

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



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

**JUNE 23, 2024**  
**FIFTH 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

### WELCOME

Phil Shoulberg, *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**)

Behold, now is the acceptable time: behold, now is the day of salvation – now is the day that God gives us life.

**Great is God and greatly to be praised; all the ends of the earth know God's name.**

As in the past, God comes to us, calming the storms of our lives.

**The storms of life cannot destroy our Savior's "Peace, be still."**

Come, let us worship God – in the calm and in the storm.

**We come. Let us worship!**

#### \*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

*Morning Has Broken*  
No. 38 – *Pilgrim Hymnal*

Eleanor Farjeon

### RITUAL OF APPROACH

*\*Invitation*

*\*Silence for Personal Confessions*

*\*Prayer of Confession (Responsive)*

Mighty God, we turn our hearts to you and confess that we have not trusted in your presence, your power, your guidance.

**Forgive us.**

When we rely solely on our own strength.

**Forgive us.**

When we are frozen with fear and do not take the action we should.

**Forgive us.**

When we fail to stand up for what is good and just in your sight.

**Forgive us.**

When we tread – even unintentionally - on the rights of others.

**Forgive us.**

When we forget the needs and hopes of those who do not have enough.

**Merciful God, do not forsake us. Restore in us a right spirit and a trusting heart. Amen.**

\*Words of Assurance (Responsive)

\*WELCOME SONG

*Gathered Here*  
No. 742 – *New Century Hymnal*

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.*

MUSICAL OFFERING HONORING THE SPIRIT OF JUNETEENTH

*I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free*

Billy Taylor  
Singer: Nina Simone

THE WORD SHARED

*From the Gospels*

Mark 4:35-41

Pew Bible, p. 912

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

*"Get in the Boat"*

Rev. Marty Black

MUSICAL RESPONSE

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

Jacques Berthier

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten  
those who seek God shall never go wanting.  
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.  
God alone fills us.**

**Nada te turbe, nada t'espante.  
Quien a Dios tiene nada le falta.  
Nada te turbe, nada t'espante.  
Solo Dios basta.**

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 OFFER OF OURSELVES

*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**

*A Mighty Fortress is our God  
No. 439 – New Century Hymnal*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*WORDS OF PARTING**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*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](http://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!**

Now that Pastor Marty has taken the reins, 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](mailto:marty.black@firstchurchwg.org) or 715-853-9101 to leave a message, text or talk. You may also leave her a message at 314-962-0475, ext 111. She plans to be in the church office most Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 9:30 and 12:30.

**St. Louis Oasis Jazz Ensemble Performance  
TODAY, June 23 at 3:00 PM in Memorial Hall**

Join fellow music lovers at the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves to hear Oasis' Jazz Ensemble play a great collection of contemporary pieces and some jazz classics. You won't be able keep your toe from tapping! 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!*

**Volunteer Opportunities**

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

**Volunteers Needed for July 4th Parade**

Planning for the 4th of July parade is well under way. It is always wonderful to gather as a Church to greet walkers and parade-goers, handing out water, and enjoying the festivities and the company of our community. Our help is always well-received, and sorely needed (please make sure that if you are able, you pitch in to help that day. There are sign-up sheets on the table in the narthex or you can sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/july4-fccwg>

There is another way that you might take part if you are interested: The "You are Loved" group began last year as an effort to remind transgender youth that they are a valued part of the community, despite the various laws being made to harm them. This community organization was so much fun last year and had to turn people away from walking with them, as it had exceeded the 100-walkers per group! (These folks were able to participate in other ways).

This group is currently re-grouping and is currently looking for some fresh ideas, help with sign making, and assistance with their Amazon wish list. If you are interested in participating, please contact Chris von Weise.

**Peace UCC Presents: A Holocaust Survivor Speaks  
Sunday, July 14, 2024 at 3pm**

Wehrli Chapel of Eden Seminary  
483 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves  
(Follow signs from parking lot)

Holocaust survivor and St. Louis resident Gittel Burns will share her story Sunday, July 14, at 3:00pm at Eden Seminary Chapel, sponsored by Peace UCC. Her long-time friend and researcher, Lisa Johnson, will facilitate the discussion, which will include projected images of the long journeys, refugee life in Shanghai, and new life in St. Louis after the war; there also will be a question and answer segment.

Lisa's recent book about Gittel's story, *A Letter to My Family: A Journey through Persecution in Nazi Germany, Refuge in Shanghai, and New Life in America*, is based on the family's donated collection to the Holocaust Museum. It will be available for \$10 cash, signed by Gittel.

From Lisa: A first person account from a living Holocaust survivor has value beyond words for today. The need to be mindful always of the consequences of hate is ever-present. Please join Gittel and me for this sobering but life-affirming hour.



### **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**.

### **First Saturday Drive-Thru Collection Returns – Saturday, July 6 – 9am to Noon**

We will be collecting school supplies for Elementary, Middle School and High School. The full list of supplies can be found on the table in the narthex.

Volunteers are needed to sign up for all or a portion of a four-hour shift (8:30 am until 12:30 pm). Use this link (<https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-school>) to sign up or use the form on the table in the narthex.

### **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](https://bit.ly/Sabbatical_Fund)

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

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

### **Sunday, June 23**

- 9:45AM** Nursery Care Available
- 10:00AM** Worship
- 10:15AM** Kids' Church
- 11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship
- 3:00PM** Oasis Jazz Ensemble Concert – Memorial Hall

### **Tuesday, June 25**

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

### **Wednesday, June 26**

- 9:30AM** Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room
- 6:00PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

### **Sunday, June 30**

- 9:45AM** Nursery Care Available
- 10:00AM** Worship
- 10:15AM** Kids' Church
- 11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship
- 3:00PM** Oasis Jazz Ensemble Concert – Memorial Hall

## ***Coming in July!***

### **Tuesday, July 2**

- 1:00PM** Communications Team– Church Office

### **Wednesday, July 3**

- 9:30AM** Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room
- 10:30AM** Staff Meeting – Church Office
- 6:00PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

### **10:44 AM Thursday, July 4**

**Independence Day  
OFFICE CLOSED**

### **Saturday, July 6**

**9:00AM - 12:00PM**

**First Saturday Drive-thru collection for School Supplies**



## From the Pastor

June is a month of celebrations and remembrances. These are not designated church celebrations like Christmas or Easter, but they are things that church people like us have on our minds and in our hearts; celebrations and remembrances that prod us to think about how we at First Congregational WG can live out the covenant that we recite each Sunday morning.



The first celebration is Father's Day. Each year families of all sorts get together to celebrate the men in their lives and honor them for all they do or have done. These celebrations can be wonderful times to say thank you, something we often fail to do as often as we ought. Father's Day is also a day to remember and give thanks for the ways our fathers encouraged our gifts and helped us develop them, or the ways our fathers set the example for a life of faith or allowed us to experiment so we could learn and grow and then was there to pick up the pieces when we made a mess of things. It is also a day to honor those persons who have been fathers for us when our own fathers have been inappropriate or absent.

As much as there is to celebrate, this day is also hard for some of us. Some of us miss a father who has died or is now gravely ill. Others want to forget the father who abused or neglected us. Some fathers, estranged from their children, long to reconnect or make up for past wrongs. Still others long to be a father and have been denied that opportunity.

Even though Father's Day is not a church holiday we as the church can play a role in encouraging and supporting one another to be the best fathers (or mothers) we can be. So, in the church we pray for fathers and would be fathers of all sorts and for the children that they are meant to nurture and protect. We pray for wisdom, and strength, and stamina, and forgiveness, and the means to care for and nurture every child of God in a way that would make God smile.

The second remembrance is Juneteenth. Juneteenth (short for "June Nineteenth") marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people were freed. The troops' arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African American holiday. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday. Juneteenth 2024 occurs on Wednesday, June 19.

Even though that was almost 160 years ago, we as a country still struggle with the ongoing effects of a social and economic system that is inherently racist. And many of us who are white still resist the idea that we have an advantage just because of the color of our skin.





Again, this is where the church can make a difference. If we are serious about working for justice as our covenant states, this is the place where we can gather to study, ask questions, listen, and challenge one another to see with new eyes the injustices that continue today. And here is where we can learn how to stand up for our brothers and sisters of color in ways that will change hearts and begin to reset the system.

Third, June is Pride Month. According to Wikipedia, “the concept of Pride Month began with the Stonewall riots, a series of riots for gay liberation that took place over several days beginning on June 28, 1969. The riots began after a police raid at the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar located within Lower Manhattan in New York City. The year after the riots, the first pride marches were held in several US cities. The march in New York City, alongside parallel marches across the US, is considered to be a watershed moment for LGBT rights. While the first marches were more akin to a protest than a celebration, it helped to remind people of LGBT communities and how they may include one's family and friends.”



We are an Opening and Affirming congregation as our rainbow sign proudly declares. That is significant. We provide a safe space for people whose rights continue to be challenged. And as we continue to live into our Open and Affirming promise, we will have more opportunities to advocate and support the full inclusion of our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters – in our church, our community, and our country.

See you in church!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Marty

# WEBSTER ROCK HILL

## MINISTRIES

### BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



#### Elementary School Supplies

- Backpack
- Lunchbag
- 2 Pencils
- Eraser
- Pencil Box or Pencil Pouch
- Pencil Sharpener
- Pens
- Colored Pencils
- Highlighters
- 12 inch Ruler
- 5 inch Blunt Tip or Point Tip Scissors
- Gluestick
- 4 oz. Glue
- Wide Ruled 1 Subject Notebook
- Composition Notebook
- Loose Leaf Filler Paper Wide Rule
- Folders
- 3 Ring Binder or Zipper Binder
- Crayons
- Markers
- Watercolor Paint
- Ruled Index Cards
- Tissues
- Hand Sanitizer

#### Middle School Supplies

- Backpack
- Lunchbag
- #2 Pencils
- Eraser
- Pencil Sharpener
- Pens
- Highlighters
- Markers
- 12 inch Ruler
- Tape
- Scissors
- USB Flash Drive
- TI Calculator
- Ruled Index Cards
- Folders
- One Subject Spiral Notebooks
- Composition Notebook
- Loose Leaf Filler Paper Wide Rule
- 3 Ring Binder or Zipper Binder
- Tabbed Dividers
- Stapler
- Weekly Planner
- Hand Sanitizer

#### High School Supplies

- Backpack
- 3-ring binder
- Pocket folders
- Notebook Dividers
- Colored pencils
- No. 2 pencils
- Erasers
- Pencil sharpener
- Pencil case
- Pens
- Highlighters
- Markers
- Lined notebook paper
- Graph paper
- Spiral notebooks
- Computer printer paper
- Flash drive
- Glue stick
- Hand sanitizer
- Organizer/planner
- Paper clips
- Scissors
- Stapler
- 3-hole punch

Please join us in this effort to ensure that our kids have all the tools needed for a successful school year.

WRHM at 314-961-5082 or 111 East Waymire Ave., Webster Groves, MO. 63119



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

## Contact Information

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Custodian & AV Tech – Mark Metcalf

Weekend & Events Custodians –  
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Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

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