

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JANUARY 19, 2025

**SUNDAY OF MLK HOLIDAY WEEKEND
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

*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

Footprints

Wayne Shorter

WELCOME

Sharon Love, *Liturgist*

*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.*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

INTROIT

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
(follow along at No. 472, *New Century Hymnal*)

Thomas A. Dorsey

*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

Lift Every Voice and Sing
No. 593 – *New Century Hymnal*

J. W. & J. R. Johnson

*RITUAL OF APPROACH

**Invitation*

**Prayer of Confession*

Loving God, you have gathered us as members of your flock... Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Gracious God, you have commissioned us... Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Words of Assurance*

If we genuinely and sincerely regret our sins and repent of them, the almighty God has mercy on us, forgives us our sins, and leads us unto eternal life.

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 attend Kids Church or return to their seats.*

SHARING THE WORD

From the Epistles

From the Gospels

1 Corinthians 12:1-13

John 2:1-11

Pew Bible, p. 1046

p. 967

Response

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

People: Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Dreams and Visions

Aerie / Bakriges

Dedicated to Coretta Scott King

Dream. Dream a world that's just and fair.
Free from hatred and fear.
Safe without want or care.
Love will be our guide—overcoming greed and pride.
Unity—dreams and visions set us free.

Dare. Dare to lift your voices high.
Speaking truth from your heart.
Now is the time to start.
Hope points to the way—visions of a brand new day.
Unity—dreams and visions set us free.

Ah... visions and dreams.
Ah... visions and dreams.
Start now! Right now!
Start now! Right now!

Sing. Sing a song to change the world.
Sing it out in the night.
Sing 'til you get it right.
Grace abides in you—ready to transform, make new.
Unity—dreams and visions set us free.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

*"Don't You Call
Your Mother, 'Woman'!"*

Rev. David Denoon *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Edwin Hatch

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire:
That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.

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.

WE OFFER OF OURSELVES

Opportunities to Give and Gather

**Song of Praise*

Doxology

Tune: TALLIS' CANON

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below!
Praise God above, you heavenly host –
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!
Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication* (Unison)

Great is your faithfulness, O God! Countless gifts you have given – including the ones Dr. King prayed that all your children might enjoy: fruitful labor, beloved community, and a sense of prosperity such as only you can provide. With humbleness before your abundance, we offer gifts of money, time, community, and labor, and pray your blessing upon them, that they may further establish the majesty found in Jesus' name. Amen.

***PARTING SONG**

Put Your Hand in the Hand

Gene MacLellan

Refrain

Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea
Take a look at yourself and you can look at others differently
Put your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee!

My momma taught me how to pray before I reached the age of seven
When I'm down on my knees that's when I'm closest to heaven
Daddy lived his life, two kids and a wife,
well, you do what you must do
But he showed me enough of what it takes to get me through!

Refrain

Every time I look into the Holy Book, I wanna tremble,
When I read about the part where the carpenter cleared the temple;
For the buyers and the sellers were no different fellas
than what I profess to be,
And it causes me pain to know we're not the people we should be.

Refrain

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Yes, God Is Real!

Kenneth Morris

*A Congregational Meeting immediately follows this worship service.
Members, please remain in the sanctuary to participate in the Meeting.
Parents, activities for children are continuing in the Kids' Church spaces.
After the Meeting, we will share a time for refreshment in Memorial Hall.
Visitors and guests, we encourage you to stay
and enjoy Congregationalism at its most authentic!*

Our thanks to the members of the Oikos Jazz Ensemble for their participation in the leadership of worship today. They are **Kim Fuller-Barnes**, vocals; **Carolbeth True**, piano; **Glen Smith**, bass; **David True**, percussion; **Tim Osiek**, trumpet; and Rev. **Cliff Aerie**, saxophone.

The Oikos Jazz Ensemble is an outreach of our Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts (MICA). MICA takes part in Sunday morning jazz worship, seven times a year, and conducts two seasonal programs – Jazz Noel and Good Friday Blues – in addition to other occasional performances. If you would like to support MICA with a gift separate from your contribution to the church, please do so with

- a cash offering (in an envelope on which you have written, “MICA”),
- a check made payable to the church with “MICA” written in the memo line, or
- an electronic contribution on the Donate page of our website (find “MICA” in the pull-down menu).

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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

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 today after 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).

Annual Contribution Statements

By now, you should have received your annual contribution statements by email. Paper copies will be in a box on the table in the Narthex. If you need us to mail you your statement or if there are issues with your statement, contact Debbie or Adam at admin@firstchurchwg.org, or call the office.

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 Casavant 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 February 28-March 9

The title only looks like a misprint! A UCC-sponsored online auction to benefit Habitat for Humanity St. Louis will run from February 28 to March 9. 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 to ask businesses and friends for items. You can also help with administrative tasks you can do from home. Please call or text Kirkwood UCC member Bob Steen who can explain ways you can help at 314-980-7699 or email Bob at AUCCTion4Humanity@outlook.com.

Debbie Tolstoi Retirement Recognition

On Sunday, February 2, during our worship service, we will recognize outgoing Office Administrator Debbie Tolstoi for her 8 years of service to First Church. On such an occasion it is appropriate to present a gift. If you would like to contribute to a "purse" honoring Debbie, please write a check payable to "FCCWG," and include her name in the Memo line. Then, either place the check in the offering plate, OR send the check to the church, to the attention of Jennifer Jones, Treasurer, OR drop it off in Jenny's office mailbox, OR hand it to Jenny on January 26. Gifts will be combined and presented to Debbie on February 2. **Direct questions about the gifting process either to incoming Office Administrator Adam Levin, or to Pastor Dave Denoon.**

January Birthdays

Charlie Schoenherr	January 22
Jan Barnes	January 23
Jacquie 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 19

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Congregational Meeting - Bylaws and Revised Budget - Sanctuary

11:20AM Coffee Fellowship – Memorial Hall

Monday, January 20

MLK DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

7:00PM Scout Troop 301 - Dickens Room

Tuesday, January 21

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Office

Wednesday, January 22

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room

Thursday, January 23

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Sunday, January 26

Health & Human Service Sunday

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Midwinter Potluck

11:20AM Ugandan Water Project - Memorial Hall



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Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton
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Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt
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Custodian & AV Tech – Mark Metcalf
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Weekend & Events Custodians –
Onyeka Igboanuzue

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
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>

