

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JUNE 2, 2024

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM
RITE OF CONFIRMATION
SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE**

*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.*

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.

 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Order of Worship

An asterisk () indicates the Congregation standing, in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE *Breath of the Almighty* James Southbridge

WELCOME Jane Porchey, *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

***GATHERING HYMN** *God Is Here* Fred Pratt Green
No. 70 – *New Century Hymnal*

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

**Invitation*

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)*

God of vision and provision, God of mercy, God of peace, grant us love despite derision, call us up beyond our ease. We have wandered or suspected, we have gone against your will, left your Presence undetected, had our pleasure, had our fill while harming others with our weakness, heeding nothing they have cried. We know that you favor meekness. Resurrect us, though we've died. Bring us fresh into a new day, so that we may sin no more. Redeem us, God, into a true way; show us what you have in store. Amen.

**Words of Assurance*

God is indeed still speaking a word of forgiveness and hopeful love.

**Let the life of Jesus, in whom we are forgiven, be visible in all our lives, from this day forward and for evermore.
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 Prophets

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Pew Bible, p. 244

From the Epistles

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

p. 1053

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*The children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.
Afterward, they may take part in a brief activity in the narthex,
or return to their seats.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Invitation

Questions of the Candidates

**Congregational Assent*

Response

We promise our love, support, and care.

**Affirmation of Faith*

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.**

The Congregation may be seated.

Prayer over the Water

Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Acts of Baptism

Act of Confirmation

Prayers of the Congregation (Unison, first in silence and then aloud)

Almighty God, who in baptism receive your servants into the church, forgive their sins and offer them eternal life, increase in these servants the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in all temptations, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Question about Participation

Welcome (Unison)

Doug Barton, *Moderator*

We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our Risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

**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.

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Opportunities to Give and Gather

**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.**

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S TABLE

**We Lift Up Our Joys and Concerns*

**Invitation*

Words of Institution and Consecration

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.

Communion

Communion is offered at two stations, served by the Confirmation students. You will be invited forward by an usher. Please proceed to either station. If you are unable to go forward, please indicate this to an usher, and the elements will be brought to you.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)*

We thank you, God for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ’s gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

*I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry
No. 351 – New Century Hymnal*

John Ylvisaker

***BENEDICTION (Responsive)**

Let our lives bear witness to Christ’s love.
Let our words bring reconciliation.
Let our thoughts be of peace.
Let our touch bring healing.
Let our actions count for justice.
Be a sign of hope and a beacon of joy.
Go now in the peace of Christ.
THANKS BE TO GOD!

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Post Toccata

Domenico Zippoli

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.

We rejoice today with four members of our church as they are affirmed by Confirmation or Baptism. All four have recently completed an abbreviated course of study led by Pastor Dave Denoon.

Baptism

Kristy Anderson was welcomed into membership on Easter Sunday with her husband Scott. Kristy had not yet been baptized and asked to join others who might be preparing for the sacrament. She and Scott are parents of two adult children. Professionally, she is a hairdresser. In her free time, she rides horses, plays tennis, and enjoys going for walks with their dogs.

Adrianna Hoeper is the daughter of Katie and Chris Hoeper and sister to Ryder. She is a rising senior at Rockwood Summit High School, where her studies this year included working as a 4th Grade teacher's aide. She is an accomplished dancer and both teaches at and competes on teams from the Professional Dance Center.

Ryder Hoeper is Katie and Chris's son, and Adrianna's brother. He is a rising sophomore at Rockwood Summit High School, where he has a strong interest in instrumental music. He plays the euphonium (baritone horn) and has occasionally been featured in worship. Ryder also appreciates the challenge of a fine video game.

Confirmation

Braeden Hood is the son of Christy and Drue Hood and brother to Casen. He is a rising sophomore at high school and has participated in league hockey and baseball for quite a few years. Braeden is being confirmed today, having been baptized here in 2010.

**The Globe is lighted today in honor of Nora Dyer Murphy
and all 2024 graduates.**

Marshall & Faye Dyer

Lighting the globe is a tradition we use to celebrate gifts and blessings. If you would like to dedicate a lighting, please make a contribution in any amount and include a note describing your celebration. Donations received are combined with the Minister's Discretionary Fund, benefiting members and friends in need. Thank you!



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

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.

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.

How to Underwrite the Pastor's Sabbatical

A special fund has been created, for members and friends who would like to underwrite the Pastor's Sabbatical. To contribute to the Sabbatical Fund, please direct your donation to the church office – either with a check payable to the church (“Sabbatical Fund” in the memo line) or by donating through our website's Donate page and scrolling down to the “Sabbatical Fund” line of the pulldown menu. *Read an article by Pastor Dave Denoon about his **sabbatical schedule and funding**, at https://bit.ly/Sabbatical_Fund*

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 Surchett.juliekay@gmail.com or 314-750-0830. Fliers about the event are on the Narthex table.

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

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**.

Volunteer Opportunities

Liturgists - bit.ly/Liturgists-2024 | Kids Church - bit.ly/FCCWG-Kids-2024

Team Martin – bit.ly/Martin-01 (eyedrops through June 16)

June Birthdays

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| Donna Hull | June 1 | Andrea Metcalf | June 21 |
| Jennifer Jones | June 3 | Ernestine Carter | June 22 |
| Christina Hood | June 5 | Jonathan Brader | June 24 |
| Lauren Bakker-Arkema | June 11 | Kelsey Tolson | June 25 |
| Ginnie Conlee | June 16 | Rosemary Hensley | June 29 |
| Laszlo Kopetti | June 17 | Jane Bolliger Debman | June 30 |
| Cliff Aerie | June 19 | | |

June Meal-a-Month Shopping List

Boxed Whole Wheat Pasta • Pasta Sauce (Low salt and sugar)
Canned Mixed Vegetables (low or no salt) • Canned Fruit in own juices
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk • Baby Fruits • Baby Vegetables • Baby Cereal

What's Happening at First Church

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

Monday, June 3

7:00PM Scout Troops Court of Honor – Memorial Hall

Tuesday, June 4

1:00PM Communications Team - Church Office

Wednesday, June 5

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

10:30AM Staff Meeting – Church Office

4:30PM Benevolence Committee – Library

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Sunday, June 9

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

11:30AM Rally and March to End Gun Violence
(from WG Presbyterian to Emmanuel Episcopal)



10 West Lockwood Avenue
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Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton
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Custodian & AV Tech – Mark Metcalf

Weekend & Events Custodians –
Kayla Skiles & Onyeka Igboanuzue

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

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