

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church  
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



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

**JANUARY 5, 2025  
EPIPHANY SUNDAY**



***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

*Because this service is being conducted virtually, there is no provision for standing.*

**PRELUDE** *Prelude* Louis Vierne

*At this time, we invite you to register your attendance using the on-screen QR code  
and to assure that your microphone is muted.*

**WELCOME** Linda Kopetti, *Liturgist*

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**OPENING WORDS**

*From the Gospels* Matthew 2:1-12 New Revised Standard Version  
Read by Rev. David Denoon and Rev. Kalaba Kapundu

**PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)**

**O God, you made all nations out of one blood, and by a star in the East you revealed to them all the One whose name is Emmanuel. Enable us who know that you are with us to proclaim Christ's unsearchable riches, so that all may come to your Light and bow before the brightness of your Child's rising. This we pray in the name of Jesus our Emmanuel, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. 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.**

**GATHERING HYMN** *As with Gladness Those of Old* William C. Dix

No. 159, vv. 1-3 – *New Century Hymnal*  
*Please follow the words appearing on your screen.*

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY** *"Light, Promise, Plan"* Rev. Denoon

**SHARING OUR GIFTS WITH OTHERS**

*Opportunities for Giving and Gathering*

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

**God of promises fulfilled, in the fullness of time we now enjoy your greatest gift, the Child of your love. Like the magi of old we have seen the brilliance of your Light — this humble Child — and lay our offerings at your feet. By these presents may your church grow wise and strong in your love. With your Spirit receive and consecrate our gifts, for we present them to the glory of the Sun of righteousness. Amen.**

**REMEMBERING CHRIST'S TABLE**

*Sharing Our Joys and Concerns*

*Prayer requests may be made by entering them in the Zoom app's Chat feature.*

*Invitation*

*Sursum Corda*

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks to our Sovereign God.

**Because, O God, you have made yourself manifest in Christ Jesus, the one begotten from the heart of your love, Word of truth, Light of light, we give you thanks and praise.**

*Prayer of Remembrance (and Gloria)*

As sages from the East offered you their best,

**So may we honor you, O Christ, with our highest visions and finest energies.**

As you turned the water to wine at Cana,

**So come to your church now, and teach us to change human tears to joyful song.**

As you were baptized to fulfill all righteousness,

**So may your church humbly do your will.**

As you gave light to those who followed you on earth,

**So be our light as we follow you on city streets, suburban avenues, or country roads. Be revealed among us in power, in our every day, in places where we live and work. Glory be to you, O Christ, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Prayer of Consecration*

*Prayer of Our Savior*

**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.**

*Remembrance in Bread and Cup*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**We give you thanks, gracious God, that you came to us in the brilliance of your Incarnation, and that you still come among us in the love of this gathered community. Now, send us forth from our tables a nourished and empowered people that we may live your love, speak your peace, and sing your hope. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

*I Am the Light of the World*

Jim Strathtdee

No. 584, vv. 1,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

*Please follow the words appearing on your screen.*

**REMOVING THE GREENS**

Johari Hunt

**BENEDICTION**

*Reading*

*For the Time Being: Conclusion*

W. H. Auden

**COMMISSION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Noël*

Claude Daquin

*When the Postlude is concluded, please feel free to unmute your microphone.  
There will be a few minutes of transition, and then the morning will proceed  
with the discussion of the draft Bylaws Revisions.*

**Rev. Kalaba Kapundu**, a native of Zambia whose voice is featured in the scripture reading at the beginning of today's service, is a former student minister of our church and currently serves as the Pastor of the two-point charge of Cairo (Nebraska) United Methodist Church and Boelus Grace UMC (also in Nebraska). The reading was recorded in worship here, on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

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### **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.

### **Connecting Remotely to Worship**

Sunday worship each week is streamed live on YouTube. Past worship and videos are also available for viewing. Go to [bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)

### **How to Donate (and Pledge!) to First Congregational Church**

If you would like to support First Church with a monetary donation, here are a few ways to give:

- 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



**To make a pledge for 2025**, please go to our website's Donate page – [FirstChurchWG.org/donate](https://FirstChurchWG.org/donate) – by navigating there in your web browser or by using the QR code.

## **BYLAWS DISCUSSIONS January 5 & 12**

The current Bylaws with which our church operates are in some need of revision. A team of six members - four former Moderators and two very discerning members - have been working with the Pastor for about nine months, revising the governance of First Church, and their draft has been recommended by the Executive Ministry.

So, on Sundays, January 5 and 12 after worship, introductory sessions about our new rules, and discussions about them, will take place, in anticipation of a Congregational Meeting on January 19, to officially consider them. You can read the entire document by using the following link. <https://bit.ly/Bylaws2025>

## **January Birthdays**

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Michael Lenard</b>     | <b>January 1</b>  |
| <b>Helen Moody</b>        | <b>January 1</b>  |
| <b>Coco Denoon</b>        | <b>January 7</b>  |
| <b>Faye Dyer</b>          | <b>January 7</b>  |
| <b>Erin Prange</b>        | <b>January 8</b>  |
| <b>Roger Barnes</b>       | <b>January 11</b> |
| <b>Kin Lavender</b>       | <b>January 12</b> |
| <b>Ryder Hoeper</b>       | <b>January 14</b> |
| <b>Richard Smith</b>      | <b>January 14</b> |
| <b>Bob Hill</b>           | <b>January 16</b> |
| <b>Charlie Schoenherr</b> | <b>January 22</b> |
| <b>Jan Barnes</b>         | <b>January 23</b> |
| <b>Jacquie Bryant</b>     | <b>January 26</b> |
| <b>Ashley Merideth</b>    | <b>January 26</b> |
| <b>Mark Metcalf</b>       | <b>January 26</b> |

## **MEAL-A-MONTH**

### **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)

## **What's Going on at First Church**

### **Sunday, January 5**

*In the interest of safety, the building will be closed all day.*

#### **Sacrament of Christ's Table**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:15AM** Discussion 1 about Bylaws Revisions

### **Monday, January 6**

*In the interest of safety, the building will be closed all day.*

#### **Epiphany**

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

**7:00PM** Peace & Justice Team - Zoom

### **Tuesday, January 7**

**1:00PM** Communications Team - Office

### **Wednesday, January 8**

**9:00AM** Endowment Counselors - Remote/Online

**10:30AM** Staff Meeting - Office

(The Staff has limited availability during this meeting.)

### **Thursday, January 9**

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

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

### **Sunday, January 12**

#### **Baptism of Jesus**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship – Memorial Hall

**11:15AM** Discussion 2 about Bylaws Revisions - Memorial Hall



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## Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton  
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Onyeka Igboanuzue

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity  
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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

Facebook

@FirstChurchWG

Instagram

@webstergroves\_firstchurch

YouTube

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

