

November 3, 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 Work, 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 Prayground 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.

Sunday November 3, 2024

Prelude

"Air" from "Suite in D"

J. S. Bach

Introit

*Call to the People

Leader: Open the gates of the temple!

People: Unveil the timeless doors!

Leader: The mighty and glorious One approaches.

People: Who is this powerful presence?

Leader: It is the presence of God that we have eagerly awaited.

People: Let us rejoice and celebrate.

Let us worship that presence in this space.

*Hymn

#299 "For All the Saints"

New Century Hymnal
Tune: SINE NOMINE

Communion for All Saints Sunday

Invitation to the Meal

We remember -

Ellen Hiatt

Marty Mallett

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Words of Institution

Continued on the next page

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Please come forward by the center aisle to receive a piece of bread or gluten-free wafer and a cup of wine (red) or juice (white). Return to your pews by the side aisles with your elements so we may partake together.

Communion Anthem "Pie Jesu" from "Requiem" Gabriel Fauré
Megan Glass, soloist

Prayer after Communion (unison)

Jesus Christ, lamb and shepherd, we remember you here, as we remember all your saints. Help us to remember you not just in this sanctuary, but in our homes and schools, our cars and offices, to remember that every part of our life is filled with your grace and that we are never alone. You are always present with us and we are united by your love. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

Announcements Karen Safe

Stewardship Moment

Vicky Stringer, Fellowship & Service

Anthem "Introit and Kyrie" from "Requiem" Gabriel Fauré

Give them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them. There will be songs of praise to you in Zion, and prayers in Jerusalem.
O hear my prayers; all flesh returns to you.
Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.

A Story for the Ages Mark 12:28-34

David Greenhaw

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Reflection Rev. Mia White

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

"In Paradisum" from "Requiem"

Gabriel Fauré

May the angels lead you into paradise, may the martyrs receive you in your coming, and may they guide you into the holy city, Jerusalem. May the choir of angels receive you with Lazarus, once poor, May you have eternal rest.

*Blessing

Leader: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all might.

Bind to yourselves as close as to your own bodies.

People: God commands us to love our neighbor as yourself.

We will leave this place with the help of the Spirit

and we will remember to love others.

Postlude

"Ashokan Farewell"

Jay Ungar

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.

This morning's liturgy is adapted from from: https://carolhferguson.com; Feasting on the Word Worship Companion Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2

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What's happening at FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday November 3

10:00 AM - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
11:15 AM - FCC Staff Team Meeting (Office)
7:30 PM - AA Meeting (Social Hall)

Monday November 4

Church Office Closed

6:00 PM - New Line Theatre Rehearsal (Soc. Hall) 7:00 PM - Alliance Philharmonia Rehearsal (Fell. Hall)

Tuesday November 5

10:00 AM - Sacred Studies (Gathering Space) 6:00 PM - New Line Theatre Rehearsal (Social Hall) 6:00 PM - Membership & Fellowship Meeting (Zoom) 7:00 PM - CHARIS Chorus Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday November 6

8:00 AM - Wydown Men's Club (Social Hall) 1:00 PM - Women's Book Club (Gathering Space)

Thursday November 7

6:00 PM - New Line Theatre Rehearsal (Social Hall) 7:00 PM - Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Friday November 8

6:00 PM - St. Louis English Country Dancers (Soc. Hall)

Saturday November 9

9:00 AM - CHARIS Chorus Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday November 10

Stewardship Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM - Leila Sadat, Guest Speaker (Sanctuary)
11:15 AM - FCC Staff Team Meeting (Office)
7:30 PM - AA Meeting (Social Hall)

Thank you to those serving this morning:

Communion Preparer

Mary Lou Mellish

Ushers/Communion Servers

Mary Lou Mellish, Karen Safe, Ward Klein, Hannah Rice

Announcement Reader

Karen Safe

Scripture Reader

David Greenhaw

Musicians

Wanda Becker, Violin Mallory Golden, Viola Mike Blackwood, Viola Marie Brown, Cello Andrew Ruben, Cello

All current sign-ups:





Q https://bit.ly/FCCsignups

Stewardship Sunday - November 10

We will wrap up our stewardship campaign next Sunday, November 10, when we will begin receiving 2025 pledge cards. If you did not receive one in the mail, there are extras at each entrance to the sanctuary, and you can also complete your pledge online by scanning the QR code.



Sunday School Teacher Needed

Sunday November 10

Our Minister of Faith Formation, Joyce Haynes McCowan, will not be here next Sunday, November 10. We are in need of someone (or two!) to lead our children's Sunday school during worship. If you are willing to help, contact the church office!

Guest Speaker - Leila Sadat Sunday November 10 after Worship

On Sunday, November 10, FCC member Leila Sadat will speak to us about some of the human rights work she is doing around the world. Please join us in the sanctuary right after worship for one hour. Leila also asks for our church's prayers regarding the passing of Crimes Against Humanities legislation that she is sponsoring in the World Court and the United Nations.

Isaiah 58 Volunteer Day

November 23, 9:00 AM

Our Mission & Outreach Ministry Team invites us to make our annual trip to Isaiah 58 Ministries to help organize their Thanksgiving "store". Many area churches are providing the items for Thanksgiving meals and Isaiah 58 anticipates serving over 300 families. Maintaining their commitment to guest choice, they will have a store where guests will be invited to choose the food that they would like. So sign up to help get the store ready on November 23 at 9 AM! All ages are welcome.

Thank you!

Mission & Outreach thanks First Church for always rising to the occasion and helping out! 163 cans of spinach will be delivered to Isaiah 58 for Thanksgiving meals! See you on the 23rd at 9 AM when we'll finish the job!



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)











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