First United Methodist Church
1928 Ross Avenue Dallas, Texas 75201
firstchurchdallas.org
214-220-2727
Dr. Andrew C. Stoker, Senior Minister
Rise At The Rail Today!

Every first Sunday, your over-and-above offering placed on the communion rail directly goes toward the Rise Fund partners that are most effectively serving our communities. Rise At The Rail today and support change in our neighborhoods and beyond!

Join us for coffee!

Come over to the coffee station in the Atrium today to support the Methodist Children’s Home of Costa Rica.

Seriously Good Coffee has been developed to support the ongoing work of the Children's Home. Drink delicious coffee and support this important work!

seriouslygoodcoffee.com

March Focus: Methodist Children's Home of Costa Rica (Hogar Metodista)
The Home serves the needs of children who are without parents or who are in the foster care system in Costa Rica. They provide meals, housing, and education, occupational therapy, counseling, and behavioral support.

Give to the Rise Fund any time at firstchurchdallas.org/rise.

GIVING TO FIRSTCHURCH IS EASY!

Giving early in the year helps FirstChurch continue to grow disciples, connect communities and serve the world - donate now and join this movement of God’s love and grace. Our convenient online giving options allow you to set up a regular contribution at firstchurchdallas.org/give, or you may text your contribution to 214-306-8121. Questions? Contact Lynn Campbell at 214-220-2727, ext. 202.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

We invite you to become a part of our FirstChurch family. Simply fill out the “Join FirstChurch” card found in the registration pads at the end of every pew. During the Hymn of Invitation bring this card with you and hand it to the minister. You may also contact Rev. Ann Willet at awillet@fumcdallas.org to explore the value of membership, ask questions, and discuss other opportunities to join.

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, March 28

God’s love.
Our hands.
A DAY OF SERVICE

Spend a 1/2 day serving our church family and community. All ages are welcome. Details coming soon!

We believe in providing a safe environment at FirstChurch. FirstProtect is our holistic protection policy for the most precious among us. In addition, our General Safety and Medical Procedures improve member and guest experiences. This policy affirms a gun-free facility. You are safe at FirstChurch.

Eastern Angola Annual Conference
Eastern Russia & Central Asia Provisional Annual Conference
South Nueva Ecija Philippines Annual Conference
Oklahoma Annual Conference
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference
Western North Carolina Annual Conference
South Congo Annual Conference

SOUTH CONGOS
PRAYING EACH WEEK FOR CONFERENCES AROUND THE WORLD

Eastern Angola Annual Conference
Eastern Russia & Central Asia Provisional Annual Conference
South Nueva Ecija Philippines Annual Conference
Oklahoma Annual Conference
Greater New Jersey Annual Conference
Western North Carolina Annual Conference
South Congo Annual Conference

Praying each week for conferences around the world in preparation for GC 2020 in Minneapolis in May.
First Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion

*Please stand as you are able. Please silence all electronic devices. Please ask an usher about using one of the receivers in our assisted hearing system.*

Prelude
Voluntary in E minor
John Stanley

Invitation and Intention for Worship
Dr. Andy Stoker

*Processional Hymn No. 269 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
LAND OF REST

*Prayer of Confession
The Reverend Holly Bandel

God of mercy, whose son, Jesus Christ,
longs to gather us in the wide embrace of his love,
We confess that we have been wayward children.
We have disobeyed your commands;
our ears have been deaf to your call;
our hearts have been cold to your love.
In thought, in word, and in deed
we have hurt others and dishonored your name.
In your great mercy receive us yet again as your beloved children,
not because we are worthy but for the sake of him
who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

The Lord God said:
I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;
I will remove from you your heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.
Brothers, sisters, siblings in Christ, all God’s promises are “Yes!”
Hear the good news: Through Christ,
our minds and hearts are cleaned, healed, and renewed!

Thanks be to God! Amen.
Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Scripture Lesson
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Dr. Stoker

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

Homily
Original Blessing
Dr. Stoker

Invitation to the Table
Dr. Stoker

The Peace

(Members of the congregation are invited to offer one another words and signs of
God’s peace and love. It is appropriate to say “Peace be with you.”)

Call to Unity

Welcome
Mark Miller

(Congregation, please join in singing.)

Let’s walk together for a while and ask where we begin
to build a world where love can grow, and hope can enter in,
to be the hands of healing and to plant the seed of peace,
singing welcome, welcome to this place.
You’re invited to come and know God’s grace.
All are welcome the love of God to share,
’cause all of us are welcome here;
all are welcome in this place.

Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts
The Reverend Ann Willet

Offertory
Gratias agimus tibi from Messa di Gloria
Will Whitmire, tenor
Giacomo Puccini

Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
We give you thanks for your great glory.
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; 
Praise God, all creatures here below; 
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; 
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Your communion rail offering will serve our neighbors in need through the Rise Fund, supporting programs that alleviate hunger and empower children, youth and vulnerable adults through holistic education.

*The Great Thanksgiving  The Reverend JoNell Lindh

The Lord be with you. 
And also with you. 
Lift up your hearts. 
We lift them up to the Lord. 
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. 
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth. When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people. When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Hymn No. 2257-b (FWS)

(Please be seated.)
Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When you gave him
to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he
fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry. When he
suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him
alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your
Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new
covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, when we your people prepare for the
yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of
our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced
to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave
thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take,
eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to
his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the
new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer
ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in
union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Hymn No. 2257-c (FWS)

The Reverend Bandel

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and
cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the
world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in
ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his
heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all
honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Hymn No. 2257-d (FWS)
And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

Our 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

Music during Communion

Largo from Symphony No. 9  
Antonín Dvorák  
Mitch Maxwell, cello  
arr. James M. Guthrie

For Everyone Born  
Brian Mann  
Chancel Choir  
arr. Tom Trenney

Hymn No. 377  
It Is Well with My Soul  
VILLE DU HAVRE
(congregation please join in singing)

Invitation to Christian Discipleship  
Dr. Stoker

*Hymn of Invitation No. 2146 (FWS) His Eye Is on the Sparrow  
SPARROW

*Benediction  
The Reverend Bandel

Postlude  
Toccata in E minor  
Johann Pachelbel

Hymn No. 2146 (FWS) is printed in The Faith We Sing hymnal supplement, which can be found in the pew back next to The United Methodist Hymnal.

The acolytes are Ethan Cambre and Tessa McCavit.

Dana Effler directs the Chancel Choir. Tim Effler is the service organist.

*FirstChurch’s assisted hearing system has fifteen receivers for use during worship in the sanctuary. These may be checked out from the Communications Department prior to each service. In addition, members and visitors are invited to bring their own portable FM radios with headphones and tune to 107.7 to hear the service.

This service is being broadcast on live streaming video on our church website and re-broadcast at 5:30 a.m. Sundays on WFAA-TV Channel 8.
3.1 | ANDY AT THE ALCOVE
If you’re new, we want to connect with you! Newcomers to FirstChurch are encouraged to stop by the Narthex Alcove so Dr. Andy Stoker can meet you personally after the 11 a.m. service. Come and chat so we can learn more about you and how FirstChurch can meet your faith-related needs.
— Noon in the Narthex Alcove.

3.1 | GOODRICH GALLERY ARTIST RECEPTION
The Goodrich Gallery exhibit for March features Artwork by The Stewpot artists. View the exhibit and meet the artists.
— 12 - 2 p.m. in Goodrich Gallery.

3.3 | HIV/AIDS SUPPER CLUB
Provide hot meals for residents of the Ewing and Revlon Housing facilities of AIDS Services of Dallas. Contact Grace McFerrin at gmcferrin1@gmail.com to sign up.
— 5:30 - 7:15 p.m.

3.6 | ROOM IN THE INN
Join the United Methodist Women in hosting women from Austin Street Center for a home-cooked dinner, fellowship and good night’s sleep. This ministry aids our area shelters by providing beds in the hottest and coldest days of the year. Our FirstChurch UMW will be joining with St. Paul UMW members to provide the meal and host our neighbors. Register to volunteer at firstchurchdallas.org/umw-room-in-the-inn.
— 5 p.m. Friday - 10 a.m. Sat. in UrbanLife A.

3.7 | PARENTING SEMINAR
Invest in the physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing of your family by joining Drs. Andy Stoker, Early Denison, and Matthew Housson for this fun and informative seminar designed for parents and caregivers with children of all ages. $25 per person includes seminar, lunch, childcare and parking. Register at firstchurchdallas.org/thewalk.
— 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Crossroads Center.

3.8 | ADULT UNIFIED PROGRAMMING - LENTEN STUDY
“The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger” - Dr. Andy Stoker. For the Sunday School hour during Lent, we will explore the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. We will raise ethical and spiritual questions, and learn how we all face risk in our Christian experience.
— 9:45 a.m. in Fiedler Atrium.

AUDITIONS FOR DRIVING MISS DAISY MARCH 10
Driving Miss Daisy auditions for the roles of BOOLIE WERTHAN and HOKE COLEBURN will be March 10 in the Wortley-Peabody Theatre at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively. No appointment needed. Bring headshot & resume if possible. Bring all of your time conflicts. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Performance Dates: May 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. For more information email aoncken@fumcdallas.org.