

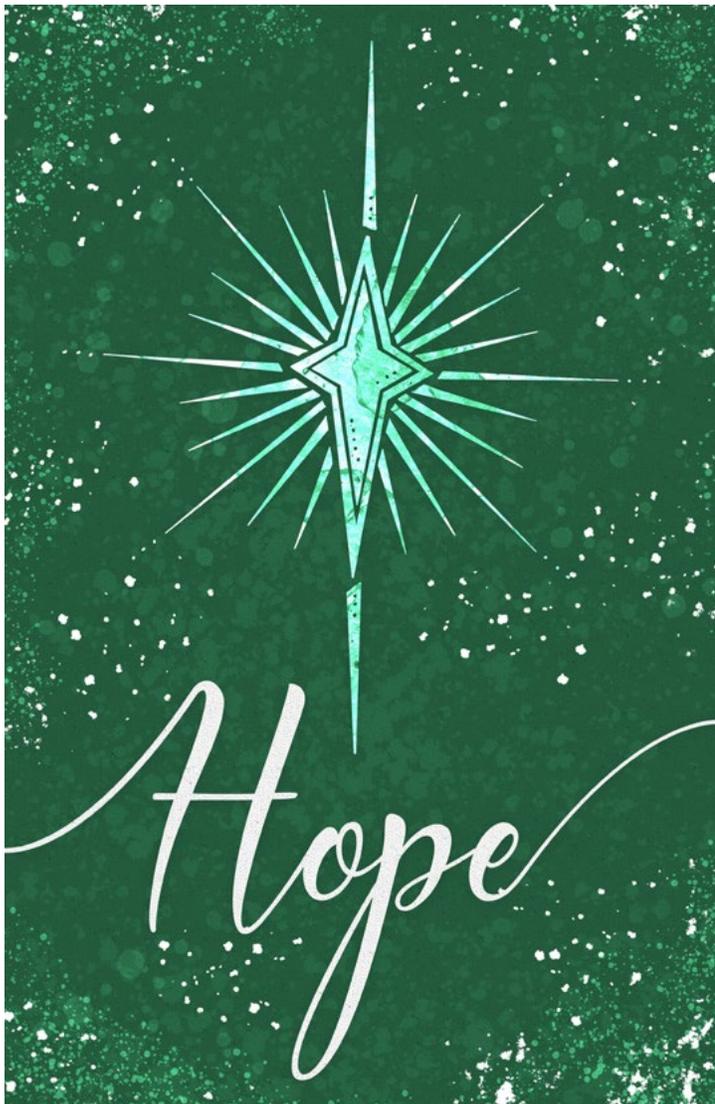
Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

NOVEMBER 27, 2022
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*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 blessings
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 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* arr. Bill Carter

WELCOME Kristy Barton, *Liturgist*

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

TOLLING THE BELL

INTROIT *Moanin'* Bobby Timmons

***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** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Thomas A. Dorsey
No. 472 – *New Century Hymnal*

RITUAL OF APPROACH

We Share Our Stories Before God

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O holy Eternal One, in whom there is no shadow and with whom there is real hope, you might find us faltering during this season of Advent. We are prone to imagine that we are hopeless because we feel sadness and despair. Our feelings flow so freely, we can forget your true relationship with us. Guide us to remember your forgiveness and your love, for our sorrow is not your will. Your grace is in Christ's endless advent, and our hearts are stirred when we realize his arrival. Let us receive the hope you have given and walk in your Light. Amen.

Words of Assurance (Lighting of the Candle of Hope)

***Singing God's Glory**

Doxology

Tune: OLD 100TH

(words by hymnist Brian Wren)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Christ, the Word in flesh born low!
Praise Holy Spirit ever more;
One God Triune whom we adore! Amen.

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Blue Christmas
Martin Mills, baritone

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

*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

Isaiah 2:1-5

Pew Bible, p. 618

From the Epistles

Romans 13:11-14

Pew Bible, p. 1034

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

ANTHEM

Christmas Blues

David Holt & Sammy Cahn

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Lighting Up Our Blue Christmas"

Gabriel Requadt
Student Minister

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior

as inspired by Mary Baker Eddy

Our Father-Mother, Eternal God of Light, all-harmonious, adorable One. Your kingdom is come; You are ever-present. Enable us to know — as in heaven, so on earth — You are omnipotent, supreme. Give us grace for today; feed our famished affections; for Your Love is reflected when we love; and You do not lead us into darkness, but You shine Your Light on our shame, despair, and suffering. For You are infinite, all-power, all Life, Truth, Love, over all, and All. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Who Would Think That What Was Needed
No. 153 – *New Century Hymnal*

Bell and Maule

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Feeling Good

Leslie Bricusse & Anthony Newley

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 join other worshipers for refreshments in Memorial Hall.

Our thanks to the Oikos Jazz Ensemble for joining us today, and our prayers are with Cliff Aerie who is unable to be with them. Members of the band are:

Killer Fuller-vocals • Glen Smith-bass • Carolbeth True-piano
Tim Osiek-trumpet • David True-drums

How to Donate to First Congregational Church

You may leave a donation in the offering plate in the Narthex, OR

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.

Connecting Remotely to Worship

If you're joining us remotely, Sunday worship each week is streamed live on YouTube, starting at 10am (bit.ly/FCCWG-YT).

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.

Gift for the Family of Darrell Lakies

Our beloved Custodian Darrell Lakies died on Friday, November 18, with pancreatic-liver cancer. He had been scheduled to retire at the end of December. Therefore, as we remember in prayer his wife Kelly and their family, the Facility and Finance Ministry is inviting church members and friends to contribute to gift for his family, in place of his retirement gift. To participate in this effort, please give a gift in the form of a check made payable to FCCWG, with the word "Darrell" in the memo line, and turn it in to the offering plate or to the office. There is also a designated fund on our website's Donate page. Look for "Farewell Fund" using the drop-down arrow next to "Give to Church General Offering."

Please consider providing a dinner for Darrell's family. You can sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/fcc-lakies>, using the security code 4749. Meals are needed this week and next, so do not delay.

News from Lady Elect

The Lady Elect meeting on December 13 will be a cookie exchange at Pat's house. It will begin at 4:30 PM. Bring two dozen cookies and an empty tin. That's all that is needed to enjoy this fun evening! Please RSVP to either Pat Doyle-Grace or Laura Cooper.

We Hold in Our Prayers

- Our members who are homebound, in assisted living, or skilled care – Sharon Beal, Joyce Berger, Paul Davis, Margery Gable, Shirley Moore, Kitty Pearl, Jan 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

Ten Bags of Fresh Mammoth Pecans Left!

Of the four cases of fresh (not frozen) pecans that were delivered a couple of weeks ago, there are only 10 bags left. Beside the fact that the proceeds go to a needy and good cause, they happen to be the best pecans in the world!

We are selling them at the same price we did last year, \$14 per bag. Lady Elect has generously offered to sell them in the narthex on Sunday mornings before and after worship. ***The Proceeds shall go towards the Minister's Discretionary Fund to help Pastor Dave, help our neighbors and friends.*** If you won't be here on Sunday, please contact Debbie and let her know how many bags you would like. You can email her at admin@firstchurchwg.org, or call her at the church at 314-962.

Along with the Pecans, you can find First Congregational car/refrigerator magnets for sale on Sundays before and after worship. They are only \$5 each!

Outdoor Christmas Tree Decorating Party Returns to the Jubilee Garden! Sunday, December 4 from 11:20 am - 2:00 pm

Join us in the garden after worship on Sunday, December 4, to decorate our outdoor Christmas Tree with ornaments suitable for our animal friends. It has been customary for everyone to bring a bird feeder ornament to put on the tree. There will be a bonfire, caroling and beverages! *Sponsored by Parish Life Ministry*

Maybe This Is the Year for You to Experience YANKEE SWAP?

Mike Lenard will host this year's Swap at his home, 1467 Heritage Valley Drive, High Ridge.

The party will start at 1:30 PM*, on December 4th, with a potluck meal, and then we will do our crazy gift exchange. And we will finish before dark.

Here Is the Drill:

- Bring a handmade/homemade gift (unwrapped)-one per person
- Bring a side dish, salad, or dessert for the table (Sign up in the office for what you will bring)
- Pick up a map in the office.
- Call Garie Perry if you have questions. 314-698-2614
- Bring a generous donation for Webster Rock Hill Ministries

****Be sure to put an ornament on the tree in the Jubilee Garden before you leave church.***

First Congregational Tee-Shirts are for Sale and in the Office!

There are still plenty of FCCWG tee-shirts for sale. Please come up and buy one! The shirts are heavy duty 100% cotton and cost \$15 each. We have a variety of sizes. ***Email Debbie*** with questions.

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

We have ordered a limited number of poinsettias this you may sponsor. You will have the opportunity to pick them up after the late service on Christmas eve or by contacting the office to arrange a time, or you may donate the poinsettia to one of our home bound members. Please take an order form from the table in the narthex. They will be \$20 each. You may also order online at <https://tinyurl.com/fcc-poinsettias>.

First Saturday Drive Thru Collection December 3 for “Helping Hand-Me-Downs”

We will be collecting Toys for Older Kids to be donated to Helping Hand-Me-Downs. Their storage is limited so we are looking for smaller sized items such as:

Board games • Card games like Uno or Go Fish • Pop-it’s and Fidgets • Art Supplies
Action figures • LOL dolls • Smaller Lego sets • Art projects that enhance creativity
Puzzles • Mr. Potato Head • Pick Up Sticks
or any toys that strengthen fine motor skills

Of course cash donations to Helping Hand-Me-Downs will also accepted at the event. Please email Halley at halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org and let her know you are willing to volunteer!

What’s Going on at First Church

Sunday, November 27

First Sunday of Advent

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Kids’ Church

10:00 AM Worship

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship

Monday, November 28

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

7:00 PM Peace and Justice Team - Zoom

Tuesday, November 29

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 30

9:30 AM Yoga - Inglis Room

6:00 PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Thursday, December 1

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells

7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Saturday, December 3

10:00 AM to Noon First Saturday Collection

Sunday, December 4

9:00 AM Brown Baggers

9:45am – 11:15 AM Nursery Care Available

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05 AM Christmas Tree Decorating Party – Jubilee Garden



10 West Lockwood Avenue
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314-962-0475
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Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
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Student Minister – Gabriel Requadt
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Lead Audio / Visual Technician – Mark Metcalf

Custodian – Darrell Lakies

Weekend & Events Custodian – Diana Konopka

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
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Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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