

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JANUARY 29, 2023

HERITAGE SUNDAY (FCCWG)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE SUNDAY (UCC)



*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 *Chorale in E* César Franck

WELCOME Bob Moody, *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

***GATHERING HYMN** *Gather Your Children* J. J. Vajda, 1985
(Tune: SLANE)

Gather your children, O Savior, in peace,
And— draw us to you with your passionate pleas;
Still seek us and call us to come and be blest,
To find in your arms, Lord, safety, comfort, and rest.

Love be our banner, forgiveness our theme,
Compassion our nature, your vision our dream;
Who knows what the Spirit of God yet can do,
What joy may be tasted, or what promise come true!

***RITUAL OF APPROACH** (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

With what shall we come before our God? Shall we come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old and rams and rivers of oil? Shall we give our firstborn for transgressions, our children for the sin of our souls? What does our God require?

That we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Yes, blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

O God, despite the constancy of your Word, sometimes it has seemed to us that you have not been speaking. We have been “poor in spirit,” have not done what you require, and we have felt more lost than found. Still here we are, where we know that we can count on you to be. So, be with us now, as we listen for your Word and watch for your will, in Christ’s name. Amen.

**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.

THE WORD SHARED

Gabriel Requadt, *Student Minister*

From the Prophets

Micah 6:1-8

Pew Bible, p. 850

From the Gospels

Matthew 5:1-12

p. 880

Response

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

We Are One

Brian Tate

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Balancing Act"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our 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.

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)*

O Holy Spirit, as did the first disciples we pool our resources so that together we may make a difference. Bless the gifts we make of our labors and ourselves, so that in our faithfulness our works may bless others who, like us, are poor in spirit but strive on; in Jesus' name. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Introductions

Ashley Merideth – (by sponsor Cathy Buerk)

Andrea & Mark Metcalf – (by sponsors Ernestine Carter & Rebecca Novak)

Preface

**Affirmation of Faith* (Responsive) based on *Our Creed*, 1901
Do you believe in the kinship of all people as children of God? **I do.**
Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Way and the Truth and the Life? **I do.**
Do you believe in the clean heart, the unworldly life, and the service of love
as Jesus taught and exemplified, and do you accept Christ's Spirit, and
Christ's teaching? **I do.**

**Questions of the Candidates*

**Raising the Covenant* (Unison) *Covenant*, 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.**

**Welcome to the Church* (Unison) Joan Musbach, *Moderator*

**We as members of this church, gladly welcome you to a part
with us in the hopes, the labors, and the joys of our mutual
ministry. We promise to walk with you in Christian love and
sympathy, and to promote, as far as in us lies, your growth in
the Christian life.**

***HYMN OF PARTING** *Anniversary Hymn* J. R. Bettis, 1916
(Tune: LANCASHIRE)

Our forebears' sure foundation — the Word of God alone;
In faith the walls they builded with Christ the Cornerstone.
Their creed: the great Life-giver, Spirit and holy Son,
The heart all clean, and service of love for everyone.

Ancestors now long vanished, the church they reared lives on.
We meet, our God to honor for all that God hath done:
So many years of progress, of happiness and peace,
Of hallowed Christian union and concord ne'er to cease.

Thus far the Lord hath led us; shall we to God be true?
Shall sloth and worldly hung'ring withhold our Maker's due?
Not so: our promise sacred, with humble, earnest prayer,
We pledge again our service with all we have and are.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Triumphant March* Théodore Dubois

*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.*

~ ~ ~

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).

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.



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

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

A Drive Down Church History – TODAY (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 5th

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.

Seeking Liturgists!

Would you like to lead worship, some Sunday soon? 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: <https://tinyurl.com/fcc-stories>

Alternatively, you might choose a Sunday when a special ritual has been planned in place of a "story before God," *like today!* Please sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/fcc-liturgist> to volunteer as a liturgist. Questions? Reach out to halley.kim@firstchurchwg.org.

2023 Benevolent Giving Campaign

This year's Benevolent Giving Campaign will offer you three ways to contribute. We will ask you to make a donation to our Benevolence Giving Fund. We will give you an opportunity to buy delightful goods and services at the on-line Giving Store. And you are invited to attend the Not-So-Trivial Trivia Night on March 11. Buy a ticket, buy a table, and buy at the Silent Auction and Oral Auction.

If you can donate goods or services to stock the shelves of The Giving Store please contact Joan Musbach at jwmusbach@gmail.com

Lady Elect

Lady Elect has decided to meet during the day for a majority of their meetings. (Depending on the program, some meetings may be in the evening.) The daytime meetings will include a Bring Your Own Lunch at noon. The hostesses will provide desserts and drinks.

- February 21 – 12:00 noon: Karaoke
- March 28 – 12:00 noon: Joan Musbach's safari trip
- April- Lady Elect will help with the "Great Church Clean Out and Sale" (scheduled for April 14 and 15).
- May 23 at 6:30 pm: End-of-year potluck

All are welcome!

Laura Cooper, soon-to-be retired "chair"

Lent Bible Study

Sundays, Starting February 26 at 11:20 AM

Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week

By Amy-Jill Levine

Book available soon from the church office

What's Going on at First Church

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

Monday, January 30

1:00PM Benevolence Committee Meeting (Library)

7:00PM Troops 301 B & G – Court of Honor (Memorial Hall)

Tuesday, January 31

10:30AM Staff Meeting (Office)

Wednesday, February 1

9:00 AM Yoga w/Jeanene (Inglis Rm)

7:00 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room

7:00 PM Adult Confirmation (Zoom)

Thursday, February 2

6:00 PM Canterbury Bells

7:30PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, February 5

Sacrament of Christ's Table

9:00 AM Brown Baggers

9:45 AM Nursery Care

10:00 AM All Ages Worship

11:20 AM Adult Education: Dementia & Brain Health

Monday, February 6

7:00PM Troops 301 B & G (Dickens)



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Contact Information

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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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