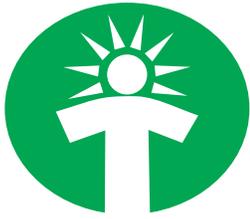


# Welcome!

**First Congregational Church of Webster Groves  
United Church of Christ**



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

**December 26, 2021**

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
FIRST DAY OF KWANZA'A (UMOJA - UNITY)**



*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 worshippers are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

*To share a joy or concern read from home, you please text 314-858-6710.*

**PRELUDE** *A Musical Introduction to Kwanza'a* Sonic Safari

**WELCOME** Jane Porchey, *Announcer*

**TOLLING THE BELL**

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Leader; People)**

Heavenly angels spoke to earthly inhabitants – Mary, Joseph, the shepherds,  
**and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem.**

As we reflect upon the Christ's childhood and youth,  
**let our temporal lives be caught up in the eternal in that same child,**  
that we might join his parents, those shepherds, and all the heavenly host  
**in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**\*RAISING THE COVENANT (Unison)** *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** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* Spiritual  
No. 154, *New Century Hymnal*

*Refrain.*

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold! throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain.*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain.*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain.*

**\*PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)**

**God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem, where the  
Light of the world is humbly born into the darkness of human night. Open  
our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world, so that we, like  
him, may become beacons of your justice, and defenders of all for whom  
there is no room. Amen.**

**NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY** *In the Spirit of Kwanza'a* Sonic Safari  
with Rev. Elston McCowan

**THE WORD SHARED**  
*From the Gospels*

Joyce Haynes-McCowan  
Luke 2:41-52

NRSV

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety."

He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them.

Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*"Who Was Lost?"*

Rev. McCowan

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*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, thy 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*Amen, Amen*

Spiritual

No. 161, vv. 1,2,6, *New Century Hymnal*

Amen, amen, amen, amen! *Congregation sings this 3 times, each verse.*

*Solo*

1. O see the little baby lying in a manger on Christmas morning.
2. See Jesus in the temple talking to the elders; how they marveled!
3. We're singing Alleluia! Jesus is my Savior, who lives forever!

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. McCowan

**POSTLUDE**

*Finale*

Sonic Safari

**DISMISSAL**

Jane Porchey

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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**

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, 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
- Peace with justice

## What's Going on at First Church

*The Office will close on Monday, December 27 and will reopen Tuesday, January 4.*

### **Sunday, December 26**

*First Day of Kwanaz'a*

**9:00 AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00 AM** **Worship**

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

### **Wednesday, December 29**

**9:30 AM** ~~Yoga with Jeanene~~ - No Yoga until January 19 (Tentative)

**6:00 PM - 9:30 PM** ~~Bridge Club - Inglis Room~~ - No Bridge

### **Friday, December 31**

**6:00 PM** Vigil for Black Lives

### **Sunday, January 2**

*Sacrament of Christ's Table*

**9:00 AM** Brown Baggers

**9:00 AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00 AM** **Worship**

**10:00 AM** Kid's Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

### **Monday, January 3**

**7:00 PM** Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall

### **Tuesday, January 4**

**10:30 AM** Staff Meeting

**1:00 PM** Communications Team - Church Office

### **Wednesday, January 5**

**9:30 AM** ~~Yoga with Jeanene~~ - No Yoga until January 19 (Tentative)

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

### **Thursday, January 6**

**6:00 PM** Canterbury Bells Practice

**7:00 PM** Scout Troop 301G - Parlor

**7:30 PM** Chancel Choir Practice

## **January Birthdays**

Michael Lenard January 1

Helen Moody January 1

Coco Denoon January 7

Faye Dyer January 7

Erin Prange January 8

Roger Barnes January 11

Ken Perry January 11

Marj Courtney January 12

Kin Lavender January 12

Richard Smith January 14

Joyce Berger January 17

Jan Barnes January 23

Bob Hill January 26

George Conlee January 28

David von Weise January 28

## **January Meal-a-Month**

Boxed Whole Grain Pasta • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)  
Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Cold Cereal (no sugar) • Plain Oatmeal (no sugar)  
Sugar free juices in plastic bottles

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

