

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



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

NOVEMBER 10, 2024

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

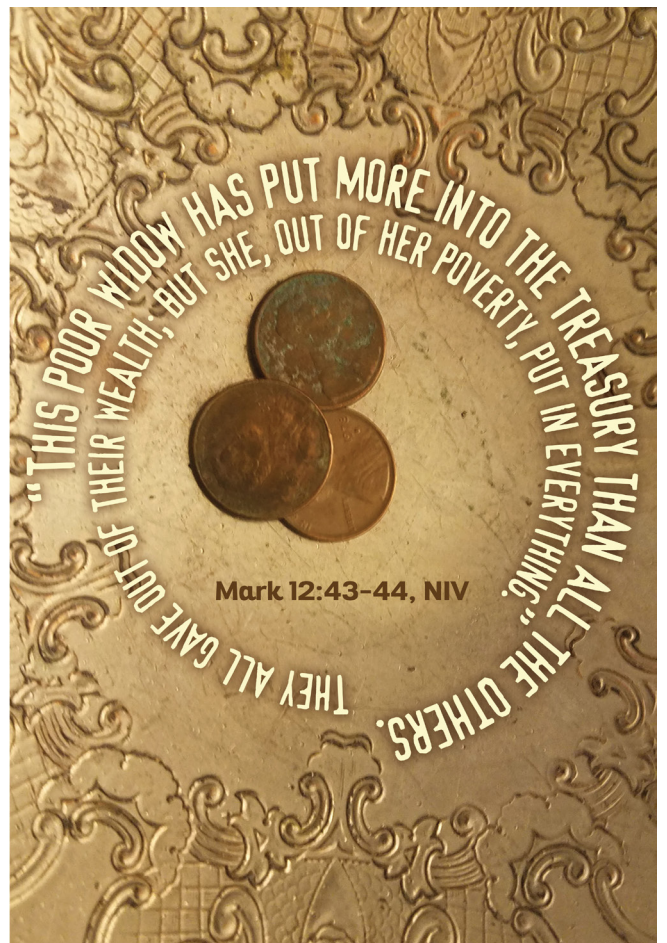
---

---

*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** *Blues in C Minor* John Coltrane

*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.*

**WELCOME** Linda Kopetti, *Liturgist*

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES** Lauren Gomez, *Acolyte*

**INTROIT** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Thomas A. Dorsey  
v. 2 by Cliff Aerie

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand.  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Precious Lord, guide my way, lead me on through each day.  
Shine your love deep within my soul.  
Give me strength, hope to share, courage too, heart to care:  
With your love, precious Lord, lead me on.

**\*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.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN** *Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here* Russell Schulz-Widmar  
Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER)

Your love, O God, has called us here, for all love finds its source in you.  
The perfect love that casts out fear, the love that Christ makes ever new.

O gracious God, you consecrate all that is lovely, good, and true.  
Bless those who in your presence wait, and every day our love renew.

O God of love, inspire our life, reveal your will in all we do;  
Bind human hearts beyond our strife in mutual love and love for you.

**\*RITUAL OF APPROACH**

**\*Invitation to Confession (Responsive – Liturgist; People)**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**\*Silence for Personal Confessions**

**\*Corporate Confession (Unison)**

**Almighty God of peace, Prince of Peace, Spirit of peace: Although we are your children, we often have not acted in ways that promote your peace. You call us to both an absence of conflict and fullness of life, but we allow anger and pride to prevent us from hearing cries for**

**justice. We are prone to outrage, and to justifying ourselves and our allies when partisanship pits us against each other. You are the Word of truth, but we follow pretenders who claim to speak in your name. Merciful God, we do not want to live this way. We regret our sin and pray you, remember our transgressions and misdeeds no more.**

**Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

*\*Words of Assurance* (Responsive) inspired by Psalm 127

Unless the HOLY ONE builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

**Unless the HOLY ONE guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.**

Sleeplessness and anxiety ruled over us until we found peace in God.

**And God's Anointed has shown us that divine grace and limitless power protect our hearts and minds today and always. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*\*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!

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Grace Lucy Frei

*The children will be invited forward at this time, so that they have a clearer view of the baptism. After the ritual, they will be released to Kids Church or they may return to their seats.*

*Welcome* (Responsive)

They were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant, and said to them,

**“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”**

*Address* (Response in Unison)

**This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

*Questions of the Parents*

*\*Congregational Assent* (Responsive)

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ? **We promise our love, support, and care.**

*\*Affirmation of Faith* (Responsive)

Do you believe in God? **I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? **I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? **I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

*Prayer of Baptism* (Responsive)

Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*Baptism and Christening*

*Response*

*Jesus Loves Me*

A. B. Warner / D. R. McGuire

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,  
Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."  
*Yes, Jesus loves me...*

Jesus loves me! Still today, going with me on my way,  
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.  
*Yes, Jesus loves me...*

*Prayer for the Baptized*

*Presentation of Gifts*

Laine Gomez, *Kids Church*

**THE WORD SHARED**

*From the Gospels*

Mark 12:38-44

Pew Bible, p. 944

***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.**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*"Give Up Your Anxious Pains"*

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**INTERLUDE**

*Throw It Away*

Abbey Lincoln

I think about the life I live, a figure made of clay  
And think about the things I lost, the things I gave away  
And when I'm in a certain mood I search the house and look  
One night I found these magic words in a magic book

*Throw it away. You can throw it away*

*Give your love, live your life each and every day*

*And keep your hand wide open and let the sun shine through*

*'Cause you can never lose a thing if it belongs to you*

There's a hand to rock the cradle and a hand to help us stand  
With a gentle kind of motion as it moves across the land  
And the hand's unclenched and open gifts of life and love it brings  
So keep your hand wide open if you're needing anything.

*Throw it away...*

**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*

*Stewardship Moment*

Mark Edwards, *Stewardship Committee*

*\*Song of Praise*

*Doxology*

Tune: TALLIS' CANON

Praise God who gives all blessings birth.  
Praise God all creatures of the earth.  
Praise God who makes, sustains, sets free.  
One Holy God eternally. Amen.

*\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

**God, we thank you for the truth we have realized in you: that it is by giving that we receive. For you have given us everything and received us as your children. As we dedicate our gifts, bless them that through them your will may be done in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls*

William G. Tarrant

Tune: AZMON

Come, let us join with faithful souls our song of faith to raise;  
One family in heart are we, and one the God we praise.  
  
Faithful are all who love the truth and perfect truth proclaim,  
Who steadfast stand with God-at-hand and glorify God's name.  
  
And faithful are the gentle hearts to whom the power is given  
Of every hearth to make a home, of every home a heaven.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*PARTING WORDS**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Amazing Grace*

John Newton

\* \* \* \* \*

**We rejoice today** over the baptism of **Grace Lucy Frei**, daughter of Mary & Greg Frei, and also Molly's sister. Mary grew up in Brentwood Congregational Church, and we are happy to welcome her and all of the Morris and Frei families and friends among us. They are joined by sponsors (godparents) Eric Patterson and Kelly Ostapowicz.

**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; **Tim Osiek**, trumpet; **Glen Smith**, bass; **David True**, percussion; 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. **MICA is seeking sponsors for Jazz Noel 2024 now!** (It's scheduled for December 22 at 3:00pm.) If you would like to support MICA with a gift separate from your annual pledge to the church, 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
- an electronic contribution on the Donate page of our website (find "MICA" in the pull-down menu).

**New Members Class Forming**

*If you would like to know more about First Congregational Church, an **Inquirers Class** is forming. Please contact the Pastor, if you're interested in participating.*

### **New WiFi Connection!**

first\_church\_guest | passcode: firstguest

### **Assistive Listening Systems Available**

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 (fccwg1 + password "firstchurch" – Yes, you're the exceptions to the new WiFi connection.). **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**

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.



### ***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 [FirstChurchWVG.org/donate](http://FirstChurchWVG.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!*

### **Next Lady Elect Meeting – Saturday, November 16, 9:00AM-12:00PM – Church Kitchen**

We will be baking pies for Consecration Sunday, the 17th. Those not interested in baking pies can meet in the church office to make handcrafted holiday cards. To RSVP either project, please contact Marilyn Barton.

### **Fresh Pecans Arriving in November**

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. If you would like to reserve any, please either call or send an email to Debbie at [admin@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchwg.org).

### **Adult Education: Sabbatical Reports! – Today and Next Sunday**

Pastor Dave Denoon will offer two presentations based on the research he did during his sabbatical (and continues to do). Today after worship, he will address the life and work of Jennie E. Davis Sharp, member of our Congregation and first Black schoolmistress of Webster Groves' "Colored School," 1878-1883. Next Sunday, it's "The Rise and Fall of East Canada" – Pastor Dave's version of the story of Webster Groves Urban Renewal Plan, 1960-1974. Both presentations will be offered in the sanctuary (beverages welcome with sealed cups from Coffee Fellowship) and live-streamed on YouTube, starting at 11:20am.

## Maybe This Is the Year for You to Experience Yankee Swap?

Mike Lenard has again invited us to his home at 1467 Heritage Valley Drive, High Ridge, for a Yankee Swap on Sunday, December 1st. The party starts at 1:00PM with the meal, followed by the gift exchange. The party ends at 5:00PM (before dark).

### Here Is the Drill:

- Bring a handmade/homemade gift (unwrapped)-one per person
  - Bring a side dish, salad, dessert for the table
- Sign up in the office for what you will bring for the table
  - Pick up a map in the office.
- Bring a donation for Webster Rock Hill Ministries
- Call Garie Perry if you have questions. 314-698-2614

### November Meal-a-Month Shopping List

Canned Salmon or Tuna (in water) • Canned Spinach (no salt)  
Applesauce (in plastic, no sugar added) • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Soap • Deodorant • Toilet Paper

### November Birthdays

Lynda Morrison – November 2  
Keith Moore – November 5  
Andrea Welnick – November 9  
Nina Thompson – November 12  
Joseph Weyhrich – November 13  
Marilyn Barton – November 15

Carolyn Woodsmall – November 18  
Jennifer Monaco – November 19  
Chris von Weise – November 25  
Kristy Barton – November 27  
Pat Schutte – November 27  
Joan Musbach – November 30

### What's Going on at First Church

#### Sunday, November 10

##### **Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

##### **10:00AM JAZZ WORSHIP**

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee - Memorial Hall

**11:20AM** Adult Ed:

“Mrs. Sharp's School for Girls”

– Sanctuary

#### Monday, November 11

##### **Veterans Day**

**7:00PM** Scout Troops 301

– Dickens Room

**7:00PM** Three Ministries – Hybrid

#### Tuesday, November 12

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

#### Wednesday, November 13

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

**6:00PM** Bridge Club – Inglis Room

#### Thursday, November 14

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

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir – Sanctuary

#### Saturday, November 16

**9:00AM** Lady Elect

– Kitchen & Church Office

#### Sunday, November 17

##### **Consecration Sunday**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

##### **10:00AM WORSHIP**

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee - Memorial Hall

**11:20AM** Adult Ed:

“The Rise & Fall of East Canada” – Sanctuary



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  
[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 –  
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.

## Follow us on

Facebook

@[FirstChurchWG](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchWG)

Instagram

@[webstergroves\\_firstchurch](https://www.instagram.com/webstergroves_firstchurch)

YouTube

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

