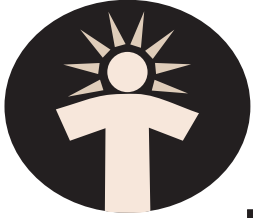


# Welcome!

## First Congregational Church of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

**AUGUST 8, 2021**

**ELEVENTH 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.*

## **BE THE CHURCH**

*Protect the environment.*

Care for the poor.

**Forgive often.**

**Reject racism.**

**Fight for the powerless.**

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

**Love God.**

**Enjoy this life.**

## Order of Worship

### TOLLING OF THE BELL

### PRELUDE

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

arr. Diane Bish

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### WELCOME

Herb Niemeyer, *Announcer*

### OPENING MEDITATION

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

### \*GATHERING HYMN

*Shadow and Substance*  
Led by Jennifer Jones

Dan Damon  
(New Century Hymnal, 398)

Shadow and substance, wonder and mystery,  
Spell-binding Spinner of atoms and earth;  
Soul of the cosmos, Person and energy,  
Source of our being, we sing of your worth!

We are your image, formed in community,  
Children and siblings of Adam and Eve.  
You gave us color, custom and history;  
Teach us to honor what others receive.

Naming the Nameless, spirit in unity,  
Scanning the heavens for signs of your care;  
God of the ages, give us humility.  
Guide us to mystical union in prayer.

### \*PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)

Herb Niemeyer

**God of healing and transformation, we hunger for your abundant life. We bring you our sorrow and ask for the bread of joy; we bring you our despair and ask for the bread of hope; we bring you our weariness and ask for the bread of inspiration. Meet us here. We know your call to peace, to feed others and build them up, and live in ways that may draw the world to your quiet center, and yet still we do not go in the ways that lead to peace. Forgive us, and by your grace grant us the bread of heaven to sustain us for our journey as we find our way to the end that we may be one with you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

### NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Rev. Denoon

### THE WORD SHARED

Herb Niemeyer

*From the Epistles*

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

NRSV

<sup>25</sup> Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup> Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup> Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building

up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup> and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. **5** <sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup> and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

*From the Gospels*

John 6:35, 41-45

NRSV

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to those who were following him, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty..."

<sup>41</sup> Then some religious leaders began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup> They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless drawn by the One who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the holy One comes to me."

*Pause.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*"The Unfolding Vision"  
A Progressive Christian Primer, Part 1*

Rev. Denoon

**INTERLUDE**

*Just As I Am*

arr. W. Bradbury

**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*

*We Are in Need*

J. S. Bach

*\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

Herb

**God of love, we give thanks and ask for blessings on all our gifts. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

**ORDER FOR THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

*Introductions*

Luke & Elizabeth Ferguson, The Rev. Susan Leary

*Preface*

*\*Affirmation of Faith (Responsive – Leader; People) based on Our Creed, 1901*

Do you believe in the kinship of all people as children of God? **I do.**  
Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Way and the Truth and the Life? **I do.**  
Do you believe in the clean heart, the unworldly life, and the service of love as Jesus taught and exemplified, and do you accept Christ's Spirit, and Christ's teaching? **I do.**

*\*Questions of the Candidates*

*\*Raising the Covenant (Unison)*

**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.**

*\*Welcome to the Church, with unison greeting*

Joan Musbach, *Moderator*

**We as members of this church, gladly welcome you to a part with us in the hopes, the  
labors, and the joys of our mutual ministry. We promise to walk with you in  
Christian love and sympathy, and to promote, as far as in us lies, your growth in the  
Christian life.**

**\*HYMN**

*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*  
Led by Jennifer Jones

W. Gladden  
(Pilgrim Hymnal, 418)

O Master, let me walk with thee  
In lowly paths of service free;  
Teach me thy secrets, help me bear  
The strain of toil, the threat of care.

Help me the poor of heart to move  
With some clear, winning word of love;  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay  
And guide them in a homeward way.

Teach me thy patience; still with thee  
In closer, dearer company,  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
In trust that triumphs over wrong;

In hope that sends a shining ray  
Far down the future's broadening way,  
In peace that only thou canst give,  
With thee, O Master, let me live.

**\*PRAYER AND BLESSING**

Rev. Denoon

**POSTLUDE**

*Lobe den Herren*

arr. J. Carter

**DISMISSAL**

Herb Niemeyer

Today's Opening Meditation were taken from an article by Jim Burklo, *The Bible and Religious Pluralism*, at [ProgressiveChristianity.org](http://ProgressiveChristianity.org).

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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](http://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. ***Please wear a mask in the Sanctuary and in the halls. Masking and distancing are optional in Memorial Hall.***

### **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, Bill & Shirley Moore
- 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
- Health concerns in the Hayes family
- All those the world regards as disabled – especially David & Becky Scott
- People with mental illnesses, as well as the people who love and care for them
- People who are alone or ill due to Covid-19
- Those whose employment and businesses are at risk
- 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**

Linda & Laszlo Kopetti, Faye Dyer, Marilyn Claggett, Dana Romeis, and BJ Kaul

### **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

### **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.

## **School Supplies Needed**

Summer is the time that we collect school supplies for Webster-Rock Hill Ministries. Please start bringing school supplies to the church. We will deliver them in August prior to schools opening up.

### **This Week at First Congregational Church**

#### **Sunday, August 8**

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

**10:00 AM Worship**

**10:15 AM Sunday School**

**11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship**

#### **Tuesday, August 10**

**St. Louis County Special Election**

**10:30 AM Staff Meeting**

**1:00 PM Communications Team**

#### **Wednesday, August 11**

**9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room**

**6:00 PM - 9:30 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room**

#### **Friday, August 13**

**6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Vigil for Black Lives**

### **Young Webster Groves Violinist Ava Andrews Performs Recital in the Sanctuary**

Please join us in the Sanctuary on August 12 at 7:00 PM for a Senior Recital by violinist Ava Andrews, who will be accompanied by her mother Nina Ferrigno (Founder/Artistic Director, Missouri Chamber Music Festival). The performance will include works by Beethoven, Barber, Bach and Fauré. Come for a good concert and support a fine young musician from our community. Of course, there is no admission charge – all are welcome!

### **Glen Park Outdoor Concert Series presents...**

#### **Leon Burke and others!**

On Wednesday, August 18, at 7:00 pm our Music Director Leon Burke, will appear in the popular **Wednesday Evening Music Series** at Glen Park (just east of Kirkham Road at Newport). The concert will include members of the **University City Symphony Orchestra**, of which he is the conductor, with Webster resident Michael Silverman's group, **Bach to the Future**. **Don't miss this free, fun outdoor concert!**

## **Blessing of the Backpacks — August 22!**

We will have our annual Backpack Blessing for students of all ages. ***Be sure to bring your backpacks to church that day!***

## **Ice Cream Social — also August 22**

Following worship on August 22. Bring a favorite topping to share (such as fruit, syrup or sprinkles). ***Weather permitting, we are planning to hold this event outside.***

### **August Birthdays**

**Sue Stepleton – August 10**

**John Paci – August 13**

**Edward Hoganson – August 18**

**Julie McHugh – August 20**

**Sharon Beal – August 23**

### **Meal-A-Month August Shopping List**

*(Please leave donations in boxes in Narthex)*

**Canned Chicken • Brown Rice • Canned Soup (low or no salt)**

**Canned Corn (low or no salt) • Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk • Diapers • Diaper Wipes • Formula with Iron**



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
[www.FirstChurchWG.org](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

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Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

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Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity  
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie  
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Stillpoint Campus Ministry  
Webster University – Rev. Laurel Hayes  
[laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net)

***Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.***

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SoundCloud

[www.soundcloud.com/firstchurchwg](http://www.soundcloud.com/firstchurchwg)

YouTube

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

