

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JUNE 25 2023

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OPEN AND AFFIRMING 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.*

Order of Worship

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

PRELUDE *Prelude in C* JS Bach

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 THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us stand in body or mind and say with pride the Covenant of our faith community.

***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** *Gather Us In* Pete the Hymnist
No. 328 –The Chalice Hymnal

RITUAL OF APPROACH (Responsive)

Invitation to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is hidden. Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Most merciful God, we confess that we seem bound to sin and need your help to free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed by what we have done and what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and guide us. Help us to do your will and follow in the ways of Jesus. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**Words of Assurance*

God hears the confession of our hearts and lips by the grace of God we are forgiven and through the power of the Holy Spirit we are empowered to new life.

Thanks be to God.

***PARTING HYMN**

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant
No. 539 – *New Century Hymnal*

Sally the Hymnist

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Pastorale

J.S. Bach

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.

**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

## **Our Whole Lives (OWL) – Sex Ed for Adults: Info Session TODAY during Coffee Hour**

Our lovely CE Support Staff Noel Burke will be offering an OWL class for adults starting in September. Our Whole Lives (OWL) is "a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula for use in both secular settings and faith communities. [It] provides accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality."

Halley and Noel will lead this information session. It will be an opportunity to learn about OWL and get your questions answered. Noel will first offer a class to adults only, but ultimately will be offering classes for kids and teens as well. These classes are a "deep dive" and will meet over a period of months (TBD based on participants' schedules).

### **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!).

### **Collecting Signatures for An Important Missouri Legislative Petition**

You can help ensure 200,000 Missourians don't have to choose between a paycheck and caring for themselves and their families. Along with other Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) congregations, we will be collecting signatures for an initiative petition to guarantee earned paid leave plus a raise in the minimum wage in Missouri. With enough signatures, this issue will be on the ballot in Missouri in the fall of 2024.

If you are a registered Missouri voter and want to support getting these issues on the ballot, all you have to do is sign the petition. Doug Miller will be available during the month of June to take your signature on Sunday mornings before and after worship service. The one exception is June 4, when he has other obligations before worship and very limited time afterwards as well. (PLEASE NOTE: your signature on the initiative petition only supports getting the proposed legislation on the ballot. It does not require that you actually vote for the legislation once it is on the ballot.)

If you want to help collect signatures, for example, from family and friends, please talk to Doug about how to get trained to collect signatures and for some background literature and blank petition pages. The training is quite easy both in terms of time commitment and learning time.

We look forward to robust support from FCCWG for this very valuable legislation.  
Doug Miller

### **Webster Rock Hill Ministries...**

has plenty of peanut butter they distribute to needy families but they could use **Bread and Jelly!** Please consider donating bread and jelly to WRHM. You can leave these in the boxes in the narthex. Thank you!

**Farewell and Good Luck to Halley Kim!**  
**July 16 — Potluck**

In honor of all that Halley has done for us, join the Christian Education Ministry in celebrating her time with us for a “kid friendly” sweet and savory potluck. Please bring plated finger foods to the kitchen before the service. Cupcakes and ice cream bars will be provided to enjoy as we fellowship in Memorial Hall during coffee hour

**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. Pastor Dave will be on vacation from June 20 through July 10. He will resume the process at that time.

**Technology Advances at First Church!**  
**New Phones and Door Entry System**

The door entry system was installed a couple of weeks ago and that seems to be working just fine.

The new phones are in place, and we are still learning how to use them! Please be patient. Of course, not all of the wrinkles have been ironed out. The extensions numbers have changed as the new phones do not work with two digits. Please see the back of the bulletin or the website for our new extension numbers.

**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.

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

**Sunday, June 25**

**Pride Sunday**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:20 AM** Our Whole Lives (OWL) presentation - Memorial Hall

**Monday, June 26**

**7:00 PM** Peace & Justice Team (Zoom)

**Wednesday, June 28**

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

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

**Thursday, June 29**

**2:00 - 6:00 PM** Red Cross Blood Drive (Memorial Hall)

**Sunday, July 2**

**All Ages Worship**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** Worship

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

**Tuesday, July 4**

**10:00AM** WG Community Parade  
(Church building closed)

**Wednesday, July 5**

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

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

**Sunday, July 9**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
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314-962-0475  
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## Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton  
iyell4@aol.com

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Mark.Metcalf@FirstChurchWG.org

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>

