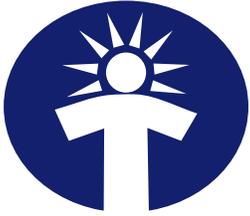


Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



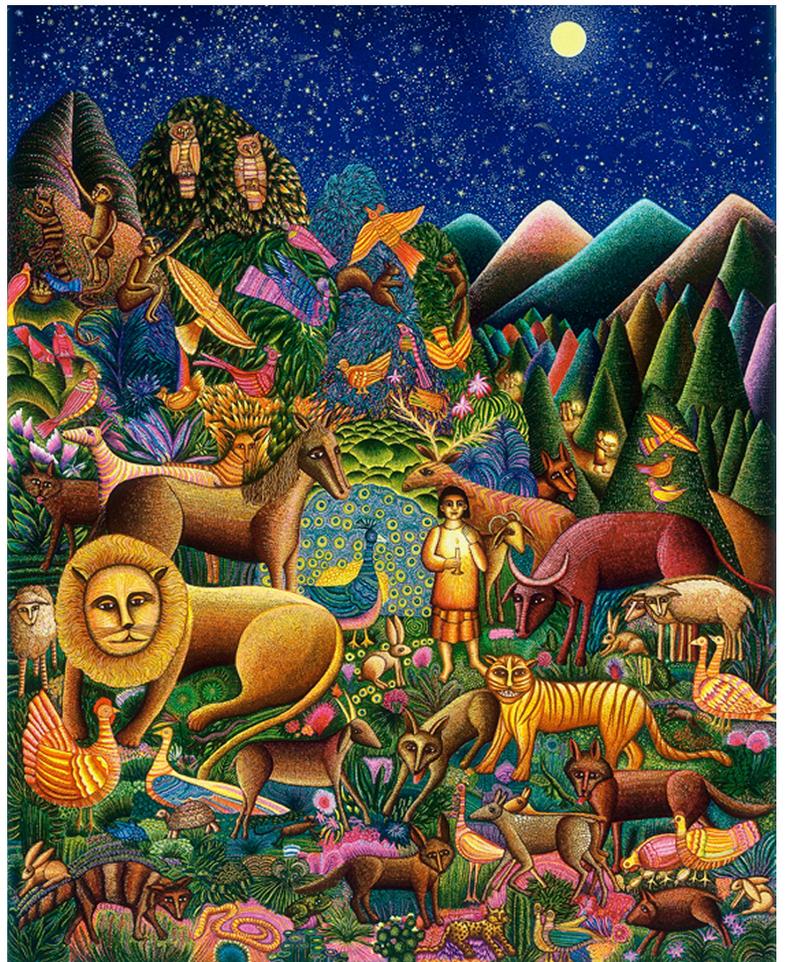
Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

NOVEMBER 28, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
BLUE CHRISTMAS

*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

GATHERING MUSIC

String Quartet Op. 77, No. 1

F. J. Haydn

WELCOME

Jane Porchey, *Announcer*

TOLLING THE TOWER BELL

PRELUDE

String Quartet Op. 59, No. 1 "Razumovsky"

L. von Beethoven

LIGHTING THE ALTAR CANDLES

AT THE ADVENT WREATH

One Family's Holiday Tradition

The Paci Family

Lighting the First Candle (Hope)

At last, the end of yet another year is near!

It's amazing how quickly this year crept on; how slowly it sped by.

In this hemisphere, the days are getting shorter,

and the nights are growing colder.

We are ready to receive the wisdom hidden in the darkest of nights.

We are eager to experience the warm embrace of brand-new days.

We long for the sustaining hope that will usher us into all that lies ahead.

We await the arrival of the One who shows us new ways of being.

New ways that draw us nearer to God and each other.

New ways that illuminate God-with-us in every circumstance.

Good news, great joy, all the people!

Light the first Advent candle.

We are hope-accepting and excited!

*HYMN OF THE DAY

In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina Rosetti

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.

Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,

In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

What can I offer, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise one, I would do my part;

But what can I offer? All my heart.

AT THE JESSE TREE

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

A shoot shall rise up from out of the stump of Jesse. *Isaiah 11:1*

First Church's Jesse Tree was lovingly designed and created by Bob McCoy (1927-2021) with assistance from Bob Woodsmall (1939-2016). The 31 ornaments displayed were crafted by a team of church members in cooperation with "the Bobs" and professional staff. It has been a prominent feature of our Advent seasons since it was introduced in 2011.

The Children may proceed to Kid's Church or return to their seats.

THE WORD SHARED

From the Writings

Psalm 13:1-4
A Psalm of David.

The Inclusive Bible

How long, O YHWH? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
Consider and answer me, O YHWH my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

Psalm 76
A Psalm of Asaph. A Song.

O God, you made yourself known in Judah;
your Name is great in Israel –
you set up your tent in Salem,
and Zion is your home.
There you broke the fiery arrows,
the shield, the sword, the weapons of war.

—*Selah*—

You are resplendent with light,
majestic on the mountains of the Lion:
their bravest warriors, despoiled, slept in death;
not a single warrior was able to lift a hand.
At your blast, O God of our ancestors,
both horse and chariots lie still.
You and you alone are to be worshiped.
Who can stand when your anger is roused?
You pronounced your sentence from the heavens;
the earth in terror was silent
when you arose to execute judgment,
to save the lowly of the earth.

—*Selah*—

Indeed, they will praise you
for the wrath you pour out on others,
and those who escape your wrath
will gather around you.
So make vows to YHWH your God –
and fulfill them.
Let neighboring lands bring their tribute
to the One who strikes terror,
who cuts short the breath of their leaders,
and strikes terror in the rulers of the earth.

ANTHEM

Blue Christmas
Martin Mills, soloist

Johnson & Hayes

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Songs of Future Past

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE DAY

Prayers of the Congregation

Guided Meditation

*CLOSING SONG

That Was the Year

Christopher Grundy

Christopher sings:

You were just two years old
so I doubt you'd recall
but your mother and I
still remember it all:
started slowly at first
neighbors gave away cars
started riding the bus
playing out in their yards
then the news from the war
started getting bizarre
personnel on both sides
just decided to farm
beat their guns into plows (Isa. 2:4)
turned their tanks to combines
all the generals would say
was, "We just changed our minds."

We were like ones who dream (Ps. 126:1)
when we saw on the news
all the doors swinging wide
at the prisons and zoos (Isa. 61:1)
they poured into the street
then all heaven broke loose
they met up at the park
convicts and kangaroos
So, we packed up some food
rode our bikes into town
and with wardens and walruses
gathering round
spread our feast on the grass (Lk. 13:29)
and you know I'll be damned
if there wasn't a grey wolf
lying right there with a lamb (Isa. 11:6)

Refrain (Please join in.)

And that was the year
that it all turned around
even lost as we were
scuffling there on the ground
still a new earth had come
we had somehow been found
and that was the year
that it all started turning round.

*BENEDICTION

2 Thessalonians 1:11-13

New Revised Standard Version

POSTLUDE

Nde Pukavy (Your Smile)

Trad. Paraguayan Melody

DISMISSAL

Jane Porchey

We welcome this morning, the **Hyapu Quartet**. Recent first place winners of the National Chamber Music Competition in Paraguay, the Hyapu Quartet gathered with us this morning, includes Patricia Barrios and Victor Romero, violins; Paulo Alionzo, viola; and Héctor Rodríguez, cello; with special guest Ana Armadans, flute.

We also welcome the Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy, professor of Preaching and Worship at Eden Theological Seminary and Dean of the Wehrli Chapel there. Christopher is also a celebrated recording artist in the Progressive Christian tradition.

ABOUT THE COVER ART

Peaceable Kingdom (1994) by John Swanson is a visual illustration of Isaiah 11:6-8: “The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them...” Swanson’s creative, visual re-telling of this biblical vision enables us to see the story through new eyes and rediscover the power and meaning of the story for our own lives. He challenges us to look at our lives, to re-examine our worldview, and see if we’re living as we should be.

~~~~~

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**

Erin, Phil, and Warner Prange welcomed Baby Benton on November 5th at 2:45pm. 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!

**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!***

**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!

**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.

**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 [rewwoodsmall@gmail.com](mailto:rewwoodsmall@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.

**Yankee Swap is Back!**

Get ready for a festive day — Hanging of the Greens in the morning and Yankee Swap in the afternoon.

On Sunday, December 12, from 2:00 to 5:00, at the home of Mike Lenard, we will enjoy a potluck meal and do our swapping of gifts.

Please bring:

- a main dish, salad, or dessert for the table.
- a homemade/handmade gift (unwrapped) for the gift exchange.

For questions or to RSVP (before December 8), call Garie Perry at 314-698-2614 or Jane Porchey 314-961-0283

Driving directions will be in the church office after Thanksgiving.

**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.

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

### Sunday, November 28

#### Advent

9:00 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

### Monday, November 29

7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall

### Tuesday, November 30

10:30 PM Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, December 1

9:30 AM ~~Yoga with Jeanene~~ - No Yoga in December

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

### Thursday, December 2

8:30 AM Journeymen - Parlor

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells - Practice

7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G - Parlor

7:30 PM Chancel Choir - Practice

### Friday, December 3

6:00 PM Vigil for Black Lives

### Saturday, December 4

11:00 AM Christmas Tree Decorating Party in the Jubilee Garden

## November & December Birthdays

Anton Didriksen - November 30

Joan Musbach - November 30

Thomas Waltz - December 6

Dennis Barnes - December 11

Earl Rinne - December 12

Nannelle Griffith - December 13

Dan Claggett - December 14

Amanda McCoy - December 16

Janet Fales - December 24

Terri Thompson - December 26

Darrell - Lakies - December 26

## December Meal-a-Month

Canned Ham

Brown Rice

Instant Mashed Potatoes

Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)

Canned Fruit in own juices

Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk

Baby Fruits

Baby Vegetables

Baby Cereal

## 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



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

## Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach  
[JWMusbach@gmail.com](mailto:JWMusbach@gmail.com)

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon  
[DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org)

Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim  
[Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org)

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi  
[Admin@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Admin@FirstChurchWG.org)

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
[Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org)

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
[cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto: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](mailto:cliff.aerie@gmail.com)

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry  
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes  
[laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net)

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing  
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I  
[lesrhs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lesrhs@sbcglobal.net)

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

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

