

Welcome!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEBSTER GROVES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.



NOVEMBER 19, 2023 THANKSGIVING 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.*

*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

We Gather Together
Canterbury Bells

arr. Lloyd Larson

WELCOME

Jan Barnes, *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.*

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

TOLLING THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

based on Psalm 65

Through wondrous deeds toward liberation the God who preserves us, answers
us.

**God crowns the year with goodness, with paths overflowing
with fatness.**

The pastures of the wilderness overflow, and with joy the hills gird themselves.

**Meadows are clothed with flocks, the valleys arrayed with
grain, and with us they shout for joy.**

*GATHERING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God
No. 419 – *New Century Hymnal*

Martin Rinkart

*RAISING THE COVENANT (Unison)

**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.**

RITUAL OF APPROACH

Invitation to Confession (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

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 (Unison)

based on Psalm 123

**To you, O God watching over the very skies, we lift our gaze. As the
eyes of servants look to the hand of their employer – with dread or
glad expectancy, so our eyes look to you our God, praying for mercy.
For those acts we have done, or which we ought to have done, leaving
us separated from our earthly siblings and you, forgive us, we pray.
Then, gather us to you and know our true thanksgiving for the grace
you bestow and the blessings you provide, in Christ's name. Amen.**

Silence for Personal Confessions

Words of Assurance (Responsive)

2 Corinthians 9:10, 15

The One who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift! Amen.

*Singing God's Glory

Glory to God in the Highest

Tune: GLORIA (HAAS)

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

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

In God's Name

by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and illustrated by Phoebe Stone

THE WORD SHARED

From the Gospels

Matthew 25:14-30

Pew Bible, p. 904

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

BELL ANTHEM

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
Canterbury Bells

arr. Lloyd Larson

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Profit Denied"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Share Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

Transgender Day of Remembrance

video by Strathclyde (Scotland) Methodist Circuit

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts that we absorb from another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

WE SHARE OF OURSELVES

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)

Gracious God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named: out of the treasures of your glory strengthen us through your Spirit. Help us joyfully to nurture one another as your church. Bring us by grace to maturity, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith. Give power to all of us that with your people everywhere we may grasp the breadth and length, the height and depth of your love. Through our gifts and all our giving enable us to spread this love, though it is beyond knowledge, and to be filled with your own fullness through Jesus Christ our Sibling and Savior. Amen.

PARTING HYMN

Great Is Your Faithfulness
No. 423 – *New Century Hymnal*

Thomas O. Chisholm

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

March

Alexander Schreiner

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.

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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.

Today after Worship

Meet Johari Hunt! Our newest addition to the staff is Johari Hunt, Coordinator of Faith Formation. You may already have had a chance to meet him briefly, but everyone is invited to get to know him a little better in a question-and-response setting in Memorial Hall at 11:20, today.

Thanksgiving Services Nearby

Webster Groves Community Thanksgiving – Tuesday, November 21, 6:00PM at Webster United Methodist (600 N. Bompert Ave.). *If you would like to read a scripture passage or a prayer, please contact Pastor Dave Denoon soon.*

Interfaith Partnership Thanksgiving Program – Tuesday, November 21, 7:00PM at the Frontenac Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (10445 Clayton Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131). “Give thanks with us.” Gather with others for an event that allows our interfaith community to experience various expressions of music, dance, and readings from different traditions that show gratitude. This event is sponsored by Interfaith Partnership of Greater Saint Louis. It is free and open to the public.

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 *send it to Debbie at admin@firstchurchwg.org by the 20th of the month prior to the month it should appear.*

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.

Family Concert, December 3 at 2:30PM

The Xylem Wind Collective will perform on Sunday, December 3 at 2:30pm, in the sanctuary a free, family friendly, short concert with narrator featuring the stories of Hansel and Gretel and The Lonely Aardvark.

Outdoor Christmas Tree Decorating Party Returns to the Jubilee Garden! Sunday, December 3, 11:20 am

Gather in the Jubilee Garden after worship on Sunday, December 3, to decorate our outdoor Christmas Tree with ornaments suitable for our animal friends (It has been customary for everyone to bring a bird feeder ornament to put on the tree.). There will be a bonfire, caroling, and beverages! *Sponsored by Parish Life Ministry*

Peace Place Community Canvass Emmanuel Episcopal Church – TODAY at 12:00 noon

On November 19 at 12 noon, volunteers from all over Webster Groves will meet for lunch (catered meal) and a training at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 9 S. Bompert Ave. The trained volunteers will then canvass neighborhoods to gain support for Peace Place. Peace Place is the proposed senior living development for low-income people which Peace UCC and the Housing Authority of St. Louis County are partnering to create at 204 E. Lockwood Ave.

Information Needed to Keep Children Safe and Healthy

For parents who have children attending Kid's Church please follow this link, <https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-kids> to fill out a dietary and allergy form for each child attending. Thank you!

Jazz Noel Is Seeking Angels

The Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA) 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 go toward MICA programming. 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 and select "Give to MICA" from the drop down menu.

Thank you for your generous support of Jazz Noel!

Jan Barnes Is Collecting Blankets

The Blanket Collection is amazing! Keep bringing them in and share the opportunity to give with friends and neighbors. We will be collecting through Thanksgiving. The week after, we will be wrapping them and delivering them to St. Louis city parks. You may certainly help if you wish. I will put out a notification when I'll be at First Church working on blankets and you can come help...

Grace and Peace,
Jan

OASIS Classes for Older Adults at Eden Seminary

There are two remaining classes in the fall session: one on the Osage Indians on November 21 and one on the Christmas story according to the book of Matthew, December 1 & 8. Call the OASIS office at 314-862-4859 Ext 24 to register or register online at <https://st-louis.oasisnet.org/>. If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive the OASIS catalog for the upcoming session beginning in January, follow this link - <https://tinyurl.com/oasis-eden>

Pecans Are In!

The much-anticipated arrival of the fresh 16 oz bags of Mammoth Pecans has arrived from Georgia! 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 admin@firstchurchwg.org if you are interested in purchasing pecans and how many bags you will like. (There are plenty left). Lady Elect will be selling them on Sunday mornings in the Narthex.

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 to 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 19

Thanksgiving Sunday

Trans Day of Remembrance (observed)

9:45AM Nursery Care

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall

11:20AM Adult Education: Meet Johari Hunt

12:00PM Webster Churches Canvass for Peace Place

(Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 9 S. Bompert Ave., Webster Groves 63119)

Monday, November 20

Covenant News Deadline

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

7:00PM Executive Ministry - Zoom

Tuesday, November 21

6:00PM Community Thanksgiving Worship

(Webster United Methodist, 600 N. Bompert Ave., Webster Groves 63119)

7:00PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Program

(Frontenac Chapel LDS, 10445 Clayton Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131)

Wednesday, November 22

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir - Music Room

Thursday, November 23

Happy Thanksgiving!

Office Closed

Friday, November 24

Office Closed

Sunday, November 26

Blue Christmas

Majesty of Christ Sunday

9:45AM Nursery Care

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall



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
DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi
Admin@FirstChurchWG.org

Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt
Johari.Hunt@FirstChurchWG.org

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke
Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org

Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn
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

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes
laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I
lesrhs@sbcglobal.net

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

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