

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

MAY 26, 2024

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



*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 the Congregation standing, in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE

Blue Spring Shuffle

Kenny Dorham

WELCOME

Linda Kopetti, *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

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Isaiah 6:1-8

(Responsive – Liturgist; Minister; BAND; Congregation)

L: In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Holy One sitting on a throne, high and exalted; and the trailing edges of God's garment filled the temple.

M: *Seraphs were attending God. Six wings! Each had six wings! With two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their midsection, and with two they flew.*

B: AND THIS ONE CALLED TO THAT ONE AND SAID, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE MARSHALL OF HEAVEN'S ARMIES; THE WHOLE EARTH IS FULL OF GOD'S GLORY."

L: The doorposts of the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

C: **And I said: "Woe is me! I am wrecked, for I am a person of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the Sovereign, the COMMANDER of the vanguard of heaven!"**

M: *Then one of the seraphs flew to me, and in its hand a live coal that with tongs had been taken from upon the altar. It touched my mouth with it and said:*

B: "LOOK! NOW THAT THIS HAS TOUCHED YOUR LIPS, YOUR GUILT HAS TURNED ASIDE AND YOUR SIN ATONED."

L: Then I heard the voice of the Holy One saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

C: **And I said, "Here am I; send me!"**

***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.

***OPENING HYMN**

Holy, Holy, Holy
No. 277 – *New Century Hymnal*

Reginald Heber

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

**Invitation to Confession*

**Silence for Personal Confession*

**Prayer of Confession (Responsive – Liturgist; People)*

Holy Trinity, Sovereign over all you create, origin and goal of all that is, cosmic in reach yet infinite in love, embrace our hope and hurt this day with fatherly compassion, and bestow in your motherly heart a determined vision for justice and peace in the world of your divine imagination.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and eternal, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, made flesh with us in Jesus of Nazareth, touch our sin with the Redeemer's grace, share our suffering with the Companion's love, instruct our hearts with the Teacher's wisdom, and let manger, cross, and empty tomb become the pattern for our own lives – after the Christ who is our way, our truth, our life.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and eternal, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, pouring out abundant life in the dance and dreams of the Spirit, brooding over Eden and beckoning toward the New Jerusalem, invite us into the energy of your life that, together with all creation, we may conspire to be abundant signs and instruments of your design.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and eternal, have mercy on us.

Triune God we bless you, and we praise your holy name.

Amen.

**Words of Assurance*

**Singing God's Glory*

Glory to God in the Highest

Tune: GLORIA (HAAS)



1. Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!
2. Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry to Christ Je - sus!
3. Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry to the Spir - it!



To God be glo-ry for-ev - er! }
To God be glo-ry for-ev - er! } Al - le - lu - ia, A - men!
To God be glo-ry for-ev - er! }



Al - le - lu - ia, A - men! Al - le - lu - ia, A - men! _____

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Elle Sarah Polaske

Before the ritual begins, young worshipers are invited forward with the baptismal family.

Welcome (Responsive)

People were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant, and said to them,

“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”

Address

The Pastor speaks of the origin and purpose of baptism, to which the People respond:
This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

Questions of the Parents

*Congregational Assent (Responsive)

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support, and care.

*Affirmation of Faith (Responsive)

Do you believe in God? **I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? **I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? **I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Prayer of Baptism

Baptism and Anointing

Hymn of Baptism

Jesus Loves Me

A. B. Warner, D. R. McGuire

No. 327 – *New Century Hymnal*

Presentation of Gifts

Cathy Buerk, *Parish Life Ministry*

Prayer for the Baptized

When the baptism is concluded, young worshipers are released to Kids Church, or they may return to their seats.

THE WORD SHARED

From the Epistles

Romans 8:12-17

Pew Bible, p. 1030

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"All of a Family"

Rev. Denoon and Friends

Meditation on God's Parenthood

Song for My Father, by Horace Silver

Meditation on God's Siblinghood

He Ain't Heavy, by Bobby Scott and Bob Russell

Meditation on God's Sanctifying Presence

Walk Spirit, Talk Spirit, by McCoy Tyner

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Nada Te Turbe / Nothing Can Trouble

Jacques Berthier

No. 772 – *New Century Hymnal*

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

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

Opportunities to Give and Gather

Song of Praise

Doxology

**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)

Maker, you cause us to be and to become. Redeemer, you open us to endless possibilities. Comforter, your holy presence reassures our hearts that it is right to be with you. God Three-in-One, bless the gifts of substance and of spirit that we offer this day to you and to your work. Make our offerings extensions of our substance, and agents of your genesis, renewal, and constancy. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

God Our Author and Creator
No. 530 – *New Century Hymnal*

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Lovely Day

Bill Withers

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We rejoice today to celebrate the baptism of **Elle “Ellie” Polaske**, daughter of Emily & Marc Polaske.

**Our thanks to the members of the Oikos Jazz Ensemble** for their participation in the leadership of worship today. They are **Kim Fuller-Barnes**, vocals; **Carolbeth True**, piano; **Glen Smith**, bass; **David True**, percussion; and Rev. **Cliff Aerie**, saxophone.

The Oikos Jazz Ensemble is an outreach of our Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA). MICA takes part in Sunday morning jazz worship, six times a year, and conducts two seasonal programs – Jazz Noel and Good Friday Blues – in addition to other occasional performances. If you would like to support, please do so with

- a cash offering (in an envelope on which you have written, “MICA”),
- a check made payable to the church with “MICA” written in the memo line, or
- an electronic contribution on the Donate page of our website (find “MICA” in the pull-down menu).

**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.

Go to [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 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 QR code.

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Liturgists** - [bit.ly/Liturgists-2024](http://bit.ly/Liturgists-2024) | **Kids Church** - [bit.ly/FCCWG-Kids-2024](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-Kids-2024)

**Team Martin** – [bit.ly/Martin-01](http://bit.ly/Martin-01) (eyedrops through June 16)

## The Annual Lady Elect Spring Potluck – Tuesday Evening, May 28th

We will gather at 6:00 pm in the Inglis Room for a social time with dinner to follow at 6:30. Please RSVP with Faye Dyer and indicate if you will be bringing a main dish, salad, or dessert. Beverages will be provided. All women are invited!

## Good Food, Good Company, Beautiful Surroundings...

### The French Picnic was “un Succès”!

The first of the “Evening Out” events offered at the Benevolence Gala in support of our mission partners took place, May 18. Guests Jeanene Harris, Maureen Wallingsford, Debbie Tolstoi, Pat and Ken Schutte, Rosemary Hensley and Chris von Weise enjoyed drinks and dinner by the *French waitstaff*: Dana Romeis, Elaine Coe and Andrea Welnick. The menu included Endive Amuse Bouche, French Shallot Tart, Salmon Salade Niçoise and Chocolate Pot au Crème. There was champagne to top off the evening.

## Submitting Covenant News/Bulletin 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 month in which you want your item included.

Alternatively, for *Covenant News* the same week, please be sure to email us by Tuesday afternoons.

## Habitat for Humanity Update

Sunday, June 2, is the day for the dedication of new Lookaway Habitat homes. First Church volunteers worked on these homes last August. Remarks begin at 1:00 PM with light refreshments and house tours following. *Parking is limited*. There will be security and transportation to the dedication site from the Riverfront Parking lot across the street.

The 2024 First Church Habitat Workday is **Saturday, October 26**. We need three more volunteers. A sign-up sheet is hanging in the office. We will be working with a group from Peace UCC.

## “Wear Orange” Gun Violence Awareness and Prevention March, June 9

This demonstration begins with gathering at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church (45 W. Lockwood Ave.) at 11:30am. In addition to marchers, volunteers are welcome. If you would like to help with a meaningful (and fun) task that day, please contact Julie Burchett at [burchett.juliekay@gmail.com](mailto:burchett.juliekay@gmail.com) or 314-750-0830. Fliers about the event are on the Narthex table.



### **Mental Health First Aid – June 27, 8:45am – 5:00pm**

It's been several years since First Church conducted our last **Mental Health First Aid** session. Learn to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance abuse challenges among adults by going to <https://bit.ly/MHFA-form> which has information about a session sponsored by Provident Behavioral Health (formerly Care and Counseling) on **Thursday, June 27**.

### **Webster Rock Hill Ministries Trivia Night – Friday, June 14 Memorial Hall – Doors open at 6:15 & the Game begins at 7:00**

\$30 per person or \$240 per table of 8 (Prepayment is required for reservation)

To Register: Call WRHM office 314-961-5082 and ask for Janice or Derek

\*Please bring canned goods to help the Ministries\*

### **May Meal-a-Month Shopping List**

Canned Chicken • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)

Canned Fruit in own juices

Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk

Pudding or Jell-O (fat free/sugar free)

Shampoo/Conditioner • Soap • Deodorant

### **Remaining May Birthdays**

**Mark Thompson      May 26**

**Trevor Zink          May 28**

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

#### **Sunday, May 26**

**Trinity Sunday | Sacrament of Holy Baptism | Memorial Day Weekend**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**4:00PM** Baptism / Confirmation Class (Zoom)

#### **Monday, May 27**

**Memorial Day – Office Closed**

#### **Tuesday, May 28**

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

**5:00PM** Lady Elect Potluck – Inglis Room

#### **Wednesday, May 29**

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

**6:00PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

#### **Saturday, June 1**

**10:00AM** Confirmation / Baptism Rehearsal – Sanctuary

#### **Sunday, June 2**

**Confirmation / Baptism Sunday**

**Sacrament of Christ's Table**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship



## What's goes on at First Church during the week?

I would guess that many members are not aware of the wide variety of activities that take place in our building when they are not here. Did you know that you can train your dog, practice your watercolor skills and get a massage in our building? The following organizations have signed leases and use our building on a regular basis:

- Building C contains Memorial Hall. Saint Clare and Francis, a progressive Catholic Church worship every Saturday afternoon upstairs in Sample Chapel. During the week, Patterson Performing Arts utilize the classroom space that surrounds the chapel. Young students (and a few older ones) take voice and piano lessons. In Memorial Hall, there are two General Conditioning classes a week. In addition, the U. City Orchestra rehearses every week. Dog trainers take over the basement of Building C, with both day and evening classes. In the Dickens Room (west side of the basement), Alcoholics Anonymous meet every weekday at Noon. They are talking about expanding to an evening and morning sessions to accomodate additional folks.

- Building B is the "middle" building that contains The Kishlar and Inglis Rooms. Weekly users include Kirkwood Duplicate Bridge Club, AlAnon- a support group for family members of addicted individuals and two Oasis music group rehearsals. In addition, the St. Louis Watercolor Society use the space.

- The A building contains the sanctuary as well as older sections on the second and third floors. Dana Mullins runs a thriving Massage Therapy business in the old Bride's room. The St Louis Stamp Club meets in the Parlor. St Louis Vocal Project rehearses weekly on the third floor.

The above organizations use our space on a weekly/monthly basis. In addition, 10 West Lockwood brings income from a wide range of single time or annual events. Our Events Coordinator, Alicia McMinn has done a great job bringing in clients and keeping it all organized. Looking at her report from last month, her list includes a 50th birthday party, wedding, retirement party, music recital, family reunion, Trivia Nights, Drag Bingo, Medieval Festival and annual sales for Weavers Guild, WG Herb Society & Midwest Metalsmiths, All in all, quite a diverse group! If you would like to book space for an event, you can reach Alicia at [events@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:events@firstchurchwg.org) or at (314) 623-0671.



## **Greetings from C.E.!**

Christian Education has had quite a productive year! As we began the program year, we were still in search of a Coordinator of Faith Formation. During our early months together, we searched, interviewed, and eventually recommended Johari Hunt for the position. We are so glad we did! He, along with Noel Burke have been developing and carrying out the curriculum (with the help of cherished volunteers) for our children's programming. Noel will now be joining us for more Sundays to help with staff consistency and planning.

In conjunction with the Communications Team and other ministries, we helped plan and facilitate the annual Vehicle Fair. It was, again, a great success! New attractions have been discussed for the fall of 2024. In October CE invited staff from Peace Church to present their housing project. As a new member of the Old Webster Trade Association, First Church took part in the Old Webster November Holiday Open House. We had great weather and a fantastic crowd. Families waited in line for a ride on Santa's helper train. Perhaps there will be more events with this group in the future.

In 2024 CE has planned several programs. Johari arranged a Town Hall meeting with youth, ages 13 - 19 in January. The annual Easter Egg Hunt in March was small but bountiful. After Lent, members enjoyed learning about the Uganda water project presented by Peter Kalulu and Lawrence Katumba. Other programs yet to come are Racially Restrictive Covenants with Samantha Enlund, Banned Books with Janet Mees and Narcan Training, arranged by Johari.

Thank you for supporting our ministry.