

# Welcome!

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



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

**MAY 3, 2026**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**PACIFIC ISLANDER AND ASIAN AMERICAN SUNDAY  
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**



*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** *All Glory Be to God on High* F. W. Zachau  
*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** Mark Edwards, *Liturgist*

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

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

Jesus said, “I go and prepare a place for you, and I will come again.”

**We gather in this place to know Christ’s presence and  
love, now and always.**

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the light. If you know me, you  
know God.”

**We pray to know Christ more deeply, that we may know  
God more intimately, now and always.**

Jesus said, “Ask me for anything, and I will do it.”

**Let us ask for good and righteous things, that we may  
fulfill God’s will, now and always.**

Jesus said, “Believe in me” and “Follow me.”

**In this time may we worship our God fully – believing and  
following Christ. And may we be inspired by the Spirit  
now and always!**

**\*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** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* Latin, 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Cent.  
No. 400 – *New Century Hymnal*

**\*RITUAL OF APPROACH**

*\*Unison Prayer*

**Almighty God, we live so much of our lives in fear, and even as  
we worship you here this day, some of us approach you with  
guardedness. Help us to face our fears and concerns with a true  
and contagious courage. Let your face shine upon us. Open us  
all to receive the benefits of your salvation, enlightenment, and  
healing through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*\*Silence for Personal Prayers*

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

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

**THE WORD SHARED**

*From the Epistles*

1 Peter 2:2-10

Pew Bible, p. 1108

*From the Gospels*

John 14:1-14

p. 982

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

John Rutter

words by F. S. Pierpoint

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies...  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of night...  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love – brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild...  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our world so freely given,  
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven...  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

“Stones”

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)*

**Gracious God, we who have faith in the risen Christ join in  
solidarity with the members of your human family who are in need.  
We make this offering in response to your will and loving concern  
which encompass all. Bless our gifts in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE**

*\*Prayers of Intercession (Joys and Concerns)*

*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.*

*\*Invitation*

*Fraction and Consecration*

*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.**

*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)*

**We give you thanks, O God, for blessing us around this table with the presence of Christ. Send us forth, rejoicing, with our siblings in faith, to share your abundant love and grace with all we meet. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*Jesus the Christ Says*  
No. 48 – *New Century Hymnal*

Pakistani hymn

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*WORDS OF PARTING**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*“Alleluia” from Exultate Jubilate*

W. A. Mozart

*With the Postlude, worship will transition into our Annual Meeting, which we expect will be brief. If you are a guest or visitor today, we invite you to remain until the end of the meeting and then join us for refreshments in Memorial Hall. Young people will be invited back to the Kids Church rooms until the end of the meeting.*

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

COVER ART: Reproduction of a stone tablet engraved with a Nestorian Christian cross and inscribed with Syriac writing. Nestorian Christianity is native to northern Iraq and Iran and eastern Turkey. Object found at the site of a Christian church or monastery at Fangshan District in Beijing. Dated to the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). Capital Museum, Beijing, China. Source: [lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu](http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu)

**Attending 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**

### **Annual Meeting, Today!**

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

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, May 7**

The St. Louis Association of the United Church of Christ will meet at First Church, this Thursday, 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). If you're willing to be part of the host team, please contact the Pastor.

### **Yoga Schedule for May**

The yoga schedule for the next few weeks is as follows: May 6 and 13 cancelled; May 20 and 27 at 9:30AM.

### **Canned Food Drive for WRHM, May 17**

First Church will collect canned goods for Webster Rock-Hill Ministries on May 17, especially:

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 remember 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.

### **Sonya Vann Ordination, May 24**

Sonya Vann, who served as Sabbatical Pastor during Pastor Dave Denoon's time away in the summer of 2017, will be ordained on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, at 3:00 PM at Kindred UCC, 2200 Bellevue Ave., Maplewood, Missouri.

### **National Gun Violence Awareness Day, June 7**

On June 7th, members and friends of First Congregational Church are invited to join other local churches in a community march along Lockwood Avenue in Webster Groves. As part of this meaningful event, **we are collecting used T-shirts in a variety of sizes**, over the next couple of weeks. We welcome your support—please place donated shirts in the collection box located in the narthex. These shirts will be displayed along Lockwood Avenue to honor and remember the lives lost to gun violence in the St. Louis area this year. In addition, each church will help decorate a canvas banner to be displayed along Lockwood Avenue. More details forthcoming. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Esmeralda Castelblanco or Annie Sampath.

### **Habitat for Humanity Workday, October 3**

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

### Read More in Covenant News

See this week's Covenant News at <https://conta.cc/3P0Jnqm> for events in the wider community, such as the WG Community Dog Walk (May 23) and local plans for National Gun Violence Awareness Day (June 7).

### 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)

### 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.

### May Meal-A-Month Shopping List

- Canned Chicken • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)
- Canned Fruit in own juices
- Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
- Pudding of Jello (fat free/sugar free)
- Shampoo/Conditioner • Soap • Deodorant

## **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, May 3**

#### **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

#### **Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries Sunday**

#### **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 - Sanctuary

**11:20AM** Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall

### **Monday, May 4**

**7:00PM** Scouting BSA Troop 301F - Dickens

### **Tuesday, May 5**

**1:00PM** Communications Committee - Church Office

### **Wednesday, May 6**

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

### **Thursday, May 7**

**6:00PM** St. Louis Association Spring Meeting - Memorial Hall

### **Sunday, May 10**

#### **Mother's Day**

**9:00AM** Canterbury Bells Warmup

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:20AM** Coffee Fellowship

### **May Birthdays**

Dana Romeis – May 1	Alayna Hoganson – May 12
Cathy Buerk – May 3	Kay Roush – May 12
Mark Edwards – May 3	Peter Bakker-Arkema – May 17
Melissa Hill – May 3	Jean Gray – May 19
Adrianna Hoeper – May 4	Ruby Cohen – May 21
Warner Prange – May 8	Mila Falconer – May 23
Thomas Welnick – May 8	Sophia Monaco – May 23
Garie Perry – May 9	Linda Kopetti – May 24
Drue Hood – May 10	Leo Gomez – May 27



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## Contact Information

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Custodian & AV Tech – Mark Metcalf  
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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.

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