

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ

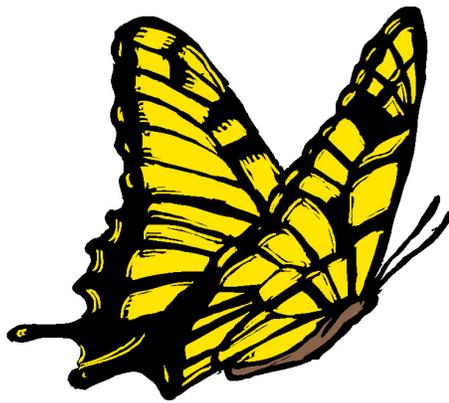
Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.



JUNE 26, 2022

OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY / PRIDE WEEKEND
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

For
freedom
Christ
has
set us
free.



*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.*

Galatians 5:1

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.

PRELUDE

Voluntary

Alfred Robert Gaul

WELCOME

Bob Moody, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

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

based on Galatians 5, Psalm 77

We have been called to freedom, but not to bite and devour one another.

Let's take care not to do that.

Let us instead be guided by the Spirit of God, and practice love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

These will be the hallmarks of our freedom.

God's way is holiness.

Our way shall be holiness, too. It is for this we have been set free.

***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**

Bring Many Names

Brian Wren

No. 11, vv. 1,2,3,6 - *New Century Hymnal*

RITUAL OF APPROACH

We Share Our Stories Before God

Silence for Personal Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Powerful God, in Jesus you have sought to set us free, and by the example of your Child we will express our freedom. We know there have been times when we have thought that, because others are different from us – younger, older, of different politics, mindset, culture, race, or gender – therefore we didn't need to take them seriously. In such times we have found ourselves enslaved by the temptations of this world. Break these chains, O God. Forgive us our shortsightedness and indifference. Remake us, to be new in your Spirit. Make us fruitful in your Word. Give strength to all who seek you, and pour into our souls the desire to find you through Jesus our Savior and Guide, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God in glory everlasting. Amen.

Words of Assurance

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Benton Nicholas Prange

Welcome

They were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant, and said to them,

“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Address

This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ’s body.

Questions of the Parents

**Congregational Assent*

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support, and care.

**Affirmation of Faith*

Do you believe in God? **I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? **I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? **I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Prayer of Baptism

Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn

Jesus Loves Me

Warner / McGuire

No. 327 – *New Century Hymnal*

Presentation of Gifts

Prayer for the Baptized

THE WORD SHARED

From the Epistles

Galatians 5:1, 13-14, 25

Pew Bible, p. 1062

From the Gospels

Luke 9:57-62

p. 945

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Never Turning Back

Pat Humphries

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Resolute Faith

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

Plowshare Prayer

Spencer LaJoye

(Video used with the permission of the artist.)

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

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

Gentle, Angry People

Holly Near

We are a gentle, angry people,
And we are singing, singing for our lives.
We are a justice-seeking people...
We are young and old together...
We are a land of many colors...
We are all in this together...
We are a gentle, loving people...

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Marche

Lefébure-Wély



Today, we celebrate the baptism of **Benton Nicholas Prange** (b. November 5, 2021), son of Phil & Erin and Warner's little brother. Benton and his family are joined at the font by Ellen & Patrick Reed, his godparents.

The Dogwood Cross and Jesse Tree displayed in the northwest corner of the sanctuary were placed there in joyful memory of the life and ministry of **Robert McCoy** who was celebrated yesterday by his family and loved ones. Bob, along with his friend church member Bob Woodsmall, fashioned the

Dogwood Cross to be part of our Lent and Easter observances; it is based on the Legend of the Dogwood. Bob designed the Jesse Tree and worked out the details of its construction, in 2010. Ornaments on the tree were crafted by Bob and other church members through 2016, recalling Bible stories and honoring biblical figures foreshadowing the birth of Christ. The Jesse Tree itself is a Christian tradition dating from medieval times which illustrates a metaphor in Isaiah 11:1, in which a dead tree stump, symbolizing the lineage of King David cut off at the roots, sprouts unexpectedly again by God's grace in the person of a Messiah.

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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 sign-up 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.

Last Benevolence Event!

Friday, August 12, 6:00PM. Rosemary Hensley's annual backyard gathering, with flowers and dinner that make the "dog days of summer" cheerful. You will be serenaded by Mark Cereghino and his Java Jive group. **Donation: \$30 per person.**

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

Tech Help Desk – TODAY

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! Debbie Tolstoi will be ready to assist you with all your tech needs.

Our Second Summer of Conversations begins...

A group of newly trained church leaders has assembled their call lists 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.

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.

We need volunteers! Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/4umjze44>

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 26

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:05 AM Tech Help Desk - Memorial Hall

Monday, June 27

7:00 PM Peace & Justice Coalition - Zoom

Tuesday, June 28

10:30 PM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, June 29

9:30 AM Yoga - Inglis Room

6:00 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room

Saturday, July 2

10:00 AM – Noon First Saturday Drive-thru collection: Books!

Sunday, July 3

9:00 AM Brown Baggers

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM All Ages Worship – Memorial Hall

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship



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Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
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Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry
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