



First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

OCTOBER 23, 2022
STEWARDSHIP EFFORT BEGINS



*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 "Prayer of Jesus" from *Ascension Suite (I)* Messiaen

WELCOME Rev. Sue Leary, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING WORDS Psalm 22:1-11, 16b-19 Pew Bible, p. 490

***GATHERING HYMN** *As Pants the Hart* Psalms of David, 1696
No. 481, vv. 1,3,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

***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.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

We Share Our Stories Before God

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving God, we confess that often we don't see the unfair things around us. We take for granted the kindness and the status quo that gives us happiness. We ignore the things that make us uncomfortable and the everyday people who share our lives and make them possible. Give us the grace to share what we have and remember all the many people who enrich our lives. Amen.

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 Gospels Matthew 6:25-34 Pew Bible, p. 882

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Abide with Me* Gilbert Martin

MESSAGE OF THE DAY "When We Suffer" 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.

*PARTING HYMN

Jesus – the Very Thought to Me
No. 507, vv. 1,2,5, *New Century Hymnal*

Latin hymn, 12th C.

*BENEDICTION

Psalm 22:23-26

Pew Bible, p. 491

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

POSTLUDE

Meditation on Wondrous Love

John Barr

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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.

Photos Will Be Taken for the New Directory Today

It is time we updated our church photo directory. Resident professional photographer Phil Shoulberg will be taking photos for the directory after worship, today, in the nursery. Don't miss this chance. Avoid being hounded by the Membership Committee to get your photo taken!

TODAY & OCTOBER 30

We Need Your Help Sending "Get Out the Vote" Postcards!

- The postcards are pre-addressed and pre-paid so it's very easy! They just need a quick personal touch! Do 10 postcards in Coffee Hour!
- Get involved with the St. Louis Area Voter Protection Coalition. Text "MOVPC" to 66866 or email info@movpc.org.
- The Peace & Justice team meets on the 4th Monday of each month. Join us on Monday, October 24th and November 28th at 7pm on Zoom.

Tee-Shirts are Here!

If you ordered a tee-shirt, it can be found with your name on it in the church office on the desk by the kitchen. IF you haven't ordered one yet, we are overflowing with FCCWG shirts in the office! Come up here and buy one! They are \$15 each and we have a variety of sizes. Email Debbie at admin@firstchurchwg.org with questions.

Make Plans to Volunteer on November 5!

First Saturday Drive-Thru Collection

We will be collecting new heavy socks, hats, gloves, and scarves along with new and gently used winter coats for all ages and sizes, for Webster Rock Hill Ministries. **No blankets please.** More info on volunteering to come! To volunteer, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/winter-wear>

We Hold in Our Prayers

- Our residents in assisted living and skilled care – Sharon Beal, Joyce Berger, Paul Davis, Margery Gable, Shirley Moore, Kitty Pearl, Jan & Katy Ver Hagen, 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

"Living Buddha, Living Christ"

Sundays 10/30 – 11/20, Inglis Room, 11:20 AM

Student Minister Gabriel Requadt will be the leader of our new four part Sunday Morning Book Discussion. He has chosen the classic work, *Living Buddha, Living Christ*, by Vietnamese Buddhist monk and peace activist Thích Nhất Hạnh (1926-2021). In this wonderfully insightful interreligious meditation, Thích Nhất Hạnh offers his perspectives on the similarities and resonance of Christianity and Buddhism. Along the way, he offers plenty of helpful advice about how to practice your religion so that it benefits not only you but everyone and everything around you. Practicers of these two religions, he argues, ought themselves to become living Buddhas and living Christs! Need a copy of your own? Let Halley know, and she will provide you one.

Wish Upon a Cloud: Funding Off-Budget Projects

Three donations have been made toward the sanctuary monitors! These monitors will enhance our worship experience. They will project relevant images and information during worship services and can also be used for other events in the sanctuary. The cost for these are approximately \$1,400.00 each. **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 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.

Habitat for Humanity Updates

The workdays scheduled for this fall, **including our December 3 date, have been postponed until spring.** We're at the mercy of excavating and concrete contractors.

Confirmation for Grownups Starts on Wednesday, October 26

Many newcomers have expressed their interest in learning more about the theology, traditions, history, and denomination of First Congregational Church. For them and any others who would like to retake Confirmation, or take it for the first time, Pastor Dave Denoon will be offering a weekly class, beginning on Wednesday, October 26 at 7:00PM on Zoom.

If you would like to participate, please send an email to the pastor at ddenoon@firstchurchwg.org, so that he can include you in direct email messages to the group.

Lady Elect Jewelry Program

Monarch Jewelry, an arm of Crisis Aid International will be making a presentation at our next meeting on Tuesday, October 25th at 7pm in the Inglis room. Learn about sex trafficking and the story of how Monarch came to be.

You will have an opportunity to purchase jewelry and home decor, all made or repurposed by monarch volunteers. Many items are one of a kind. Cash, check, credit card are accepted and most items are under \$25.00. **All proceeds support this Christian ministry to save victims of sex trafficking and exploitation.**

Also, you can bring old jewelry and silver tableware to donate- clean out that jewelry box! Feel free to invite friends to this presentation and event. By Sunday, October 23, RSVP to Diane Weber, 314-835-0190.

Webster Rock Hill Ministries 40th Anniversary Celebration, Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 29th from Noon to 4:00PM

- Hamburgers and Hot Dogs
- Music
- Ice Cream and Candy
- Bounce Houses

For more information visit wrhm.org

Stewardship Invitations in the Narthex

The first of a series of messages inviting your financial commitment for 2023 is waiting for you in a box with your name on it in the Narthex. We need to affirm our community and our ministries together. Please respond generously!

What's Going on at First Church

Sunday, October 23

Stewardship Effort Begins

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:20 AM Visioning Team

Monday, October 24

7:00 PM Peace & Justice Team (Zoom)

7:00 PM Scout Troops 301B & 301G - Dickens Room

Tuesday, October 25

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

7:00 PM Lady Elect - Inglis Room

Wednesday, October 26

9:30 AM Yoga - Inglis Room

6:00 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room

7:00 PM Adult Confirmation (Zoom)

Thursday, October 27

6:00–7:00 PM Canterbury Bells

7:30–8:30 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, October 30

Reformation/Reconciliation Sunday

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship (All Ages)

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

11:20 AM Book Discussion

October 30, Come in Costume!

The day before Halloween, everyone is invited to wear a costume for this All Ages Worship service. It's also Reformation Weekend. (The Pastor would like to know if anyone has a Martin Luther or John Calvin costume to lend him?)



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Contact Information

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Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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