

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ

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

OCTOBER 29, 2023



**REFORMATION/RECONCILIATION SUNDAY**  
**UCC HIGHER EDUCATION SUNDAY**

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*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.*



**LOVE THE LORD**  
**YOUR GOD WITH**  
**ALL YOUR heart**  
**& WITH ALL YOUR soul**  
**AND WITH ALL YOUR**  
**mind.**

MATTHEW 22:37

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## Order of Worship

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

**PRELUDE** *Ein Feste Burg* Johann Pachelbel

**WELCOME** Bob Moody, *Liturgist*

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

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**\*RAISING OF 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 HYMN** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* Martin Luther  
No. 439, vv. 1,2 – *New Century Hymnal*

**\*RITUAL OF APPROACH** (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**) inspired by Psalm 90  
*\*Invitation*

Jesus, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof,  
**But only say the word, and your servant will be healed.**

*\*Prayer of Confession* (Responsive)

MOTHER OF THE MOUNTAINS, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

**From age to age, you are God.**

You turn mortal flesh back to the dust and say, "Turn back, you who are woman-born."

**For you, a thousand years are like yesterday when it is past.**

You sweep the years aside; they are an illusion.

**In the morning we flourish, and in the evening we wilt and wither.**

We fear that you might be angry. Our iniquities we set before you now.

**If you are angry, all our days are gone.**

Now we say to you, "Turn back, O CREATOR, and have compassion on your servants!

**Let the favor of our majestic GOD be upon us. Amen.**

*\*Silence for Personal Confessions*

*\*Words of Assurance*

If we have felt affliction, our God wills for us an overwhelming amount of gladness.

**Satisfy us always with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice  
and be glad all our days. 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!**

**THE WORD SHARED**

*From the Gospels*

Matthew 22:34-40, 46

Pew Bible, p. 900

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

*O God, Our Help*

Mark Miller

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years and years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne still may we ever dwell secure  
sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.  
Pray be our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening quickly gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

O time, like an ever-flowing stream soon bears us, every one, away.  
We fly, forgotten as a dream, but God remembers, so do we.  
Your love will live on, live on, your love will live on!

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.  
O God, our help in ages past, pray be our guide while life shall last,  
and our eternal home!  
Our home, our home, our home, our home!

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*"Commandments"*

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

*The Greatest Commandment*

Paul Zach

**PART 1**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind  
And love your neighbor as yourself.

**PART 2**

Let us be known, let us be known by the way we love.

**PARTS 1 & 2 TOGETHER**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind  
And love your neighbor as yourself.  
(Let us be known, let us be known by the way we love.)

**PART 3**

Love, love, love!  
The greatest commandment is love!

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We Share Our Joys and Concerns*

*Prayer of the Day*

*Prayer of Our Savior*

**Our Mother in heaven, make your name holy. Reveal your love, and teach us your way. Make earth alike with heaven. Provide bread for today, so that we do not worry about tomorrow. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Keep us from things that would keep us from you, but deliver us from the evil one. For here is your love: where power and glory are shared, now and forever. Amen.**

**WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS**

*Stewardship Moment*

Mark Edwards

*Opportunities for Giving and Gathering*

*\*Song of Praise*

*Doxology*

Tune: OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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)*

**Here are we your people, O God – some of us looking rather different than usual. But you know us – what have, what we can give, what we are learning about ourselves and the world, and who we are. Bless us entirely with all we would offer you, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*  
Insert

Peter Scholtes

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*PARTING WORDS**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata in D Minor*

J.S. Bach

*While the Prelude is being played, children will be trick-or-treating from row to row, for the candy adult worshipers have been supplied.*

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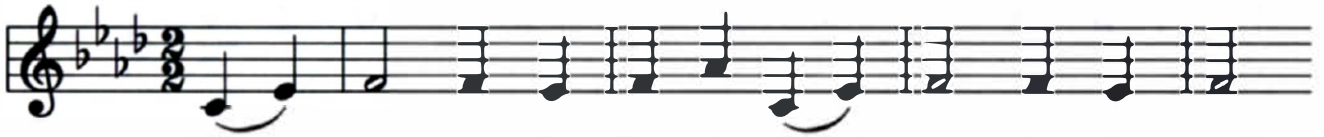
**Wi-Fi Info**

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

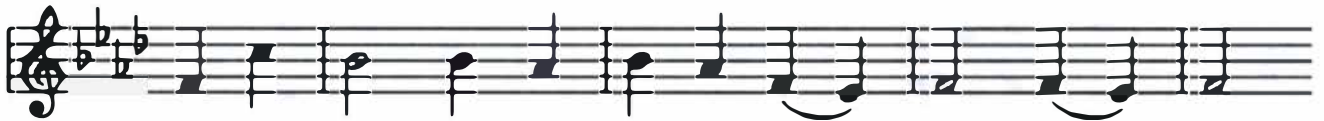
**Connecting Remotely to Worship**

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)).

# They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
4. All praise to Cre - a - tor, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:  
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

## *Refrain*



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love. \_\_\_\_\_

## **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.

## **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

## **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.

## **Scout Troop 301 Rummage Sale**

**THIS SATURDAY from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Elm Parking Lot (or Memorial Hall depending on weather)**



**First Church has joined the Old Webster Trade Association and will be participating in the Old Webster Holiday Walk**

**Sunday, November 12th from 10 am to 4 pm**

One of Santa's elves will be present on our east parking lot with the Big Guy's Holiday Train offering rides to the little ones!

**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!

**November Shopping List**

Canned Salmon or Tuna (in water) • Canned Spinach (no salt)  
Applesauce (in plastic, no sugar added)  
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Soap • Deodorant • Toilet Paper

**Save the Date for Yankee Swap!**

**December 3 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM**

*More info to come!*

**October Birthdays remaining**

Dave Denoon..... 30

**November Birthdays**

Eric Breitenbach .....	1	Rick Herrick .....	18
Lynda Morrison .....	2	Carolyn Woodsmall .....	18
Becky Ruder .....	3	Jennifer Monaco .....	19
Keith Moore .....	5	Mark Smith .....	22
Andrea Welnick .....	9	Shirley Moore .....	23
Carrie Herrick .....	11	Chris von Weise.....	25
Jan Ver Hagen.....	11	Kristy Barton .....	27
Nina Thompson.....	12	Pat Schutte .....	27
Joseph Weyhrich.....	13	Joan Musbach .....	30
Lili Calder-Smith .....	17		

## **Nov. 5 Volunteer Meeting for Nov. 19 Peace Place Canvass**

Last Sunday, our Adult Education session focused on **Peace Place - an effort by Peace UCC and the Housing Authority of St. Louis County to develop a community independent living environment for low-income seniors** at 204 East Lockwood Avenue, the former home of Peace Church. On November 19 at 12 noon, volunteers from all over Webster Groves will meet for lunch and a training at Emmanuel Episcopal Church and then canvass neighborhoods across the city to gain support for Peace Place. The Peace and Justice Team of our church invite members and others who would like to participate in the Canvass to gather as a group, next Sunday at 11:20AM in the Parlor.

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

### **Sunday, October 29**

*Reformation / Reconciliation Sunday*

*UCC Higher Education Sunday*

9:45AM Nursery Care

10:00AM All Ages Worship

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall

### **Monday, October 30**

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

### **Tuesday, October 31**

10:30AM Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday, November 1**

9:30AM ~~NO~~ Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room

### **Thursday, November 2**

6:00AM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30AM Chancel Choir - Music Room

### **Saturday, November 4**

7:00AM Scout Troop Rummage Sale

Parking Lot or Memorial Hall

### **Sunday, November 5**

*Remembrance Sunday*

*Sacrament of Christ's Table*

*(Daylight-Saving Time Ends)*

9:00AM Brown Baggers

9:45AM Nursery Care

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall

11:20AM Volunteers for Peace Place Canvass - Parlor



# SAFE SURRENDER EVENT

*They shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks.*

— Isaiah 2:4



**G2GSTL**  
gunstogardens.org

*Blessed are the peacemakers.*

## Guns to Gardens

### What is Guns to Gardens?

After the shooting at the Sandy Hook School in Dec. 2012, Mennonite pastor Mike Martin felt a call to become a blacksmith and forge unwanted guns into garden tools. He founded RAWtools as a network of blacksmiths across the nation. Soon he was joined by theologian Shane Claiborne and by New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence who christened the project "Guns to Gardens." It began to grow.

After a mass shooting in the nearby grocery store in 2021, Community United Church of Christ in Boulder, CO offered a "Gun Safe Surrender" event in their parking lot. Dozens of **firearms were surrendered and turned into garden tools.** The idea of churches offering this **healing, spiritual, and practical service** was born. In March 2022 the Denver Broncos football team hosted a Guns to Gardens event at their stadium in Mile High, CO, transforming 189 guns. That June 11, on a single day, churches and others across the USA dismantled over 1,000 guns.

For more information or to volunteer, contact:

**Rev. Travis Winckler**  
travis.winckler@secondchurch.net

**Julie Burchett**  
burchett.juliekay@gmail.com

JOIN US SATURDAY

**12.09.23**

**10:30AM - 1:30PM**

### Webster Groves Presbyterian Church

45 W. Lockwood Ave, 63119  
(enter parking lot on Lockwood  
and follow the signs)

**NOTE:** Please only bring guns to be surrendered. All guns should be unloaded and in the trunk of the vehicle. Guns will be dismantled on site while you wait.

*Putting peace into action!*





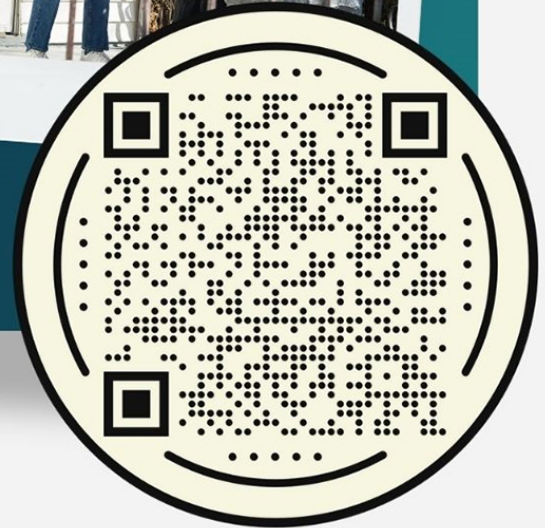
# HOUSING JUSTICE CANVASS

## Spread The WORD!

Let's come together to take a step forward in WEBSTER GROVES becoming a more inclusive community

**19th November, 2023**

12:00pm - 2:00pm




### AGENDA

- ✓ Racial Covenants
- ✓ Affordable Housing
- ✓ Collect Signatures
- ✓ Connect w/neighbors

**Emmanuel Episcopal Church**  
9 South Bompart Ave.  
Webster Groves

**12:00PM-2:00PM (CT)**

**RSVP**

Use QR code above with  camera



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)

Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt  
[Johari.Hunt@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Johari.Hunt@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)

Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn  
[Events@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Events@FirstChurchWG.org)

Custodian & AV Tech – 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.*

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