

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022



*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 *Gravy Waltz* Ray Brown

WELCOME Phil Shoulberg, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

INTROIT *Give Me a Clean Heart* M. Douroux

***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** *Praise to God* N. Hanaoka
No. 5, *New Century Hymnal*

PRAYER OF APPROACH

We Share Our Stories Before God

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious God, forgive us for allowing divisiveness to proliferate. Sometimes we rightly call out injustice but, in the process, dehumanize those who disagree with us. Other times we enable injustice because we prefer comfortable silence over difficult conversation. Help us to speak truth in love. Amen.

Silence for Personal Confessions

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 Prophets

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Gabriel Requadt, *Student Minister*

From the Gospels

Luke 16:19-31

Pew Bible, p. 722

p. 954

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *He Never Failed Me Yet* Robert Ray

MESSAGE OF THE DAY *“The Universal Jesus”* Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

MUSIC MEDITATION *I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free* Billy Taylor

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior

Translation by Denoon

Our Mother in heaven, make your name holy. Reveal your love, and teach us your way. Make earth alike with 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, but deliver us from the evil one. For here is your love: where power and glory are shared, now and forever. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN** *In Christ There Is No East or West* Oxenham / Stookey
No. 394, *New Century Hymnal*

***BENEDICTION**

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

POSTLUDE *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* Anonymous
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.

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The Oikos Ensemble – Kim Fuller Barnes, vocal • Carolbeth True, piano
Cliff Aerie, sax • Glen Smith, bass • Kyle Honeycutt, drums

Our thanks to these artist for sharing their music with us this morning!

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

New Photo Church Directory Coming!

Phil Shoulberg will be taking photos after church today, in the nursery. 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.

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.

- Sign up to help on election day: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3bwsb2>
- Get involved with the St. Louis Area Voter Protection Coalition at <https://www.stlouisvpc.org/> . Text "MOVPC" to 66866 or email 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!

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!

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!

Habitat for Humanity Updates

Save the date for our First Church Habitat Work Day on Saturday, December 3. We will be working in the Lookaway neighborhood. Watch for further details.

Phil Shoulberg

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

October 2 is the day when we collect the **Neighbors in Need special offering** (NIN) which benefits our denomination's outreach through partner agencies across the United States. While other special offerings benefit international ministries and emergency funds, one-quarter of NIN is distributed to organizations and churches serving Native American people. Our national Justice and Witness Ministries benefit also.

This year's NIN focus is on our denomination's advocacy for fair and living wages. Read stories of faith and transformation provided by Neighbors in Need at ucc.org/nin

What's Going on at First Church

Sunday, September 25

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

Monday, September 26

7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B & G –
Dickens Room

Tuesday, September 27

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

6:30 PM Lady Elect – Memorial Hall

Wednesday, September 28

9:30 AM Yoga - Inglis Room

6:00 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room

Thursday, September 29

9:00 AM Journeymen - Parlor

6:00pm – 7:00 PM Canterbury Bells

7:30pm – 8:30 PM Chancel Choir

Saturday, October 1

9:00 AM to Noon First Saturday Drive-
Thru Collection – St. Louis Area Diaper
Bank

Sunday, October 2

Sacrament of Christ's Table

World Communion Sunday

Kids Lead Worship

9:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:05 AM Presentation by Erick
Falconer

5:00 PM Jazz for the Journey



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Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
JWMusbach@gmail.com

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon
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Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim
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Admin@FirstChurchWG.org

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke
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Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
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Student Minister – Gabriel Requadt
erequadt@eden.edu

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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