

First
Congregational
Church of St. Louis
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all



SUNDAY • AUGUST 22, 2021

First Congregational Church of St. Louis
United Church of Christ
An Open & Affirming Congregation

Welcome!

*Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

Restrooms are located down the hall on the main floor.

All Gender Restrooms are located at the back of the sanctuary and downstairs in the Fellowship Hall (which is accessible).

Changing tables are located in the Nursery on the main floor and at the back of the sanctuary.

***An asterisk** is an invitation to rise, in body or spirit.
Bolded text is an invitation for the congregation to read or sing in unison.

For everyone's health and safety:

- Masks are required for everyone ages 5 and over while indoors.
- Please practice physical distancing.
- Ushers will not collect offerings. Instead, you may place your offerings in the baskets located in the Tower Room and Narthex.
- Children should sit with their parents in the pews. Children may get activities from the Playground and then return to the pews.
- At the conclusion of worship, attendees should exit the sanctuary promptly to avoid prolonged, close contact.
- Social hour following worship will be held without coffee or food on the Garth, weather permitting.

Bells Calling to Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude "Variations on Amazing Grace" *Gwyneth Walker*

Opening Prayer

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We gather together as the people of God,

People: With hopes, dreams, and visions.

Leader: As the Body of Christ, we honor the gifts of all,

**People: Guided by the Spirit we minister together –
young and old alike. Let our worship be only
the beginning of what is yet to come!**

***Passing of the Peace**

***Opening Hymn** "My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff" #418

**My faith, it is an oaken staff,
the traveler's well-loved aid;
My faith, it is a song of trust,
sustains me undismayed.**

**I'll travel on and still be stirred
by silent thought or social word;
By all my perils undeterred,
a pilgrim unafraid.**

**My guide is Jesus Christ whose steps,
when travelers have trod,
Whether beneath was flinty rock
or yielding grassy sod,
They carried on, their joy unspent;
through pain and trial they onward went,
Unstayed by pleasure, still they bent
their zealous course to God.** (Continued on the next page)

My faith, it is an oaken staff,
O let me on it lean.
My faith provides the ground of hope,
supports a purpose keen.
Your Spirit, God, upon me send,
that I may be what you intend.
With patient courage, we'll contend
as radiant saints serene.

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of our Savior

Our Mother, 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.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.

Scripture 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV)

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Reflection

Rev. Mia White

Honoring "Mama Cat" Daniels

Paul Brady

Ceremony of Conferral of Honorary Degree

Jim Morice, Doctor of Humane Letters

David Greenhaw, President Emeritus of Eden Theological Seminary

Solo

"L'Heure Exquise"

Music by Reynaldo Hahn, text by Paul Verlaine

A vast and tender calm descends from the firmament.

This is the exquisite hour.

Blessing

Postlude

"The Ash Grove"

Melissa A. Kalbfleisch

Our guest organist this morning is Karen Olsen.

Up until last Friday, Karen worked for Gaylord Music Library at Washington University. Starting September 1st, she will be Music & Fine Arts librarian at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. In the meantime, she is thrilled to have one last organ gig in St. Louis. She has a PhD in historical musicology; her research interests include 19th century American sheet music, ecomusicology, and the music of British composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. She also makes quilts and spoils her cat, Pentecost.

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First Congregational Church: Here and in the Community

FCC Ministry Teams Music Ministry Church grounds volunteers
FCC Search Committee Sunday school teachers
Christian ed volunteers FCC Council Worship volunteers
St. Louis Audubon The National Park Foundation
Southern Poverty Law Center MOBot Board Blood donation
St. Andrews Resources for Seniors System Board Potbangerz volunteer
Epiphany Breakfast volunteer Eden Theological Seminary Board
Supporting friends who need help Tutoring Interfaith Partnership
Court Appointed Special Advocate Black Lives Matter vigils
Legal Services of Eastern Missouri American Friends Service Committee
Political action projects Yale Club of St. Louis volunteer interviewer
Habitat for Humanity volunteer Wounded Warrior Project
St. Louis Association Committee on Ministry Foster care and adoption
BJC Healthcare Board ACLU Pedal the Cause Gateway ONA
President of local Democratic Club Mental health outreach
Ring Lake Ranch volunteer
American Society for the Metro Theatre Company Board
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Operation Food Search Protests St. Louis Symphony
Friends Committee on National Legislation

And more!

Thank you to those serving today.

Greeter: Bert Merrell
Liturgist: Jim Hartley
Soloist: Dan Brodsky, tenor

Our Ministry Team:

Dr. Sarah Bereza (MM, MA, PhD), Minister of Music
(sbereza@firstcongregational.org)

Anne Chao, Preschool Director
(anne@firstcongregationalpreschool.org)

Mehran Moslehikhah, Maintenance

Hannah Rice (MDiv), Minister of Administration and Membership
(hrice@firstcongregational.org)

Emily Stokes (MAPS), Minister of Children & Families
(estokes@firstcongregational.org)

Rev. Mia White (MATS, MDiv), Senior Minister
(revmia@firstcongregational.org)



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