



Welcome!

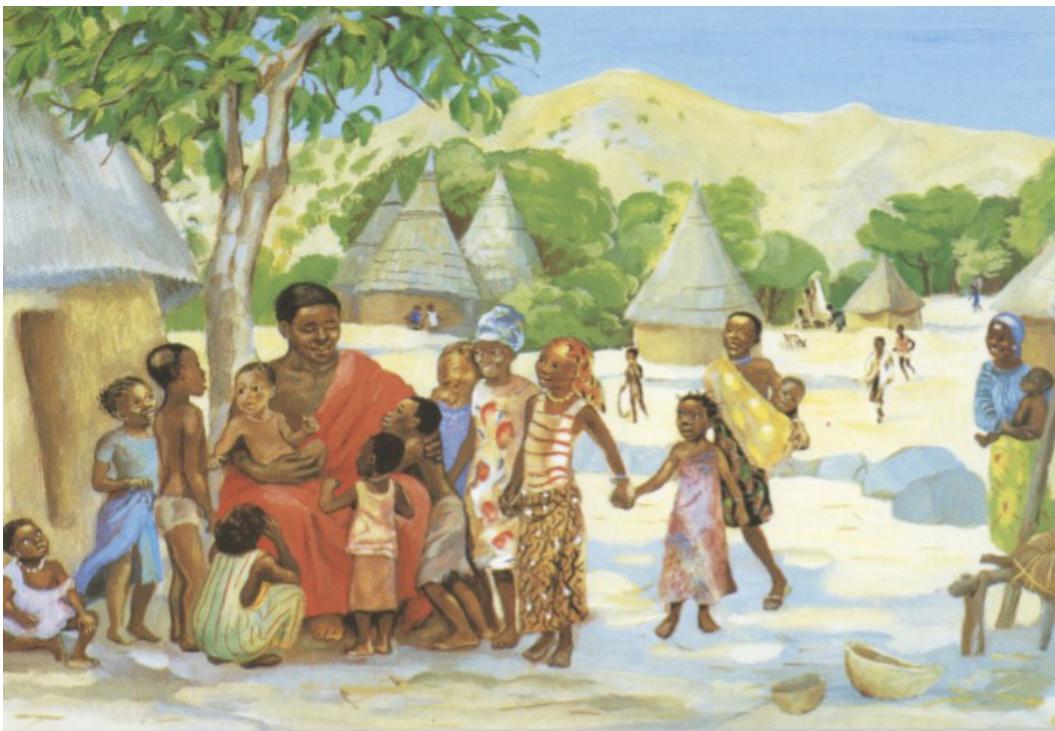
First Congregational Church of Webster Groves

United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

OCTOBER 17, 2021

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CHILDREN'S SABBATH



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.

* PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)

Creator and creating God, you built the foundations of this earth and everything in it. We are in awe of your wisdom and of your trust in us to care for creation. Before such responsibility, we can feel small and insignificant. Yet, you call us into loving relationship: we are your children. Help us not to lose heart in the face of a world in crisis. And here in this moment, may our worship help each of us open our minds and spirits to your presence, your mercy, and your grace. Amen.

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

The children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.

Afterward, they may proceed to Kid's Church, or return to their seats.

THE WORD SHARED

From the Gospels

Mark 10:13-16

New Revised Standard Version, adapted

Commentary by Pastor Dave Denoon

What shall we do with the children? They are too young to understand intellectually the richness of the gospel, but their experience of it is no less valid than adults'. The author of Mark recalls a situation in which Jesus' disciples attempted to configure the crowd around their rabbi so that it consisted only of adults. Jesus wouldn't bear the restriction, however. Just in the previous chapter, he has used a child to demonstrate how absolutely "whoever wants to be first of all must be last of all and servant of all"! To welcome a child is to welcome Jesus himself, and to welcome Jesus is to welcome God (9:35-37).

The image on the cover of this morning's bulletin is from the illustration series *Jesus Mafa*, created in the 1970s by the Mafa Christians of northern Cameroon for the purpose of shedding sub-Saharan light on the life of Jesus. Setting each of 63 different biblical scenes set in the Sahel region of Africa would come to add authenticity to their proclamation of the Word of God in ways that European painting has done for centuries for Western Christians. And it has helped Christians across the world rethink their traditions about the Bible.

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them.

¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the realm of God as a little child will never enter it."

¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Response

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Pizzicato Bells (Playful Pizzicato)
(Bells)

S. Lloyd

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Childlike"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

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.

SHARING OUR BOUNTY

Invitation

Offertory Music

Elevation

A. Giamanco

**Prayer of Dedication*

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.

*PARTING HYMN

Blessed Be Children

R. Bruxvoort Colligan

Tune: BUNESSAN

Blessed be children, fruit of the world's love
Blessed be faces turned to the sky
Grow in us wonder as in a child's face
Gift us with love for how's and for why's.

Open to find love, tender as waking
Open to friendship, eager to play
Grow in us wonder as in a child's heart
Gift us with loving, tender as rain.

Blessed be grown-ups, fruit of the world's love
Welcome as children in tender arms
Grow in us wonder as in a child's life
Gift us with life in wondering love.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Denoon

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in D

Robert Lind

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/FCCCWG-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
Carrie, Lucy & Rick Herrick, Andrea Welnick, Kristy & Doug Barton, Sue Stepleton

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, Joyce Berger, Shirley Chase, 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
- 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

Introductory Tours

October 17 & 20

A session for those curious about membership in the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves will be offered by the Pastor and Parish Life Ministry, live and in person on Sunday, October 17, at 11:15am, OR live as a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, October 20, at 7:00pm (<http://bit.ly/JehovahJava>).

The pastor takes participants on a tour of our building in this 90-minute session, introducing them to the church's history, denomination, and activities. To register, please contact Pastor Dave Denoon at (314) 962-0475, ext. 11. If he does not answer, please leave a message indicating the number in your party and any restrictions you may have accessing different areas of the building (e.g., if you are unable to climb stairs or walk certain distances).

"Wonder and Wander"
New webinar discussion

"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 and Merrimon Boyd. New each Thursday on YouTube. Wonder and Wander is fun and enlightening conversation about reimagining faith. bit.ly/FCCWVG-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.

Lady Elect — October 26

All women of the church are welcome to attend our monthly meetings. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, except in November and December. The meetings are held in the Parlor at 7:00 pm, unless noted. **October 26, 7:00 pm – program by Young at Harp**
Please contact Laura Cooper with any questions or if interested in attending any program.

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

Gift Cards for Afghan Refugees

First Church will be collecting gift cards for Afghan refugees through the end of October, when the gift cards will be delivered to the International Institute. Gift cards can be purchased from major grocery stores, chain stores such as Target, Walgreen's, etc.

Global Foods in Kirkwood is doubling \$25 gift cards (up to a total of \$1500); Global Foods has also stocked up on foods used by Afghans. You can drop your gift card off at the church; you can also give them to Pat Doyle-Grace or Laura Cooper as they will personally deliver these at the end of the month. Please call the office if you have questions and thank you!

Material Aid Requested for St. Louis School

Two faith-based organizations - the Universal African People Organization (UAPO) and Preachers And Community (PAC) - are sponsoring a clothing drive for the students and families of the Walbridge STEAM Academy (also called Walbridge Elementary Full Service School).

During the month of October UAPO and PAC are asking faith communities and individuals to collect personal items: socks, underwear, bras, t-shirts, hats, scarfs, gloves, coats, etc. for children ages 5 - 12. There will be a collection box in the narthex, beginning this Sunday. For more information, please contact Rev. Elston K. McCowan at (314) 496-7861.

Parish Life's Fall Hygiene Drive for Webster Rock Hill Ministries

Collection on October 17, 24 & 31

Items Needed

Shampoo • Deodorant • Toilet Paper • Tissue • Paper Towels • Diapers (all sizes), & pullups

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

October Birthdays

Joyce Haynes-McCowan – October 3

Kathy Weyhrich – October 3

Linda Smith – October 5

Patrick Byrne – October 7

Ian Didriksen – October 7

Jean Shoulberg – October 8

Rod Cooper – October 10

Barney Kitchen – October 11

Marilyn Claggett – October 18

Judy James – October 19

Pete Grace – October 24

Carol Mallette – October 26

Dave Denoon – October 30

What's Going on at First Church

Sunday, October 17

Children's Sabbath

9:00 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Kid's Church

11:05 AM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

ON 2022 BUDGET (Hybrid in-person and virtual; if participating from home, please use the familiar link, bit.ly/JehovahJava)

11:15 AM Introductory Tour

11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

3:00 PM Intercultural Music Initiative – Free Concert in the Sanctuary

Monday, October 18

4:00 PM Executive Ministry (Zoom)

7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B

Tuesday, October 19

10:30 PM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, October 20

9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

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

7:00 PM Introductory Tour (Zoom)

Thursday, October 21

6:00 PM Oktoberfest Music at Eden Seminary

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells - Practice

7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G - Parlor

7:30 PM Chancel Choir - Practice

Friday, October 22

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



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of Webster Groves

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

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Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie
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Stillpoint Campus Ministry
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Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
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Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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Instagram

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

YouTube

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

