



Covenant News

October 2021

THE SEASON OF IN-GATHERING

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Recently I was talking with a friend with a farm experience about how much I enjoyed the season of harvest –the in-gathering. As my father harvested the wheat, baled the hay, picked the corn and combined the milo and soybeans, it was a time of joy and gratitude. All through the seasons of planting and nurturing, we understood that there was more to a successful harvest than the exertions of the farmer and his family.

Expressing that understanding, decades ago I cross-stitched a sampler for my parents:

“Back of the loaf is the snowy flour
And back of the flour the mill
And back of the mill the wheat & the shower. . .
The sun, and the Father’s will”

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves is entering into the in-gathering season. Many of us are in the time of life to be “harvesting” the rewards of the years in which we planted and nurtured. We are well aware that we have all benefitted from privileges and supports that have helped us be successful, “the sun and the Father’s will.” We are now being asked to pledge a portion of “our harvest” to support First Church and maintain its heritage of service to the generations that come behind us.

For those still in the time of life to nurture and plant there needs to be recognition that maintaining an institution that provides spiritual nurture to us and those we love, as well as material support for those beyond our walls, is part of “being called of God.” This is part of the Covenant we make with each other every week.

To our children and friends, what we do speaks louder than what we say. The church of my childhood was a small country church. Periodically the treasurer of the church would let it be

known that the money to support the church was running out. My father and four or five of his fellow farmers would gather in the church yard under the trees after worship and together pledge the money necessary to keep Camp Creek church alive. That image of my father as a steward of God’s work has never left me.

First Congregational Church is in a financial struggle to survive. We cannot save our way into solvency. We cannot cut staff and cut programs and still be faithful to the work of the church. We can only survive by “meeting under the trees” and pledging to keep our church alive. Following the example of my father, I will increase my pledge.

In the next few weeks you will learn about this years Stewardship Campaign from the dedicated members of the committee. Listen to them; read the information they provide, then I invite you to meet with me “under the trees.”

Joan Musbach
Moderator



MODERATOR'S CORNER

First Church had a wonderful Rally Weekend. On Saturday our parking lot was full of parents, grandparents and delighted children exploring the great collection of vehicles; enjoying ice cream and bubbles. There was truly a sense of community as friends and neighbors greeted each other. Applause goes to Pastoral Assistant, Halley Kim for bringing this delightful idea to fruition, to the Communications Team and Christian Education Ministry who supported her and to Phil Shoulberg who secured a fun variety of vehicles.

The weekend continued with an inspiring Rally Day worship service. Bells were ringing, choir singing and organ resounding, all with great selections to say “we’re back” together, either in person on on-line, worshiping God and supporting each other in our Christian Community. If you missed the service, call it up on the church YouTube channel. The choir anthem, “I Believe” was a very special element in our Rally Day service.

As we move into October watch for variety and opportunity. Variety in the ways we worship; opportunity to serve, learn and support. Watch the weekly eNews for announcements and details about the annual Congregational Meeting, the continuation of the new Webinar series Pastor Dave is hosting for on-line discussions of faith, and an informal jazz-themed happy hour in the Jubilee Garden, sponsored by the Parish Life Ministry.

The Congregation will be called into meeting on October 17 to approve the 2022 Budget. As we are made aware of the financial needs of the church we will launch the Stewardship Campaign to meet those needs. As we seek to “experience the joys and struggles of discipleship” we are reminded of the verses in Proverbs 11:24-25:

“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;
another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.
Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered.”

The blessings our giving brings are many and varied. Our staff creates programming to enable us to worship and to serve. Our building provides an inviting space for that worship and service, a locus for our Christian community.

Our service reaches beyond our walls into the wider community as we support the service of individuals and groups working for “peace and justice among all people.” We are proud of what we have done, who we are and what we currently do. Continuing that tradition of being and doing takes both personal and financial commitment. All this requires staff and structure, both of which cost money. We are entering the season of commitment. Supporting the work of First Church in 2022, rallying to the mission of Christ through our church, will depend on each of us committing more, if possible, to maintain and enhance our life and work together.

The Strategic Planning Committee (StratCom) is in the process of hiring professionals to help us market our space for events and activities. We have many appealing spaces that could be attractive to individuals or groups seeking space and a presence in the heart of Webster Groves. A line item has been added to the forthcoming budget to cover some expenses that might be incurred in making our spaces more attractive. Efforts in this direction have been impeded by the pandemic, but the committee is moving forward.

As I finished these paragraphs the lyrics of an old favorite, highly appropriate, hymn came to mind: “Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour...” Perhaps we should sing this just prior to the beginning of the Congregational meeting, changing the last word from “hour” to “year.”

In Covenant,
Joan Musbach, Moderator

VIRTUAL NUMBERS

We can see you out there, watching!

One of the questions people may be tempted to ask is about our presence in electronic media – YouTube, Facebook, and other platforms. The Executive Ministry recently requested some reporting about such things as attendance for live streamed worship and views on Facebook. These are all very easy to obtain, and the most recent numbers are reflected below:

eNews

Our weekly eNews is distributed to 245 separate email addresses. Of the recipients of our most recent eNews (Sept. 24), our hosting service was able to detect 99 opens (42%) and 7 bounces (meaning that 3% of recipients were on vacation or had some similar automated response that was received). Nine people clicked on links in the eNews (4%), and nobody “unsubscribed.” Of all non-profit organizations using our hosting service, Constant Contact, the so-called industry average is only a 23% Open rate, which means that we are doing almost twice as well as other non-profits, but we would LOVE to do better still!

Facebook

You may know that Facebook offers a lot of insight about organizations’ use of their service. There we find that 1,704 people saw our 19 posts during the month of September, and that 32 individuals actually visited our Facebook page (FirstChurchWG) during that time. Of all these, 227 separate people “interacted” with our posts – reacting, commenting, or clicking on links in them.

YouTube

We have been worshiping using YouTube in one way or another, ever since our third week out with COVID. Presently, we stream our worship service live on Sunday mornings at 10am. When worship is ended, our A/V Team Leader Mark Metcalf edits the stream and uploads the edited version when he is finished. On Sunday, September 26, there were viewers on 70 different devices at some time during the day: 11 were watching the live stream as it occurred; the remainder viewed the service at a different time of day. (This was an unusually high number of viewers, probably because of the klezmer band in our worship that day; most weeks, viewership of worship is around 5 to 8 people live, and viewers of the recording in the 30s.) If you consider that we had 82 people in worship on September 26, and then add the 70 who viewed it online, even if some of those 70 just wanted to experience their in-person experience again, that’s a pretty number for us!

We should mention also, that our new enrichment program, a Zoom webinar we call *Wonder and Wander* (live at 8:00pm Thursdays; register at <http://bit.ly/JehovahJive>), was recorded and edited by the pastor. The edited program has been viewed on 32 different devices since it was uploaded on September 24, and 17 of those have viewed it multiple times.

If you would like more information about our online presence, please give Pastor Dave Denoon of Office Administrator Debbie Tolstoi a call, and they will do their best to answer your questions.

FROM THE PASTORAL ASSISTANT

It's an exciting time for Children's Ministry! Our Vehicle Fair for the community was a huge success and an absolute hit! Dave and I estimate nearly 500 people attended – wow!!! I was overcome with joy all morning; I couldn't stop smiling. There was a steady stream of young families on our property, enjoying our hospitality, and making memories with their children. It was utterly beautiful, in the way that only loving our neighbors can be – the purest form of beauty, I'd argue. Not only did we have the pleasure of hosting hundreds of new faces, we also saw many familiar faces of church members who we haven't seen in a while. It was a homecoming as much as it was outreach. It fed my soul, and I hope it fed yours too.



In other news, I've been experimenting with a new approach to Kids' Church (formerly Sunday School). Borrowing a methodology from UMC pastor Leanne Hadley, I have been offering your children a "sacred circle time" which is based on the "circle time" that preschool teachers have been using for decades. In this spiritual version, I set up a "sacred space" with a globe, cross, and bell to symbolize the persons of the Trinity, and then I lead the kids in a time of wonder. For example, this past Sunday I focused on the parable of the mustard seed and I told the kids that I brought something super tiny for them to see...and held up a big tote bag! They balked, of course, and I pulled out a smaller tin (still not tiny, they rightly said). But inside that was a tea box...and then a small Tupperware...and then a petite drawstring satchel...and finally a single piece of pea gravel (I mean, "mustard seed")!

We beheld this tiny "seed" and I told them Jesus' story about how teeny tiny mustard seeds grow into enormous trees where birds make their nests. We talked about how love is like that too, and how small things like a hug or helping your sibling can make a big difference! Using our bodies, we prayed that we can and would grow: we balled ourselves up into as compact of a position as we could manage (they did better than me, of course) and then stretched ourselves tall with arms extended to become great big trees! We finished as I finish every sacred circle time: by blessing each child by name. One at a time, with each child's consent, I trace a heart on their forehead or hand with my finger and, using their name, say the words, "You are a blessing."

Both the Christian Education Ministry and my Sunday morning volunteers have been gracious in supporting and assisting my exploration of this new approach. It gets all the ages together (our youth generously participate in this activity despite it being primarily for the littles) and it combines wonder, Bible stories, prayer, community, and playfulness. After the sacred circle time, our younger kids are invited to play, and our youth and I transition to a discussion or activity that is "more their age" and complimentary of Confirmation.

There are kinks to be worked out – and I'm not done with the fabulous curriculum *Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints* — but the kids seem to be enjoying this so far! Of course, it's not quite as fun as that 4th of July pinata we smashed...but what is?!

Halley Kim,
Pastoral Assistant

THE VEHICLE FAIR...
A good time
had by all!



WORSHIP NOTES FOR OCTOBER 2021

This schedule is subject to change, as need may arise.

Sunday worship each week will be shared in person for those who wish to attend and streamed live on YouTube, starting at 9:55am (bit.ly/FCCWG-YT).

At the time of publication, masking is required in the Sanctuary and in the halls of the church.

What a month we have in store, as we experiment with new forms and formats while continuing to experience our comfortable and meaningful traditions.

October 3 is our annual observance of **World Communion Sunday**, when we are reminded of our unity with Christians everywhere. Pastor Dave Denoon will offer a Message of the Day called **“Binding”** and focused on the meaning and purpose of Christian rites and sacraments, using Mark 10:2-12 as his starting point. This is also the day when we collect the **Neighbors in Need special offering** (NIN) which benefits our denomination’s outreach through partner agencies across the country. A great portion of NIN is distributed to organizations and churches serving Native American people. Our national Justice and Witness Ministries benefit also. *(Due to an unavoidably late distribution of the Covenant News, this announcement will reach you after October 3, but you can still contribute to NIN from our website’s Donate page or by sending a check to “FCCWG” with the letters NIN included in the memo line.)*

Some of you may have noticed the message in our signboards on Elm and Lockwood: We are located on lands of the Wazhazhe and Niutache peoples. For Sunday of the weekend of Indigenous Peoples Day, **October 10**, we will honor these folk – commonly called “Osage” and “Missouria” – who inhabited until about 1830 the area on which our building is located (Message of the Day: **“Dis-Ease”** based on Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16; and Mark 10:17-31). **Worship will be outdoors** on the west side of the building with seating around tables and an invitation to all members and friends to bring their animal companions for a **Pet Blessing** during the course of the service; photos and heartfelt memories may serve in place of furry, feathery, or scaly friends. If it rains, we’ll move the service into Memorial Hall. (ONLINE WORSHIPERS, PLEASE NOTE: This service will not be streamed live, but a recorded version will be uploaded on Sunday afternoon.)

Children’s Sabbath will take place on October 17. This is an observance occurring throughout the weekend from October 15-17 among Islamic, Jewish, and Christian communities. Picking up on the “children” theme, Pastor Dave will focus on Jesus’ insistence in Mark 9:33-37 and 10:13-16 that faithful people will be **“Childlike.”** After worship, we will conduct our annual **Budget Meeting**. The **Canterbury Bells** will join our musical jubilation!

An Invitation to Commitment will be expressed to us by our Stewardship Committee, **October 24**, as we begin the encouragement of the Congregation to support our 2022 Budget. Lest we forget the broadness of our commitment to stewardship, our **Journey through Creation** series will be featured this Sunday. **Rev. Elston McCowan** will speak about how environmentalism takes a turn about which we all should be aware, as we consider the impact of toxic substances in buildings and other structures in our cities, especially lead poisoning. The **Oikos Ensemble** will be featured. After worship, join Elston for an Adult Education-style talkback about the issues he has raised and how First Church might be part of the solution.

Worship for all ages will be offered on **October 31**. It’s Reformation/Reconciliation Sunday but also Halloween. Costumes are encouraged, not only for young people, as Wonder Woman **Halley Kim** brings up the matter of loving truly (Mark 12:18-34) and Pastor Dave leads a “messy church” session. Newcomer **Katie Noland**, a gifted worship leader, guitarist, and singer, joins Dr. Leon Burke III in affirming our prayers for spiritual restoration, both reformed and reforming!

FROM THE ORGANIST'S BENCH



Friends, it is good to get back in the swing of a regular church year. The Canterbury Bells are preparing for October and beyond and the Chancel Choir is rehearsing for October and November. How about Klezundheit!? A lot of energy for a Sunday morning, eh?

In October we have an embarrassment of riches, musically speaking. The Intercultural Music Initiative Chamber concert which was initially scheduled for October 10th at 3:00 pm has moved to October 17th at 3:00 in the sanctuary. On October 24th we have the Oikos Ensemble with Jan Barnes and Cliff Aerie bringing us ***Journey Through Creation*** during worship and

at 3:00 pm we will have Artist Presentation Society Winner, soprano Anna Laurenzo in recital in the sanctuary.

Our 5th Sunday of October is on Halloween! Be prepared for surprises. If any of our youth would like to play an instrumental solo let me know. I will be having students from the Community Music School and a group from Paraguay to enhance our worship during October and November.

Leon Burke, Music Director

IN APPRECIATION

We are a multi-talented church community that serves the church and its members in a variety of significant ways. It is important that we express our appreciation for the work people do. With that in mind, we will, from time to time, use this space in the Covenant News to formally acknowledge many of those who serve.

This month we should acknowledge the expertise and work of **Jenny Jones** who secured two Payroll Protection Grants from the federal government that helped us meet expenses during the pandemic. This kept us from being in a truly embarrassing financial position. Thank you, Jenny.

We also need to say thanks to several of our members who keep in touch with members through visits, phone calls and notes. Many serve in this way, but of particular note are the contributions of **Faye Dyer, Carolyn Woodsmall** and **Kay Roush**. Their consistent attention to the needs of others over many years reflects the true meaning of being part of a Christian Community.

Laurel Hayes and her husband, **Bill Barrett** are, and have been, in need of considerable help as they struggle with injuries and illness. Among those deserving our thanks for this important ministry are: **Laura Cooper, Judy Borutta, Linda Kopetti, Faye Dyer, Simon Kim, Annie Sampath, Mary Edwards, Luke Ferguson, and Rosemary Hensley**. The Hayes/Barrett family continues to need our support, so please sign up at <http://carecalendar.org> to provide them a meal during October (login: 299440, passcode: 5500).

NEWS FROM CLIFF AERIE AND MICA



The Oikos Ensemble will be performing in worship on Sunday, October 24. This will be the final journey thru creation service sponsored by the vital worship grant from the Calvin Institute of Worship. During the past year we've held webinars, worship services and a community-wide jazz concert, **Earth Walk**. It's been a year of learning more about the ecological world, and our role as stewards of God's creation, individually and as a church.

Our guest preacher will be our own Elston McCowen. His message will focus on environmental racism and is titled ***"I Can't Breathe."*** The Logos Readers, under the direction of Jan Barnes, will assist in the liturgy and joining me in the band

will be Kim Fuller Barnes (vocal), Carolbeth True (piano), Glen Smith (bass) and David True (drums). We'll be leading hymns, performing jazz standards and sharing a jazz message with the children. It promises to be an amazing worship experience.

Since this will be the culminating event of our year-long program I hope you'll give your feedback to our Journey Thru Creation team members: Jan Barnes (co-project leader), Phil Shoulberg, John Paci, Elston McCowen, Debbie Tolstoi, Halley Kim, Leon Burke III, and Dave Denoon.

Journey Thru Creation is a program of MICA (Ministry of Imagination, Creativity and the Arts) and is made possible through a Vital Worship Grant from the Calvin Institute Of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc.

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 call Debbie at 314-962-0475 or send her an email at: admin@firstchurchwg.org and let her know how many bags you would like her to save for you.



OUR CHURCH DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

Excerpts From 2020 *Reflecting & Sharing* by Church Members

Joan Whitford

A few days ago, following a week of dreary weather, I woke up to a bright, sunny sky & decided to go outside and enjoy it. Although I live in an apartment that is in “Lockdown” due to the “Coronavirus Pandemic” residents are able to go out into our garden and walk around with the caveat they must wear masks and maintain a six-foot separation AKA “Social Distancing.” This was truly a blessing for me since I was feeling lonely, sad and worried and I wasn’t sure why. Yes, I know a mysterious virus has encapsulated our planet and even the best scientists are working hard to clarify the mystery but at this point it seems almost like a Si Fi movie.

Kay Roush

It is a different kind of life this springtime of 2020 because of Covid 19. Everyone has been directed to practice “social distancing” by staying home, doing virtual school, working from home, and no gathering for book clubs, attending events, not even weddings and funerals. This has turned out to be a great learning experience. I have learned that talking on the phone with relatives and friends is much more satisfying than texting. I have learned how to attend Zoom meetings and make many facemasks. I have tried ordering groceries on-line and found you don’t always get what you ordered. It is sad to hear of all the jobs lost and all the graduations that have been canceled. I am grateful for all the health care providers, other caregivers and essential employees who are working overtime. I am wondering when the stores, restaurants, theaters, sporting events, and hair salons will reopen. When will there be a vaccination to protect us from this virus? It is hard for me to have so many unknowns relating to getting back to normal. Maybe we will have a new normal!

Marj Courtney

I was supposed to have my daughter from Virginia visit here this month and have a long list of things for her younger knowledge to help with. But flights got canceled. One task was to help me access a Zoom Oasis presentation that I was unable to get, even though I did get signed up for Zoom. One of my two grandsons sent me a cordless phone for this room where the computer resides but I couldn't figure out how to get it to work, even after much coaching by email from him. My only success has been that I did get First Church's service last Sunday at 10:00 on my computer and I hope to do it again tomorrow.

Faye Dyer

On dreary days, I dive into my famous card supply and write to friends. On vacations I’ve always had to stop and buy postcards especially at museums and national parks. I send some immediately but keep many of them for later. The kids have always teased me about my vast card collection. Little did they know that I was preparing for a pandemic!

HELP! LIBRARY BOOKS MISSING!

The book inventory done this past summer revealed several library books are missing. Look around your house - people have told me they have found forgotten library books under newspapers, on their and on their children's book shelves. If you see any of the books listed below, please return them to the church library. Our library has a very small budget!

Adult Books

<i>The Mind Alive</i>	Overstreet
<i>The Acts of the Apostles</i>	
<i>The Heart of Christianity</i>	Borg
<i>Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power.</i>	Borg
<i>Image Breaking Image Building</i>	Clark
<i>The Complete Bible: An American Translation</i>	
<i>The World Almanac & Book of Facts</i>	
<i>The Quiet Crisis</i>	Udall
<i>The Discomfort Zone</i>	Franzen
<i>Harpers Topical Concordance</i>	Charles
<i>The Jerusalem Bible</i>	
<i>New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures</i>	
<i>The Apocrypha According to the Authorized Version</i>	

Children's Books

<i>Meet Martin Luther King, Jr.</i>	DeKay
<i>The Beginners Bible Treasury of Stories</i>	
<i>I Spy: a Book of Picture Riddles</i>	Wick
<i>Fred and Ted Go Camping</i>	Eastman
<i>My Dog Talks</i>	Herman
<i>When the Cows Got Out</i>	Koch
<i>Summer</i>	Low
<i>Make Way For Duckings</i>	McCloskey
<i>Journey Cake, Ho!</i>	Sawyer
<i>The Way Mothers Are</i>	Schlein
<i>The Don't Touchables</i>	Peterson

Jazz Happy Hour

*in the
Jubilee Garden*

Wednesday, October 13

5:00 to 7:00 pm

Bring a chair and your favorite beverage
Music, light snacks and child care provided

Bring your friends and neighbors!



Kathy Weyhrich
Linda Smith
Lynn Stewart
Patrick Byrne
Ian Didriksen
Jean Shoulberg
Rod Cooper

October 3
October 5
October 5
October 7
October 7
October 8
October 10

Barney Kitchen
Marilyn Claggett
Judy James
Pete Grace
Carol Mallette
Mark Lauenstein
Dave Denoon

October 11
October 18
October 19
October 24
October 26
October 30
October 30

OUR GROUPS – OCTOBER

Practicing Our Faith

Practicing Our Faith is a small group of women that has met for over 10 years. The group includes women from our church as well as the community. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the Inglis Room (unless noted), at 6:30 pm, to support each other on life's journey. We generally read one or two books each year and use the books as a starting point for discussion.

We are currently reading *Women Rowing North* by Mary Pipher. The next book we are considering is *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter* by Susan Monk Kidd.

We are always open to new members. Feel free to contact any of the current members for questions.

Members include:

Jan Barnes, Jeanene Harris, Halley Kim, Ann Leonard, Barb Moore, Lynda Morrison, Libby Reimers
Linda Smith, Chris von Wiese, Andrea Welnick

Lady Elect — October

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.

SAGE

SAGE's first event is right around the corner. Our visit to the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12 at 10:00AM. We will enjoy a park ranger's talk about Grant and his wife Julia Dent. Our talk will be followed by a self-guided tour of White Haven, Julia's family home. For those who wish to extend our social time together, we plan to have lunch at Maggie O'Brien's Pub and Restaurant.

SAGE is open to all and we hope you'll join us. Please call Jane Porchey at 314-961-0283 and let her know if you plan to attend one or both parts of our day so that we can make appropriate reservations.

If you wish to carpool, meet in the east lot at church at 9:45.

We hope to see you there!

In-Person Adult Ed Presentations

October 24th – Pastor, Elston McCowan will be providing the sermon, which will include comments about environmental justice. This will be followed by a Q&A Adult Ed session exploring this topic in greater detail. Congregants have already expressed an interest in hearing Pastor Elston's thoughts on this salient issue, so this presentation should prove very engaging.

MANDATORY 10-DIGIT DIALING BECOMES EFFECTIVE ON OCTOBER 24, 2021

Get ready to change the way you dial your local calls!

What will be the new dialing procedure?

To complete all local calls, you will now need to dial **area code + telephone number**. This applies to all calls within your area code that are currently dialed with seven digits. Some states or providers may use 1 + area code + telephone number, such as CA and parts of the Midwest.

Who will be affected?

Anyone with a telephone number from your area code will need to make a change from 7-digit local dialing to 10-digit or 11-digit local dialing.

When will the change begin?

Beginning October 24, 2021, you must dial 10 or 11 digits (area code + telephone number) for all local calls. On and after this date, local calls dialed with only 7 digits may not be completed, and a recording will inform you that your call cannot be completed as dialed. You must hang up and dial again using the area code and the 7-digit number or 1+ area code and the 7-digit number.

What will you need to do?

In addition to changing your dialing patterns, all services, automatic dialing equipment, or other types of equipment that are programmed to complete calls to 7-digit local numbers will need to be reprogrammed to complete calls to 10-digit numbers or 1+10-digit numbers. Some examples are life safety systems or medical monitoring devices, PBXs, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, fire or burglar alarm and security systems or gates, speed dialers, mobile or other wireless phone contact lists, call forwarding settings, voicemail services, and other similar functions. Be sure to check your website, personal and business stationery, advertising materials, checks, contact information, your personal or pet ID tags, other such items to ensure the area code is included.

What will remain the same?

- Your telephone number, including current area code, will not change
 - The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the dialing change.
 - A local call now will remain a local call regardless of the number of digits dialed.
 - You will continue to dial 1+ area code + telephone number for all long-distance calls.
 - You can still dial just three digits to reach 711 (relay services) and 911 (emergency services).
- Any 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, or 811 services available in your community can still be reached by dialing their three-digit codes.

ROOM AT THE INN UPDATE

Shelter with a Purpose. Families with a Future

Thank you to our volunteers for giving support to so many in need.

The following information is for all of the volunteers who have been wondering how to connect with Room at the Inn - since we aren't traveling to congregations.

Please keep in mind that we prefer volunteers to be vaccinated and currently masks are required at our site.

If you are interested in any of the suggested opportunities, please give Cindy Warren a call at 314-209-9181 or email her at cwarren@roomstl.org.

Providing a Meal

We have two congregations that are providing a meal once a month for Room at the Inn. If you or your congregation are

interested in providing a meal, please contact me. The meal should feed between 20 - 24 people, with about 10 of those being children.

Providing a Dessert

A dessert for 20 people a few times a month is a real sweet treat. This could be homemade or store bough cookies, ice cream, brownies, cakes, pies, etc.

Providing Soda/Juice/Lemonade

Would you or your congregation be interested in providing soda, juice, or lemonade for the shelter?

Teaching a Skill

Do you enjoy crafting, crocheting, or some other fun skill? We invite you to visit our shelter and share your skill.

Game Night

We welcome an evening of games for our families with light snacks and soda. We have quite a few games at Room at the Inn to choose from if you would like to participate in this type of event.

Skooters for Toddlers

Your congregation could donate a few outside toys for our toddlers. A few outside riding toys we'd like to have are:

Hey! Play! Zig Zag Ride-On-Vehicle by Lil Rider at Kohl's
Avenor Baby Balance Bike

Tutoring and Reading Buddy Program

If you are interested in being a part of our Tutoring Team, or becoming a part of our Reading Buddy program, please contact us.

- Tutoring - 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, one on one, one to two days a week tutoring, Mon - Thurs
- Reading Buddy - after school for 30 minutes to one hour, Mon - Thurs, reading to one or two children, books are provided, the reader can bring their own favorite books as well

Outings

Would you be interested in planning and providing the funds or transportation (driving) to take our clients on an outing? There are many outings in the St Louis area that families would enjoy (Grant's Farm, Pumpkin Patch, Boo at the Zoo, an area park, etc.).

Innkeeper

We currently have 4 volunteers that serve as innkeeper about once a month. Would you like to serve as innkeeper, or would be willing to be a substitute?

Office Help: Phones

If you would like to help answer phones, we can use you!

Providing the Essentials: Clothing Needs/Personal Hygiene

We have an essentials closet that contains everyday items our clients need for daily living. Our clients get their hygiene items, and clothing needs met from these items.. If you are interested in providing the "essentials" for our guests please contact Melanie Matthew, Program Coordinator @ mmatthew@roomstl.org or call 314-209-9181.

Item Needs: sweatshirts - men's - all sizes
 sweatpants - men's and women's - all sizes
 bras/sports bras

Playground Renovation


The first phase of our playground renovation has began. We are still receiving additional funds to help complete this project. If interested in making a contribution, please contact our director, David Weber, at dweber@roomstl.org or by phone at 314-209-9181.

Donations

We are continuing to receive only new items for donation due to Covid-19. Please call prior to donating any items.

Check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/RoomSTL>

OCTOBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 6:00 PM Vigil for Black Lives	2 6:30 PM Drag Queen Bingo
3 – Sacrament of Christ's Table – <i>World Communion Sunday</i> 9:00 AM Brown Baggers 9:00 AM Nursery Care Available 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Kids Church 11:05 AM Fellowship	4 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B	5 1:00 PM Communications Team 6:30 PM Pastoral Relations Committee	6 9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Bridge Club	7 6:15 PM Canterbury Bells 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM Wonder & Wander (Zoom)	8 6:00 PM Vigil for Black Lives	9
10 – <i>Indigenous People, Pet Blessing</i> 9:00 AM Nursery Care Available 10:00 AM Worship (Outdoors) 10:15 AM Kids Church 11:05 AM Fellowship	11 1:00 PM Center for Counseling and Healing 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B 7:00 PM Three Ministries (Zoom) 7:00 PM Stewardship Committee	12 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Practicing Our Faith	13 9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene 5:00 PM Jazz Happy Hour - Jubilee Garden 6:00 PM Bridge Club	14 6:15 PM Canterbury Bells 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM Wonder & Wander (Zoom)	15 6:00 PM Vigil for Black Lives	16
17 9:00 AM Nursery Care Available 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Kids Church 11:05 AM Fellowship 3:00 PM IMI Concert Series	18 4:00 PM Executive Ministry (Zoom) 4:00 - 8:00 PM Visitation: Bob Buerk (Kutis Funeral Home) 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B	19	20 9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Bridge Club	21 6:15 PM Canterbury Bells 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM Wonder & Wander (Zoom)	22 6:00 PM Vigil for Black Lives	23
24 9:00 AM Nursery Care Available 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Kids Church 11:05 AM Fellowship 11:15 AM Adult Ed 3:00 PM Concert Series – APS award winner, Anna Lorenzo (soprano) in recital	25 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B	26 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Lady Elect	27 9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene 6:00 PM Bridge Club	28 6:15 PM Canterbury Bells 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM Wonder & Wander (Zoom)	29 6:00 PM Vigil for Black Lives	30
31 Reformation Day Reformation Sunday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Nursery Care Available 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Kid's Church 11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship						



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Contact Information

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Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of MICA – Rev. Cliff Aerie
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Eden Campus Chaplain – Laurel Hayes
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Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I
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Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

MEAL-A-MONTH OCTOBER

(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

MISSING SOMEONE?

Have you been missing someone for a while from worship and other church events? Please, let Pastor Dave Denoon or Mary Edwards, know. Either will be happy to follow up for you.

Follow us on

Facebook – www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/

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

YouTube – <http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT>

