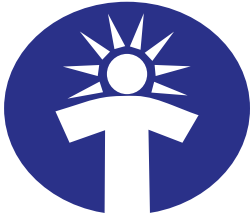


Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JANUARY 23, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
ECUMENICAL SUNDAY



*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.*

If you would like a personal joy or concern read aloud and you are at home, you may text 314-858-6710, or fill out a prayer card, found in the pew box.

Due to the surge of infections from the Omicron variant of Covid 19, we are requiring that everyone wear a mask indoors at First Congregational Church.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Erin Prange, *Announcer*

TOLLING OF THE TOWER BELL

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**) from Psalm 19

The law of the holy ONE is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the holy ONE are sure, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the holy ONE are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the holy ONE is clear, enlightening the eyes.

More to be desired are they than gold, even more than fine gold.

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O holy ONE, my rock and my redeemer.

*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

Unite, and Join Your Cheerful Songs

James O'Kelly

(New Century Hymnal, No. 617, vv. 1,2,4)

Unite, and join your cheerful songs with angels 'round the Throne;
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues, yet all their joys are one.

This is the way the Church should strive, in harmony, below;
As members of one body live, one Sovereign shall you know.

Assist us, all above the sky, on earth, and on the seas;
Unite, and raise God's honors high, in hymns of endless praise.

*RITUAL OF APPROACH (Responsive)

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

*Corporate Confession

Prayer of a Reluctant Leader

Joe Seremane

Redeeming God, you asked for my hands so that you could use them for your

purpose.

I gave them for a moment and then withdrew for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth to speak against injustice.

I gave you a whisper so that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.

I closed them for I did not want to know.

You asked for my life so that you might work through me.

I gave you a fractional part so that I might not get involved.

God, forgive me for calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient to do so, only in places where it is safe to do so.

Creator God, forgive me, renew me, and send me out as a usable instrument so that I may take seriously the meaning of your cross.

**Silent Meditation*

**Assurance*

The mercy of God is upon us, extended through the Holy Spirit of Jesus the Christ.

**God forgives and sets us free so that we may share in life together,
and here we commit ourselves to following wherever Christ calls us,
and to loving one another.**

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

SHARING THE WORD

From the Epistles

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 New Revised Standard Version

¹² Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there

may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

From the Gospels

Luke 4:14-21

NRSV

[After forty days in the wilderness preparing for his ministry,] Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the holy One is upon me
and has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

I have been sent to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the holy One’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Avinu Malkeinu

Max Janowski

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“Tolerance Beyond Borders”

Rev. Denoon

INTERLUDE

Prayer for Healing

Traditional

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Up Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

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.

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

Halley Kim

***CLOSING HYMN**

Lead Us from Death to Life Satish Kumar, Marty Haugen
(*New Century Hymnal*, No. 581)

Refrain.

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;

let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,
still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.

Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,
come and teach us your way of compassion. *Refrain.*

So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,
longing for love to bread into their anguish.

Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,
come and teach us your way of compassion. *Refrain.*

Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,
let us begin to grow into your people.

We can be love, we can bring peace,
we can still be your way of compassion. *Refrain.*

***BENEDICTION**

Teresa of Avila, 16th Century

***FAREWELL**

Erin Prange

POSTLUDE

During the Postlude, we encourage you to greet those around you safely, or to remain at your seat to enjoy the music until it has ended. In the spirit of diversity, please be attentive to the possibility that one who is seated may be meditating.

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Thank you to vocalists, Leslie Caplan and Andrew Bollinger  
for providing us with music this morning!

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)).

**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.

**Volunteer (and other) Opportunities Arising**

Kids' Church Volunteers | A/V Assistants | Care Calendar Dinner's (As needed)

## **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
- 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

### **My Journey from Vaccine Hesitancy to Advocacy – Halley Kim on Zoom**

<https://tinyurl.com/vax-hes>

**TODAY - January 23, 2022 11:30 to 12:30**

The COVID pandemic has brought the issue of vaccination – and anti-vaccination – back into the spotlight. Grievously the issue has created intense division within families, particularly with the backdrop of holiday gatherings. Social media has been saturated with talk of “anti-vaxxers” and “pharma shills” since the COVID vaccines became available, and vaccination status now necessarily colors everything we do.

Join us for a conversation with our pastoral assistant, Halley Kim as she gives us an insider’s take on vaccine hesitancy and how to combat it both compassionately and effectively. For roughly a decade Halley was a vaccine skeptic and did not vaccinate her children. Come find out what caused her skepticism; what it was like for her to be a registered nurse with a big secret; how medical trauma, parental anxiety, capitalism, and white privilege play into vaccine hesitancy; what resources and experiences moved Halley towards embracing vaccination; and how COVID obliterated her lingering doubts. Epidemiologist Dr. Doug Miller will interview Halley about her vaccine journey and ask her advice on engaging with vaccine skeptics.

### **Who was this Jesse, anyway? And why do we have a tree named for him?**

We will gather in the sanctuary on January 30, right after worship, to de-decorate the Jesse tree and learn the significance of each of the ornaments. **Sponsored by SAGE**

**EVERYONE is welcome!**

### **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

### Sunday, January 23

#### *Ecumenical Sunday*

**9:00 AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids' Church

### Tuesday, January 25

**10:30 AM** Staff Meeting

**6:30 PM** Confirmation Class

**7:00 PM** Lady Elect (Zoom)

### Wednesday, January 26

**9:30 AM** Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

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

### Thursday, January 27

**6:00 PM** Canterbury Bells Practice

**7:00 PM** Scout Troop 301G – Parlor

### Sunday, January 30

#### *Heritage Sunday / New Member Sunday*

**9:00 AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids' Church



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

## Contact Information

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Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon  
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Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity  
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Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry  
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes  
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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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<http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT>

