
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SUNDAY WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 11, 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

"Crusader's Hymn"

arr. A. D. Miller

Welcome & Announcements

Bill Piper

Introit

*** Call to the People**

Leader: You are with us, God of sunrises:

**People: You awaken us with each bright new day,
overflowing with promise.**

Leader: You are with us, Inviting God:

**People: Calling us to respond to all the chances
to share the spirit of grace and hope.**

Leader: You are with us, Glory of God:

**People: Gathering us into the presence of your peace,
listening to the deep sighs of our hearts. Let us worship!**

*** Hymn**

#47 "O Christ Jesus, Sent from Heaven"

New Century Hymnal

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY

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

"A Prayer of Compassion"

Gwyneth Walker

*** Passing of the Peace**

Children's Moment

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

Mark 9:2-9 (NRSVue)

Bill Piper

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Anthem

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

arr. Mark Hayes

Scripture Reflection

Rev. Mia White

*** Hymn** #182 "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding" *New Century Hymnal*
Tune: HYFRYDOL

* Blessing

Leader: God sends us from this sacred space.

**People: We will go to share the good news of grace,
to offer healing to the broken.**

Leader: Jesus would not have us stay here forever.

**People: We will go to find our sisters and brothers
in the valleys of injustice and the neighborhoods of addiction.**

Leader: The Spirit fills us with the gifts we need as we leave.

**People: We will go to help rebuild the lives of those around us,
to share feasts of hope and peace with everyone. Amen.**

Choral Blessing

"Amen, Amen"

Postlude

"Voluntary on Hyfrydol"

Charles Callahan

What's happening at FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



The Season of Lent

Beginning Sunday February 18

Our theme for the season of Lent is

“Wandering Heart: Figuring out faith with Peter”.

In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter’s journey, we will watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out – just like us. Faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows, seeks and wanders. Wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. So throughout Lent we will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. The theme for each Sunday comes from a phrase from the hymn “Come Thou Fount,” so as we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God’s grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.



If you would like to dive deeper this Lent, a devotional booklet and faith map are available in the Tower Room. Be sure to follow us on social media for thought-provoking prompts and images throughout the season.

Memorial Service for Ellen Hiatt

Sunday February 18, 2:00 PM

A memorial service for Ellen will take place on Sunday February 18th at 2 pm in our sanctuary, which will also be livestreamed for those who cannot attend on site. A short coffee reception will be held at the church immediately following the service. A longer reception to celebrate the life of Ellen Hiatt will be held from 4–7 pm at The Cheshire Inn. Please RSVP to Mike McKee if you plan to attend that reception.

Updated Church Directories

Updated church directories are available in the Tower Room. You can also scan this QR code for a digital copy.



Confirmation Class & Mentors

The FCC Confirmation program for 7th and 8th graders begins February 25th, culminating in the Confirmation worship service scheduled for June 2nd. Each confirmand will have an adult mentor to walk with them on their journey. Mentors will attend a few of the confirmation sessions and be in conversation with their confirmand throughout the process. **Would you like to serve as a mentor?** Contact the church office for details.

"7th Grade Coming of Age in 2024"

On view in the Fellowship Hall through February 12

In collaboration with Wydown Middle School, The Red Gate presents the *7th Grade Coming of Age in 2024 Exhibition*, featuring work by 200 students. What does it mean to be "coming of age" at this time? What is life like for the Gen Z teen? In this exhibit in the Fellowship Hall you will see a collection of artwork and visual projects that connect to student writing and highlight what life is like for teens today.

"ID Please" Art Exhibition

On view through May 6th in The Red Gate Gallery

ID Please seeks to build an intentional practice of civility in a city composed of profoundly different individuals, each of whom makes our society stronger through their unique abilities. In addition to amazing art from community members, you'll see work from FCC members Mark Barlow, Bob O'Neil, Rev. Mia White, and Adrienne and Elena Piston. This exhibit is on view at The Red Gate Gallery (in the sanctuary Narthex) through May 6th.

Magnus Hirschfeld Queer Revolutionary Library

by Alex Rosborough Davis

(steel, oriented strand board, books, fabric, upholstery foam, assorted hardware, objects)

Alex Rosborough Davis' queer library was featured in The Red Gate Gallery's *Care* exhibit and is now on long-term loan to our church in what was the faith formation office.

Alex's statement: "In response to the proliferation of book bans around the United States, particularly those featuring Queer characters and themes, I created the Magnus Hirschfeld Queer Revolutionary Library. The Library stands in opposition to this contemporary form of censorship."

Feel free to borrow a book, but keep it within the library. When finished, please reshelve. If you want to contribute to Davis' curated collection of Queer literature, DM them on Instagram (@thezaddygarage) or email theredgate@firstcongregational.org.

Art in the Sanctuary

Some of the artwork in the *ID Please* exhibition is displayed in our sanctuary:

Hanging from the organ screen: **"Link" by Margaret Keller** (laser cut archival paper)

Link is about interconnectedness. I created this abstract design from both the shapes of trees and the shapes of the spaces between the trees. These positive and negative shapes (The Space Between) encompass and create our reality while holistically expressing our interdependence. My identity is linked to nature, trees, forests, and the plants around us. Link, along with an ongoing series of paintings, focuses on nature including the spaces found between.

At the Playground:

"SheEyore" by Sarah Moon (2023, paper mache sculpture, paint, resin, crystals, hair extensions, mirror, rug)

Curator's note: Red Gate co-founder Sarah Moon co-curated and exhibited in our first show, (dis) connect, July 15 – Sept 15, 2023. Church members loved her SheEyore so much they asked if they could keep it for a while and happily, Sarah agreed! For the ID Please show, I decided to surround SheEyore with friends.

"Billie" by Bob O'Neil (2011, acrylic on canvas)

Billie was the first dog portrait I ever painted. She was our dog from 2000 to 2014. Part lab part were-not-sure-what, she was a comedienne of the first order and totally devoted to my wife Barbara and also to me. I painted this piece as a Christmas present for Barbara in 2011. Billie is depicted here standing in Lake Michigan, a favorite pastime of hers, watching the goings-on on the beach.

"Danny In Door County" by Bob O'Neil (2022, acrylic on canvas)

Danny was painted about eleven years after Billie. I had completed a number of dog and cat portraits by then. Our third golden retriever, we had him with us for almost fourteen years from 2004 to 2017. He is a big part of the reason we returned to Door County, Wisconsin for many summers. The moment he saw Lake Michigan he was ecstatic and dove right in chasing a ball or, as depicted here, his big floppy pink frisbee. Missing him, it took me a while to paint this.

"Fearless" and "In the Wild" by Pratima Murali (2016 and 2019, acrylic on canvas)

Throughout history, animals have been regarded as powerful spiritual messengers, embodying qualities and virtues that humans aspire to possess. Tigers carry an identity reflecting strength, courage, and protection. They also portray fearlessness in the face of adversity. The long necked giraffe, its gentle demeanor constantly reminding us to keep our head up high, stay grounded when reaching new heights and look towards the future.

Thank you to those serving this morning:

Mark Barlow, Usher

Kevin Ceballos, Usher

Bill Piper, Announcements & Scripture

This morning's liturgy is from lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com.

Scripture – New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

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



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

LaBar Verner

Custodian

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