

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

OCTOBER 15, 2023

CHILDREN'S SABBATH

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

WHATSOEVER IS *true,*
WHATSOEVER IS *honorable,*
WHATSOEVER IS *just,*
WHATSOEVER IS *pure...*
IF THERE IS ANYTHING
worthy of praise,
THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8, NRSV

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 *Londonderry Air* arr. Sandra Eithun
Canterbury Bells

WELCOME Jane Porchey, *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

***GATHERING HYMN** *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* Traditional
No. 282 – *New Century Hymnal*

***RITUAL OF APPROACH** based on Psalm 106
Invitation (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

Our purpose here is praise to our God who is good and whose steadfast love endures forever.

We are God's people. We should observe justice and act righteously always.

But we sin, we commit iniquity, we collaborate with evil.

We can forget God's wondrous works and the salvation we enjoy. We turn away and grumble.

We cannot make right the wrong we have done. What we can do is ask forgiveness. Let us confess our sin.

Corporate Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving God, we often face choices between feeling secure and venturing into unknown paths where you may be calling us. We don't intend to be dismissive, but it can be intimidating. We have missed opportunities to minister with one another and to reach out to those beyond our familiar circles. We have been slow to share our faith. But here we are now, to hear again of your hopes for us and your confidence in us. Forgive us, we pray, not for our doubts but for our hesitation. As a forgiven people, we can rise out of our anxieties. We come to you today, to offer thanks and praise for your reassuring and accepting Spirit who can show us the confidence we need, to answer your call in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Assurance (Responsive)

O give thanks to God, who is indeed good and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Happy are those who observe justice, and who act righteously always.

The forgiveness of God is endless for those who truly would seek God's ways.

Blessed be our gracious God from everlasting to everlasting.

**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 *I Cannot Come* Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*
Children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.
Afterward, children may attend Kids Church or return to their seats.

THE WORD SHARED
From the Gospels Matthew 22:1-14 Pew Bible, p. 900
Response.
Liturgist: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.
People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

ANTHEM *Festive Flourish* Michael W. Joy
Canterbury Bells

MESSAGE OF THE DAY *"I Can Be There"* Rev. Denoon

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
We Share Our Joys and Concerns
Prayer of the Day
Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom
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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS
Stewardship Moment John Paci, *Stewardship Committee*

Opportunities for Giving and Gathering

**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. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*
**Holy One, teach us to pray; teach us to live; teach us to give. By our
offering we seek to emulate your own giving to and for us. By our
gifts, in your Spirit, through your word, let the world find healing
and peace. Amen.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS
New Member Candidates Introduced

Preface

**Affirmation of Faith*

based on *Our Creed*, 1901

Do you believe in the kinship of all people as children of God? **I do.**
Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Way and the Truth and the Life? **I do.**
Do you believe in the clean heart, the unworldly life, and the service of love as Jesus taught and exemplified, and do you accept Christ's Spirit, and Christ's teaching? **I do.**

**Questions of the Candidates*

**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.

**Welcome to the Church (with unison response)*

Doug Barton, *Moderator*

We as members of this church, gladly welcome you to a part with us in the hopes, the labors, and the joys of our mutual ministry. We promise to walk with you in Christian love and sympathy, and to promote, as far as in us lies, your growth in the Christian life.

***BENEDICTION**

Philippians 4:8-9

Pew Bible, p. 1071

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Recessional

William Stickles

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*A Congregational Meeting to consider the Executive Ministry's proposed budget for 2024 will immediately follow the Postlude. **All members and friends of the Church** are encouraged to participate (although only members may vote), and to enjoy refreshments after the meeting.*

~~~~~

**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)).

**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

## 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

### **“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.

#### **Third Quarter Statements & Online Donations**

Third quarter statements were emailed out earlier this week and mailed out to people without email addresses today. If you would like a paper copy mailed to you at home, please email Debbie at [admin@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchwg.org) and she will get one in the mail to you.

There is a bit of confusion concerning online pledge payments. It appears that people are just selecting the default "Give to Church General Offering" instead of using the drop-down box to select "Give to 2023 Pledges." If your statement reflects this, please let Debbie know and she can change those entries.

#### **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 price of the bags will be the same as last year, at \$14 per bag. 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 November 4 from 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 **through October 23**. You can find a box in the Narthex. No electronics, personal hygiene items, weapons or anything that requires gas.

#### **CROP Walk Thanks**

Thanks to everyone who supported our CROP Walkers (Dave Denoon, Andrea Welnick and Laurel Hayes) and thus, the work of Church World Service, Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, Circle of Concern, and the Alton

(IL) Crisis Food Center. Our team raised \$915. The Saint Louis Metro Walk (of which we were a part) raised over \$9,600. Step by step, we walk to overcome hunger and poverty.

### **Thank You Keith Moore!!!**

If you have used the exterior door to the kitchen in the last couple years, you know it was in need of repair or replacement. Facilities & Finance Ministry member Keith Moore has done yeoman work in completely refurbishing and renewing the door. In addition, he's restored the dual entry doors to the C Building on the West side. We appreciate your good work, Keith!

### **JAZZ NOEL Is Seeking Angels**

Each year at about this time, our Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA) offers an invitation to First Church members and friends to provide monetary support for the annual presentation of Jazz Noel. The production is offered free to the public, and any offerings given at the performance are donated to a local charity. However, this is a professional music production, and the performers are each paid for their work.

This year, Jazz Noel will be offered on Sunday, December 17, at 3:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Please consider providing your own financial support! Offerings may be presented in the form of a check payable to the church with "Jazz Noel" printed in the memo line. You can also give on the donate page of our website, selecting "Give to MICA" from the pulldown menu. Thank you for your generous support of Jazz Noel!

### **What's Happening at First Church**

#### **Sunday, October 15**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Congregational Meeting: Budget 2024

**11:20AM** Coffee Fellowship

#### **Wednesday, October 18**

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

**6:00PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

#### **Thursday, October 19**

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

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir –Sanctuary

#### **Monday, October 16**

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

**7:00PM** Executive Ministry – (Zoom)

#### **Tuesday, October 17**

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

**11:00AM** Lady Elect – Inglis Room

#### **Sunday, October 22**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:20AM** Music Seminar with Dr. Burke

**4:00PM** Installation: Rev. Merrimon Boyd (Trinity UCC – Affton)



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
[www.FirstChurchWG.org](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton  
[iyell4@aol.com](mailto:iyell4@aol.com)

Pastor – Rev. David A. Denoon  
[DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org)

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi  
[Admin@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Admin@FirstChurchWG.org)

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
[Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org)

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
[cti1234@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto: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](mailto:cliff.aerie@gmail.com)

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry  
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes  
[laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net)

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing  
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I  
[lesrhs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lesrhs@sbcglobal.net)

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

## Follow us on

Facebook

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

Instagram

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

YouTube

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

