

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.



SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

PRAYERS FOR RECONCILIATION AND HEALING
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 *Meditation* Louis Vierne

WELCOME Jennifer Jones, *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.

***GATHERING HYMN** *O Christ, the Great Foundation* T. Tingfang Lew
No. 1387, vv. 1,3,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

PRAYER OF APPROACH

We Share Our Stories Before God

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

Prayer of Approach

A Prayer of the Iona Community

(Responsive – Liturgist; **Everyone**)

Gracious God, if we came to your house, we would find the door open, because there are no closing hours for the hospitality of heaven.

If we came to your house, we would hear many accents, ours just one among them, for there is no favored nation in the commonwealth of heaven.

If we came to your house, we would see people who never thought they would be allowed in, had entrance been by merit rather than by your gracious invitation. So, as we gather in Jesus' name, let the characteristics you cherish become evident in all we do and share together. Gather into one the glorious assortment of unlikes which is your true Church.

Reveal within this community what we must do, what we must hear, and whom we must welcome if we are to know Jesus among us.

God, give us the grace to surrender our presumptions as to what we should be or do; and then amend our lives until we become the people you intend us to be.

Silence for Personal Confession

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

Gabriel Requadt, *Student Minister*

From the Epistles

Colossians 1:10, 12-20

Pew Bible, p. 1072

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

There's a Spirit of Love in This Place

Mark Miller

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"The Quotidian Christ"

Rev. Denoon

A TIME FOR RECONCILING AND HEALING

We Lift Up Our Joys and Concerns

Guided Meditation

words by Fr. Richard Rohr

Prayer for Healing (Unison)

Wondrous God, well of forgiveness and source of all healing, make us and all those for whom we pray fully aware of your presence. Open our senses that we may perceive you; open our hearts that we may know your love. Cast the light of your Spirit upon us, so that we may love even our enemies and thus be healed in body, mind, and spirit. Amen.

Prayer of Our Savior

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Ritual Actions

For this portion of the service, worshipers are invited either to

- remain in their seats in quiet meditation, or else*
- come forward and receive an anointing with a healing balm, and a blessing.*

These options are entirely voluntary.

**Prayer of Thankfulness (Unison)*

God of our hope, we are deeply thankful that you hear our prayers and bless us with healing of body, mind, and spirit. We humbly ask you: be with us always and continue to assist us to health and wholeness, as well as all those for whom we have prayed, and your entire world; in Christ's name. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Christ Beside Me

"St. Patrick's Breastplate"

Tune: BUNESSAN

(Morning Has Broken)

Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, here in my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, shield in the strife;
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, light of my life.

[First verse repeats.]

***BENEDICTION**

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

POSTLUDE

Grand Jeu

Jean Adam Guilain

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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 the signup sheet in the Church Office (on a wall-mounted clipboard) or online at <https://bit.ly/FCCWG-Liturgist>.)

Connecting Remotely to Worship

Sunday worship each week is streamed live on YouTube, starting at 10am (<bit.ly/FCCWG-YT>).

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 accompanying QR code.

Wi-Fi Info

Recommended: fccwg1, fccwg2 or fccwg3
Password for all: 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, Joan Whitford

- 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

Rally Day September 18th (Potluck and other Activities!)

Our lovely St. Louis Summer is over. Heat, humidity, storms, vacations, cookouts, trips to the pool, and the ballpark are coming to a close, some more than others for sure (Go Cards!). But September does mark a change in our daily lives.

For a long while, Rally Day has been the marker for such a change. This year, First Church will celebrate Rally Day with a congregational Potluck Lunch following worship. Our Parish Life Ministry will provide the main course and beverages. They are asking for members to bring their favorite picnic side dishes to share with others. There will also be a getting-to-know-you-better activity with prizes.

Please plan on coming to this easy-to-be-at event. Leave your contribution in the kitchen before worship; worship at ease with your community, welcoming new members; then have a delicious lunch celebrating the new church year! Remember: SEPTEMBER 18th!

“Freeing Jesus” Sermon Series and Book Study PLEASE NOTE: *Book Study ends today!*

Is the Jesus you know today different than the Jesus you knew years ago? Does Jesus evolve alongside us? “*Freeing Jesus*, a new memoir 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.” Pastor Dave Denoon is preaching a series of sermons based on Prof. Bass’s book, and a discussion takes place, each Sunday at 11:20am in the Inglis Room. *Although we had originally scheduled a September 18 discussion, **today’s book study session will be the last in this series**, so that everyone may enjoy next week’s Rally Day Potluck!* Childcare provided!

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. But it’s also *great for everyday wear!*

Shirts will be offered in Men’s sizes XS-3X and Women’s sizes S-3X. The t-shirts run a bit small, so you might want to order a size larger than you would normally wear. **If you did not get a chance to sign up for a shirt, don’t worry! *We will have extra shirts for sale.* They will be sold for \$15. Debbie will let you all know when they have arrived!**

It's Vehicle Fair Time!
September 24th, 9am-noon
Volunteers needed

If you are available to pitch in to make the 2nd annual vehicle fair another smashing success, please sign up <https://tinyurl.com/vehicle-fair>! We need help with refreshments, directing foot traffic, signage, and more.

Wish Upon a Cloud: Funding Off-Budget Projects

Wish Upon a Cloud donations give 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.

Example: We are seeking to purchase two 85" video monitors for the sanctuary, to enhance our worship experience. These monitors will project relevant images and information during worship services, and can be used for other events in the sanctuary. The cost for each is approximately \$2,800.00. You can donate a portion of the cost, or the full amount, according to your ability!

Join a Choir!

Choir rehearsals for our new program year began on Thursday, September 8. Now, they're rehearsing weekly! 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 in person, at extension 17, or 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. 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>.

Next First Saturday Drive-Thru Collection October 1st for St Louis Area Diaper Bank 10am – 12noon

Enjoy the satisfaction of helping a worthy cause and of meeting and/or working with other First Church members and friends: Volunteer for the collection team! The volunteer shift is 9:30am – 12:30pm. Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/diaper-drive>

If you want to donate but can't make it on October 1st, don't worry! There will be a donation box in the narthex, beginning next Sunday, September 18.

You can look ahead to future months by visiting the First Saturday Drive-Thru Collection Page on our website at <https://firstchurchwg.org/charitable-outreach/first-saturdays/>.

For the same organization, we also have an ongoing collection of period supplies, and another box in the narthex to collect them, alongside the box for diapers.

If a monetary donation is better for you, please consider sending a check directly to the 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 applicable. If you have any questions about the period supplies collection, please contact Andrea Welnick.

What's Going on at First Church

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!)

Monday, September 12

10:00 AM Funeral: Grady Wilson
7:00 PM Three Ministries (Hybrid)
7:00 PM Stewardship Committee
(Hybrid)
7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B & G -
Dickens Room

Tuesday, September 13

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 14

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

Thursday, September 15

6:00pm – 7:00 PM Canterbury Bells
7:30pm – 8:30 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, September 18

Rally Day!
9:45 AM Nursery Care Available
10:00 AM Worship (All Ages)
11:05 AM Potluck Lunch

Please note that Office Administrator Debra Tolstoi will be away, September 15-19. Building Manager Chip Isringhaus will be out of the office, September 15.



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

Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
JWMusbach@gmail.com

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon
DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org

Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim
Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi
Admin@FirstChurchWG.org

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke
Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org

Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie
cliff.aerie@gmail.com

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes
laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I
lesrhs@sbcglobal.net

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

Follow us on

Facebook

www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchwg/>

YouTube

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

