

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

an Open & Affirming congregation



Sunday Worship

May 18, 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

"Victory"

arr. Alan Bullard

Announcements

Michele Bryan, Vice Moderator

***Call to the People**

Leader: We're here to praise God!

People: Yes! Praise God!

Leader: God's glory is above all creation,

People: God's faithful actions sustain us all.

Leader: From the pew and from the chancel, let us praise God.

People: Hallelujah!

Anthem

"All Creation Sings Praise"

David Schober

*Praise to God from the heavens,
Praise to God in the heights!
Praise to God, all you angels,
Praise to God, all you heavenly hosts!*

*Alleluia! Praise God, sun and moon!
Alleluia! Praise God, earth and sea!
Alleluia! Praise God, all you shining stars!
Praise God, you highest heavens and deepest waters.*

*Let all creatures sing praises to God,
They were created at God's command;
Birds and animals through all the earth,
All the fish in the depths of the sea!*

*Alleluia! Praise God, all you mountains and hills!
Alleluia! Praise God, forest and plain!
Fire and hail! Snow and mist!
Even the storm-winds obey your command!*

*Let the rulers of earth and all people,
All the judges of the lands,
Men and women, young and old,
Children, too, sing praises to God!*

*Praise to you in your sanctuary!
Praise to you from the ends of the earth!
Praise to you for your mighty creation!
Praise to you for your majesty!*

*Alleluia! Praise God with trumpet and harp!
Alleluia! Praise God with strings and flute!
Alleluia! Praise God with timbrel and dance!
Alleluia! Praise God with cymbal and drum!
Alleluia! Let everything that has breath praise God!*

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

"Ain'-a That Good News!"

William L. Dawson

*I got a crown up in the Kingdom,
Ain't that good news!
I got a crown up in the Kingdom,
Ain't that good news!*

*[Refrain] I'm going to lay down this world,
Going to shoulder up my cross,
Going to take it home to my Jesus,
Ain't that good news!*

*I got a harp up in the Kingdom,
Ain't that good news!
I got a harp up in the Kingdom,
Ain't that good news!
[Refrain]*

*I got a robe up in the Kingdom,
Ain't that good news!
I got a robe up in the Kingdom,
Ain't that good news!
[Refrain]*

*I got a Savior in the Kingdom,
Ain't that good news!
I got a Savior in the Kingdom,
Ain't that good news!
[Refrain]*

*Passing of the Peace

Scripture Meditation for Reflection

Rev. Mia White

John 13:31-35 (*NRSVue*)

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Anthem

“Change”

Tramaine Hawkins

Adrienne Felton King, *Soloist*

*A change has come over me.
He changed my life and I'm free.
He washed away all my sins and he made me whole.
He washed me white as snow.
He changed my life complete,
And now I sit at his feet
To do what must be done.
I'll work and work until he comes.
A wonderful change has come over me.
Lord, he changed my life complete
And now I sit at my savior's feet
To do what must be done.
I'm gonna work and work until my savior comes.
I'm so glad he changed me.*

Transition to Congregational Meeting

What's happening at FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Thank You, Chancel Choir!

Today's abbreviated worship service is in celebration of our Chancel Choir, as it is their final service before a well-deserved summer hiatus. We give a heartfelt thanks to our staff singers and church volunteers for their beautiful music they have offered throughout the program year. Their voices have enriched our worship, lifted our spirits, and helped us draw closer to God. We are grateful for their time, talent, and dedication, and look forward to their return in the fall. And thank you to Tim Clark for his leadership!

This is also Sheila Merrell's last Sunday in the Chancel Choir. After 37 years she is retiring from the choir. Thank you, Sheila, for your dedication and all of the music you've shared throughout the years!



Special Meeting of the Congregation Today after Worship

After our abbreviated worship service this morning we will hold a special meeting of the congregation to vote on a proposed name change as previously notified. A quorum of forty 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.

Women of Wydown Lunch

Today after Worship & Meeting

All women are invited to join the Women of Wydown for a “brown bag” lunch - Today after worship and the special congregational meeting. Bring your own lunch, and the host will provide beverages and dessert. Michele Bryan is our host this month (228 Topton Way, Clayton 63105). And save the date for the next WOW lunch - Sunday June 22, hosted by Vicky Stringer.



Summer Worship in the Chapel

Begins next Sunday, May 25

This summer, we will gather for worship in our chapel—a beloved space that allows us to experience worship in a more intimate way. We will have the opportunity to connect with one another more deeply and to reflect on our faith together in a more conversational setting. On most Sundays our summer “Light Worship” will include prayer, singing, scripture, a light pastoral reflection, and time for meaningful conversation around tables. Together, we will explore God’s presence in our lives and in our community in new and thoughtful ways. We hope you’ll join us for this special season of worship and fellowship.

This Week at FCC

Sunday - May 18

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

Monday - May 19

Church Office Closed

7 PM - APO Rehearsal

Tuesday - May 20

10 AM - Sacred Studies
7 PM - CHARIS Rehearsal
7 PM - Membership & Fellowship
Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday - May 21

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

Friday - May 23

5 PM - Paterson/Stevens
Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday - May 24

4:30 PM - Paterson/Stevens
Wedding

Sunday - May 25

10 AM - Worship Service and
Children's Sunday School
11:15 AM - Staff Team Meeting
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

(tcclark@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

314.721.5060 | 6501 Wydown Blvd. St. Louis MO 63105
office@firstcongregational.org | www.firstcongregational.org
facebook: FirstCongregationalUCC
Youtube: @fccstl | Instagram: @fccstl