

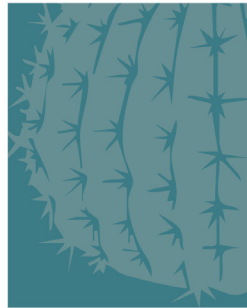
Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



FIRST SUNDAY
in
LENT

*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

Adagio in F minor

Chevalier de Saint-Georges
"The Black Mozart"

*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

Jennifer Jones, *Liturgist*

TOLLING THE BELL

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

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

Let us come before our God, knowing we cannot survive on bread alone
but also on every word God speaks.

**Let us praise God who gives us food and water, breath and
life.**

Let us set our minds on the One who invites us along as we pass through
this season of Lent.

Holy Spirit, Creator, Redeemer, we are here.

*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

Lonesome Valley

American folk hymn

**Jesus walked this lonesome valley;
he had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him;
he had to walk it by himself.**

**We must walk this onesome valley;
we have to walk it by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us;
we have to walk it by ourselves.**

**You must go and stand your trial;
you have to stand it by yourself.
Oh, nobody else can stand it for you;
you have to stand it by yourself.**

*RITUAL OF APPROACH

**Invitation to Confession* (Responsive)

Psalm 32:1-2

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**Happy are those to whom the HOLY ONE imputes no iniquity and
in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

**Corporate Confession* (Responsive)

Psalm 32:3-10

While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day
long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the HOLY ONE," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you: Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the HOLY ONE.

**Silence for Personal Confession*

**Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)*

Psalm 32:11

You who are righteous, rejoice in the HOLY ONE and be glad!

All you whose hearts are right, sing out in joy!

**Song of Praise*

Sing Amen (Masithi)

S. C. Molefe

No. 760 – *New Century Hymnal*

(Sing a - men) **Amen, we praise your name, O God.**

(Sing a - men) **Amen, we praise your name, O God.**

(Sing a - men) **Amen, amen, amen amen!**

Amen, we praise your name, O God.

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

Genesis 2:15-17; 2:25-3:7

Pew Bible, p. 2

From the Gospels

Matthew 4:1-11

p. 879

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Would You Harbor Me?

Ysaïe M. Barnwell

Would you harbor me? Would I harbor you?

Would you harbor a Christian, a Muslim, a Jew, a heretic, convict, or spy?

Would you harbor a runaway woman or child, a poet, a prophet, or a king?

Would you harbor an exile or a refugee, or a person living with AIDS?

Would you harbor a Tubman, a Garrett, a Truth, a fugitive or a slave?

Would you harbor a Haitian, Korean, or Czech, a lesbian or a gay?

.....

Would you harbor me? Would I harbor you?

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Weary But Unbowed"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation (words on next page) Just as I Am

Charlotte Elliott

Tune: WOODWORTH

**Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

We Share 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 OFFER OF OURSELVES

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)*

What blessings you have given us, O God, and we give gifts to you from our substance and our skills. Taking risks with love and labor, we would extend your Spirit of love and justice into the world, in Christ's name. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

*I Will Lift the Cloud of Night
No. 482 – New Century Hymnal*

Charles P. Jones

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

Our worship has ended.
Let our service begin.

POSTLUDE

Rippling Spring Waltz

Estelle Ricketts

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**

**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.

## 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.

## 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)

## CUE Seminaries Special Offering, TODAY!

Today, we celebrate and support the work of the CUE Seminaries – Chicago, United of the Twin Cities, and Eden. These three historic institutions were founded for and by the merging entities of the United Church of Christ. Chicago Theological Seminary was one of the first recipients of benevolence funds from First Church. Eden has often supplied us with student ministers, since 1927. These three are the UCC seminaries in the Midwest. Envelopes for contributing to the CUE fund may be found on the tables in the Narthex. The seminaries are also one of the dropdown menu items at our website's Donate page – [FirstChurchWG.org/donate](https://FirstChurchWG.org/donate)

## Coffee Fellowship Upstairs, Today with Adult Ed: Home Repair Program

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! **Because of the Adult Ed class, Coffee Fellowship will take place in the Inglis Room.**

## Pastoral Relations Committee, Today

The Pastoral Relations Committee will be meeting today. The 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**.

### **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.

### **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, this week.**

### **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 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.

### **Security Update Discussion, March 1st**

Next Sunday after worship, Pastor Dave Denoon, Kristy Barton, and Sharon Love will provide a recap of the “4-E Intruder Training” conducted a few months ago by Webster Groves Captain Jillian McCoy. They will also present recommended security improvements Capt. McCoy offered, after a walk-through of the building with the Pastor.

The Security Update on Sunday, March 1st, will likely be the first of many discussions we will have as a church over the next year. Please, plan to attend. (If you need childcare in order to attend this important meeting, please contact Johari Hunt.)

### **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.

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

**A Trivia Night benefitting Camp MoVal** will be Friday, March 6, at 7PM (doors open at 6:00). The takes place at St. Peter’s UCC, 20 E. Fifth St., Washington, MO. Tickets are \$25 per person. To register, contact Jeff Remelius at St. John UCC, Bem – [BemChurchPastor@gmail.com](mailto:BemChurchPastor@gmail.com) – or 573-437-3698.

### **Camp MoVal Summer 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 Hunt know you're signing up.)

### **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)

### **Chili Benefit for the Unhoused, March 7**

Welcome Neighbor will hold a chili supper to benefit refugee chefs and the unhoused at Eden Seminary. Veggie and Beef options available. Come to Schroer Commons on the Eden Seminary Campus in Webster Groves on Saturday, March 7, 5:30PM to 7:30PM. Suggested donation \$10 per person. Carry out available!

### **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.

### **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

### **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 22**

**First Sunday in Lent**

**Seminary Sunday**

**CUE Special Offering**

**9:00AM** Canterbury Bells Warmup  
- Sanctuary

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship - Inglis

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

**11:30AM** Pastoral Relations Committee

#### **Monday, February 23**

**7:00PM** Executive Ministry (Zoom)

#### **Tuesday, February 24**

**10:30AM** Staff Meeting - Church Office

**11:00AM** Lady Elect - Inglis

#### **Wednesday, February 25**

**9:30AM** Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

#### **Thursday, February 26**

**9:00AM** Journeymen - Parlor

**6:00PM** Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

#### **Sunday, March 1**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**Sacrament of Christ's Table**

**9:00AM** Brown Baggers

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship  
- Memorial Hall

**11:20AM** Adult Ed:  
Church Security Update - Inglis



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

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Weekend & Events Custodian –  
Onyeka Igboanuzue

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