

Sunday Worship

September 29, 2024 • 10:00 AM

*No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*



an Open & Affirming congregation

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.**

WELCOME

to First Congregational Church of St. Louis!

*an Open & Affirming congregation of
the United Church of Christ*



If you are visiting with us, we invite you to share your contact information on a Connect Card, found in each pew. You may give your card to an usher or place it in an offering box at either entrance to the sanctuary. You may also scan the QR code on the card to access the digital version.

Restrooms on the main level are located at the back of the sanctuary and in the office. An accessible restroom is downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

Changing tables are located in the Nursery on the main floor and by the restroom at the back of the sanctuary.

Offering Boxes are located at each sanctuary entrance.

Children are always welcome in worship, either in the pews or at the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. We have Sunday school each week for elementary-aged children downstairs in the Purple Room during worship. The children will return to the sanctuary at the end of the service.

***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.

"I am Lady Wisdom, and I live next to Sanity;
Knowledge and Discretion live just down the street.
The Fear-of-God means hating Evil, whose ways I hate with a passion—
pride and arrogance and crooked talk.
Good counsel and common sense are my characteristics;
I am both Insight and the Virtue to live it out.
With my help, leaders rule, and lawmakers legislate fairly;
With my help, governors govern, along with all in legitimate authority.
I love those who love me; those who look for me find me.
Wealth and Glory accompany me—also substantial Honor and a Good Name.
My benefits are worth more than a big salary, even a very big salary;
the returns on me exceed any imaginable bonus.
You can find me on Righteous Road—that's where I walk—
at the intersection of Justice Avenue,
Handing out life to those who love me, filling their arms with life—armloads of life!

"God sovereignly made me—the first, the basic—before he did anything else.
I was brought into being a long time ago, well before Earth got its start.
I arrived on the scene before Ocean, yes, even before Springs and Rivers and Lakes.
Before Mountains were sculpted and Hills took shape, I was already there, newborn;
Long before God stretched out Earth's Horizons, and tended to the minute details
of Soil and Weather,
And set Sky firmly in place, I was there.
When he mapped and gave borders to wild Ocean, built the vast vault of Heaven,
and installed the fountains that fed Ocean,
When he drew a boundary for Sea, posted a sign that said no trespassing,
And then staked out Earth's Foundations,
I was right there with him, making sure everything fit.
Day after day I was there, with my joyful applause, always enjoying his company,
Delighted with the world of things and creatures,
happily celebrating the human family.

"So, my dear friends, listen carefully;
those who embrace these my ways are most blessed.
Mark a life of discipline and live wisely; don't squander your precious life.
Blessed the man, blessed the woman, who listens to me,
awake and ready for me each morning,
alert and responsive as I start my day's work.
When you find me, you find life, real life, to say nothing of God's good pleasure.
But if you wrong me, you damage your very soul;
when you reject me, you're flirting with death."

Prayers for the 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

"Shine on Me"

Rollo Dilworth

Children's Sharing

Joyce Haynes McCowan

***Blessing**

God, your love is true and bright, and guides us on our way.
May we go forth from here with new wisdom, new joy, and a new hope.
Give us this week the grace of your presence and your love,
to carry us through our days until we meet again.

Postlude

"Grand Choeur Dialogue"

Charles Sergisson

As the postlude begins, we encourage you to continue enjoying fellowship with one another. You are welcome to gather, chat, and connect at your own pace. Let this time be a joyful extension of our worship and community.

Thank you to those serving this morning:

Ushers: The Wiens Family

Announcements: Robyn Wiens

Scripture: June & Eve Wiens

This morning's liturgy is adapted from from <https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com>

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What's happening at **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



Pastor Mia is away this weekend at her daughter's baby shower. Our worship leader and preacher today is Valerie Jackson. Pastor Mia will return on Tuesday.

Fifth Sunday Sacred Studies - Today after Worship

Announcing Fifth Sunday Sacred Studies! Would you like to learn more about the wisdom in Proverbs and some of the Apocryphal scriptures? Please join the Fifth Sunday Sacred Studies group facilitated by Valerie Jackson and guests. We will meet in person on the fifth Sundays in September, December, March, and June from 11 am to Noon . There will also be a Zoom meeting once a month. All are welcome!! All sessions are independent so if you can't attend them all, choose when you can join us.

Parking Lot Closed for Repaving - October 2-5

The church parking lot will be closed for repaving from Wednesday October 2-Saturday October 5. Only street parking will be available those days. We anticipate that the lot will be back open for worship next Sunday, but we will send an update if that changes.

Upcoming Children's Activities

Our Minister of Faith Development, Joyce Haynes McCowan, is hosting monthly children's activities. The fall theme is "Inside Out" (named from the movie). All activities will take place in the Fellowship Hall, and the upcoming dates are:

October 12, 12 PM: Self-discipline and self-esteem with Martial Arts Intro exercises

November 2, 12 PM: Gratitude and poetry, with the movie "Inside Out 2"

December 7, 12 PM: Karaoke, music, and games

SHED Weekend of Service - October 12, 8:00 AM

Join our volunteer team from FCC for the Annual Weekend of Service sponsored by Sustainable Housing and Equitable Development (SHED)! Our church has been designated two homes to work on. One home requires scraping, caulking, and painting two first-floor windows. The windows require you to be on a ladder. It also needs a handrail and a step replaced on the back porch. The other home requires new steps and handrails to be replaced on a back porch, a possible power wash, and two window well covers replaced. A little yard work can also be performed on both homes. There is also the companionship with the homeowner(s) that FCC can supply in abundance. Stephen Wurst will work with our church group on these two homes. We'll meet at FCC around 8 AM and work until the afternoon. Sign up to volunteer outside the church office or online through the link in the Friday email newsletter.

Chowder Party - October 12

One of the auction items at our annual fundraiser was a sign-up party at the home of Ann Kittlaus and Jay Byrne. On the menu is Jay's famous New England fish chowder, salad, appetizers, drinks, and dessert. There's still space available, so you can sign up outside the church office or through the link in the Friday email newsletter! The cost is \$35 per person (made payable to FCC or online through our website - please choose the "Improv Comedy Cabaret Fundraiser" option.)

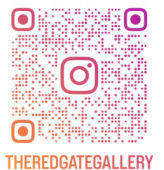
Faith in Our Future Campaign Ending Soon - October 13

The Faith in Our Future capital campaign will conclude on Sunday October 13. The funds raised will be aimed at helping revitalize our church and spur growth efforts. Please consider making a pledge if you have not already. Forms are available at each entrance to the sanctuary, or scan the QR code to fill one out online. If you have questions, reach out to Jon Tiede or Randy Wang.



The Red Gate Gallery "Open Window" Exhibition Opening October 18, 5:30 PM

In celebration of the year anniversary of Red Gate, we are hosting our biggest show to date. "Open Window," an exhibition featuring visual and performance art about radical acceptance, is inviting artists of all disciplines to perform and exhibit throughout the church Oct. 18 - Dec. 1. We hope and enthusiastically encourage members to apply and are especially interested in short musical performances during the opening! For all the info, see @theredgategallery on facebook and instagram. We expect a large attendance and are asking members to sign up to provide food and drink and assist guests on opening night (5:30-8:30 PM). Sign up outside the church office or through the link in the Friday email newsletter. Should you have questions email Adrienne at theredgate@firstcongregational.org.



ThEREDGATEGALLERY

Isaiah 58 Donations

Our Mission & Outreach Ministry Team invites us to bring donations of canned spinach for Isaiah 58 Ministries' Thanksgiving meal bags for their clients. We have committed to providing 150 cans, so please bring your donations to the church. Also save the date for our volunteer day at Isaiah 58 - November 23 at 9:00 AM - when we'll help organize the Thanksgiving bags.

Coming up this week:

Sunday 9/29

10 am Worship Service
11 am 5th Sunday Sacred Studies
7:30 pm AA Meeting

Monday 9/30 (Office Closed)

7 pm Alliance Philharmonia
Orchestra Rehearsal

Tuesday 10/1

10 am Sacred Studies & Fellowship
7 pm CHARIS Rehearsal

Wednesday 10/2

8 am Wydown Men's Club
1 pm Women's Book Group

Thursday 10/3

7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday 10/4

12 pm Heartland Assoc. of
Jungian Analysts

Saturday 10/5

8 am Heartland Assoc. of
Jungian Analysts
9 am CHARIS Rehearsal

Next Sunday -

World Communion Sunday

10 am Worship Service
7 pm AA Meeting

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Our Ministry Team

Bert Merrell, Sunday Sexton

LaBar Verner, Custodian

Mehran Moslehikhah, Maintenance

Tim Clark

Minister of Music

(tclark@firstcongregational.org)

Joyce Haynes McCowan (MDiv)

Minister of Faith Formation

(jhaynesmccowan@firstcongregational.org)

Hannah Rice (MDiv)

Minister of Administration and Membership

(hrice@firstcongregational.org)

Rev. Mia White (MDiv, MATS, CSD)

Senior Minister

(revmia@firstcongregational.org)



Online
Giving



FCC News



Website



Calendar



Worship
Volunteers

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