

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JUNE 11, 2023

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
“ADULT CONFIRMATION”**

*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.*



*Adult
Confirmation*

Order of Worship

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

PRELUDE *Journey to Recife* Bill Evans

WELCOME Andrea Metcalf, *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

INTROIT *Morning* Yusef Lateef

OPENING WORDS (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**) from Matthew 4 and 9

One day, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”

Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Another day as Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.”

And he got up and followed him.

***GATHERING HYMN** *Jesus Calls Us* Cecil F. Alexander
No. 172 – *New Century Hymnal*

RITUAL OF APPROACH (Responsive)

**Invitation* (Responsive)

Jesus, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.

But only say the word and your servant will be healed.

**Prayer of Confession* (Unison)

Loving God, you call us into community through the baptism of your Spirit. As we anticipate our baptism today, or are reminded of it, confirming our faith, give us a surer direction. Help us to know always that we are immersed in your love. The patterns of this world can sometimes distract us, or cause us to imagine that we are on our own, that we bear no obligation to anyone except ourselves. But you do not abandon; you are faithful and beckon us to enjoy your merciful embrace. Even the best of our intentions have sometimes resulted in sinful choices. Forgive us we pray, and call us again. We will answer. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**Words of Assurance*

based on Romans 4

The apostle Paul once said, "The promise to Abraham and his household came to them because of the righteousness of their faith.

"Any promise depends on faith, not obligation. Every bit of the promise rested on God's grace."

"... Righteousness, therefore, is reckoned to those who trust in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

"He was handed over for our trespasses and raised for our justification." Thanks be to God. 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

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

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

From the Epistles

Romans 4:13-25

Pew Bible, p. 1027

Response.

tr. Denoon

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Throw It Away

Abbey Lincoln

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Confirmation Students

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 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 offerings in Jesus' name. Amen.

RITUAL FOR CONFIRMATION

Invitation

Questions of the Candidates

**Affirmation of Faith (Responsive)*

The Congregation rises in body or in spirit, as the Minister says:

Do you believe in God? **I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? **I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? **I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

**Prayer of the Candidates*

**Prayers of the Congregation (Unison)*

The Congregation first prays in silence, then says:

Almighty God, who receive your servants into the church through baptism, these servants now affirm their baptisms or will be baptized. You have forgiven their sins and offered them eternal life; now, increase in them the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Grant that they may show love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in all temptations, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Act of Confirmation (Laying On of Hands)

Prayer of Confirmation

Welcome (Unison)

Doug Barton, *Moderator*

We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our Risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

**Raising the Covenant (Unison)*

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.

***PARTING HYMN**

Take My Life, God, Let It Be Consecrated
No. 448 – *New Century Hymnal*

Frances R. Havergal

***BENEDICTION**

*PARTING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE

Believe in Love

Jon Batiste

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.

~~~~~

**We are grateful**, this morning, for the music leadership of the Oikos Jazz Ensemble: Carolbeth True, piano; Glenn Smith, bass; David True, percussion; and Kim Fuller Barnes, vocals.

### 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

### **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 benefit MICA.

### **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.

### **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

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

### **Sunday, June 11**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

**1:00 PM** Baptism of Gabriel Requadt

(Webster Groves Christian Church at 1320 W. Lockwood Ave.)

### **Monday, June 12**

**7:00PM** Three Ministries (Hybrid)

### **Tuesday, June 13**

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

### **Wednesday, June 14**

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

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

### **Saturday, June 17**

**1:00 PM** Memorial Service: Marjorie Courtney

**7:00 PM** Oasis Jazz Band Concert (Memorial Hall)

### **Sunday, June 18**

**Father's Day**

**Reception of New Members**

**9:45 AM** Nursery Care

**10:00 AM** Worship

**10:15 AM** Kids Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

### **Monday, June 19**

**Juneteenth**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

**7:00 PM** Executive Ministry (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

Custodian – Mark Metcalf  
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  
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.***

## Follow us on

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/)

Instagram

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

YouTube

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

