

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JANUARY 22, 2023
ECUMENICAL SUNDAY
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

*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.*



DO GOOD; SEEK JUSTICE.
(Isaiah 1: 17)



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2023

Order of Worship

An asterisk () indicates that worshipers are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE *If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee* Janis Dunson Wilson

WELCOME Linda Kopetti, *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 OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 27

The holy ONE is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The holy ONE is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I have asked of the holy ONE, and that will I seek after: to live in the house of the holy ONE all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the holy ONE, and to inquire in God's temple.

Hear, O GOD, when we cry aloud, be gracious and answer us! It is your face we seek.

***RAISING THE COVENANT** (Unison) *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** *In Unity We Lift Our Song* Ken Medema
Tune: EIN' FESTE BERG

In unity we lift our song of grateful adoration,
for siblings who are brave and strong. What cause for celebration!
For those whose faithfulness has kept us from distress,
who've shared with us our plight, who've held us in the night,
the blessed congregation.

For sacred scriptures handed down, a blessed trust and treasure,
which give us hope when hope is gone and make us weep with pleasure.
And when our eyes grow blind and death is close behind,
we shall recite them still whose words our hearts can fill
with hope beyond all measure.

For God our way, our bread, our rest, of all good gifts the Giver.
Our strength, our guide, our nurturing breast whose hand will yet deliver.
Who keep us till the day when night shall pass away,
when hate and fear are gone and all our work is done,
and we shall sing forever.

RITUAL OF APPROACH

We Bring Our Stories before God

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious God, sometimes we can be myopic in our view of the world. We fail to consider that others live different lives and experience different realities than we do. Forgive us for making snap judgments about others when we do not know what they are up against. Help us remember that our perspective on any given situation is never the whole story. May we all cultivate the practice of pausing before reacting. Amen.

Silence for Personal Confession

Words of Assurance

**Singing God's Glory* *Glory to God in the Highest* Peruvian melody

The congregation repeats each line of the following after the Minister:

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory in the highest!
To God be glory forever!

Next, the Minister leads the congregation in harmonizing the following:

Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Halley Kim, *Pastoral Assistant*

The children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.

Afterward, they may proceed to Kids' Church, or return to their seats.

SHARING THE WORD

Gabriel Requadt, *Student Minister*

From the Epistles

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Pew Bible, p. 1038

From the Gospels

Matthew 4:18-25

p. 879

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Let There Be Peace On Earth
Canterbury Bells

Sy Miller and Jill Jackson
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"How Shall We Be One?"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayer of the Day

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.

WE OFFER OF OURSELVES

Opportunities to Give and Gather

**Song of Praise*

Doxology

Tune: OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God, all creatures here below!
Praise God, above you heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

You call us, O God, to do your will and establish your justice. For the work that we cannot do with our own bodies unless they are united as one body, we offer these gifts to the Church, your body enlivened by your Spirit. Bless these gifts, we pray, to the proclamation of your Good News in Jesus' name. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

*At the Font We Start Our Journey
No. 308 – New Century Hymnal*

Jeffery Rowthorn

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Plein Jeu

Pierre Du Mage

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.

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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 need to join us remotely, Sunday worship each week is streamed live on YouTube, starting at 10am ([bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](http://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, Marj Courtney, 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

## **Journeyman**

The Journeyman will meet on Thursday, January 26 at 9:00 AM in the Parlor. All invited!

## **Midwinter Potluck**

Our annual Midwinter Potluck will take place on **Sunday, January 29** after the service. Parish Life will provide fried chicken. Please bring a **plated** side dish, salad or dessert. Drop off in the kitchen before the service.

## **Scout Troop 301**

They will be holding their **Court of Honor on Monday, January 30th**. Members of the Congregation are welcome to attend. Please join them at 7:00 PM in Memorial Hall.

## **Get Educated During Coffee Hour**

### **Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) – 2:04 PM TODAY**

Rev. Dietra Wise Baker will be with us today to offer an overview of MCU's work and what congregational membership entails. This is an opportunity to get your questions answered about this vibrant, local, social justice organization. As we are a Congregational church, any membership in this progressive faith body would be a congregational decision.

### **A Drive Down Church History – January 29<sup>th</sup> (Heritage Sunday)**

Pastor Dave Denoon takes you down a trail of church history, especially as it relates to the United Church of Christ. Sponsored by the Endowment Counselors.

### **Dementia & Cognitive Functioning – February 5<sup>th</sup>**

ACM CARE (Autonomous Case Management) is a non-profit seeking "to improve the quality of life for frail, elderly and disabled people living in the community through case management and support services, regardless of their ability to pay." AMC Care offers support to families in four areas: Institutional Support Services, Care Management, Medical Management, and Assessments. On Feb 5th they will present on dementia & brain health.

## **New Members**

New members will be received on January 29. If you are considering membership, please see the pastor after worship today.

## 2022 Statements

It's getting close to the time of the year for us to send out the year-end statements. Most of the statements will be emailed later this week or early next week. If you have a late donation and it doesn't show on the statement, or there is something incorrect, please contact Debbie in the office. She will be happy to edit the statement for you.

## Seeking Liturgists!

We'd like for you to consider leading worship, some Sunday soon. It's been almost a year since we shifted the role of "announcer" to "liturgist." Liturgists (worship leaders) guide other worshipers through the different elements of worship.

Additionally, some liturgists offer a personal "story before God" to introduce the time of confession. It's not required, but it's always appreciated. If you have appreciated the "stories before God," please consider sharing one of your own! Interested, but don't know where to start? [Check out this workshop that Dave and Halley put together.](#)

Alternatively, you might choose a Sunday when a special ritual has been planned in place of a "story before God," *such as Heritage Sunday, January 29!* Please [sign up here](#) to volunteer as a liturgist. Questions? Reach out to [Halley Kim](#).

## What's Going on at First Church

### Sunday, January 22

9:45 AM Nursery Care Available  
10:00AM Worship  
10:15AM Kids' Church  
11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship  
11:20 AM MCU Presentation

### Monday, January 23

7PM Scout Troops 301B & 301G - Dickens Room

### Tuesday, January 24

10:30 AM Staff Meeting - office

### Wednesday, January 25

9:00 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room  
7:00 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room  
7:00 PM Adult Confirmation (Zoom)

### Thursday, January 26

9:00 AM Journeymen – Parlor  
6:00 PM Canterbury Bells  
7:30PM Chancel Choir

### Sunday, January 29

9:45 AM Nursery Care  
10:00 AM Worship  
10:15 AM Kids' Church  
11:05 AM Midwinter Potluck  
11:20 AM Adult Education: United Church of Christ History with Pastor Dave Denoon



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## Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach  
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Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon  
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Custodian – Mark Metcalf

Weekend & Events Custodians –  
Dianna Konopka and Kayla Skiles

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity  
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*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

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