

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

an Open & Affirming congregation



Sunday Worship

May 11, 2025 • 10:00 AM

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



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

“Brother James’ Air”

arr. Dale Wood

***Call to the People**

Leader: Gathered to worship God, we rejoice in the capital Lamb,
who is our shepherd.

**People: Like one who cares for sheep,
the resurrected Christ is our trusted guide.**

Leader: We celebrate the Good News of resurrection in this safe place,
for God is our shelter.

People: We rejoice in our guide, who points us to the water of life.

Leader: We give thanks to the One
who wipes away every tear from our eyes.

People: Together, let’s worship God, who rules over all.

***Hymn**

#247 “My Shepherd is the Living God”

New Century Hymnal

Tune: CONSOLATION

***Passing of the Peace**

Announcements

Karen Safe

Anthem

"Sheep May Safely Graze"

Donna Solverud, Hannah Rice, Flute

J.S. Bach

arr. James Winfield

*Sheep may safely graze in pastures in a faithful shepherd's sight;
So may we, while God is guiding, live secure in peace abiding,
In a land with joy made bright. In a faithful shepherd's sight.*

*When I walk in death's dark valley, I will fear no evil,
for his rod and staff will comfort me.*

*He spreads a table here before me, and my cup is overflowing.
Goodness shall follow me. And I will dwell in the house of God forevermore.*

A Story for the Ages

John 10:22-30

Jason Keune

(NRSVue)

At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me, but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

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.**

Reception of New Member - Kevin Ceballos

Invitation

Pastor Mia: Blessed are those who yearn for deepening more than escape; who are not afraid to grow spiritually.

People: Blessed are those who take seriously the bonds of community; who regularly join in celebration and learning; who come as much to minister as to be ministered to.

Pastor Mia: Blessed are those who understand that the church is often imperfect, yet rather than harbor feelings of anger or disappointment, bring their concerns and needs to the church family.

People: Blessed are those who support the church and its work through their giving, and who give of themselves as well as their material goods.

Blessed are those who when asked to serve, do so gladly. Blessed are those who know that the work of the church is the transformation of individual and society; who have a vision of the Beloved Community transcending the present, and who do not shrink from controversy, sacrifice, or change. They are blessed indeed.

Questions of New Member

Welcome

Pastor Mia: Let us, the members of FCC express our welcome and affirm this new member of our faith community. Kevin, we welcome you with joy in the common life of this church.

People: We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share in the hopes, losses, dreams, and love for our faith community. WELCOME!!!!

Kevin has been a part of our community for some time, and we are delighted to welcome him as an official member today.

Kevin used to be a professional ice skater and gained his love for traveling touring with Disney on Ice (30 years ago). Currently he works for the city of Webster Groves as a maintenance guy (28 years). Kevin loves music, dogs, social time with friends, TV, and his growing faith with Jesus. And Mark Barlow!



Anthem

“Come My Way, My Truth, My Life”

*Text: George Herbert
Music: Malcolm Archer*

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a Way as gives us breath;
Such a Truth as ends all strife: such a Life as killeth death.*

*Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength; such a Light as shows a feast:
Such a Feast as mends in length; such a Strength as makes his guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart; such a Joy as none can move;
Such a Love as none can part; such a Heart as Joys in love.*

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a Way as gives us breath;
Such a Truth as ends all strife; such a Life as killeth death. Amen.*

Blessing

Leader: Blessed people, go forth this week knowing that we are in this world together and that collective flourishing is possible.

People: It begins with listening and paying attention to all that is around us and then inviting others to come alongside – so we will do just that, slow down and marvel at God’s creation.

Choral Blessing

“Amen, Amen”

Thank you to those serving this morning:

Ushers: Mary Lou Mellish, Chrissy Paterson

Announcements: Karen Safe

Scripture: Jason Keune



Choir Celebration

Worship Sunday May 18, 10 AM

Join us for worship on Sunday, May 18th as we say goodbye to the Chancel Choir as they, and Tim, take a much needed hiatus for the summer. The choir will be joined by a special soloist, Adrienne Felton-King, for the anthem "Changed" by Walter Hawkins.

Special Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday May 18, 10:30 AM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Meeting of the members of The First Congregational Church of St. Louis, United Church of Christ will take place on Sunday, May 18, 2025 at approximately 10:30 a.m., for the following purposes:

1. To obtain approval to amend Article (1) of the Articles of Incorporation to change the name of our church from "The First Congregational Church of St. Louis, United Church of Christ" to "Wydown United (Church & Community; or Community & Church; or Church)".

A quorum of forty (40) members must be present before a vote can be taken. Members of any duration are eligible to vote and friends of the Church are invited to attend, although they are not eligible to cast a ballot.

By order of the Church Council

Extra copies of the official letter, which includes an addendum by the FCC Branding & Marketing Task Force, are available in the office.

Women of Wydown Lunch

Sunday May 18, after Worship & Meeting

All women are invited to join the Women of Wydown, a monthly gathering for fellowship and connection. The next WOW lunch is May 18, following the congregational meeting. Bring your own lunch, and the host will provide beverages and dessert. Michele Bryan is our host this month.

This Week at FCC

Sunday - May 11

10 AM - Worship Service and
Children's Sunday School
After Worship - Coffee Hour
11:15 AM - Staff Team Meeting
7:30 PM - AA Meeting

Monday - May 12 Church Office Closed

7 PM - APO Rehearsal

Tuesday - May 13

10 AM - Sacred Studies
7 PM - CHARIS Rehearsal
7 PM - Worship & Education
Meeting

Wednesday - May 14

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

Thursday - May 15

7 PM - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday - May 18

10 AM - Worship Service and
Children's Sunday School
10:30 AM - Special Meeting of the
Congregational
11:15 AM - Staff Team Meeting
11:30 AM - Women of Wydown
Lunch
1 PM - Piano Recital (Mary Brown)
7:30 PM - AA Meeting



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world
for all
ucc.org

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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