

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves

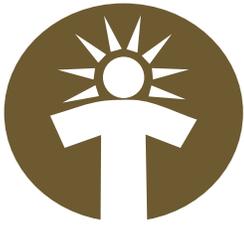
United Church of Christ

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

NOVEMBER 21, 2021

REIGN OF CHRIST

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*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

*Thanksgiving Day Acclamation*  
Canterbury Bells

K. Kosche

### LIGHTING THE CANDLES

#### WELCOME

Andrea Welnick, *Announcer*

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

Grace to you and peace from the one who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before the throne of God, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the rulers of the earth.

**“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says our God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.**

#### \*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

*Not at All for Mighty Empire*

W. P. Merrill, ad.  
Tune: BEECHER

Not at all for mighty empire, stretching far o’er land and sea,  
Not alone for bounteous harvests lift we up our hearts to thee.  
Standing in the living present, memory and hope between,  
Lord, we would with deep thanksgiving praise thee most for things unseen.

For the saintly sweet communion, lives that passed and left no name,  
For the glory that illumines humble souls of deathless fame,  
For the people’s prophet-leaders loyal to thy living Word,  
For all heroes of the spirit give we thanks to thee, O Lord.

#### \*RITUAL OF APPROACH

##### \**Lament* (Litany)

*Response to each petition made by a worship leader:*  
**Have mercy on us, O God.**

##### \**Prayer for Forgiveness* (Responsive)

God of grace and truth, we ask your forgiveness and pray we may recast our priorities to those of your Child, so that we may joyously sing with the saints of the sages on this special day of thanksgiving and worship:

*Choral response:*

**Not for battleship and fortress, not for conquests of the sword,  
But for conquests of the spirit, we give thanks to you, O Lord:  
For the heritage of freedom, for the home, the church, the school,  
For visions of peace with justice, in a land the people rule. Amen.**

*\*Words of Assurance (Responsive)*

The God of grace bestows forgiveness on those who seek it and who express a readiness and willingness to repent and radically change their ways. My friends, take heart: we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God! 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**

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

**THE WORD SHARED**

Andrea Welnick

*From the Gospels*

John 18:33-38

New Revised Standard Version, ad.

Pilate entered the headquarters, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My dominion is not from this world. If my dominion were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my dominion is not from here."

Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?"

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world: to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Judean leaders again and told them, "I find no case against him."

*Response.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*  
Canterbury Bells

arr. Lloyd Larsen

**SERMON**

*"What's the Good Word?"*

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God*

*Rev. Denoon*

*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.**

## WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

*Invitation*

*Offertory Music*

*We Gather Together*  
Canterbury Bells

arr. Lloyd Larsen

*\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

**God, we thank you for the good news we have realized in you: you have given us everything and received us as your own. Therefore receive our gifts that your realm on earth may be firmly established, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Martin Rinckart  
tr. Catherine Winkworth, ad.

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices,  
Who from our parents' arms hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
And keep us in good grace and guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ill in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Sovereign now be given,  
The Child and Spirit reigning there in highest heaven –  
The one eternal God whom earth and heaven adore,  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore!

**\*BENEDICTION**

words of John Dominic Crossan

**POSTLUDE**

*We Gather Together*  
Dr. Leon Burke III, organ

Thaddeus Cavuoti

**DISMISSAL**

Andrea Welnick

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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**

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
- All people who are living with dementia, their families, and their caregivers
- People we love who are living with cancer – Bill Barrett, Margaret Gustafson, 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

## **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 Noland family 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!

## **Keeping Up with the Joneses...**

Or maybe you could call this, "Helping the Joneses Keep Up." Antoine and Ruth Jones and their two children have recently moved into a house in Maplewood, after Antoine was able to return to work this week. They have received a lot of help from family and friends, but his layoff nine months ago in the midst of COVID meant that they lost every stick of furniture they had when they had to default on their storage locker payments.

If you have furniture, a TV stand (for a large tube TV), tableware, table cutlery, or anything else that you might consider essential for setting up house in a new home, please contact the Pastor who will put you in touch with the Jones family.

## **Gift Cards for Afghani Families Delivered to the International Institute**

On Tuesday, November 16th, Laura Cooper and Pat Doyle-Grace delivered the gift cards from First Church members to the International Institute on Arsenal for the Afghani families who are arriving daily in St. Louis. There was a total of \$480 on the cards for Aldi, Global Foods, Target and Schnucks. Thanks to all of you for your generous donations – they were appreciated greatly at the International Institute.

## **Fresh Pecans have Arrived!**

Debbie will be here at church today in the Narthex and Memorial Hall after worship. We still have about 20 bags left, so feel free to grab some pecans while you are here. They are \$14 per bag.

## 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

7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall  
7:00 PM Executive Ministry (Zoom)

### 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.

## Volunteers Sought for Sunday Live-streaming

Lead Audio-Visual Technician Mark Metcalf is seeking volunteers of any experience level (he will train you), to work with him adjusting cameras and other recording devices on Sunday mornings. Interested individuals should pay a visit to Mark in the A/V corner of the sanctuary, or contact Mark ([link](#)) at your earliest convenience.

## It's beginning to look a bit like Christmas

During the Advent Season we enjoy having our sanctuary beautifully decorated with poinsettias. You may take one home after the Christmas Eve service. If you wish, you may order a poinsettia for one of our members who are shut-in, to bring them a bit of holiday cheer. You are invited to make a contribution to defray this expense. We are asking for a donation of \$20.00 per poinsettia. You may also like to designate your contribution in celebration, honor or memory. We hold many in our hearts especially during the Advent season as we celebrate the hope and joy of the season. This is a lovely way to show those feelings. The forms are on the table in the Narthex.

## “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](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)

## 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. However, please NO Cheerios. Last year, we made the discovery that not one bird or squirrel (or any other animal) touched the Cheerios!

## Christmas Tree Decorating Party!

**Saturday, December 4, 2021 – 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

The elves are at it again! They have been planning and scheming, and figuring out how they can make this Christmas Tree Decoration Party better than the one we had last year. In addition to tree decorating and a bonfire, Leon will be leading us with a round of caroling at 11:30. We will be serving s'mores, hot chocolate, apple cider, and plenty of holiday cheer.

***Be sure to save the date for a fun all church gathering in the Jubilee Garden!***

## **Hanging of the Greens & Potluck**

It's time to get ready for our annual Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday December 12th

The sign up sheets will be available in the Narthex on November 28th and December 5th. You may also call or Email Carolyn Woodsmall ahead of these dates to sign up.

We will need Wreath Bearers, Candle Bearers, Creche Bearers, and Poinsettia Bearers. Don't miss being a part of our beautiful Christmas Service!

Call Carolyn Woodsmall at 314-440-2530 or email at [rewoodsmall@gmail.com](mailto:rewoodsmall@gmail.com).

Parish Life will be hosting a "Sweet or Savory Finger Foods Potluck" during coffee fellowship following Hanging of the Greens on December 12th. Please bring your snack already plated and ready to share.

## **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

## **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 W Lockwood (at Elm)  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
www.FirstChurchWG.org

## Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach  
JWMusbach@gmail.com

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon  
DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org

Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim  
Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi  
Admin@FirstChurchWG.org

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org

Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity  
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie  
cliff.aerie@gmail.com

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry  
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes  
laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing  
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I  
lesrhs@sbcglobal.net



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

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