
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SUNDAY WORSHIP

JANUARY 14, 2024 • 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.



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

"Kelvingrove"

arr. Matthew H. Corl

Welcome & Announcements

Karen Safe

Introit

"Saw You Never in the Twilight"

C. F. Alexander

***Call to the People**

Leader: We praise you, O God, for you are our God,
and we are your people.

**People: Wonderful are your works, O God,
we know them very well!**

Leader: Search us and know us, Creator,
remove us from shadows into your presence.

**People: Wonderful are your works, O God,
we know them very well!**

Leader: Place your hand upon us, Gracious One,
as we worship you and minister in your name.

**People: Wonderful are your works, O God,
we know them very well!**

***Hymn**

#94 "Now All the Woods Are Sleeping"

New Century Hymnal

Tune: NUN RUHEN ALLE WALDER

Prayers for Community

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

"When In Our Music God Is Glorified" arr. Harriet Ziegenhals

*When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!*

*How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!*

*So has the Church in liturgy and song, in faith and love, thru centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue, Alleluia!*

*And did not Jesus sing a Psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the Light?
Then let us sing, for whom He won the fight: Alleluia!*

*Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!*

***Passing of the Peace**

Children's Moment

Marty Black

Children ages 5-5th grade are invited to go to Sunday school.

Teachers will lead them downstairs to the Purple Room for the rest of the service.

Scripture John 1:43-51 (NRSVue)

Karen Safe

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Anthem

"The Gift of Love"

arr. Hal H. Hopson

*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, spirit, come, our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship and are freed.*

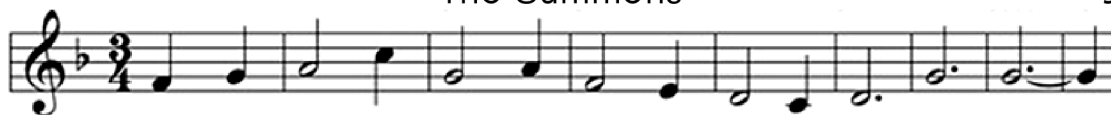
Scripture Reflection

Rev. Mia White

* Hymn

"The Summons"

John L. Bell



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at-tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

* Blessing

Leader: Go into God's world, aware of God's call in your life.

People: We will follow Jesus Christ who will lead us in paths of service and hope.

Leader: Lean on the power of the Holy Spirit to give you courage and strength.

People: May peace, joy, and love flow through us to others, in God's many names we pray, AMEN.

Choral Blessing "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

Dale Wood

Postlude

"Now All the Woods are Sleeping"

J. S. Bach

What's happening at FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Please note: the church office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, January 22 and 23, for the regular staff team day off and the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

FCC Kitchen Clean-Up

Saturday January 20, 10:00 AM

A group led by Carrie Sayers and Chrissy Paterson will meet at 10 AM on January 20th to deep clean our Fellowship Hall kitchen. We'll provide the cleaning supplies - We just need all the help we can get! Please sign up to help on the sheet outside the church office, or by clicking the link in the Friday email newsletter.

Women of Wydown Vision Board Activity

Sunday January 21 after Worship

All women are invited to join the Women of Wydown for a Vision Board activity led by Linda Aiken on January 21st after worship in the Social Hall. Bring your own lunch and any vision board supplies you might have - photos, magazines, poster board, glue sticks, scissors, and your ideas/goals/plans/dreams for the coming year. We will have extra supplies to share.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday January 28, 10:15 AM

On Sunday, January 28, at 10:15 a.m., after an abbreviated worship service, the church will hold its Annual Meeting. Among other business, church members will pass a budget and elect Council and committee members for 2024. We must have 40 members inside the sanctuary to achieve a quorum. Unfortunately, there are no pandemic-related reprieves to allow electronic voting. If attendance is down and we are unable to achieve the 40-member threshold, FCC will have no approved budget and no elected Council members to conduct business. The Executive Team is urging church members who can commit to attending the Annual Meeting to contact the church office with your RSVP. As always, friends of the church are welcome to attend the meeting, but only official church members may vote.

2024 Budget Info Sessions

Sunday Jan. 21 after worship

Tuesday Jan. 23 at 7 PM on Zoom

Linda Morice and Mary Lou Mellish will offer two informational sessions on topics related to the Jan. 28 annual meeting. The first session will be in person, immediately after worship, on Jan. 21. It will focus on the 2024 budget and the Tiffany windows. The second discussion (on the same subjects) will be a Zoom session on Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. Contact the church office or see the Friday email newsletter for the Zoom link.

Sunday Morning Livestream

Each Sunday we livestream our worship service to Facebook and YouTube, which is an important way those at home or far away may worship with those on-site. We need volunteers to be trained and occasionally step in to run the livestream. It is not a difficult system to handle, and there are pre-set camera angles. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Hannah Rice in the church office.

Update Your Contact Information

Please update your contact information with Hannah Rice if anything has changed – You can review the current church directory, available in the office. We will update and print a new directory by the end of January.

Thank you to those serving this morning:

Mark Barlow, *Usher*

Mary Black, *Children's Moment*

Kevin Ceballos, *Usher*

Karen Safe, *Announcement & Scripture Reader*

This morning's liturgy is from:

The Call to the People – Worship Ways for the United Church of Christ

Prayers for Community & Blessing – Nancy C. Townley, www.ministrymatters.com

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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

Bert Merrell

Sunday Sexton

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**

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