

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023
LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Don't insist on getting even;
that's not for you to do.
"I'll do the judging," says God.
"I'll take care of it."
Romans 12:19 (The Message)

*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 *Meditation I* Clif Hardin

WELCOME Andrea Welnick, *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

***RAISING THE COVENANT** (Unison) *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 SONG** *This Land Is Your Land* Woody Guthrie

Refrain.

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York island,
From the redwood forests to the Gulf Stream waters,
This land was made for you and me!

As I was walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway,
I saw below me that golden valley,
This land was made for you and me. *Refrain.*

One Sunday morning in the shadow of the steeple
By the Relief Office I saw my people,
And they were hungry and they were wondering
If this land was made for you and me. *Refrain.*

RITUAL OF APPROACH

Invitation

Guided Meditation

Words of Assurance *You'll Never Walk Alone* Rodgers & Hammerstein
Martin Mills, soloist

THE WORD SHARED

From the Epistles

Romans 12:9-21

Pew Bible, p. 1034

From the Gospels

Matthew 16:21-28

p. 893

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“Leave Room for the Spirit”

Rev. David Denoon, Pastor

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.**

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S TABLE

Rev. Janice Edwards Barnes

*Prayers of Intercession

*Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

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.

Communion

*Communion is served in the pews, first the bread and then the cup.
The bread is gluten-free. Wine is white; grape juice is red.
Each is consumed at the indication of the Minister, unless this presents a hardship for the individual.*

*Prayer after Communion (Unison)

We give you thanks, O God, for blessing us around this table with the presence of Christ. Send us forth, rejoicing, with our siblings in faith, to share your abundant love and grace with all we meet. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*PARTING WORDS

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

All: Let our service begin.

POSTLUDE / PARTING HYMN

De Colores

Mexican folk song

No. 402 – *New Century Hymnal*

~~~~~

**Wi-Fi Info**

Recommended: fccwg1, fccwg2 or fccwg3 | Password for all: firstchurch.

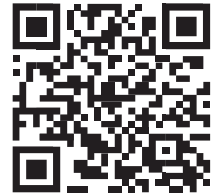
**Connecting Remotely to Worship**

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!

Our growingly diverse, progressive Christian community is seeking a **Coordinator of Faith Formation** (invitation at [bit.ly/FCCWG-CFF-Invite](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-CFF-Invite)). 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.

If you know someone who would be particularly well-suited to this job in our community, please forward this information to them!!

Interested individuals should introduce themselves via email 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.”

## Kids Church Needs Your help!

Kids' Church is developing a rotation of volunteers, to assist Noel Burke, our Christian Education Support Staff, and Nursery Attendant Corina Dickie. Ideally, there are TWO volunteers every Sunday, to conduct Kids' Church effectively (at least until a Coordinator of Faith Formation is in place). You can sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-kids-church> Thanks for considering giving of your time and skills, to benefit our children!

## **Vanessa Kersting in Concert Sunday, September 17 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.

### **Kids Church Needs Your help!**

Kids' Church is developing a rotation of volunteers, to assist Noel Burke, our Christian Education Support Staff, and Nursery Attendant Corina Dickie. Ideally, there are TWO volunteers every Sunday, to conduct Kids' Church effectively (at least until a Coordinator of Faith Formation is in place). You can sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-kids-church> Thanks for considering giving of your time and skills, to benefit our children!

### **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 [chrisonyz@gmail.com](mailto:chrisonyz@gmail.com)

### **Habitat Update**

After a broiling week in St. Louis, we lucked out with relatively cool Saturday morning. We combined forces with Emmanuel UCC from Ferguson and worked in the Look Away neighborhood off Riverview near the Chain of Rocks bridge. We started outside cutting and installing weatherboard and siding until the sky blackened and the rains came. It took a few minutes to reorient to inside work, but we spent the rest of the day cutting and installing interior insulation panels working with future homeowners LaShanda and Nicole. Many thanks to participants Amy, Patrick and Francis Byrne, as well as Annie and Sam Sampath. We finished around 3:00. Everyone was a little muddy, but satisfied to have helped get a deserving resident into a home.

Phil Shoulberg

**Autumn Potluck  
Sunday, September 10**

We do love our potlucks here at First Church! After worship next Sunday, enjoy our annual Autumn Potluck. Fried chicken will be provided. Please plan to bring a side dish or a dessert.

**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

**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.

**September Birthdays**

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

**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

### **A Sign of the Times...**

Our new electronic message board is up, on Elm Avenue. It replaces the changeable sign that had been in the same location, since 1994, and was purchased with a gift from the family of Bob & Carol Wolford and supplemental gifts by church members.

The sign on Lockwood Avenue will remain as it is, promoting Sunday worship.

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

#### **Sunday, September 3**

##### ***Labor Day Weekend***

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

**9:00AM** Brown Baggers

**9:45AM** Nursery Care

**10:00AM** All Ages Worship

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

#### **Monday, September 4**

***Labor Day – Office Closed***

#### **Tuesday, September 5**

**1:00PM** Communications Team

#### **Wednesday, September 6**

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

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

**6:00PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

#### **Thursday, September 7**

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

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir –Sanctuary

#### **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



# FROM THE PASTOR

## What's Old Is New Again

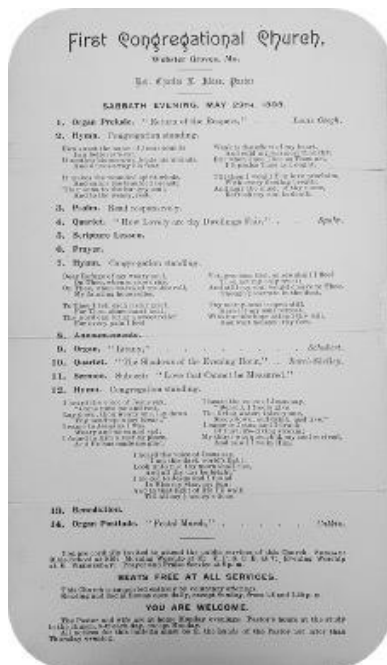
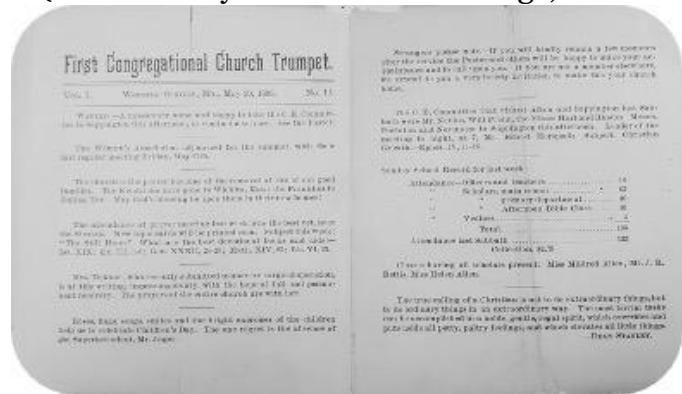
How very good and pleasant it is when kindred dwell together in unity...  
It is like the dew of Hermon which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
(Psalm 155:1)

Maybe I should have started with that old saying from Ecclesiastes 1:9 – “There is nothing new under the sun.” You are reading this article, either by holding it in your hand or reading it from a screen. It isn’t that you haven’t done this sort of thing before; we’re just taking an old form of communication and renewing it (again?).

The *Covenant News*, which has served since 2004 as a monthly newsletter, is now a weekly! It will be coming as a midweek electronic newsletter and on Sunday mornings as part of the bulletin, but without the graphics.

A little history might be helpful. Prior to 2004 the *Covenant News* was a semi-monthly newsletter in a printed form, always produced with a typewriter using stencils that could be run on a mimeograph machine (for those of you under a certain age, that clause will require some research).

Before being named *Covenant News*, it was the semi-monthly *Churchman* (1967-1990). Prior to that it was the weekly *A Word* (1963-1965), monthly *The Reminder* (1931-1963), weekly *The Bulletin* (1898-1930, which was the only published news in Webster Groves for many of those years), and the original weekly *Webster Groves Congregational Trumpet* (1897).



The *Trumpet* newsletter began when the Rev. Dr. Charles L. Kloss, who was pastor at the time, decided to add some entertainment to the morning worship order, quoting himself from past sermons and others whose words he'd read. It also included news and announcements about church events and officers' reports. This served as something of a wraparound to the order of worship.

It wasn't until *The Reminder* began to be published, as the Rev. Dr. George M. Gibson began his pastorate, that the newsletter would come in the midweek mail, the self-referencing quotes being notably set aside (Dr. Gibson preferred to publish his sermons complete, as pamphlets not as excerpts.).

So, we're kind of back to our own beginnings as an informed community. You'll be receiving news and updates midweek and on Sunday, as well as reports from staff and officers on a rotating schedule through the month.

This is how "kindred dwell together in unity," *nothing new under the sun.*

Peace.

Pastor Dave Denoon



## WORSHIP NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

*This schedule is subject to change, as need may arise.*

*All worship services noted below will be offered in person and live streamed ([bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)), at 10:00am on Sundays.*

SEPTEMBER 3 – LABOR DAY WEEKEND; SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S TABLE; ALL AGES WORSHIP.

Liturgist: Andrea Welnick. Soloist: Martin Mills (*You’ll Never Walk Alone*).

Readings: Romans 12:9-21 and Matthew 16:21-28. These readings both focus on the importance of letting God do what God does, even if we don’t care for it very much (consider Romans 12:19 and Matthew 16:27). **“Leave Room for the Spirit”** is the title of the message of the day.

SEPTEMBER 10 – FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY. Liturgist Rebecca Novak offers a Story Before God. Music: The Choirs return! Readings: Ezekiel 33:7-11; Matthew 18:15-20.

Message: **“To Save Yourself.”** Is there any point in drawing another’s attention to their questionable behavior? Didn’t Jesus say something about logs and splinters? Yet, here he (and Ezekiel) offer processes by which to confront those who do us wrong... With a special ritual to bless Kids Church young people, staff, and volunteers, we acknowledge the contributions of all of them to the life of our Congregation. After worship, enjoy our annual **Autumn Potluck** (fried chicken provided; please plan to bring a side dish or a dessert).

SEPTEMBER 17 – NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED; JAZZ WORSHIP. Liturgist Nancy Rudolph offers a Story Before God. Music by the Oikos Ensemble. Readings: Genesis 50:15-21;

Matthew 18:21-35. Fresh from Jesus’ instruction about how to handle a disagreement with another church member, Peter now challenges the lesson by asking about the limits of forgiveness: *How many times shall I forgive?* The rabbi’s response surely seemed as ridiculous to Peter as the previous guidance. Message: **“Limitlessness.”**

This afternoon at 3PM, contemporary Christian singer-songwriter **Vanessa Kersting performs in concert!**

SEPTEMBER 24 – THE UCC OBSERVES AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRY and UNITED SAMOAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY. Liturgist: Joan Musbach. Readings: Philippians 1:21-26; Matthew 20:1-16. There is something of a narrative arc to the passages we have been following, the past two Sundays, which has been pointing here. September 10, the conclusion was something like “Well, at least you tried.” Last Sunday, it was “So, keep trying.” Now, we’re led back to the conclusion we noted on September 3: “Still, God will be the one in charge.” But who else ought to be? Message: **“Acceptance and Embrace in the Kin-dom of God”**

### Coming soon, in and around worship...

October 1 – World Communion Sunday; *Neighbors in Need* special offering; All Ages Worship with Blessing of the Animals, Outdoors (Memorial Hall if the weather is disagreeable); Sacrament of Christ’s Table at actual tables. That afternoon, it’s the CROP Hunger Walk benefiting local food distribution organizations and Church World Service.

October 8 – Simchas Torah (the re-rolling of the Torah scroll in Jewish congregations), including music of *Klezundheit!*

October 15 – scheduled date for approving Budget 2024

October 22 – 2024 Commitment Invitation begins

October 29 – All Ages Worship for the Sunday before Halloween (Reformation Sunday)



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

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

Weekend & Events Custodians –  
Kayla Skiles & Onyeka Igboanuzue

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>

