

Welcome!

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



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026
TRANSFIGURATION 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

Hoe Cake
Anne Gerst, piano

Florence Price

*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

Mark Edwards, *Liturgist*

TOLLING THE BELL

LIGHTING 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.

*GATHERING HYMN *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*

C. P. Daw, Jr.

No. 182 – *New Century Hymnal*

*RITUAL OF APPROACH

Invitation* (Responsive – Liturgist; **People)

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Unison Prayer of Confession* (Unison)

Almighty God, you shed light on all people. As we approach the light of your holy mountain, disturb our bleakness, break through our shadows. Pour into our hearts that radiant light which reveals all that we would keep hidden. Cause us to deal honestly with who and how we have been. Let us, with your forgiving Spirit, plot out new directions that engage your word and proclaim your promise. Let us witness and reflect your glory in our present day; through Jesus Christ our Transfigured Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in glory everlasting. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confession*

**Words of Assurance* (Responsive)

Christ is the atonement for our sins, and not for ours alone but for all the sins of the world.

In Christ we know, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*Singing God's Glory *Glory to God in the Highest* Tune: GLORIA (HAAS)

The congregation repeats each line of the following after the Minister:

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory in the highest!

To God be glory forever!

Next, the Minister leads the congregation in harmonizing the following:

Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

Young people are invited forward for a time of enrichment.

Afterward, they may proceed to Kids Church or return to their seats.

THE WORD SHARED

From the Law

Exodus 24:12-18

Pew Bible, p. 69

From the Gospels

Matthew 17:1-9

p. 894

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

BELL ANTHEM

A Ringer's Prayer

Judy Hunnicutt

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"The Mercy of Seeing, Part 1" Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation

Breathe on Me

Edwin Hatch

Breathe on me, Breath of God,

fill me with life anew,

That I may love the way you love

and do what you would do.

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns

When you speak a prayer request aloud, please bear in mind the privacy of those for whom you are praying, as this worship is being live-streamed.

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: 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.

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

G God of light, as we regard your glory, we offer our gifts not to build or sustain anything permanent to hold onto a moment,

but to share something spiritual reflecting Who we have come to know. You have blessed us with such gifts! Now bless others with our gifts in Jesus' name. Amen.

***HYMN OF PARTING**

Fairest Lord Jesus
No. 227 – *Pilgrim Hymnal*

Trad. German

Alternate words for first verse:

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
God and the blessed Mary's Son,
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.
People: **Let our service begin.**

POSTLUDE

Rabbit Foot
Anne Gerst, piano

Florence Price

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.

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**Connecting Remotely to Worship**

To view worship livestream and videos online, go to [YouTube.com/@1stChurchWG](https://www.youtube.com/@1stChurchWG)

**Wifi Connection**

Please connect to the network **first\_church\_guest** using the passcode **firstguest**

**Hearing-Assisted System**

Take advantage of our hearing-assisted system! Simply download the **Listen Everywhere** app from the App Store or Google Store. If your phone is incompatible with the **Listen** system, we also have stand-alone receivers. Please see an attendant at the A/V station for assistance.

**Can You Offer a Ride?**

If you can provide transportation to either of our newly non-driving church members, some Sunday soon, please find their **signup sheets on clipboards in the office** to volunteer a ride.

**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 so:

- Take advantage of the brass offering plate on the small table in the Narthex
- Send a check made payable to **First Congregational Church, 10 W. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119**
- Visit **FirstChurchWG.org/donate**
- Scan the **QR code**.



**Let Breeze Serve as Your Church Directory**

**Access the church directory or check on your donations on the Breeze app!**

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 Office Administrator Adam Levin at [admin@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchwg.org).)

### **Sunday Volunteers**

Please consider signing up for one or more of the following opportunities, by going to the links next to the volunteer roles (top of next page). Worship staff will provide training as needed!

**Liturgist** – [bit.ly/Liturgist-2026](https://bit.ly/Liturgist-2026)

**Slideshow Presenter** – [bit.ly/FCCWG-Slides](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-Slides) • **A/V Volunteer** – [bit.ly/SE-Corner](https://bit.ly/SE-Corner)

### **Chocolate Sunday, Today**

Worship cancellation on January 25 has resulted in two special after-worship experiences in a row! Last Sunday was the Midwinter Potluck; today is our traditional Chocolate Sunday treat. Join us in Memorial Hall after worship.

### **Year-end Giving Acknowledgement Letters**

The 2025 donation acknowledgement letters have gone out via email! Remember to contact [admin@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchwg.org) with any questions or concerns.

### **Girl Scout Cookie Season Has Returned**

Girl Scout Ellington “Ellie” Fisher has opened her virtual cookies shop. From there, you can order your favorite Girl Scout cookies, and maybe even discover some new favorites! Every cookie purchase supports the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world. Purchase at <https://bit.ly/EFCookies>. If you'd like to advertise a different Girl Scout Cookie campaign, contact Adam Levin.

### **Palms for Fat Tuesday, February 17**

Every year we burn the palms used last Palm Sunday to create ashes for Ash Wednesday. Pastor Dave Denoon will be burning the palms on the afternoon of **Fat Tuesday, February 17. Please bring your palms to the Church Office by Monday, February 16.**

### **Worship for Ash Wednesday, February 18**

An Ash Wednesday worship service has been scheduled for **February 18 at 7:00PM**, in the Sanctuary. We will worship with Sts. Clare and Francis Ecumenical Catholic Communion, to mark the beginning of the preparatory season of Lent. *If you are planning to attend and would like to serve as an usher or communion steward, please contact the Pastor.*

### **Adult Ed: Home Repair Program, February 22**

Sunday, February 22, our Adult Education session, starting at 11:20 in the Kishlar Room, will focus on a collaborative program between Churches Together for Justice (CTJ) and Rebuilding Together St. Louis (RTSTL) to repair homes for neighbors-in-need living in the 63119 ZIP code. Find out more about this exciting, collaborative effort!

### **Help Curate the Next Display Case**

It is time to send the Epiphany display creches to their homes and create something for the Easter Season, perhaps an emphasis on The Cross. Do you have a Cross or other favorite Easter items to share with us for the season? If so contact Joan Musbach and bring the item(s) to the church office. **The plan is to change the display case the week of February 22.**

### **Pastoral Relations Committee, February 22**

The Pastoral Relations Committee is composed of church members given the responsibility of fostering a healthy relationship between the pastor and church members. If you have praise or concern you think ought to be discussed, please let a PRC member know. Current members

include Sharon Love, Emily Polaske, Dana Romeis, Dan Claggett, Anne Gerst, and Barbara Moore, and ex-officio members Moderator Chris von Weise and Pastor David Denoon.

### **Lady Elect February Meeting, February 24**

You are cordially invited to the February 24<sup>th</sup> (11:30) Lady Elect meeting in the Inglis Room, featuring Chair Yoga with Jeanene Harris. (This activity is a make-up session from our cancelled January meeting.) Wear comfy clothing and bring a sack lunch to eat after the workout. There will be a release form for you to sign, in order to participate. To rsvp, text or leave a voicemail for Marilyn at (314)894-2046. Include your name. **It is necessary to RSVP again, even if you RSVP'd last month. People's plans change from month to month.**

### **St. Pat's Habitat for Humanity Benefit Dinner, February 28**

Samuel UCC will be hosting a St. Patrick's dinner on February 28, 2026, from 4 to 7PM. All money goes to the UCC Habitat Build. A donation of \$20 or more is suggested. Please see Phil Shoulberg for tickets.

### **Camp MoVal Trivia Night Fundraiser, March 6**

As historic Route 66 celebrates a century of use, the Grape Country Cluster of UCC Churches invites their friends across the Missouri Mid-South Conference to the **"Get Your Kicks on Route 66" Trivia Night benefitting Camp MoVal**, Friday, March 6, at 7PM (doors open at 6:00). The event will take place at St. Peter's UCC, 20 E. Fifth St., Washington, MO. Tickets are \$25 per person and include soft drinks, wine, and beer. For registration and further information, plus to donate items for the Silent Auction, contact Jeff Remelius at St. John UCC, Bem – [BemChurchPastor@gmail.com](mailto:BemChurchPastor@gmail.com) – or 573-437-3698.

### **Camp MoVal Summer Camp Registration Open**

Registration for SUMMER CAMPS is now open. **Go to [TinyURL.com/2ez3b8nz](https://TinyURL.com/2ez3b8nz) to learn more or register.** (Please note: Youth and child campers from First Church are provided with a **Christian Education subsidy** worth half their participation fee! So, be sure to **let Johari know** you're signing up.)

### **Volunteer: Mission Mondays at Camp MoVal**

If you'd like to volunteer your time doing various **odd jobs and repairs** with a wonderful group of others, sign up for Mission Mondays at MoVal, every fourth Monday in a month. For more information, contact Contact Myron Ury, Volunteer Coordinator, 314-471-2349 (call or text) or [myronury@gmail.com](mailto:myronury@gmail.com).

### **Gateway ONA Convocation, March 7, 9AM – 3PM**

The theme of this year's Gateway ONA Convocation is "Sacred, Seen, & Called." Meet others from area UCC and Disciples of Christ churches finding their way forward to openness and affirmation. This event will take place at Parkway UCC, 2841 N. Ballas Rd. (63131). For more information about the Convocation and how to register, email [Register@GatewayONA.com](mailto:Register@GatewayONA.com)

### **Adult Ed: Immigration Law, March 22**

Lynn Mark, Accredited Representative in the Immigration Law Program of the Legal Services of Eastern Missouri will discuss the latest information on happenings within their practice in relationship to Immigration and ICE. There are so many changes coming that it's hard to predict what will be on the agenda.

### **Habitat For Humanity Workdays, May and October**

On **May 16**, we'll combine with Hope UCC/Isaiah 58 to supply 10 workers. On **October 3**, we will join congregants from St. Lucas UCC to again supply 10 workers. Closer to those dates, they will give us locations. Clipboard sign-up sheets for both dates are in the office.

## Facility and Finance Update

Phil Shoulberg has updates from F&F! We've seen progress on recycling, greening the church, and a big change in the Dickens Room. To learn more, visit <https://bit.ly/ff22026>

## February Meal-a-Month Shopping List

Canned Tuna, packed in Water • Tuna Helper • Canned Carrots (low or no salt)  
Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Diapers • Diaper Wipes • Formula with Iron

## February Birthdays

Charlie Brader - February 5  
Sandra Hoffsten - February 5  
K Wentzien - February 6  
Mary Edwards - February 6  
Cory DeWald - February 7  
Elyse von Weise - February 8

Kathy Hill - February 11  
Phoenix Hill - February 14  
Doug Barton - February 15  
Erick Falconer - February 16  
Pat Doyle-Grace - February 20  
Martin Mills - February 21

## We Didn't Have Room for Everything!

Go to <https://conta.cc/4tuvKzr> to learn about:

Thanks from the Uganda Water Project

“Whole-Hearted Relationships” at Eden Seminary, today at 4PM

Sausage Dinner at St. Luke's UCC, Imperial, today until 3PM

“Rally to Bridge Faith & Justice,” Mon, Feb 16, 10AM

WG City Council “Role of Local Govt in American Democracy, Tue, Feb 17, 7:30PM

Chili Supper to Benefit Isaiah 58 Ministries, Sat, Mar 7, 5:30 - 7:30PM, Eden Seminary

Standup comedian **Jacqueline Novak** at Delmar Hall, Mar 27, 8PM.

## 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](http://FirstChurchWG.org/Calendar)

### Sunday, February 15

#### Transfiguration Sunday

9:00AM Canterbury Bells Warmup - Sanctuary

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship (Chocolate Sunday!)

### Monday, February 16

Presidents' Day

Office Closed

### Tuesday, February 17

Fat Tuesday

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

### Wednesday, February 18

#### Ash Wednesday

~~9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room~~  
Cancelled

7:00PM Worship - Sanctuary

### Thursday, February 19

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

### Sunday, February 22

9:00AM Canterbury Bells Warmup - Sanctuary

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Inglis (Please note!)

11:20AM Adult Ed: Home Repair Project - Kishlar

11:30AM Pastoral Relations Committee



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

## Contact Information

Moderator – Chris von Weise  
chrisvonyz@gmail.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 Custodian –  
Onyeka Igboanuzue

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity  
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie  
Cliff.Aerie@FirstChurchWG.org

**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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