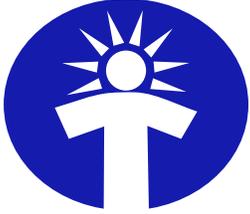


# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



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

DECEMBER 5, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE

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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

WELCOME

Bob Moody, *Announcer*

TOLLING THE TOWER BELL

LIGHTING THE ALTAR CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Introspection on "Schönster Herr Jesu"*

M Radice

AT THE ADVENT WREATH

*One Family's Holiday Tradition*

The Hill Family

*Lighting the Second Candle (Peace)*

In this time of preparing and waiting, we long for even just a glimpse of peace.

**There's so much noise around us that disturbs any semblance of peace.**

All over the world and throughout this continent, country, state, city, town, village,  
**we are hyper-aware of divisions and conflict that tear us apart.**

Even in our own workplaces, schools, homes, and bodies, peace evades us.

**We need the arrival of the One who provides everlasting peace.**

And so, we are preparing the way and readying ourselves,

**to receive guidance and seek courage,**

to welcome a tiny and helpless little baby who changes the world  
**and makes life possible for everyone.**

*Light the first two Advent candles.*

Good news, great joy, all the people!

**We are peace-seeking and excited!**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

*Now Is the Time Approaching*

J. L. Borthwick

Now is the time approaching by prophets long foretold,  
when all shall dwell together, secure and manifold.

Let war be learned no longer, let strife and tumult cease,  
all earth a blessed garden that God shall tend in peace.

Let all that now divides us remove and pass away,  
like mists of early morning before the blaze of day.

Let all that now unites us more sweet and lasting prove,  
a closer bond of union, in blessed lands of love.

O long-expected dawning, come with your cheering ray!

Yet shall the promise beckon and lead us not astray.

O sweet anticipation! It cheers the watchers on  
to pray, and hope, and labor till Christ's new realm is come.

\*RITUAL OF APPROACH

*\*Confession and Assurance*

Prepare the way for God. Make clear a direct path.

**We are thrilled to welcome the coming Christ child into our midst!  
Preparations are underway, and yet they sometimes block God's path  
to our hearts and clutter our ability to fully perceive the Gift of this  
season. We lose ourselves in the competitive clutches of the**

**accumulation of things. we measure our worth against productivity and busyness, deepening our disconnection from God and each other. Forgive us, God of peace. Remove the glamorous illusions that prevent us from being holy and whole.**

*Silence for personal confessions.*

Unending peace awaits us! You, God, are tender and merciful. You unrelentingly draw us deeper into your serenity, saving us from our own chaos.

**Good news, great joy, all the people!**

**\*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.**

**AT THE JESSE TREE**

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

*The children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.*

*Afterward, they may proceed to Sunday School classes, or return to their seats.*

**THE WORD SHARED**

*From the Epistles*

Hebrews 10:5-10

The Inclusive Bible

This is what Jesus said, on coming into the world:

“You who wanted no sacrifice or offering prepared a body for me.

In burnt offerings or sacrifices for sin you took no pleasure.

Then I said, just as it was written of me in the scroll of the book,

‘God, here I am!

I have come to do your will.’ ”

In saying that God doesn't want burnt offerings and sacrifices – which are offered according to the Law – and then saying, “I have come to do your will,” Jesus abolishes the first in order to establish the second. By God's will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

*From the Gospels*

Luke 1:39-45

New Revised Standard Version, ad.

<sup>39</sup> Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered her kinswoman Elizabeth's house and greeted her. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

<sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

<sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

*Response.*

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

*“Embodying God’s Message  
of Peace”*

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

RITUAL FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S TABLE

*\*Introduction*

*\*Sursum Corda*

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*\*Prayers for Ourselves and Others*

*The Pastor will pause for prayer twice – once for spoken joys, once for spoken concerns.*

*\*Sanctus*

You are worth all our pain and all our praise. So we join our voices with those of the church on earth and in heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God most high. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Fraction*

*Consecration*

*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.**

*Communion*

***Instructions for receiving communion:*** *Maintaining safe social distance (at least 3 feet between groups), please approach the communion stewards from the diagonal aisle nearest your seat, at the indication of an usher, and partake as you receive the bread or drink (replacing the emptied cup in the tray). Bread is gluten free; grape juice is red, wine is white. Once you have received, please return to your seat by the center aisle (those seated in the northeast and northwest sections will have a longer way back).*

*\*Prayer after Communion (Unison)*

**We give you thanks, gracious God, that you come to us in bread and cup, and in the love of this gathered community. And now, send us forth from this table a nourished and empowered people that we may live your love, speak your peace, and sing your hope. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O Antiphons  
tr. J. M. Neale, alt.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lowly exile here, until the Child of God appear.

*Refrain.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high and order all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show, and help us in your ways to go. *Refrain.*

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;  
Love stir within the womb of night, and death's own shadows put to flight.

*Refrain.*

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

*Refrain.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *March* Henry Smart

**DISMISSAL** Bob Moody

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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 First Friends Hospitality Team**

Lelia & Eric Lindhorst, Doug Miller, Laura Cooper, Nancy Rudolph and Jeanene Harris

**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

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!

Our dear Herb Niemeyer is home from the hospital and rehab! Please consider providing dinner for him and Marilyn while he is regaining his strength. Sign up at <https://www.carecalendar.org/> and use the **login: 301680** and the **security code: 8940**. Please be careful to abide by Herb's dietary restrictions (denoted on the calendar). The calendar starts Dec 1st and runs through Jan. 1st with meals needed on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Thank you for caring for Herb and Marilyn during this tough time!

## Poinsettia Sponsorships

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 12<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex today. 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 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Coming Sunday, December 9  
at 3:00 PM**

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Concert  
Jazz Noel – *The Return of the Light***

Reimagining the Christmas Story  
Featuring Oikos, Jen Medina and the Logos Readers

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

### Sunday, December 5

#### *Sacrament of Christ's Table*

9:00 AM Brown Baggers

9:00 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

### Monday, December 6

7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall

### Tuesday, December 7

10:30 PM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Communications Team - Church

Office

6:30 PM Pastoral Relations Committee - Zoom

### Wednesday, December 8

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

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

### Thursday, December 9

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 10

6:00 PM Vigil for Black Lives

## December Birthdays

Tom Waltz December 6

David Brader December 10

Dennis Barnes December 11

Earl Rinne December 12

Nannelle Griffith December 13

Dan Claggett December 14

Amanda McCoy December 16

Janet Fales December 24

Darrell Lakies December 26

Terri Thompson December 26

Henry Breitenbach December 28

## 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

## 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.

## 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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