

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JANUARY 2, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER 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

An asterisk () indicates that worshipers are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

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

WELCOME

Laura Cooper, *Announcer*

RINGING THE TOWER BELL

LIGHTING THE ALTAR CANDLES

PRELUDE

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

Adapted from Psalm 147:12-14, 20

Praise the holy One, all of you! Praise your God, O people!

Our God blesses our children and establishes peace among us.

The word of our God is declared to us with statutes and ordinances righteous and true.

God has not dealt with us as with those who do not know the word of the holy One. Let us all praise our God!

***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**

In Christ There Is No East or West
No. 394, vv. 1,2,4, *New Century Hymnal*

John Oxenham

In Christ there is no East or west, in Christ no South or North;
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.

In Christ now meet both east and West, in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth!

***PRAYER OF APPROACH** (Unison)

You call us to your purposes, O God, not to our own. For we have a tendency to be self-serving, petty, and sometimes cruel. We can be more interested in retribution than in restoration. We do not love as you love. But you have shown us a way of grace, a way toward peace, and it is that way of tolerance which we approach now. What work you can do to transform us into your true, faithful, spiritual children, we pray that you would do. But we know that this is our work too; help us accept and love each other. Receive our worship as we open our hearts to receive you, by Christ's example and in Christ's name. Amen.

***SINGING GOD’S GLORY**

New Century Hymnal, No. 125, refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

SHARING THE WORD

Laura Cooper

From the Epistles

Ephesians 1:3-14

NRSV, ad.

Blessed be the God and Parent of our Ruler Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before God in love. We were destined by God for adoption as God’s children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of God’s will, to the praise of God’s glorious grace freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Christ, we have redemption through the Savior’s blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of God’s grace lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight there has been made known to us the mystery of God’s will, this according to God’s good pleasure set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things according to godly counsel and divine will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of God’s glory. In Christ, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had placed faith in Christ, you also were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of God’s glory.

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“The Challenge of Tolerance”

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S TABLE

**Expressions of Joy and Concern*

**Invitation*

**Communion Prayer*

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God most high.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**Sanctus*

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

Acclamation

As it was for him, death shall not overtake us, but we shall live, and therefore we say boldly what we know: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Prayer of Our Savior

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.

Consecration

Communion

Ushers will indicate to worshipers when they may move forward by the diagonal aisles to a communion station. Communion is served by intinction: one takes a piece of bread, dips it in the juice, and consumes immediately or at one's seat.

Once they have received communion, worshipers return to their seats by the center aisle; for those in the northeast and northwest seating areas, this will mean a bit longer of a walk than for those in the center sections. If you are unable to come forward for this portion of the service, please alert an usher so that the elements may be brought to you.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)*

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, with a renewed sense of purpose to make your unity and harmony our own. Fed by your Holy Spirit, let us be reminded always to seek Christ in each and serve God in all, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Help Us Accept Each Other
No. 388, vv. 1,3, *New Century Hymnal*

Fred Kaan

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

BENEDICTION

On Life Together

Patricia Jansen Schutz

May we see each other
with eyes that see only love,
hear each other
with hearts filled only
with compassion;
may we hold out our hands
to lift up all who fall,
embrace those who cry,
and receive the gift
of human being.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL

Laura Cooper

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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

## **Peace & Justice Team Meeting – Sunday, January 4 at 11:15AM**

Members of our Peace & Justice Team invite other concerned members and friends to join them for a “futuring” discussion about bearing witness in our community to God’s call for justice and peace.

## **MLK Day of Service – January 17**

On January 17th — Martin Luther King Jr. Day — we will be hosting a Day of Service for the community from 1-4pm. This will be a drive to collect items for Webster Rock Hill Ministries (stay tuned for list of desired items!), in our east parking lot. Donors will be invited to drop off their items in a drive-thru fashion, and then that’s where you come in! We are seeking 20 eager volunteers to sort, package, and deliver the goods! Two shifts will be available: 12-3pm and 2-5pm. This will be a fun opportunity to bond as a church community as well as a means to bless our neighbors. Sign up here to volunteer: <https://tinyurl.com/2022DOS>

## **What’s Going on at First Church**

### **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

**11:15 AM** Peace & Justice Team Meeting

### **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

**7:00 PM** Day of Service Planning Team – Zoom

### **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  
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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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<https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchwg/>

YouTube

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

