

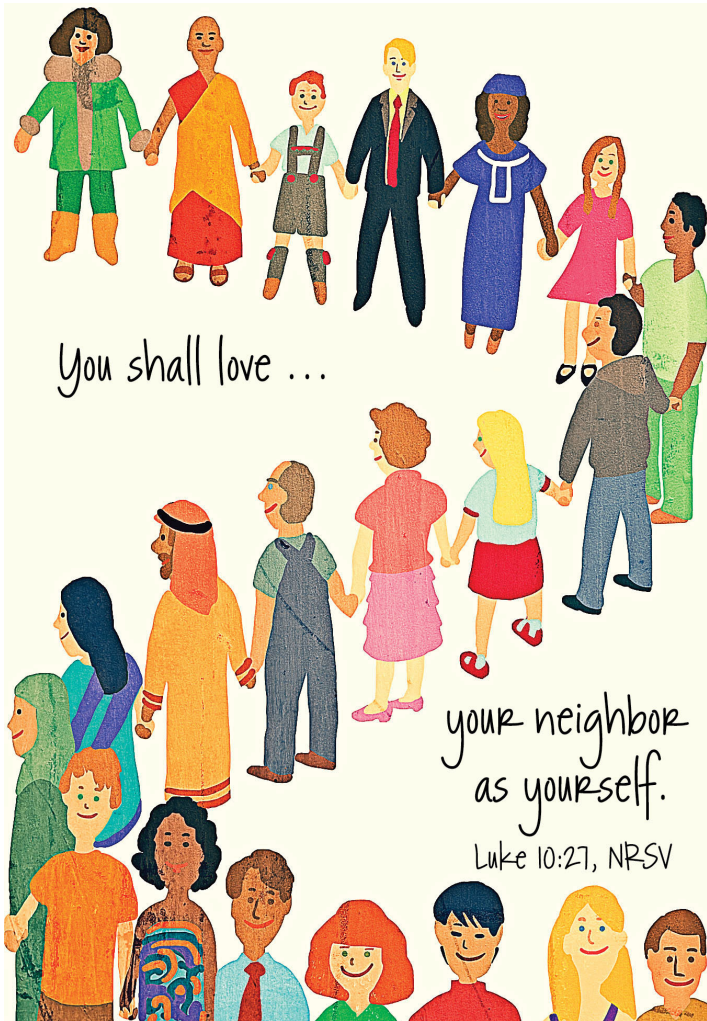
Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JULY 10, 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED



*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.*

PRELUDE *Greet the Morning* an improvisation by Cliff Aerie

WELCOME Andrea Welnick, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**) Adapted from Psalm 82

God is seated in the divine council. In the midst of the gods, our God holds judgment:

“How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

Those to whom God is speaking have neither knowledge nor understanding, though. They walk around with their minds in shadow. As a result, all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

“I say, ‘Children of the Most High, you are gods, all of you; nevertheless, you shall die like all mortals and fall like any prince.’”

Rise up, O God, and judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you!

Rise up, O God, and judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you!

***GATHERING HYMN**

Open My Eyes

Clara H. Scott

Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain.

Silently now I wait for thee,
Ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes/ears/heart, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth thou sendest clear;
And while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear. *Refrain.*

Open my mouth, and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with thy children thus to share. *Refrain.*

RITUAL OF APPROACH

We Share Our Stories Before God

Silence for Personal Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Patient, loving, encouraging God, we ask that you nudge us beyond our own comfort and fears to attend to the needs of others. Help us to see the humanity in each person, and create in us a desire to want for others the blessings we want for ourselves. Forgive us for neglecting to pursue justice, either out of fear or privilege or both. Move us not only to love, but to act. 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.

THE WORD SHARED

From the Epistles

Colossians 1:1-14

Pew Bible, p. 1072

From the Gospels

Luke 9:57-62

p. 946

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

When I Am Frightened

Shelley Jackson Denham

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"What Must I Do?"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns (text 314-858-6710)

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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

New Member Candidates Introduced

Preface

**Affirmation of Faith (Responsive)*

based on *Our Creed*, 1901

Do you believe in the kinship of all people as children of God? **I do.**

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Way and the Truth and the Life? **I do.**

Do you believe in the clean heart, the unworldly life, and the service of love as Jesus taught and exemplified, and do you accept Christ's Spirit, and Christ's teaching? **I do.**

**Questions of the Candidates*

**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.

**Welcome to the Church* (Unison)

Led by Joan Musbach, *Moderator*

We as members of this church, gladly welcome you to be a part with us in the hopes, the labors, and the joys of our mutual ministry. We promise to walk with you in Christian love and sympathy, and to promote, as far as in us lies, your growth in the Christian life.

***PARTING HYMN**

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee
No. 418, *Pilgrim Hymnal*

Washington Gladden

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Triumphant March

A. Schreiner

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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 and Becky Scott
- People with mental illnesses, and those who love and care for them
- Peace with justice

Henna Demonstration

TODAY, 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.

“Freeing Jesus” Sermon Series Book Study

What does it mean to know Jesus? Is the Jesus you know today different than the Jesus you knew years ago? Does Jesus evolve alongside us? “Freeing Jesus,” the newest book by Diana Butler Bass, invites us to liberate Jesus and free ourselves when it comes to the ever-compelling and yet often-elusive figure at the center of Christian faith.”

Halley will kick off a sermon series on Diana Butler Bass' newest book “Freeing Jesus” on July 31st. After her introduction, Dave will preach 7 sermons that cover the different ways of perceiving Jesus in Bass' memoir: Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, Presence, and Universal Jesus. We will be purchasing books for those who would like to read along during our series and enrich their spiritual experience. We will also be hosting discussions of the book and sermons during Coffee Hour. If you would like First Church to purchase a copy for you, please email Halley at halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org

Red Cross Blood Drive – August 6th from 9:00 am-2:00 pm

****We need volunteers for this event! There will be two shifts for the blood drive. Please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/red-cross-blood-drive> to help!****

- Blood donation saves lives. It helps accident and burn victims, those undergoing heart surgery and organ transplants, and cancer patients. Someone needs blood every 2 seconds in the US.
- If you are at least 110lbs, in decently good health, and are at least 16 years old, *you can donate!*
- A Red Cross representative will join us during Coffee Hour on July 24 to answer your questions about donating blood.

The blood drive will be held in Memorial Hall. Walk-ins are welcome, but online registration is preferred and will begin soon.

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

School Supply Drive for WRHM August 6th from 10am-12pm (concurrent with Red Cross Blood Drive)

We are pleased to partner with Webster Rock Hill Ministries once again, this time by providing school supplies for their Back-to-School Backpack Program.

The school supply drive will be a drive-thru style event per usual.

***We need volunteers for this event too! Please use the same Sign Up Genius link as above: <https://tinyurl.com/red-cross-blood-drive> to sign up and help out! ***

**The Peace and Justice team says,
OUTRAGED? Get ENGAGED!**

- Sign up to promote Yes for WG Schools (Prop S) (<https://www.yesforwgschools.com/>) at Hudson Elementary (<https://tinyurl.com/props-hudson>) or Givens Elementary (<https://tinyurl.com/props-given>) for the August 2nd Primary.
- DONATE to abortion funds (<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/fundabortionnow>) to keep services accessible and affordable to as many people as possible.
- LISTEN to “Abortion: Family Meeting on Four Things To Do Next,” a podcast episode on “We Can Do Hard Things.” (<http://wecandohardthingspodcast.com/>)
- SIGN this petition at (<https://tinyurl.com/yj2xfkda>) to send to your elected officials to demand Congress enact federal abortion protections.
- ATTEND “Religion and the Freedom to Choose: Abortion, Christianity, and Democracy,” a virtual event (<https://tinyurl.com/2p9xmzbp>) **TODAY** July 10th at 4pm.
- SHARE your story at the ACLU website, (<https://tinyurl.com/share-story>) either of having an abortion, being denied an abortion, or being an activist or healthcare provider.
- The Peace and Justice team is working on opportunities for you to help "get out the vote" (registering new voters, driving people to the polls, etc). STAY TUNED!

The Peace and Justice team meets monthly, on the fourth Monday. Join them for their next gathering, Monday, July 25, at 7:00pm on Zoom. Email Pastor Dave at ddenoon@firstchurchwg.org or Halley Kim at halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org for the meeting ID.

What's Going on at First Church This Week

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

Tuesday, July 11

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, July 12

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

New Members

We welcome into membership today Ernestine “Ernie” Carter and Rebecca Novak. They are introduced, this morning, by their sponsor Doug Miller.

Medical Leave

Pastor Dave Denoon will be on medical leave, July 14-31. For pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastoral Assistant Halley Kim at 314-962-0475, ext. 12.



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

Contact Information

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Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie
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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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