

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



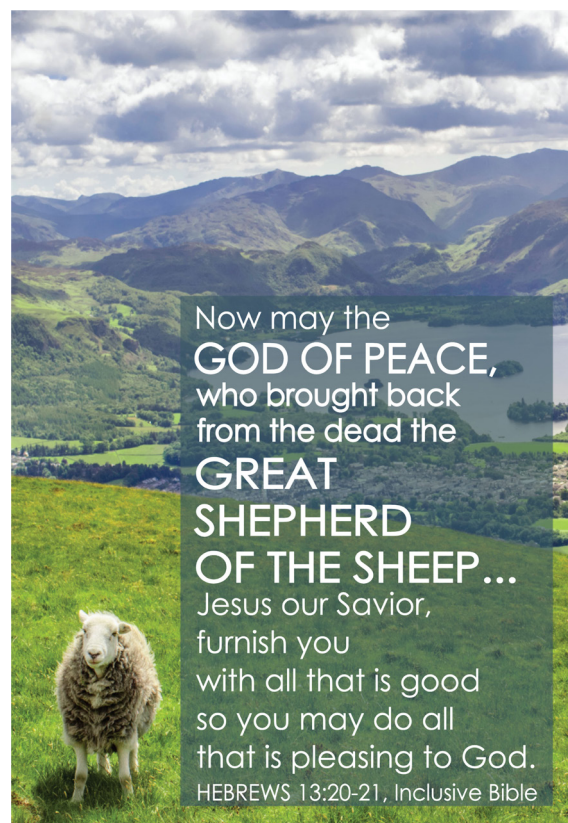
Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

APRIL 26, 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (GOOD SHEPHERD)

“BREAK THE SILENCE” SUNDAY, UCC

RECEPTION OF A NEW MEMBER



*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 *Fugue in C* G. F. Handel
*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 Jane Porchey, Liturgist

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) Clement of Alexandria
Shepherd of tender youth, guiding in love and truth through devious ways,
**Christ, triumphant ruling, we come your name to sing,
and here our children bring, to sing your praise.**
Christ, ever be our guide, our shepherd and our pride, our staff and song;
**Jesus, O Christ of God, by your enduring word lead us
where you have trod, make our faith strong.**

***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** *God Is My Shepherd* Scottish Psalter, alt.
No. 479, vv. 1,3,5 – *New Century Hymnal*

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

**Unison Prayer*

**Gentle Sovereign, who sent Christ to be our shepherd, you know
well that we, like sheep, do go astray. There have been times we
have not kept our eyes on your path but sought our own ways.
Therefore we pray: where we have been stubborn, where we
have been selfish with your gifts, forgive us. Direct us by your
presence and watch over our paths with guiding love, so that
our hearts may be fixed on you and we may follow only you;
through Jesus our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.**

**Silence for Personal Prayers*

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

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Marilyn Barton, *Christian Education Ministry*

THE WORD SHARED

From the Gospels

John 10:1-10

Pew Bible, p. 977

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

BELL ANTHEM

The Day of Resurrection

arr. Lloyd Larson

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“Invitation, Not Warning”

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Just as I Am

William B. Bradbury

Tune: WOODWORTH

**Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

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

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 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)*

God of abundance, your call to stewardship of our earth and sibling human beings compel us to offer the fruits of our labors to benefit the world. We dedicate not only such expressions of ourselves, but our whole lives, to be shared in your will and your work, through Jesus Christ our Good Shepherd, Lord, and Savior. Amen.

RECEPTION OF A NEW MEMBER

Introduction

Preface

**Affirmation of Faith*

based on *Our Creed*, 1901

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

**Questions of the Candidate*

**Raising the Covenant*

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.

**Welcome to the Church*

led by Chris von Weise, *Moderator*

We as members of this church, gladly welcome you to be a part with us in the hopes, the labors, and the joys of our mutual ministry. We promise to walk with you in Christian love and sympathy, and to promote, as far as in us lies, your growth in the Christian life.

***PARTING HYMN**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
No. 252 – *New Century Hymnal*

“Hymns for the Young”

***BENEDICTION**

Hebrews 13:20-21

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “Old 100th”

Hal Hopson

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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Worshiping from Home or Away

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**

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Uganda Water Project Update

On Easter Sunday, we kicked off the new year for donations for Field for Humanity (Uganda Water Project). When I started the fundraising 2 years ago, I told Peter Kalula, the founder and member of our church, that it would take 4 years to cover the number of people that he wanted to provide clean drinking water. I am happy to report the following:

- 29 water access points have been constructed
- 116 villages have been served
- 60,000 people now receive clean drinking water

Only 20 more access points are needed to provide water to the remaining 30,000 people to complete the project. This should be the final year asking for donations, 3 years instead of 4. **You can make a donation by writing a check to FCCWG with memo to Uganda Water Project.** You can also donate online. We thank you for your donations, which will contribute to the completion of this wonderful project.

- Rod Cooper

P.S. Peter Kalulu has recently been admitted to St. Louis University for a PhD in Biostatistics! *Congratulations from the congregation!*

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 Today!

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. **Today is the last day to buy!** To learn more about how to volunteer, check this week's Covenant News.

Annual Meeting, May 3

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 3, immediately following worship. The Annual Report packet and Nominating Committee's proposed slate of officers are now available, from the Narthex table.

Volunteers Needed for St. Louis Association Meeting, May 7

The St. Louis Association of the United Church of Christ will meet at First Church on May 7th, with a brown bag dinner starting at 6:00PM in Memorial Hall, and the event taking place from 7 to 9PM in the Sanctuary. Volunteers are needed from 5:30 to 9:30 (or portions of that time). Help facilitate our Association meeting by contacting the Pastor.

Canned Food Drive for WRHM, May 17

First Church will be collecting canned goods for Webster Rock-Hill Ministries on Sunday, May 17, especially the following:

Canned tuna, salmon, and chicken • Canned beans (black, kidney, garbanzo)
Peanut butter/nut butters (in plastic jars) • Breakfast cereal • Powdered milk, shelf-stable milk
Canned chili, stew, ravioli

In addition, please reminder to pick up a slip to shop for Meal-a-Month, or keep handy the Meal-a-Month list in this issue of the bulletin!

Adult Ed, May 17: Provident Health on Elder Care

After worship on Sunday, May 17th, a representative from Provident Health will present on navigating the complexities of elder care. The presentation will focus especially on the transitional care for seniors.

Habitat for Humanity Workday, October 3

We still need four workers for our fall workday on October 3. The sign-up sheet is hanging in the office! --Phil

Read More in Covenant News

See this week's Covenant News at <https://conta.cc/48MUABG> for events in the wider community, including the Missouri Mid-South Conference, UCC (Women's Retreat, May 1-3) and Churches Together for Justice (May Day demonstration).

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).

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.

Lost and Found

Three pairs of glasses and other items have been in the office for several weeks. Please pick them up ASAP if they are yours. Contact Adam with any questions about the lost and found.

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 26

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd)

Reception of a New Member

9:00AM Canterbury Bells Warmup

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Inglis

11:20AM Confirmation Discussion - Parlor

Monday, April 27

11:30AM Lady Elect Guild - Inglis

7:00PM Scouting BSA Troop 301 - Dickens

Tuesday, April 28

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

Wednesday, April 29

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis

Thursday, April 30

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Saturday, May 2

5:15PM Gala of Grace

Sunday, May 3

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sacrament of Christ's Table

9:00AM Brown Baggers

9:15AM Chancel Choir Warmup

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Annual Congregational Meeting

11:20AM Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall

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



10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
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Contact Information

Moderator – Chris von Weise
chrisvonyz@gmail.com

Pastor – Rev. David Denoon
DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org

Office Administrator – Adam Levin
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Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt
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Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke
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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