

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

**MAY 14, 2023**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME  
MOTHERS DAY**



*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

*Bless this House*  
Robert Allendorph, oboe

May H. Brahe

### WELCOME

Rebecca Novak, *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 (Responsive)

Jesus said, "I go and prepare a place for you, and I will come again."

**The Messiah is our home.**

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the light. If you know me, you know God."

**The Messiah leads us to God, the Builder of a house not made with hands.**

Jesus said, "Ask me for anything, and I will do it."

**We know by name our Creator and our Redeemer, who in turn calls us each by name.**

Jesus said, "Believe in me" and "Follow me."

**In this time, in this home place, among this spiritual family may we worship our God fully – believing and following Christ. And may we be inspired by the Spirit, now and always!**

### \*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.**

### \*GATHERING HYMN

*O God, Whose Steadfast Love*

J. L. Haddix

O God, whose steadfast love true motherhood has blessed;  
who shields the infant small upon its mother's breast.

Embrace us, too, O God, our God,  
and hold us in your loving arms,  
and hold us in your loving arms.

May your household of faith one family become,  
that love may be increased and none may be alone.

That human parents' love and care  
and children's joy we all may share,  
and children's joy we all may share.

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

*\*Invitation*

based on 1 John 1:8-9

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sin and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins.

*\*Prayer of Confession* (Unison)

**Ever-gracious God, like the best of the mothers of earth whom we have known, you are powerful for us and able to make a way forward. Nevertheless, we waver – despite the gifts of your Spirit and the rebirth we have come to know because of her. You are our faithful Mother: you have not fed us a diet of shame or shrinking, but with the milk of your truth you have made us strong and faithful siblings in Christ. Have mercy on us, and fill us with strength and hope. Then, help us to appreciate the cost of discipleship as well as its joys. Amen.**

*\*Silence for Personal Confessions*

*\*Words of Assurance*

based on Romans 5:1-2

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Savior Jesus Christ.

**Through Jesus Christ we have obtained access to this grace to which we hold fast, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.**

*\*Singing God's Glory*

*Halleluja*

Caribbean melody

No. 236 – *New Century Hymnal*

**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 Writings*

Ruth 1:1-20

Pew Bible, p. 238

Translated by Wilda C. Gafney

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*Wherever You Go*

Gregory Norbet

Patricia Scanlon, vocalist

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*What's in a Name?*

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**3. "True to Yourself"**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God*

*Prayer of the Day*

*Prayer of Our Savior*

ad. Denoon

**Our Mother in heaven, make your name holy. Reveal your love, and teach us your way. Make earth alike with heaven. Provide bread for today, so that we do not worry about tomorrow. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Keep us from things that would keep us from you, but deliver us from the evil one. For here is your love: where power and glory are shared, now and forever. Amen.**

**WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS**

*Opportunities to Give and Gather*

*\*Song of Praise*

*Doxology with Alleluias*

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

*\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

**God, bless our tithes and offerings, that they may heal and make whole the lives of all your children. And bless those who give and those who long to give, that we may become living stones of mercy, grace and justice in the house of your creation. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PARTING**

*God, Bless Our Homes*

F. von Christiernson

God, bless our homes with peace and love and laughter,  
with understanding and with loyalty.  
May we together follow Christ our Savior  
and know the blessing of community.  
  
O God, in gratitude for homes and loved ones,  
we open now our hearts to humankind.  
Grant us your spirit — love for all our neighbors —  
so in your peace may we our concord find.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.  
**People: Let our service begin.**

**POSTLUDE**

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*  
Robert Allendorph, oboe

arr. John Carter

*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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*Special thanks to our guest musicians: Robert Allendorph and Patricia Scanlon.*

### Wi-Fi Info

Recommended: fccwg1, fccwg2 or fccwg3 | Password for all: firstchurch.

### 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](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)).

### How to Donate to First Congregational Church

You may leave a donation in the offering plate in the Narthex, OR

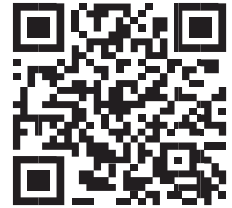
Send a check made payable to FCCWG at:

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.



### 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, Becky Scott, 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 Scott
- People with mental illnesses, and those who love and care for them
- Peace with justice

### Audio Lectionary

**Gabriel Requadt has started a new, weekly project:**

If you would like to listen to the lectionary for the coming week, audio Lectionary Readings are now available on SoundCloud at <https://on.soundcloud.com/Cb3ep>

Whether it's a morning lift for your daily commute or a new way of approaching the Word, we hope that this can be a blessing in your life, hearing the Word of God in fresh ways.

### CHADS Coalition for Mental Health Communities Healing Adolescent Depression and Suicide Signs of Suicide Prevention Program

May 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:15 in Memorial Hall

This training will teach you how to recognize suicidality in teenagers and what to do about it!

**“Peter and the Wolf” and other favorites  
Family Concert with Xylem Ensemble  
Sunday, May 21, 3:00pm**

The Xylem Ensemble in a family concert performance of Sergei Prokofiev’s Peter and the Wolf, along with other favorites, Sunday, May 21 at 3:00pm, in the church’s sanctuary at 10 W. Lockwood Ave. Reservations are recommended, and tickets are almost free (suggested donation: adults - \$10 each; kids and teens – free), at <https://tinyurl.com/fcc-peter-wolf>

Peter and the Wolf, a charming piece designed to introduce young people to musical instruments through the telling of a classic tale about a boy and his animal companions, will be the central piece in this program by the Xylem Ensemble. The Ensemble is a wind-based chamber orchestra conducted by Bob Herman, who also conducts the band Klezundheit! which specializes in joyous Jewish klezmer music. So, audience members should expect a fun, musical afternoon!

**Lady Elect End-of-the-year Potluck  
Tuesday, May 23 — Inglis Room  
Happy Hour at 6:00 PM & Potluck at 6:30 PM**

Hostesses for the evening are BJ Kaul and Carolyn Woodsmall.  
Contact BJ or Carolyn if you are interested.

*All women of the church are welcome!*

We provide rides for those who need them and we welcome those who have not had the pleasure of joining us at past meetings.

*Come and see what we're all about!*

**First Saturday Drive–Thru Collection  
Saturday, June 3, from 9am until 12pm**

The recipient of the collection will be the **St. Louis Area Food Bank**. Please bring non-perishable food items. Volunteers will be asked to sign up for all or a portion of a 4-hour shift (8:30am - 12:30pm). Sign up for a full or partial shift here: <https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-drive-thru>

**Habitat Work Day Scheduled**

We have a work date! On Saturday August 26th, we will combine forces with future homeowners and a group from Emmanuel UCC to work at the Lookaway Build site which is near the Chain of Rocks bridge. This is a full day (8:00 AM to 3:00PM) commitment, and I promise you will find it rewarding. Call Phil Shoulberg if you have questions. Sign up sheet is in the office.

**Covenant News Articles Due on May 20**

The Summer issue of Covenant News will cover June, July, and August. Please be sure to have all info to Debbie by the 20th. The next issue will be in September.

## **What's Going on at First Church**

### **Sunday, May 14**

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mothers Day

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids' Church

**11:15 AM** Coffee Fellowship

### **Monday, May 15**

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

### **Tuesday, May 16**

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

### **Wednesday, May 17**

~~**9:30 AM** Yoga w/Jeanene (Inglis)~~

**6:00 PM** Bridge Club (Inglis)

### **Thursday, May 18**

**6:00pm** Canterbury Bells

### **Saturday, May 20**

Elyse von Weise and Nina Thompson graduate from WGHS!



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

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  
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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<https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchwg/>

YouTube

<http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT>

