

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
UCC WOMEN'S WEEK
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 *Pastorale, movement 3* J. S. Bach
*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 Linda Kopetti, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING WORDS *Disciples of Christ* Iona Community
A Reading for Women's Week
Response

They were disciples of Christ who through the Gospel and through the ages were touched by Christ and who tended Christ. We remember and celebrate them and all the others since who have borne, guided, and shaped us that we might become God's people. We remember all of these disciples and saints, for we stand in their tradition and bear their legacy of good news in Christ's name. Amen.

***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** *God of the Women* C. Winfrey Gillette
Tune: SLANE

God of the women who answered your call,
trusting your promise, giving their all,
women like Hagar and Hannah and Ruth___
give us their courage to live in your truth.

God of the women long put to the test,
left out of stories, forgotten, oppressed,
quietly asking: "Who smiled at my birth?" ___
in Jesus' dying you show us our worth.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all,
may we be joyful in answering your call.
Give us the strength of your Spirit so near___
that we may share in your ministry here.

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

**Invitation to Confession*

*Corporate Confession (Litany)

Response

We need you, God.

*Assurance of Pardon (Responsive)

The same God who placed in the garden of Eden the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, our temptation and condemnation,
placed also upon the hill of Calvary the Tree of Life, our redemption and salvation.

So we need not fear any curse or condemnation:
**in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God!
Amen.**

*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.

SHARING THE WORD

From the Law

Genesis 12:1-4a

Pew Bible, p. 9

From the Gospels

John 2:23-3:17

p. 968

Response

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“God So Loved the World”

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

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)

God of rebirth, we present offerings that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries, so that each of us may be part of your answer to the cries of the world; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S TABLE

*Prayers of Intercession

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.

*Invitation

Refrain

**Oh, the food comes from the baker,
the drink comes from the vine;
The words come from the Savior,
“I will meet you in bread and wine.”**

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

Denoon

**Our Mother in heaven, make your name holy. Reveal your love,
and teach us your way. Make earth alike with heaven. Provide
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.**

Communion

*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 at the indication of the Pastor,
unless this presents a hardship for the individual.*

**Prayer after Communion* (Unison, standing)

**We give you thanks, O God, for blessing us around this table
with the presence of Christ. Send us forth, rejoicing, with our
siblings in faith, to share your abundant love and grace with
all we meet. Amen.**

*PARTING HYMN

There Is a Line of Women
Tune: THE SEVEN JOYS OF MARY

John Bell

There is a line of women extending back to Eve,
Whose role in shaping history God only could conceive.
And though, through endless ages their witness was repressed,
God valued and encouraged them through whom the world was blest.
So sing a song of Sarah, to laughter she gave birth;
And sing a song of Tamar who stood for women's worth;
And sing a song of Hannah who bargained with her Lord;
And sing a song of Mary who bore and bred God's Word.

There is a line of women who took on powerful men,
Defying laws and scruples to let life live again.
And though, despite their triumph, their stories stayed untold
God kept their number growing creative, strong, and bold.
So sing a song of Shiphrah with Puah at her hand,
Engaged to kill male children they foiled the king's command.
And sing a song of Rahab who sheltered spies and lied;
And sing a song of Esther, preventing genocide.

There is a line of women who stood by Jesus' side,
Who housed him while he ministered and held him when he died.
And though they claimed he'd risen, their news was deemed suspect
Till Jesus stood among them, his womanly elect.
So sing a song of Anna who saw Christ's infant face;

And sing a song of Martha who gave him food and space;
And sing of all the Marys who heeded his requests,
And now at heaven's banquet are Jesus' fondest guests.

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

O God, You Faithful God

J. S. Bach

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 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)

### **Girl Scout Cookie Season**

Girl Scout Ellington “Ellie” Fisher is winding up her cookie sales. Every cookie purchase supports the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world. Purchase at <https://bit.ly/EFCookies>.

### **Security Update Discussion, Today**

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 will likely be the first of many discussions we will have as a church over the next year. Please, plan to attend.

### **Yoga Schedule for March**

Yoga sessions with Jeanene Harris will be held on March 4, 18 and 25. There will be no yoga on March 11.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing, March 15**

For over 75 years, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS) has been helping Christians bring God’s hope and healing to hurting people both in the US and around the world. OGHS’s mission is to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, and more. We will hold our OGHS offering on Sunday, March 15. To learn more about OGHS, go to <https://www.ucc.org>.

### **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.

### **March Birthdays**

Elle Polaske - March 5  
Emery Fisher - March 9  
Brennan Butler - March 12  
Kris Rinne - March 14  
Kitty Pearl - March 18  
Lauren Gomez - March 20

Jim Harris - March 21  
Casen Hood - March 21  
Nick Suber - March 25  
Amy Byrne - March 26  
Danny Smith - March 29

### **March Shopping List**

Canned Ham • Macaroni and Cheese • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt) • Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Toothbrushes • Toothpaste • Dental Floss

### **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, March 1**

**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**Sunday in UCC Women's Week**  
**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

#### **Tuesday, March 3**

**1:00PM** Communications Committee - Church Office

#### **Wednesday, March 4**

**9:30AM** Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room  
**10:30AM** Staff Meeting - Church Office

#### **Thursday, March 5**

**6:00PM** Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary  
**7:30PM** Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

#### **Sunday, March 8**

**Third Sunday in Lent**  
**Daylight-Saving Time Begins**  
**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available  
**10:00AM** Worship  
**10:15AM** Kids' Church  
**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall



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## Contact Information

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Onyeka Igboanuzue

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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.

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