

First
Congregational
Church of St. Louis
UNITED CHURCH



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all



SUNDAY • AUGUST 14, 2022

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.

Children are invited to remain in worship. There are activities at the Prayground at the front of the sanctuary.

The Coffee Bar is available at the back of the sanctuary from 9:30-11:30.

***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.

Today's liturgy is from
lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/

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Worship August 14, 2022

Welcome & Announcements

Paul Brady, S&A

Prelude

"Come Down, O Love Divine"

W. Held

*Call to Worship

Leader: We trust in God,

People: And so we hope in God.

Leader: We hope in God,

People: And so we offer our hearts,
so God may fill them with grace.

Leader: Every time, we trust, we hope, we come to God,

People: God is waiting for us . . . every time.

*Hymn

"How Firm a Foundation"

#407
FOUNDATION

How firm a foundation for you has been laid,
by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!
What more can God say than to you has been said,
to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God, I will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand
upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of woe shall not over you flow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
delivering you from your deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace all-sufficient shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; for I have designed
your soul to make pure just as gold is refined."

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

Prayers of Petition & Thanksgiving

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.

Anthem

"Welcome to God's Love"

Mark Miller

*Families of all shapes and kinds,
love the only tie that binds
this gathering of open minds,
welcome to God's love.
Every person has a place
in this holy, sacred space,
earth's entire human race,
Welcome! Come and feel God's love!
No proof required of your worth,
a gift to you before your birth
from God, who made the heavens and earth.
Welcome to God's love.
We'll love each other and take care
of every need encountered there,
within God's heart there is room to spare.
Welcome! Welcome to God's love!
Come, and live God's love!*

*Passing of the Peace

Children's Moment

Scripture

Luke 12:49-56 (NRSV)

"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!
I have a baptism with which to be baptized,
and what stress I am under until it is completed!
Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth?
No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided,
three against two and two against three; they will be divided:
father against son and son against father, mother against daughter
and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west,
you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens.
And when you see the south wind blowing, you say,
'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens.
You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky,
but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

Anthem**"Christ Has Broken Down the Wall"***Mark Miller*

*Christ has broken down the wall.
Christ has broken down the wall.
Let us join our hearts as one.
Christ has broken down the wall.*

*We're accepted as we are.
We're accepted as we are.
Through God's love all is reconciled.
We're accepted as we are.*

*Cast aside your doubts and fears.
Cast aside your doubts and fears.
Peace and love, freely offered here;
Cast aside your doubts and fears.*

*We will tear down the walls!
We will tear down every wall!
God has called us one and all.
Christ has broken down the wall.*

Scripture Reflection

Rev. Mia White

***Hymn**

"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant"

#539

SERVANT SONG

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

***Blessing**

Leader: By faith, let us go out as God's people.

People: We will gather others around us and dance into peace.

Leader: By faith, let us go to follow Jesus to serve with compassion and grace.

People: We will share the good news of hope and peace
with everyone we meet.

Leader: By faith, let us go to join the Holy Spirit in welcoming
all of God's creation.

People: We will share the good news, all are welcome to God's love.

Postlude

"How Firm a Foundation"

W. Held

Thank you to those serving this morning.

Livestream: Damien Richardson

Guest Organist: Ruth Tweeten

Choir Director: Stephanie Ruggles

Announcements: Paul Brady

Scripture: Bert Merrell

Ushers: Bert Merrell, Bob O'Neil

Announcements -

Spiritual Direction with Pastor Mia

On May 7, 2022, Rev. White completed her Spiritual Director certificate program. She is trained to help guide those who are interested in increasing their awareness of God in the midst of life experiences. Working with a trained spiritual director can offer you the ministry of holy listening, which can help you feel known and loved by God. On Thursdays Rev. White's schedule is open for members of FCC who are interested in spiritual direction sessions with her. If you are interested please contact Pastor Mia through either email or by phone to set up an appointment.

Beavers Scholarship Fund

Apply by Sunday August 21

The Molly Suzanne Beavers Memorial Scholarship Fund is taking applications for the 2022-23 academic year. All FCC members who will be enrolled in school next fall are encouraged to apply for a scholarship. To apply, please send a letter to the church office and address it to the Molly Beavers Scholarship Committee, no later than August 21, 2022. In your letter include: Where you will be attending college, university, or graduate school in the Fall, 2022; What your major course of study will be (if known); A statement of need and how you plan to use any scholarship funds you may receive; A little information about yourself, your academic interests and other interests.



We're kicking off our program year on August 28! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors for a morning of food and fun for all ages! Instead of traditional worship, we'll meet outside at 10:00 AM for our community celebration -

- Kids (and kids at heart!) will be delighted by a magician and face painter from Abra-Kid-Abra!
- Our Ministry Team representatives will be present to share about their work and invite us to sign up to join them in our dreaming and planning process through a Gap Analysis.
- We'll grill up some delicious food and ask that families provide the sides, according to the first letter of your last name:
 - **A-G** Dessert
 - **H-M** Green or Fruit Salad
 - **N-Z** Side Dish
- We'll introduce our theme for the year - Psalm 126: Let Us Dream God's Dream!



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you are welcome here.*

Our Ministry Team:

Mehran Moslehikhah, Maintenance

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

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

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



**News
& Events**



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314.721.5060 | 6501 Wydown Blvd. St. Louis MO 63105
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