

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

MAY 28, 2023
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
PENTECOST SUNDAY

*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.*



**DIVIDED TONGUES, AS
OF FIRE, APPEARED
AMONG THEM ...**

ACTS 2:3, NRSV

Order of Worship

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

PRELUDE

Song

John Carter

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 THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING WORDS

John 7:37-39

Pew Bible, p. 974

***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**

Spirit of God

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Spirit of God, bright Wind, breath that bids life begin,
blow as you always do; create us anew.

Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Spirit of God, bright Flame, send us in your holy name,
the power to heal, to share your love everywhere.

We cannot fail or fall, or know defeat at all,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Spirit of God in all, we gladly hear your call,
the life in our hands that sings, the power of your wings.

Born of your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

RITUAL OF APPROACH

We Bring Our Stories Before God

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Spirit of the Living God, we confess that we have sometimes viewed prayer through a narrow lens. We have offered our concerns in prayer because we

want them alleviated. We want results. But you are more interested in our outlook than our outcomes. Or we have wanted you to change the direction of our journeys; sometimes their directions have changed, but even when they haven't, you have always accompanied us along our way. Forgive us for those times we have placed expectations on your faithfulness. Then, heal us from the impulse to perceive you as a fixer instead of a witness. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**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.

THE WORD SHARED

Acts 2:1-8, 12-18; 4:32-35

pp. 992; 994

Response.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"What's in a Name?"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

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 SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

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!

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

O God, just as we have been baptized by your Spirit into one body, we have brought together these gifts to testify to your faithfulness toward people in every time, nation, and language. Please bless our offering of thanksgiving in Jesus' name. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

George Croly

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart,
Wean it from sin, through all its pulses move,
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,
And make me love you as I ought to love.

Teach me to love you as your angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended dove,
My heart an altar and your soul a flame.

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Jig Fugue in C

D. Buxtehude

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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**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](http://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.

### **Strengthen the Church Special Offering – Today**

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering cooperatively builds up the United Church of Christ. Conferences and the UCC national setting equally distribute the gifts to local congregations. These funds support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, & innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

### **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.

### **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>

### **National Wear Orange Day Gun Violence Awareness and Prevention March and Rally Sunday, June 4 – 12pm**

The march starts at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church at 45 West Lockwood Ave. and ends at Emmanuel Episcopal Church at 9 South Bompert Ave. There will be prayers, speakers, and information. Organized by Churches Together for Justice: Christ Lutheran Church, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, First Congregational Church, Peace United Church of Christ and Webster Groves Presbyterian Church. For more info: [wearorange.org](http://wearorange.org)

***Be sure to wear orange or a Moms Demand Action shirt!***

### **First Congregational Scout Troop Court of Honor June 5, 7:15 PM**

Troops 301B and 301G, who meet together on Monday evenings, will conduct their next Court of Honor on Monday, June 5 at 7:15pm, in Memorial Hall. The Scouts will present a slideshow about their springtime experiences, and Missouri Representative Sarah Unsicker (District 83) will offer a presentation on citizenship. Members and friends of First Church are welcome to attend.

### **We are Hiring!**

Halley's departure in July creates the need for a Coordinator of Faith Formation. We are particularly interested in applicants who have a strong background in religious education in a progressive theological setting, preferably including collaborative partnerships and team building.

Interested individuals should introduce themselves at [personnel@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:personnel@firstchurchwg.org) and detail why their candidacy should be of particular interest to our Christian Education Ministry. A résumé (Word or PDF) should be attached. All applications should be sent to: [personnel@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:personnel@firstchurchwg.org) with the subject "CFF Recruitment." Telephone inquiries will not be accepted.

Deadline for submissions is 11:59PM, Wednesday, June 7th.

### **Jazz At 10 West Lockwood The Oasis Big Band June 17 – 6:30 pm Dessert and Jazz Admission is Free**

The Oasis 15-piece big band plays jazz from Glen Miller to the Beatles and everything in between. Under the direction of Chuck Schuder, Ralph Moore and Ted Lau, the Big Band features jazz musicians from the St. Louis area. Jazz at 10 West Lockwood is sponsored by First Church's Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA). A free-will offering will be received to further our programming.

### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

We are having another blood drive! Sign up here to donate blood on Thursday, June 29th between 2pm and 6pm. Besides the fact that donating blood is just a great way to love your neighbors, there's an added incentive: all donors will receive a \$10 gift card to a merchant of their choice (even if deferred!).

### **Habitat Workday 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.

### **"I Love Lucy" Display Case**

Check out the display case in the hallway between the narthex and Memorial Hall: Sharon Love's partner, Brenda, is sharing her collection of "I Love Lucy" dolls with us! Those of us who enjoyed years of the ground-breaking sit-com will be reminded of our favorite episodes! If you have a collection you are willing to share with First Church for display, please contact Joan Musbach.

### **Benevolence Giving Campaign Cocktail Party**

There is still time to sign-up for the Benevolence Giving Campaign Cocktail Party scheduled for 4:00, Saturday, June 24th! Mike Lenard is again sharing his phenomenal hosting and cooking skills at his home to benefit our benevolence giving. The cost is \$40 per person; you can pay in the office or at: [firstchurchwg.org/donate](http://firstchurchwg.org/donate). (Select Benevolence Giving from the drop-down box on the right.) RSVP to Joan Musbach by June 2nd.

### **Pastoral Relations Committee Tuesday, June 6**

Confidentiality, acceptance, and trust: these are the primary values of the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC). Our PRC is composed of church members given the responsibility of fostering a healthy relationship between the pastor and church members. The Committee meets bi-monthly and seeks to maintain open communication between pastor, staff, and congregants; it is not a personnel or policy-

making committee. The discussions of the committee are confidential, thus allowing members the freedom to express varying views.

Current members include Jared Cohen, Annie Sampath, Liu Lin Thio, Patrick Byrne, Jane Porchey, and Pat Doyle-Grace. PRC members have gold hearts on their name badges! Ex-officio members are Moderator Doug Barton and Pastor David Denoon.

We encourage all congregants to feel free to discuss with PRC members their concerns and views, both positive and negative, about what is going on in the life of the church and bring to light any issues that ought to be discussed.

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

#### **Sunday, May 28**

##### **Pentecost**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care  
**10:00 AM** Worship  
**10:15 AM** Kids' Church  
**11:15 AM** Coffee Fellowship  
**2:00 PM** Funeral: Paul Wentzien

#### **Monday, May 29**

**Memorial Day (Office Closed)**

#### **Tuesday, May 30**

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

#### **Wednesday, May 31**

**9:30AM** Yoga w/Jeanene (Inglis)  
**6:00PM** Bridge Club (Inglis)

#### **Saturday, June 3**

**9:00AM-12:00PM** Drive-Thru Collection  
for STL Area Food Bank

#### **Sunday, June 4**

##### **Trinity Sunday**

##### **Sacrament of Christ's Table**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care  
**10:00 AM** Worship (All Ages, in Memorial  
Hall)  
**11:15 AM** Coffee Fellowship  
**12:00 PM** Gun Violence Awareness March  
& Rally (wear orange!)

#### **Monday, June 5**

**7:15 PM** Troops 301B & 301G Court of  
Honor (Memorial Hall)

#### **Tuesday, June 6**

**1:00 PM** Communications Meeting (Office)  
**6:30 PM** Practicing Our Faith (Parlor)  
**6:30 PM** Pastoral Relations Committee  
(Zoom)





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

## Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton  
iyell4@aol.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  
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Director, Center for Counseling & Healing  
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***Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.***

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

