

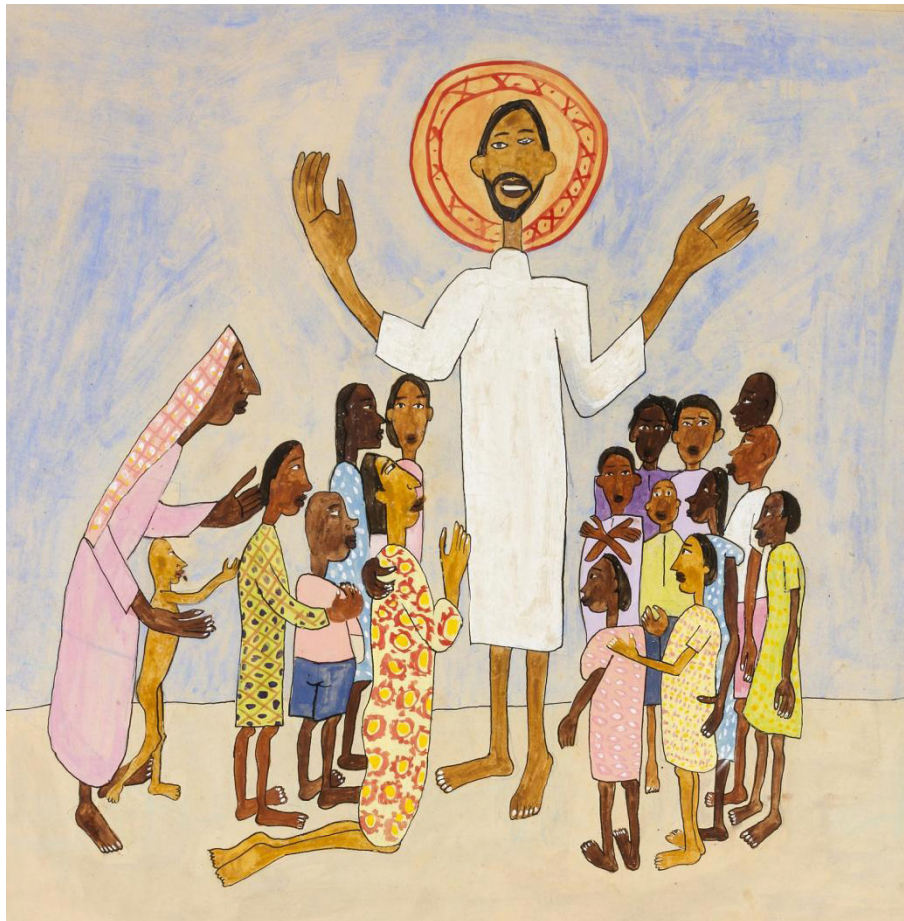
Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SEPTEMBER 22, 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

Andrea Welnick, *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 (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

inspired by Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

**But their delight is in law our God has spoken, and on
God's law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do they prosper... for the Sovereign One watches over the way of the righteous.

**Here and now, let us worship. For when we draw near to
God, God draws near to us.**

*RAISING THE COVENANT (Unison)

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.**

*OPENING HYMN

Simple Gifts

Shaker Song

*After we sing the words through once, the Pastor will teach some
movements and dance steps like those the Shakers would have used.*

Worshippers are encouraged to participate as they feel comfortable doing (or not).

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be.
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
But to turn, turn will be our delight,
'Til by turning, turning we come round right.

*RITUAL OF APPROACH

**Invitation to Confession*

**Silence for Personal Confession*

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)*

You who taught us first to love, we confess the lack of love we sometimes have practiced as a society and as individuals. Even in this growingly enlightened time, we are prone to discriminate against those who do not look like us, sound like us, behave like us, or think like us. We will exercise what power we have, and exert it over others, rather than use it for the benefit of the common good and your way of blessing. Transform our hearts, we ask, so that we may recognize you as the source of true power. Guide us so that we embrace goodness and demonstrate it. Make us your agents of new life and love in Christ. Amen.

**Words of Assurance*

**Singing God's Glory* *Glory to God in the Highest* Tune: GLORIA (HAAS)

The congregation repeats each line of the following after the Minister:

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory in the highest!

To God be glory forever!

Next, the Minister leads the congregation in harmonizing the following:

Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY "Like a Child" Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

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 9:30-37
(Common English Bible)

Pew Bible, p. 920

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"A Happy Childhood"

Rev. Denoon

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer *Nada Te Turbe / Nothing Can Trouble* 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 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

H. W. Greatorex

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* (Unison)

**Gracious God, we give you thanks for all the gifts we receive
from you and pray you receive our gifts for the advancement of
your way in the world. May what we give be a blessing upon our
extended community nearby and abroad. Amen.**

***PARTING HYMN**

Surely No One Can Be Safer
No. 487 – *New Century Hymnal*

Lina Sandell

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.
People: 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.

The Call to Worship, Ritual of Approach, and Prayer of Dedication are based on prayers written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

Our cover art is “Come Unto Me, Little Children,” watercolor by William H. Johnson (1901-1970), ca. 1944. It is in the collection of the Museum of American Art, Washington, DC.

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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.



First Friends Enrichment Session

TODAY at 11:20, Inglis Room

The First Friends will be engaged in a discussion about finding the balance between extravagant welcome and safety. All are welcome to participate in this important and 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 in the Inglis Room, 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

4th Annual Vehicle Fair

Saturday, September 28th from 9 AM to 12 PM

Bring your kids, grandkids, nieces, and nephews—there is no cost to attend this vehicle fair at 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. *We need volunteers for this free, family-oriented, community-loving event. Please sign up in the office after church.*

Help End Hunger at Home and Abroad

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD – 2024 CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Sunday, September 29 at 2:00PM (1:30PM Registration)

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
an informational Town Hall Meeting, moderated by the League of Women Voters
TODAY, September 22, 2024 from 3 - 4 p.m

(Doors open at 2:45 p.m. There will be Informal Conversation and Light Refreshments at 4 pm)
Webster Groves Presbyterian Church | 45 W. Lockwood | Webster Groves, MO 63119

Julie Burchett burchett.juliekay@gmail.com

Missouri Attorney General Candidates

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

**Blessing of the Animals
All Species Worship!**

Sunday, September 29 at 10AM

West Side of the Building • Gore Avenue Parking Lot

This is an outdoor event – weather permitting.

If it rains, worship will be in Memorial Hall with all species welcome.

Please bring pets on a leash or in a carrier.

Coffee & refreshments will be served

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

First Saturday Drive Through Collection

October 5, 2024, 9-12 am

We will be conducting a collection for Walbridge STEAM Academy located in the Walnut Park East neighborhood of St. Louis. Walbridge creates a safe haven and quality education to meet each students' academic and emotional needs, and also collects and distributes essential items for families in a severely financially challenged community. We will be collecting the following for them: Diapers of all sizes • Underwear & clothing, sizes 3T to Adult XL • Coats, gloves, etc. for cold weather, and • Non-perishable food. (All clothing needs to be NEW IN-PACKAGE, please.) The signup list for volunteers to help with the collection will be available soon. ***If you are able to contribute, please give generously, as the need is great!***

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

Gateway ONA's Annual Drag Queen Bingo

October 12, 2024

Doors open at 6:00PM and the Games start at 6:30PM

Drag Queen Bingo, benefiting Gateway Open and Affirming (ONA) ministries, is an annual event we have often hosted at First Church. GONA invites us to **donate items (especially themed collections of items)** that can go into the silent auction portion of the event. Income from the silent auction will go to scholarships to help local people in the LGBTQIA+ community to attend General Synod, next July in Kansas City. Please go to www.gatewayona.com for more information, to make a donation, or to register. Registration is \$25 (this covers our transaction fees), and each participant will receive five (5) Bingo cards by email. You should receive a confirmation email that your registration was successful, but please check your spam folder, just in case!

What's Happening at First Church

Sunday, September 22

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

11:20AM First Friends Enrichment Session – Inglis Room

Tuesday, September 24

10:30PM Staff Meeting – Church Office

6:00PM Lady Elect Potluck – Inglis Room

Wednesday, September 25

9:30AM ~~NO~~ Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Thursday, September 26

6:00PM Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir – Choir Room

Saturday, September 28

9:00AM – Noon Vehicle Fair

Sunday, September 29

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM All Species Worship – West Parking Lot

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

2:00PM CROP Walk – Eden Seminary – Registration at 1:30PM



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
 - ◇ 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

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YouTube

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

