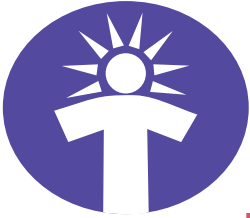


Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

AUGUST 15, 2021

TWELFTH 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.

AUGUST 15, 2021
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Notes for Worshipers in Person

An asterisk () invites you to be standing, in body or in spirit.*

*Please, take advantage of the Friendship Pad (black booklet at one end of your pew),
to let us know you were here, filling in blanks as completely as you wish.*

*If you would like a personal joy or concern read aloud, prayer cards on the back of the pew just ahead
of you are available for that purpose; please hand yours to an usher after the Message of the Day.*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Prelude on “Slane”

Hal Hopson

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME

Jane Brader, *Announcer*

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

Come into this household of God that we might all listen to God’s
Word and discern the wisdom that comes only from God.

How can we discover such wisdom?

Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom.

What shall we do with such wisdom?

When we choose to live according to God’s will, we find within us a
hunger.

**We long to be nourished and strengthened with wisdom. Let
our spirits be aware of God’s Spirit, as we lift our hearts to
God!**

***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 joys
and struggles 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**

Praise the Source of Faith and Learning

Thomas Troeger

NCH 411 (Tune: HYFRYDOL)

Praise the Source of faith and learning that has sparked and stoked the mind
with a passion for discerning how the world has been designed.
Let the sense of wonder flowing from the wonders we survey

keep our faith forever growing and renew our need to pray.

God of wisdom, we acknowledge that our science and our art
and the breadth of human knowledge only partial truth impart.
Far beyond our calculation lies a depth we cannot sound
where your purpose for creation and the pulse of life are found.

As two currents in a river fight each other's undertow
till converging they deliver one coherent steady flow,
blend, O God, our faith and learning till they carve a single course,
till they join as one, returning praise and thanks to you, their Source.

***PRAYER OF APPROACH** (Unison)

**All-Wise God, we thank you for this time to look into our words,
thoughts and deeds. We confess that we fool ourselves into
believing that we possess all of the knowledge that we need. As we
go from place to place, we will sometimes block you out. Even
though we say we want to hear your Word and speak with you, we
have often failed to recognize that we are in your presence. Show
us the ways of love and truth. Fill us with the Holy Spirit that we
might live each day according to your will. Help us to discern your
wisdom that we might live eternally with you and the Christ, in
whose name we pray. Amen.**

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

*At the end of Not for Children Only, young people are invited to exit for Kids' Church,
or if they prefer, they may return to their seats.*

THE WORD SHARED

Jane Brader

From the Writings

Psalm 34:9-14

Psalms Anew, 1986

Revere Yahweh, you saints;
for there is nothing lacking in those who revere God.
Lions may grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek Yahweh shall lack nothing good.
Come, children, listen to me,
and I will teach you reverence for Yahweh.
Which of you wants to live to the full,
and loves long life and prosperity?
Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Turn away from evil and practice good;
seek peace and follow after it.

From the Gospels

John 6:51-58

Inclusive New Testament

Jesus said to those who were following him, ⁵¹ I am the living

bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵² Religious authorities who were there then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

⁵³ So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Human One, you have no life in you.

⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living God sent me, and I live because of God, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

Response.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Carl F. Mueller

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“The Christian Agnostic”

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Share Our Joys and Concerns

First Friends now collect Prayer Cards from worshipers who request it.

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

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

Meditation

John Carter

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

God of wisdom, hear our prayers of thanks and wonder, and know the depth of our praise for you the very Source of our being. Bless all our gifts by your grace. May they be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Denoon

POSTLUDE

Recessional

John Carter

DISMISSAL

Jane Brader

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Sunday worship each week is 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 is provided in Memorial Hall, 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
- Chip's sister Nancy, struggling with health issues
- 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**

Jacquie Bryant, Liu Lin Theo, Rosemary Hensley, Tom Waltz, Sharon Love, and Carolyn Woodsmall

### **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>

### **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 prior to schools opening up.

### **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 — Next Sunday, 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 Next Sunday**

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

Gwen Denoon – August 14

Edward Hoganson – August 18

Julie McHugh – August 20

Sharon Beal – August 23

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

**Sunday, August 15**

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

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids' Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

**Monday, August 16**

**1:00 PM** Confirmation Catch-Up (Sample Chapel)

**7:00 PM** Executive Ministry (Zoom)

**Tuesday, August 17**

**10:30 AM** Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, August 18**

**9:30 AM** Yoga with Jeanene (Inglis Room)

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

**7:00 PM CONCERT:** Leon Burke & Friends (Glen Park, Webster Groves)

**Friday, August 20**

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

### **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**

### **STAFF OFFICE HOURS**

These are not the only hours our staff work, but they are available for drop-in visits or telephone calls (314-962-0475) during these times. It is always best to call ahead.

**Office Administrator Debra Tolstoj, ext. 15**

Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Pastor Dave Denoon, ext. 11**

Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Pastoral Assistant Halley Kim, ext. 12**

Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Director of Music Leon Burke III, ext. 17**

Tuesday – Thursday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM



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

## Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach  
[JWMusbach@gmail.com](mailto:JWMusbach@gmail.com)

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon  
[DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org)

Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim  
[Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org)

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[Admin@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Admin@FirstChurchWG.org)

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
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Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
[cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org)

Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing  
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[lesrhs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lesrhs@sbcglobal.net)

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

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.*

## Follow us on

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/](http://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/)

SoundCloud

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

YouTube

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

