

The Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 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 16, 2025

The Second Sunday in Lent

Prelude

“St. Flavian ‘Reflection’”

arr. David Schelat

***Call to the People**

Leader: God has set this day before us,

People: A day set apart, a day of rest and praise.

Leader: God has set our lives before us,

People: A span of years in which we love, and learn, and serve.

Leader: God has set God’s seal upon our hearts,

People: So that we might live fully in deep love.

Leader: Let us worship God.

***Hymn**

#212 “O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns”

New Century Hymnal

Tune: CHARTERHOUSE

***Passing of the Peace**

Announcements

Ann Kittlaus

Anthem

“Strength for the Journey”

arr. Ed Bolduc

[Refrain] *I will be strength for the journey.*

*There is a road meant for you to travel.
Narrow and steep is the shepherd’s way,
and as you say, “Yes,” letting me guide you,
I will be strength for the journey. [Refrain]*

*There is a cross meant for you to carry.
There is a cross meant for you alone,
and as you bow down in humble surrender,
I will be strength for the journey. [Refrain]*

*How many times have you doubted my word?
How many times must I call your name?
And as you say, “Yes,” letting me love you,
I will be strength for the journey. [Refrain]*

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

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

"Let God Guide You"

Donna Butler

*If you will only let God guide you and hope in God through all your ways,
whatever comes God stands beside you to bear you through the evil days
if you will only let God guide you.*

*If you will only let God guide you and hope in God through all your ways,
who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that cannot move
if you will only let God guide you.*

*Let God guide you. Let God guide you.
God hears the call of those in need. The souls that trust in God indeed.*

*If you will only let God guide you and hope in God through all your ways,
but do your part in conscience true so God's promises are fulfilled in you
if you will only let God guide you.*

*If you will only let God guide you and hope in God through all your ways,
nor doubt our inmost wants are known to God who chose us for God's own
if you will only let God guide you.*

*Let God guide you. Let God guide you.
God hears the call of those in need. The souls that trust in God indeed.*

*Only be still and wait God's leisure in cheerful hope with heart content
to take whatever is God's own pleasure and all discerning love hath sent.*

*Sing, pray and swerve not from God's way.
Let God guide you. Let God guide you.
God hears the call of those in need. The souls that trust in God indeed.*

***Blessing**

Leader: We step out into a world offering us the power
to gain the whole world,

**People: and yet the call to discipleship is one that is less of us
and more of Christ. So, we go forth to serve,
to embrace a life of humility, and to walk in the way of the cross.
For such a path is the way of life. Amen.**

Choral Blessing

“Jesus Walked *African American Spiritual*
This Lonesome Valley”

Today's liturgy is from <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com>, <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way>

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



Member Input Session - Branding & Marketing for FCC Next Sunday after Worship

Please join us for an input session after worship on Sunday, March 23. The FCC Marketing Task Force will present findings and recommendations along with our agency partner, Magnetize. In this session we'll cover market trends and research, member/non-member insights, messaging and marketing opportunities, potential name change ideas and possible mission/vision/values updates. This is one you won't want to miss! Visitors and non-member regulars are encouraged to attend too!

Marketing Task Force: Ward Klein, Adrienne Piston, Randy Wang, Rev Mia and co-project leads Jon Tiede and Melissa Wurst

Women of Wydown Lunch - Next Sunday

All women are invited to join the Women of Wydown, a monthly gathering for fellowship and connection. Gatherings are after worship (about 11:30 AM), with a church member graciously hosting in their home or other venue of their choice. Bring your own lunch, and the host will provide beverages and dessert. This is a wonderful opportunity to build relationships, share in conversation, and enjoy time together. The next WOW lunch is next Sunday, March 23, at Marty Black's home (8289 Tulane, U City, 63132; c: 715-853-9101). Pick up a flyer at either entrance to the sanctuary for the rest of the 2025 schedule.

Sunday - March 16

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

Monday - March 17 Church Office Closed

7 PM - Alliance Philharmonia
Orchestra Rehearsal

Tuesday - March 18

10 AM - Sacred Studies & Fellowship
7 PM - CHARIS Chorus Rehearsal
7 PM - Membership & Fellowship
Meeting

Wednesday - March 19

8 AM - Wydown Men's Club
7 PM - Council Meeting

Thursday - March 20

7 PM - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday - March 23

10 AM - Worship
Children's Sunday School
11:00 AM - Marketing Input Session
11:15 AM - Staff Team Meeting
11:30 AM - Women of Wydown Lunch
7:30 PM - AA Meeting

Holy Week at FCC

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

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.

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

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Rev. Mia White (MDiv, MATS, CSD)

Senior Minister

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**Online
Giving**



FCC News



Website



Calendar



**Worship
Volunteers**

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