

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ

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

OCTOBER 20, 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** *Psalm 150* Benedetto Marcello

**WELCOME** Sharon Love, *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**) based on Psalm 104  
Bless the HOLY ONE!

**Our God is very great – clothed with honor and majesty,  
wrapped in light as with a garment.**

The heavens spread out like a tent, the beams of God's chambers are on the waters, the clouds like a chariot riding on the wings of the wind.

**God has set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never  
be shaken.**

The works of our God are manifold! In wisdom have all of them been made; the earth is full of God's creatures.

**We will praise our God!**

**\*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** *God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* Catherine Cameron  
No. 556 – *New Century Hymnal*

**\*RITUAL OF APPROACH**

*\*Invitation to Confession* inspired by Hebrews 5:1-10

High priests offer to God people's gifts and sacrifices for sins.

**They deal gently those whose understanding is weak or who  
have been led astray, because are human, like them.**

They don't assume the honor of priesthood by their own choice, but only when they have been called by God.

**And Christ is our high priest, whom God called and perfected  
so that he might become the source of eternal salvation.**

*\*Silence for Personal Confession*

*\*Prayer of Confession* (Unison)

**God creative and creating, in you have we come to be. But we have  
sometimes gotten things out of order, and have tried to make  
ourselves equal with you. Your knowledge is more than we can  
imagine. We may approach understandings of our world and how it  
works, but our attempts to comprehend your purposes aren't in the  
results. For our arrogance, for our ignorance, for our sin, forgive us.**

**Fully confident of your love and mercy, we come to you now. Form us into your image, but help us also to know our places in your creation. Amen.**

*\*Words of Assurance*

inspired by Hebrews 5:1-10

During his days on earth, Christ offered prayers and pleas with loud cries and tears serving as his sacrifices on our behalf.

**He was appointed by to God to be a high priest forever. He was heard because of his godly devotion. In Christ our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

*\*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 Gospels*

Mark 10:35-45

Pew Bible, p. 922

(Common English Bible)

*Response.*

For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us:

**Thanks be to God.**

**BELL ANTHEM**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

arr. Sondra K. Tucker

**MESSAGE**

*"O What You Ask!"*

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**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*

*Stewardship Moment*

Joan Musbach, *Stewardship Committee*

*Song of Praise*

*Doxology*

H. W. Greatorex

Tune: OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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)*

**Mighty God, in Christ you receive us as we truly are – humble and fragile, needful of your strength and courage to meet each new challenge. In thankfulness we offer to you our gifts, that they may extend your life-giving to the world. With your Spirit bless our offerings. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*Servant Song*

Richard Gillard

No. 539 – *New Century Hymnal*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*PARTING WORDS**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Song of Faith*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

*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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**New WiFi Connection!**

You may have noticed that there are new instructions for how to connect to the internet using wifi. Security concerns have made it necessary for us to ask our members and friends no longer to wirelessly access the internet using the fccwgl hub. *Please, ask your smart device to “forget” your familiar connection and login to our network using the “first\_church\_guest” connection and “firstguest” as your password. THANK YOU!*

**Assisted Listening Systems**

If you have an in-ear listening device connected to your mobile phone, such as hearing aids and stage monitors, you to 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 wifi system (first\_church\_guest + password “firstguest”). Headsets connected to our historic listening system are also available from the Narthex table. *If you need help connecting, please see one of A/V Techs at the table in the southeast corner of the sanctuary.*

**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 (and Pledge!) 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
- Scan the QR code.



## Prospect Conversation: “Jesus Has Left the Building”

**TODAY 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.

## Budget Meeting, October 27

**The Congregational Meeting to approve our operating budget for 2025 will take place after worship, NEXT SUNDAY, October 27.** Copies of the summary draft budget are available from the Narthex table and online at <https://bit.ly/2025-Draft-Budget>. If you would like to discuss the budget before next Sunday, please see any member of the Executive Ministry or the Pastor.

## Our Season of Giving Has Started. *Imagine Together!*

**November 17 will be Consecration Sunday.** On Consecration Sunday, we gather together to finalize our 2025 financial pledges to the Church and commit them prayerfully to God and one another. *Imagine Together* is the theme of this year’s invitation to commitment. As you anticipate filling out your pledge card or completing the online pledge form at [FirstChurchWG.org/donate](http://FirstChurchWG.org/donate), please be imagining all the good we can do together as a church. The Christian life is a life of giving, as we emulate God’s gifts to us. And although commitments of time and service are invaluable to our life as a faith community, committing from our income and assets enliven our ministries too. Please, consider “stepping up” your generosity in 2025, if you are able. **Then, don’t miss Consecration Sunday, November 17!** *That’s when, possibly best of all, we move from pie charts to pies: The Lady Elect Guild is planning a delicious menu of pies for after the service that day!*

## 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

## Lady Elect October Meeting

The next Lady Elect event will be held on Tuesday, October 22, at 11:00 in the kitchen and Memorial Hall. Judy Borutta will demonstrate making compound herbal butter. Each participant will take home a jar of the herbal butter, which can be frozen and used at Thanksgiving time. No supplies are necessary. So, bring a lunch and join us for the cooking demo. **RSVP to Marilyn Barton.**

## Get Out The Vote

On Saturday October 26, Sunday October 28, Saturday November 2, and Sunday November 3, Churches Together for Justice will be canvassing and phone-banking to residents in and around Webster Groves to Get Out The Vote (GOTV). There is also an important training session for GOTV participants before the canvassing dates. Notably, there will be no promotion of any particular position on any race, Amendment, or Proposition; this effort is only to get out the vote. If you are interested in participating, please contact Doug Miller to get the details.

## Please Opt-in to Texts with a “Yes”

On October 23, anyone who, in the last 30 days, has received a bulk text from the Church (from number 87447, with a message beginning “Breeze-fccwgstlmo:”) will be receiving a text inviting them to consent to receive text messages in this way. Being able to contact you in this way makes it possible for the Church to send important alerts and reminders. (The last such message sent was a reminder about the Pet Blessing on Sept 29.) Wireless carriers now require that a double opt-in occur before any texts are sent through the Breeze platform. This means that a member must indicate (written or verbally) their desire to receive texts, as well as reply to an automated text with “Yes” before any texts can be sent. We hope you’ll answer “Yes,” this Wednesday.

## Interfaith Partnership Dinner & Celebration

Interfaith Partnership has offered us 4 seats at the [Annual Dinner and Celebration](#) on the evening of Oct. 29th, beginning at 6:30pm, at the St. Louis University Wool Ballroom, 20 N. Grand Blvd. If you would like to attend, please contact the Pastor.

## Upcoming Events

### Trick-or-Treating Stop – October 26th

Join us for some tricks and treats in Old Webster from 3 to 5pm at our table on the corner of Lockwood and Gore! We will have some candy and games! This will be the 10th year for this event. Christian Education will be hosting this event on behalf of First Church.

## Election Collection on November 5

First Church will be hosting its first **Election Day Collection!** We will be collecting non-perishable food to benefit the St. Louis Area Food Bank and school supplies that for WRHM. The event will be held all day. Please see Chris von Weise if you would like to volunteer to help! **Spread the word about the Election Collection!**

## October Birthdays

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

## 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

## Gentle Reminders

- **Reimbursements** – Please fill out a check request form found on the door of the 10 West Lockwood room in the office.
- **Maintenance Repair/Requests** – Please fill out the building use form found on the door of the 10 West Lockwood room in the office (preferably not a staff member).
- **Doors, Windows and Lights** – When you exit the building, please be sure that all the windows are closed, the doors where you are leaving are pushed shut (including outside and office doors), and all the lights are off.
- **Umbrellas** – Umbrellas in the vestibule and coat room are there for your convenience. When you return the one you’ve borrowed, please make sure it is entirely retracted.
- **Garden Umbrellas** – Please feel free to open the umbrellas in the garden, but please wind them down when you leave.
- **Please do not leave dirty dishes in the sink in the office.**

## A Puzzle, Puzzle???

It's truly wonderful that so many people have donated their jigsaw puzzles for others to use, but... we have officially run out of room to take any more. There are a few boxes next to the shelf of puzzles. Please feel free use them to take some puzzles to your favorite charity or library. Thank you!

## What’s Happening at First Church

### Sunday, October 20

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM WORSHIP**

**10:15AM** Kids’ Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:20AM** “Jesus Has Left the Building” –  
Memorial Hall

### Monday, October 21

**7:00PM** Scout Troop 301 – Dickens  
Room

**7:00PM** Executive Ministry – Zoom

### Tuesday, October 22

**10:00AM** Lady Elect – Kitchen

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

### Wednesday, October 23

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

**6:00PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

### Thursday, October 24

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

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir – Sanctuary

### Saturday, October 26

**3:00PM – 5:00PM** Old Webster Trade  
Association’s Trick or Treat – (North Side of  
Church)

### Sunday, October 27

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM WORSHIP (Klezundheit!)**

**10:15AM** Kids’ Church

**11:05AM** Annual Budget Meeting

**11:20AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:25AM** Peace & Justice Meeting – Library



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. Dave Denoon  
[DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org)

Office Administrator – Debbie Tolstoi  
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Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt  
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Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
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Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
[ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org)

Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn  
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Custodian & AV Tech – Mark Metcalf  
[mark.metcalf@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:mark.metcalf@firstchurchwg.org)

Weekend & Events Custodians –  
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  
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Director, Center for Counseling & Healing  
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I  
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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.

## Follow us on

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YouTube

<https://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT>

