

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

DECEMBER 8, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Hanging of the Greens



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.*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J. S. Bach
Noel Burke, viola

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.

PRELIMINARIES

Opportunities to Give and Gather Nick Suber, Liturgist

**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.

**Introduction to the Worship Setting*

Rev. David Denoon, Pastor
Johari Hunt, Coord. Faith Formation

AT THE ADVENT WREATH

SECOND CANDLE: **PEACE**

Reflection on Tradition

Nick Suber

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:68-79

Pew Bible, p. 932

Wreath Ritual

Full of hope, John the Baptist prepared a way for Jesus who would remind the world of God's peace – not just an absence of conflict but a manifestation of completeness and well-being.

So may we by our actions help to prepare the way for the coming of Peace.

We light this second candle to remind ourselves that Jesus comes among us as the Prince of Peace. His light helps us find ways to share God's peace with others.

A pause, to light the second candle.

Light our way to peace, O God. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

Now Bless the God of Israel
No. 110, vv. 1,3 – *New Century Hymnal*

Ruth Duck

***PREPARE THE WAY**

Luke 3:1-6

Pew Bible, p. 934

THE BELLS

Reading

Ring Out, Wild Bells

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Anthem

Carol of the Bells
Canterbury Bells

Ukrainian Carol
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

THE WREATHS

Reading

The Green Circle

Anthem

We'll Dress the House
Chancel Choir

Alfred Burt

THE CANDLES

Reading

The Significance of Candles

Anthem

Candlelight Carol
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

THE CRÈCHE

Reading

A History of the Crèche

Anthem

The Babe, the Son of Mary
Canterbury Bells

Traditional
arr. Jason W. Krug

THE POINSETTIAS

Reading

A Natural History of the Poinsettia

Anthem

In the Bleak Midwinter
Chancel Choir

Harold Darke

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Reading

The Significance of the Christmas Tree

Hymn

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
No. 120, vv. 1,3 – *Pilgrim Hymnal*

Charles Wesley

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lifting of Joys and Concerns

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.

CONCLUSION

Reading

Significance of the Season

**Acclamation*

Joy to the World!
No. 130, v.1 – *Pilgrim Hymnal*

Isaac Watts

**Benediction*

*PARTING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE *O Rest in the Lord, Wait Patiently for Him* (from *Elijah*) G. F. Handel
Neil Hoffsten, piano

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Sweet & Savory Potluck Today, after worship

Be sure to stay for our annual Sweet and Savory Snacks Potluck (Snack-luck!) following Hanging of the Greens.

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 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.



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.***

Lady Elect Cookie Exchange

You are cordially invited to attend the Lady Elect Christmas Cookie Exchange at the home of Pat Doyle-Grace on Tuesday, December 10th, at 4:00. Participants are asked to bag 3-4 cookies per attendee in plastic bags. Please label whether your cookies contain nuts. It would also be nice if you could bring copies of your cookie recipe to share with others.

To RSVP, please text Marilyn Barton at (314) 894-2046

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!

Christmas Bags/Baskets for Webster Rock Hill Ministries

As we prepare for the holiday season, Webster Rock Hill Ministries invites us to join them in donating Christmas Baskets to families in need. Christmas Baskets will be distributed on December 15. See the meal items list below. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated and instrumental in ensuring that every family in our community has food on the table, this Thanksgiving. Please feel free to contact WRHM at 314-961-5082 with any questions.

Green Beans • French Fried Onions • Cream of Mushroom Soup
Cranberry Sauce • Mashed Potato Mix • Macaroni and Cheese
Stuffing Mix • Rice • Jell-O Mix • Canned Fruit • Marshmallows
Gravy (canned or mix) • Canned Sweet Potatoes
Ready-made Pie Crust • Apple or Pumpkin Pie Filling

Please bring your bags of Christmas items to the church no later than Sunday, December 15 and leave them by the "Sharing Our Bounty" Crates in the Narthex.

Yankee Swap Donations for WRHM

In our tradition the Yankee Swap participants donated to Webster Rock Hill Ministries. We collected \$260 that will be used to purchase hygiene items like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc., that WRHM clients can't get with food stamps and that the Food Bank can't provide.

Send a Card to a Political Prisoner

Every year, Amnesty International's **Write for Rights** campaign brings together people from around the world to fight injustice and support others whose human rights are under threat. Over the past few years our Writers have made a real difference to people's lives. From Zimbabwe to Guatemala to Kyrgyzstan, activists have been freed and justice has been served.

This year's campaign features people from around the world who are all connected because their human rights have been violated. By writing letters, signing petitions and sharing stories, you can demand justice calling decision makers to do the right thing.

On December 15, watch for Laurel Hayes's table in the Narthex, and join this year's campaign to make the world a more just and compassionate place. If you can't be at church either of those Sundays, follow this link to participate from home: www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights

Southern (Missouri) Country Church Tour

Saturday, December 14, 4 - 8PM & Sunday, December 15, 1 - 4PM

Churches in the Jackson/Cape Girardeau area, including the UCCs there –

St. John's (Jackson) and St. James (Tilsit) – have decked their halls and invite you to reverently admire their sanctuaries and exteriors.

Go to facebook.com/SouthernCountryChurchTour for more information.

Join Communities Across the Country for a Silent Candlelight Vigil to Remember Victims of Gun Violence

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church front steps

Check-in: 5:30 pm | Vigil: when you arrive after 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Candles provided.

December Birthdays

Thomas Waltz	December 6
Earl Rinne	December 12
Nannelle Griffith	December 13
Daniel Claggett	December 14
Rebecca Novak	December 16
Terri Thompson	December 26
Neil Hoffsten	December 27

What's Going on at First Church

Sunday, December 8

Hanging of the Greens

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship – Memorial Hall
Sweet & Savory Snacks – Potluck

Monday, December 9

7:00PM Scout Troop 301 – Dickens Room

7:00PM Three Ministries (Hybrid)

Tuesday, December 10

10:30AM Staff Meeting – Church Office

Wednesday, December 11

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Thursday, December 12

6:00PM Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

Sunday, December 15

Blue Christmas

(Service for Healing and Wholeness)

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship – Memorial Hall



10 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314-962-0475
www.FirstChurchWG.org

Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton
iyell4@aol.com

Pastor – Rev. Dave Denoon
DDenoon@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 –
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>

