
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SUNDAY WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 19, 2023 • 10:00 AM

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Adopted by the 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.



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

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 by the restroom at the back of the sanctuary.

Large print hymn sheets are available at each entrance to the sanctuary.

Children are always welcome in worship, either in the pews or at the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. **On the second and fourth Sundays** of the month the nursery is open for infants-age 4 and we have Sunday school for ages 5-5th grade after the Children's Moment.

***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.

Prelude

"Nun danket"

arr. David Schelat

Welcome & Announcements

Karen Safe

Introit

*** Call to the People**

Leader: Darkness envelops our world and our lives. Shadows enshroud our spirits.

**People: We want to pay homage to the one whose compassion
and loving-kindness left no shadows on those whom he taught,
healed, and encouraged.**

Leader: We are disillusioned by the victories of greed over generosity...
of judgment over compassion... of condescension over encouragement...

**People: Of hostility over diplomacy... of war over non-violence...
of revenge over forgiveness... of alienation and estrangement
over reconciliation and restoration.**

Leader: We don't know, any more than Jesus knew on the cross, where God is.

**People: Nor do we know, with any certainty, how we will respond
to this world and the instability in our lives.**

Leader: We may not know where God is, but inexplicably,
we still believe that God is.

**People: Somewhere behind the shadows...
somewhere hidden from our sight in the darkness, God is.**

Leader: Are we willing to enter into the shadows, to enter our own darkness,
to find God...

**People: To see if God is looking for us – to save, to heal, to inspire,
to nurture... perhaps to ask us to be light in this world?
We are here to find those answers, our answers to the questions.**

*** Hymn**

#421 "We Gather Together"

New Century Hymnal
Tune: KREMSER

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.**

Anthem

"Together a Dwelling"

James E. Clemens

*Look! Rising up, being built together: A dwelling. God builds us a holy habitation.
A dwelling. Together a dwelling for the Spirit of God.*

*See! Take your place in the shelter of God: A refuge. Christ leads us and opens the door.
A refuge. A dwelling. Together a dwelling for the Spirit of God.*

*Come! Steadfast, filled with the light of God: A temple. A foundation of saints bound by love.
A temple. A refuge. A dwelling. Together a dwelling for the Spirit of God.*

***Passing of the Peace**

Children's Moment

Michele Bryan

Scripture

Psalm 90 (NRSVue)

Karen Safe

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
You turn us back to dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
or like a watch in the night.
You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.
For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh.
The days of our life are seventy years or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.
Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.
So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.
Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants!
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us
and as many years as we have seen evil.
Let your work be manifest to your servants and your glorious power to their children.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!

Anthem

"Beautiful Savior"

Silesian folk tune
arr. F. Melius Christiansen

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.*

*Beautiful Savior! Head of all creation!
God and the blessed Mary's child!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be Thine.*

Scripture Reflection

Valerie Jackson

* Hymn

#25 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

New Century Hymnal
Tune: ST. ANNE

* Blessing

Leader: May we be filled each morning with God's love.

**People: May we see happiness for the same amount of time
we see troubles.**

Leader: May the kindness of God be over us.

People: May the works of our hands prosper.

Choral Blessing

Postlude

"Eb (Triple) Fugue" BWV 552

J.S. Bach

Thank you to those serving this morning:

Michele Bryan, *Ushering, Children's Moment*

Mary Lou Mellish, *Ushering*

Karen Safe, *Announcements & Scripture*

Today's liturgy is from progressivechristianity.org

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

What's happening at FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



*"God's glory
in this time:
Signs of Hope"
(Proverbs 23:18)*

Pastor Mia on Vacation November 19-30

Pastor Mia is on vacation from November 19-30. Next Sunday, November 26th, Rev. Rebecca Turner will be our guest preacher.

Sunday Morning Volunteers

Our Sunday morning church experience depends on our members' contributions and leadership. There are several opportunities to get engaged and help lead worship and children's programming. You may serve as an usher, announcement or scripture reader, or communion preparer or server. We also need two adults to watch over our little ones in the nursery and two adults to teach Sunday school on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Do you feel called to join in on these ministries? You can sign up directly using the link in the email newsletter or the QR code on the back of the bulletin. Contact the church office for more information.

Giving Tree Sign Up Now Available

Join us in supporting our annual Giving Tree partnership with the Child Protection & Permanency Unit (formerly named the Truancy Initiative). The Child Protection and Permanency Unit 4 consists of 7 Deputy Juvenile Officers (DJOs) who are responsible for investigating cases involving allegations of Child Abuse and/or Neglect. They prepare cases for court, visit children in foster care placement, help problem solve, and work with the team to move toward permanency - options include reunification with family, adoption, guardianship and aging out of the system (at age 21).

Our virtual Giving Tree lists children's names, ages, sizes, and gift wishes. We also list the child's race so you can choose toys that might represent them best (especially dolls and figurines). It is up to you which, or how many, gifts to provide. Please bring your wrapped gifts labeled with the child's name and DJO's initials and drop them off in the church parking lot (6501 Wydown Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63105) on **Sunday, December 10 between 10:45-11:45 am**. Please remember to label all the gifts for your child so they're sure to get to the correct family. Visit our SignUp Genius link in the Friday email newsletter to provide gifts this year. Thank you for helping make the holidays special for many children in our region.

Advent 2023: "How does a weary world rejoice?"

Advent begins on Sunday December 3rd and our theme for this season is "How does a weary world rejoice?". Our resource created by A Sanctified Art follows how the Gospel of Luke begins the story of Jesus: by interweaving Christ's birth with the parallel story of Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John the Baptist. In these stories we see the full scope of human emotions: isolation, fear, disbelief, as well as connection, trust, and joy. The Christmas season is often an emotionally-charged time when we feel many things deeply, often experiencing emotional dissonance in the midst of joy-filled carols and festivities. As we move through Advent, we will acknowledge the weariness of our world while also seeking real and daily moments of joy.



The Red Gate Gallery "Care" Art Show

The Red Gate opens with the Care exhibit on Nov. 22 and we'd love to get our members involved! You can see the entire prospectus on both Facebook and Instagram @theredgategallery. We'd love to connect so please follow! Below are pertinent details for submission.

The Red Gate invites artists from all disciplines to submit proposals for Care, a dynamic and ongoing exhibition from November 22, 2023, to January 22, 2024. We are looking for ideas that engage with the theme of care. Work will be considered for both our indoor and outdoor spaces, as well as non-object-based work! Should you want to respond to the call through another action, i.e. sharing food, flowers, your voice/instrument, offering a class, etc., we're happy to consider how your idea could fit into the exhibition. Please send questions/proposals to theredgate@firstcongregational.org and put in the subject line CARE SHOW.

Upcoming Church Member Performances

"Matilda," Presented by Ignite Theatre Company | November 30-December 3

Tim Clark is the Music Director for Ignite Theatre Company's production of "Matilda" and Cora Solomon is performing in the ensemble! Performances are November 30 (7pm), December 1 (7pm), December 2 (12pm and 7pm), and December 3 (2pm). Tickets are available at ignitewithus.org.

Extraneous, Commas Show | Sunday December 3, 4-6 PM

Lydia Aiken's improv ensemble is performing their next show on December 3 at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center. Stay tuned for details at facebook.com/extraneouscommas.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

*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)

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

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



Calendar



FCC News



**Online
Giving**



**Worship
Volunteers**

314.721.5060 | 6501 Wydown Blvd. St. Louis MO 63105
office@firstcongregational.org | www.firstcongregational.org
facebook: FirstCongregationalUCC
Youtube: @fccstl | Instagram: @fccstl