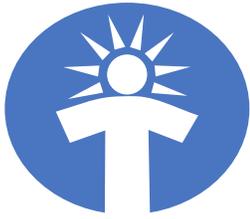


Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JANUARY 9, 2022

CELEBRATION OF THE EPIPHANY



*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.*

***PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)**

O God, you made all nations out of one blood, and by a star in the East you revealed to all peoples the One whose name is Emmanuel. Enable us who know that you are with us to proclaim Christ's unsearchable riches, so that all may come to your Light and bow before the brightness of your Child's rising. This we pray in the name of Jesus our Emmanuel, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

***SINGING GOD'S GLORY** *Gloria in Excelsis Deo* Tune: Gloria (Refrain)
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

SHARING THE WORD

From the Prophets

Isaiah 60:1-6

New Revised Standard Version

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the YHWH's glory has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the holy ONE will arise upon you,
and God's glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and regents to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim YHWH's praise.

From the Epistles

Ephesians 3:2-11

The Message (Eugene Peterson)

I take it that you're familiar with the part I was given in God's plan for including everybody. I got the inside story on this from God himself, as I just wrote you in brief.

As you read over what I have written to you, you'll be able to see for yourselves into the mystery of Christ. None of our ancestors understood this.

Only in our time has it been made clear by God's Spirit through the holy apostles and prophets of this new order. The mystery is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of him all their lives (what I've been calling outsiders and insiders) stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, same help, same promises in Christ Jesus. The Message is accessible and welcoming to everyone, across the board.

This is my life work: helping people understand and respond to this Message. It came as a sheer gift to me, a real surprise, God handling all the details. When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities.

And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

All this is proceeding along lines planned all along by God and then executed in Christ Jesus.

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Recitative: *For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth* G. F. Handel
Aria: *The People Who Walked in Darkness*
from *Messiah*

MESSAGE OF THE DAY *The Challenge of Tolerance:* Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*
II. *A Toddler's Tolerance*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

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; 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.

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

Halley Kim

*PARTING HYMN

I Am the Light of the World
584, vv. 1,4, *New Century Hymnal*

Jim Strathdee
inspired by Howard

Thurman

Refrain.

“I am the light of the world! You people, come and follow me!”
If you follow and love, you’ll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
When the sages and the shepherds have found their way home,
The work of Christmas is begun: *Refrain.*

To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a baby’s new birth,
To make music in an old person’s heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth! *Refrain.*

*BENEDICTION

Response: O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

POSTLUDE

We Three Kings of Orient Are

John A. Stallsmith

DISMISSAL

Phil Shoulberg

~~~~~

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)).

**Thank you to this Week’s First Friends 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, 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

## **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>

## **Care Calendar Continues for Herb & Marilyn**

January is still challenging, as Herb continues strengthening after a long course of treatment. Herb Niemeyer and Marilyn Davis are deeply appreciative of the meals — and the visits — our church community provided to them over the month of December! So, a few more meals from friends would be greatly helpful to him (and to Marilyn as she supports him in his recovery). Marilyn relays that Herb remains weak with little endurance, and a few more meals would be greatly helpful to them. Please consider providing dinner for them on an upcoming Wednesday evening (and note their dietary restrictions when signing up): [carecalendar.org](http://carecalendar.org) (Calendar ID: 301680, Security code: 8940).

## **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.

## **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

## **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

10 W. Lockwood Ave. | Webster Groves, MO 63119

visit <http://firstchurchwg.org/donate> to make an electronic contribution or scan the QR code



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

*Please note that, due to Covid restrictions, Coffee Fellowship has been cancelled for the month of January*

### **Sunday, January 9**

**Epiphany**

**9:00 AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids' Church

### **Tuesday, January 11**

**10:30 AM** Staff Meeting

**6:30 PM** Confirmation Class

**6:30 PM** Practicing Our Faith – Inglis Room

### **Wednesday, January 12**

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

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

### **Thursday, January 13**

**8:30 PM** Journeymen

**9:35 AM** Tornado Response Coordination

**6:00 PM** Canterbury Bells Practice

**7:00 PM** Scout Troop 301G – Parlor

### **Friday, January 14**

**10:00 AM** Memorial Service: Fred W. "Bill"  
Moore

### **Sunday, January 16**

**Epiphany**

**9:00 AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids' Church

### **Monday, January 17**

**1:00 – 4:00 PM** MLK Day of Service

### **January Birthdays**

Michael Lenard – January 1

Helen Moody – January 1

Simon Kim – January 6

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



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

## Contact Information

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Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

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Director, Center for Counseling & Healing  
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*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

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Facebook

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

YouTube

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

