

The First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025 • 10:00 AM



a just
world
for all
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.

Sunday March 9, 2025

The First Sunday in Lent

Prelude

"Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley"

*Spiritual
arr. Dale Wood*

***Call to the People**

Leader: Are you restless and unsettled? This place is for you.

People: Let us worship God!

Leader: Are you hungry for love and hope? This place is for you.

People: Let us worship God!

Leader: Are you searching for direction? This place is for you.

People: Let us worship God!

Leader: Do you have love to share? This place is for you.

People: Let us worship God together!

***Hymn**

#211 "Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days" *New Century Hymnal*
Tune: ST. FLAVIAN

***Passing of the Peace**

Announcements

Robyn Wiens

Anthem

"Deep River"

arr. Moses Hogan

*Deep river, my home is over Jordan.
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.*

*O don't you want to go to that Gospel feast?
That promised land where all is peace?
Oh, Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.' "

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Reflection

Rev. Mia White

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.**

Anthem

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

David M. Cherwien

*I want Jesus to walk with me.
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

*In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

*When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

*Blessing

Leader: Friends, God knows your hunger,
and wants to feed you.

**People: As we are fed, we will go into the world
to share with others.
May we trust that the blessings of God
go with us this day and always. Amen.**

Choral Blessing

"Jesus Walked
This Lonesome Valley"

African American Spiritual

Today's liturgy is from www.ucc.org/worship-way/lent-1c-march-9/

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What's happening at FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Sunday - March 9

10 AM - Worship & Sunday School
11:15 AM - Staff Team Meeting
7:30 PM - AA Meeting

Monday - March 10 Church Office Closed

7 PM - Alliance Philharmonia
Orchestra Rehearsal

Tuesday - March 11

10 AM - Sacred Studies &
Fellowship
7 PM - CHARIS Chorus Rehearsal
7 PM - Worship & Ed. Meeting

Wednesday - March 12

8 AM - Wydown Men's Club
9 AM - Stewardship & Admin.
Meeting
7:30 PM - Executive Team
Meeting

Thursday - March 13

7 PM - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday - March 14

6 PM - St. Louis English Country
Dancers

Sunday - March 16

10 AM - Worship & Sunday School
11:15 AM - Staff Team Meeting
7:30 PM - AA Meeting

**Thank you to those
serving this morning:**

Ushers: Mary Lou Mellish, Robyn & Grant Wiens

Announcements: Robyn Wiens

Scripture: June & Eve Wiens

Sunday Worship Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for a meaningful way to serve in our faith community? There are numerous opportunities, especially on Sunday mornings. We welcome your participation as ushers, scripture readers, announcement readers, and coffee hour hosts. Whether you enjoy offering a warm welcome, reading scripture, or helping with fellowship, there's a place for you! Sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office or contact Hannah Rice for more information.

Save the Dates - Holy Week

Palm Sunday - April 13

10 AM - Worship Service
Palm Sunday Pageant

Good Friday - April 18

7 PM - Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday - April 20

10 AM - Worship Service

FCC Annual Fundraiser

Saturday May 3, 6 PM

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 and they are planning a very fun evening! If you would like to aid in the planning, please contact Linda Aiken: linda.aiken@att.net or 314-799-6222.

“One World, One Family: Stories from Many Lands”

Saturday March 29, 2 PM

Arts & Faith St. Louis and the St. Louis County Library present “One World, One Family: Stories from Many Lands”. Join award-winning storyteller Bobby Norfolk as he shares stories from many continents to show us that we share a common humanity. Come and be moved by powerful global folktales that reflect and celebrate universal values. March 29 from 2 - 3 PM at the Clark Family Branch St. Louis County Library (1640 S Lindbergh). Free & open to the public. Recommended for listeners nine and older. Visit www.artsfaithstlouis.org for more information.

Unleashing Potential Trivia Night

Saturday April 26

Unleashing Potential, one of our congregation's mission partners, will host their trivia night fundraiser on April 26 in our church Fellowship Hall. Along with trivia, there will be games, a silent auction, prizes, and more. Sponsorships and volunteer opportunities are available as well. Learn more and register at upstl.org/up-events/trivia-night-2025/.

UCC General Synod - July 11-15

The Kansas-Oklahoma and Missouri Mid-South Conferences of The United Church of Christ are the co-hosts of General Synod 35 in Kansas City, Missouri. This gathering is more than a meeting—It's a celebration of faith, community, and the Spirit's call to action. Together, we'll explore this year's theme *Into the Deep*, engage in meaningful worship, connect with fellow UCC members from across the nation, and deliberate on the critical issues shaping our denomination and our world.

Registration is now open at www.generalsynod.org. Since our congregation is a member of one of the host conferences, you may want to consider volunteering at General Synod. Volunteers receive a discounted registration fee. Learn more about volunteering at www.gs35team.org.

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)

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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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