

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



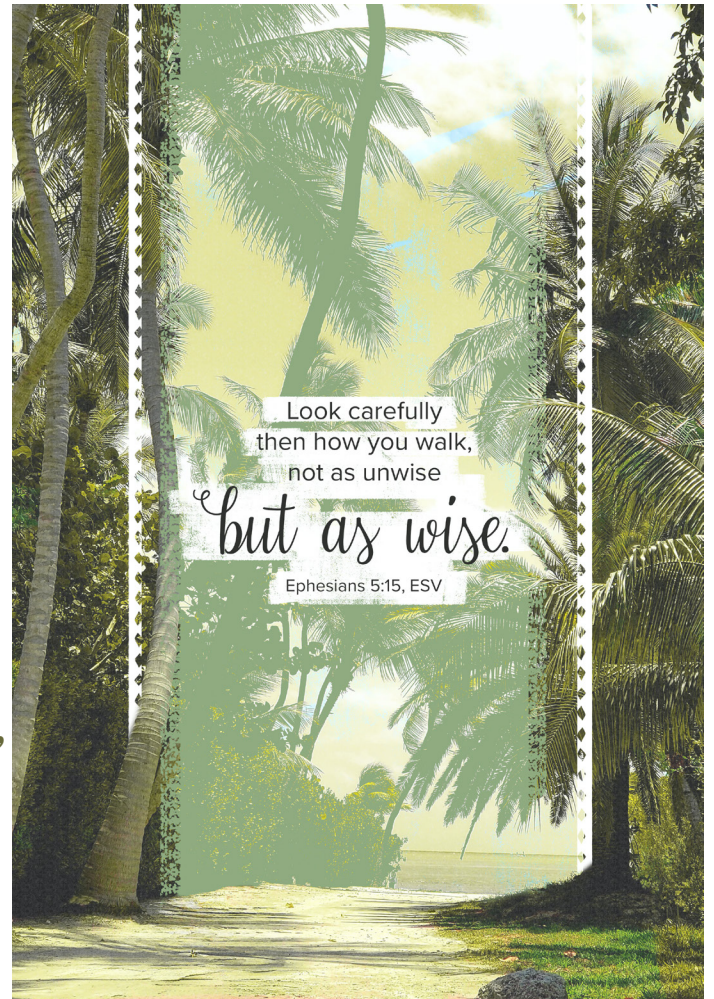
Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

AUGUST 18, 2024

*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

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 OF THE CANDLES

OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP

Words by Ann Weems

The earth is a globe filled with doors and we must choose the one to enter.

Time and time again we must choose, and our choice is daily.

Our indecision is stressful and our stress is great.

Which door?

Doors open, doors closed, doors ajar, doors locked, doors slammed and revolving.

Which door?

Jesus said, I am the door. If we listen, he will say, "Follow me, and the door will be made known."

*RAISING THE COVENANT

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

God of Grace and God of Glory vv. 1,2,5
No. 436 – *New Century Hymnal*

RITUAL OF APPROACH (Responsive)

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Loving God, if we could ask for anything in the world, what do you think it would be? Would it be power or riches or healing for ourselves, or our loved ones, or for the world? Would we ask for love or forgiveness or happiness? Maybe we want to be smarter or more handsome or to have better physical skills. Hear us now as we pray in silence for the gifts we seek.

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**Words of Assurance*

Let us pray with King Solomon

God give me wisdom so I can love your people well. God give me wisdom and I hope that you can tell that I want to walk in your ways. God give me wisdom. Amen

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Gathered Here
No. 742 — *New Century Hymnal*

Phil Porter

NOT FOR CHILDREN Only

Rev. Sue Leary, *Pastor* & 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 New Testament

Ephesians 5:15-20

p. 1066 pew Bible

From the Old Testament

1 Kings 3:3-14

p. 302 pew Bible

Hear what the Word is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

How Do We Find Wisdom

Rev. Sue Leary

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 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

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!**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

**O God, just as we have been baptized by your Spirit into one
body, we have brought together these gifts to testify to your
faithfulness toward people in every time, nation, and language.
Please bless our offering of thanksgiving in Jesus' name. Amen.**

***PARTING HYMN**

O Day of God, Draw Near
No. 611 *New Century Hymnal*

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

***We wish to apologize for not listing her name earlier,
and thank Anne Gerst for playing while Leon was away.***

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.

Ice Cream Social | Today after Worship!

Our Ice Cream Social will follow worship. Parish Life is taking care of the ice cream. **Just bring yourselves!**

Summer Schedules

Pastor Dave – On Sabbatical – Will return on September 9

Debbie Tolstoi – Away September 2 thru September 4

Chip Isringhaus – Away August 19 thru August 23

Pastor Marty – Away from August 14 thru August 29 – Marty will be unavailable by phone or email while away. For pastoral care emergencies, call Doug Barton at 314-398-7623. All other matters call the church office.

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!

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.

Cultivating A Multicultural Community

A free seminar led by Culture Coach,

Author and Musician Nikki Lerner

Webster Hills United Methodist Church

Saturday, August 24 | 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

New Display!

On your way to Memorial Hall for coffee be sure to enjoy the latest display. Well known to children, a need to know for adults, Minions have hit the big screen with a new movie and invaded our display case at First Congregational. This delightful display is made possible by Brenda Wile and Sharon Love. Enjoy!

Autumn Potluck

September 8, After Worship

Why did the chicken cross the road?

Because it was free range....(groan).

We don't know if King Edward's chicken is free range, but we know it is delicious! Please join us for the Autumn Potluck Dinner following worship on Sept. 8. Everyone is invited to bring something good to share...casserole, dessert, salad, etc. But remember no nuts, coconut, no peanut butter. Come ready to welcome the Fall!

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 18

Backpack Blessing & Ice Cream Social

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

Monday, August 19

7:00PM Executive Ministry – Zoom

Tuesday, August 20

10:30AM Staff Meeting – Church Office

Wednesday, August 21

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Sunday, August 25

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship/**Ice Cream Social**

Sunday, September 8

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Autumn Potluck Lunch!



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

Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton
iyell4@aol.com

Pastor – Rev. Marty Black
Marty.Black@FirstChurchWG.org

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi
Admin@FirstChurchWG.org

Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt
Johari.Hunt@FirstChurchWG.org

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke
Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus
ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org

Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn
Events@FirstChurchWG.org

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
laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I
lesrhs@sbcglobal.net

THE VISION of First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, United Church of Christ, is to be a dynamic Christian community expressing God's love, hope, joy, and peace for all people.

OUR MISSION is to provide:

- Worship that praises God
- Shows commitment to the teachings of Jesus
- Celebrates the Holy Spirit in ways that express the diversity of our experiences
- Encourage spiritual growth and commitment
- Educational activities that promote faith and intellectual growth for children and for adults.
- Advocacy and care for those in need in our community and throughout the world.
- Community that seeks justice, loves kindness, and walks humbly.
- Hope, love, and encouragement to all who seek our support.
- Grace and forgiveness for ourselves and all who seek the ministries we share in worship, music, and fellowship with others on life's journey.

Strategic Planning Committee – 13 November, 2019
Approved by Executive Ministry - 25 November, 2019

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Facebook

www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/firstchurchwg/>

YouTube

<https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-yt>

