

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

NOVEMBER 14, 2021

IN-GATHERING / STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY



*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.*

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 THE BELL

PRELUDE *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* Michael Praetorius

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME Joan Musbach

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**) from Psalm 127

Unless our God builds the house, the builders work in vain;

unless the Holy One guards the city, the sentries watch in vain.

In vain we get up too early and stay up too late, or overwork to make a living.

The truth is that God loves us and provides for us even while we sleep.

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *God Whose Giving Knows No Ending* R. L. Edwards, alt.
New Century Hymnal, No. 565, vv. 1,2,3 Tune: HOLY MANNA

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise:
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.

*PRAYER OF APPROACH

Eternal One, Silence from whom our words come; Questioner from whom our questions arise; Lover of whom all our loves are hints; Disturber in whom alone we find our rest; Mystery in whose depths we find healing and ourselves; enfold us now in your presence; restore to us your peace; renew us through your power; and ground us in your grace. Amen.

***SINGING GOD'S GLORY** *Glory to God in the Highest* Tune: PERUVIAN MELODY

The congregation repeats each line of the following after the Minister:

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory in the highest!
To God be glory forever!

Next, the Minister leads the congregation in harmonizing the following:

Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

*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 12:38-44

The Inclusive Bible

In his teaching, Jesus said, "Beware of the religious scholars who like to walk about in long robes, be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, and take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. These are the ones who swallow the property of widows and offer lengthy prayers for the sake of appearance. They will be judged all the more severely."

Jesus sat down opposite the collection box and watched the people putting money in it, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny.

Then Jesus called out to the disciples and said to them, "The truth is, this woman has put in more than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have put in money from their surplus, but she has put in everything she possessed from the little she had – all she had to live on."

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"That Old Abundance Sermon"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Share Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

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.

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Invitation

Stewardship Moment

We have considered together our thankfulness for God's immeasurably abundant blessings. We have imagined and affirmed new and renewing ministries of love. Many of us have considered ways in which we can step up our giving incrementally or give proportionally according to our incomes. Whether or not you have had the chance to make a commitment to First Church for 2022, we invite you to use the paper pledge form to make a commitment, or (if you are unable to do so at this time, or else have already done so) to leave the form blank. No matter what, in order to indicate your commitment before God to give of yourself and your means or abilities, we invite you to approach the basket with the word "Thankful" on it and place your form in it while the Stewardship Hymn is

sung. (Worshippers at home we invite to complete an online pledge form at www.FirstChurchWG.org/donate#pledge)

Stewardship Hymn

O Jesus, I Have Promised

John E. Bode, alt.

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
Remain forever near me, my Savior and my Friend:
OI shall not fear life's struggles if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will!
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control!
O speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul!

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be, too;
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow my Savior and my Friend.

Raising the Covenant (Unison)

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.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I Know My Redeemer Lives

Richard Wienhorst

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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](http://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, Joyce Berger, Shirley Chase, Paul Davis, Margery Gable, Charles Griffith, Bill & Shirley Moore
- 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, Herb Niemeyer
- 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

## **First Church's Habitat for Humanity workday is coming up a week from Saturday, November 20.**

We could use your help. It is a full day commitment, from 8:00 AM to 3:30PM. The worksite is at 3429 Park Ave, a couple blocks east of Grand, near Cardinal Glennon. Please consider helping with this project. I can promise that you will leave with a feeling of satisfaction, and probably learn some new skills. Sign up sheet is in the office, or you can call Debbie.

Phil Shoulberg

## **Six Volunteers Needed**

It's time to install the rainbow doors on Lockwood! We need SIX PEOPLE to help Chip and Halley with some manual labor! The doors and supplies are in Memorial Hall and must be transported to the hill on the Lockwood side of our property. This will take place on **Thursday November 18th at 10AM**. Many hands make light work! Contact Halley to volunteer!

## **Care Calendar**

Welcome to the world **Benton Nicholas Prange**! Erin, Phil, and Warner Prange welcomed Baby Benton on November 5th at 2:45pm. He weighed in at 6lbs 15oz and mother and baby are both doing well! His name is a nod to the Benton Park neighborhood where the Pranges used to live and have many fond memories. Please sign up to provide a meal to the Prange family during this joyous and busy time! Go to <https://www.carecalendar.org/> and use the login "301383" and the security code "8159" to sign up. Thank you for supporting the Pranges!

Remember Katie Noland who provided the wonderful guitar music on 10/31 and whose family has attended on several Sundays? She and her husband Isaac have breakthrough COVID infections! Please consider providing a meal to this family of 5 while they are quarantined (Katie and Isaac have two teenagers and a 3yo). You can sign up to feed the Nolands at <https://www.carecalendar.org/> with the login "301377" and the security code "5973." If you don't cook, pizza delivery and Door Dash work! Thank you for helping this family!

## **Bird Feeder Ornaments Needed!**

On December 4 we will once again be decorating a Christmas Tree in the Jubilee Garden. We would love everyone to bring a bird feeder ornament for the tree again this year. Last year members made popcorn and or cranberry garland, and bird seed ornaments for the tree. Some of us used Cheerios. We made the discovery that not one bird or squirrel (or any other animal) touched the Cheerios!

***Stay tuned for more information about the Tree Decorating Party!***

## What's Going on at First Church this Week

### Sunday, November 14

9:00 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

### Monday, November 15

4:00 PM Executive Ministry (Zoom)

7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall

### Tuesday, November 16

10:30 PM Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, November 17

9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

6:00 PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

### Thursday, November 18

#### Veteran's Day

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells - Practice

7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G - Parlor

7:30 PM Chancel Choir - Practice

### Friday, November 19

6:00 PM Vigil for Black Lives

### Saturday, November 20

8:00 AM Habitat Workday

5:00 PM APS award winner, Leah Stevens (flute) in recital – Sanctuary.

## “Wonder and Wander”

“Wonder and Wander” is a 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 on Wednesdays at 2:00pm for a fun and enlightening Zoom conversation about reimagining faith. *Each week's installment is recorded for streaming later.* View the series on YouTube at [bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)

## November Birthdays

Eric Breitenbach - November 1

Braeden Hood - November 2

Lynda Morrison - November 2

Becky Ruder - November 3

Paul Wentzien - November 4

Trina Hill - November 7

Andrea Welnick - November 9

Carrie Herrick - November 11

Bill Moore - November 11

Jan Ver Hagen - November 11

Nina Thompson - November 12

Joseph Weyhrich - November 13

Peter McHugh - November 15

Lili Calder-Smith - November 17

Jean Kohler - November 17

Rick Herrick - November 18

Carolyn Woodsmall - November 18

Jennifer Monaco - November 19

Ellie Paci - November 19

Mark Smith - November 22

Shirley Moore - November 23

Chris von Weise - November 25

Kristy Barton - November 27

Charleston McCoy - November 27

Pat Schutte - November 27

Anton Didriksen - November 30

Joan Musbach - November 30

## Fresh Pecans have Arrived!

The fresh pecans just arrived. Debbie will be bagging them up on Monday. Please give her a call in the office to arrange a time to pick yours up. We still have close to 30 bags left, so feel free to let Debbie know how many bags you would like. They are \$14 per bag.

## **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

## **Meal-A-Month November**

*(Please leave donations in boxes in Narthex)*

Canned Salmon or Tuna (in water) • Canned Spinach (no salt) • Applesauce (in plastic, no sugar added)  
Powdered Milk • Shelf Stable Milk • Soy Milk • Soap • Deodorant • Toilet Paper





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

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