

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024



Be
Doers
of the *Word...*

*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

Joan Musbach, *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**)

Leader: Jesus traveled many places.

People: In some places he was welcomed. In others, he was not.

Leader: Yet in all places, Jesus tried to make others feel welcome.

People: Jesus seldom missed a chance to tell someone that they were a beloved child of God.

Leader: And so, in Jesus' name we welcome all of you here.

People: All of us – beloved children of God.

Leader: When we welcome one another, indeed we welcome Jesus the Christ into our midst.

People: Gathered as community in Christ, let us worship God.

*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 Sing the Mighty Power of God
No. 12 – New Century Hymnal

RITUAL OF APPROACH

Invitation

Prayer of Confession - responsive

Leader: When we say one thing and do another,

People: O God Forgive us.

Leader: When we know the truth but do not act on it,

People: O God Forgive us.

Leader: When we fail to notice the overwhelming love you have for all your creation, and all your people.

People: O God Forgive us.

Leader: When we are quick to speak and slow to listen,

All: O God Forgive us. Amen.

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

From the Epistles

James 1:17-27

p. 1100 pew Bible

From the Gospels

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

p. 917 pew Bible

Response:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Be Doers of the Word

Pastor Marty

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.**

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!**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Through our offerings, Caring God, may we identify with the
cause of Christ. May we proclaim our concern for all people.
And name them as our own next of kin. May we identify with
their suffering and grief and rejoice when good comes to them.
Our personal resources and our time and effort are offered
here to extend the body of Christ into this moment in history
and into the whole world. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Pastor Marty

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 God thanks and praise.

We praise and thank you, God . . .

Words of Institution

Prayer of Our Savior

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.*

Special Music

Panis Angelicus

Neil Hoffsten

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**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

No. 495 – 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.

Summer Vacations

Debbie Tolstoi – Away on August 31 thru September 4

Pastor Dave – On Sabbatical – Will return on September 9

Canterbury Bells and Choir to Start Practice on 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!

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 next Sunday, September**

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!**

Lady Elect's September Potluck Dinner

Lady Elect will kick off its new program year with a potluck dinner on Tuesday, September 24.

Happy hour starts at 6 PM, followed by the potluck dinner and meeting at 6:30. Monthly programs and dates will be discussed. All the women of the church are invited! Please RSVP to

Marilyn Barton at marilyn665@gmail.com

Save the Date...

It's Vehicle Fair Time!

September 28th from 9 AM to 12 PM

We need volunteers for this free, family-oriented, community-loving event.

Please sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/fccwg-trucks>, or in the office after church.

Stay tuned for details about the Vehicle Fair in next week's Covenant News.

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!

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

Help End Hunger at Home and Abroad

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD

2024 CROP HUNGER WALKS

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Join the CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk, stepping off at 2 PM on Sunday, September 29 from Eden Seminary – or sponsor our church's team. 75% of the funds raised go to the relief and development work of Church World Service; 25% stay in St. Louis with groups like Webster-Rock Hill Ministries. For more information, to sign up, or to sponsor someone online, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/crop-walk-fccwg>

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 cdredmore@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

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, 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

www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG/

Instagram

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

YouTube

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

