

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



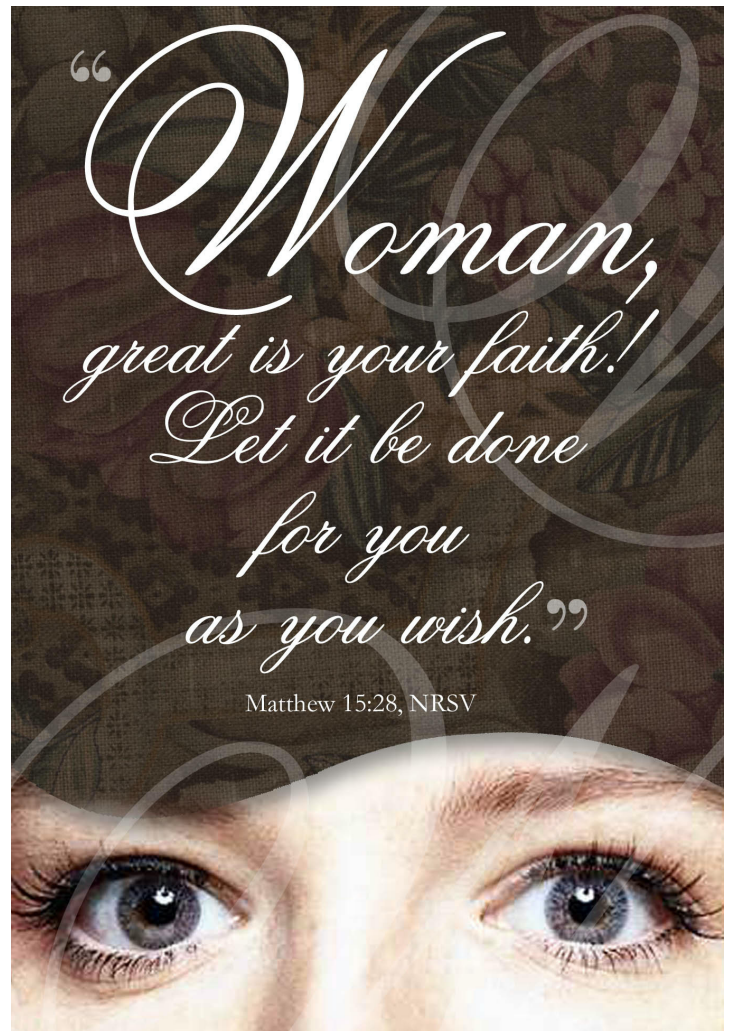
Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SEPTEMBER 8, 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 "Sweet Hour of Prayer" arranged by Dale Wood

WELCOME Mark Edwards, *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**)

Valued without distinction and called without favor:

We gather in the love of God.

Invited to places of deep change and entrusted with lives of grace:

We gather in the compassion of Christ.

Encouraged to be authentic and inspired to make a difference:

We gather in the power of the Spirit.

Let us worship in Spirit and in Truth!

***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**

"Morning has Broken"
Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #38

Eleanor Farjeon

RITUAL OF APPROACH

Invitation

Prayer of Confession (Responsive)

So often, God, we know the theory, so often we mouth (and sing) words of inclusion, compassion, and "justice for all." Yet the reality remains, and our confession rings true.

It is truly a difficult thing to love our neighbors as they really are; to feel as they may feel, to put ourselves in their shoes.

We pray for hearts open to gradual and yet genuine change.

May the encounters we seek and the trust we help create bring us to deeper understandings of ourselves and the others who inhabit the world of your making.

May there be peace in our restlessness and justice in our unease.

May there be peace in our time, O God. May there be justice in our time. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**Words of Assurance*

Friends, hear the good news; the Spirit of God is at work bringing about the peace and healing we so desire. Open and attentive to the Spirit's life-giving ways, we are a forgiven and free people.

Thank be to God! Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Gathered Here
No. 742 — *New Century Hymnal*

Phil Porter

Gathered here in the mystery of this hour.
Gathered here in one strong body.
Gathered here in the struggle and the power.
Spirit draw near.

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 Gospels

Mark 7:24 -30

p. 917 pew Bible

Response:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY *"What Jesus might be saying to us"*

Rev. Marty Black

Narrative reading from *"Present on Earth"* pages 99-103

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MUSICAL RESPONSE *"Jesus You're the Center of my Joy"*

Richard Smallwood

Chancel Choir

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Marty Black

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayer of the Day

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.

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**

Source of all goodness and compassion, move us this day to be generous in our giving and care. May we not hold back in fear or self-protection but give so that others might find renewed meaning and hope in this life, in this time. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

"Gather Us In"
(Following Pages)

Marty Haugen

BENEDICTION

WORDS OF PARTING

Our worship has ended.
Let our service begin.

POSTLUDE

"Marche"

Lefe'bure Wely

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.

Autumn Potluck Dinner

Be sure to join us today for the **Autumn Potluck Dinner following worship!**

Gather Us In

Unison D A C G Gm/B \flat Dm

1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, sha-dows of doubt are
 2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
 3. Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
 4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

C G D A C G

van-ished a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

Gm/B \flat Dm C Am7 D

brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

A C/G D/F# G A C/G

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in— the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in— the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pass-ion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and

D/F# G A D A C G

spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,

Gm/Bb Dm C Am7 D C/D Gm/D D

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

How to Handle a Worrisome or Concerning Visitor

Coming September 22, 2024 at 11:20

First Friends will be engaged in a discussion program. The hope is that we as a congregation will consistently fulfill our promise to welcome all in the journey. Please plan to join us in this important and hopefully intriguing conversation. Questions or comments welcome, Linda Kopetti

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 marilynb665@gmail.com

22nd Annual Jazz & Blues Festival

The longest running Jazz Festival in St. Louis.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 21st.

Live Music Venue

117 West Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, MO, United States, Missouri

(314) 591-0227

oldwebsterjazz@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/oldwebsterjazzblues>

(First Church and 10 West Lockwood are Members of the Old Webster Trade Association.)

4th Annual Vehicle Fair

Saturday, September 28th from 9 AM to 12 PM

We are hosting our 4th Annual Vehicle Fair on the east parking lot on Saturday, September 28th, from 9 AM to 12 PM. Please bring the preschoolers/elementary kiddos in your life to the Elm and Lockwood parking lot for a morning of exploring all their favorite vehicles up close! This free event will allow kids to climb into a firetruck, see the inside of an ambulance (no injury necessary!), ride on a train driven by the Jolly Old St. Nick—Santa Claus, and so much more. Santa Claus is coming out of his vacation for one day only. New this year...we will have a huge bounce house inflatable Fire Engine. There will be an ice cream truck on-site selling everyone's favorite treats. The church will provide complimentary coffee and water. Please park in the Gore Ave parking lot. Bring your kids, grandkids, nieces, and nephews—there is no cost to attend. We need volunteers for this free, family-oriented, community-loving event. **Please sign up in the office after church.**

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 8

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Autumn Potluck Lunch!

Tuesday, September 10

10:30PM Staff Meeting – Church Office

Wednesday, September 11

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Thursday, September 12

6:00PM Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir – Choir Room

Sunday, September 15

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

11:20AM Peace & Justice Committee – Library

Game Nite 2024

A “very” competitive game night ensued at the Edwards’ home, and the Sergeant of Arms was called upon to issue some warnings regarding a bit of “attempted” foul play!



There were winners, there were losers, and there were “exceptionally average” contestants. But all went home still friends in helping to “fun”d our Benevolences!



GAME NIGHT
August 21, 2024



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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Instagram

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

YouTube

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

