

# Sunday Worship

February 16, 2025 • 10:00 AM

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



a just  
world  
for all  
[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)

*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 down the hall on the right side.

**Changing tables** are located in the Nursery, two of the main floor restrooms, 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. Except for the first Sunday of the month (Communion) we have Sunday school for elementary-aged children downstairs in the Purple Room during worship.

**\*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**

“New Britain” Variations

*arr. Charles Callahan*

**Introit**

“Jesus, the Light of the World”

**\*Call to the People**

Leader: We gather as people of resurrection hope, for Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed! Death has been swallowed up in victory.**

Leader: We come to proclaim the victory of life over death,  
the triumph of hope over despair.

**People: Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Let us worship the risen Christ, who is our hope and our salvation.

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

#253 “Yours is the Glory”

*New Century Hymnal*

*Tune: JUDAS MACCABEUS*

**Scripture Reading**

Psalm 133:1-5

Hannah Rice

*Inclusive Language Psalter*

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when the beloved live together in unity!  
It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the hair,  
Upon the hair of Aaron, and runs down upon the collar of their robe.  
It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion.  
For there GOD has ordained the blessing: life for evermore.

**Announcing the Good News**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Announcements**

Hannah Rice

## **Anthem**

**“We Know that Christ is Raised”**  
Mo Carr, Adrian Keune (Trumpet)

*Charles V. Stanford*

The congregation is invited to join the choir in singing the bolded portions of the anthem.

### ***Congregation & Choir:***

**We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,  
and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Hallelujah!**

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

*Choir:*

*So has the Church, in liturgy and song,  
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,  
Borne witness to the truth in ev’ry tongue: Alleluia!*

### ***Congregation & Choir:***

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

## **Scripture Reading**

1 Corinthians 15:12-28  
*NRSV Updated Ed.*

Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human, for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in its own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is plain that this does not include the one who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all.

## Sermon

“My bathtub runneth over” Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw

## Anthem

“Amazing Grace”  
Jo Ferbrache, Jason Keune (Soloists)

*Francisco J. Núñez*

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a child like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fear relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear,  
The hour I first believed.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.*

## Prayers for the Community

### *The Lord's Prayer (unison)*

**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.**

## Blessing

## Postlude

“New Britain” Postlude

*arr. Charles Callahan*





**Red Gate Exhibition** - Thursday February 20, 6:00 PM

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Due to last week's weather, the Red Gate Gallery's opening with Wydown Middle School has been rescheduled for this Thursday at 6:00 PM. We will celebrate the diligent work of 100+ middle school students in the "Coming of Age in 2025: A Counter Story" exhibit in the Fellowship Hall, as well as the beautiful work of 20+ artists in the SISU II show in the Red Gate Gallery. We will have cookies to decorate at the opening, lovingly made by church members. Join us for some traditional fun while learning about contemporary issues from a wide range of perspectives.

**Youth Group** - Friday February 21, 6:00 PM

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The youth group will have their next meeting on Friday, February 21 at 6 PM in Social Hall. We will be discussing the season of Lent and assembling blessing bags. The youth group includes grades 8-12. Please RSVP to the church office.

**Art Project Invitation** - February 28, 9 AM - 12 PM

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FCC member Adrienne Outlaw Piston invites you to a project she is organizing at the Saint Louis Art Museum in conjunction with Art In Bloom. If you would like to participate in "Secret Garden", a family-friendly event (including toddlers!) go to the SLAM sculpture Hall 9 am - 12 pm, Friday, February 28th.

As usual, Adrienne is using post-consumer materials for this project. She is asking for members to bring leftover house paint (sample paint is great) to church no later than Sunday, February 16. Please leave your paint in the tower room.

Once the "Secret Garden" work is complete on the 28th, it will be on view in the sculpture hall the entire weekend as part of Art In Bloom.

**Pastor Mia's Sabbatical**

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Pastor Mia is taking the second part of her sabbatical leave during the month of February. Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw will preach and Valerie Jackson will cover pastoral care until Pastor Mia returns.

**FCC Annual Fundraiser** - Saturday May 3

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Please save the date for the First Congregational Annual Fundraiser on Saturday May 3, 2025, at 6:00 PM. Our Worship & Education Ministry Team is hosting the fundraiser this year. If you would like to aid in the planning, please contact Linda Aiken: linda.aiken@att.net or 314-799-6222.

# CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



**The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP)** was a groundbreaking labor union founded in 1925 by A. Philip Randolph to represent African American porters working for the Pullman Company, a major provider of luxury train travel in the U.S. The union played a key role in the labor rights movement and the fight for racial equality.

The Pullman Company (founded in the late 1800s) hired mostly Black men as sleeping car porters to serve passengers on overnight trains. Porters had to work long hours (often 100+ hours per week) for low wages, rely on tips, and deal with racial discrimination. Company policies prohibited them from speaking out or organizing for better conditions.

In 1925, labor leader A. Philip Randolph was recruited by Pullman porters to lead their first national union. Despite resistance from the company and some workers' fear of losing their jobs, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters was born.



Many BSCP leaders (including Randolph) later worked with Martin Luther King Jr. and helped plan the 1963 March on Washington. Today, the BSCP is remembered as a key force in both labor rights and racial justice in the U.S.

Images:

"A. Philip Randolph" - Gordon Parks for Office of War Information, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons  
"Pullman Porter Helping Woman" - Pullman Palace Car Strike, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## Our Ministry Team

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Online  
Giving



FCC News



Website



Calendar



Worship  
Volunteers

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