

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

DECEMBER 29, 2024

Fourth Day of Kwanzaa: Ujamaa
(Cooperative Economics)

*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.*



HYMN SING

Order of Worship

An asterisk () indicates the Congregation standing, in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE *Wexford Carol* Ancient Irish Carol
*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 Phil Shoulberg, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

INTROIT *The Angel Gabriel* Basque Folk Carol

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth. As you sang
creation's glory, now proclaim Messiah's birth.

We come to worship the birth of Jesus the Christ.

Angelic host: blessing Mary, filling Joseph's dreams, rousing the shepherds,
warning the magi, messengers in every time and place calling us to ponder the
majesty of God's grace,

We come to worship the birth of Jesus the Christ.

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains
in reply, echo back their joyous strains:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

***OPENING HYMN** *Angels from the Realms of Glory* Tune: REGENT SQUARE
No. 126, vv. 1-3 – *New Century Hymnal*

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY *At the Kinara* Rev. Elston McCowan

The Nguzo Saba (Seven Principles) of Kwanzaa

Umoja – Unity

Kujichagulia – Self-Determination

Ujima – Collective Work and Responsibility

***Ujamaa* – Cooperative Economics**

Nia – Purpose

Ku'umba – Creativity

Imani – Faith

THE WORD SHARED Luke 21-40 (selected verses)

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE MESSAGE THROUGH CAROLS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Forest Green

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim thy holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King and peace to all on earth.

The First Nowell

Traditional English Melody

The first Nowell, the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

They look-ed up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

Away in a Manger

Cradle Song

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Bring a Torch

Traditional French Carol

Bring a torch, Jeanette Isabella, bring a torch, come swiftly and run!
Christ is born, tell the folk of the village, Jesus is sleeping in his cradle.
Ah! Ah! beautiful is the mother!
Ah! Ah! beautiful is her son!

Hasten now, good folk of the village, hasten now, the Christ child to see.

You will find him asleep in a manger, quietly come and whisper softly.
Hush! Hush! peacefully now he slumbers.
Hush! Hush! peacefully now he sleeps.

Ding Dong Merrily on High

Cambridge Carol Book

Ding dong, merrily on high! In heav'n the bells are ringing;
Ding dong, verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria . . . hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria . . . hosannah in excelsis!

E'en so here below, the steeple bells are ringing,
Praises fill the air in carols of thanksgiving.
Gloria . . . hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria . . . hosannah in excelsis!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts that we absorb from another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Opportunities to Give and Gather

* *Singing God's Praise*

Doxology

Tune: OLD 100TH

Praise God with songs that never cease!
Praise God who fills the earth with peace!
Praise God for love and joy within!
The Holy Child is born again. Amen.

* *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.

***PARTING HYMN**

Joy to the World!
No. 132 – *New Century Hymnal*

Tune: ANTIOCH

*** BENEDICTION**

*** PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Sussex Carol

17th Century English Carol

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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We thank the Rev. Elston McCowan for leading our Kwanzaa observance.
Also, Rev. Mark Lucas, cellist and founding member of the Terra Nova Early Music Consort.

WiFi Connection

first_church_guest | passcode: firstguest

Connecting Remotely to Worship

Sunday worship each week is streamed live on YouTube. Past worship and program videos are also available for viewing. Go to bit.ly/FCCWG-YT

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.

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

Treasurer Jennifer Jones and the members of the Stewardship Committee encourage members and friends who have made a pledge for this year, please to be sure and complete your pledge by December 31. Ways to give:

- Place a donation in the **brass offering plate** on the little table in the Narthex.
- Send a check made payable to FCCWG at:
First Congregational Church
10 W. Lockwood Ave.
Webster Groves, MO 63119
- Visit **FirstChurchWG.org/donate**
- Scan the **QR code** at right



January Shopping List

Boxed Whole Grain Pasta • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)
Canned Fruit in own juices • Sugar free juices in plastic bottles
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Cold Cereal (no sugar) • Plain Oatmeal (no sugar)

January Birthdays

Helen Moody	January 1
Coco Denoon	January 7
Faye Dyer	January 7
Erin Prange	January 8
Roger Barnes	January 11
Kin Lavender	January 12
Ryder Hoeper	January 14
Richard Smith	January 14
Robert Hill	January 16
Charlie Schoenherr	January 22
Jan Barnes	January 23
Jacquie Bryant	January 26
Ashley Merideth	January 26
Mark Metcalf	January 26

What's Going on at First Church

Sunday, December 29

Sunday after Christmas

(including Kwanzaa Celebration with Elston McCowan)

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship (**Christmas Carol Sing**)

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship – Memorial Hall

Office Closed – Monday, December 30 through Wednesday, January 1

Thursday, January 2

6:00PM Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir – Sanctuary

Sunday, January 5

Epiphany Celebration

Sacrament of Christ's Table

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship – Memorial Hall

11:20AM Q & A Session on the Revised Bylaws – Memorial Hall

Monday January 6

7:00PM Scout Troops 301 – Dickens Room

Tuesday, January 7

1:00PM Communications Team – Church Office

Wednesday, January 8

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene

10:30AM Staff Meeting – Church Office

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Thursday, January 9

6:00PM Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir – Sanctuary



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Contact Information

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Weekend & Events Custodians –
Onyeka Igboanuzue

Assistant Custodian – Gus McLean

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie
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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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@FirstChurchWG

Instagram

@webstergroves_firstchurch

YouTube

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

