

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

— Let Us Dream God's Dream —



Pentecost

Sunday Worship • May 28, 2023

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.

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.



Our Guiding Principles

Adopted by Council – 2020

The Guiding Principles of First Congregational Church of St. Louis describe the values that guide our church and its members throughout our faith journey. We will...

Practice Extravagant Welcome

- Invite and honor the contributions of every member, quirks and all.
- Be grateful for the gifts and time that each of us dedicate to FCC.

Demonstrate Faithful Leadership

- Value people and our faith community over money and material things.
- Share concerns with the appropriate person and keep discussions and comments of others confidential.
- Celebrate successes, own mistakes, and fail faithfully together and in community.

Engage in Inclusive Decision Making

- Be thoughtful, respectful and transparent in our decision making.
- Value building consensus and move forward faithfully once a decision is reached.
- Listen to one another and debate with respect; honor the contributions of every member.

**Overall, we will be guided by
FCC's mission to Know God's
Word, Do God's Work, and Live
God's Love.**

Worship May 28, 2023

Welcome & Announcements

Bert Merrell

Prelude

"Choral on 'Veni, creator spiritus'"

Maurice Durufle

Prayer of Illumination

***Call to the People**

Leader: In those days, says the Lord –

People: In those days after Jesus rose from the dead,
in those days when no one really knew what was going on
or what was going to happen –

Leader: In those days God exhaled the Holy Spirit.

People: And when the disciples pushed out their fear,

Leader: And as dancing flames heralded the arrival of something new,

People: And as the birth cry was the cries of many languages, all understood –
In those days, the church was born, out of fear and fire,
with joy and awe.

Leader: The church was born.

People: Our church.

Leader: God's church.

People: Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn**

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

#292
TRENTHAM

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire:
That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
But live with you the perfect life of your eternity.

Prayers of Petition & Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Music Reflection "3 variations on 'Veni, creator spiritus'" *Maurice Durufle*

*Passing of the Peace

Children's Moment

Emily Stokes

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:1-21

Karen Safe

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

***Closing Hymn**

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

#282

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

[Refrain] Every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.

Upon the mountain my God spoke,
out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
Looked all around me; looked so fine;
I asked my God if all were mine. *[Refrain]*

Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold,
it chills the body, not the soul.
There's only one train on this track;
it runs to heaven, then right back. *[Refrain]*

***Blessing**

Leader: We have been called to love and serve in the world around us.

People: We go out to do just that, to provide leadership
as we serve our neighbors.

Leader: As you go out into the world, carry with you God's love for the world.

People: We pledge to share that love in our words, in our deeds,
in how we serve our neighbors.

Leader: Go out into this world secure in this knowledge
that God loves you and your neighbors.

People: We trust that good news. God loves us and God loves our neighbor.
Amen.

Postlude

"Finale on 'Veni, creator spiritus'"

Maurice Durufle

Thank you to those serving this morning:

Ushers

Marty & Paul Black

Announcements

Bert Merrell

Scripture

Karen Safe

Strengthen the Church Offering

Today we are receiving the Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering, one of the special mission offerings of the UCC. STC reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. If you would like to make a donation to STC, please use the special offering envelopes. Make all checks out to First Congregational Church with STC in the memo.

Memorial Day Office Closure

The church office will be closed this week on Monday and Tuesday for the regular staff team day off and the Memorial Day holiday. In addition, Pastor Mia White will be on vacation Wednesday May 31 and Thursday June 1.

Summer Worship

June 4-September 3, 10 AM in the Chapel

This summer we're worshipping in the chapel each Sunday and we're calling it "Worship Light" - Come as you are, straight from your morning bike ride or walk, in your casual clothes, however you are comfortable! We're taking the pews out of the chapel and reconfiguring the space for more informal worship that is still meaningful and enriching. We'll explore confusing parables and beautiful biblical poetry, and engage in the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina, poetry, and contemporary media. On the fourth Sunday of every month we'll worship outside on the Garth around tables and a shared meal. Because we will not be in the sanctuary, we will only livestream the services to our facebook page, and we'll post them later on YouTube.

This Week at FCC

Sunday May 28

10:00 AM - Worship Service

Faith & Fun

11:20 AM - Zoom Coffee Hour

Meeting ID: 314 721 5060

Passcode: coffee

7:30 PM - AA Meeting (Social Hall)

Church Office Closed Mondays
(Staff Team day off)

Tuesday May 30

Church Office Closed

10:00 AM - Sacred Studies &

Fellowship (Parlor)

7:00 PM - Charis Chorus Rehearsal
(Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday May 31

8:00 AM - Wydown Men's Club
(Social Hall)

12:00 PM - Staff Team Meeting

Sunday June 4

10:00 AM - Worship Service

11:20 AM - Zoom Coffee Hour

1:00 PM - Extraneous Commas
Rehearsal (Fell. Hall)

7:30 PM - AA Meeting (Social Hall)

Breaking Bread with Pastor Mia

For the next several months FCC's Membership and Fellowship will be offering a series of potluck "Breaking Bread" dinners. This is a chance to spend some informal time with Rev. Mia as well as other church members, and also visitors who'd like to get to know us better. No agenda - just a chance to visit and eat!

Each dinner has a host who will be able to accommodate 8 others. You can sign up for a dinner online by using the link in the Friday email newsletter, or by scanning the QR code below. Sign up sheets are also on the bulletin board by the office. Please only sign up ONCE so that everyone can have a turn to participate!

Guests are asked to bring a dish that coordinates with what the host is offering. Hosts simply provide the space, beverages, and a main dish. Call Chrissy Paterson with any questions - 314-440-7445.

Breaking Bread Dinners

May 26th - Hosted by Ward & Carol Klein
June 16th - Hosted by Bruce & Michele Bryan
August 25th - Hosted by John & Chrissy Paterson
September 15th - Hosted by Marty & Paul Black
October 27th - Hosted by Leila Sadat & Andrew Ruben



Scan with your phone's camera to sign up for a Breaking Bread dinner.

St. Louis PrideFest: June 24 & 25

The St. Louis PrideFest takes place downtown on June 24 and 25. The Open and Affirming UCC congregations in our area will be taking part in a couple of ways, and all are invited to join - The Gateway ONA Coalition will host a booth and they are seeking volunteers to staff it. If you would like to sign up for a two-hour shift, contact the office for the signup link. Gateway ONA also has a parade entry on June 25 at noon. If you'd like to walk in the parade email Lorin Cope (buckeyeohio@hotmail.com) with your name, our church name, and your phone number.

Today's liturgy comes from:

<https://www.faithward.org/pentecost-sunday-prayer-and-liturgy-ideas/>
<https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/>
https://reachbeyond.org.uk/downloads/Reach_Beyond_Pentecost_Prayers.pdf
<http://worshipofferings.blogspot.com/>

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License, license # A-720972



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

Our Ministry Team:

Mehran Moslehikhah, Maintenance

Tim Clark, Minister of Music
(tclark@firstcongregational.org)

Emily Stokes (MAPS), Minister of Faith Formation
(estokes@firstcongregational.org)

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

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



**FCC
Calendar**



**News
& Events**



**Give
Online**

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