

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026
SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTER
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 *The Strife Is O'er* arr. Hal Hopson
*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

***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** *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* John of Damascus
No. 230, vv. 1,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

**Unison Prayer*

**Artist of souls, you sculpted a people for yourself out of the
rocks of wilderness and desert. Musician of the spheres, you
direct us to live in ways of integrity and harmony. Help us as we
take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity, sharpen our
hunger for the faith of your holy friendship, and whet our thirst
for the living water you offer through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Silence for Personal Prayers*

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

THE WORD SHARED

From the Epistles 1 Peter 1:3-9 Pew Bible, p. 1103
From the Gospels John 20:19-31 p. 989

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION (Poem) *I Expected Him to Scold Me* John Bell

MESSAGE OF THE DAY *"Twins"* Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Opportunities to Give and Gather

**Song of Praise*

Doxology with Alleluias

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!

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

Gathered in this place, O God, we marvel as your first disciples did at your brilliance. Accept our gifts, material and of spirit, so that others may know the everlasting wonders we have come to know. You have blessed us so; now bless others with our offerings in Jesus' name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE

**Prayers of Intercession*

**Introduction*

**Sursum Corda (Responsive – Minister; People)*

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**Great Thanksgiving*

**Sanctus (Unison)*

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty. The whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.

Fraction

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.

Invitation

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)

With bread and cup we have shared the bounty of your welcome table, O God. Send us from this place, your disciples renewed and turned in spirit and substance. May this feast have made us

ready to offer your Word anew to the world, that peace may be served and justice may prevail and that your hopes for us may not be disappointed, so that your love may spread and faith abound in Christ's name. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

God, We Wonder Where to Find You Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Tune: BEACH SPRING

**God, we wonder where to find you;
Should we turn our eyes above?
How can people understand you?
Is your love a distant love?
Do our songs rise up to heaven?
Does that language still ring true?
In this world of joy and suffering,
God, we wonder: Where are you?

God, we wonder at our calling;
Is it only in the Church?
We may struggle with tradition;
Where are you, God, in our search?
We are taught that you are gracious;
Can we find you in new ways?
Could there be some brand new places
Where you challenge and amaze?

God, we trust that you are with us,
Dwelling in the here and now.
When we struggle to live fully,
Your compassion shows us how.
As we work to bring your justice,
As we seek your peaceful way,
As we put our faith in practice,
May we find you, God, today.**

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

People: Let our service begin.

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Domenico Zippoli

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.

Today's cover art is *Doubting Thomas* by the iconographer Mary Jane Miller. The icon is displayed in the Iglesia San Miguel Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico. To learn more about the artist and her art, go to MillerIcons.com or SanMiguelIcons.com. The image was discovered at **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN – lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu

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.

Lost and Found

Three pairs of glasses have been in the office for several weeks. Please pick them up ASAP if they are yours.

Pastoral Relations Committee, Today

If you have a matter you haven't been able to discuss with the Pastor – whether a concern or a joy – please contact a PRC member. The members are: Dan Claggett, Anne Gerst, Sharon Love, Barb Moore, Emily Polaske, Dana Romeis, and Moderator Chris von Weise.

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?" Contact Adam with any questions.

Immigration Law with Lynn Mark, April 19

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. Meet us at 11:20, April 19, in the Inglis Room! (*In case you think you've seen this before, you have: This Adult Ed. opportunity had to be rescheduled, when Lynn was unable to join us on March 22.*)

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.

Lady Elect, April 27: Game Day!

You are cordially invited to the next Lady Elect meeting on **Monday, April 27th, at 11:30AM**. The theme is Game Day. We will be enjoying games from our past, group games, card games, and maybe even some new games. You do not need to bring a thing. Snacks and dessert will be provided. Please RSVP by texting Marilyn at (314) 894-2046.

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.

Needed: Habitat Volunteers, May 16

Our Spring Habitat Work day is quickly approaching. **May 16** is the date and **we need 3 more people**. Please consider joining Doug Miller and I. I think you will find it rewarding. Feel free to contact me if you have questions. –Phil

External Events in Covenant News

Check out this week's Covenant News at <https://conta.cc/4mlz24x> for events in the wider community, including:

- Courageous Faith in Tumultuous Times: A Weekend with Rabbi Dr. Rachel Mikva (April 17-19)
- Events from the Missouri Mid-South Conference (MoVal Workday, April 25; Women's Retreat, May 1-3),

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

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 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

Monday, April 13

7:00PM Three Ministries - Hybrid

Tuesday, April 14

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

Wednesday, April 15

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis

Thursday, April 16

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

Sunday, April 19

9:45AM Nursery Care Available
10:00AM Worship
10:15AM Kids' Church
11:05AM Coffee Fellowship
11:20AM Immigration Law with Lynn Mark



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Contact Information

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Johari.Hunt@FirstChurchWG.org

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Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org

Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn
Events@FirstChurchWG.org

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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