

# Welcome!

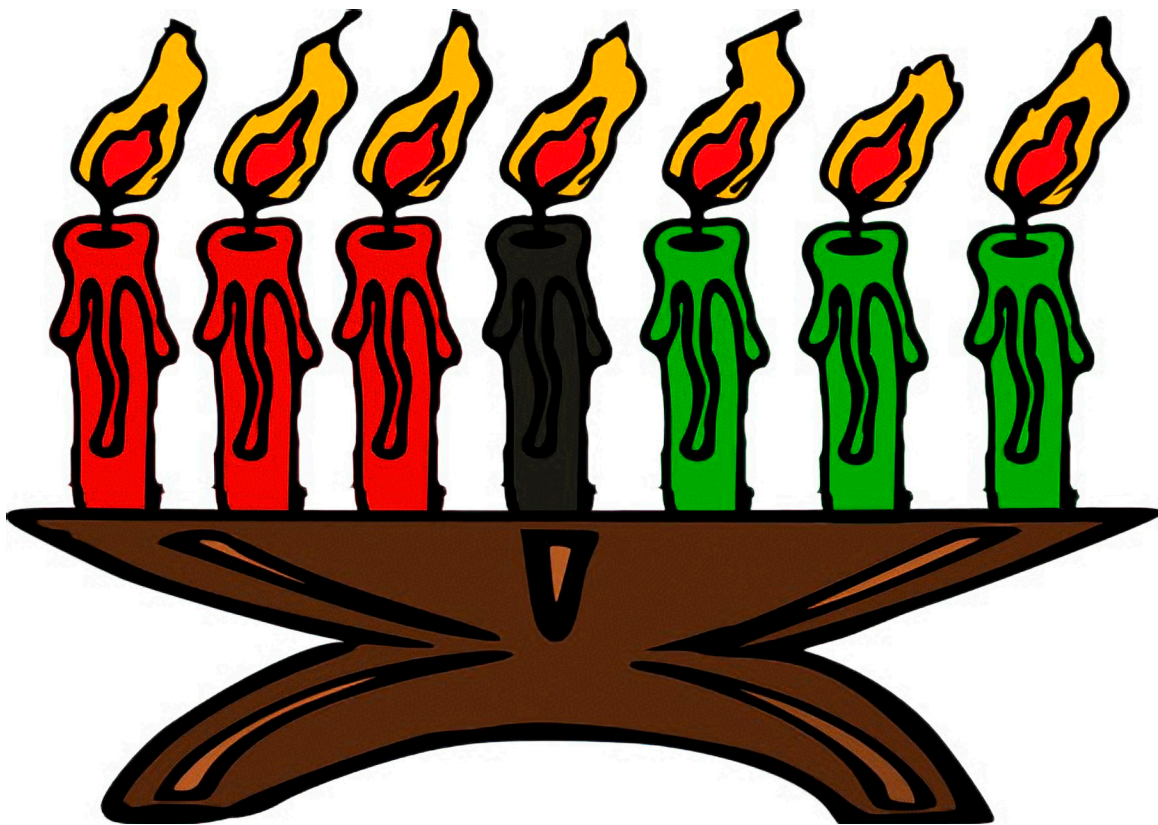
First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



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

JANUARY 1, 2023  
NEW YEAR'S DAY

SEVENTH DAY OF KWANZA'A: IMANI (FAITH)



*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 that worshipers are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

*The words of the Christmas carols in our order of worship, today, will be projected on the screen near the stage and also are printed in this bulletin.*

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Halley Kim, *Liturgist*

*At this time, we invite you to complete an entry in the Friendship Booklet in your pew and to silence the ringer on any cellular device you may have with you.*

### TOLLING THE BELL

### LIGHTING THE CANDLES

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 8

*Call and response: The Congregation repeats after the Liturgist.*

### \*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

*Joy to the World*

Isaac Watts / G. F. Handel

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!  
He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders and wonders of His love.

### AT THE KINARA

*Seventh Day: Imani (Faith)*

Rev. Elston McCowan

*The Nguzo Saba (Seven Principles) of Kwanza'a*

*Umoja – Unity*

*Kujichagulia – Self-Determination*

*Ujima – Collective Work and Responsibility*

*Ujama'a – Cooperative Economics*

*Nia – Purpose*

*Ku'umba – Creativity*

*Imani – Faith*

### SINGING GOD'S GLORY

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

Tune: GLORIA, refrain

### THE WORD SHARED

Gabriel Requadt, *Student Minister*

*From the Writings*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

NRSV, ad.

*Response*

**Leader:** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SING**

*For the day's Message, we are singing favorite Christmas carols.*

***Away in a Manger***

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

I love thee, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
beside me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

***Angels We have Heard on High***

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing your joyous strains:  
Glo---ria in excelsis Deo! Glo---ria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing!  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King!  
Glo---ria in excelsis Deo! Glo---ria in excelsis Deo!

***Silent Night, Holy Night***

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.  
Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight:  
Glory streams from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing, "Hallelujah! Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born!"

***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
Come, and behold him born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore him! O come, let us adore him!  
O come, let us adore him: Christ the Lord!  
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,  
"Glory to God – in the highest!"  
O come, let us adore him! O come, let us adore him!  
O come, let us adore him: Christ the Lord!

### ***Angels, from the Realms of Glory***

Angels, from the realms of glory wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn King!  
Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn King!

### ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"  
Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb,  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,  
Please as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel,  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

*Worshippers are invited to submit prayer requests in writing for mention as Joys or Concerns,  
and to hand them to an usher during the singing of the following hymn.  
Spoken requests will also be received after the mention of Opportunities Arising.*

### ***It Came Upon the Midnight Clear***

It came upon the midnight clear, that glo-rious song of old  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all! Great news from heaven we bring!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.  
Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

#### **SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE**

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

#### *Invitation*

*We Lift Our Joys and Concerns*

*\*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*\*Sanctus (sung in unison, the Pastor leading)*

Martie McMane

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Glory be to you, O God!**

**Blessed is the One who comes,  
who comes in the name of our God!**

**Hosanna, hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!**

## *Fraction*

### *Prayer of Our Savior* (Unison)

**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.**

## *Communion*

### *\*Prayer after Communion* (Unison, standing)

**We give you thanks, O God, for blessing us around this table with the presence of Christ. Send us forth, rejoicing, with our siblings in faith, to share your abundant love and grace with all we meet. Amen.**

### **\*PARTING HYMN**

#### *What Child Is This*

Wm. C. Dix

What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap, is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.  
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise a song on high; the virgin sings a lullaby.  
Joy, joy! for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

*During the Postlude, we invite you to share the joys of the morning with your neighbor or to sit in quiet meditation with the music. For those of you who have chosen to greet others, please try to be aware of which is which and to honor both.*

### **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](https://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.

### 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

### Camp MoVal Registration

Camp MoVal is accepting early registrations now, for 2023 campers! First Church covers half the registration fee for our young people who go! Learn about Camp MoVal's programming at <https://www.campmoval.org/>. Or, if you already know the program you want to sign up for, click on the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/moval-2023> for the registration form. To take advantage of the church subsidy, use the sponsorship code "FirstChurchI" when registering.

### Office Schedule

The office will be closed from December 25 through January 2.

Debbie Tolstoi will be on vacation until January 9.

### Jazz Noel

What an afternoon it was! It was wonderful to see so many people arriving early, a packed sanctuary requiring Dave to run off additional copies of the program. The interplay between the band, Logos Readers and the visuals all came together for an inspiring performance. A performance that would not have been possible if it wasn't for your generosity. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The audience seemed captivated by the storytelling and the art, responding enthusiastically throughout. Evidently, we touched their hearts because the offering for Webster-Rock-Hill Ministries was \$947 — a new record. And because of the generosity, the entire amount will go to help so many people in need during this Christmas season.

May this Christmas bless you with hope, peace, joy and love.

Cliff Aerie

### First Saturday Drive Thru (Not exactly on a Saturday!)

In January our "First Saturday" will actually fall on a special Monday: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 16th. On this Day of Service we will collect non-perishable food items (canned vegetables, soups, rice, cereal, etc) for Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, from 10:00am to noon. To volunteer sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-mlk>.

***This event will be a drive-thru. Please make sure donated items are not expired!***

## **Frostiana**

**Frostiana** is a collection of seven country songs by Robert Frost set to music by Randall Thompson. Many have learned one or two of them in high school choir. The poems set in this well-known work are *The Road Not Taken*, *The Pasture*, *Come In*, *The Telephone*, *A Girl's Garden*, *Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening*, and *Choose Something Like a Star*.

On **Friday, January 6, 2023 (The Feast of the Epiphany) at 8pm** at the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, there will be a performance by 30 invited singers. This concert is open to the public to hear but mostly for the performers to relive and revive this wonderful work. Dr. Leon Burke, III, will conduct with John Powell Walsh as accompanist. The moments will be captured by Tom Kavanaugh, photographer. Come to this free event and share the wonder and fellowship of some of St. Louis' finest choral singers.

### **What's Going on at First Church**

#### **Sunday, January 1**

**New Year's Day**

**Seventh Day of Kwanza'a**

**Sacrament of Christ's Table**

**9:00 AM Brown Baggers**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** All-ages Worship in Memorial Hall

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

#### **Tuesday, January 3**

**2:00 PM** Memorial Service: Rev. Barney Kitchen

**10:30 AM** Staff Meeting

#### **Wednesday, January 4**

**9:30 AM** Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

**6:00 PM** Bridge Club - Inglis Room

**7:00 PM** Adult Confirmation Class

#### **Thursday, January 5**

**6:00 PM** Canterbury Bells

**7:30 PM** Chancel Choir

#### **Friday, January 6**

**Epiphany**

**8:00 PM** Frostiana

#### **Sunday, January 8**

**Celebration of the Epiphany**

**9:45am** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids' Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship



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## Contact Information

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Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

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

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