

Welcome!

**First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ**



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

**OCTOBER 8, 2023
SIMCHAS TORAH**



***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

Simchas Torah Song

Klezundheit!

WELCOME

Nancy Rudolph, *Liturgist*

At this time, we invite you to complete an entry in the Friendship Booklet at your table and to silence the ringer on any cellular device you may have with you.

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Liturgist; People)

from Psalm 119

Happy are they whose way is blameless, who walk according to the Torah of God;

Happy are they who observe God's decrees and who seek God with all their hearts.

We want to be firm in keeping God's statutes. **Let us give thanks with upright hearts for we are learning the just ordinances of the Holy One.**

*GATHERING SONG

Sholem Aleichem

Klezundheit!

*RITUAL OF APPROACH

**Invitation*

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)*

God of word and wonder, we hear you speaking through familiar promises and new inspiration. We have sometimes disregarded your word and followed our own advice. We have left pain or hardship in our wake, or we have failed to change what ought to have been corrected. We have even allowed others to convince us that we are not beloved by you. But your Word calls us home. Remind us here and now of promises you have made, afar and past, which still apply and offer hope. By your grace, forgive our missteps, and cause us to dance in your light, thankful for your Word. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**Words of Assurance*

from Psalm 19

The faithful promises of God are more to be desired than gold, even the finest gold; sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb.

We will heed their warning; in keeping them there is great reward.

In observing them we shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to the Holy One – our rock and redeemer.

Today we gladly welcome ***Klezundheit!*** – the only klezmer big band in Missouri. It was founded by bandleader Bob Herman in 1998. Klezmer is a mostly instrumental music in the Eastern European Jewish tradition, designed for joyous ritual and dance. *Klezundheit!* played for the *Simchas Torah* celebration, yesterday, at Central Reform Congregation, and stayed together for one more day, to rejoice with us. *Simchas Torah* is the annual celebration of the rewinding of the Torah scroll in Jewish congregations. We join them today, in affirming the majesty of God's word and promise.

Last Sunday was World Communion Sunday, which we celebrated outdoors. As a result, some may have missed the **beautiful paper cutout** overhanging the sanctuary today. It was created in 2008 as part of a Worship Renewal Project funded by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The project, designed by Ellen Cavendish Phillips, is added annually to our sanctuary, for the first Sunday in October, and portrays many expressions of God's wondrous creation – wheat, grapevines, as well as bread and chalice. All the cutting of the twenty separate pieces was done by hand by members of First Congregational and St. John the Beloved Community UCC, which has a four-panel version displayed in its sanctuary.

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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).

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.

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.



Webster Rock Hill Ministries Holiday Programs

WRHM has announced the start of their holiday programs and they hope that we will support these programs for the 2023 season. They are looking for baskets for **Thanksgiving** and gifts for **Christmas**. They have made several program changes for those who have contributed in past years. You can find the information on the table in the Narthex.

“Not for Children Only” Volunteers

Youth and adult members and friends of the church are encouraged to contact the Pastor about leading an upcoming "Not for Children Only" message time in worship. If you have a favorite story to read/share with

our young people, or if you are particularly skilled at this kind of interaction, it would be great to add your voice to our set of NFCO message-givers!

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

Membership Classes – TODAY

If you have some time after worship and would like to know more about our church, its history and denomination, please meet Pastor Dave Denoon in Memorial Hall at 11:15. He'll take you on a bit of a tour and share information about membership at First Church. Those who decide to join may be received into membership on October 15.

Adult Education – Sunday, October 22 — “Peace Place Plans” after worship in Memorial Hall

Our next Adult Education session will focus on Peace Place, a proposed effort to develop affordable housing for seniors in the heart of Webster Groves. Peace United Church of Christ is working with the Housing Authority of St. Louis County to convert 204 E. Lockwood Ave. into Peace Place. (The church recently moved from that address to the campus of Eden Theological Seminary.)

Pastor Wendy Bruner and a member of the Peace UCC Governing Body will explain:

- how they decided to take on this project rather than just selling their prior home;
- the steps they're following to develop their plans, find partners, and get approvals;
- the architectural renderings of what the new facility will look like;
- what they have learned about affordable housing in Webster Groves (and beyond); and
- how their project might inform and facilitate more affordable housing efforts in Webster Groves.

There will be plenty of opportunity for attendees to ask questions and to find out how they could help the development of additional affordable housing in our City.

October Shopping List

Canned Chicken & Dumplings (low salt) • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)
Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Whole Wheat Flour • Peanut Butter • Real Fruit Jelly • Dried Fruits

October Birthdays

Joyce Haynes-McCowan	October 3	Marilyn Claggett	October 18
Kathy Weyhrich	October 3	Judy James	October 19
Linda Smith	October 5	Elston McCowan	October 24
Patrick Byrne	October 7	Carol Mallette	October 26
Rod Cooper	October 10	Dave Denoon	October 30
Emily Polaske	October 16		

“What Would You Do?”

A public meeting with Webster Groves Clergy

At Old Community Baptist Church (238 W. Kirkham Ave., Webster Groves) at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, October 24, Webster Clergy will offer a presentation entitled, "What Would You Do?" They will address everything from historic neighborhoods being leveled to removing racial covenants from residential deeds, and even a story that may be familiar to you, presented by Pastor Dave Denoon. Please, consider attending this important, provocative, and instructive meeting.

Upcoming Lady Elect Meeting and Schedule October 17 at noon in the Inglis Room

Please bring a sack lunch. The hostesses, Rosemary Hensley and Faye Dyer, will provide beverages and dessert. We will be doing a sheet music craft activity. Please let Diane Weber, our program leader, know which crafts you are wanting to do and bring the necessary materials listed on the handout she gave us last week. Diane has some materials available for some of the crafts and for those who missed the last meeting. Please contact Diane. Of course if you just want to Skip the craft & have lunch and visit that is okay too. Also, remember to bring pantry supplies to fill our Thanksgiving basket for Webster Rock Hill Ministries.

Church Members in the News

If you come across any articles/pictures about church members that you see in any news publication, please leave a copy in Laura Cooper's mail slot at the church. She reads the Webster-Kirkwood Times each week so she will pull any article out of there.

Pecans for Sale!

We have once again ordered four cases of the Fresh 16 oz bags of Mammoth Pecans that everyone loves! They will be delivered sometime in early November. The profits from the pecan sales will be used to increase the Minister's Discretionary Fund. This will allow Pastor Dave to help our members and our neighbors in need.

Please send an email to Debbie at the office ASAP if you are interested in purchasing pecans and how many bags you will like. They will also be available for sale on some Sunday mornings.

Next Journeymen Meeting Thursday, October 26 in the Parlor at 9:00 AM All men welcome!

Scout Troop 301 Rummage Sale 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Elm Parking Lot (or Memorial Hall depending on weather)

They are accepting donations of clothes, toys, camping gear, or any other good-condition items with all the pieces. You can find a box in the Narthex.

No electronics, personal hygiene items, weapons or anything that requires gas.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024

Congregational Meeting, October 15 after worship

As announced in worship, the Executive Ministry is recommending a budget for the coming year in a Congregational Meeting scheduled for October 15. Print copies of the summary budget are available from the Narthex Table; an electronic copy may be downloaded by going to <https://bit.ly/2024-Budget>

What's Happening at First Church

Sunday, October 8

9:45AM Nursery Care

10:00AM Worship (All Ages with *Klezundheit!* Klezmer Band)

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

Monday, October 9

7:00PM Scout Troops 301G and 301B

7:00PM Three Ministries – (Hybrid)

Tuesday, October 10

10:30AM Staff Meeting – Church Office

Wednesday, October 11

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Thursday, October 12

6:00PM Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir –Sanctuary

Sunday, October 15

9:45AM Nursery Care

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Congregational Meeting: Budget 2024

11:20AM Coffee Fellowship



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Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton
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Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon
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Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke
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Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
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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
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Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes
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