

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

NOVEMBER 24, 2024

**MAJESTY OF CHRIST
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**



*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 *Largo from “New World Symphony”* Antonín Dvořák

*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 Rebecca Novak, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**) from Revelation 1:4b-6

Grace to you and peace from the One who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits gathered before God, and from Jesus Christ, the
faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, the Premier over every earthly
government.

**“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says our God who is and who
was and who is to come, the Almighty.**

***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** *Not at All for Mighty Empire* W. P. Merrill, ad.
Tune: BEECHER

Not at all for mighty empire, stretching far o’er land and sea,
Not alone for bounteous harvests lift we up our hearts to thee.
Standing in the living present, memory and hope between,
Lord, we would with deep thanksgiving praise thee most for things unseen.

For the saintly sweet communion, lives that passed and left no name,
For the glory that illumines humble souls of deathless fame,
For the people’s prophet-leaders loyal to thy living Word,
For all heroes of the spirit give we thanks to thee, O Lord.

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

**Lament (Litany)*

Response

Have mercy on us, O God.

**Words of Assurance* (Response, singing)

Not for battleship and fortress, not for conquests of the sword,
But for conquests of the spirit, we give thanks to you, O Lord.
For the heritage of freedom, for the home, the church, the school,
For visions of peace with justice, in a land the people rule. Amen.

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*
My Shadow Is Purple, by Scott Stuart

*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

John 18:33-37

Pew Bible, p. 987

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Search with All Your Heart

M. A. Miller

When you search for me you will find me,
if you search with all your heart.
And when you call upon my name,
come and pray, I will hear you.

I, I will search with all, all of my heart.
(When you search for me you will find me,
if you search with all your heart.)

“Surely I know the plans I have for you,”
says the Lord.
Surely plans for welfare, not for harm,
give you a future with hope..

If you search with all your heart,
All your heart, I will let you find me.
If you search, I will hear you.
When you call upon me, I will hear you.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“Majesty”

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Jesus, Remember Me

Jacques Berthier

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayerful Testimony in Recognition of the 25th Trans Day of Remembrance

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

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

God, we thank you: you have given us everything and received us as your own. Therefore receive our gifts that your majesty on earth may be firmly established, in Jesus' name. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Now Thank We All Our God

Martin Rinckart
tr. Catherine Winkworth, ad.

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who from our parents' arms hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in good grace and guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ill in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God Creator now be given
With Child and Spirit, Three-in-One in brightest heaven!
The great eternal God whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore!

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Symphony in Bb

William Boyce

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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.

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 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 the special wifi connection **fccwg1** + password "**firstchurch**". *If you need help connecting, please see one of A/V Techs at the table in the southeast corner of the sanctuary.*

Headsets connected to our historic listening system are also available from the Narthex table.

Connecting Remotely to Worship

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 (and Pledge!) to First Congregational Church

To make a pledge for 2025, please take advantage of one of the pledge forms available on the Narthex Table, or go to our website's Donate page – FirstChurchWG.org/donate – by navigating there in your web browser or by using the QR code.

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 FirstChurchWG.org/donate to make an electronic contribution
- Scan the QR code.



Fresh Pecans are Going Fast!

There are only 12 bags left of the fresh mammoth pecans in Debbie Tolstoi's office. Get those recipes together! They are \$15 per bag. If you would like to reserve any, please either call or **email Debbie** at admin@firstchurchwg.org. We will get them ready for pickup.

Adult Education: Sabbatical Report – TODAY!

Pastor Dave Denoon will offer a presentation based on some of the research he did during his sabbatical (and continues to do). Today, it's "**The Rise and Fall of East Canada**" – Pastor Dave's version of the story of Webster Groves Urban Renewal Plan, 1960-1974. Meet him in the Sanctuary (beverages welcome with sealed cups from Coffee Fellowship) and live-streamed on YouTube, starting at 11:20am.

Hanging of the Greens

It's time to get ready for our annual Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, December 8th. The sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex, today through December 1st. We will need:

Wreath Bearers • Candle Bearers • Creche Bearers • Poinsettia Bearers

Don't miss being a part of our beautiful service to prepare our Sanctuary for Christmas.

Annual Christmas Tree Decorating Party Sunday, December 1 at 11:30 AM

We will once again gather in the Jubilee Garden to decorate our live Christmas tree. We do have some outdoor ornaments but would love it if people could bring a bird seed ornament. We also welcome popcorn roping, but please no Cheerios. Neither the birds or the squirrels will eat them!

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

Poinsettia Sponsorships Available!

Part of our Hanging of the Greens service is decorating our sanctuary with an abundance of beautiful poinsettias. If you would like to sponsor one of the poinsettias, we are asking for a donation of \$20.00 per plant. You may dedicate your donation in celebration, honor or memory of a loved one or special occasion. A list of the dedications will be included in the Christmas Eve service bulletins. ***Poinsettia order forms are available from the table in the Narthex.***

Save the Date!

Jazz Noel 2024

Sunday, December 22 at 3:00PM

This year's Jazz Noel features not only the music of the Oikos Ensemble but also of the Terra Nova Early Music Consort, a recorder ensemble. Please plan to attend this joyous celebration of Christmas music old and new. And bring a friend or two!

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 24

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall

11:20AM Adult Ed: "The Rise & Fall of East Canada" – Sanctuary

Monday, November 25

7:00PM Scout Troop 301 – Dickens Room

Tuesday, November 26

10:30AM Staff Meeting – Church Office

6:00PM Community Thanksgiving Worship
– Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 9 S. Bompert Ave.

Wednesday, November 27

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Thursday, November 28

Thanksgiving Day

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, November 29

OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, December 1

First Sunday of Advent

Sacrament of Christ's Table

9:00AM Brown Baggers

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship – Memorial Hall, as well as...

Christmas Tree Decorating Party – Jubilee Garden

1:00PM Yankee Swap - Lenard's House



10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
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Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton
iyell4@aol.com

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Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn
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Custodian & AV Tech – Mark Metcalf
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

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.

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>

