

**Welcome!**

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



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

**AUGUST 22, 2021**

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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## **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.*

*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.*

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## Order of Worship

### TOLLING THE BELL

#### PRELUDE

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

arr. Dale Wood

### LIGHTING THE CANDLES

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jennifer Jones

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

based on Psalm 34

Our God pays attention to the righteous and attends their cries.

**Our God turns away from evildoers and will destroy even the memory of them.**

The righteous who suffer – the brokenhearted and those whose spirits are crushed – will be rescued and will be preserved.

**We gather now to praise the One who puts an end to cruelty and redeems the lives of those who serve and take refuge in holiness.**

#### \*RAISING THE COVENANT

*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.**

#### \*HYMN OF THE DAY

*O Christ, the Great Foundation*

Tomothy Tingfang Lew

O Christ, the great foundation on which your people stand  
to preach your true salvation in every age and land:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit to make us strong and pure,  
to keep the faith unbroken as long as worlds endure.

Baptized in one confession, one church in all the earth,  
we bear Christ's own impression, the sign of second birth:  
One holy people gathered in love beyond our own,  
by grace we were invited, by grace we make you known.

#### \*PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

**Loving and ever-present God, here we are in the midst of your Spirit. On this first day of a new week, we will praise your name afresh and seek your blessing. But we cannot truly praise or ask to be blessed without first acknowledging how often we have fallen short of your fondest dreams for us. We have acted as if this place can be your true representative on earth – a building made with hands, impermanent as it is. But you have built us to be your home – changeable and adaptable, renewing and resurrecting. Forgive us, you who command our hearts, and help us to be reminded always of your unfailing**

**promise: you will be our God, as we will be your people. As for us and the house we are, we will serve you. In the name of the Christ, your greatest example, we pray. Amen.**

**NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY**

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**THE WORD SHARED**

Jennifer Jones

*From the Prophets*

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-15

NRSV, ad.

<sup>14</sup> [Joshua said to the Israelites as they settled in the land of Canaan,] “Revere YAHWEH, and serve your God in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve YAHWEH. <sup>15</sup> Now if you are unwilling to serve YAHWEH, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of those in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve YAHWEH.”

*From the Gospels*

Matthew 16:13-19

NRSV, ad.

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Human One is?”

<sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

<sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Child of the living God.”

<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Parent in heaven.

<sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**INTERLUDE**

*O Perfect Love*

John Carter

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*“The Purpose of the Church”*

Rev. Denoon

**SHARING OUR BOUNTY**

Jennifer Jones

*Invitation*

*Offertory Music*

*Voluntary*

Alfred Robert Gaul

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

**God, you are our Maker, you are our Mother, building and guiding us so that we may be reconcilers in your world. Cause your Church always to form the structure in which your praise is heard and your**

**justice begins. Send your Spirit upon us and our gifts, so that, gifts and all, we are consecrated to your will and your work in Jesus' name.  
Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We Lift 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; they 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 for ever. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Aurelia*

Paul Bunjes

**DISMISSAL**

Jennifer Jones

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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](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)).

Our time for Fellowship after worship today will be shared outdoors on the west side of the church. There you can enjoy ice cream treats and other items. Masking outdoors is optional. ***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**

Amy & Patrick Byrne, Mary & Mark Edwards, Pat Doyle Grace, and 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.

### **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

### **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.

### **Health Concerns in the Hayes-Barrett Family**

Laurel Hayes and Bill Barrett need our help! Laurel just had surgery for a broken foot, Bill continues to brave his cancer treatments, and they have several family members also in health crises. Bill & Laurel could use help with food (vegetarian) and some ordinary **household tasks** (such as lugging laundry up and down stairs, vacuuming, ...).

Please use the following link to sign up to bring them a meal or lend a hand with physical tasks during this daunting time: <http://carecalendar.org> (ID: 299440, passcode: 5500). You will see the signups for this work are on Wednesdays, but that's just a placeholder. ALSO, please contact Bill, who is coordinating volunteer times. You should contact him at [barrettb@webster.edu](mailto:barrettb@webster.edu).

***Thank you for helping our friends in need!***

## **August Birthdays**

**Lucie Herrick – August 4**  
**Celia Rudolph – August 8**  
**Sue Stepleton – August 10**  
**John Paci – August 13**  
**Luke Ferguson – 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 22**

#### ***Blessing of the Backpacks***

9:00 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary

10:15 AM Kids' Church (Begins in Sanctuary)

11:05 AM Ice Cream Social / Coffee Fellowship – Outside and Memorial Hall

### **Monday, August 23**

7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B – Memorial Hall

### **Tuesday, August 24**

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday, August 25**

9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

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

7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G - Parlor

### **Friday, August 27**

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

## **Month of Grace + Prayer: An Ecumenical Retreat in Everyday Life**

Pray on your own 20 minutes each day and meet one-on-one with a spiritual companion one hour each week for four consecutive weeks. Starts September 12. All meetings will be virtual (Zoom or phone if you prefer). Weekly meeting times set around your schedule. This is an individually directed retreat tailored to your own deep desires. Committed couples also have the option to participate as a couple. The spiritual companions are not members of our church nor can accompany anyone they know. All adults are welcome regardless of denomination or affiliation. For more information, visit [www.momentsofgraceandprayer.org](http://www.momentsofgraceandprayer.org) and to register contact Clarence Heller at [clarenceheller@gmail.com](mailto:clarenceheller@gmail.com).

## **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**



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Webster Groves, MO 63119  
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## Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach  
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Stillpoint Campus Ministry  
Webster University – Rev. Laurel Hayes  
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*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

## Follow us on

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

YouTube

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

