

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



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

**NOVEMBER 5, 2023**  
**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**



*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 blessing  
of our congregation.*

**This day shall be a day  
of remembrance for you.**

**EXODUS 12:14, NRSV**

*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** *Prelude on "Aurelia"* PJ Janson

**WELCOME** Ernestine Carter, *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 THE BELL**

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

**\*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 HYMN** *For All the Saints* W. W. How  
No. 306, vv. 1,4 – *Pilgrim Hymnal*

**RITUAL OF APPROACH**  
*We Bring Our Stories Before God*

*Prayer of Confession (Unison)*  
**Creator of our original blessing, we admit, we have sometimes turned from you. The ache we know in life – our deepest longings or our fears – have so consumed us, or we consumed them, that we failed to recognize the rich goodness in which we had been living. Forgive us for forgetting your encouragement to be steadfastly loving in all our living. "Fear not," you have said. "Blessed are you," you have reminded us. Seeking your mercy, we direct our attention back to you again. Amen.**

*Silence for Personal Confession*

*Words of Assurance*

**\*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** Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**THE WORD SHARED**  
*From the Writings* Psalm 34:1-10, 22 Pew Bible, p. 497

*Response.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*“The Longing”*

Rev. Denoon

**WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS**

*Stewardship Moment*

Bob Moody

*Opportunities for Giving and Gathering*

**SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S TABLE**

*\*We Lift Our Joys and Concerns*

*\*Invitation*

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ’s table.**

*\*Sursum Corda*

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*honoring those among and about us who have died in the last twelve months*

Darrell Raymond Lakies

The Rev. William Barnes Kitchen

Joyce Ingram Berger

The Rev. Dr. Paul Robert Davis

Charlet Edith Anne Crocker Cochran

Ralph Kenneth Perry

Paul Warren Wentzien

Marjorie Shryock Courtney

*\*Sanctus (Unison)*

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest!**

*\*Fraction*

*\* Acclamation (Unison)*

**Christ’s death, O God, we proclaim. Christ’s resurrection we**

**declare. Christ's coming we await. Glory be to you, O God!**

*Consecration (Unison)*

**Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.**

*Prayer of Our Savior*

**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.**

*Distribution of Elements and Lighting of Memorial Candles*

*If you wish to receive communion (and all are welcome to do so), after you have placed your candle, please go to the center aisle and partake of bread and either wine or juice (**Bread is gluten free; grape juice is red, wine is white.**) If you do not wish to receive communion, then please simply fold your hands as you approach the communion stewards and continue past them to your seat.*

*Communion Anthem*

*Abide with Me*  
Chancel Choir

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

*\*Prayer after Communion (Unison)*

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's presence that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*For All the Saints*

John Bell

For all the saints who've shown your love  
in how they live and where they move,  
for mindful women, caring men,  
accept our gratitude again.

For all the saints who loved your name,  
whose faith increased the Savior's fame,  
who sang your songs and shared your word,  
accept our gratitude, good Lord.

For all the saints who named your will,  
and showed your reign is coming still  
through selfless protest, prayer, and praise,  
accept the gratitude we raise.

Bless all whose will or name or love  
reflects the grace of heav'n above.  
Though unacclaimed by earthly powers,  
your life through theirs has hallowed ours.

**\*PARTING THOUGHT**

*I Will Wear a Clean Shirt<sup>†</sup>*

Paul Davis

I will wear a clean shirt to your death,  
No stained remembrances good enough  
For how you were, who you've been, before this morning  
Brought Saturday cancellations,  
Summaries and farewells after all the turnings  
Into the time of days rising into days  
To this last gasp of earth, before new raiment.

I will come bathed to the altar of your going forth  
To raise whatever sacrifices time requires  
With the leaning of the years,  
Lifting thanks for the whimsied way you wore this world,  
Howling mad at how soon you have to wear the next,  
But hoping in my prayers the fit is good.

<sup>†</sup> *Something Else Than Birds: Poems of the Warfare and the Joy of Being Alive*  
Gerald, Missouri: Patrice Press, 1981, p. 5

**\*PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

**All: Let our service begin.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Nearer My God to Thee*

arr. Diane Bish

*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.*

The translation of the scriptures read this morning is by Wilda C. Gafney, from her work, *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Years W and A*. (New York: Church Publishing, 2021).

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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](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.

**Covenant News Articles, Information, Images and Reports**

If you would like something included in one of the issues for email and for the bulletin, please email it to Debbie by the 20th of the month prior to the beginning of the next month.

### **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.



### **Volunteer Meeting for Peace Place Canvass TODAY at 11:20AM in the Parlor**

Plans for Peace Place are going well. Peace Place is an effort by Peace UCC and the Housing Authority of St. Louis County to develop an 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. Today at 11:20AM in the Parlor, 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.

### **Lady Elect**

November 11, Saturday morning Lady Elect will be making pies in the church kitchen at 9AM. All supplies will be provided. The pies will be enjoyed the next day during Coffee Hour hosted by the Stewardship Committee for Consecration Sunday.

### **Update from Roger Barnes about the church in Spencer**

I have just received a thank you from the First Congregational Church of Spencer, Massachusetts, for our donation for their rebuilding efforts after their church was completely destroyed by fire on June 2nd. On October 1st, they held their first service at the church property, amid the ashes of the church building. As part of the service, they received a large cabinet that they will use to start up their food pantry ministry to the greater community again. Please continue to hold them in your prayers.

### **First Church has joined the Old Webster Trade Association We will be participating in the Annual Holiday Open House November 12 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Our contribution to the event will begin at 11:00am, as one of Santa's elves uses our east parking lot for the "Big Guy's" Holiday Train, offering rides to the little ones! ***We are still in need of volunteers for this very popular event.*** To sign up, please see Johari Hunt, Kathy Hill, or Chris von Weise.

### **Pecans for Sale!**

We have once again ordered four cases of the Fresh 16 oz bags of Mammoth Pecans that everyone loves! The price of the bags will be the same as last year, at \$14 per bag. 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 if you are interested in purchasing pecans and how many bags you will like. They will also be available on some Sunday mornings.

### **Jazz Noel Is Seeking Angels**

The Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA) again invites First Church members and friends to provide underwriting 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 our website at: [firstchurchwg.org/donate](http://firstchurchwg.org/donate) and select "Give to MICA" from the drop down menu.

*Thank you for your generous support of Jazz Noel!*

### **Maybe This Is the Year for You to Experience Yankee Swap?**

Mike Lenard has again invited us to his home

The party is from 1:00 – 5:00 PM, on December 3rd, with a potluck meal, and then we will do our crazy gift exchange. And we will finish before dark.

#### ***Here Is the Drill:***

- Bring a handmade/homemade gift (unwrapped)-one per person
- Bring a side dish, salad, or dessert for the table
- Sign up in the office for what you will bring for the table
- Pick up a map in the office.
- Call Garie Perry if you have questions. 314-698-2614
- Bring a donation for Webster Rock Hill Ministries

Mike's Address is: 1467 Heritage Valley Drive, High Ridge

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

#### **Sunday, November 5**

##### ***Remembrance Sunday***

(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

#### **Monday, November 6**

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

#### **Tuesday, November 7**

**1:00PM** Communication Team

#### **Wednesday, November 8**

**9:30AM** ~~NO~~ Yoga with Jeanene

**10:30AM** Staff Meeting

**6:00PM** Bridge Club - Inglis Room

#### **Thursday, November 10**

**6:00AM** Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

~~**7:30AM** NO Chancel Choir - Music Room~~

#### **Saturday, November 11**

##### ***Veterans Day***

**9:00AM** Lady Elect - Pie Making (Kitchen)

#### **Sunday, November 12**

##### ***Consecration Sunday***

##### ***In-Gathering of Pledges for 2024***

**9:45AM** Nursery Care

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall (Pie!)

**11:20AM** Volunteers for Peace Place Canvass - Parlor



# Covenant News

## WORSHIP NOTES FOR NOVEMBER 2023

*This schedule is subject to change, as need may arise. All worship services will be offered in person and live streamed ([bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)), at 10:00am on Sundays.*

NOVEMBER 5 – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY; SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S TABLE. Liturgist: Ernie Carter. Music: a new setting of *Abide with Me* by Gilbert M. Martin. Scriptures: Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3. We honor the memories and spiritual legacies of members and friends who have died in the last twelve months, as well as our own departed loved ones, with the lighting of candles and the sharing of communion. The Pastor ponders the Psalm, in which an afflicted person finds comfort in the divine Presence. Message: ***“The Longing”***

NOVEMBER 12 – CONSECRATION SUNDAY AND IN-GATHERING OF PLEDGES FOR 2024. Liturgist: Roger Barnes. Music: Jazz with the Oikos Ensemble. Scriptures: Psalm 78:1-7; Matthew 25:1-12. Here is our annual celebration of generosity, as we together make financial commitments to our beloved community of faith and the community beyond our walls. Message: ***“Wedding Delayed”***



NOVEMBER 19 – THANKSGIVING SUNDAY. Liturgist: Jan Barnes. Music by the Canterbury Bells. Reading: Matthew 25:14-30. An employer leaves the business to three employees, and only two of the three are able to turn a profit during the time that the boss is away. The one is punished whose business practices only protected assets, didn’t multiply them. What does this story have to say to us and about us, as we prepare to celebrate bounty? Message: ***“Profit Denied.”***

NOVEMBER 26 – MAJESTY OF CHRIST; BLUE CHRISTMAS; SERVICE FOR HEALING AND WHOLENESS. Liturgist Rebecca Novak offers a story before God. Music: “Are You Lonesome” and “Blue Christmas” performed by Martin Mills. Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Matthew 25:31-46. On this Sunday between the big family holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas, we pause to reflect upon the healing we and our world still have before us but which nevertheless are genuinely possible. Message: ***“Broken Is Not Permanent”***

## OUR NEW COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION

### ***Johari Hunt***

Johari is a new arrival to the Saint Louis area but has fallen in love with this Midwest city. He is passionate about bringing out the spiritual light of the LGBTQ community through academic study and community work. Johari is a Promise Scholar ([PromiseScholars.sa.ucsb.edu](https://PromiseScholars.sa.ucsb.edu)). He received his bachelor of arts degree in Religious Studies from the University California Santa Barbara in 2020. Johari looks forward to applying his skills with the Christian Education Ministry in order to help bring forward our children’s innate connection to God and life.





## NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED, OCTOBER 15

### **Marilyn Barton** (introduced by her sponsor Jacquie Bryant)

It's my privilege to introduce my new friend Marilyn Barton. You all know Kristy and Doug (the Moderator of our church). Marilyn is Mom to Doug and grandmother to our beloved Jack. She's also Mom to Doug's sister Kate and grandmother to Milo. Jack was instrumental in getting her here because he used to regularly ask her to come to his church. She comes to us from St. John's UCC in Mehlville where she resides. Marilyn taught in the St. John Sunday School for 40 years and helped to introduce their rotation style of teaching. Marilyn was a teacher for 36 years and never got out of the first grade! Marilyn likes in her spare time to go to the theater and has season tickets. We welcome her, and we're happy to have her as a new our member.



(*Pastor's notes:* The rotation model St. John's developed teaches a Bible story or theme with a variety of different learning centers, sometimes over a period of weeks, so that participants can have as sure an understanding as possible. Marilyn is joining our church as an Associate Member, which means that she will continue to be a member of St. John's.)

### **Nick Suber** (introduced by his sponsor Ernestine Carter)

It's my privilege and honor to present Nick Suber for church membership. Nick was born and raised in Saint Louis, in the Webster Groves area. He has five brothers as well as "sisters from another mister." His family has resided all over the world – Italy, Pennsylvania, Florida, just to name a few places. But he went to Webster Groves high School. From there he went to St. Louis Community College at Merimac and graduated from Western Governors University with a degree in Elementary Education. Now he's teaching at Momentum Academy – the magical 5th Grade!



Nick grew up in church with experiences in the Methodist faith but felt something was missing. So he stepped away from his faith for a while, eventually having an encounter with someone in his life who encouraged him to study and find himself... and find Jesus in the Word. That brought him closer to God, and over the course of the next few years he rekindled his relationship with God beyond even what he initially had. Nick was attracted to our congregation because he can be his entire authentic self. He has discovered acceptance and theological challenge among us that he is not found in any other church. I have enjoyed personally getting to know Nick and his girlfriend Ashley who's already a member. I've found him to be passionate, especially about God and Jesus, also kind, loving, and very intellectual. But don't get him talking about church history because you'll be there for a while. He'll blow you away with his deep knowledge and intellectual curiosity. Please, welcome Nick Suber.



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

## Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton  
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Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi  
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Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt  
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Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
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Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
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Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn  
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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  
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Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry  
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes  
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*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

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