

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



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

AUGUST 13, 2023

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*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**

*Cedar's Blues*

Cedar Walton

**WELCOME**

Jennifer Jones, *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.*

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**INTROIT**

*Live the Way*

Cliff Aerie

Day breaks o'er the sky. Soul wakes, "Who am I?"  
Wellspring flowing from within,  
gentle Spirit, let me sing in the blossom yet to flower,  
breathes an essence full of power.  
Life, all life, breaks forth in praise,  
beckons us to live the Way.

Noontide lights the land. Reach out with your hand!  
Deep love flowing from within,  
gentle Spirit, let me sing of your mystery and your grace  
found in every human face.  
Life, all life, breaks forth in praise,  
beckons us to live the Way.

Night falls, sky grows dim. Stars shine, evening hymn.  
Deep peace flowing from within,  
gentle Spirit, let me sing of each day I'm blessed to live  
for the love I have to give.  
Life, all life, breaks forth in praise,  
beckons us to live the Way.

**\*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**

*Now Is the Time*

Cliff Aerie

(inspired by Deuteronomy 29:10-15)

Now is the time of wonder – amazement!  
This is the place where miracles dwell.  
Fashion your dream with love and compassion.  
All things are possible, for now is the time.

Down in the soul a spirit awakens.  
Deep in the heart a melody soars.  
Reach for the stars with imagination.  
All things are possible, for now is the time.

## RITUAL OF APPROACH

### *Invitation*

God is our Provider and the Guide upon our paths,  
**yet we claim the provision and consider the paths our own.**  
Let us consider this, and confess together.

### *Prayer of Confession Together (Unison)*

**God our Provider and Guide, we have known such blessing thanks to you. Without you how can we hope for happiness or well-being? We wander aimlessly if left to ourselves. Yet when we witness our success, we are tempted to take the credit. We forget the words that we say here so often, that our prosperity has come to us from you. Not that we didn't develop the skills that did the work that made the money that provided our means, but that none of that would have been possible without you. We remember that now. By your grace, forgive our lack of insight so that we may know what our prosperity really means. Let us feel your peace upon us. Amen.**

### *Silence for Personal Confessions*

### *Assurance of Pardon*

Happy are those who respect the Great Provider and who walk in God's paths.  
**May the Holy One bless us all from the heart of this place, out into the world in which we dwell, all the days of our lives.**

*\*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.*

### *Response*

### *Small Things Count*

Shirley Erena Murray

Small things count, so Jesus said – cups of water, crumbs of bread,  
small things done because we're kind count as big things in God's mind.

Small things make the big things grow – yeast that bubbles in the dough,  
puffs that fill a big balloon, notes that make a happy tune.

Every hair that's on our head, every sparrow, Jesus said,  
God takes care of, counts and knows – God loves us from top to toes!

## THE WORD SHARED

### *From the Gospels*

Matthew 13:33-35

Pew Bible, p. 890

### *Response*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE OF THE DAY

*"Stinky Makes It Good"*

Rev. Denoon

**MUSIC MEDITATION**

*Summertime*

Gershwin / Aerie

Summertime, and the livin' is easy  
Fish are jumpin' and the birds fly so high  
Sun is shining and the flowers are blooming  
So hush little baby, don't you cry.

On summer mornings you've gotta rise up singing.  
Each day a blessing when you look to the sky  
All the colors of creation surround you  
So sing, O my children, don't you cry.

On summer evenings when the moon has risen  
Stars are twinklin' and the fireflies shine  
We're like children caught up in the wonder  
So sing, O my children, don't you cry.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We Share 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*

Ken / Bourgeois

**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.**

**BENEDICTION**

**PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

**All: Let our service begin.**

**POSTLUDE / PARTING HYMN**

*Lean on Me*

Bill Withers

Sometimes in our lives we all have pain, we all have sorrow  
But if we are wise we know that there's always tomorrow  
Lean on me when you're not strong  
And I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on...  
For it won't be long till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

Please swallow your pride if I have things you need to borrow  
For no one can fill those of your needs that you won't let show

You just call on me, brother, when you need a hand  
We all need somebody to lean on  
I just might have a problem that you'll understand  
We all need somebody to lean on

Lean on me when you're not strong  
And I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on...  
For it won't be long till I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

You just call on me, sister, when you need a hand  
We all need somebody to lean on  
I just might have a problem that you'll understand  
We all need somebody to lean on

If there is a load you have to bear that you can't carry  
I'm right up the road, I'll share your load if you just call me  
Call me, if you need a friend  
Call me!

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***Our thanks to the members of the Oikos Jazz Ensemble*** for their participation in the leadership of worship today. They are **Kim Fuller-Barnes**, vocals; **Carolbeth True**, piano; **Glen Smith**, bass; **David True**, percussion; and Rev. **Cliff Aerie**, saxophone.

The Oikos Jazz Ensemble is an outreach of our Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA). MICA takes part in Sunday morning jazz worship, six times a year, and conducts two seasonal programs – Jazz Noel and Good Friday Blues – in addition to other occasional performances. If you would like to support MICA with a gift separate from your contribution to the church, please do so with

- a cash offering (in an envelope thus designated),
- a check made payable to the church with “MICA” written in the memo line, or
- an electronic contribution on the Donate page of our website (find “MICA” in the pull-down menu).

### **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

## We are Hiring!

We are seeking 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.

## Kids Church Needs Your help!

Ideally, there will be TWO volunteers every Sunday until that hire is accomplished: one to assist Noel, per usual, and one to assist Carina with the toddlers and preschoolers. The reality is that without two volunteers (until a Coordinator of Faith Formation is in place), Kids Church must function as a one-room schoolhouse (all ages together). Sometimes this works well; other times not so much. Let's give Noel and Carina the support they need during this transition.

You can sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-kids-church> Thank you!

Counselors) know if you would like to receive a form.

## Backpack Blessing – Sunday, August 20

We will be celebrating the beginning of the new academic year by blessing backpacks and giving out tokens to be attached to them. If you have a backpack or other method of conveyance that you would like to have blessed in worship, that day, please bring it with you!!!

## Garden Party at Rosemary Hensley's House – Saturday August 26

There is still time to sign up for this popular Summer Garden Party. Cost \$35 per person; **register on the donate page of the church web site at: <http://firstchurchwg.org/donate>. Select "Give to Benevolence – Giving" from the dropdown box.** You may also pay by check with *Garden Party* in the memo line.

## Habitat Workday

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.

## **Remember Our Legacy**

Our church was the recipient recently of a gift to our Endowment Fund, from the estate of Paul Davis. And we have been notified that a bequest will soon be received from the estate of another member who passed recently. It has always been gifts like this that keep our church strong and vibrant. We would love to be informed that you have included an Endowment gift in your will or trust, so that you may be added to the list of our “**Legacy Group.**” Such a listing can encourage others to do the same. Please let Pastor Dave Denoon or Sue Stepleton (Chair of the Endowment Committee) know if you would like to receive a form.

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

### **Sunday, August 13**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care

**10:00AM** Worship (with the Oikos Jazz Ensemble)

**10:15AM** Kids Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

### **Monday, August 14**

**7:00PM** Three Ministries

(Please contact the Pastor if you will be attending remotely.)

### **Wednesday, August 16**

**9:30AM** Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

**10:30AM** Staff Meeting – Church Office

**6:00PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

### **Sunday, August 20**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:20AM** Reflection on the Message of the Day



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## Contact Information

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Weekend & Events Custodians –  
Kayla Skiles & Onyeka Igboanuzue

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

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

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

