

# Welcome!

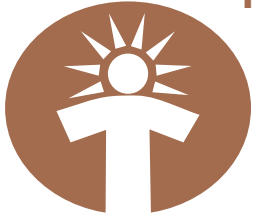
First Congregational Church of Webster Groves  
United Church of Christ

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

MAY 29, 2022

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

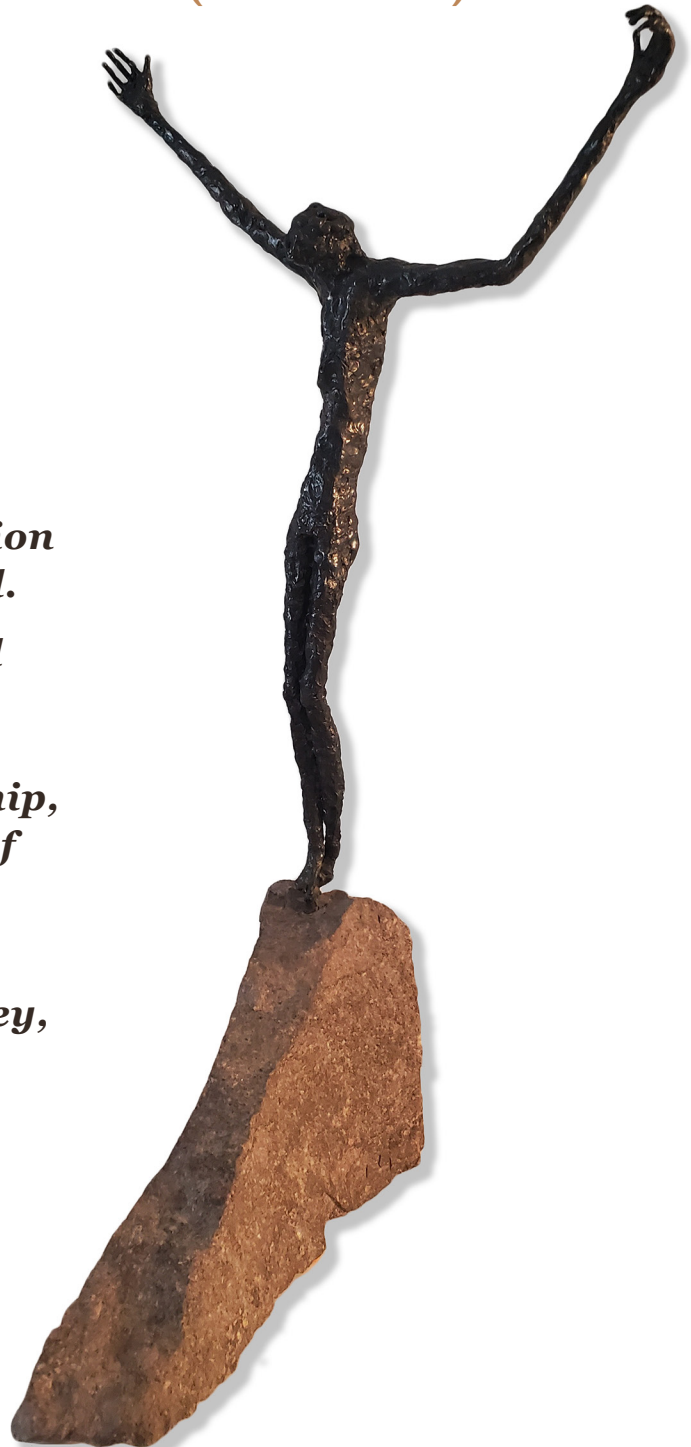
FESTIVAL OF THE ASCENSION (OBSERVED)



*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 the Congregation standing, 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.*

**PRELUDE** *Hassan's Dream* Benny Golson

**WELCOME** Sharon Love, *Liturgist*

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**INTROIT** *Now Is the Time* Cliff Aerie

(inspired by Deuteronomy 29:10-15)

Now is the time of wonder – amazement!  
This is the place where miracles dwell.  
Fashion your dream with love and compassion.  
All things are possible, for now is the time.  
  
Down in the soul a spirit awakens.  
Deep in the heart a melody soars.  
Reach for the stars with imagination.  
All things are possible, for now is the time.

**\*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.**

**OPENING WORDS** Luke 24:46-53

**\*GATHERING HYMN** *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing* The Venerable Bede  
No. 259 – *New Century Hymnal*

**RITUAL OF APPROACH** Sharon Love

*We Share Our Stories Before God*  
*Silence for Personal Confession*

*Prayer of Confession (Unison)*

**Ever-present God, you have all sorts of ways of getting our attention. Be it a burning bush or a baby in a manger or a hot thumb on our foreheads, you show up in our lives in peculiar and unexpected ways. You are there when nothing seems to go right. You are there when we are angry with you or curse you. You don't turn away from us in our rants or rage or any other emotional state. Forgive us for being more inclined to complaint than to gratitude. You became human as we are, and you accept us in our humanity. Keep showing up for us. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance*

**NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY**

Rev. Cliff Aerie, *Director of MICA*

*The children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.  
Afterward, they may proceed to Kids' Church, or return to their seats.*

**THE WORD SHARED**

*From the Law*

Deuteronomy 29:10-15

Pew Bible, p. 184

*From the Epistles*

1 Peter 1:3-9

p. 1103

*(trans. Wilda C. Gafney, A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church)*

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*Resurrection and Covenant:  
"An All-Embracing Covenant"*

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**MUSIC MEDITATION**

*The Creator Has a Master Plan*

Leon Thomas, Cliff Aerie

There was a time when peace was on the earth  
And joy and happiness did reign and each one knew their worth  
In my heart how I yearn for the Spirit's return  
And I cry as time flies.

There is a place where love will always shine  
And rainbows are the shadows of a love that's so divine  
And the glow of that love would light the sky up above  
It's free, just come with me.

The Creator has a master plan—peace and happiness throughout the land  
The Creator has a master plan—for every woman and every man  
The Creator has a master plan—peace and happiness throughout the land  
The Creator has a master plan—to live as neighbors, hand in hand  
The Creator makes but one demand—to live as neighbors, hand in hand  
The Creator makes but one demand—to live as neighbors, hand in hand  
The power of love, the power of love...

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We Lift Our Joys and Concerns*

*Prayer of the Day*

*Prayer of Our Savior* (Unison)

trans. Denoon

**Creator, in heaven your name is revered, your kin-dom rises, your will is established. Make earth like heaven: satisfy our needs abundantly, forgive us in the same way we forgive others, and keep us from the time of trial, away from the evil one. May your kin-dom and power and glory prevail, now and ever. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*O For a World*

M. T. Winter

No. 575 – *New Century Hymnal*

**OPPORTUNITIES ARISING**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Now Is the Time (reprise)*

Cliff Aerie

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***Would you like to serve as a Liturgist*** in an upcoming worship service, and to tell a story of your own during the Ritual of Approach? If so, please take advantage of a signup sheet in the Church Office (on a wall-mounted clipboard) or online at <https://bit.ly/FCCWG-Liturgist>.

**The Oikos Ensemble**

Kim Fuller (vocal), Cliff Aerie (sax), Carolbeth True (piano),  
Glen Smith (bass), David True (drums)

Sunday worship each week is shared in person for those who wish to attend and streamed live on YouTube, starting at 10:00 am ([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.

**Finding Your Way at First Church**

**The Nursery:** The Nursery is located through the double doors at the end of the Narthex (foyer), turn left. Nursery/Toddler Room is on your right.

**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 – Margaret Gustafson
- Leo Gomez
- David & Becky Scott
- People with mental illnesses, and those who love and care for them
- Peace with justice

### **“First Saturday” Drive-thru collection scheduled for June 4th for St. Louis Area Food Bank**

Summer is a brutal time for families struggling with food insecurity. St. Louis Area Food Bank will be delivering 25 barrels that hold 120 cans each (that's 3000 cans!) on Friday, June 3, in the morning and will pick up the barrels the following Monday. **Wouldn't it be fantastic to fill ALL 25 barrels and have members and visitors see what we can do as a church when we work together!** Please sign up for either the 1st or 2nd shift on June 4th when we will collect food for the St. Louis Area Food Bank. Use the following address to sign up! <https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-stlarea>. Thank you!

### **Jazz for the Journey**

*A Guidebook for the Journey*

**Sunday, June 5, 2022 at 5:00 pm**

A multi-faith Meditation exploring the adventurous landscape of the soul through the transformative spirit of jazz, storytelling and the arts. Everyone, young and old, are welcome to attend this FREE event. Join us in a Coffee House setting in Memorial Hall. There will be free coffee/tea and homemade baked goods. Please BYOB (wine/beer) or a picnic basket. This journey will feature the Oikos Ensemble. Jazz for the Journey is presented by First Congregational Church's Ministry of Imagination, Creativity and the Arts (MICA).

We need 5 volunteers to provide two dozen baked goods or treats for the event. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-j4j> to sign up. Questions? Ask Halley. Thank you!

### **Second Annual Caring Parade!**

**Sunday, June 12th at 2:00 PM**

If you missed the parade last year, the idea is to spread joy to our home bound or otherwise isolated church members — and it makes the kids in the parade pretty happy too! Participating cars will be decorated during Kids Church the morning of the parade. Use the following link to sign up to be a driver: <https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-parade> Questions? Ask Halley Kim.

## Let's Celebrate!

After a successful 2022 Virtual Benevolence "Auction" it is time to Celebrate! There are celebration opportunities available and, at the same time, additional opportunities to contribute to our Benevolence Fund.

There are **three slots** left for the tour of the **Clydesdale Breeding Farm**, Warm Springs Ranch. This is an all day trip to Booneville on **Friday, June 3**, carpooling from the church. We will have lunch after the tour at The Bistro at Les Bourgeois Vineyards. Requested donation is \$50 for each person. If you are interested, contact Joan Musbach.

**Celebration Cocktail Party, Saturday June 25.** The consummate host, Mike Lenard and his children will entertain us at their home beginning at 4:00 pm. Stay as long as you like enjoying the hospitality and camaraderie. The deadline for signing up is June 17. Requested donation is \$35 per person.

Continue the celebration into August by attending **Rosemary Hensley's Summer Garden Party on August 12 at 6:00 pm.** The leisurely gathering in her back yard among her flowers makes the "dog days of August" cheerful. Requested donation is \$30 per person.

Sign up and donate for these by going to: <https://tinyurl.com/benevolence-2022>

## Update from Community Support Group on Refugee Family

We first were assigned a family of 10 from Afghanistan and had just begun our journey with them when it was discovered that they already had a community support group from another organization. The International Institute of St. Louis then reassigned us another family, this time from Eritrea. The family includes a single woman and her 6-year-old twins. Although they have been in the US since September circumstances have made it difficult for her to learn English and gain employment, though she did work as a beautician in Eritrea. The children both attend school.

Because she is not yet gainfully employed the community support group is working with her social worker from the International Institute to expedite that process with other cooperating agencies in St. Louis and is seeking as many sources of income as she is entitled to receive. The goal of the International Institute is to promote independence of the refugees, so we always keep that in our minds. We are given 3 months to help a family achieve that independence and our time is running out. We continue to work with her on English language skills, navigating the local laundromat, setting up and providing transportation to medical appointments, assisting with budget and banking, the probable need for childcare, and cooperating with her own small church support group to allow for a smooth transition to independence. AND we are learning more about Eritrean food!

Feel free to contact us if you want to know more or if you would like to participate in the future with another family.

The Community Support team includes Laura Cooper, Joan Musbach, Annie Sampath, Pat Doyle-Grace, Kay Roush, and Marilyn and Dan Claggett

## Christina Harnisch Piano Recital

June 4 at 3:00 in the Sanctuary

The Swiss pianist Christina Harnisch took her concert diploma with Franz Joseph Hirt at the Berne Conservatory and University. After working with Eduardo Vercellei she obtained the “Prix deVirtuosité“ Neuchâtel. She won several national and international prizes and study awards and subsequently embarked on further pianistic studies with Yvonne Lefébure in Paris, Louis Kentner in London, Vitalij Margulis in Freiburg/Br and Bruno Mezzena in Italy. Since then, the versatile musician has continually appeared on concert stages in Switzerland and abroad as a soloist in piano recitals, orchestra concerts (Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie, Berner Symphonieorchester, San Francisco Sinfonietta, Orquesta Nacional del Peru and others) and chamber music concerts. Her repertoire ranges from Bach to contemporary music.

### How to Donate to First Congregational Church

You may leave a donation in the offering plate in the Narthex. Send a check made payable 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 at right.



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

#### Sunday, May 29

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available  
10:00 AM Worship with Oïkos Ensemble  
10:15 AM Kids' Church  
11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

#### Monday, May 30

Memorial Day - Office Closed

#### Tuesday, May 31

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

#### Wednesday, June 1

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

#### Thursday, June 2

6:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Saturday, June 4

9:00 AM - Noon – First Saturday Collection for St. Louis Area Foodbank  
10:00 AM Confirmation Rehearsal  
3:00 PM Christina Harnisch Piano Recital

#### Sunday, June 5 – Pentecost

##### Confirmation Sunday

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available  
10:00 AM Worship for all ages  
11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship



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

## Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach  
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Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon  
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Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

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Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry  
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes  
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*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

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

