

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

DECEMBER 4, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PEACE

*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

PRELUDE *Divinum Mysterium* Joe Utterback

WELCOME The Byrne Family

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

TOLLING OF THE BELL

***GATHERING HYMN** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Advent vespers
No. 116, vv. 1,5,7 – *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.

RITUAL OF APPROACH (At the Advent Wreath) *Second Advent Candle: PEACE*
We Share Our Stories Before God

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God of peace and of life's fullness, we know that these are possible, and we are resolved today to believe in your promise of shalom for all the world. We have wrongly assumed that as long as we avoided conflict, we furthered the cause of peace. But calm is not peace. A racist, classist, isolating status quo is not peace. Forgive us for times when our understanding of peace was too narrow or too small. Welcome us into your big peace with justice – shalom in which all nature may delight. Teach us to be peacemakers, not peacekeepers. Amen.

Silence for Personal Confession

***Response** *Doxology* Tune: OLD 100TH

Words: Paula Meador Testerman

O Glorious God, to you we bring
Praise, treasures, lives as offering;
Spirit of peace, within us dwell;
Come, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Amen.

THE WORD SHARED

From the Epistles

Romans 15:7-12

Gabriel Requadt

From the Gospels

Matthew 3:1-7

Pew Bible, p. 1035
p. 878

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S TABLE

**Invitation*

**Sursum Corda*

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to our Sovereign God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving*

Sanctus

***Holy, holy, holy God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.**

Fraction

Holy God, as we come to share the richness of your table, we cannot forget the rawness of the earth. We cannot take bread and forget those who are hungry. Your world is one world and we are stewards of its nourishment.

God, put our prosperity at the service of the poor.

We cannot drink of the fruit of the vine and forget those who are thirsty. The ground and the rootless, the earth and its weary people cry out for justice.

God, put our fullness at the service of the empty.

We cannot hear your words of peace and forget the world at war, or, if not at war, then preparing for it.

Show us quickly, God, how to turn weapons into welcome signs and the lust for power into a desire for peace.

We cannot celebrate the feast of your family and forget our divisions. We are one in spirit, but not in fact. History and hurt still dismember us.

God, heal your church in every brokenness.

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.

Distribution

Communion is served in the pews, first the bread and then the cup.

The bread is gluten-free.

Wine is white; grape juice is red. Each is consumed at the indication of the Pastor, unless this presents a hardship for the individual.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you come to us in bread and cup, and in the love of this gathered community. And now, send us forth from this table a nourished and emowered people that we may live your love, speak you peace, and sing your hope. Amen.

*PARTING HYMN

There's a Voice in the Wilderness
No. 120 – *New Century Hymnal*

J. L. Milligan

OPPORTUNITIES ARISING

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come Ye Thankful People

arr. Hal Hopson

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.

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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."

**Outdoor Christmas Tree Decorating Party Returns to the Jubilee Garden!
TODAY 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*

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>.

Hanging of the Greens

Our annual Hanging of the Greens service will be on Sunday, Dec. 11th. We will need Wreath Bearers, Candle Bearers, Creche Bearers and Poinsettia Bearers. Don't miss being a part of our beautiful Christmas Service! Look for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex, this Sunday!

Contact Carolyn Woodsmall at 314-440-2530 for additional information or to sign-up by phone.

Sweet and Savory Potluck

There will be a Sweet and Savory Snacks Potluck following Hanging of the Greens. Please bring your favorite holiday treats to the kitchen before worship, plated and ready to serve.

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

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.

Peace and Justice encourage you to:

Tell the Secretary of State that Banning Books is Wrong

Per the League of Women Voters:

- The “Library Certification Requirement for the Protection of Minors” would censor what libraries are allowed to purchase and display.
- It would create additional costs to local libraries and impede your ability to access resources paid for by your tax dollars.
- It requires librarians to enforce the standards of individual parents and guardians on all patrons. Parents can choose what is appropriate for their own children but have no right to dictate what other families can access.
- Books that mention magic, talking animals, LGBTQIA+ characters, racism, and much more are at risk if this rule passes.
- Policies for collection development and for challenging materials already exist and can be found on library websites.

Public comments may be mailed to the Office of the Missouri Secretary of State PO Box 1767, Jefferson City, MO 65109 or emailed to comments@sos.mo.gov (include "15 CSR 30-200.015" in the subject line). Feedback must be received by Dec. 15.

Car/Refrigerator Magnets

If you are interested in First Congregational car/refrigerator magnets, they are for sale. They are \$5 each! Please contact Jacquie for more information

First Congregational Tee-Shirts

There are still plenty of tee shirts in the church office. Please come up and buy one! There are still a few on the desk by the kitchen door that have been ordered and awaiting pick up. The shirts are heavy duty 100% cotton and cost \$15 each. We have a variety of sizes. Email Debbie with questions.

What's Going on at First Church

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

Monday, December 5

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

Tuesday, December 6

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

1:00 PM Communications Team

6:30 PM Pastoral Relations Committee

Wednesday, December 7

~~**9:30 AM** NO Yoga – Inglis Room~~

6:00 PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

7:00 PM – Adult Confirmation Class

Thursday, December 8

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells

7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Saturday, December 10

7:00 PM – Walter Parks concert in Memorial Hall

Sunday, December 11

Hanging of the Greens

9:45am Nursery Care

10:00 AM Worship (All Ages)

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship with Sweet and Savory Snacks - Potluck



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Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
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Weekend & Events Custodian – Diana Konopka

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