

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



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

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023  
FAITH FORMATION 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

*Just As I Am*

Dale Wood

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.*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

TOLLING OF THE BELL

OPENING WORDS (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**) based on words from Colossians 3

It's time for church! Whatever shall we wear?

**As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, let us clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.**

Let us bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as God has forgiven each of us, so we also must forgive.

**Above all, let us wear love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.**

This way, with hearts of gratitude we can sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

**Now, we are dressed for worship.**

\*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

*God Is Here*

Fred Pratt Green

No. 70, vv. 1,3,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

RITUAL OF APPROACH

based on Psalm 119

*Invitation*

*Prayer of Confession* (Responsive)

You have taught us your way, O Holy One, and we strive to observe it to the end.

**You have given us understanding, that we may keep your law and observe it with whole hearts.**

You have led us in the path of your commandments, for we delight in it.

**But our eyes have sometimes stared longingly at vanities, and our lives have not followed your ways.**

Set aside the disgrace that we dread, for your ordinances are good.

**Turn our hearts to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.**

*Silence for Personal Confessions*

*Words of Assurance*

God of grace and love, you confirm to your servants your promise, for we revere you.

**You turn away the disgrace that we dread, when we return to the path of your ordinances which are goodness and truth.**

*Singing God's Glory*

*Glory to God*

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**

*Listen, Share, Become*

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**THE WORD SHARED**

*From the Prophets*

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Pew Bible, p. 787

*From the Gospels*

Matthew 18:15-20

p. 895

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*Come, Dove of Heaven*

Music by Mark Miller

Chancel Choir

Words by Adam Tice

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*"To Save Your Self"*

Rev. Denoon

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We Lift Our Joys and Concerns*

*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 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.**

*\*Prayer of Dedication*

**You have shown us, O God, how we ought to live and love. As you make us a people who speak the truth in love and who also**

**listen for the sake of reconciliation, bless our gifts to those same purposes for the sake of the world, in Christ's name. Amen.**

**PARTING HYMN**

*Help Us Accept Each Other*  
No. 388, vv. 1,3 – *New Century Hymnal*

Fred Kaan

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

“The Rejoicing” from *Water Music*

G. F. Handel  
Arr. Hal Hopson

*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**

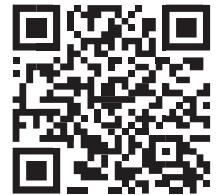
If you need to join us remotely, Sunday worship each week is streamed live on YouTube, starting at 10am ([bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)).

### **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

**Vanessa Kersting in Concert**  
**NEXT SUNDAY at 3:00pm**

Pop Christian recording artist Vanessa Kersting will perform a live concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, September 17, at 3:00pm. Vanessa is a singer-songwriter from Australia, now living in the U.S. where she is building on her successful hit career, when she lived Down Under.

You can give Vanessa's music a listen in a number of ways –

- Her website: <http://vanessakersting.com/>
- YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/VanessaKersting>)
- Spotify (<https://open.spotify.com/track/6NIZZUYCdLVisrFsP2IQGY>)

You will find her music uplifting and affirming and spirit-centered.

Tell your friends - especially your young friends - that a new voice is here, singing music they'll want to listen to and sing along with! Admission is free (suggested donation \$5). Register at <https://firstchurchwg.org/the-arts/vanessa-kersting-in-concert/> to attend.

**Lady Elect Kicks Off New Program Year with a Potluck**

Lady elect will hold its first meeting of the new program year on Tuesday, September 26. This is always a potluck. Happy hour starts at 6 PM with potluck at 6:30. Monthly programs and dates will be discussed and planned.

All the women of the church are invited! Please RSVP to Faye Dyer

**Webster Rock Hill Ministries – Donation Update**

First Church began donating jelly and bread in the beginning of June to supplement the WRHM Food Bank's shelves. That has become so popular WRHM wants the PBJ and bread donations to continue.

Additionally, the Ministries is now distributing fresh fruit and veggies once a month, including carrots, cucumbers, and lettuces. To fully enjoy these, the families will need salad dressing. (Ranch is the most popular dressing with kids.)

You can bring your donations of peanut butter, jelly, bread, and ranch dressing to the church and place them in the "Sharing Our Bounty" crates in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity!

**Annual Vehicle Fair, September 30 – Attend and/or Volunteer!**

Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, is our annual Vehicle Fair from 9 until 12. Please join us in welcoming the community for this perpetually fun event! If you would like to volunteer to help with the event, please see Chris von Weise during coffee hour or email her at [chrisvonyz@gmail.com](mailto:chrisvonyz@gmail.com)

**Alliance for Interracial Dignity Monthly Roundtable**

September 12, 5:15PM, Webster Groves Public Library

Learn about the plans of Peace United Church of Christ, to develop senior affordable housing on the former church lot.

**2023 CROP Hunger Walk – October 1**

Starting off at Eden Seminary at 5 PM. In the past, there have been 1- & 3-mile loops. Walkers of all ages are welcome, as are strollers and wagons. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the money raised will go to the relief and development work of Church World Service; 25% will go to local organizations, including Webster-Rock Hill Ministries.

Donations can be made through FCCWG's CROP Walk page *once it's up*, or by placing a check in the offering plate (made out to the church, and with "CWS/CROP" in the memo line).  
*More info to come!*

### **September Meal-a-Month**

Beef Stew • Canned Carrots (low or no salt)  
Canned Fruit in own juices • Cornbread Mix (no eggs)  
Powdered Milk • Shelf Stable Milk • Soy Milk  
Toothbrushes • Tooth Paste • Dental Floss

### **September Birthdays**

|                        |    |                |    |
|------------------------|----|----------------|----|
| Laura Cooper           | 3  | Elaine Coe     | 22 |
| Bob Moody              | 4  | Jane Porchey   | 24 |
| Bob Borutta            | 5  | Phil Roush     | 25 |
| Doug Miller            | 6  | BJ Kaul        | 25 |
| Jeff McCoy             | 7  | Kedra Tolson   | 26 |
| Nancy Rudolph          | 13 | Janice Aerie   | 28 |
| Megan Miller (Christy) | 13 | Lynn Hoganson  | 28 |
| Chip Isringhaus        | 14 | Jennifer Gomez | 28 |
| Mark Cereghino         | 20 | Beatrice Byrne | 29 |
| Debra Tolstoi          | 20 |                |    |

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

#### **Sunday, September 10**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** *Autumn Potluck*

**3:00PM** Artist Presentation Society Concert: Sax & Piano

#### **Monday, September 11**

**7:00PM** Scout Troops 301G and 301B

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

#### **Tuesday, September 12**

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

#### **Wednesday, September 13**

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

**6:00PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

#### **Thursday, September 14**

**6:00PM** Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir –Sanctuary

## **January 29 Sermon Leads to Webster Groves Preservation Commission Considering Historic Status for Home of Thyra Bonds**

Late church member Thyra Bonds' home at 15 Marvin Court is being reviewed by Webster Groves' Historic Preservation Commission, for registration as a Local Historic Structure, at the Commission's next meeting, September 12. The house, constructed in 1956 by real estate developer Bennie Gordon, Jr., was set up as the demonstration home in a 13-property neighborhood marketed specifically to African Americans. The subdivision was prevented from further development by protests and threats of white neighbors against businesses supporting and funding the effort. In 1964, with the Marvin Court development stalled and surrounding properties left similarly undeveloped, the WG Land Clearance for Reclamation Authority persuaded the City Council to rezone all the property except for Mrs. Bonds's home from Residential to Industrial, and the Kirkham Industrial Court was born. Mrs. Bonds then sued the City to recover what she alleged was a decreased value in her home.

Pastor Dave Denoon preached a sermon on January 29, 2023 (video at [bit.ly/2023-01-29](https://bit.ly/2023-01-29), print version [bit.ly/2023-01-29-PDF](https://bit.ly/2023-01-29-PDF)), which brought light to the court case and its eventual outcome in 1968 in favor of the City. Mrs. Bonds's daughter Gayle Jones still lives at 15 Marvin Court, today. It is in part through the efforts of Ms. Jones and Pastor Dave that the Commission is considering the home's historic status.

### **UCC Habitat News**

Get Ready to Bid on our UCC Habitat Auction At <https://tinyurl.com/ucc-habitat-auction>. Click on the upper right-hand corner to register and to bid and bid again!!!

#### ***More than 50 items are waiting for your bid September 3 - October 15***

Help build affordable housing as we continue to work together with Habitat for Humanity STL. Share with your congregation and social media today!

Just a few items you can bid on:

- hand crocheted: afghan, animals
- Barbie handmade quilts
- restaurant gift certificates
- freshly baked foods
- a lesson to make Macarons
- a birthday party workday at Habitat
- a family portrait by a great photographer
- haircuts, massages, waxing
- hockey tickets
- tennis lessons
- and so much more...

You can still donate items by emailing Hugh Chou at [huchou@gmail.com](mailto:huchou@gmail.com). Please send picture and complete description, including contact information.

# Covenant News

September 7–13, 2023

## From the Music Director

Greetings! I hope everyone is staying comfortable after that last heat wave!

I am very excited for the coming church program year! The Fall lineup for our concert series “Music at First Church” will be **Vanessa Kersting**, Christian singer/songwriter (September 17); **Dr. Vincent Craig**, Professor of Music for the University of Pennsylvania Universities, a pianist who will present a recital of rarely performed music of African American classical composers (October 6, Friday at 7pm); and the **Xylem Winds Collective** returning with a different “child friendly” concert lasting less than an hour (December 3). These *Music at First Church* concerts are free to the public with a suggested donation of \$10 per person. All donations will go to our music program to support more good music at First Church both in worship and for enjoyment.

More about Vanessa Kersting: She is performing for us on September 17 at 3pm. Vanessa is an Australian born singer/songwriter who recently moved to the USA. Vanessa was named in 2022 as an up-and-coming Australian Artist and her music can be heard on radio stations across Australia, New Zealand, the USA, and the UK. Vanessa has toured throughout Australia and all over the world. With the themes of love and hope in her music, Vanessa is passionate to see the truth of the gospel permeate deep into people’s souls and uses this as a basis every time she sings and speaks. Check her out on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram!

Other exciting musical events in the fall will be a saxophone recital by Eugene Ryoo, THIS SUNDAY, September 10, at 3:00pm. Eugene is the winner of the Artist Presentation Society’s 2023 competition for emerging professional artists. He is currently pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in saxophone performance at the University of Iowa. Ryoo has earned numerous awards including winner of the Artist Presentation Society Competition, the American Protégé International Concerto Competition, and was a finalist in the MTNA Young Artist Competition.

While we are the venue for this recital for the Artist Presentation Society, the Congregation is also invited! I have seen the audition tape of Eugene Ryoo and, if you come, I guarantee an hour or so of music that will blow your mind.

Another concert we will be hosting in the Sanctuary is the **Ariel Ensemble**: chamber music by members of the St. Louis Symphony on December 22. Once again **Klezundheit!** (the klezmer band in which I am a vocalist) will be with us in worship on October 8 and the **Oikos Jazz Ensemble** will be with us for worship on September 17, November 12, and December 17. Their annual **Jazz Noel** will return, possibly in its final iteration, December 17 at 3:00pm!

If you love music and wish to share your music (as a performer or composer) with the congregation, please contact me because there are many ways to contribute to music in worship. Aside from sharing your talents as a soloist or a soloist with an accompanist (like me), we have the **Chancel Choir** who rehearse on Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:30. If you want to participate in worship but are shy or unsure about your musical talent, join the **Canterbury Bells** – you only need to count to 4 and use right and left hands. We will welcome you and teach you what to do. Youth are especially welcome! Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 6pm to 7pm.

See you on Sunday!

Leon Burke, Music Director



## Treasurer's Report

Below are the year to date church operating results through July 2023:

- Income is \$23,785 lower than prior year due to two offsetting factors:
  - The Endowment transfer is \$40k less than prior year. The Endowment to church operations transfer was stopped in February, March and April due to a positive cash position.
  - The Use of Space fees are \$17k higher than prior year. 10 West Lockwood income is \$11k higher than prior year and rent from Sts Clare & Francis Church is \$7k year to date
- Expenses are \$14,109 higher than last year, with Human Resources expense having the largest increase over prior year or \$10k higher. Wages are higher due to normal pay increases, while employee health insurance expense is lower.
- Cash on hand is \$6k lower compared to prior year at the end of this month. The church has approximately 2 months of cash on hand at the end of the month.

### Statement of Financial Activities

|                                              | 2023               | 2022               | Full Year Budget | Change to Prior Year    | Change to Budget   |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
|                                              |                    |                    |                  | Higher/ (Lower) Income  |                    |
| Income                                       |                    |                    |                  |                         |                    |
| Pledges and Gifts                            | \$ 187,944         | \$ 193,700         | \$ 315,000       | \$ (5,755)              | \$ (127,056)       |
| Transfer from Endowment                      | 60,000             | 100,000            | 290,000          | (40,000)                | (230,000)          |
| Benevolence                                  | 23,110             | 22,362             | 15,000           | 748                     | 8,110              |
| Use of Space and Miscellaneous               | 56,171             | 39,354             | 62,115           | 16,818                  | (5,944)            |
| Interest Income                              | 12,974             | 8,569              | 21,000           | 4,405                   | (8,026)            |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                         | <b>340,200</b>     | <b>363,985</b>     | <b>703,115</b>   | <b>(23,785)</b>         | <b>(362,915)</b>   |
|                                              |                    |                    |                  | (Higher)/ Lower Expense |                    |
| Expenses                                     |                    |                    |                  |                         |                    |
| Human Resources Expense                      | \$ 275,823         | \$ 265,788         | \$ 482,928       | (10,035)                | 207,105            |
| Facilities and Finance Expense               | \$ 97,034          | \$ 90,243          | \$ 163,375       | (6,791)                 | 66,341             |
| Benevolence Expense                          | \$ 26,226          | \$ 29,200          | \$ 32,000        | 2,974                   | 5,774              |
| Christian Education Ministry Expense         | \$ 784             | \$ 1,837           | \$ 3,600         | 1,053                   | 2,816              |
| Parish Life Ministry Expense                 | \$ 5,921           | \$ 6,489           | \$ 11,400        | 568                     | 5,479              |
| Executive Ministry Expense                   | \$ 3,512           | \$ 1,634           | \$ 9,700         | (1,878)                 | 6,188              |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                        | <b>409,299</b>     | <b>395,190</b>     | <b>703,003</b>   | <b>(14,109)</b>         | <b>293,704</b>     |
| <b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b> | <b>\$ (69,100)</b> | <b>\$ (31,206)</b> | <b>\$ 112</b>    | <b>\$ (37,894)</b>      | <b>\$ (69,212)</b> |

### Statement of Financial Position

|                                          | 2023              | 2022              | Variance           |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents                | \$ 132,274        | \$ 138,555        | \$ (6,281)         |
| Pledges receivable                       | 137,863           | 154,158           | (16,295)           |
| Property and equipment                   | 25,886            | 27,476            | (1,590)            |
| Minister housing long term receivable    | 60,000            | 60,000            | -                  |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                      | <b>\$ 359,218</b> | <b>\$ 380,189</b> | <b>\$ (20,971)</b> |
| Unrestricted Designated Funds            | 42,964            | 35,599            | 7,365              |
| Restricted funds for:                    |                   |                   |                    |
| Funds in Endowment Trust                 | 56,839            | 51,334            | 5,505              |
| Churchyard                               | 38,629            | 36,370            | 2,259              |
| Kishlar/Dickens Room Maintenance         | 49,046            | 49,046            | -                  |
| Temporarily restricted funds for pledges | 137,863           | 154,158           | (16,295)           |
| Memorial Funds                           | 80,544            | 59,917            | 20,627             |
| Long term liabilities                    | 60,000            | 60,000            | -                  |
| Unrestricted Net Assets                  | (106,667)         | (66,234)          | (40,433)           |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>  | <b>\$ 359,218</b> | <b>\$ 380,189</b> | <b>\$ (20,971)</b> |

Jennifer Jones  
Treasurer



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
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## Contact Information

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Weekend & Events Custodians –  
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Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

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

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