

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY OF EASTER
FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION



EASTER
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

GATHERING MUSIC Concert Festival Brass Quintet

PRELUDE *Easter Celebration* arr. Howard F. Starks
Canterbury Bells

OPENING WORDS Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Kids' Church Readers
Response (watch for the Pastor's cue)
God's steadfast love endures forever.

TOLLING OF THE BELL

WELCOME Rev. Laurel Hayes, *Liturgist*

***ACCLAMATION**

Minister
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* Charles Wesley
No. 233 – *New Century Hymnal*
featuring the Festival Brass and Erin Prange, flute

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

**Prayer of Approach* *Easter Prayer* Iona Community
Response
Hallowed be your name.
Hallowed be your name.

** Confession Invocation (Unison)*

Sovereign God, bring new life where we are worn and tired; new love where we have turned hard-hearted; forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded; and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are prisoners of ourselves. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confession*

**Words of Assurance (Responsive – Liturgist; People)*

To all and to each, upon his community and upon his friends, where regret is real Jesus pronounces pardon and grants us the right to begin again.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

**Singing God's Glory* *Halleluja* Traditional Caribbean
No. 236 – *New Century Hymnal*

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

THE WORD SHARED

From Christian History

Acts 10:34-43

Pew Bible, p. 1002

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Fanfare and Canticle for Easter Day
Chancel Choir, Brass, and Piano

Benjamin Harlan

Christ is risen, alleluia! ... Christ the Lord is risen from the dead!

Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song!

Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, to the former days belong.

All around the clouds are breaking, soon the storms of time shall cease.

In God's likeness we, awaking, know the everlasting peace.

O what glory, far exceeding all that eye has yet perceived!

Holiest hearts, for ages pleading, never that full joy conceived.

O to enter that bright portal, see that glowing firmament,
Know with Thee, O God Immortal, Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Finding Religion"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation

Exuberant Praise

Cynthia Dobrinsky

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns

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: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, above, you heavenly host,

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

Introductory Words (Responsive)

Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. For just as the body is one and has many members,

and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Blessing the Water

**Confession of Faith* (Unison)

based on *Our Creed*, 1900

**I believe in the kinship of all people as children of God.
I believe that Jesus is the Way and the Truth and the Life.
I believe in the clean heart, the unworldly life,
and the service of love as Jesus taught and exemplified.
I accept Christ’s Spirit, and Christ’s teaching.**

**Renewal of Baptismal Vows*

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ? **I do.**

Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer? **I will, with God’s help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being? **I will, with God’s help.**

**Distribution of Water*

**Song with Distribution*

Wade in the Water

Traditional

**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.

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

***POSTLUDE**

Hallelujah!
from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

*The Congregation is welcome to come forward and sing the Postlude with the Choir and Brass Quintet.
Copies of the music are available from the First Friends in the Narthex.*

We are grateful, this morning, for the Festival Brass Quintet who are participating in the music leadership of this service. Members of the Quintet are Tom Bruce, trumpet; Dan Jones, trumpet; Matthew Alton, French horn; Andy Schiefelbein, trombone; and Ben Duane, tuba.



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.)

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

Slideshow Presenter – bit.ly/FCCWG-Slides • **A/V Volunteer** – 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.

Annual Reports Due, ASAP

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 as soon as possible. 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.

Office Closed on Easter Monday, April 6

The Church Office will be closed tomorrow, Monday, April 6.

Yoga Cancellation, April 22

Wednesday Yoga with Jeanene will take place on April 8 and April 15. **It is cancelled on April 22**, but will resume on April 29.

Benevolence 2026, May 2 Reserve Tickets by April 15

This year's Gala of Grace 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, or in the Narthex or Memorial Hall on Sundays. **Reserve yours by April 15**. To learn more about how to volunteer your time, product, or service, check this week's Covenant News.

Further Observances Mentioned in Covenant News

Check out this week's Covenant News at <http://conta.cc/4bUWV0uR> for events taking place in

- Webster Groves (Community Land Trust meeting, April 8; Covering House Introductory Coffee, April 11),
- the Missouri Mid-South Conference (MoVal Workday, April 25; Women's Retreat, May 1-3),
- the region ("Courageous Faith in Tumultuous Times" Interfaith Gathering, April 17-19)
- and the country (LGBTQ+ Student Day of Silence, April 10).

Also, find out about how to support a Girl Scout Gold Award project at Camp MoVal.

April Birthdays

Jane Brader - April 6
Rebecca Glazier - April 8
Julie Cohen - April 10
Valerie Paci - April 10
Diane Weber - April 10
Anne Gerst - April 15

Sharon Love - April 18
Phillip Shoulberg - April 18
Elizabeth Monaco - April 23
Francis Byrne - April 25
John Robinson - April 26
Annie Sampath - April 26

There are no member birthdays registered in our database, from March 30 – April 5. If you know otherwise, please contact the office with name and date (month-date-year).

April Meal-A-Month Shopping List

Canned Turkey • Brown Rice • Canned Corn (low or no salt)
Applesauce (in plastic, no sugar added)
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Peanut Butter • Real Fruit Jelly • Dried Fruits

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

Sunday, April 5

Celebration of the Resurrection

9:00AM Canterbury Bells Warmup

9:15AM Chancel Choir Warmup

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

9:45AM Festival Music for Easter

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship (Coffee Cakes!) - Memorial Hall

Monday, April 6

Easter Monday - Office Closed

Tuesday, April 7

Municipal Election

1:00PM Communications Committee - Church Office

Wednesday, April 8

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

Thursday, April 9

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Sunday, April 12

Sacrament of Christ's Table

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

11:30AM Pastoral Relations Committee - Parlor



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Contact Information

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ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org

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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.

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@1stChurchWG