

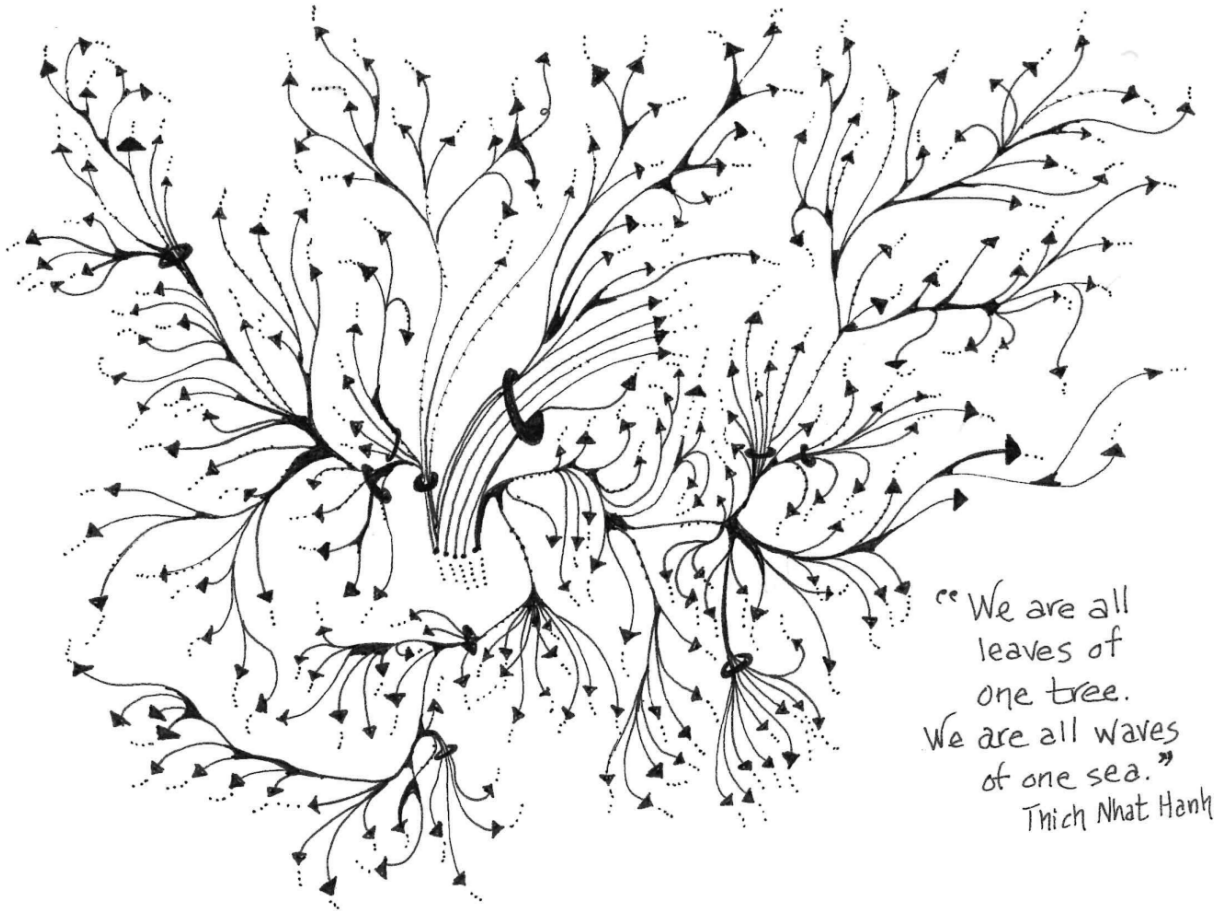
# Welcome!

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



*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**



*“We are all  
leaves of  
one tree.  
We are all waves  
of one sea.”  
Thich Nhat Hanh*

*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** *For The Beauty of the Earth* Kevin McChesney  
*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** Jenny Jones, Liturgist

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

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

We enter this place of worship in search of light to guide our way.

**We seek to exchange the darkness of night for a morning of joy.**

We come because we have seen the light afar off and desire to come closer.

**We want to join with others in walking in the light so we may  
enjoy true human community.**

We worship that our light may shine and draw others to God's light.

**In Christ, the light has come into the world, the bright expression of  
God among us.**

**\*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** *Help Us Accept Each Other* tr. Mary E. Byrne, alt.  
No. 388 – *New Century Hymnal*

**INVOCATION (UNISON)**

**We thank you, O God, for calling us into your church to be your  
people. We have gathered, God of grace and wisdom, because  
we have heard your call. You have reached out to us with your  
Spirit; and we have turned toward you, seeking to love you as  
we have been loved. We call upon your holy name; empower us  
to worship and serve you, walking gently on this earth, through  
the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*\*Singing God's Glory* *Sing Amen (Masithi)* S. C. Molefe  
Anne Gerst

**NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY** Rev. Jan Barnes

*"What If Binnington Was The Only Player on the Ice?"*

*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**

Psalm 27: 1, 5-13  
1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

Message Bible

***Response***

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM**

*Job*

Trad. English Carol (for Lent)

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY** “*I Am Not the Church. You Are Not the Church*” Rev. Jan Barnes

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PRAYER HYMN**

*O Grant Us, God, a Little Space*  
No. 516 – *New Century Hymnal*

John Ellerton

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Today our prayers will be offered alternately with the verses of “Someone’s Crying, Lord”. At the end of each section of prayer, you may offer up either out loud or within yourself the names of those to be embraced by our prayer.

**First Two Verses: Community**

Prayer: Jan

**Personal prayers: Community-spoken or unspoken**

**Third Verse: Community**

Prayer: Jan

**Personal prayers: Community-spoken or unspoken**

**Fourth Verse: Community**

Prayer: Jan

**Personal prayers: Community-spoken or unspoken**

Last Verse:

**Community Together**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

**Our Mother God, 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, not only ours, but give bread to all who are hungry, and forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory. 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*

**Holy one, whose hearts about with gifts. Receive this offering as a sign of our intentions to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to all and generous toward your world. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*Community of Christ*  
No. 314 – *New Century Hymnal*

Shirley Erena Murray

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*PARTING WORDS**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Andante*

G.F. Handel

*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.*

**Our thanks to Rev. Jan Barnes for filling in for Pastor Dave today.**

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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:

- I. 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](http://bit.ly/Liturgist-2026)

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

### **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.

### **Rev. Jan Barnes Leads Worship, Today**

Pastor Dave Denoon will be away this Sunday. We look forward to Rev. Jan Barnes leading worship. Dave will return on Monday, March 23.

### **Adult Ed: Immigration Law, Today**

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. See you at 11:20am in the Kishlar room!

### **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. 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.

### **Good Friday Blues, April 3**

**This year's Good Friday Blues, at 7pm on April 3**, introduces us to Niki and Ari - two people who have just experienced a traumatic scene that makes them wonder whether they could have done anything to prevent it. Major questions about faith and responsibility tinge their conversation as they process what has happened. And it all arises in the Shadow of the Cross. We're looking for three actors and three readers to assist the Oikos Ensemble in this provocative and poignant performance. **Actors will have rehearsals between March 23 and 30**, and all will be needed for a dress rehearsal at 4pm on Good Friday (supper provided). *If you would be interested in participating as an actor or reader, please contact the Pastor.*

### **Easter Flowers**

We are now seeking donations for the Easter Flower fund. Purchasing the lilies and hydrangeas for Easter each year gets pricey. If you would like to offset First Church's cost as well as dedicate your donation in the Easter bulletin, pick up a form from the Narthex today.

### **Coffee Cakes Needed for Easter Sunday, April 5**

On Easter Sunday, April 5th, please bring coffee cakes to share during Coffee Fellowship. Parish Life requests that the cakes be pre-plated and ready-to-serve. **Remember not to include nuts.**

### **Benevolence 2026, May 2**

This year's Gala will have a Derby Day theme, recognizing the annual Running for the Roses in Kentucky which will finish just as we are gathering! Purchase your tickets at [bit.ly/FCCGalaTickets](https://bit.ly/FCCGalaTickets). We also ask that you support the event by donating items for the Giving Tree (contact Nancy Rudolph or Laura Cooper), offer Sign-Up opportunities or offer items for the oral auction by contacting Rosemary Hensley. Cathy Buerk will be asking for help with the set up and clean up for this event. Church bakers will also need volunteers to provide layer cakes for the dessert following the evening meal catered by Orlando Gardens. More details will be available nearer the event. Part of the ticket price is a contribution, but the greatest contribution is your presence at this joyous, meaningful social event!

### **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.

### **Immigrant Luncheon at Webster Hills UMC, March 28**

Support our immigrant and refugee neighbors at the International Supper Club Luncheon, 11:30AM on March 28. Tickets are \$40. Thanks to Doug Miller for bringing this up!

### **March Birthdays**

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Elle Polaske - March 5    | Lauren Gomez - March 20 |
| Ruthie Meyer - March 6    | Jim Harris - March 21   |
| Emery Fisher - March 9    | Casen Hood - March 21   |
| Brennan Butler - March 12 | Nick Suber - March 25   |
| Kris Rinne - March 14     | Amy Byrne - March 26    |
| Kitty Pearl - March 18    | 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 church events, observances, and building use,  
please visit our online calendar at  
[FirstChurchWG.org/Calendar](http://FirstChurchWG.org/Calendar)

#### **Sunday, March 22**

##### **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship w/ Rev. Jan Barnes

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

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

**11:20AM** Adult Ed - "Immigration Law" – Kishlar Room

#### **Monday, March 23**

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

#### **Tuesday, March 24**

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

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

#### **Wednesday, March 25**

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

#### **Thursday, March 26**

**9:00AM** Journeymen - Parlor

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

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

#### **Sunday, March 29**

##### **Palm Sunday**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

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



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
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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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