

Covenant News

September 2022



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FROM THE PASTOR

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

I received recently the latest issue of one of my favorite magazines – *The Christian Century*. It was book-bound (with a spine) rather than stapled. There was a new slogan on the cover: “Thoughtful. Independent. Progressive.” Photos of columnists were now line drawings rather than photos.

Reading the lead article, I learned something that reminded me of us. The publication's change in format was due to a change in their publishing schedule, as well as the popularity of their website and other internet offerings. *The Christian Century*, which for years has been semi-monthly with 24 issues per year will henceforth be printed only monthly. Subscribers will receive a weekly e-newsletter to fill the gaps.

Similarly, the *Covenant News*, which has been published 10 times per year for decades (July-August and December-January issues have been combined), has moved to a 6-issue annual cycle: December-January (Winter), February-March (Lent), April-May (Easter), June-July-August (Summer), September (a stand-alone issue for the start of the program year), and October-November (Fall).

There are many reasons for adopting this change in schedule:

- First of all, the primary means of communication with you now is electronic. The *eNews* serves as a popular weekly reminder. More than 50% of you open and read it and follow the links provided for more information.
- By contrast, recipients of the email announcing *Covenant News* may open it (around 40%) but those who follow the link to read it number less than 20%. The number of households receiving paper copies of the *Covenant News* in the mail is down to about 11 (Each issue, we also include 10-15 more paper issues on the narthex table, and there are always leftovers.).
- We had considered the possibility of mailing *Covenant News* to everyone, which might prompt more to read it, but our cost for postage alone would exceed \$120 per issue.
- Combine with these numbers the hours required of Debbie Tolstoi to collect articles, edit and assemble *Covenant News*, and then publish and distribute it, and you begin to raise questions of its effectiveness of communication and its economy.

It's not that a newsletter carrying our community's announcements and news isn't worth publishing. It has simply been necessary for us to figure out the best and most strategic schedule for it. *Covenant News* is not going away; it has simply had to do what all of us do in these changing times – adapt, accommodate, and change.

Peace.

Pastor Dave Deaton

WORSHIP NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

This schedule is subject to change, as need may arise.

*All worship services noted below will be offered in person and live streamed
(bit.ly/FCCWG-YT), at 10:00am on Sundays.*

In September, we will conclude our eight-week series based on Diana Butler Bass's *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence* (New York: HarperOne, 2021).

Sunday, September 4, 10:00am – LABOR DAY WEEKEND; SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE; ALL AGES WORSHIP. "Jesus the Way": In the gospel of John, at the table of the Last Supper, Jesus makes the mysterious statement, "I am the way..." (John 14:7) Later, in Acts we read that the new, Christian interpretation of scripture is called, "the Way." (Acts 9:2 ff) The understandings seem to be reciprocal: Jesus and his faith are one. Historically, however, Christians have had to grapple with whether this makes our religion the Only True religion, or simply another pathway to God. (Acts 18:24-27a; John 14:4-10, 22-23)

In this worship service we introduce our new Student Minister for this year, Gabriel Requadt. The service also features music of the American Labor Movement played and sung by Rick Herrick.

For post-worship discussion, please read Diana Butler Bass's *Freeing Jesus*, pp. 161-215. Join the discussion in person (Inglis Room) or using Zoom at the URL bit.ly/FCCWG-Bible

Sunday, September 11, 10:00am – REMEMBRANCE OF 9/11. "*The Quotidian Christ*": From her friend Phyllis Tickle, Diana Butler Bass learned a new word – quotidian. For most intents and purposes it means, *ordinary*, but another Christian author, Kathleen Norris, persists that the daily rhythms we experience can lead us to a deeper understanding of who Jesus is for us. Bass dives deep, reframing Christ's incarnation through a lens of creatureliness, and then demonstrating how that creatureliness reveals an abiding Spirit. Are we ready to accept just how much the Divine has come to identify with us? (Colossians 1:15-20) For post-worship discussion, please read *Freeing Jesus*, pp. 217 – 256.

Sunday, September 18, 10:00am – RALLY DAY; BEGINNING OF NEW PROGRAM YEAR; NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED. "*The Universal Jesus*": Bass's conclusion to *Freeing Jesus* cites the work of Fr. Richard Rohr, a Benedictine priest who is also a contemplative and an activist. Fr. Richard recently wrote a volume, *The Divine Dance*, expressing how the Trinity – a cosmic mystery for Christians – reminds us that the Christ is a reality far beyond our understanding. How shall we dance with our God in the world? (Matthew 18:15-20) For post-worship discussion, please have read *Freeing Jesus*, pp. 257 - 268.

Sunday, September 25, 10:00am – MUSIC BY THE OÏKOS ENSEMBLE. "*Straining Forward*": We live in a divided world. But division isn't new. Jeremiah was hopeful and purchased property, as his country was being invaded (32:1-3a, 6-15). Jesus seemed less than hopeful when he once told a story of a rich person and a poor one in the afterlife (Luke 16:19-31) with the conclusion, "If the sinful don't listen to prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." (v. 31) Pastor Dave Denoon offers some thoughts about the promise of unity in the midst of polarization.

MODERATOR'S CORNER SEPTEMBER 2021 — TO RALLY

As we seek to be relevant to younger generations, I've become somewhat obsessed by thoughts of what has sustained us throughout our lives and how to help others find similar sustenance. What do we have that sustains us that younger generations do not, that may help to explain the increased levels of stress, depression, social dysfunction, that is permeating our society? Is there a connection to the decreased interest and participation in organized religion, in the fact that younger generations feel that this is something they do not need because they can replace it with other activities they enjoy or feel they do not have time to focus on the spiritual side of life?

I believe that part of what sustains us through the vicissitudes of life is a religious/spiritual foundation that we can call on to connect us; on a past religious foundation that binds us to family and fundamental values that give us strength.

Over fifty years ago, I went half a world away from home and family, committed to being away for two years to teach. This was long before the connecting phenomena of Skype, Face Time, or even affordable international telephone calls. On the first Sunday in October I went to a Protestant chapel for worship. It was Worldwide Communion Sunday. I distinctly remember the comfort in knowing that, regardless of time zones and International Date Lines, in that time and place I was observing the same religious ritual as my parents and siblings half a world away. Similarly, finding a Protestant church in Penang, Malaysia on Christmas Eve that year I had the same deep feeling of being connected to the values, practices, traditions in which I had been reared. Though by myself, I was not alone. This sense of connectivity was powerful.

Recently reading a biography of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes I read a similar story. As a Captain in the Union Army, facing his first battle at Balls Bluff during the Civil War, he went to worship and heard, as if for the first time, the words from the book of Common Prayer – and took great comfort in knowing at that day and time his parents and siblings were having the same experience. That comfort sustained him the next day in battle. Recently I was moved by the words of Martin Mills after he sang “In the Garden.” He reflected meaningfully on the days when he had sung that hymn with his parents. Early religious experiences stay with us. I would love to have you share your similar experiences with me. Our religious foundations sustain us; how can we best share that truth with others?

Our church provides a religious home open to all. We are offering programming aimed to be attractive to all ages. Our new church year will be launched on Rally Day, September 18. Let us use that occasion to come together joyfully! Dave's sermon series and book study on the many roles Jesus can play in our lives continues and can reaffirm or establish a religious foundation. The very popular Vehicle Fair lets young families know we are here – on the corner of Elm and Lockwood; get to know us. Our First Saturdays initiatives give us opportunities to serve, to act out the principles to which we subscribe. Throughout the *Covenant News* you will find news of various church groups and committees that offer opportunities for socializing and serving our church family. Join in and enjoy.

As we benefit from the religious foundation and community that sustain us, let's work to spread awareness of that important foundation for life and find ways to share it with others.

Joan Musbach,
Moderator

FROM THE PASTORAL ASSISTANT

The 2nd Annual Vehicle Fair is coming up soon! Mark your calendars for September 24th from 9am to noon. Much like last year, we will have an ice cream truck, a fire engine, a tow truck, a police car, construction vehicles, the famous “Bubble Bus,” and more! As it was last year, the west parking lot will be used for parking, and the event itself will take place on the east parking lot. Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors to come out and enjoy this community event! We will provide coffee so parents and guardians can keep up with their overjoyed kiddos! *You don't want to miss this!*

Members of the Christian Education Ministry, along with Dave and myself, are together reading *Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus*, by David Csinos. We are meeting monthly to discuss the book, two chapters at a time. Why have a Ministry read a book together? Because we feel the aim of the Christian Education Ministry should not only be to make budget decisions and determine programming, but also to intentionally cast vision for the future. *What do we mean when we say, “children's ministry?”*

*Is our church engaged in ministry **with** children, or only **for** children? Do the adults and children in our congregation really know each other, and why does that matter?* This book challenges conventional ideas about children in church, and relies on research in spiritual formation and human development to suggest a new paradigm. The author, David Csinos, is professor of practical theology at Atlantic School of Theology (Halifax, Nova Scotia), the founder and president of Faith Forward, an innovative youth and children's ministry organization, and he is a sought-after speaker in progressive Christian spaces.

“Children's ministry isn't merely providing cognitive input about that one moral or theological point each story or lesson was meant to teach. It's not about helping children fall in love with the ‘dreamy Jesus’ portrayed in their Sunday school workbooks. It's about helping them live as committed disciples of the radical way of life Jesus calls us to...it aims at nurturing the whole life of the child and not compartmentalizing the child's ‘church life’ from the rest of the child's life. It realizes that children feel God's love when they are surrounded by a close-knit faith community who loves them and sees them as valued participants. It realizes that children make the values of God's reign their own by seeing them lived out radically in their churches and homes — not simply by learning about them in a classroom or through a programmed activity. It understands that children are learners *and* teachers, and that they have as much to teach adults about life in God's kingdom as we adults have to teach them.” (David Csinos, *Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus*, p. 38.)



Noel and I had the inspired idea to up-cycle an old chest of drawers to create an interactive visual aid depicting the biblical canon! As you can see there is a drawer for every genre found in Scripture: Law, History, Poetry, Major Prophets, Minor Prophets, Gospels, Paul's Letters, Other Letters, and Miscellaneous (Acts and Revelation). Each drawer is filled with items representing stories or themes from that section of the Bible. Take the gospel drawer, for example: you'll see a star and a manger (birth of Jesus), a stethoscope (Jesus as the Great Physician), a candle (Jesus as Light of the World), a plastic piece of bread and a plastic cup (Last Supper), 30 quarters (Judas betraying Jesus), and an Easter egg

(the resurrection). We are excited about this new asset to our children's ministry program as it makes the Bible “come off the page” and helps kids understand how Scripture is organized. Come check it out!

Halley Kim,
Pastoral Assistant



CLIFF'S CORNER – JAZZ AT FIRST CHURCH



Sunday, September 25 worship

The Oikos Ensemble will play at Sunday morning worship blending traditional and contemporary music into a joyful celebration. Cliff and the group will provide accompaniment for the choir as they sing “He Never Failed Me.”

Jazz for the Journey

Sunday, October 2 at 5:00 pm in Memorial Hall



Our third chapter of *Jazz for the Journey* will once again be held in a coffee house setting. Our theme, “You’ve Got a Friend” will highlight jazz versions of several pop tunes: “Bridge Over Troubled Waters” (Simon and Garfunkel), “With a Little Help from My Friends” (Beatles), and “You’ve Got a Friend” (James Taylor). Jan Barnes will be our storyteller, and the Logos Readers will share their creative artistry in word. Music and story will be complemented by evocative imagery.

Join us for beverages and deserts. This is a perfect opportunity to invite friends and family to an innovative program encouraging each person’s spiritual journey. A free-will offering will be received to further the ministry of MICA.

Jazz for the Journey is

an interfaith meditative experience exploring the adventurous landscape of the soul through the transformative spirit of jazz, storytelling, and the arts. All are welcome to this unique meditative opportunity to experience the artistry of musicians as they soulfully share their deepest connections through their music.

Photography by Phil Shoulberg.

Rev. Cliff Aerie

Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA)



TREASURER'S REPORT

Below are the church operating results for July 2022:

Statement of Financial Activities				
	2022	2021	Full Year Budget	Change to Prior Year
Income				Higher/ (Lower)
Pledges and Gifts	\$ 193,700	\$ 205,944	\$ 315,000	\$ (12,245)
Transfer from Endowment	100,000	70,000	299,000	30,000
Benevolence	22,362	23,527	15,000	(1,164)
CARES Act PPP	-	35,000	-	(35,000)
Use of Space and Miscellaneous	39,354	26,470.73	47,115	12,883
Interest Income	8,569	8,952	11,000	(383)
Total Revenue	363,985	369,894	687,115	(5,909)
Expenses				(Higher)/ Lower
Human Resources Expense	\$ 263,408	\$ 248,272	\$ 458,354	(15,136)
Facilities and Finance Expense	\$ 92,623	\$ 77,817	\$ 163,375	(14,805)
Benevolence Expense	\$ 30,050	\$ 32,415	\$ 32,000	2,365
Christian Education Ministry Expense	\$ 1,837	\$ 613	\$ 4,100	(1,224)
Parish Life Ministry Expense	\$ 6,489	\$ 5,087	\$ 11,400	(1,402)
Executive Ministry Expense	\$ 1,634	\$ 1,076	\$ 17,200	(558)
Total Expenses	396,040	365,280	686,429	(30,760)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ (32,056)	\$ 4,614	\$ 686	\$ (36,669)

Statement of Financial Position			
	2022	2021	Variance
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 137,678	\$ 166,847	\$ (29,169)
Pledges receivable	154,158	132,244	21,914
Property and equipment	27,476	29,066	(1,590)
Minister housing long term receivable	60,000	60,000	-
Total Assets	\$ 379,312	\$ 388,157	\$ (8,845)
Unrestricted Designated Funds	35,599	52,595	(16,996)
Restricted funds for:			
Funds in Endowment Trust	51,334	45,815	5,519
Churchyard	36,370	36,007	363
Kishlar/Dickens Room Maintenance	49,046	58,096	(9,050)
Temporarily restricted funds for pledges	154,158	132,244	21,914
Memorial Funds	59,917	55,697	4,220
Long term liabilities	60,000	60,000	-
Unrestricted Net Assets	(67,112)	(52,297)	(14,815)
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 379,312	\$ 388,157	\$ (8,845)

Items to note include:

- The Decrease in Net Assets is \$36,669 lower this July when compared to prior year.

- Total Revenue is down \$5,909, this is due to several factors:
 - Pledge revenue is lower \$12,245. While there are individual ups and downs in pledges, the decrease is attributable to an in-kind payment to ProScape landscaping made in July 2021
 - The church has received \$30,000 more from the Endowment this year
 - Last year, the church had recorded \$35,000 in PPP loan receipts
 - Use of space income is up \$12,883 compared to last year. This includes \$2,030 from 10 West Lockwood room rental income
- Expenses are \$30,760 higher this year. The increase in expenses is primarily due to:
 - \$15k: Higher staff expenses, including the new audio visual position (\$6.8k) and budgeted compensation increases (\$10.4k)
 - \$14k: Higher F&F expenses, including higher insurance (\$12k) and utilities expense (\$5.7k) which are offset by lower office expenses (-\$3.0k)
- The cash position of the church shows a decrease of \$29,169. The church currently has 2.4 months of operating funds on hand. It is recommended to have 3 to 6 months of cash reserves on hand

If you have any other questions or want further detail, please let me know.

Thanks

Jennifer Jones, Treasurer

FRIEND TO FRIEND

According to Great Clips and my Medicare Card I've been a senior citizen for twelve years. I've been a member of this congregation for nearly forty years. These are all just numbers, what matters are the experiences. Since being a member of this congregation, I've experienced many joys of working with members as we've served on boards, taught Sunday School, studied, cooked and worshiped together. Some of these folks have been my mentors as well as my friends. In recent years I've enjoyed working with the Friend to Friend program. Friend to Friend visitors keep in contact with a homebound person of their choosing. Usually it is someone they have known through the years. Sometimes it is a parent. It is a way for the homebound and the congregation to keep contact. The visitor is the link. We try to visit once a month, send cards and remember birthdays. Sometimes we take a little treat or a flower from our garden. We share pictures of church gatherings (so easy to do with our smart phones), visit and laugh a lot. In some instances memories have failed and so we smile and maybe hold a hand. Sometimes we say a little prayer. Following the visit, usually the visitor will text me or contact Pastor or Halley if there is a special concern.

We have thirteen people helping with the Friend to Friend program currently. If you would like to help with this program or know of someone who needs a visit, please let Pastor or me know. We are always in need of more visitors.

Faye Dyer

FIRST FRIENDS

As fall arrives and the First Friends enter a new season with a refreshed schedule, I'd like to take the opportunity to report that we currently have 6 teams of at least 6 members, and a roster of alternates who graciously step in when needed. These teams are a demonstration of the active hospitality that our church works to project each and every week. First Friends greet people at the door, help with worship tasks, and finally provide and serve refreshments after worship. The program welcomes new participants and has been a terrific way for new members to be part of a small group and getting to know at least some people better through working together.

I also want to thank each and every participant for their presence, their warmth, and their service.

Linda Kopetti,
First Friends Coordinator

THE STORY ABOUT MUSIC IN OUR CHURCH

Music has always been an important part of our church. The original organ used in our Church's first worship services is now displayed in the Kishlar Room. It has two key boards and eight stops. That first organ was replaced in 1887 with our first pipe organ, donated by Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Webster in memory of their son. When the 1892-3 sanctuary was built this donated organ was moved into the new church space. Our very first organ was sold, however, for our 100th Anniversary it was borrowed back for the celebration and in 1984 the owners donated it back to the church.

In 1957 a new pipe organ was installed, along with chimes. When the present sanctuary was built in 1993-4, after much research, the Music Committee selected the Casavant Company to build a new organ. The Ver Hagen family traveled to Quebec to see and hear the organ that would be installed in our sanctuary. It has 18 stops, 24 ranks and 1406 pipes. It was given by the Ver Hagens in memory of their son, David Matthew. It was dedicated with an organ recital in 1994.

Among the first church purchases in 1866 were 12 hymnals. By 1878 records show we had 75 singing books. Over the years arrangements for music were made as finances permitted. Sometimes there was a paid soloist, quartet or choir. Sometimes volunteers were used. During the Great Depression years the church was able to hire an organist/director for five dollars a Sunday. The first time choir robes were mentioned in records was in 1936 with a notation that the choir had new robes that were pleasing and dignified. Ester Repogle, known to generations of Websterites, was our choir director from 1936 to 1967. During those years, in addition to the Chancel Choir, four more choirs were added - Cherubs, Choristers, Jr. High, and Senior High with a total of 250 members. Today the music program includes the Canterbury Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir.



Original Organ



1887 Pipe Organ



Casavant Organ 1994

FROM THE ORGANIST'S BENCH



Hello everyone! I know we have had a joyous summer with good worship and good music, but it is time to begin the Program Year again. As we prepare for our ensembles to rejoin us in worship, this is a call for anyone who is “bell curious” or “choir curious” to contact me. In a few weeks we have a clinician coming in to teach bell ringing basics and other ringing skills and I am treating the 15 minutes before choir rehearsal as a class voice lesson. Our ensembles are very friendly and, as you have already heard, make a joyful sound in worship and you could be a part of that.

I am planning for world-class pianists, singer/songwriters, and other great musicians to perform on our concert series this year. I don't want to release the schedule until it is confirmed. I am also in early talks with our neighbor, First Presbyterian Church's choir across the street for collaboration ideas with our choir. If you have any ideas for that or any other collaboration, please contact me.

Thanks to Joan Musbach who has helped me do a physical inventory (and cleanup) of the music library this summer! If anyone would like to help with data entry for this, please contact me. There is still a lot to do and things go faster with friends helping.

See you soon!
Leon Burke

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 1CC-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.

LITURGISTS/ANNOUNCERS

Being the liturgist for the worship service gives you the chance to participate in the service in a very meaningful way. This usually involves the welcome, leading the call to worship and covenant, as well as reading the scripture. And if you choose to do so bringing your story of a learning experience or sometime when you were brought to a closer realization of God in your life. You will also close the service with opportunities for becoming more involved in the life of the church. Liturgists generally serve once per season. If you would enjoy participating in this way, please contact Marilyn Davis and she will add you to the group.

Marilyn Davis

OUR GROUPS PROGRAMMING FOR SEPTEMBER

Practicing Our Faith

Practicing Our Faith is a small group of women that has met for over 10 years. The group includes women from our church as well as the community. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the Parlor (unless noted), at 6:30 pm, to support each other on life's journey. We generally read one or two books each year and use the books as a starting point for discussion.

We haven't decided on the book we're going to study yet, but we welcome folks to join us. We are always open to new members. Feel free to contact any of the current members for questions.

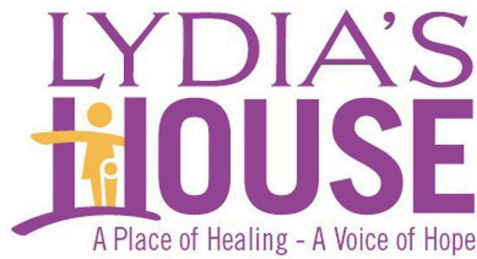
Members include:

Jan Barnes, Jeanene Harris, Halley Kim, Ann Leonard, Barb Moore, Lynda Morrison, Libby Reimers, Linda Smith, Chris von Wiese, Andrea Welnick

Lady Elect

All Lady Elect is a group that was formed many years ago to meet the fellowship needs of working women at First Church. Over the years it has continued to be a fellowship opportunity that meets in the evening once a month. Most meetings are at the church and have a planned program. Refreshments are provided by two members each month. Meetings generally begin at 7:00. The program year begins on September 27th and will be a potluck dinner in Memorial Hall starting at 6:00, all are welcome. After dinner we are happy to welcome Young at Harp.

Any questions about this group can be sent to Linda Kopetti (ljkopetti@gmail.com) for now, as the group transitions to a new leader for the coming year.



FIRST SATURDAY DRIVE FOR LYDIA'S HOUSE IS VIRTUAL

“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!

Lydia’s House – One of our Benevolence Partner Agencies

Each year First Congregational Church of Webster Groves (FCCWG) raises funds to support partner agencies and the Benevolence Committee awards funds.

Lydia’s House is a partner organization and helps to make a difference for abused women and their children. Lydia’s House began in 1995 and offers secure housing and immediate community for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. They have 50 confidentially located, fully furnished apartments where families can find refuge, safety and support. Their transitional housing is one of the largest in the country and the only program of its kind in eastern Missouri.

Each family at Lydia’s House is provided an advocate to help guide them through the process of recovering from abuse. All family members are connected to support services, including individual and group resources, to help them build the skills that are necessary not only for surviving but thriving in the wake of trauma.

FCCWG has an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of women and children escaping domestic violence.

Thank you for your support to help improve lives of women and children.

Jeanene Harris

UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Our group continues to work with our refugee family from Eritrea. It's been a busy summer but we see many signs of independence on their part, our goal.

The twins finished a school year in June at the same time that their mother got a part-time job. Another goal. They were soon enrolled in the Boy/Girls Club camp and had a good time. The camp ended two weeks before the new school year began which allowed us to take the children on field trips to some of our favorite places in St. Louis while their mother worked. We enjoyed the Zoo, Museum of Transport, and playgrounds. The children also had major dental work done before school started. They are back in school now and their mother is working during the school days.

We hope that many of you were able to meet the family when they came to church on July 10 for a henna event. We are also grateful for the participation of our church members — the Kims donated a patio set, the Moodys donated funds for transportation, and we received a grant from the Benevolence Fund. Mom also has completed the course for her hair braiding certificate. Now she can begin to gain additional income through a job she loves. She hopes to pursue a course and career in cosmetology. As time allows we continue English as a Second Language with her to help achieve those dreams.

The team — Laura Cooper, Joan Musbach, Pat Doyle-Grace, Kay Roush, Annie Sampath, Dan and Marilyn Claggett

NEW PHOTO CHURCH DIRECTORY COMING

Phil Shoulberg will be taking photos before and after church on Rally Day, September 18, 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.

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves



FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH of Webster Groves

10 West Lockwood Avenue
(314) 962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Saint Louis Metro CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 2, 2022

SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

Our church is participating in the Metro St. Louis CROP Hunger Walk, and we'd love to have you join our team. The CROP Walk takes place on Sunday, October 2 at Eden Theological Seminary. Registration is at 4:30 and the walk steps off at 5 PM. One 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://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/first-congregational-church-of-webster-groves-ucc>

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Laura Cooper 3rd

Bob Moody 4th

Bob Borutta 5th

Doug Miller 6th

Jeff McCoy 7th

Megan Miller 13th

Nancy Rudolph 13th

Chip Isringhaus 14th

James Jaeger 18th

Sarah McHugh 18th

Mark Cereghino 20th

Debbie Tolstoi 20th

Elaine Coe 22nd

Jane Porchey 24th

BJ Kaul 25th

Philip Roush 25th

Kedra Tolson 26th

Janice Aerie 28th

Jennifer Gomez 28th

Lynn Hoganson 28th

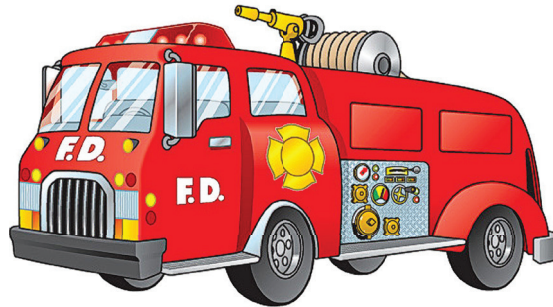
Beatrice Byrne 29th



First Congregational Church of Webster Groves presents

Community Vehicle Fair

Saturday, September 24, 2021



9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Parking Lot at Lockwood at Elm

Come explore all your favorite vehicles!

Ambulance • Tow Truck • Police Car

Backhoe • Bucket Truck

Fire Engine & More!



Ice Cream Truck Onsite

9:30 am to 11:30 am

Coffee and Water on us!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 12:00am - "First Saturday" Collection for Lydia's House (online only)
4 Sacrament of Christ's Table 9:00am Brown Baggers 9:45am Nursery Care Available 10:00am Worship 11:05am Coffee Fellowship 11:20am Book Discussion: "Freeing Jesus"	5 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm - 8:00pm Scout Troops 301B & G - Dickens Room	6 10:30am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Communications Team - Church Office 7:00pm Prospective Members Orientation	7 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm Bridge Club - Inglis Room	8 6:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	9	10 10:00am Prospective Members Orientation
11 9:45am Nursery Care Available 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship 11:20am Book Discussion: "Freeing Jesus"	12 10:00am - 11:00am Grady Wilson Memorial Service 7:00pm Scout Troops 301B & G - Dickens Room 7:00pm Three Ministries (Hybrid)	13 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Practicing Our Faith - Inglis Room	14 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm Bridge Club - Inglis Room	15 6:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	16	17
18 9:45am Nursery Care Available 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship 11:20am Book Discussion: "Freeing Jesus"	19 7:00pm Executive Ministry (Zoom) 7:00pm Scout Troops 301B & G - Dickens Room	20 10:30am Staff Meeting	21 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm Bridge Club - Inglis Room	22 First Day of Autumn 6:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	23	24 9:00am - 12:00pm Vehicle Fair - East Parking Lot
25 9:45am Nursery Care Available 10:00am Worship 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship	26 7:00pm Peace and Justice Team - Zoom 7:00pm Scout Troops 301B & G - Dickens Room	27 Lady Elect - Parlor 10:30am Staff Meeting	28 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - 9:30pm Bridge Club - Inglis Room	29 9:00am Journeymen - Parlor 6:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	30	



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Contact Information

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Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of MICA – Rev. Cliff Aerie
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Eden Campus Chaplain – Laurel Hayes
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Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SEPTEMBER MEAL-A-MONTH

Beef Stew • Canned Carrots (low or no salt)
Canned Fruit in own juices • Cornbread Mix (no eggs)
Powdered Milk • Shelf Stable Milk • Soy Milk
Toothbrushes • Tooth Paste • Dental Floss

MISSING SOMEONE?

Have you been missing someone for a while from worship and other church events? Please, contact Pastor Dave Denoon or Amy Byrne. Either will be happy to follow up for you.

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www.soundcloud.com/firstchurchwg

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



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