

# Covenant News

## October & November 2022



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### FROM THE PASTOR

#### "A Season of Stewardly Commitment"

All the faithful were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

(Acts 2:44-47)



Throughout our lifetime's journey, several invitations are extended to us. From the invitation to make our confession of faith, to the invitation to care for a sick neighbor, to the invitation to bring food to the next church event, to the invitation to Christ's Table, our life in a community of faith is full of invitations.

Lately, I've been thinking about the variety of invitations we receive and how those invitations spur us along in our faith development. Just consider what it means to gather at Christ's Table, and how being welcome there calls us to become Jesus' disciples and agents of grace.

Faithful financial stewardship is one way to respond to Christ's invitation into discipleship. Our generosity provides for our church's mission and ministry. On October 23 we will begin an intentional reflection titled *From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving*. Our liturgists for the four weeks beginning then will bring stories focusing on their personal or household decisions about generosity. This will culminate on Consecration Sunday, November 13, when all of us together may bless our stewardly intentions for the coming year.

Soon, you will be receiving a letter of greeting from the Stewardship Committee about this year's season of commitment. A commitment card is included with the letter, so that you may begin considering your financial stewardship for the coming year. I hope you will be intentional about responding to this important invitation and be present with us on November 13, not simply to turn in your commitment card, but to join in a celebration of generosity crowned with a pie-powered Coffee Fellowship!

God has done and continues to do remarkable things through us and with us – things that matter in our community! Your prayers and your participation are keys to helping us all advance further on the pathway of discipleship. During this time, may we be engaging in a spirit of true community, motivated by the grace we receive at the Table. Thank you for walking alongside me as a part of First Congregational Church.

Blessings,

*Pastor Dave Deaton*

## WORSHIP NOTES FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 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](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)), at 10:00am on Sundays.*

OCTOBER 2 – WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY; SPECIAL OFFERING FOR *NEIGHBORS IN NEED*; YOUNG PEOPLE LEAD WORSHIP. Kids' Church participants have been practicing their readings and songs and prayers for this very special worship service.

See elsewhere in this edition of *Covenant News* for helpful information about the morning's special offering.

OCTOBER 9 – WEEKEND OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY; WORSHIP OUTDOORS; BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS. FOR THE SUNDAY after the Feast Day of Francis of Assisi, we move our base of operations to the west parking lot and share blessings with our wildlife and domesticated friends. *Bring your pet, a photo, or toy for a special prayer and a treat from the pastor.*

OCTOBER 16 – MUSIC FOR SIMCHAT TORAH, BY *KLEZUNDHEIT!*

FEATURING "RABBI" LEON BURKE; SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: THE 2023 BUDGET. Pastor Dave Denoon launches a four-part series of messages about the problems of and blessings from suffering. In ***"Facing Our Trauma, Whether Small or Great,"*** he addresses the fact that difficult moments or seasons in our lives are not just something to be put away or ignored. A preponderance of evidence indicates that if we try to do so, we may miss knowing ourselves and others truly. (John 20:24-29)



This emphasis corresponds with Student Minister Gabriel Requadt's study of Thich Nhat Hanh's book, *Living Buddha, Living Christ*.

**"The best use of our time is being generous and really being present with others."  
(Thich Nhat Hanh – *Living Buddha, Living Christ*)**

OCTOBER 23 – ANNUAL INVITATION TO COMMITMENT BEGINS: "FROM BREAD AND CUP TO FAITH AND GIVING." About ten years ago, theologian and Christian historian Kate Bowler was diagnosed with cancer and decided to write about her experiences from diagnosis through treatment. Her best advice is to live in the present and face each day and each concern as they come. ***"When We Suffer"*** (Matthew 6:25-34)

OCTOBER 30 – WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES; REFORMATION/RECONCILIATION SUNDAY; HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION. Costumes are encouraged, not only for young people. ***"Alongside the Sufferer"*** is the emphasis of the pastor's message, this morning, as he invites young people and not-so-young ones to consider together how we and others may benefit from making our way together through pain and difficulty.

NOVEMBER 6 – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY; SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE. We honor the memories and spiritual legacies of members who have died in the last twelve months, as well as our own departed loved ones, with the lighting of candles and the sharing of communion. Message of the Day: ***"The Grace of Sadness – The Promise of Faith."*** Scriptures: Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 (apocrypha); Revelation 21:1-6a.

NOVEMBER 13 – CONSECRATION SUNDAY AND IN-GATHERING OF PLEDGES FOR 2023. HERE IS OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF generosity, as we together make our financial commitments to our beloved community of faith and the community beyond our walls. ***"From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving"*** is the message of the day, in which the pastor revisits the teaching of Thich Nhat Hanh (see quote above October 23) and our own stewardship emphasis. (2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; James 5:1-6)



NOVEMBER 20 – REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY. Classical guitarist and Webster University graduate Alyssa Catlin (at right) explores with us, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the challenges of being female in a field dominated by men, as well as being Indigenous and Christian – especially in an era when the sins of our country’s colonial past are coming powerfully to light. Find out more about Alyssa at her Facebook page @AlyssaCatlinMusic.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 10:30 AM – THANKSGIVING DAY. Student Minister Gabriel Requadt has chosen a theme of **“Peace Out of the Ashes”** (Philippians 4:7; Job 2:8) for our first in-person Thanksgiving Day worship service since 2019. Afterward, please plan to gather for a Community Dinner.

NOVEMBER 27 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT; BLUE CHRISTMAS; MUSIC OF THE OIKOS JAZZ ENSEMBLE. We light the candle the Advent Wreath’s candle of Hope. The Jesse Tree reappears, and we retell the familiar prophecies of the coming of God’s Anointed. And on this first Sunday of Advent, between the big family holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas, we reflect about **“The Gap Sometimes”** between our expectations and the realities we face. (Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; **Matthew 24:36-44**)

## NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED, SEPTEMBER 18

**Emily Polaske** (introduced by her sponsor Rebecca Novak)

Emily grew up in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Later, as a young adult she wanted to find a church that lined up with her beliefs. She no longer wanted to feel anxiety triggered by the belief that Christ is the only way, especially as she thought about loved ones who might not be on the same page or those who might be considered different. Fast forward to today, Emily is looking for a new experience, a new conversation at church, a church that is inclusive, accepting, friendly, smaller, and welcoming. She has been seeking a sense of community, seeing people week to week, getting to know people – people who love her and her daughter. First Church is a breath of fresh air, and she feels she no longer is alone in her feelings.

Emily has worked as a postpartum nurse for 10 years. She grew up in Wildwood, Missouri. She is married to Mark, and her daughter is Elle. Elle is very special; she is a free spirit, talkative, and she’s never met a stranger. Emily is so glad that Elle is accepted as her authentic self, here at First Church. Often with Emily is her church-going buddy, Sarah Engle. Emily’s family lives in O’Fallon, Missouri.

**Jared & Julie Cohen** (introduced by Annie Sampath)

It’s my pleasure to introduce Julie and Jared Cohen. They’ve been attending First Church since April. Julie and Jared are attracted to the positive, welcoming vibe at this church. They’re in line with what the First Church stands for: accepting of all people and being inclusive. The Cohens moved to the St. Louis area, a couple years ago, after Jared’s time in the Air Force, which took them for many years to northern Italy. Jared is an oncologist fellow at Washington University. Julie is a freelance writer with a day job as an English teacher at Brentwood High School. She also coaches cross country. They have two children – Ruby, 9 years old, and Gabriel, 5 years old. In addition they have a cute Bernardoodle named Rosie.

(To the Cohens, Annie continued) Growing up at First Church, I made great friends and have fond memories. I hope you all are able to create wonderful memories being members of this church. Welcome to First Congregational; I look forward to getting to know you all.

**Gabriel Requadt** (introduced by Phil Shoulberg)

Gabriel is our Contextual Education student for this year, from Eden Seminary. Gabriel grew up in Florissant, Missouri. He graduated from high school in Jerseyville, Illinois, and then went on to McKendree University. The faith tradition of his family is Christian Science. Post-college he was in the Air Force, from 2016 to 2020, where it was a photo journalist. Gabriel’s interests these days are reading, movies, coffee with friends, and card games with friends, particularly a game called *Magic: The Gathering*. He tells me he’s very pleased to be here and is looking forward to expanding his theological imagination. So, welcome, Gabriel. It’s good to have you here.

(Pastor Dave Denoon added) Speaking of “expanding his theological imagination,” one thing about Christian Scientists, for them sacraments happen in the heart. So Gabriel has not actually been physically baptized yet. Because he is opting to be immersed, and we don’t have a baptism here, he is joining this morning with the proviso that he will be baptized.



## MEET OUR STUDENT MINISTER!

Hi! My name is Gabriel Requadt, and I'm very excited to be joining this wonderful spiritual community as your new Student Minister. I've already met a lot of you, and I can't wait to meet even more of you wonderful people.

As for me, though, I live in Ballwin, having grown up in St. Louis most my life, and is where I call home. I had served in the United States Air Force, but feeling a calling from God, I decided to separate and pursue my Master of Divinity degree at Eden Theological Seminary, where I've been attending since 2021. It was been quite the ride, but I have deeply valued the fruit it has already grown in my life and in the lives of others. Outside of the seminary grind, I enjoy running, playing *Magic: The Gathering*, reading the *Dune* series, having tasty coffee with even better friends, and finally finishing my novel. There's a lot more to me, and I know there's a lot more to all of you, and I can't wait for us to all grow together!



Very Respectfully,  
(Erick) Gabriel Requadt  
Master of Divinity Student  
erequadt@eden.edu  
618-550-2891

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## PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETS, OCTOBER 4

The Pastoral Relations Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 4. The Committee meets bi-monthly and seeks to maintain open communication between pastor, staff, and congregants; it is not a personnel or policy-making committee. The Committee is composed of church members given the responsibility of fostering a healthy relationship between the Pastor and participants in the life of the church.

The discussions of the Committee are confidential, thus allowing members the freedom to express varying views. Current members include Liu Lin Thio, Kedra Tolson, Patrick Byrne, Jane Porchey, Doug Barton, Pat Doyle-Grace, Moderator Joan Musbach (ex officio), and, of course, Pastor Dave Denoon.

We encourage all congregants (not only members) to feel free to discuss with Committee members their perspectives about the life and work of Church and Pastor.

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## CONFIRMATION FOR GROWNUPS

Many newcomers to the church 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 in October. Dates and times are to be announced.



Adult  
Confirmation

If you would like to participate, please let him know soon, so that he can include you in selecting dates and times to meet.

## MODERATOR'S CORNER

### Nature offers aesthetic reflections of “the Infinite, Beneficent Creator.”

So believed John Muir. By the time you read this I will be seeking the inspiration of God that Muir found in Yosemite. Where do you find God? Many of us feel his presence as we worship together or as we serve together as part of our Christian community. That community is an increasingly busy and vibrant place and all are invited to participate in its various activities, many of which are highlighted in this October-November issue of The Covenant News.

One of the activities that requires the participation of all is the Parish Life Ministry project to produce an updated photo directory. The document, as well as the photo board assembled in Memorial Hall are important resources for our new members to become acquainted as well as a convenience for our members. Phil Shoulberg has begun the process of taking our photos and at that time you are asked to update your contact information. If you did not do this in September, you will be contacted for arranging a mutually convenient time to ensure a complete directory.

Your thoughtful attention is also required as we consider and approve the budget of our church for 2023. The staff and ministries provided their input to the budget committee and a budget was approved by the Executive Ministry. You will receive the budget summary via e-mail on or before October 7. We will mail it to those of you who have requested mailed information from the church office. Copies will also be available in the narthex on Sunday, October 9 and 16. I will convene an all church meeting after worship on October 16 to discuss and vote on the budget. Treasurer, Jenny Jones, will be available to explain the budget and answer your questions.

The Stewardship Committee, chaired by Jane Porchey, will then launch the Stewardship campaign to secure the necessary pledges to fund the budget. This time of the year causes me to recall a favorite hymn reflecting my agrarian roots, “Bringing in the Sheaves.” While few of us actually harvest anything, we do access the fruits of our labors, either current or past, and need at this time of the year to reflect on what portion we should “bring before God.” The life and work of this faith community depends on it.

You may have heard some “buzzing” about a months-long process being sponsored by the Facilities and Finance Ministry. Be prepared to be asked to be part of the preparation for an “All Church Rummage Sale” in the spring. That preparation will entail the total cleaning out and organizing items from ALL spaces in our sprawling building. The goals will be:

- to make currently unused spaces empty for possible tenants
- put items now in disparate places in appropriate areas for use
- be aware of what we have that can be useful
- put the rest up for sale in a massive “recycling” event

Members may also donate items for the sale. For those of you who read the last Covenant News, you know that Leon and I have already begun this process for all of the music spaces. It has actually been great fun and I am eager to share the fun with you in other spaces in our church.

Finally, the short-term rental of our event spaces, known as 10 West Lockwood, is successfully launched with a number of contracts either signed or pending for Memorial Hall, Kishler, Inglis and the Sanctuary. And other spaces are being leased as well. A long-term lease for three spaces awaits the signing of the contract. More about that when the arrangement is finalized.

All of this and more is happening at First Church thanks to the wonderful work and spirit of staff and congregants.

With gratitude,  
Joan Musbach, Moderator

## FROM THE PASTORAL ASSISTANT

On October 2nd you are in for a treat. Our worship service that morning will feature worship by children, for children, and most importantly with children. Noel, our volunteers, and I have been hard at work throughout September to prepare for the Kids' Worship Service — of course the kids have been working the hardest of all.

As David Csinos writes in his book *Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus*, and as we also feel here at First Church, "We believe that children matter to the life of the church. We believe that the church can only be the people of God when members—including the youngest—participate in its life, engage in core practices, and exercise their gifts as vital members of the body of Christ." This upcoming worship service is an expression of our approach to children's ministry. Not only will this service give our kids the opportunity to thoroughly participate in the life and core practices of the church, but the necessary preparations have also allowed our children three Sundays to be worship planners and theologians.



In the adjacent picture you can see my children serving their father communion during a church service in 2018. This picture holds a special place in my heart because it depicts the upside-down kingdom of Jesus in which hierarchies are leveled. Jesus said that we must become like little children, so why shouldn't a father (and a pastor at that) get down on his knee to receive the body and blood of Christ from his 5-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter?

On October 2nd you will receive communion from little children. You will not have to get down on your knees, but preschoolers will bless you with the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Salvation. Our youth will deliver a message that is Not For Adults Only. Elementary students will call you

to worship, and a chorus of children will deliver the benediction before you go. Almost every element of the worship service will be carried out by the church's children, either solely or with adult support.

Children are innately spiritual and do not have to be taught to be so by adults. Rather it is our task to develop their faith potential by collaborating with them in the Way of Jesus. On Oct 2nd we invite you to follow our children into the presence of God.

Halley Kim,  
Pastoral Assistant



## FROM THE ORGANIST'S BENCH



Hello all! Doesn't it feel good to be back to the program year? I am happy to announce that your music department is presenting several special programs during October and November.

**Pianist Kaiwei Zhi will give a piano recital in our sanctuary on Sunday, October 9 at 3:00pm.** Anywhere in the world you would pay at least \$50 to hear a recital of an artist of his caliber but **admission is free** to not pose a barrier to anyone to this sublime music. Feel free to invite your neighbors and friends! ***We will accept donations to the music program at this recital.***

Kaiwei Zhi is a pianist based in New York City. Over the course of his career, he has performed concerti, recitals, and chamber music all over the world. Kaiwei had a long relationship with the music networks of Ukraine. He had his concerto debut at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Kyiv. From 2008 to 2012 Kaiwei performed recitals in China, introducing Chinese audiences to Russian music. In 2019, Kaiwei was the opening performer at a contemporary music recital in Carnegie Hall and in 2020, he had his first piano solo recital in Carnegie Hall.

**On Sunday, November 13 at 3:00pm, we are proud to present pianist Nada. This concert is also free, and we will accept donations to the music program at First Church.** Though born in Beirut, Lebanon, Nada is a US citizen of Lebanese/Hungarian descent, with a French education. Nada is one of the most interesting people you will ever meet.

Nada's formation as a pianist was hampered by the unrelenting civil war and terrorism which also cost her mother's life when her Beirut home was shelled. Her family escaped to the mountains where Nada was mainly self-taught. After only seven years of playing the piano, she was admitted to the famous Paris Conservatory where she became the first woman from the Middle East to take First Prize in piano. Since then, she has created a career with tremendous depth and breadth and is celebrated by audiences and critics all over the world.

On **October 16** during the service, we will once again have special guests **Klezundheit!** (That's right, their name has an exclamation mark.) If you remember them from last year, you already know the great enhancement they brought to worship. If you didn't hear them live, don't miss the October 16 service! Also, for anyone who still has the energy after service, I will be conducting the University City Symphony in concert at the 560 Building (560 Trinity) at the West end of the Delmar Loop. The program includes music by Debussy and Tchaikovsky. This concert, like our concert series, is free to the public.

Leon Burke,  
Organist and Director of Music

## NEWS FROM CLIFF AERIE AND MICA



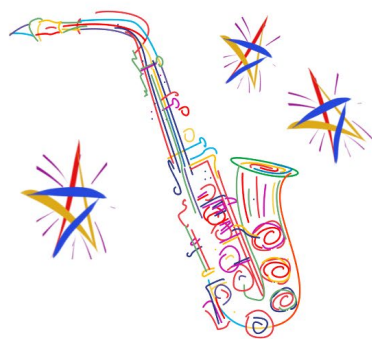
### Jazz Noel at First Church

Jazz Noel is back! After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, illness and injury, our annual Jazz Noel concert will be held on Sunday afternoon, December 18 at 3:00 pm. Our theme, "The Return of the Light" will be most appropriate commemorating the birth of the Light of the world, the hope of the winter solstice, and the return of our beloved jazz event led by the Oïkos Ensemble.

"The Return of the Light" will feature Christmas carols with a jazz twist, dance artistry, and creative interpretation by the Logos Readers. If you would like to help support this year's Jazz Noel production, please contact

Cliff for further information about being a donor. Jazz Noel is a Christmas a gift to the community and the offering received is used for local mission.

Jazz Noel is a program for all ages. A wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season.

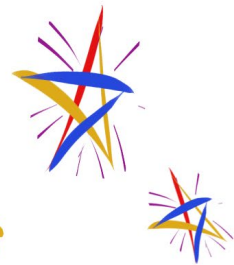


## Jazz Noel

December 18, 2022

### *The Light Returns*

### *The Oïkos Ensemble*



Arianna Aerie



Kim Fuller



Carolbeth True



Tim Osiek



Cliff Aerie



David True



Glen Smith



### Join Oïkos on Sunday, October 2 at 5:00 PM

The theme is ***You've Got a Friend***

*Jazz for the Journey* is a multi-faith Meditation

Exploring the Adventurous Landscape of the Soul through the Transformative Spirit of Jazz, Storytelling and the Arts.

Coffee House setting in Memorial Hall

Free coffee/tea and homemade baked goods

BYOB (wine/beer) or a picnic basket





## FROM THE TREASURER

Below are the year to date church operating results through August 2022:

Statement of Financial Activities				
	2022	2021	Full Year Budget	Change to Prior Year
Income				Higher/ (Lower)
Pledges and Gifts	\$ 215,510	\$ 232,751	\$ 315,000	\$ (17,241)
Transfer from Endowment	115,000	80,000	299,000	35,000
Benevolence	22,572	23,527	15,000	(954)
CARES Act PPP	-	35,000	-	(35,000)
Use of Space and Miscellaneous	41,236	27,699	47,115	13,537
Interest Income	19,605	13,247	11,000	6,357
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>413,923</b>	<b>412,224</b>	<b>687,115</b>	<b>1,699</b>
Expenses				(Higher)/ Lower
Human Resources Expense	\$ 309,229	\$ 287,131	\$ 458,354	(22,098)
Facilities and Finance Expense	\$ 106,335	\$ 95,703	\$ 163,375	(10,632)
Benevolence Expense	\$ 31,300	\$ 29,065	\$ 32,000	(2,235)
Christian Education Ministry Expense	\$ 2,545	\$ 1,159	\$ 4,100	(1,386)
Parish Life Ministry Expense	\$ 7,602	\$ 5,237	\$ 11,400	(2,366)
Executive Ministry Expense	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,219	\$ 17,200	(481)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>458,710</b>	<b>419,513</b>	<b>686,429</b>	<b>(39,197)</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ (44,787)</b>	<b>\$ (7,289)</b>	<b>\$ 686</b>	<b>\$ (37,499)</b>

Statement of Financial Position			
	2022	2021	Variance
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 124,734	\$ 135,255	\$ (10,521)
Pledges receivable	103,418	108,929	(5,512)
Property and equipment	27,476	28,934	(1,457)
Minister housing long term receivable	60,000	60,000	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 315,627</b>	<b>\$ 333,118</b>	<b>\$ (17,490)</b>
Unrestricted Designated Funds	36,137	32,673	3,464
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	103,418	108,929	(5,512)
Memorial Funds	59,167	55,797	3,370
Long term liabilities	60,000	60,000	-
Unrestricted Net Assets	(79,843)	(64,199)	(15,644)
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 315,627</b>	<b>\$ 333,118</b>	<b>\$ (17,490)</b>

Continued

*From the Treasurer (continued)*

Items to note include:

- There is a \$37,499 larger Decrease in Net Assets this year when compared to prior year through August.
- Total Revenue is relatively flat, this is due to several factors:
  - ◇ Pledge revenue is lower \$17,241. Total pledge income is expected to be lower this calendar year due to the loss of several generous members
  - ◇ Interest income from the Brandt Trust is up \$6,357
  - ◇ The church has received \$35,000 more from the Endowment this year
  - ◇ Last year, the church had recorded \$35,000 in PPP loan receipts
  - ◇ Use of space income is up \$13,537 compared to last year.
- Expenses are \$39,197 higher this year. The increase in expenses is primarily due to:
  - ◇ \$22k: Higher staff expenses, including the new audio visual position (\$7.7k) and budgeted compensation increases (\$14k)
  - ◇ \$10k: Higher F&F expenses, including higher insurance (\$10k) and utilities expense (\$7.4k) which are offset by lower office expenses (-\$2.1k)
- The cash position of the church shows a decrease of \$10,521. The church currently has 2.2 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

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## FRESH PECANS COMING IN NOVEMBER

This year, the profit made from the sale of our fresh pecans will go towards the purchase of a door opener for the front doors. This will allow us to open the front doors from the office. The profits from the pecans won't get us all the way there, but it will be a start!

We will be ordering the 1-pound bags of Mammoth Pecan Halves that we get every year. They will be \$14 each and are expected to arrive in mid-November. Please call Debbie at 314-962-0475 or send her an email at: [admin@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchwg.org) and let her know how many bags you would like her to save for you.




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## WELCOME, STS. CLARE & FRANCIS CHURCH!

Beginning on Saturday, October 1, Sts. Clare & Francis Church of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion will offer masses in the William E. Sample Chapel here, at 5:00pm on Saturdays and 9:00am on Sundays.

They have been meeting in the building of Peace United Church of Christ for the past many years. That building was recently sold, and Peace is moving their base of operations to Eden Theological Seminary. This has left Sts. Clare & Francis (SCF) imagining where their next home might be. Recently, they came to an agreement with the Facility and Finance Ministry for the use of our Sample Chapel for worship, as well as two adjoining rooms that they will use for office and storage spaces.

SCF worshipers will enter the building from the west parking lot and go directly upstairs for mass, exiting the same way.

Learn more about SCF at their website – [www.SCFECC.org](http://www.SCFECC.org)

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY



FCCWG's designated work day is Saturday, December 3. Between our church and Hope UCC, we need ten volunteers. If you participated in the past, you know how rewarding this experience will be. You will be working with the future homeowner



and will be sure to learn some new skills. It's a full day commitment from 7:45 to 3:30, and you need to bring a sack lunch. Sign up sheet is in the office. More details to follow.

Phil Shoulberg

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## FIRST SATURDAY DRIVE-THRU COLLECTIONS

On **October 2nd from 10:00 am to noon** we will be collecting diapers of all sizes for the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank.

On **November 5th from 10:00 am to noon** 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!

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## OUR GROUPS

### 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 Inglis Room (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 will be start discussing the book *Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God*, by Kaitlin B Curtice on October 11. New members welcome!

### Lady Elect

Lady Elect meets monthly, generally at the church (unless noted). On October 25, there will be a presentation given by a representative from Monarch Jewelry. Monarch Jewelry is a christian ministry of Crisis Aid International. They are dedicated to raising awareness and funds for American survivors of sex trafficking. All profit from the sale of Monarch Jewelry and accessories goes to Refuge, Crisis Aid's home in St. Louis, Missouri.

On Saturday, November 12, a few members of Lady Elect will be baking pies in the church kitchen to be served at the in gathering on Sunday, November 13.



## THE STORY OF THE PARAMENTS

As the construction of our present sanctuary neared completion in 1994, plans were made for new paraments. The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood in O'Fallon, Missouri were known for their beautiful hand stitching. Colors and designs were chosen, and the Sisters were commissioned to start stitching. Our paraments are used on the pulpit and communion table. The colors chosen each Sunday help indicate the changing seasons of the church year. Often violets, purples or blues are used for preparatory times such as Advent and Lent. White is for joyous events like Easter and Christmas. Red is used for occasions relating to the Holy Spirit, such as, Pentecost or for ordinations. Green, the color seen most often, is used in the seasons after Epiphany or Pentecost known as ordinary time of life and growth. Four of our six sets of paraments are shown below.



On the table the three rings over a triangle are symbols of the trinity. The two Celtic crosses stand for eternal life. On the pulpit the crown signifies Jesus the King and the Latin cross is the form on which Jesus was crucified.

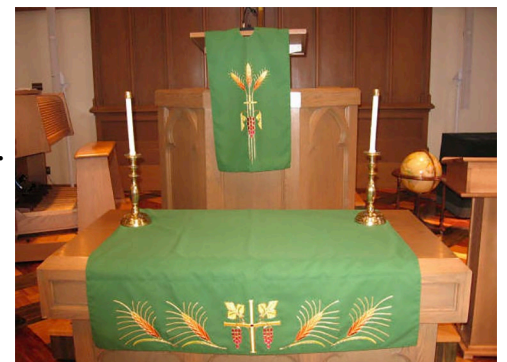
The sunburst on the table signifies resurrection and the glory of a new day. On the pulpit there is the crown and Chi Rho, a Christogram from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet which is an abbreviation for Christ's name. Also, there is Alpha & Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. When shown with one of the symbols representing Christ it means the beginning and the end, the eternal nature of Christ.



Chi Ro is again used along with an anchor cross, a symbol of Jesus as our sure anchor and hope. Water refers to baptism and a new life in Christ. The fish were early symbols used to identify Christians. The Greek crosses are often used in Christian art. On the pulpit are symbols representing the Sacraments: the shell, drops of water, river and crosses for baptism; the chalice is for the Lord's Supper as is the glorified bread.

The wheat symbolizes the Lord's Supper; the grapes, vines and branches are symbolic of the communion between Jesus and believers.

Kay Roush,  
Church Historian



WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

## *Saint Louis Metro* **CROP HUNGER WALK**

OCTOBER 2, 2022

SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

Our church is participating in the St. Louis Metro CROP Hunger Walk, and we'd love to have you join our team. <http://bit.ly/FCCWG-CROP22>. Registration begins at 4:30pm on Oct 2nd at Eden Seminary, and the walk steps off at 5:00 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. 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: <http://bit.ly/FCCWG-CROP22>.



Kathy Weyhrich	October 3
Linda Smith	October 5
Patrick Byrne	October 7
Jean Shoulberg	October 8
Rod Cooper	October 10
Barney Kitchen	October 11
Marilyn Claggett	October 18
Judy James	October 19
Pete Grace	October 24
Carol Mallette	October 26
Dave Denoon	October 30

Eric Breitenbach	November 1
Braeden Hood	November 2
Lynda Morrison	November 2
Paul Wentzien	November 4
Trina Hill	November 7
Andrea Welnick	November 9
Carrie Herrick	November 11
Jan Ver Hagen	November 11
Nina Thompson	November 12
Joseph Weyhrich	November 13
Lili Calder-Smith	November 17
Rick Herrick	November 18
Carolyn Woodsmall	November 18
Jennifer Monaco	November 19
Ellie Paci	November 19
Mark Smith	November 22
Shirley Moore	November 23
Chris von Weise	November 25
Kristy Barton	November 27
Pat Schutte	November 27
Joan Musbach	November 30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>October 2022</b>						<b>1</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm "First Saturday" Collection Event – Diapers
<b>2</b> <b>Kids Lead Worship</b> <b>World Communion</b> <b>Sunday</b> 9:00am Brown Baggers 9:45am Nursery Care <b>10:00am Worship</b> 11:05am Coffee Fellowship 5:00pm Jazz for the Journey	<b>3</b> 7:00pm - 8:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room	<b>4</b> <b>10:30am Staff Meeting</b> 1:00pm Communications Team - Church Office 6:30pm Pastoral Relations Committee	<b>5</b> 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - 9:30pm Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>6</b> 6:00pm - 7:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - 8:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 2:00pm - 5:00pm Boy Scout Council's STEM trailer
<b>9</b> 9:45am Nursery Care <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship 3:00 PM Kaiwei Piano Recital	<b>10</b> <b>Indigenous Peoples' Day</b> 7:00pm - 8:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room 7:00pm Three Ministries (Hybrid)	<b>11</b> <b>10:30am Staff Meeting</b> 6:30pm Practicing Our Faith - Parlor	<b>12</b> 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - 9:30pm Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>13</b> 6:00pm - 7:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - 8:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:45am Nursery Care <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Budget Meeting 11:15am Coffee Fellowship 11:20am Book Discussion	<b>17</b> 7:00pm Executive Ministry (Zoom) 7:00pm - 8:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room	<b>18</b> <b>10:30am Staff Meeting</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - 9:30pm Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>20</b> 6:00pm - 7:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - 8:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:45am Nursery Care Available <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship 11:20am Book Discussion	<b>24</b> 7:00pm Peace and Justice Team - Zoom 7:00pm - 8:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room	<b>25</b> <b>10:30am Staff Meeting</b> 7:00pm - 8:00pm Lady Elect – Inglis Room	<b>26</b> 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - 9:30pm Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>27</b> 6:00pm - 7:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - 8:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:45am Nursery Care Available <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship 11:20am Book Discussion	<b>31</b> <b>Reformation Day</b> 7:00pm - 8:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room					



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>November 2022</b>		<b>1</b> <b>All Saints Day</b> 10:30am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Communications Team - Church Office	<b>2</b> 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - 9:30pm Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>3</b> 6:00pm - 7:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - 8:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00am - 12:00pm "First Saturday" Collection Event Winter Wear
		<b>8</b> Election Day 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Practicing Our Faith - Parlor	<b>9</b> 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - 9:30pm Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>10</b> 6:00pm - 7:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - 8:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>11</b> <b>Veterans Day</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00am - Lady Elect - Kitchen
		<b>15</b> 10:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm - 8:00pm	<b>16</b> 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - 9:30pm Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>17</b> 9:00am General Conditioning - Memorial Hall 6:00pm - 7:00pm Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - 8:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
		<b>22</b> 10:30am Staff Meeting	<b>23</b> 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - 9:30pm Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>24</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> 10:30am Worship 11:30am Thanksgiving Luncheon	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
		<b>29</b> 10:30am Staff Meeting	<b>30</b> 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - 9:30pm Bridge Club - Inglis Room			
<b>6</b> <b>Daylight-Saving Time Ends</b> <b>Remembrance Sunday</b> <b>Sacrament of Christ's Table</b> 9:00am Brown Baggers 9:45am Nursery Care <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship 11:20am Book Discussion	<b>7</b> 7:00pm - 8:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G-Dickens Room	<b>13</b> <b>Consecration Sunday</b> 9:45am Nursery Care <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship 11:20am Book Discussion	<b>14</b> 7:00pm - 8:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G-Dickens Room 7:00pm Three Ministries (Hybrid)	<b>20</b> <b>Covenant News deadline!!!</b> 9:45am Nursery Care <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship 11:20am Book Discussion	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Executive Ministry (Zoom) 7:00pm - 8:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G-Dickens Room	<b>27</b> <b>Advent</b> 9:45am Nursery Care <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship



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

## MEAL-A-MONTH OCTOBER

*(Please leave donations in boxes in Narthex)*

Canned Chicken & Dumplings (low salt) • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)  
Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Whole Wheat Flour • Peanut Butter • Real Fruit Jelly • Dried Fruits

## MEAL-A-MONTH NOVEMBER

Canned Salmon or Tuna (in water) • Canned Spinach (no salt)  
Applesauce (in plastic, no sugar added) • Powdered Milk • Shelf Stable Milk, Soy Milk  
Soap • Deodorant • Toilet Paper

## MISSING SOMEONE?

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

## Follow us on

Facebook – [www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/)  
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