

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024  
JUST PEACE SUNDAY

**JUST  
PEACE**  
SUNDAY 9.15.2024

## Things That Make For Peace

*“As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, ‘If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.’”*

*Luke 19:41*



*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

*Crisis*

Freddie Hubbard

### WELCOME

Laura Cooper, *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 OF THE BELL

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Inspired by Psalm 116

Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

**We love the Holy One, who has heard our cry, responds to our prayers, and abides with us through our distress.**

Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

**We praise the Righteous One, who protects, provides, and prepares their people.**

Call upon the Holy One, who is gracious and merciful.

**We worship the Radiant One, who shines before us in the land of the living.**

### INTROIT

*Give Me a Clean Heart*

Margaret J. Douroux

### \*RAISING THE COVENANT (Unison)

**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.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

*What a Friend*

Joseph Scriven

No. 506 – *New Century Hymnal*

### RITUAL OF APPROACH

*Invitation to Confession*

*Silence for Personal Confession* (about 30 seconds)

*Prayer of Confession* (Unison)

**Loving God, we confess that you are a God of transformation and a solid rock. We strive to be like trees planted by the water, steadfast and unmovable and at the same time embracing your continuing creative acts in the world and in our lives. We struggle at times to know when to remain firm and when to progress forward. Infuse us with your wisdom and discernment, along with courage and grace to be fully who you have created us to be. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance*

*Singing God's Glory*

*What a Wonderful World*

Thiele / Weiss

**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**

Mark 8:27-38  
(Common English Bible)

Pew Bible, p. 919

*Response.*

Liturgist: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

*"Going with Jesus (Really?)"* Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**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: TALLIS' CANON

H. W. Greatorex

**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 (Unison)*

**Generous God, may the gifts we offer honor your name and your generous Spirit alive within us. We thank you for the opportunity and privilege of contributing to your kindom and our world. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*By Gracious Powers*

based on words of  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.  
**People: Let our service begin.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

Traditional

*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.*

**Our thanks to the members of the Oikos Jazz Ensemble** for their participation in the leadership of worship today. They are **Kim Fuller-Barnes**, vocals; **Carolbeth True**, piano; **Glen Smith**, bass; **David True**, percussion; **Tim Osiek**, trumpet; and Rev. **Cliff Aerie**, saxophone.

The Oikos Jazz Ensemble is an outreach of our Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA). MICA takes part in Sunday morning jazz worship, six times a year, and conducts two seasonal programs – Jazz Noel and Good Friday Blues – in addition to other occasional performances. If you would like to support, please do so with

- a cash offering (in an envelope on which you have written, “MICA”),
- a check made payable to the church with “MICA” written in the memo line, or
- a contribution on the Donate page of our website (select “MICA” in the pull-down menu.

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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](https://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 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 [marilyn665@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn665@gmail.com)

## **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jazz & Blues Festival**

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 28<sup>th</sup> 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**

**The second of two community-wide informational Town Hall Meetings,  
moderated by the League of Women Voters**

(Doors open at 2:45 p.m. There will be Informal Conversation and Light Refreshments at 4 pm)

### **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](mailto:burchett.juliekay@gmail.com)**

### **Invited Candidates:**

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

## September Birthdays

Laura Cooper	September 3	Elaine Coe	September 22
Bob Moody	September 4	Jane Porchey	September 24
Bob Borutta	September 5	BJ Kaul	September 25
Doug Miller	September 6	Phil Roush	September 25
Johari Hunt	September 9	Kedra Tolson	September 26
Nancy Rudolph	September 13	Jan Aerie	September 28
Chip Isringhaus	September 14	Jennifer Gomez	September 28
Mark Cereghino	September 20	Lynn Hoganson	September 28
Debbie Tolstoi	September 20	Beatrice Byrne	September 29

## What's Happening at First Church

### 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

### Monday, September 16

**7:00PM** Executive Ministry – Zoom

### Tuesday, September 17

**10:30PM** Staff Meeting – Church Office

**7:00PM** Stewardship Committee – Parlor

### Wednesday, September 18

**9:30AM** Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

**6:00PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

### Thursday, September 19

**6:00PM** Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir – Choir Room

### Sunday, September 22

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:05AM** Coffee

**11:20AM** First Friends Enrichment Session – Inglis Room



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
[www.FirstChurchWG.org](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton  
[iyell4@aol.com](mailto:iyell4@aol.com)

Pastor – Rev. Marty Black  
[Marty.Black@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Marty.Black@FirstChurchWG.org)

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi  
[Admin@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Admin@FirstChurchWG.org)

Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt  
[Johari.Hunt@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Johari.Hunt@FirstChurchWG.org)

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
[Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org)

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
[ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org)

Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn  
[Events@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Events@FirstChurchWG.org)

Custodian & AV Tech – Mark Metcalf  
[mark.metcalf@firstchurchwg.org](mailto: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](mailto:cliff.aerie@gmail.com)

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry  
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes  
[laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:laurel.hayes@sbcglobal.net)

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing  
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I  
[lesrhs@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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
  - ◊ Encourages 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

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

