

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.



Juneteenth Freedom Day

JUNE 19

*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 *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee* Janis Dunson Wilson

WELCOME Rev. Sue Leary, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

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

One: Where is our God? In the cleansing of the rain, in the refreshing of a pool, in the predictability of a faucet.

Many: With glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, our voices lift toward our God.

One: Where is our God? In the melody of voices raised in concert, in the stillness of silence, in the cacophony of spontaneous praise.

Many: As deep calls to deep, we come to worship the Living God.

ALL: Where is our God? In the echoes of our prayers, in the reverence of bowed heads, in the hope of raised faces. The Holy One is with us.

***RAISING THE COVENANT** (Unison)

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** *For the Healing of the Nations*

#576

New Century Hymnal

RITUAL OF APPROACH

We Bring Our Stories Before God

Silence for Personal Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving God, We gather this morning with thoughts of fathers and teachers and people who helped steady our lives. And we also come with hurts and wounds that can only be found in families. We pray today asking for the compassion that Jesus showed to all who came his way so that we may live in peace with those who walk the path with us. Guide us to have eyes to see, hearts to forgive and hands to help. Forgive our perfectionism, our criticism and our fear of difference. Transform us to be the change that Jesus showed us and calls us to be. We do indeed trust your promise of grace and forgiveness and your presence in our trials and rejoicing. Amen.

Words of Assurance

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

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

ANTHEM

If with All Your Hearts ye Truly Seek Me

THE WORD SHARED

1 Samuel 1:9-18

Rev. Leary

Pause briefly.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Hannah's Response"

Rev. Merrimon R. Boyd

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our 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. 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.

***PARTING HYMN**

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

#21

New Century Hymnal

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Boyd

POSTLUDE

Bicinium on All Creatures of Our God and King

John Barr

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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.



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>.]

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).

Wi-Fi Info

Wi-Fi: fccwg1, fccwg2 or fccwg3.

Password: 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

Request from Community Support group for Refugee Family

Our group continues to work with our refugee family, and we will provide an update in the next Covenant News but for now we have a request. The family has a very small backyard with their city apartment. If anyone has a patio set of outdoor table and chairs they are willing to donate please contact Marilyn Claggett at claggettmarilyn@gmail.com.

Webster Rock Hill Ministries (WRHM)
Trivia Night
Friday, June 24 at 7:00 PM (Doors open at 6:30)
Our very own Memorial Hall

If you are interested in attending this great event, see Rosemary Hensley at Church today. WRHM is asking that everyone pre-pay as they do not want to take money at the door.

Last Benevolence Event!

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/benevolence-2022>

Summer Garden Party, Saturday, August 12, 6:00PM. Rosemary Hensley's annual backyard gathering, with flowers and refreshments that make the "dog days of summer" cheerful. Donation: \$30 per person.

Tech Help Desk – June 26th

Got questions about Facebook? Need help with your email? Confused about websites the church uses like Breeze, SignUp Genius, or Care Calendar? Visit the Help Desk during Coffee Hour on June 26th! Debbie Tolstoi will be ready to assist you with all your tech needs.

Our Second Summer of Conversations begins soon...

A group of newly trained church leaders is assembling their call lists now for this year's **Summer of Conversations** - 30-minute, one-on-one conversations with other church members and newcomers over coffee, tea, either in person, by telephone, or using a virtual medium (Zoom, Facetime, Skype, etc.). The intent is simple – have a conversation, listen to one another about what is important to each of you, talk about where you find joy or sense your passion for life and ministry, and dare to dream a little about what you wish you or your church could accomplish together.

The **Summer of Conversations** is an initiative that can be a transformative experience for First Church. If you receive an invitation to have a Conversation, please accept it as an opportunity to get to know someone in your faith community better.

There is no agenda behind a Conversation. It is meant to be a time to listen and share, allow yourself to get to know someone new at First Church (or if not new, then more deeply), and perhaps to continue the practice of intentionally getting to know others. Developing the art of one-on-one conversation at First Church is one of the most radical things we do as a community. Who knows where listening to one another and the movement of God's Spirit might lead?

Of course, some may - for whatever reason - elect not to participate. That's OK. Just let the pastor know.

**“First Saturday” Drive-Thru Collection – 10:00 AM to Noon on July 2nd
Book Drive for Ready Readers & Missouri Prison Books**

Ready Readers develops literacy for young kids in low-income St. Louis communities, and Missouri Prison Books provides books to incarcerated Missouri citizens “in the belief that access to quality books is a right for all.” Please generously donate new and gently used books for all ages! **Do not donate:** water-damaged books, heavily marked up books, activity books, coloring books, holiday books, or religious books.

This will be a drive-thru style event. We encourage donors to turn right from Lockwood into the church parking lot, drop off their items to church volunteers, and then exit by turning right on to Elm Ave.

For additional information please contact Pastoral Assistant Halley Kim at First Church by calling (314) 962-0475 ex 12 or by emailing halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org.

What’s Going on at First Church This Week

Sunday, June 19 - *Father’s Day*

Juneteenth

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship (Rev. Merrimon Boyd, guest preacher)

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

Monday, June 20

OFFICE CLOSED (Juneteenth)

7:00 PM Executive Ministry

Tuesday, June 21

First Day of Summer

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, June 22

9:30 AM Yoga – Inglis Room

6:00 PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Friday, June 24

6:00 PM Webster Rock Hill Ministries Trivia Night

Saturday, June 25

1:00 PM Visitation: Robert McCoy – Sanctuary

2:00 PM Memorial Service: Robert McCoy – Sanctuary

7:00 PM Youth Game Night



10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
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Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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