

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JULY 2, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND
SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE
ALL AGES WORSHIP



*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.

PRELUDE *What the World Needs Now Is Love* Bacharach and David

WELCOME Joan Musbach, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

***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.

***HYMN** *This Is My Song* Lloyd Stone

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine:
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams my holy shrine,
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine,
But other lands have sunlight too and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, O God of all the nations:
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

RITUAL OF APPROACH

Our Stories Before God

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Creator who endows us with life and liberty, we have not always found within us the compassion and empathy to treat all with equal respect; give us wisdom to find ways to actualize our highest ideals. Temper our pride with humility. Lead us in the "paths of righteousness." Bless our celebrations with both pride and humility. Keep us aware that we are seekers, seeking to know your will; seeking to know how to achieve our highest aspirations as individuals, as a congregation and as a nation. We pray, as did our founders nearly two hundred and fifty years ago, that your "divine Providence" will watch over us and guide us into a more perfect union. Amen.

Silence for Personal Confessions

Assurance of Pardon

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

*The Pastor will introduce the Message of the Day,
but we will compose it together as we discuss at our tables the prompt:*

**When you have been part of a group –
in class, at work, at church, or elsewhere –
what is it that helped you the most, to feel included?**

THE WORD REMEMBERED

From the Epistles

Galatians 6:1-6

The Message

Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. *You* might be needing forgiveness before the day's out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ's law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived.

Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life.

Be very sure now, you who have been trained to a self-sufficient maturity, that you enter into a generous common life with those who have trained you, sharing all the good things that you have and experience.

*For our All Ages services, scripture is remembered by the presenter,
rather than being read. It is followed by this response:*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE

**Prayers of Intercession*

**Invitation*

**Prayer of Consecration*

Prayer of Our Savior

Translation by Mary Baker-Eddy

Our Father-Mother God, all-harmonious and adorable One: Thy kingdom is come, thou art ever-present. Enable us to know – as in heaven, so on earth – God is omnipotent, supreme. Give us grace for today; feed the famished affections; and Love is reflected in love. God, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from sin, disease, and death. For God is infinite, all-power, all Life, Truth, and Love, over all, and All. Amen.

Communion

**Prayer after Communion (Unison, standing)*

We give you thanks, O God, for blessing us around this table with the presence of Christ. Send us forth, rejoicing, with our siblings in faith, to share your abundant love and grace with all we meet. Amen.

***HYMN**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Fred Kaan

Let us talents and tongues employ,
Reaching out with a shout of joy:
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain (twice through).

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one,
At his table he set the tone,
Teaching people to live to bless,
Love in word and in deed express. *Refrain.*

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Give us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere! *Refrain.*

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

We Shall Overcome

Traditional (1960)

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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

4th of July Community Parade – 10:00 am on Monday

Join us along Lockwood for candy, fire engines, marching bands, cheerleaders, horses, and so many more! Our own Doug Miller will be marching with Churches Together for Justice!

We'll also have our booth set up, providing games for the kids and cold water for everybody. Want to help out?! Email Halley at halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org

Henna Demonstration

Sunday, July 10, 11:20 am in Memorial Hall

Have you been intrigued by the beautiful henna decorations women wear in Indian weddings? Ertra Mekonen, the young woman the First Church Refugee Support Group has been assisting, is an experienced henna artist. She will be with us in Memorial Hall after worship on July 10 and will create small designs on your hand if you would like. Her delightful children, Sarah and Abraham, will be with us as well. Enjoy your coffee and an excursion into an aspect of a different culture. Donations encouraged.

Request from Community Support group for Refugee Family

The single mother we are assisting **needs childcare** to continue her part time job during July and the first two weeks of August when the children are not in school.

Know anyone who could drive to her home and care for two delightful 7-year old's from 9:45 to 2:15 on weekdays? Compensation negotiable. It's two blocks east of Tower Grove Park on Arsenal, across from International Institute.

Please contact Laura Cooper or Joan Musbach ASAP with suggestions.

Additionally, this 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.
claggettmarilyn@gmail.com.

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.

Our Second Summer of Conversations

We're kicking off another **Summer of Conversations!** The idea is to have 30-minute, one-on-one conversations with other church members and newcomers over coffee, lunch, etc. The topic? Each other! You can meet in person, over the phone, or via Zoom/Facetime.

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 here. *It is meant to be a time to listen and share, allow yourself to get to know someone at First Church more deeply, and perhaps to continue the practice of intentionally getting to know others.* 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.

Join First Church!

We have had so many newcomers attending regularly since our return from pandemic isolation! If you are interested in knowing more about membership at First Church, the Pastor will be hosting two meetings, this coming week.

Inquirers meetings will take place

- in person on **Sunday, July 3, at 11:20am** (Meet in the Narthex, the hallway just outside the sanctuary.)
- virtually on Zoom, **Wednesday, July 6, at 7:00pm** (Meeting ID 286 182 9162 and the passcode 1234.)

Each "class" lasts about an hour. Pre-registration is preferred; Contact Pastor Dave Denoon at: ddenoon@firstchurchwg.org.

What's Going on at First Church This Week

Sunday, July 3

9:00 AM Brown Baggers
9:45 AM Nursery Care Available
10:00 AM All Ages Worship
11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship
11:20 AM Inquirers In Person

Monday, July 4

Independence Day – Office Closed

Tuesday, July 5

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, July 6

9:30 AM Yoga - Inglis Room
6:00 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room
7:00 PM Virtual Inquirers

Sunday, July 10

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available
10:00 AM Worship (New Members Received)
10:15 AM Kids' Church
11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship
11:20 AM Henna Demonstration



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Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
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Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity
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