Holy Week Schedule

Palm / Passion Sunday, April 13, 10:00AM – Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:00PM – Wm. E. Sample Chapel

Good Friday, **April 18, 7:00PM** – “**Good Friday Blues: Resistance**” in Sanctuary

Holy Saturday, **April 19, 10:00AM** – **Easter Egg Hunt**, ages Preschool thru 5th Grade
begins with crafts in Memorial Hall

Easter Sunday Festival of the Resurrection, April 20, 10:00AM – Sanctuary
with Festival Brass Concert **starting at 9:45AM**

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.**

Kids' Church Mission & Visioning – Early May

We are currently looking to pick a date for the mission and visioning meeting for Kid's Church. There is also the option for one-on-one if needed. Go to bit.ly/CE-Visioning and fill out the form there with your availability so we can pick a good date.

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

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 6

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sacrament of Christ's Table

All Ages Worship

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

9:55AM *Prelude begins!!!*

Worship featuring Alleluia Sound and Good Vibrations Choirs
of First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake, IL (UCC)

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall

11:20AM Lenten Study - Library

Monday, April 7

2:00 - 6:00PM Red Cross Blood Drive - Memorial Hall

7:00PM Scout Troops 301 – Dickens Room

Tuesday, April 8

ALL DAY: General Municipal Election - Memorial Hall

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

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

Wednesday, April 9

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Friday, April 11

2:30PM Memorial Service: Robert Morgan Moody

Sunday, April 13

Palm / Passion Sunday

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM **Worship**

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall

11:20AM Lenten Study - Library



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Contact Information

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

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