

Welcome!

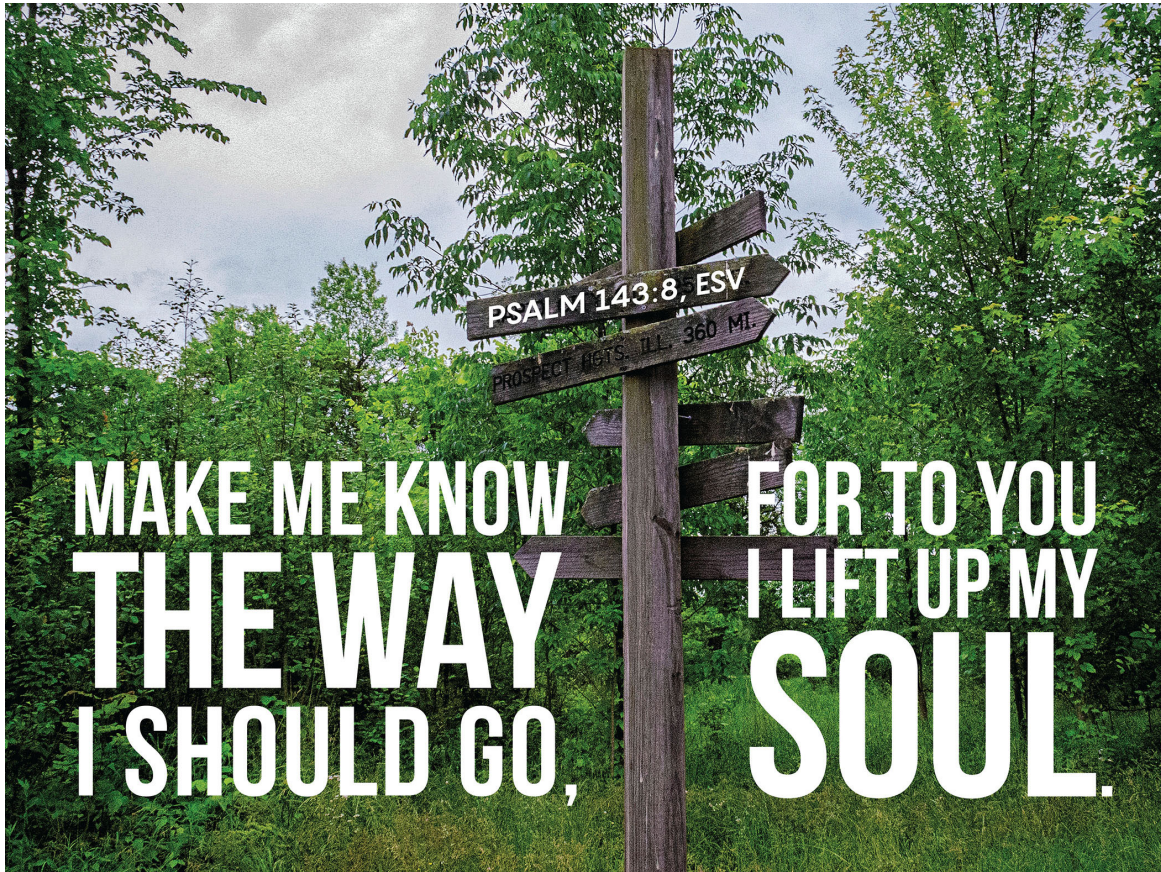
First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JUNE 9, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



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

Meditation

John Carter

WELCOME

Andrea Welnick, *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

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

We come together today seeking God's love for us.

We come together to give our thanks.

We come together wanting to know the way God would have us live.

We come together to be assured that God wants the best for us.

We come together knowing we have God given gifts for service.

We come together seeking ways to use those gifts.

We come together to confess our failings.

We come together knowing our need for Grace.

We come together to gather strength for the journey.

We come together to be nourished and restored.

We come together because we are God's own.

And for that we offer God our heartfelt praise!

***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**

Gather Us In

Marty Haugen

**Here in this place new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name**

**We are the young, our lives are a mystery
We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty**

**Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly
Give us the courage to enter the song**

**Here we will take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters
Call us anew to be salt for the earth
Give us to drink the wine of compassion
Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the kingdom, now is the day
Gather us in and hold us forever
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones**

RITUAL OF APPROACH

**Invitation*

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)*

God of Life, there are too many times when we have an idea of the way you want us to go, or at least we think we do, and yet we give up and stay with the status quo. Your way may be hard for us to discern and even harder sometimes to follow so we resist and keep on with what we are doing.

Forgive us Gracious God. Show us the way. And give us the courage, the stamina, and the strength to follow so that we might know your peace and your joy. Amen.

**Words of Assurance*

God hears and God forgives.

**If we can let go of the past and that part of the present that holds us back,
God can give us a new beginning.**

The past and present cannot be erased.

But they do not need to control us.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God. 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!

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

*The children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.
Afterward, they may proceed to Kids' Church, or return to their seats.*

THE WORD SHARED

From the Gospels

3 Mark 3:20-35

Pew Bible, p. 912

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"So how do we know God's will?"

Rev. Marty Black

MUSICAL RESPONSE

*Nada te Turbe / Nothing Can Trouble
No. 772 – New Century Hymnal*

Jacques Berthier

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**We Lift Up Our Joys and Concerns*

**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

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)*

Provider of blessings, we offer these gifts and resources with the hope of demonstrating your holy way in this world. We pray that they will be used to do our part in helping more people experience your goodness and your love in our time. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Open My Eyes that I May See

Clara H. Scott

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Hymn to Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven
arr. John Carter

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.

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.

Welcome Aboard Pastor Marty Black!

Pastor Marty has taken the reins as of today, Sunday, June 9. Please extend our “Extravagant Welcome” to make her feel at home.

If you need to reach her, you may email her at: marty.black@firstchurchwg.org or 715-853-9101 to leave a message, text or talk. *Please do not leave a message at ext 111.*

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.

“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 4urchett.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

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 pull-down menu. Read an article by Pastor Dave Denoon about his *sabbatical schedule and funding*, at https://bit.ly/Sabbatical_Fund

St. Louis Oasis — Jazz Ensemble Performance Sunday, June 23 in Memorial Hall

If you are ever at the church on a Thursday morning, you will know just how good this Jazz Ensemble is. Consider attending this event for an enjoyable musical experience.
The talented Oasis Jazz musicians will truly delight your senses!

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

Thank You for Supporting Martin Mills with His Eye Drops!

The sign-up calendar has filled up for the remaining time slots. All your help was much appreciated. You all did a great job!

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

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		

What's Happening at First Church

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)

Monday, June 10

7:00PM Scout Troops B&G last meeting – Dickens Room

7:00PM Three Ministries (Hybrid)

Tuesday, June 11

10:30AM Staff Meeting – Church Office

Wednesday, June 12

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Friday, June 14

6:15PM WRHM Trivia Night – Memorial Hall

Sunday, June 16

Father's Day

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship



From Faith Formation and Christian Education

Spring is in full swing and Summer is creeping along the horizon; a special (not) surprise we have this year are cicadas! Not just any cicadas, according to the Missouri Department of Conversation, brood 19 has made a spectacular display of being the largest brood covering almost the entire state. I hope y'all are enjoying the song of these beautiful insects since their hymn is deafening.

The surreptitious humidity is outmatched by the buzz of excitement that is around the corner as we welcome Marty Black as the interim minister. We will miss Pastor Dave and we hope he has a fruitful and revitalizing sabbatical. Two other momentous occasions ringing in summer are the baptism of Elle Polaske May 26th and the baptism of the confirmation class on June 2nd!

Kid's Church is looking forward to celebrating Father's Day and creating something nice to celebrate the fathers in our lives. Additionally, Kids Church is continuing Holy Troublemakers, and we look forward to celebrating more amazing figures, as well as talking about a notable figure for Juneteenth.

Other meaningful sounds joining the anthem of our world is the passing of Asian Pacific Islander month where we celebrate the history and community of different Asian and Islander cultures within the US. Pride Month will arrive this June and we will celebrate this month by showing how much we love our LGBTQ+ friends and family.

And, for those who love planning their summer out to the fall we will be needing volunteers for July 4th, for Webster Groves Annual July Fourth Parade. Please let me know if you can help.

Humming Along,
Johari



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Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton
iyell4@aol.com

Sabbatical Pastor – Rev. Marty Black
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Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt
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Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke
Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org

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
cliff.aerie@gmail.com

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes
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Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I
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