

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

AUGUST 25, 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.*

do justice

love
kindness

walk
humbly
with your God

MICAH 6:8

Order of Worship

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

“Stop trusting that the arc of the moral universe will simply bend toward justice—and decide to be arc benders.”

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Roger Barnes, *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 (Responsive)

Words by Ann Weems

In caring and compassion, God’s arms hold us when we are weak.

With ideas and inspiration, God pushes us to grow and thrive,

With divine generosity, God shares all creation with us.

God calls us as partners to build a world of joy and hope.

Let us join our hearts, hands, and voices with people the world over in praise, Thanksgiving, and commitment to our one, our wondrous God.

*GATHERING HYMN

Lead Us From Death to Life
No. 581 – *New Century Hymnal*

*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.

RITUAL OF APPROACH (Responsive)

Invitation

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God, sometimes bad things happen to good people and we don’t like it. And sometimes good things happen to bad people, and we don’t like that either. The corrupt don’t pay for their corruption... widows and orphans do, stockholders and taxpayers do. Virtue has few visible rewards, and we are tempted to conclude that dishonesty pays better. Dear God, save us, lest we buy the lie. Save us before we endanger our hearts and imperil our souls. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

**Time for Personal Confessions*

**Assurance of Pardon*

*SUNG RESPONSE

Gathered Here
No. 742 – *New Century Hymnal*

Phil Porter

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

<i>From the Scriptures</i>	Deuteronomy 27:19 Micah 6:6-8	p. 181 pew Bible p. 850 pew Bible
<i>From the Gospels</i>	Matthew 20:1-16	p. 897 pew Bible

Hear what the Word is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Living Justice

Rev. Janice Barnes

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Let Justice Flow Like Streams
No. 588 – *New Century Hymnal*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Inviting the Joys and Concerns of the People

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

Our Father, Mother God who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is 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)*

**God, we bring these gifts—a portion of our lives,
And in this offering find ourselves not lessened, but newly
Worthy, truly wealthy and deeply blessed. Amen**

***PARTING MUSIC**

Everyone Working for Justice
If I Had a Hammer
(Words next page)

***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.

If I Had a Hammer

If I had a hammer
I'd hammer in the morning
I'd hammer in the evening
All Over this land
I'd hammer out danger
I'd hammer out warning
I'd hammer out love between my brothers and my sisters ah-ahh
All over this land

If I had a bell
I'd ring it in the morning
I'd ring it in the evening
All Over this land
I'd ring out danger

I'd ring out warning
I'd ring out love between my brothers and my sisters ah-aaah
All Over this land

If I had a song
I'd sing it in the morning
I'd sing it in the evening
All over this land
I'd sing out danger
I'd sing out warning
I'd sing out love between my brothers and my sisters ah-aaah
All over this land

I got a hammer
And I got a bell
I got a song to sing
All over this land
It's the hammer of justice
It's the bell of freedom
It's the song about love between
My brothers and my sisters
All over this land
All over this land
All over this land
All over this land
All over this land

Pete Seeger, 1955 (You may know this as hit cover by Peter, Paul and Mary)

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.

Summer Schedules

Pastor Dave – On Sabbatical – Will return on September 9

Debbie Tolstoi – Away September 2 thru September 4

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.

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!

Canterbury Bells and Choir to Start Practice!

September 5

Bells will start their practice at 6:00PM in the Sanctuary
The Chancel Choir will meet in the Choir Room on the Second floor at 7:30PM
Everyone welcome!

GET READY FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS!

**Churches Together for Justice invites you to
two community-wide informational Town Hall Meetings!**
These town halls are Moderated by the League of Women Voters

(Doors for both town halls open at 2:45 p.m.

There will be Informal Conversation and Light Refreshments at 4 p.m)

Missouri Secretary of State Candidates

Sunday, September 8, 2024 from 3 - 4 p.m.

Webster United Methodist Church | 600 N. Bompert | Webster Groves, MO 63119

For more information, contact Carolyn Redmore at Credmore@aol.com

Invited Candidates:

Democrat: Barbara Phifer • Libertarian: Carl Herman Freese • Republican: Denny Hoskins

Missouri Attorney General Candidates

Sunday, September 22, 2024 from 3 - 4 p.m.

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church | 45 W. Lockwood | Webster Groves, MO 63119

Julie Burchett Burchett.juliekay@gmail.com

Invited Candidates:

Democrat: Elad Gross • Libertarian: Ryan Munro • Republican: Andrew Bailey

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!

August 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

September Shopping List

Beef Stew • Canned Carrots (low or no salt) • Canned Fruit in own juices

Cornbread Mix (no eggs) • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk

Toothbrushes • Toothpaste • Dental Floss

Remaining August Birthday

John Claggett August 30

September Birthdays

Laura Cooper	September 3	Jane Porchey	September 24
Bob Moody	September 4	BJ Kaul	September 25
Bob Borutta	September 5	Phil Roush	September 25
Doug Miller	September 6	Kedra Tolson	September 26
Johari Hunt	September 9	Jan Aerie	September 28
Nancy Rudolph	September 13	Jennifer Gomez	September 28
Chip Isringhaus	September 14	Lynn Hoganson	September 28
Mark Cereghino	September 20	Beatrice Byrne	September 29
Debbie Tolstoi	September 20		

What's Happening at First Church

Sunday, August 25

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

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

Wednesday, August 28

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Sunday, September 1

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

Monday, September 2

Labor Day – Office Closed

Tuesday, September 3

1:00PM Communications Team – Church Office

Wednesday, September 4

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

10:30PM Staff Meeting – Church Office

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Thursday, September 5

6:00PM Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir – Choir Room

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

Follow us on

Facebook

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Instagram

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

YouTube

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

