

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

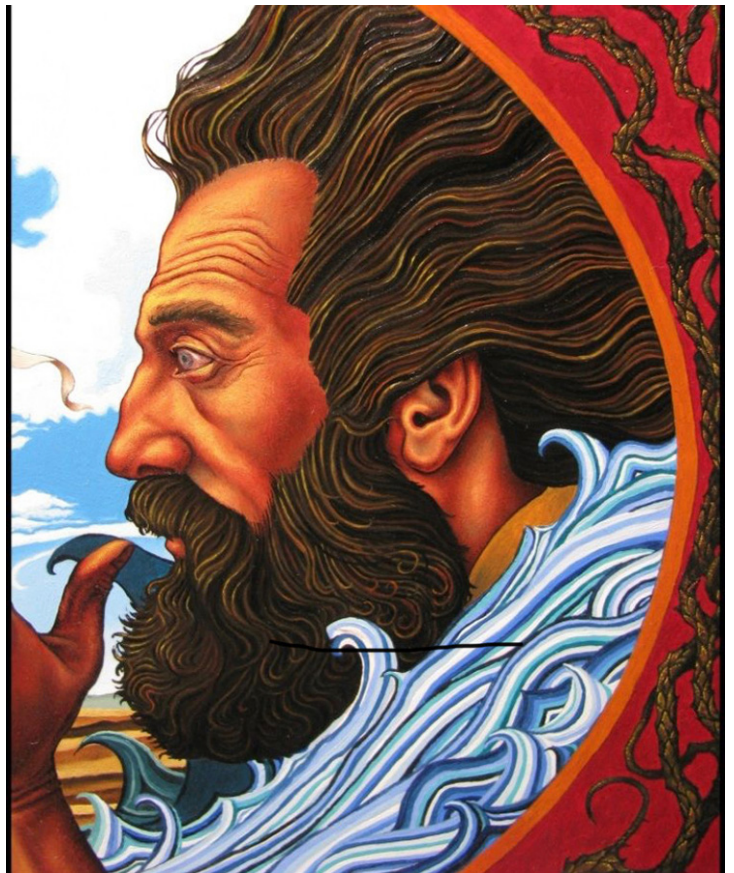
JULY 11, 2021

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*We respond to God's call
by welcoming everyone
regardless of ability, age,
ethnicity, race, gender identity,
sexual orientation or
socio-economic background.*

*To proclaim in word and deed
the love of Christ,
we affirm that all may share
in the full life, ministry,
fellowship, responsibilities and
blessing of our congregation.*

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



Order of Worship

PRELUDE

Softly and Tenderly

arr. D. Wood

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME

Herb Niemeyer, *Announcer*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**)

Come, let us come into the House of the Holy One with song and dance.

**We have come to worship our God,
the Creator of heaven and earth, seas and rivers, and all
that dwells within.**

The Lord of the Dance beckons us
to join in this time of celebration and joy...

That we might know that we are gathered in God's holy place.

We join the psalmist with songs of the glory of the God of Hosts.

People: We seek to know God's faithfulness and wisdom.

Let us enter God's rhythm of life
and follow in the ways of the Word.

God will bring us home where dancing and joy will never end!

*RAISING THE COVENANT (Unison)

Covenant of 1977

**We who are called of God into this Christian community covenant
together: to seek to know the will of God, to experience the joy and
struggle of discipleship, to proclaim in word and deed the love of
Christ, and to work for peace and justice among all people. We trust
God's promise of grace and forgiveness and the presence of the Holy
Spirit in our trials and rejoicing.**

*GATHERING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful

No. 4

New Century Hymnal

*PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)

**Holy God, we confess that too often we have not been open to
the rhythms of life you offer to us. We let ourselves be put off
your pace and allow ourselves to wander off into our own**

songs. Too often the melodies of the world confuse us. We have led ourselves and others to paths that are not according to your loving pace and direction. Help us pay attention with all of our senses. Make our dancing faithful; help us take the risks that are part of letting you lead. Pull us back into your rhythms. Clean our hearts, purify our hands and steady our feet that we might know and share your blessings. Amen!

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

THE WORD SHARED

Herb Niemeyer

From The Gospels

Mark 6:14-29 NRSV

14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." **15** But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." **16** But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." **17** For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. **18** For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." **19** And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, **20** for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. **21** But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. **22** When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." **23** And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." **24** She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." **25** Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." **26** The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. **27** Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, **28** brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. **29** When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Response.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSICAL SELECTION *Center of My Joy* Richard Smallwood
Rev. Joyce Haynes-McCowan

MESSAGE OF THE DAY "God's Joy!" Rev. Elston K. McCowan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Share Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Invitation

Offertory Music *Andante* A. Schreiner

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

Great Source of love and power, we pray for your world which has become broken and incomplete. By our humble gifts, restore and remake it; accompany these offerings with your Spirit that blessings of restoration and transformation may announce that your will is being done, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Come Thou Font of Every Blessing* arr. L. Riley

DISMISSAL Herb Niemeyer

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Sunday worship each week will be shared in person for those who wish to attend and streamed live on YouTube, starting at 10:00am (bit.ly/FCCWG-YT).

A Time for Fellowship will be provided in Memorial Hall and the Jubilee Garden, each Sunday after worship for those in person. Masking and distancing – optional. Our Virtual Coffee Fellowship is no longer available.

How to Donate to First Congregational Church

You may leave a donation in the offering plate in the Narthex.

Send a check made out to **FCCWG** at:

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

10 W. Lockwood Ave.

Webster Groves, MO 63119

or visit the Donate page on our website at: <http://firstchurchwg.org/donate> to make an electronic contribution

We Hold in Our Prayers

- Our residents in assisted living and skilled care – Sharon Beal, Shirley Chase, Joyce Berger, Paul Davis, Margery Gable, Charles Griffith
- All people who are living with dementia, their families and their caregivers – Bob Buerk and others
- People we love who are living with cancer – Bill Barrett, Margaret Gustafson, Peter McHugh, Bob Moody
- All those the world regards as disabled – especially David & Becky Scott
- People recovering from recent hospitalizations – Jean Kohler, John & Betty Kerr
- People with mental illnesses, as well as the people who love and care for them
- People who are lonely or alone because of the pandemic
- Those whose employment and businesses are at risk
- COVID-19 patients
- First responders and their loved ones
- For our governmental leaders, and for healing for our country and all its people
- Peace with justice

Thank you to this Week's Hospitality Team

Amy & Patrick Byrne, Mary & Mark Edwards, Pat Doyle Grace, Kay & Phil Roush

Electronic Device Users

If you wish to access our wi-fi, our network connections are: fccwg1, fccwg2 or fccwg3. The password for each is firstchurch.

Finding Your Way at First Church

The Nursery: The Nursery is attended today. The Nursery is located through the double doors at the end of the Narthex (foyer), turn left. Nursery/Toddler Room is on your right (Dutch doors).

Restrooms: Family restrooms are located to the right of the Narthex (foyer) as you go to the Library (look for the blue library banner) and to the left of the Narthex just before the double doors.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, July 11

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday, July 13

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

6:30 PM Practicing Our Faith

Wednesday, July 14

9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

6:00 PM - 9:30 PM Bridge Club

Friday, July 16

6:00 PM Vigil for Black Lives

Please register your Christian Education student!

If you have a child who will be participating in nursery care, kids' church, or youth activities, please complete a 2021-2022 registration form and return it to Halley Kim. There are printed forms on the table in the Narthex next to the Covenant News.

July Birthdays

Connie Kitchen – July 2
Kara Hoganson – July 6
Katie Didriksen – July 9
Loryl Breitenbach – July 10
Katy Ver Hagen – July 11
Barbara Krewson – July 12

Marilyn Davis – July 13
Jeanene Harris – July 13
John Shoulberg – July 19
Greg McCoy – July 28
Emma von Weise – July 29
Alice McHugh – July 31



10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
JWMusbach@gmail.com

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon
DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org

Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim
Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi
Admin@FirstChurchWG.org

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke
Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org

Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I
lesrhs@sbcglobal.net

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie
cliff.aerie@gmail.com

Stillpoint Campus Ministry
Webster University – Rev. Laurel Hayes
laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

Follow us on

Facebook

www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/

SoundCloud

www.soundcloud.com/firstchurchwg

YouTube

<http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT>

