

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

DECEMBER II, 2022
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY

*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 *Good News From Heaven the Angels Bring* Johann Pachelbel
(Canterbury Bells) Arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

WELCOME

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

SHARING THE WORD *Gabriel Requadt, Student Minister*
From the Prophets Isaiah 11:1-10 Pew Bible, p. 627

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***GATHERING HYMN** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Charles Wesley
No. 103 – *Pilgrim 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) The von Weise Family

We Bring Our Stories before God

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of parents, God of siblings, God of children, both little and grown-up, often we hold things too tightly, and we end up exhausting ourselves and straining relationships. Forgive us for our attempts to control the people in our lives. We know we ought to honor the journeys of our loved ones, even when they don't go the ways we'd hoped. Guide us into the freedom of allowing others to make their own choices and find their own way. Amen.

Silence for Personal Confession

Words of Assurance (Third Advent Candle: JOY)

**Singing God's Praise*

Doxology

Tune: OLD 100TH

(words by Paula Meador Testerman)

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

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Bells	<i>The Sleigh-Bells</i> (Poem) Read by Rev. David Denoon	Susanna Moodie
<i>Handbell Anthem</i>	<i>Carol of the Bells</i> (Canterbury Bells)	Traditional Ukranian Carol, Arr. Douglas E. Wagner
Wreaths	<i>Legend of the Cedars</i> Read by Chris von Weise	Anonymous
<i>Anthem</i>	<i>Bright, Bright the Holly Berries</i> (Chancel Choir)	Alfred Burt
Candles	<i>Significance of Candles</i> Read by Annie Sampath	Anonymous
<i>Anthem</i>	<i>Candlelight Carol</i> (Chancel Choir)	John Rutter
Crèche	<i>Legend of the Crèche</i> Read by Rebecca Novak	Anonymous
<i>Anthem</i>	<i>Away in a Manger</i> (Chancel Choir with Erin Prange, flute)	Traditional Arr. Mack Wilberg
Poinsettias	<i>The Legend of the Poinsettia</i> <i>and Natural History of the Cuetlaxochitl</i> Read by Halley Kim	D. Denoon and T. Harris
<i>Anthem</i>	<i>Some Children See Him</i> (Chancel Choir)	Alfred Burt
Christmas Tree	<i>Legends of the Christmas Tree</i> Read by Mark Edwards	Anonymous
<i>Anthem</i>	<i>Celtic Noel</i> (Canterbury Bells with Erin Warner, flute)	Traditional Arr. Sondra Tucker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lifting of Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

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.

CONCLUSION

Reading *Significance of the Season* Rev. David Denoon

**Benediction*

Postlude

Toccata

Charles Marie Widor

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.

Sweet and Savory Potluck

Be sure to stay for the Sweet and Savory Snacks Potluck following Hanging of the Greens today.

Santa's Jubilee

TODAY After the Service at 11:20 am

The visit from Santa that was scheduled for December 4 had to be delayed until this Sunday. Watch for him and his train ride near the Jubilee Garden!

Memorial Service: Darrell Lakies

Monday, December 12, 2022 at 2:00 pm – Sanctuary

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."*

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

We have ordered a limited number of poinsettias that 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 homebound 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>.

News from Lady Elect

The Lady Elect meeting on December 13 will be a cookie exchange at Pat Doyle-Grace'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! RSVP to either Pat Doyle-Grace or Laura Cooper.

Jazz Noel

Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 pm

Jazz Noel is a modern-day reimagining of the Christmas story through creative storytelling and the improvisational spirit of jazz featuring the music of the **Oikos Ensemble**. Our storytellers will be the **Logos Interpretive Readers**.

This year's theme, "**The Return of the Light**," will share the Christmas story within the context of the Winter Solstice. Throughout history, indigenous people created rituals as a celebration of hope. Even in the diminished sunlight of winter, the sun will return. Light will outshine the darkness of the world, and new life (rebirth) is possible. The story of Jesus' birth is a holy affirmation that the "Light of the World" is born among us, and that the power of light will overcome the darkness.

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 might just make a great Stocking Stuffer!

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 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

Monday, December 12

2:00 PM Memorial Service: Darrell Lakies

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

7:00 PM Three Ministries (Hybrid)

7:00 PM Stewardship Committee (Hybrid)

Tuesday, December 13

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

4:30 PM Lady Elect - Off Campus (Pat's House)

Wednesday, December 14

9:30 AM Yoga - Inglis Room

6:00 PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

7:00 PM Adult Confirmation Class

Thursday, December 15

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells

Sunday, December 18

Jazz in Worship

9:45am Nursery Care

10:00 AM Worship

10:15 AM Kids' Church

11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship with Holiday Cookies

2:30 PM *Jazz Noel*



10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach
JWMusbach@gmail.com

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon
DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org

Pastoral Assistant – Halley Kim
Halley.Kim@FirstChurchWG.org

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi
Admin@FirstChurchWG.org

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke
Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org

Student Minister – Gabriel Requadt
erequadt@eden.edu

Lead Audio / Visual Technician – Mark Metcalf

Interim Custodian – Diana Konopka

Weekend & Events Custodian – Kayla Skiles

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie
cliff.aerie@gmail.com

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes
laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I
lesrhs@sbcglobal.net

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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