

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

AUGUST 4, 2024
ELEVENTH 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

Jennifer Jones, *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 OF THE CANDLES

TOLLING OF THE BELL

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; People)

Hungry for meaning, acceptance, love,

we gather within the mystery of God.

Yearning for greater peace and equity,

we gather with the friendship of Christ.

Open to renewed generosity and compassion,

we gather within the enfolding of the Holy Spirit.

*RAISING THE COVENANT

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

I Come With Joy

No. 349 – *New Century Hymnal*

RITUAL OF APPROACH

Invitation

Unison Prayer of Confession

We confess that we look for nourishment in some silly places. We confess that much of what we seek does not endure to eternal life and, in fact, often steers us off course. We confess that in our search for signs and wonders we often miss the miraculous and sacred before our very eyes. Forgive us, Gracious God. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

SUNG RESPONSE

Gathered Here

Phil Porter

No. 742 – *New Century Hymnal*

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

THE WORD SHARED

From the Hebrew Bible

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13 a

p. 281

From the Gospels

John 6:24-35

p. 971

Response:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

What is this Communion Thing Anyway?

Pastor Marty Black

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Nada te Turbe / Nothing Can Trouble

Jacques Berthier

No. 772 – *New Century Hymnal*

**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.**

WE OFFER OF OURSELVES

***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**

**O God, we pray that you will increase the size of our offerings to
eye-popping proportions and that they be a vehicle for
transformed life, even within us. Amen.**

Sacrament of Christ's Table

Pastor Marty Black

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Invitation

Communion Prayer

God's Spirit be upon you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our loving God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

What is amazing, O God who is love, is that in this meal we celebrate now you are Host
and Guest and Food . . .

Words of Institution

Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN *Be Known to us in Breaking Bread*
No. 342 – *New Century Hymnal*

Distribution

*Communion is served in the pews, first the bread and then the cup.
The bread is gluten-free.*

*Wine is white; grape juice is red. Each is consumed at the indication of the Pastor,
unless this presents a hardship for the individual.*

**Prayer after Communion*

**In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us.
Send us out to live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth, and as citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.**

***PARTING HYMN** *As We Gather at Your Table*
No. 332 – *New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

WORDS OF PARTING

Our worship has ended.
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

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.

How to Reach Pastor Marty Black

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. 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.

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Looking for a Nursery Attendant

We have started the search for Carina's replacement. If you know of anyone that might fill her shoes, you can find the Nursery Attendant Job Description on the table in the Narthex.

Summer Schedules

Pastor Dave – On Sabbatical – Will return on September 9

Leon Burke – Away from July 28 thru August 4

Debbie Tolstoi – Away on August 5 thru August 7

Pastor Marty – Away from August 14 thru August 27

As people are taking vacations, there will be times when nobody is here in the office. Please give us a call at 314-962-0475 before you drop by. It could save you some gas and a wasted trip. Thank you!

Janet Fales Memorial Service Saturday, August 10, at 10:00am

Janet was a beloved member of First Church. She joined in 1972. She was a friend to everyone lucky enough to know her. The joy of her life was being a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother to her two families. She was a talented pianist, and music enriched her life. We all enjoyed her heartfelt wisdom, optimistic view of life, and the twinkle in her eye. Rev. Marty Black will be presiding at her Memorial service in our sanctuary. A reception will follow, in Memorial Hall.

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

TRIVIA NIGHT for Metropolitan Churches United (MCU)

7pm on August 17, 2024 at Eden Theological Seminary

Doors Open at 6:30

\$30 per seat or \$210 per table of 8

FCCWG is hoping to fill at least one table for this important event. If you are interested, please use this link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/mcu-trivia-night>. MCU has been championing some very important and valuable activities, including these: (a) getting a raise in the minimum wage and paid sick leave on the Missouri ballot, (b) implementing regional air quality monitors, (c) advocating for funds to get lead out of school drinking water, (d) working to break the school-to-prison pipeline, and (e) helping restore the rights of people who were incarcerated. However, doing this work requires organizing people and financial resources, and that is what the Trivia Night is all about. Activities include not only trivia challenges but also silent auctions and other games between rounds. If you have any questions, contact Doug Miller before August 14; after the 14th, contact Doug Barton

Cultivating A Multicultural Community

A free seminar led by Culture Coach, Author and Musician Nikki Lerner

Webster Hills United Methodist Church

Saturday, August 24 from 10:00AM – Noon

Doors open for coffee, doughnuts and fellowship at 9:30 a.m.

Webster Hills Christian Life Center • 1333 W. Lockwood Ave., St. Louis, MO

Nikki will help us engage, explore and learn about moving from a monocultural community to a vibrant and inclusive multicultural one.

The Saturday seminar is free, but reservations are requested for planning purposes.

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/3zspnVP>

For more information, please contact Lisa Miller at spurz@sbcglobal.net

Learn more about Nikki here: www.Nikkilerner.com

August Meal-a-Month Shopping List

Canned Chicken • Brown Rice

Canned Soup (low or no salt) • Canned Corn (low or no salt)

Canned Fruit in own juices

Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk

Diapers • Diaper Wipes • Formula with Iron

August Birthdays

Sue Stepleton	August 10
Luke Ferguson	August 13
John Paci	August 13
Gwen Denoon	August 14
Julie McHugh	August 20
Sharon Beal	August 23
John Claggett	August 30

What's Happening at First Church Sunday, August 4

Sacrament of Christ's Table

9:00AM Brown Baggers

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday, August 6

1:00PM Communications Team – Church Office

Wednesday, August 7

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

10:30AM Staff Meeting – Church Office

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Saturday, August 10

10:00AM Memorial Service for Janet Fales – Sanctuary

Reception immediately following the service in Memorial Hall

Sunday, August 11

Hymn Sing!

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship



10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton
iyell4@aol.com

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Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt
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Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org

Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn
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Custodian & AV Tech – Mark Metcalf
mark.metcalf@firstchurchwg.org

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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