



**April 20, 2025 • 10:00 AM**



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.

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# Easter Sunday

## April 20, 2025

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**Prelude**

“Alleluia”

*Randall Thompson*

### **\*Call to the People**

Leader: At early dawn, when the light was just emerging  
and the shadows still long and deep,  
the earth began to sing a tender and persistent hallelujah.

**People: And the resurrection smelled like earth and renewal.  
Christ, the Power of Love, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.**

Leader: At early dawn, with the salt of tears still crusting their eyes,  
the women began to sing a grieving and faithful hallelujah.

**People: And the empty tomb sounded like weeping and questions.  
Christ, the Wounded One, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.**

Leader: At early dawn, when no one could remember  
the sound of hope or the promise of a new day rising,  
the world began to sing a fierce and determined hallelujah.

**People: And the rising up tasted like bread and rejoicing.  
Christ, the Way of Truth and Life, is risen indeed. Hallelujah.**

Leader: At early dawn, as each day brings forth new agonies and injustices,  
we gather to sing a grateful and liberating hallelujah.

**People: And this Easter feels like protest and praise.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ is risen indeed.  
Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

**\*Hymn**

#233 “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

*New Century Hymnal*  
*Tune: EASTER HYMN*

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

**Announcements**

Ann Kittlaus

*The stone is rolled away! Yes, the stone is rolled away!  
Hallelujah, let the whole world know that the stone is rolled away!*

*Go tell Peter and go tell Paul that the stone is rolled away.  
He has risen to save us all, so rejoice this Easter day!*

*Go tell Mary and Martha, too, that the stone is rolled away.  
He has risen for me and you, so rejoice this Easter day!*

*Praise the Lord the victory's his! For the stone is rolled away.  
Christ is risen, indeed he is, so rejoice this Easter day!*

**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.**

**Scripture**

Psalm 118:2-11, 16-19  
*(translation by Wilda C. Gafney)*

Leigh Greenhaw

The Rock Who Gave Us Birth is my rock,  
and my fortress, and my deliverer,  
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation,  
my stronghold.  
I call upon the Holy One,  
may she be praised,  
and from my enemies I shall be saved.  
The snares of death encompassed me;  
the rivers of wickedness assailed me.  
The snares of Sheol encircled me;  
the snares of death confronted me.  
In my distress I called upon She Who Hears;  
to my God I cried for help.  
From her temple she heard my voice,  
and my cry came before her, to her ears.  
Then the earth shuddered and quaked;  
the foundations also of the mountains  
trembled and were shaken  
because of her anger.  
Smoke went up from her nostrils,

and consuming fire from her mouth;  
burning coals blazed forth from her.  
She spread out the heavens,  
and descended;  
thick darkness was under her feet.  
She mounted up on a cherub, and flew;  
she soared upon the wings of the wind.  
She made darkness her veil around her,  
her canopy dark waters and thick clouds.  
She reached down from on high,  
she took me;  
she drew me out of the multitude of water.  
She delivered me from my strong enemy,  
and from those who hate me;  
for they were too mighty for me.  
They confronted me in the day of  
my calamity;  
yet the Sheltering God was my support.  
She brought me out into a broad place;  
she delivered me,  
because she delights in me.



**Scripture****Colossians 3:1-4**

Cora Solomon

*(NRSVue)*

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

**Scripture Response**

Rev. Mia White

**Anthem**

“Oh Happy Day”  
Valerie Jackson, *Soloist*

*arr. Kirby Shaw*

*Oh Happy Day! When Jesus washed my sins away.  
Talkin' 'bout a Happy Day when Jesus washed my sins away.  
He taught me how to watch and pray, my Lord,  
To live rejoicing every, each and every day.  
Oh Happy Day!*

**Scripture****John 20:1-18**

Donna Solverud

*(NRSVue)*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**Scripture Response**

Rev. Mia White

1. God sent the Son, they called him Je - sus;  
2. How sweet to hold a new-born ba - by,  
3. And then one day I'll cross the riv - er;

he came to love, heal, and for - give;  
and feel the pride and joy that gives;  
I'll fight life's fi - nal war with pain;

he lived and died to buy my par - don,  
but great - er still the calm as - sur - ance,  
and then as death gives way to vic - tory,

an emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives.  
this child can face un - cer - tain days be - cause he lives.  
I'll see the lights of glo - ry and I'll know he reigns.

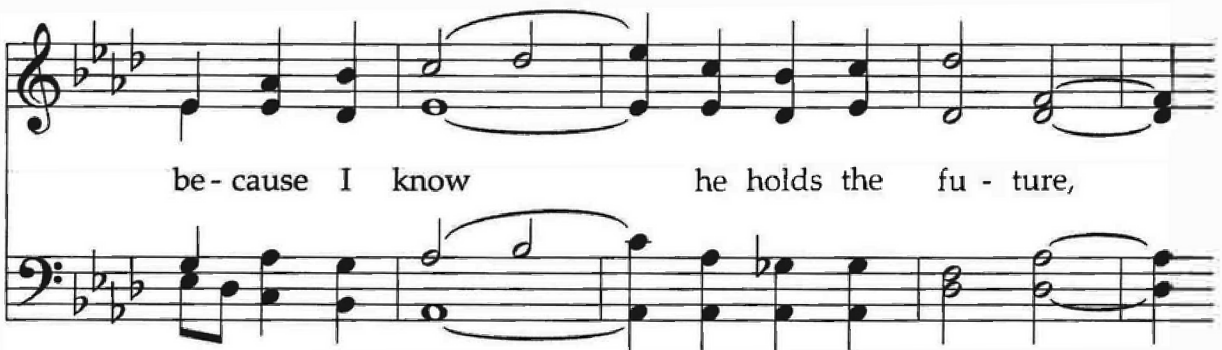
*Refrain*



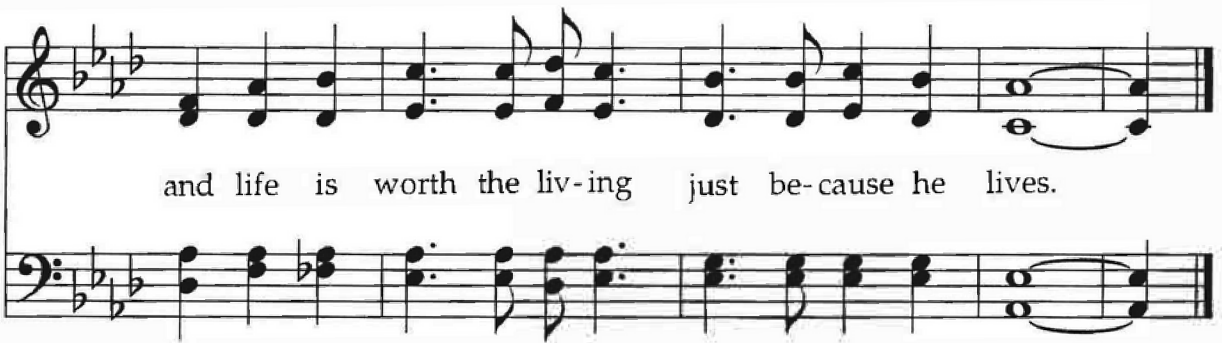
Be- cause he lives, I can face to - mor - row;



be- cause he lives, all fear is gone;



be- cause I know he holds the fu - ture,



and life is worth the liv- ing just be- cause he lives.

## **Blessing**

Leader: Go now from this place as people of resurrection.

**People: We go, for Christ is risen!**

Leader: Step into the broad place of God's love.

Let fear fall away, for the Holy One calls you by name.

**People: We go, for Christ is risen!**

Leader: Seek the living Christ not only in the empty tomb  
but in the world around you—in the breaking of bread,  
in the stranger's kindness, in the dawn of each new day.

**People: We go, for Christ is risen!**

Leader: May the God of life lift you from despair,  
may Christ's love set your hearts ablaze,  
and may the Spirit send you forth in joy to proclaim good news.

**People: Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed! Amen.**

## **Choral Blessing**

"Amen, Amen"

**Please join us for Coffee Hour  
and the Easter Egg Hunt!**

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

**Ushers:** Ann Kittlaus, Robyn Wiens, Grant Wiens, Ward Klein

**Announcements:** Ann Kittlaus

**Scripture:** Leigh Greenhaw, Cora Solomon, Donna Solverud

**Coffee Hour Host:** Michele Bryan



# Easter Flowers



the flowers adorning our sanctuary are gifts from:

Craig & Nellie Andrews, *in memory of Nellie & Bert Merrell*

Mark Barlow, *in memory of Paul Evensen; in honor of the Barlow Family*

Suzy Besnia, *in honor of the members of First Church*

Bobbi & Bob Boley

Michele & Bruce Bryan, *in honor of their 3 grandchildren, Charlotte & Finn Grant  
and Phoebe Hong*

Kevin Ceballos, *in memory of Rose Ceballos and Darryl Luffman*

Tim Clark, *in memory of Beatrice Lillian Clark*

Megan Glass

David & Leigh Greenhaw, *in memory of Molly & Bob Greenhaw, Jim Greenhaw,  
and Maki & Chet Hunt*

Valerie Jackson, *in memory of Lorraine Jackson*

Jason Keune

Todd Kiefer

Ward & Carol Klein, *in memory of Kent & Lois Klein and Charles & June Swartout*

Mike Mallett, *in memory of Marty Mallett*

Mike McKee, *in honor and celebration of his and Ellen Hiatt's grandchildren -  
Genevieve, Esmé, Maeve, Kaia, and Soren*

Jim & Linda Morice, *in memory of William & Dorothy Cunningham  
and Norvelle & Lillian Morice*

John & Chrissy Paterson, *in memory of their loved ones - parents & siblings;  
in honor of Molly Paterson's birthday*

Hannah Rice, *in honor of Shayla & Shamdon Latham*

Carrie Sayers, *in memory of her parents, Nancy & Skip Sayers; in honor of  
Chrissy Paterson; in celebration of the impending nuptials of  
Molly Paterson & Kenneth Stevens*

Betsy Sinclair, *in celebration of Easter*

The Wiens Family, *in memory of Dr. Robert Wiens; in honor of Mrs. Lynda Wiens  
and Dr. Alberto & Mrs. Edda Vilorio*

Stephen & Melissa Wurst, *in memory of Democracy*

# What's happening at FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



## Office Hours This Week

The church office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, April 21 and 22, for the Easter Monday holiday and the regular staff team day off.

## FCC Branding & Marketing Project Additional Sessions - April 24 & 27

The FCC Marketing Task Force will be holding two additional presentation and discussion sessions on Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup> (6:00 p.m. over Zoom - details below) and Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup> (after an abbreviated worship service). In these sessions we will share some of the content reviewed in our March 23<sup>rd</sup> session but also some additional content to help demonstrate the proposed brand expression. The goal is to provide further context on the proposed name change to ensure everyone has a broader perspective on not only the name, but the ways in which we intend to present our church and community. The Task Force remains enthusiastic about the possibilities ahead for our church. Please join one or both sessions to learn more!

### April 24<sup>th</sup> Zoom session -

Meeting ID: 896 8891 8292, Passcode: FCCSTL  
(Or contact the office for the direct link)

## FCC Annual Fundraiser - Saturday May 3, 6 PM

This year's annual fundraiser is sure to be a blast - So please join us for *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*, hosted by our very own James Mellish! Enjoy light snacks and desserts provided, along with beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages. You are welcome to bring your own drinks and snacks as well. The evening will also include silent and live auctions with some great items to bid on.

Nearly half of all proceeds raised come from underwriting sponsors. Please consider providing a positive boost to our church's day-to-day operations and ministries. Any level of support is very appreciated! Sponsors will be recognized the evening of the event.

\$35/person, or save \$20 and purchase a table of 8 for \$260. To register, visit [www.firstcongregational.org/Millionaire](http://www.firstcongregational.org/Millionaire) or pick up an invitation at either entrance to the sanctuary.

## This Week at FCC

### Sunday - April 20

10 AM - Worship Service  
After worship - Coffee Hour  
and Easter Egg Hunt  
7:30 PM - AA Meeting

### Monday - April 21 Church Office Closed

7 PM - APO Rehearsal

### Tuesday - April 22 Church Office Closed

10 AM - Sacred Studies  
7 PM - CHARIS Rehearsal

### Wednesday - April 23

8 AM - Wydown Men's Club

### Thursday - April 24

6 PM - Marketing Task Force  
Presentation (Zoom)  
7 PM - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Saturday - April 26

6 PM - Unleashing Potential  
Trivia Night

### Sunday - April 27

10 AM - Worship Service  
After worship - Coffee Hour &  
Marketing Task Force  
Presentation  
11:15 AM - Staff Team Meeting  
7:30 PM - AA Meeting

## **Star Wars Concert - Sunday May 4, 1:30 PM**

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In celebration of May the 4<sup>th</sup> - Star Wars Day - our Minister of Music, Tim Clark, will conduct an orchestra of 50 musicians performing music from "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" and "STAR WARS." The concert will begin at 1:30 PM and last about 45 minutes. The concert is free and open to the public, with a freewill offering to help fund future concerts. This celebration is in conjunction with the opening reception of The Red Gate's "Young Hearts, Run Free" exhibit the same day from 11:30-1:30.



## **Upcoming Red Gate Gallery Exhibitions**

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**Young Hearts, Run Free** - curated by Dail Chambers, runs April 18 - June 14.

Opening Reception, 11:30 - 1:30, Sunday, May 4th and STAR WARS Concert 1:30 - 2

Closing Reception, 6 - 7 pm, Saturday, June 14

**Forgotten** - curated by Bill Russell, runs June 27 - August 22

Opening Reception, 6 - 8 pm, Saturday, June 28

Closing Reception, 6 - 7 pm, Friday, August 22

*The Red Gate Gallery is a free and open-to-the-public creative space designed to foster community around and appreciation for the arts. An initiative of the Mission and Outreach Committee at FCC, Red Gate exhibits artwork addressing contemporary social issues while providing viewers an opportunity to enjoy a religious space outside of a religious event.*

## **Women's Book Group - Wednesday May 7, 1:00 PM**

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The women's book group meets the first Wednesday of the month in the Gathering Space. The book for May is The Women by Kristin Hannah. Join them at 1:00 to socialize and 1:30 to discuss the book. And in June they will discuss All the Beauty in the World: the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me by Patrick Bringley.

## **Women of Wydown Lunch - Sunday May 18, 11:30 AM**

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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. The next WOW lunch is Sunday May 18, hosted by Michele Bryan. Pick up a flyer at either entrance to the sanctuary for the rest of the 2025 schedule.

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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