

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JANUARY 12, 2025
BAPTISM OF JESUS



*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 *Bist du bei mir* J. S. Bach

*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 Andrea Welnick, Liturgist

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**) from Psalm 29

Ascribe to the HOLY ONE, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the HOLY ONE glory
and strength!

**Ascribe to the HOLY ONE the glory due God's name;
worship the HOLY ONE in holy splendor!**

The voice of the HOLY ONE is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
the HOLY ONE, over mighty waters.

**The voice of the HOLY ONE breaks the cedars; the HOLY
ONE breaks the cedars of Lebanon.**

The voice of the HOLY ONE flashes forth flames of fire; and in the temple
all say, "Glory!"

The HOLY ONE sits enthroned forever.

May the HOLY ONE give us strength!

May the HOLY ONE bless us with peace!

***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** *Sing Praise to God* J. Neander
No. 22, vv. 1,2,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

***PRAYER OF APPROACH**

**Invitation*

**Corporate Confession* (Unison)

**Almighty God, you have told us we need never fear because you
abide with us always. Still, we acknowledge that there have been
times when we have ignored your presence, allowed fear to take
us over, and rendered your protective shelter little more than
superstition. Forgive us our lack of faith, we pray, and guide us
into new understandings of who you are and how you are with
us. For you have spoken and called us beloved children,
redeeming us in Christ's name. Amen.**

**Silence for Personal Confession*

**Words of Assurance (Responsive)*

Beyond our doubting, and for the benefit of all people, God revealed salvation with a new and heavenly light, offering forgiveness and renewal.

As recipients of grace, this day we rejoice, for God leads us toward redemption – our best and truest selves.

May God's light ever shine in the renewal of our hearts.

We are forgiven through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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!

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

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 Prophets

Isaiah 43:1-7

Pew Bible, p. 658

From the Gospels

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

p. 935

Response

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

I Believe

Mark Miller

Soloist: Mark Cereghino

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Do You Hear What I Hear?" Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

E. Hatch

No. 292, vv. 1,3 – *New Century Hymnal*

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.

***PARTING HYMN**

God, When I Came into This Life

Fred Kaan

No. 354, vv. 1,4,5 – *New Century Hymnal*

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Saint Anthony Chorale

F. J. Haydn

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

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:

- Take advantage of the brass offering plate on the small 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



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

Congregational Meeting, January 19 after worship

The Executive Ministry has called a meeting of the Congregation, for Sunday, January 19 following worship. The agenda for this meeting will include

- Consideration of revisions to the 2025 Budget. Revisions include an increase in staff costs, to cover compensation of our Coordinator of Faith Formation and new Office Administrator, and to recognize the abundant generosity of our Members and friends. Summary available from the Narthex table or at bit.ly/Revised2025
- Consideration of revisions to the church's Bylaws (see next announcement).

Bylaws Discussion Today

The current Bylaws with which our church operates have needed some revising. 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.

Today after worship, an introductory session about our new rules 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 bit.ly/Bylaws2025. There is also a summary document with organizational chart at bit.ly/2025-Revisions-Summary

Meet our New Office Administrator

Greetings! I'm Adam Levin, the new Office Administrator at First Congregational! I am a St. Louis resident and was raised in a Reform Jewish congregation. I went to the College of Wooster in northern Ohio, where I received a Bachelor's in International Relations and a minor in Africana Studies. Since 2014 I have volunteered or worked for a variety of secular and religious nonprofits, including Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, Gene Slay's Girls and Boys Club, and Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church. In my free time, I enjoy reading, writing, and playing my trombone for local theater groups.

Finally, I'd like to give a big thanks to outgoing Office Administrator Debbie Tolstoi, who is retiring at the end of the month. I'm excited to get to know this open and affirming congregation!

Annual Contribution Statements

It's that time of year when annual giving statements are sent out. Please contact the office if you prefer a printed statement; our management service, Breeze, will send your statement via email. Sadly, "snail mail" service has slowed even more than the name indicates in the last few years. We promise to mail hard copies, if you prefer your statement that way, so that they can arrive before the end of January.

Breeze automatically emails statements, so you will need to contact Debbie or Adam if you would prefer to have a copy mailed or left for you here at church. If there are any problems or issues with your statement, please email us at admin@firstchurchwg.org

Winter Coats Needed Webster Rock Hill Ministries

WRHM is asking for winter coats to help some of our international students who are experiencing the full effects of winter. Many of these students come from climates that are far different from what they have found in St. Louis. Hence this appeal for gently used and new coats for these students. Winter coats that are needed are:

3 Women's Small
16 Men's Medium
14 Men's Large
1 Men's X-Large

Thank you.

Lady Elect Guild in January

You are cordially invited to the next meeting of Lady Elect on Tuesday, January 28th, at 11:00, in the Inglis Room. The theme of the meeting is "Family Stories." You are welcome to bring photos or memorabilia from your family's past and share your story with the other members. Please bring your lunch. To RSVP for this event, simply text or call Marilyn.

THE ORGAN IN A NEW LIGHT Sunday, February 2, 2:30PM

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the VerHagen Memorial sanctuary organ, organist John Powel Walsh will present a program entitled, "The Organ in a New Light." John's experience includes service as organist of the St. Louis Bach Society and the St. Louis Abbey.

His program on February 2 will include music **"by composers who should have written more for the organ."** This will include arrangements of familiar pieces by **Copland, Verdi, Handel, Mozart, Sousa, and even more** whose works would have sounded great played by a musician employing all four limbs at once!

Our sanctuary instrument was created by Casavante Frères organ builders of Montreal, Canada. Its purchase was made possible by a generous donation in 1994 from Jan & Katy VerHagen in loving memory of their son David.

AN AUCTION FOR HUMANITY March 1-16

The title only looks like a misprint! "**An AUCCtion for Humanity**" will run, March 1 – 16. (In addition, Samuel UCC's traditional St. Patrick's Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 15. Mark your calendar!) You can support **An AUCCtion for Humanity** as a volunteer, recruiting businesses and friends for items. Or help with administrative tasks from home. Please email Kirkwood UCC member Bob Steen who can explain ways you can help at AUCCtion4Humanity@outlook.com.

January Birthdays

Michael Lenard	January 1
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
Bob Hill	January 16
Charlie Schoenherr	January 22
Jan Barnes	January 23
Jacque Bryant	January 26
Ashley Merideth	January 26
Mark Metcalf	January 26

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 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 about Bylaws Revisions – Memorial Hall

Monday, January 13

7:00PM Scout Troop 301 – Dickens Room

7:00PM Three Ministries – Hybrid

Tuesday, January 14

10:30AM Staff Meeting – Office

Wednesday, January 15

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene – Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club – Inglis Room

Thursday, January 16

6:00PM Canterbury Bells – Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir – Sanctuary

Sunday, January 19

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Congregational Meeting – Revisions to Bylaws and Budget

11:20AM Coffee Fellowship – Memorial Hall

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

OFFICE CLOSED



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 – Adam Levin
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

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

Instagram

@webstergroves_firstchurch

YouTube

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

