

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves

United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

OCTOBER 3, 2021

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

“NEIGHBORS IN NEED” SPECIAL OFFERING



Unfailing Love

*This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.*

John 15:12

 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
NEIGHBORS IN NEED 2021
ucc.org/nin

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

An asterisk () indicates that worshipers are invited to stand 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 and you are at home, you may text 314-858-6710, or fill out a prayer card, found in the pew box.

TOLLING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire

G. Careless
arr. A. Schreiner

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME

Diane McLean, *Announcer*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**) based on Psalm 8

O holy ONE, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

**Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark
because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established, I wonder, “What are human beings that you are mindful of us, or mortals that you care for us?”

**You have made us only a little lower than yourself and crowned us with
glory and honor, giving us dominion over your works, putting all things
under our feet – all sheep and oxen and also the beasts of the field, the birds
of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the
seas.**

O holy ONE, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

*RAISING THE COVENANT

Covenant of 1977

*GATHERING HYMN

As Man and Woman We Were Made

Brian Wren
Tune: SUSSEX CAROL

As man and woman we were made
That love be found and life begun:
The likeness of the living God,
Unique, yet called to live as one.
Through joy or sadness, calm or strife,
Come, praise the love that gives us life.

Now Jesus lived and gave his love
To make our life and loving new
So celebrate with him today
And drink the joy he offers you
That makes the simple moment shine
And changes water into wine.

And Jesus died to live again
So praise the love that, come what may,
Can bring the dawn and clear the skies,
And waits to wipe all tears away
And let us hope for what shall be
Believing where we cannot see.

Then spread the table, clear the hall
And celebrate till day is done;
Let peace go deep between us all
And joy be shared by everyone:
Laugh and make merry with your friends
And praise the love that never ends!

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)

Diane McLean

Creator God, you have made us your children. As our Parent, in this time, come and be among us. Come, and teach us. Come, and lead us. We have sometimes been tempted to think that you are the cause of bad times, or that you have been powerless to stop them. We need reminders of your power and promise. So, forgive us for those times when our doubt has prevented our faith. Then, create in us a faith in you so strong that we can honestly confront you and learn from you. Help us so to grow in faith, that we may not sin with our lips or in our hearts, but may come to new and fruitful understandings of who and how you are in our lives; in Jesus' name. Amen.

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

The children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.

Afterward, they may proceed to Sunday School classes, or return to their seats.

THE WORD SHARED

Diane McLean

From the Law

Genesis 1:24-27, 31

The Inclusive Bible

God said, "Earth: bring forth all kinds of living creatures – cattle, things that crawl, and wild animals of all kinds!" So it was: God made all kinds of wild animals and cattle and everything that crawls on the ground, and God saw that this was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground."

Humankind was created as God's reflection:
in the divine image God created them;
female and male, God made them.

God looked at all of this creation and proclaimed that this was good – very good.
Evening came, and morning followed – the sixth day.

From the Gospels

Mark 10:2-12

The Inclusive Bible

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and, as a test, asked, "Is it permissible for husbands to divorce their wives?"

In reply Jesus asked, "What command did Moses give?"

They answered, "Moses permitted a husband to write a decree of divorce and to put her away."

But Jesus told them, “Moses wrote the commandment because of your hardness of heart. From the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ and ‘This is why one person leaves home and cleaves to another, and the two become one flesh.’ They are no longer two, but one flesh. What God has united, therefore, let no one divide.”

Back in the house again, the disciples questioned Jesus once more about this. He told them, “If a man divorces his wife and marries another, he commits adultery against her; and if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

Response.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“*Binding*”

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Invitation

Offertory Anthem

Show Us How to Love

Mark Miller

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

Creator God who makes us many and makes us one, here we combine our many gifts into one. Bless them, we pray, that they may pass into your creation to the many, to the end that all the world may become one in you, in Christ’s name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S TABLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

Sanctus (Unison)

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God most high. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest!

Fraction

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

Distribution

Communion is served in the pews, first the bread and then the cup. The bread is gluten-free. Wine is white; grape juice is red. Each is consumed at the indication of the Pastor, unless this presents a hardship for the individual.

Hymn during Distribution

Let Us Break Bread Together

Pilgrim Hymnal, Spiritual
No. 288

During the distribution of the bread, please sing:

Let us break bread together on our knees...

Refrain.

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me!

During the distribution of the cup, please sing:

Let us drink wine together on our knees...

Let us praise God together on our knees...

**Prayer after Communion (Unison)*

Bread of heaven, Cup of salvation, you have put your life into us; now we affirm that our lives are found in yours. Take us, renew and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. We want to go with you. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

I Come with Joy

Brian Wren

New Century, No. 349, vv 1,3,5

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me,
In love laid down for me.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends.

Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay,
And go with joy to love the world and live the way we pray,
And live the way we pray.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Postlude

Anton Bruckner

DISMISSAL

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

***Please wear a mask in the Sanctuary and in the halls. Masking and distancing are optional in Memorial Hall.***

**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.

**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.

### **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
- Nancy Isringhaus-Duvall's upcoming surgery
- 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

### **“Wonder and Wander”**

#### **New webinar discussion Thursdays at 8:00 pm**

“Wonder and Wander” is a new webinar-style gathering for spiritual misfits and anyone interested in exploring faith beyond borders that no longer work for them. Join Dave Denoon, Halley Kim, Merrimon Boyd, and special guests on Thursdays at 8:00 pm on Zoom for fun and enlightening conversations about reimagining faith. Use the following url / link to register: <https://bit.ly/Jehovahjive> If you miss the webinars, you can find them on our YouTube channel at: [bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)

### **Meals Needed for the Saavedra Family**

The Saavedra family has grown by 10 fingers and 10 toes! Celia, Eric, and big brother Kai welcomed Macie John Saavedra on September 20, 2021. Macie is also Nancy Rudolph's granddaughter. Please consider providing a meal for the Saavedra family during this busy time! Meals must be GLUTEN-FREE so plan accordingly. Sign up here: <http://carecalendar.org> (Login ID: 300623, Passcode: 1876). Thank you!

### **Fresh Pecans Coming Soon!**

This year, the profit made from the sale of our wonderful, fresh pecans will go towards our Second Annual Christmas Tree Decorating Party in the Jubilee Garden. We are once again purchasing the 1-pound bags of Mammoth Pecan Halves. They will be \$14 each and are expected to arrive in mid-November. Please email Debbie in the office and let her know how many bags you would like her to save for you.

### **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 <http://firstchurchwg.org/donate> to make an electronic contribution

### **Aid for Afghan Refugees**

The International Institute is now collecting the following gift cards (in any amount):  
Visa gift cards • Aldi • Schnucks • Target • Walmart • Jay's International • Gas Cards

Gift cards can be mailed to:

Attn: Donations  
International Institute of St. Louis  
3401 Arsenal St.  
St. Louis, MO 63118

### **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 October Shopping List**

*(Please leave donations in boxes in Narthex)*

Canned Chicken & Dumplings (low salt) • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)  
Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Whole Wheat Flour • Peanut Butter • Real Fruit Jelly • Dried Fruits

### **What's Going on at First Church**

#### **Sunday, October 3**

Sacrament of Christ's Table  
World Communion Sunday  
9:00 AM Brown Baggers  
9:00 AM AM Nursery Care Available  
10:00 AM Worship  
10:15 AM Kid's Church  
11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

#### **Monday, October 4**

7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall

#### **Tuesday, October 5**

1:00 PM Communications Team - Church Office

#### **Wednesday, October 6**

9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room  
6:00 PM - 9:30 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room

#### **Thursday, October 7**

6:15 PM Canterbury Bells - Practice  
7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G - Parlor  
7:30 PM Chancel Choir - Practice

#### **Friday, October 8**

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



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

## Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach  
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Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity  
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Stillpoint Campus Ministry  
Webster University – Rev. Laurel Hayes  
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*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

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<https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchwg/>

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

