

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JULY 31, 2022

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*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.*

RITUAL OF APPROACH

We Share Our Stories Before God

Silence for Personal Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God, help us to have the strength to express our true selves even when we fear being judged. Heal us from the impulse to hide parts of ourselves for the comfort of others, and give us the confidence to explore our faith openly. We do not have to choose between being humble and being open. Forgive us for choosing silence when the name of Jesus is wielded to support domination, instead of being a visible counternarrative. Grant us the bravery to protest the misuse of Christ's name, perhaps simply by being known as a Christian who dissents from the prevailing view. Amen.

Words of Assurance

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

Kids 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 Gospels

Luke 9:57-62

p. 944

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Abide with Me

Henry F. Lyte

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"My Jesus Story"

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

Our Mother in heaven, make your name holy. Reveal your love, and teach us your way. Make earth like heaven. Provide bread for today, so that we do not worry about tomorrow. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Keep us from things that would keep us from you, and deliver us from evil. For here is your love: where power and glory are shared, now and forever. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Charles Wesley
arr. James Ward

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing
the triumphs of God's grace!

My gracious Savior and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

Refrain:

O for a thousand! (O for a thousand)
O for a thousand! (O for a thousand)
O for a thousand! (O for a thousand)
Tongues to sing!

Jesus, the name that calms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease
Is music in the sinner's ears,
is life, and health, and peace!

Glory to God, and love and praise
be ever, ever given
By all the saints in every age,
the church in earth and heaven. (*Refrain X2*)

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

**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.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing (Reprise)

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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.



Wi-Fi Info

Wi-Fi: fccwg1, fccwg2 or fccwg3.
Password: firstchurch.

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).

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

"Freeing Jesus" 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 invites us to liberate Jesus & free ourselves when it comes to the ever-compelling & 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, & Universal Jesus. We will be purchasing books for those who would like to read along during our series & enrich their spiritual experience. We will also be hosting discussions of the book + 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 & burn victims, those undergoing heart surgery & organ transplants, & cancer patients. Someone needs blood every 2 seconds in the US.
- If you are at least 110lbs, in decently good health, & are at least 16 years old, *you can donate!*
- A Red Cross representative will join us during Coffee Hour on the 24th to answer your questions about donating blood.

Give blood in August and get a \$10 e-gift card to your choice of merchants. PLUS, automatically be entered for a chance to win gas for a year, a \$6,000 value! You could be one of three lucky winners. Destination Donation! Terms apply, see rcblood.org/fuel

The blood drive will be held in Memorial Hall. Walk-ins are welcome, but online registration is preferred. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/8-6-red-cross> to sign up. (Make sure to click on our listing.)

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.

Backpack & School Supply Drive for WRHM

August 6th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (concurrent with 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. WRHM distributes backpacks to students in need of school supplies.

These backpacks are filled with grade-level appropriate materials, including: **notebooks • paper pencils • pens • crayons • three-ring binders • and much more**. Students in advanced classes may also receive **calculators or other course specific material**. During the school year, WRHM has supplies available to replenish any needed materials.

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

**** 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!

- For Missouri voter information: <https://tinyurl.com/mo-voter-info> and be sure to VOTE in the primary on 8/2! And volunteer to protect the vote! at <https://tinyurl.com/protect-vote-mo>. Here's a Missouri-specific opportunity to help at <https://tinyurl.com/protect-vote-mo-help>.
- Do you know what district you are in for MO House and MO Senate? This was a redistricting year, so it's likely your state rep and/or senator is not who you think they are! Check out the new districts here: <https://www.sos.mo.gov/RedistrictingMaps>. (Note the STL area House district numbers in the image above, detailed maps for every district available at link).
- Sign up to be notified when there's a need for GOTV postcards at <https://tinyurl.com/moms-gotv>.
- Reach out to a candidate for state representative or state senator and help them canvass -- it's not just federal offices that matter!
- We are working with the local group "Churches Together for Justice" to get out the vote before the general election. STAY TUNED!
- **The Peace & Justice team meets on the 4th Monday of each month. Plan to join us on Monday, August 22nd at 7pm on Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-peace-justice>.**

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.

First Church is collecting all kinds of period supplies AND diapers to donate to the St Louis Area Diaper Bank/Alliance for Period Supplies

Period poverty - or the lack of access to an adequate supply of menstrual products like pads or tampons - is an indignity experienced by thousands of individuals in the St. Louis region on a regular basis. From those anticipating their first period to folks anxiously awaiting the onset of menopause - More than 1 in 5 low-income women in St. Louis report facing this problem every month. In the absence of the period supplies they need, many use inferior or unhealthy alternatives like socks, rags, even the diapers they need for their children and may face missed days of work or school.

What is Needed

**light tampons • regular tampons • super tampons • super-plus tampons
liners • regular pads • super pads • overnight pads • poise pads • menstrual cups
disks • underwear • first period kits • misc.**

Please leave donations in the box in the Narthex. You may also send a check directly to St. Louis Area Diaper Bank.

Mail the check to:

**St. Louis Area Diaper Bank
6141 Etzel Ave.
Saint Louis, MO 63110**

If you care to, you may put **Alliance for Period Supplies** on the memo line. If you have any questions, please contact [Andrea Welnick](#).

What's going on At First Church

Sunday, July 31

Worship – Halley Kim, Pastoral Assistant

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday, August 2

General Election

1:00 PM Communications Team

Wednesday, August 3

9:30 AM Yoga - Inglis Room

6:00 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room

Saturday, August 6

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive
- Memorial Hall

10:00 AM to Noon Backpack and School
Supply Drive Thru Collection

Sunday, August 7

Sacrament of Christ's Table

9:00 AM Brown Baggers

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM All Ages Worship

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship



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Contact Information

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Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity
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Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry
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