

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



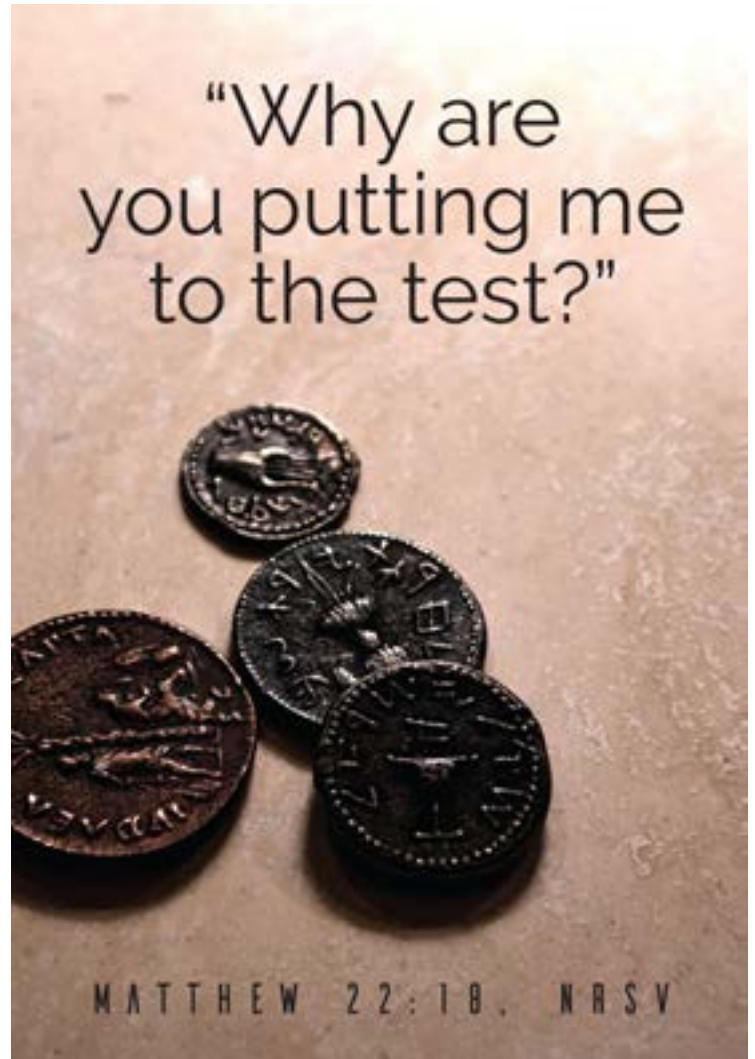
Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

OCTOBER 22, 2023
INVITATION TO COMMITMENT
FOR 2024 BEGINS

*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.*



What Does the Lord Require of You 2174

1. (Basses)

What does the Lord re - quire of you?

2. (Altos and Tenors in unison)*

Jus - tice, kind - ness,

3. (Sopranos)**

To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness

Repeat as desired.

What does the Lord re - quire of you? you?

walk hum - bly with your God. God.

and walk hum - bly with your God. God.

*Enter on first repeat.

**Enter on second repeat.

Order of Worship

An asterisk () indicates that worshipers are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE *Pastorale (I)* J. S. Bach

WELCOME Linda Kopetti, *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 Psalm 96:1-4 tr. Gafney[†]
(Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

Sing to the EXALTED ONE a new song; sing to the CREATOR, all the earth.

**Sing to the MOST HIGH, bless her name; proclaim from day
to day her salvation.**

Declare among the nations her glory, among all the peoples her marvelous
works.

**For great is the AGELESS GOD, and greatly to be praised;
revered is she above all gods.**

***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 race and forgiveness and
the presence of the Holy Spirit in our trials and rejoicing.**

***GATHERING HYMN** *What Does the Lord Require of You* Jim Strathdee
*This song, included on an insert, calls for a bit of practice.
The Pastor, Music Director, and another will lead the rehearsal.*

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

***Invitation** (Responsive) based on Romans 5:20-6:2a, 11

Where sin once increased, grace abounds all the more.

**Sin for us once exercised dominion in death. But now,
grace can exercise dominion through righteous hearts,
minds, and deeds.**

What then shall we say? Shall we continue to sin in order that grace may
abound?

**By no means! As Christ died and rose in affirmation of
true life, so we also must consider ourselves dead to sin
and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)*

inspired by Psalm 1:1

How happy are we, O God, when our hearts are full, when our ways are your ways. We gather here today to draw upon all you would give us and to become more fully yours. How happy are we when we turn away from bad advice and misinformation. But O how seductive that can be. It draws us in, holds us fast, distracts our priorities, obstructs our capacity to love. We confess to you now that sometimes we have allowed ourselves to be led astray. God of mercy, grace, reconciliation and goodness: you know our hearts. Relieve us of our burdens, bind our hearts to you so that, in all ways, we may live in the joy of your salvation and the delight of your loving embrace. Happy are we, because we are made whole in you, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**Words of Assurance (Responsive)*

inspired by Romans 6:22-23

God has set us free from sin so that we may be bound more surely to God.

Thanks be to God who by our freedom grants us peace and fullness of life in Christ Jesus our Guide. Amen.

**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

Ungrasping

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

Children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.

Afterward, they may attend Kids Church or return to their seats.

THE WORD SHARED

From the Gospels

Matthew 22:15-22

Pew Bible, p. 900

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

ANTHEM

Hope

Ysaye Barnwell

If we want hope to survive in this world today,
Then every day we've got to pray on, pray on.

... we've got to work on, work on.

... we've got to teach on, teach on.

... we've got to fight on, fight on.

... we've got to sing on, sing on.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY “You Really Can’t Take It with You”

Rev. Denoon

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 SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Stewardship Moment

Joan Musbach, *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)

The offerings we make, gifts and skills and time, demonstrate our deepest love. Receive all we give, our very best, as sweet offerings to you. May they be blessings to others from our truest selves. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
No. 565, vv. 1,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

R. L. Edwards

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

Our worship has ended.
Let our service begin.

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Henry Purcell

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.

† Gafney, Wilda C. *A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church, Year A*. New York: Church Publishing, 2021; p. 242.

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.



Adult Education - TODAY — “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.

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.

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.

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

“Housing Justice”

A public forum with Webster Groves Clergy

At Old Community Baptist Church (238 W. Kirkham Ave., Webster Groves) at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, October 24, Webster Groves Clergy will offer a Public Forum on Housing Justice. 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.

To see how the issue of housing justice has affected even our own faith community, please see these videos:

- Pastor Dave Denoon addressed the Historic Preservation Commission with neighbors of the residence purchased in 1957 by Melvin & Thyra Bonds, members of First Church (October 10) - <https://bit.ly/HPC-Comments>
- After the meeting, the Pastor and the Bonds’ daughter Gayle Jones were interviewed by Mallory Thomas - <https://bit.ly/Channel-2-report> - of Fox 2 Now (October 10).
- Later, Deion Broxton of News 4 St. Louis produced a 5-minute report offering a few more details (October 18). Go to <https://bit.ly/News4-report>

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.

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!

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

First Church has joined the Old Webster Trade Association and will be participating in the Holiday Open House Sunday, November 12th from 10 am - 4 pm. More info to come!

Peace & Justice Team Meets, Tomorrow Night

All members and friends of First Church are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings of our Peace & Justice Team (P&J). P&J considers a wide variety of social and environmental justice issues that are before us, every day.

If you have an issue that you are especially concerned about, and want to discuss how the church might address it, or if you would just like to connect with others who have a heart like yours, please consider attending.

P&J meetings take place on Zoom at 7:00pm, on 4th Mondays. **The next meeting will be on Monday, October 23.** [Use this link](#) or the meeting ID **843 4458 5205**.

**Save the Date for Yankee Swap!
December 3 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM
More info to come!**

October Birthdays

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

What's Happening at First Church

Sunday, October 22

9:45AM Nursery Care

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall

11:20AM Adult Education: Peace Place Plans - Memorial Hall

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

Monday, October 23

7:00PM Scout Troop 301B & 301G - Dickens Room

7:30PM Peace & Justice Team (Zoom)

Tuesday, October 24

6:30PM Practicing Our Faith - Parlor

6:30PM Webster Groves Clergy Public Forum on Housing Justice
(Old Community Missionary Baptist Church, 238 W. Kirkham Ave.)

Wednesday, October 25

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

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

- Cash on hand is \$17k lower than prior year at the end of this month. The church has less than 2 months of cash on hand. Unless other revenue sources increase, it will be necessary to increase the Endowment Fund transfer which is currently \$15k/month.
- Income is \$25,441 lower than prior year due to two offsetting factors:
 - Pledge income is lower than prior year \$5.7k
 - 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 \$22k higher than prior year. 10 West Lockwood income is \$12k higher than prior year and rent from Sts Clare & Frances Church is \$9k year to date
- Expenses are \$12,891 higher than last year
 - Human Resources expenses up \$2.7k over prior year. Wages are higher due to normal pay increases, while employee health insurance expense is lower.
 - Facility & Finance expense is up \$13k with general building repairs higher this year, including \$8k on the HVAC system

Statement of Financial Activities

	2023	2022	Full Year Budget	Change to Prior Year	Change to Budget
Income					
	Higher/ (Lower) Income				
Pledges and Gifts	\$ 230,859	\$ 236,554	\$ 315,000	\$ (5,695)	\$ (84,141)
Transfer from Endowment	90,000	130,000	290,000	(40,000)	(200,000)
Benevolence	22,531	22,572	15,000	(41)	7,531
Use of Space and Miscellaneous	70,166	48,143	62,115	22,023	8,051
Interest Income	17,914	19,642	21,000	(1,728)	(3,086)
Total Revenue	431,471	456,911	703,115	(25,441)	(271,644)
Expenses					
	(Higher)/ Lower Expense				
Human Resources Expense	\$ 346,667	\$ 343,966	\$ 482,928	(2,702)	136,261
Facilities and Finance Expense	\$ 134,180	\$ 121,183	\$ 163,375	(12,998)	29,195
Benevolence Expense	\$ 29,153	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000	2,847	2,847
Christian Education Ministry Expense	\$ 1,212	\$ 2,707	\$ 3,600	1,496	2,388
Parish Life Ministry Expense	\$ 6,564	\$ 7,735	\$ 11,400	1,171	4,836
Executive Ministry Expense	\$ 4,790	\$ 2,085	\$ 9,700	(2,705)	4,910
Total Expenses	522,566	509,676	703,003	(12,891)	180,437
Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ (91,096)	\$ (52,764)	\$ 112	\$ (38,331)	\$ (91,208)

Statement of Financial Position

	2023	2022	Variance
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 99,698	\$ 116,556	\$ (16,858)
Pledges receivable	97,644	82,635	15,009
Property and equipment	25,754	27,211	(1,457)
Minister housing long term receivable	60,000	60,000	-
Total Assets	\$ 283,096	\$ 286,403	\$ (3,307)
Unrestricted Designated Funds	45,192	36,839	8,353
Restricted funds for:			
Funds in Endowment Trust	56,839	51,334	5,505
Churcyard	38,629	36,370	2,259
Kishlar/Dickens Room Maintenance	49,046	49,046	-
Temporarily restricted funds for pledges	97,644	82,635	15,009
Memorial Funds	64,409	57,972	6,437
Long term liabilities	60,000	60,000	-
Unrestricted Net Assets	(128,663)	(87,793)	(40,870)
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 283,096	\$ 286,403	\$ (3,307)

Jennifer Jones
Treasurer



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
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Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi
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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
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Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes
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Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
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