

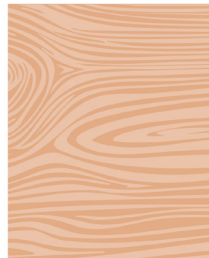
Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
AMISTAD SUNDAY



THIRD 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.*

You are like a bottomless well, O Cup of life-giving water,
Full even to overflowing. Praise be to You, my God!

**Singing God's Glory*

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 Gospels

John 4:5-42

Pew Bible, p. 969

Response

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“Watery Reality”

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Just as I Am

William B. Bradbury

No. 207, v. 1 – *New Century Hymnal*

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

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

ad. 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.

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Opportunities to Give and Gather

**Song of Praise*

Doxology

Thomas Ken

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)*

Creator of all that is and was and will be, you have set us free from the pain of the past, and you raise us above the troubles of the present. As signs of our thanks, here are gifts that we ask you to bless – offered so that all may come to know your grace and truth, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*PARTING HYMN *Joys Are Flowing Like a River* Manie Payne Ferguson
No. 284, vv. 1,3,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

*BENEDICTION

*PARTING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE *Come Thou Font of Every Blessing* Maureen Howell
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)

### **Parish Life Update**

The Parish Life Ministry continues its work in helping to provide meaningful worship experiences and serving our members in diverse ways. Check the Covenant News for an update, including **the announcement of this year's Gala theme!**

### **New on Sundays – Door Security Policy**

As part of our efforts toward greater safety and security, a new policy has been adopted by the First Friends. Almost all doors will now be locked at 10:00AM on Sundays. To access the building after worship has begun, please go to the Narthex entrance (east side of the building). The First Friends will let you in.

### **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.

### **Troop 301 Rummage Sale, March 14**

Troop 301 is holding a rummage sale on **Saturday, March 14 from 8 AM to noon-ish**. The sale will be at the northeast corner of the church's east (Elm Ave.) parking lot. If the weather is uncooperative, the sale will be moved to the church basement (enter through the exterior stairs leading down). There are books, jewelry, household items, and holiday decor. Proceeds will help pay for camping and activities costs.

### **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 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 [ucc.org/oghs](http://ucc.org/oghs).

### **First Friends Team Leaders Discuss Church Emergency Plan, March 15**

Next Sunday after worship, Sharon Love will chair a meeting with First Friends Team Leaders in the Library. They are in the process of updating First Church's Emergency Plan, which was created in 2017. The meeting will begin, about 11:30AM. Team Leaders, please feel free to bring your beverages and snacks with you from Coffee Fellowship.

### **Movie Night with Sts. Clare & Francis**

#### **Saturday, March 21, 3:00PM – “The Quilters”**

Join Pastor Maggie Gann and members of Sts. Clare & Francis Church, to watch *The Quilters*, a short documentary about a restorative justice program inside a Missouri maximum-security prison. Guest Speaker Patty Berger (of the group All of Us or None – learn more at [PrisonersWithChildren.org/all-of-us-or-none](http://PrisonersWithChildren.org/all-of-us-or-none) – will address challenges facing the prison system. This will be followed by worship in Sample Chapel at 5PM, with dinner and discussion afterward, in the Inglis Room. RSVP to Therese at 314-607-7087.

### **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.

### **Lady Elect Field Trip, March 24**

Lady Elect will be going on a field trip to the St. Louis Genealogical Society on Tuesday, March 24, at 11:30. Please arrive promptly at 11:30, so that we can observe the researchers at work before they have to leave. **The site is located in Sunnen Industrial Park at 4 Sunnen**

**Drive, Suite 140, St. Louis, MO, and is approximately 4.5 miles from church.** Our visit will include a tour of the facility and a talk about starting your own family research. So, bring your questions. Also, please bring your lunch/beverage. Linda will provide a dessert. All are welcome to join us. Text your RSVP to Marilyn at (314) 894-2046. (Include your name in the text.)

### **Annual Reports Due, End of March**

If you're the chair of a Committee or Ministry, or you lead an organization at First Church, please make sure to email your annual report to [admin@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchwg.org) before the end of March. If you're struggling with what to write, take Linda Kopetti's advice: "What would you want your group to know about this year, five years from now?" You're also welcome to contact Adam with any questions.

### **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 Meal-A-Month 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 8**

#### **Third Sunday in Lent**

#### **International Women's Day**

#### **Amistad Sunday**

#### **Daylight Savings Time Begins**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

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

### **Monday, March 9**

**7:00PM** Three Ministries - Hybrid

**7:00PM** Scouting BSA Troop 301 - Memorial Hall

### **Tuesday, March 10**

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

### **Wednesday, March 11**

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

### **Thursday, March 12**

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

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

### **Saturday, March 14**

**8:00AM – 12:00PM** Scouts Rummage Sale - East Parking Lot

### **Sunday, March 15**

#### **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

#### **One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship (Jazz)

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

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

**11:30AM** First Friends Leaders: Emergency Plan Discussion - Library



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
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## Contact Information

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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.

## Follow us on

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@WebsterGroves\_FirstChurch

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@1stChurchWG