

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JANUARY 15, 2023

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING WEEKEND



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.*

PRELUDE *Interplay* Bill Evans

WELCOME Andrea Welnick, *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

INTROIT *Come Sunday* Duke Ellington
(follow along at No. 602, *New Century Hymnal*)

CALL TO WORSHIP Based on a prayer of Rabindranath Tagore*
(Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high,
Where knowledge is free,
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments,
By narrow domestic walls,
Where words come out from the depth of truth,
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection,
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way,
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit,
Where the mind is led forward by thee,
Into ever-widening thought and action.
Into that heaven of freedom, my God, let my country awake.
And let us awaken now to the presence of God's Spirit among us. Amen.

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

RITUAL OF APPROACH

We Bring Our Stories before God

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Jesus, anti-racism work is hard and long. We confess that we are sometimes fatigued by the notion that we should continually interrogate our biases. We are waiting for the comfortable part of anti-racism work, and it seems that will never come. Forgive us for our inclination to prioritize self-image over self-reflection. Give us strength to truly work for peace and justice among all people, which will always include working on ourselves. Amen.

Silence for Personal Confession

**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*

Children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.

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

Marching with the King

Cliff Aerie

Refrain.

Come on and gather in the line-up, and march your cares away

Come on and share your name and sign up, to work for a better way.

Take the hand of the one beside you, no matter who that person may be,

And join the King's parade to make all people free.

SHARING THE WORD

Gabriel Requadt, *Student Minister*

From the Writings (Responsive) Psalm 36:5-10

Women's Lectionary

Holy one, throughout the very heavens is your faithful love,
your faithfulness beyond the clouds.

**Your righteousness is like the eternal mountains,
your judgments are like the mighty deep;
you save humankind and animalkind alike, FAITHFUL ONE.**

How precious is your faithful love, O God!

All the woman-born take shelter in the shadow of your wings.

**They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

**Extend your faithful love to those who know you,
and your justice to the upright of heart! Amen.**

From the Gospels

Matthew 4:12-17

Pew Bible, p. 849

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

King for a Day

Jason Shelton

Chancel Choir with the Oikos Ensemble

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“The Proper Role of a Christian” 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)

Great is your faithfulness, O God, to us. Countless gifts you have given – including the ones Dr. King prayed that all your children might enjoy: fruitful labor, beloved community, and a sense of prosperity such as only you can provide. With humbleness before your abundance, we give our gifts of money, time, and labor, and pray your blessing upon them, that they may further establish the realm that is coming in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Lift Every Voice and Sing
No. 593, *New Century Hymnal*

J. W. & J. R. Johnson

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

We Shall Overcome

Traditional

We shall overcome...
We'll walk hand in hand...
God will see us through...
The truth will make us free...
We shall live in peace...

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.

Many thanks to the Oikos Jazz Ensemble for their gifts of music, this morning. Band members are Jordyn Patterson (vocal), Carolbeth True (piano), Glenn Smith (bass), David True (drums), and Rev. Cliff Aerie (sax).

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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

### **First Saturday Drive-Thru (Not exactly a Saturday, this time!)**

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 9:00am 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!*

## **Get Educated During Coffee Hour**

### **Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) – January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Rev. Dietra Wise Baker will be with us on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## What's Going on at First Church

### **Sunday, January 15**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship (Jazz)

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Hour

### **Monday, January 16**

**Office Closed**

**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Day of Service Project: Food for WRHM

**7:00PM** Executive Ministry (Zoom)

**7:00PM** Scout Troops 301B & 301G

### **Tuesday, January 17**

**10:30AM** Staff Meeting (office)

**7:00PM** Adult Confirmation (Zoom)

### **Wednesday, January 18**

**9:00AM** Yoga with Jeanene (Inglis Rm)

**7:00PM** Adult Confirmation (Zoom)

### **Thursday, January 19**

**6:00PM** Canterbury Bells

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir

### **Friday, January 20**

***Covenant News Deadline***

### **Sunday, January 22**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Hour + MCU Presentation



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
[www.FirstChurchWG.org](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

Moderator – Joan Musbach  
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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  
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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<http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT>

