

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves  
United Church of Christ

*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

RALLY DAY

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

START OF A NEW PROGRAM YEAR



*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.*

ABOUT THE COVER: The artwork, “Pantocrator in Black and Brown,” mixed media, by Brian Behm from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, was awarded Best in Show in a juried art exhibit entitled, “De-Colonizing the Christ.” The exhibit was presented in the Riverfront Gallery at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Cathedral in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, September – December 2021. Used with permission of the artist – @BrianBehmArt

## Order of Worship

*An asterisk (\*) indicates the Congregation standing, in body or in spirit.*

**PRELUDE** *Come Thou Almighty King* arr. Lloyd Larson

**WELCOME** Valerie Paci, *Liturgist*

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive – Leader; **People**)

The Church today is like a single body which has many parts.

**It is still one body though every part is different.**

Therefore the foot cannot say,

**I am not a part of the body.**

Nor can the ear say,

**I am not part of the body.**

The eye cannot say to the hand,

**I don't need you.**

Nor can the head say to the feet,

**I don't need you.**

If one part suffers,

**All parts share the pain.**

If one part is praised,

**All parts share the joy.**

Together we are Christ's body:

**Each one of us is part of it.**

All together,

**Let us praise the One who makes us one.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** *Gather the Spirit* Jim Scott  
(Go to p. 10)

**RITUAL OF APPROACH**

*"We Share Our Stories Before God"*

*Prayer of Confession* (Responsive)

Wisdom of God, in Jesus you who taught thousands and yet were willing to learn from the last and the least. We confess that we pretend to know even though in truth we still wonder.

**Forgive our pretense, that we may open ourselves to unexpected insights, to fresh ideas, to one another, to you.**

Vulnerable Christ, you who lived in generous love, we confess that we have closed ourselves off, that an abundance suffering in our world has caused us to stop looking rather than see and respond to those in need.

**Forgive our neglect that we may care for one another and follow in the example you set for us. In your name we pray.**

*Silence for Personal Confession*

*Words of Assurance*

Disciples, followers, students of the living Christ, know that we are forgiven always by a liberating and loving God.

**We are freed to begin anew through God's everlasting compassion and grace.**

**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 Gospels*

Matthew 18:15-20

Gabriel Requadt, *Student Minister*

Pew bible, p. 895

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*Draw the Circle Wide*

Mark Miller

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*"The Universal Jesus"*

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We Lift Our Joys and Concerns*

*Prayer of the Day (Unison)*

*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.**

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

*New Member Candidates Introduced*

*Preface*

*Affirmation of Faith*

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*

*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*

**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**

*Blessed Be the Tie that Binds*  
No. 393, *New Century Hymnal*

John Fawcett

**\*BENEDICTION**

**OPPORTUNITIES ARISING**

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata*

Flor Peeters

*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](https://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

## New Photo Church Directory Coming!

**Phil Shoulberg will be taking photos before and after church today**, in the nursery. He will also be **taking photos after worship on September 25**. Members of the Membership committee will be on hand to verify your contact information. Do your part to help this project get off to a smooth start.

## It's Vehicle Fair Time! – September 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 \$1,400.00. You can donate a portion of the cost, or the full amount, according to your ability!

## **Lady Elect Season Opener!**

Lady Elect, a woman's group, kicks off their program year on Tuesday, September 27, at 6:30 PM in Memorial Hall. The program year is always started with a potluck along with a concert by "Young at Harp". All are welcome. For more information, contact Laura Cooper.

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

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. 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/>.

**We also have an ongoing collection of period supplies for the same organization. There will be a box in the narthex to collect period supplies and a 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**

If you have any questions about the period supplies collection, please contact Andrea Welnick.

## **Erick Falconer's Presentation – October 2nd during Coffee Hour!**

Minister Erick Falconer, M.D., will be presenting his Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) project titled "A Pastoral Care Approach to the Opioid Epidemic". The goal of this presentation is to give an update on the status of the American Opioid Epidemic and equip those who have been affected by the Opioid Epidemic with information and tools to empower and support them through what many have found to be the most challenging crisis in modern U.S. History.

## **Kids Worship Service – Oct 2nd**

You don't want to miss worship on Oct 2nd because our kids/grandkids are taking the lead! Please plan to be present to support the church's children; they are spending the month of September preparing. Jesus said that unless we become like children, we cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. This is a special chance to do just that.

## **Jazz for the Journey – October 2nd at 5:00n PM in Memorial Hall!**

The third chapter will once again be held in a coffee house setting. The theme for this chapter will be, *You've Got a Friend*.

## **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>.

## **OUTRAGED? Get ENGAGED!**

### **The Peace & Justice Team invites you to get involved.**

- Get involved with the St. Louis Area Voter Protection Coalition at <https://www.stlouisyvpc.org/> . Text "MOVPC" to 66866 or email [info@movpc.org](mailto:info@movpc.org) .
- If you live in the 24th state senate district (Kirkwood, Ladue, Creve Coeur, Fenton, etc), you have a chance to hear from your candidates at a forum on Sept. 22nd at 7pm at the Ethical Society at 9001 Clayton Rd. Register here!
- Email Halley if you are interested in driving voters to the polls for the general election.
- Reach out to a candidate for state rep or state senator and help them canvass – it's not just federal offices that matter!
- The Peace & Justice team meets on the 4th Monday of each month. Join us on Monday, September 26th at 7pm on Zoom.

### **FCCWG Swag**

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!

### **Covenant News Deadline**

Deadline for the October/November Issue of the Covenant News is September 20th! Email all articles, reports, images, etc. to Debbie at [admin@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchwg.org)

### **Join a Choir!**

Choir rehearsals has begun! Everyone is encouraged, regardless of membership status or level of ability to join.

**The Canterbury Bells meet on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM**

**The Chancel Choir gathers on Thursday evenings at 7:30**

For more information, or to join, contact Director of Music, Leon Burke

## **Kids' Church Enrollment Forms**

All parents will receive a hard copy of the enrollment form today. Please fill it out and return it to Halley by Oct 23rd. Thank you!

## **What's Going on at First Church**

### **Sunday, September 18**

#### **Rally Day!**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00 AM** Worship

**11:05 AM** Potluck Lunch

### **Monday, September 19**

**6:30 PM** Professional Staff Committee

**7:00 PM** Executive Ministry (Zoom)

**7:00 PM** Scout Troop 301B & G –  
Court of Honor – Memorial Hall

### **Tuesday, September 20**

**10:30 AM** Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday, September 21**

9:30am Yoga - Inglis Room

**6:00 PM** Bridge Club - Inglis Room

### **Thursday, September 22**

**6:00pm – 7:00 PM** Canterbury Bells

**7:30pm – 8:30 PM** Chancel Choir

### **Saturday, September 24**

**9:00 AM to Noon** Vehicle Fair!

### **Sunday, September 25**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00 AM** Worship

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

*Please note that Office Administrator Debra Tolstoi will be away, September 15-19.*

## Gather The Spirit

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Gather The Spirit'. It consists of seven staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, and 29 marked at the beginning of their respective staves. The final measure of the seventh staff ends with a double bar line.

Ga - ther the spir - it har - vest the pow'r.  
Ga - ther the spir - it of heart and mind.  
5 Ga - ther the spir - it grow - ing in all,  
Our sep - 'rate fires will kin - die one flame.  
9 Seeds for the sow - ing are laid in store.  
Drawn by the moon and fed by the sun.  
13 Wit - ness the mys - te - ry of this hour. Our  
Nur - tured in love and con - science re - fined, with  
Win - ter to Spring and Sum - mer to Fall, the  
17 trials in this light ap - pear all the same.  
bo - dy and spirit u - ni - ted once more.  
cho - rus of life re - sound - ing as one.  
Ga - ther in peace, Ga - ther in thanks.  
21 Ga - ther in sym - pa - thy now and then.  
25 Ga - ther in hope, com - pas - sion and strength.  
29 Ga - ther to — cel - e - brate once — a - gain.





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[www.FirstChurchWG.org](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach  
[JWMusbach@gmail.com](mailto:JWMusbach@gmail.com)

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon  
[DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org)

Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim  
[Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org)

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi  
[Admin@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Admin@FirstChurchWG.org)

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
[Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org)

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
[cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org)

Student Minister – Gabriel Requedt  
[erequedt@eden.edu](mailto:erequedt@eden.edu)

Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

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

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry Webster  
University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes  
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Director, Center for Counseling & Healing Rev.  
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*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

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

