

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022
LABOR 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.*

PRELUDE

I Guess I Planted
Rick Herrick, soloist

Words by Woody Guthrie
Music by Billy Bragg

WELCOME

Rebecca Novak, *Liturgist*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

TOLLING OF THE BELL

*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.

*GATHERING SONG

In Christ There Is No East or West
No. 394, *New Century Hymnal*

Oxenham / Stookey

RITUAL OF APPROACH

Our Stories Before God

Corporate Confession (Unison)

God in Christ, sometimes we think you are like a vending machine, with prayers like coins that when offered will produce what we desire. It doesn't always occur to us that prayer is an opportunity to connect with you and not just ask things of you. Help us to look to you as Way, Guide, Confidant, Spirit always with us, and forgive us for reducing our relationship of faith to a means of exchange. Meet us where we are, and then take us to a deeper connection with you. Amen.

Silence for Personal Confessions

Words of Assurance

THE WORD REMEMBERED

From Christian History

Acts 18:24-27a

Pew Bible, p. 1012

As told by Gabriel Requadt

From the Gospels

John 14:4-10, 22-23

p. 982, 983

As told by Rebecca Novak and Halley Kim

Response:

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Sixteen Tons
Rick Herrick and Friend

Merle Travis

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“Jesus the Way”

Rev. David Denoon

*The Message will include the song, “Wherever People Live in Love”
by Dorothy B. Fritz:*

Wherever people live in love,
And wor-ship, sing, and pray
As followers of Jesus Christ...
These are the people of the Way,
The people of the Way!

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S TABLE

Prayers of Intercession (Joys and Concerns)

The Pastor will invite worshipers to name aloud people and situations.

*If you prefer not to speak aloud, there are Prayer Cards provided in the pew racks
on which you may write down your prayers to be read by the Pastor.*

Simply hand your Prayer Card to an usher at this time.

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Prayer of Our Savior

setting 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

Worshipers gather in circles around the table with the Pastor.

When this is not possible, for whatever reason, please indicate to an usher that you need to share from your pew.

Music for Communion

Joe Hill
Rick Herrick, soloist

Phil Ochs

**Prayer after Communion (Unison)*

You have come to us – our Way, our Truth, our Life – in the simpleness and splendor of this holy meal. Send us forth, rejoicing, with our siblings in faith, to share your abundant love and grace with all we meet. Amen.

***PARTING SONG**

Wherever People Live in Love (reprise)

D. B. Fritz

***BENEDICTION**

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

POSTLUDE

Unwelcome Guest

Woody Guthrie

During the Postlude, we encourage you to greet those around you, or to remain at your seat to enjoy the music until it has ended. In the spirit of diversity, please be attentive to the possibility that one who is seated may be meditating. When you are ready, please enjoy refreshments in Memorial Hall.

Our thanks, this morning, to Rick Herrick who brings us music befitting Labor Day, from the songbook of the American Labor Movement of the late 19th and the 20th Centuries!

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 for all: 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.

First Saturday Linen Drive for Lydia's House — Online Donations Only

Lydia's House provides a place of healing and a voice of hope for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Their transitional housing program is offered for up to two years and serves as a critical link between emergency shelters and safe, independent living." Please generously donate from their Amazon wish list at: <https://tinyurl.com/bdz52fsy>. It's as easy as a few clicks!

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” Sermon Series and 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.”

Dave will preach 7 sermons that cover the different ways of perceiving Jesus that Bass describes: Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, Presence, and Universal Jesus. **Please pick up your book from Halley or Dave.** We are hosting discussions of the book and sermons during Coffee Hour, through September 18.

FCCWG Swag

Show your FCCWG pride by wearing a t-shirt with our logo! You’ll be encouraged to wear this shirt when volunteering for events such as the First Saturday drive-thru collections and the Vehicle Fair.

Shirts will be offered in Men's sizes XS-3X and Women’s sizes S-3X.

Not sure what size you need? No problem! You can view the t-shirts after worship the next couple of weeks, A member of First Friends will be available to help you. (*The shirts look like they run a little small.*) There will be an order form available in the Narthex. Shirts will be sold for \$15. If you didn’t sign up, contact Debbie at admin@firstchurchwg.org once you know what size you would need. ***The deadline to purchase a shirt is September 9th!***

Wish Upon a Cloud: Funding Off-Budget Projects

We are seeking to purchase two 85" Smart TVs for the sanctuary, to enhance our worship experience. These TVs will project relevant images and information during worship services, and can be used for other events in the sanctuary. The cost for these are approximately \$2,800.00. You can donate as little or as much as you like! See the Wish Upon a Cloud display board for more information.

Wish Upon a Cloud gives us the opportunity to purchase items that are not in our budget. For more information, grab a form off the board in the Narthex, or visit the Wish Upon a Cloud page (<https://firstchurchwg.org/donate/wuac/>) on our website.

Join First Church!

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

- Virtually on Zoom, Tuesday, September 6, at 7:00pm (Use meeting ID Meeting ID 846 9962 7699 and Passcode ICC-WG.)
- In person on Saturday, September 10, at 10:00am (Meet in the Narthex, the hallway just outside the sanctuary.)

Each “class” lasts 60 to 90 minutes. Pre-registration is preferred; contact Pastor Dave Denoon at ddenoon@firstchurchwg.org.

And/Or Join a Choir!

Choir rehearsals begin for our new program year, on Thursday, September 8. Newcomers are encouraged, regardless of membership status or level of ability.

The Canterbury Bells meet at 6:00PM

The Chancel Choir gathers at 7:30PM

For more information, please contact Director of Music Leon Burke at leon.burke@firstchurchwg.org.

St. Louis Metro CROP Hunger Walk

Our church is participating in the Metro St. Louis CROP Hunger Walk, and we'd love to have you join our team. Registration begins at 4:30pm on Oct 2nd at Eden Seminary, and the walk steps off at 5 PM. Walkers can choose a 1- or 3-mile loop. This is a great event for families and people of all ages!

The CROP Walk supports the work of Church World Service (CWS) and three local organizations fighting hunger. Three quarters of funds raised go to CWS, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. CWS is supported by our denomination, the United Church of Christ. Recognizing that there is hunger in every community, one quarter of CROP Walk funds stay locally. Here in St. Louis, they will go to Circle of Concern, the Alton Crisis Food Center, and Webster-Rock Hill Ministries.

Please join us (in body or in spirit) on October 2 -- with your steps, prayers, and/or donations - to provide meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and to create greater food security in communities around the world. You can register to walk or make a donation at <https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-crop-walk>.

First Church has an ongoing collection for all kinds of period supplies AND diapers to donate to the St Louis Area Diaper Bank/Alliance for Period Supplies.

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

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

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, September 4

Sacrament of Christ's Table

9:00 AM Brown Baggers

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship (All Ages)

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:20 AM Discussion: *Freeing Jesus* - Inglis Room (Childcare available!)

Monday, September 5

LABOR DAY (Office closed)

7:00 PM Troops 301B and 301G - Dickens Room

Tuesday, September 6

1:00 PM Communications Team - Office

7:00 PM Prospective Members Orientation - Zoom

Wednesday, September 7

~~**9:30am** NO Yoga - Inglis Room~~

6:00 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room

Thursday, September 8

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30 PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Saturday, September 10

10:00 AM

Prospective Members Orientation - Meet in Narthex

Sunday, September 11

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship (All Ages)

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:20 AM Discussion: *Freeing Jesus* - Inglis Room (Childcare available!)



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Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
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Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity
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Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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Instagram

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<http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT>

