

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

APRIL 20, 2025

FIRST SUNDAY OF EASTER
FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION



*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

PRELUDE

“Concert with Festival Brass”

Rondeau

Jean Joseph Mouret

Canzona Bergamasca

Samuel Scheidt

Contrapunctus 1

Johann Sebastian Bach

Three Church Pieces

Ludwig Maurer

OPENING WORDS

From the Gospels

Luke 24:1-12

Kids’ Church Participants

Pew Bible, p. 964

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

TOLLING OF THE BELL

INTROIT

Easter Dawning at the Tomb

Robert Wetzler

Chancel Choir

Early morning came Mary, bearing spices rare,
but found the stone was rolled away,
and an angel said to her:

Why seek ye the living among the dead?
He Whom ye seek is risen again,
Come see the place where they laid Him.

Then Jesus Himself appeared to Mary in the garden;
And Mary went to tell the disciples:
I have seen the Lord.

WELCOME

Mark Edwards, *Liturgist*

***ACCLAMATION** (Responsive – Leader; **People**)

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*LIGHTING THE CANDLES

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
No. 233 – *New Century Hymnal*

Charles Wesley

*RITUAL OF APPROACH

**Prayer of Approach*

A Prayer of the Iona Community

Jesus Christ, we greet you! Your hands still have holes in them; your feet are wet from the dew; and with the memory of our names undimmed by three days of death you meet us. Now that you have risen from the grave, just how will this unfold? For you know how we have betrayed or forsaken you.

But you come in peace, to love us and embrace us. We fail to understand how; we puzzle at the reason why.

Yes, you have come, not to fulfill our fears, not to answer our doubts, but to show us your face.

**You are alive, and the world can rejoice again. Hallelujah!
Amen.**

**Singing God's Glory*

Halleluja
No. 236 – *New Century Hymnal*

Trad. Caribbean

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

THE WORD SHARED

From the Epistles

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Pew Bible, p. 1049

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Love Has Broken Down the Wall

Mark A. Miller

Love has broken down the wall.
Love has broken down the wall.
Let us join our hearts as one.
Love has broken down the wall.

Cast aside your doubts and fears.
Cast aside your doubts and fears.
Peace and love, freely offered here;
Cast aside your doubts and fears.

We're accepted as we are.
We're accepted as we are.
Through love's power all is reconciled.
We're accepted as we are.

We will tear down the walls!
We will tear down every wall!
Love has called us, one and all.
Love has broken down the wall.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Resurrection Day"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Be Thou My Vision
Canterbury Bells

arr. Mitchell Eithun

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns

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 to Give and Gather

**Song of Praise*

Doxology

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!**

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

Introductory Words (Responsive)

Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Blessing the Water

**Confession of Faith*

Adapted from *Our Creed*, 1901

Siblings in Christ, do you believe in the kinship of all people as children of God?

I do.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Way and the Truth and the Life?

I do.

Do you believe in the clean heart, and will you live the unworldly life in the service of love as Jesus taught and exemplified?

I will, with the help of God.

Do you accept Christ's Spirit, and Christ's teaching?

I do, God helping me.

**Renewal of Baptismal Vows*

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ? **I do.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being? **I will, with God's help.**

**Distribution of Water*

**Song during Distribution*

Wade in the Water

Spiritual

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children!

Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.

**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.

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

People: Let our service begin.

***POSTLUDE**

Hallelujah!
from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

*The congregation is welcome to come forward and sing the Postlude
with the Choir and Brass Quintet.*

Copies of the music are available from the box next to the piano.

We are grateful, this morning, for the Festival Brass Quintet who are participating in the music leadership of this service. Members of the Quintet are Tom Bruce, trumpet; Matt Massenhoff, trumpet; Matthew Alton, French horn; Rick Thard, trombone; and Ben Douane, tuba.

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**

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.

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.

Livestream Challenges – An Apology

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 certainly have noticed that the presentation is filled with buffering and glitchiness.

This has been going on for months and 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). Thank you.

UCC Habitat for Humanity Update Available Online

Our Habitat Team Leader Phil Shoulberg has provided an update from our UCC Habitat Team on a recent workday, and workdates for the rest of 2025! You can read the report at FirstChurchWG.org/covenant-news/habitat/

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

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

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 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

Tuesday, April 22

Earth Day

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

Wednesday, April 23

Administrative Professionals Day

9:30AM Yoga w/ Jeanene - Inglis Room

Thursday, April 24

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Sunday, April 27

Second Sunday of Easter

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship



10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton
iyell4@aol.com

Pastor – Rev. David Denoon
DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org

Office Administrator – Adam Levin
Admin@FirstChurchWG.org

Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt
Johari.Hunt@FirstChurchWG.org

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@FirstChurchWG.org

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

Facebook
[@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)