

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

OCTOBER 6, 2024

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

“NEIGHBORS IN NEED” SPECIAL OFFERING



*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

Prelude in B-Flat Minor
from *The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1*
Neil Hoffsten, Piano

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

*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**)

based on Psalm 85

Let us hear what the holy One will speak, for God will speak peace to the people, to the faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

**Surely salvation is at hand for those who revere the holy One,
that God's glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and
righteousness will look down from the sky.**

The holy One will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

**Restore us again, O God of our salvation, show us your
steadfast love!**

*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

As Man and Woman We Were Made

Brian Wren

Tune: SUSSEX CAROL

As man and woman we were made that love be found and life begun:
The likeness of the living God, unique, yet called to live as one.
Through joy or sadness, calm or strife, come, praise the love that gives us life.

Now Jesus lived and gave his love to make our life and loving new
So celebrate with him today and drink the joy he offers you
That makes the simple moment shine and changes water into wine.

And Jesus died to live again, so praise the love that, come what may,
Can bring the dawn and clear the skies, and waits to wipe all tears away
And let us hope for what shall be believing where we cannot see.

Then spread the table, clear the hall and celebrate till day is done;
Let peace go deep between us all and joy be shared by everyone:
Laugh and make merry with your friends and praise the love that never ends!

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

**Invitation to Confession*

**Silence for Personal Confession*

**Prayer of Approach (Unison)*

Creator God, you have made us your children. Come and be among us as our Parent. Come, teach us. Come, lead us. Then we may understand and love you more deeply. We have sometimes been tempted to think that you are the cause of bad times, or that you have been powerless to stop them. But your power and your promises are never-ending and true. Forgive us for those times when our doubt has prevented our faith. Then, create in us a faith so strong that we can honestly confront you and learn from you. Help us so to grow in faith, that we may not sin with our lips or in our hearts, but may come to new and fruitful understandings of who and how you are in our lives; in Jesus' name. 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

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

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Pew Bible, p. 1089

From the Gospels

Mark 10:10a, 13-16

p. 921

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Refreshing Salvation"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

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. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

Creator God who makes us many and makes us one, here we combine our many gifts into one. Bless them, we pray, that they may pass into your creation to the many, to the end that all the world may become one in you, in Christ's name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE

**We Lift Our Joys and Concerns*

**Invitation*

**Great Thanksgiving*

**Sanctus (Unison)*

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God most high. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest!

Fraction

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.

Distribution (Responsive)

Christ is our Passover.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

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 (Unison)*

Bread of heaven, Cup of salvation, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Blessed Be Children

R. Bruxvoort Colligan

Tune: BUNESSAN

Blessed be children, fruit of the world's love
Blessed be faces turned to the sky
Grow in us wonder as in a child's face
Gift us with love for hows and for whys

Open to find love, tender as waking
Open to friendship, eager to play
Grow in us wonder as in a child's heart
Gift us with loving, tender as rain

Blessed be grown-ups, fruit of the world's love
Welcome as children in tender arms
Grow in us wonder as in a child's life
Gift us with life in wondering love

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Henry Purcell

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.

Today’s **Cover Art** is “Jesus Welcoming the Children,” woodcut by Cara Hochhalter, 2019. The Rev. Cara B. Hochhalter is a United Church of Christ (UCC) minister. She received her Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in Minnesota, where she studied the intersections of art, theology and justice. She served the Charlemont Federated Church in Massachusetts for ten years and now lives in Hyde Park, New York. The image on our cover is in her book, *A Challenging Peace in the Life and Stories of Jesus*, and was downloaded from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN (<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>).

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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.



Available today!

The LISTEN Everywhere Hearing-Assisted System (and more)

We (but especially our A/V Tech Mark Metcalf) excitedly announce the LISTEN Everywhere WiFi hearing-assisted listening system at First Congregational Church! With LISTEN, those of us with in-ear listening devices, such as hearing aids and stage monitors connected to our mobile phones, can listen to what’s going on in the sanctuary without wearing a separate hearing device. **Simply download the LISTEN WiFi App from the App Store or the Google Play Store** and connect to our wi-fi system (fccwg1) for a wonderful, new audio experience.

BUT WAIT! THERE’S MORE: The sound system in our sanctuary also has been reconfigured so that our headset-based hearing-assisted system (Sennheiser) as well as the new LISTEN WiFi system both enjoy the same full-audio experience of our livestream feed. Sennheiser headsets are available for use on the table by the Conference Room. For more information, contact Mark at Mark.Metcalf@FirstChurchWG.org

**Prospect Conversation:
“Jesus Has Left the Building”
October 20 at 11:20AM
Memorial Hall**

“Jesus Has Left the Building” is an outreach program conducted seasonally by churches across America. Worshipers arrive on a Sunday morning for prayer and singing, and then either stay at the church for an in-house project (e.g., preparing layettes for newborns or stuffing lunch sacks for a hunger ministry) or leave the building for an offsite project (e.g., yard cleanup or home improvement for underserved people). Projects would be expansive enough that anyone who wants to participate can, regardless of age or physical limitation. The Peace & Justice Team leads this discussion about whether “Jesus Has Left the Building” might be a prospect for our faith community.

**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 fund scholarships to help local people in the LGBTQIA+ community to attend General Synod, next July in Kansas City. Go to www.gatewayona.com for more information, to make a donation, or to register. Registration is \$25 per person. You should receive a confirmation email that your registration was successful, but please check your spam folder, just in case!

October Birthdays

Joyce Haynes-McCowan	October 3
Kathy Weyhrich	October 3
Linda Smith	October 5
Patrick Byrne	October 7
Rod Cooper	October 10
Emily Polaske	October 16
Marilyn Claggett	October 18
Judy James	October 19
Elston McCowan	October 24
Braeden Hood	October 29
David Denoon	October 30

Fresh Pecans Arriving in November

Two cases (48 bags) of the fresh mammoth pecans have been ordered and should arrive in early November. They will be here in time for holiday baking. Get those recipes together! They will once again be \$15 per bag. Thank you! Debbie

October “Meal-a-Month” Shopping List

Canned Chicken & Dumplings (low salt) • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)
Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Whole Wheat Flour • Peanut Butter • Real Fruit Jelly • Dried Fruits

What's Happening at First Church

Sunday, October 6

**Sacrament of Christ's Table
World Communion Sunday**

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM WORSHIP

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

Monday, October 7

7:00PM Scout Troops 301 – Dickens Room

Tuesday, October 8

10:30PM Staff Meeting – Church Office

Wednesday, October 9

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Thursday, October 10

6:00PM Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir – Sanctuary

Saturday, October 12

9:30AM Lady Elect Kitchen Cleanup

Sunday, October 13

Accessibility and Disabilities Awareness Week

Sunday before Indigenous Peoples Day

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM WORSHIP

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

11:20AM Adult Education:

State Ballot Initiatives with Johari Hunt

Possibly the newest Missourian among us introduces other registered voters and friends to the ballot initiatives that will be appearing on the November 5 ballot!



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Onyeka Igboanuzue

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

