

Welcome!

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



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

AUGUST 29, 2021

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**DON'T
GO
TO CHURCH.

BE THE CHURCH.**

*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

TOLLING THE BELL

PRELUDE

Land of Rest

Elizabeth Krouse

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME

Marilyn Davis, *Announcer*

OPENING WORDS (Responsive – Leader; **People**)

based on Song of Songs 2

Here comes my beloved, running down the mountains like a gazelle, leaping the hills like a stag in search of his doe.

Look at him, standing out there staring in through the window lattices like the moon.

He is calling me: “Come, sweetheart, my pretty one, come out! Winter is over, the rains are gone, the flowers are blooming.

“It’s time for singing; let’s walk out through the valleys and listen to the song of the dove. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away with me.”

*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.

*GATHERING HYMN

Gather the Spirit

Jim Scott

Gather the Spirit, harvest the power.
Our sep’rate fires will kindle one flame.
Witness the mystery of this hour.
Our trials in this light appear all the same.

(Refrain)

Gather in peace, gather in thanks.
Gather in sympathy now and then.
Gather in hope, compassion and strength.
Gather to celebrate once again.

Gather the spirit of heart and mind.
Seeds for the sowing are laid in store.
Nurtured in love, and conscience refined,
with body and spirit united once more. (Refrain)

Gather the spirit growing in all,
drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.
Winter to spring, and summer to fall,
the chorus of life resounding as one. (Refrain)

***PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)**

O God, our hearts overflow with love for you. You delight us with perfect gifts and blessings, and you have promised to be our guide and stay for ever and ever. You bless us always with an abundance of kisses to mend our broken lives. But our own love has not been so true: With those who have needed your justice we have sometimes been slow to action, but quick to rhetoric, or hasty to anger. Forgive us for those times we have failed to do your will. With you to lead us, we are learning new ways to love and bear witness. In Jesus' name we pray: show us your grace, so that we may show forth your truth. Amen.

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Beatrice Byrne, *Confirmand*

THE WORD SHARED

From the Gospels

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

*The Message**

Some Pharisees along with some religion scholars who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They noticed that some of his disciples weren't being careful with ritual washings before meals. The Pharisees – Jews in general, in fact – would never eat a meal without going through the motions of a ritual handwashing, with an especially vigorous scrubbing if they had just come from the market; (to say nothing of the scourings they'd give jugs and pots and pans).

So the Pharisees and religion scholars asked him, "Why do your disciples flout the rules, showing up at meals without washing their hands?"

He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied right about frauds like you, and hit the bull's eye in fact:

'This people make a big show of saying the right thing,
but their heart isn't in it;
they act like they worship me,
but they don't mean it.
They just use me as a cover
for teaching whatever suits their fancy,
Ditching God's command
and taking up the latest fads.' "

He went on, "Well, good for you! You get rid of God's command so you won't be inconvenienced in following the religious fashions! Moses said, 'Respect your father and mother,' and, 'Anyone denouncing father or mother should be killed.' But you weasel out of that by saying that it's perfectly acceptable to say to father or mother, 'Gift! What I owed you I've given as a gift to God,' thus relieving yourselves of obligation to father or mother. You scratch out God's Word and scrawl a whim in its place. You do a lot of things like this"

Jesus called the crowd together again and said, "Listen now, all of you—take this to heart. It's not what you swallow that pollutes your life; it's what you vomit—that's the real pollution."

When he was back home after being with the crowd, his disciples said, "We don't get it. Put it in plain language."

Jesus said, "Are you being willfully stupid? Don't you see that what you swallow can't contaminate you? It doesn't enter your heart but your stomach,

works its way through the intestines, and is finally flushed.” (That took care of dietary quibbling; Jesus was saying that *all* foods are fit to eat.)

He went on: “It’s what comes out of a person that pollutes: obscenities, lusts, thefts, murders, adulteries, greed, depravity, deceptive dealings, carousing, mean looks, slander, arrogance, foolishness—all these are vomit from the heart. *There* is the source of your pollution.”

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

INTERLUDE

If Music be the Food of Love

Henry Purcell

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“*Progressive Christian Primer:*
Part 4 – Faith over Belief”

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

SHARING OUR BOUNTY

Marilyn Davis

Invitation

Offertory Music

Song Without Words No. 48 “Faith”

Felix Mendelssohn

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

God of poor people and rich people, of unemployed and employed, of the needy and the satisfied, we bring this offering out of our willingness to share the resources at our disposal. And we ask that you bless these gifts we give in faith, which is our spiritual work, in the name of Jesus. 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.

***HYMN OF PARTING**

I Would Be True

H. A. Walter

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare,
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

I would be friend of all, the foe, the friendless;
I would be giving and forget the gift;
I would be humble for I know my weakness;
I would look up, and laugh and love and live,
I would look up, and laugh and love and live.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Day of Triumph

Vladimer Rebikoff

DISMISSAL

Marilyn Davis

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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**

Judy & Bob Borutta, Margaret Gustafson, Herb Niemeyer, Diane McLean,  
Suzie Barnes, and Chris von Weise

**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.

## **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

## **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!*

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

### **Sunday, August 29**

9:00 AM - Nursery Care available (Nursery)

10:00 AM - Worship (Sanctuary)

10:15 AM - Kids' Church (begins in Sanctuary)

11:00 AM - Coffee Fellowship (Memorial Hall)

### **Monday, August 30**

7:00 PM - Scout Troop 301B (Memorial Hall and Dickens Room)

### **Tuesday, August 31**

10:30 AM - Staff Meeting (Staff members are unavailable from 10:30 AM until 12 Noon)

### **Wednesday, September 1**

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

### **10:39 AM Thursday, September 2**

7:00 PM – Scout Troop 301G (Parlor)

### **Friday, September 3**

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).

## **Relief for Haiti**

It is difficult to imagine where to begin to help Haiti, but Church World Service - the mission partner we support through One Great Hour of Sharing and the CROP Walk - is intervening with supplies and personnel.

If you would like to contribute to CWS relief efforts, please consider a gift. You can give directly through their website - <https://cwsglobal.org/donate/haiti-2021>. Or you can send a check payable to:

First Congregational Church  
10 W. Lockwood Ave.  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
Include the word **"Haiti"** in the memo line.

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

*(Please leave donations in boxes in Narthex)*

Beef Stew • Canned Carrots (low or no salt) • Canned Fruit in own juices  
Cornbread Mix (no eggs) • Powdered Milk • Shelf Stable Milk • Soy Milk  
Toothbrushes • Tooth Paste • Dental Floss

## **September Birthdays**

Laura Cooper 3rd  
Bob Moody 4th  
Bob Borutta 5th  
Doug Miller 6th  
Jeff McCoy 7th  
Megan Miller 13th  
Nancy Rudolph 13th  
Chip Isringhaus 14th  
Annie Warner 16th

Jacob Getz 18th  
James Jaeger 18th  
Sarah McHugh 18th  
Mark Cereghino 20th  
Debbie Tolstoi 20th  
Elaine Coe 22nd  
Jane Porchey 24th  
BJ Kaul 25th  
Philip Roush 25th

Kedra Tolson 26th  
Janice Aerie 28th  
Jennifer Gomez 28th  
Lynn Hoganson 28th  
Beatrice Byrne 29th  
Herb Niemeyer 30th



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## Contact Information

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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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YouTube

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

