

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JANUARY 26, 2025

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES SUNDAY (UCC)



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 "Air" from *Water Music* G.F. Handel

WELCOME Jennifer Jones, *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

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**) from Psalm 19

The law of the HOLY ONE is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the
HOLY ONE are sure, making wise the simple.

**The precepts of the HOLY ONE are right, rejoicing the
heart; the commandment of the HOLY ONE is clear,
enlightening the eyes.**

More to be desired are they than gold, even more than fine gold.

**May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, O HOLY ONE, my rock
and my redeemer.**

***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** *Unite, and Join Your Cheerful Songs* James O'Kelly
No. 617, vv. 1,2,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

***PRAYER OF APPROACH**

**Invitation*

**Confession* (Responsive) *Prayer of a Reluctant Leader* Joe Seremane
Redeeming God, you asked for my hands so that you could use them for
your purposes.

**I gave them for a moment and then withdrew for the work
was hard.**

You asked for my mouth to speak against injustice.

I gave you a whisper so that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.

I closed them for I did not want to know.

You asked for my life so that you might work through me.

**I gave you a fractional part so that I might not get
too involved.**

God, forgive me for calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient to do so, only in places where it is safe to do so.

Creator God, forgive me, renew me, and send me out as a usable instrument so that I may take seriously the meaning of your cross.

**Silence for Meditation*

**Assurance (Responsive)*

The mercy of God is upon us, extended through the Holy Spirit of Jesus the Christ.

God forgives and sets us free so that we may share in life together, and here we commit ourselves to following wherever Christ calls us, and to loving one another.

**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

Rod Cooper

MISSION PARTNER UPDATE

Greeting

Presentation

Field for Humanity Water Project

Bishop Peter Owinji, Chair, Board of Directors

Peter Kalulu, Founder

THE WORD SHARED

From the Epistles

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Pew Bible, p. 1034

From the Gospels

Luke 4:14-21

p. 936

Response

For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us:

Thanks be to God.

BELL ANTHEM

It Is Well with My Soul

arr. Karen L. Buckwalter

Canterbury Bells

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Stick to the Message"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

E. 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

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

Thomas Ken

Tune: OLD 100TH

**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*

As your body committed to this world, O Christ, we make these offerings from our labors. God who to us gave these gifts and our abilities, receive and bless them. Then, Holy Spirit, empower us to continue the work that may present to the whole world the freedom we have known in you. Amen.

***PARTING SONG**

God, Speak to Me

F. R. Havergal

No. 531 – *New Century Hymnal*

***BENEDICTION**

Teresa de Avila, 16th Century

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

“Hornpipe” from *Water Music*

G.F. Handel

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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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

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/Adam at admin@firstchurchwg.org, or call the office.

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

If you would like to support First Church with a monetary gift, here are a few ways to do that:

- 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**



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.

Lady Elect Guild – January 28

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.**

Our sanctuary instrument was created by Casavant Frères organ builders of Montreal, Canada. Its purchase was made possible by a generous 1994 donation 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 – February 2

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.**

Help for First Friends

Calling out you friendly people of our church. We are seeking a few volunteers to supplement our “First Friends Alternates” list.

We currently have six teams of six people. These folks do a wonderful job of the hospitality tasks each Sunday. They welcome us, hand us a bulletin, fix our coffee (sometimes just the way we like it!), and look out for our needs, and our safety.

However, as you also know we are a traveling folk and the need for substitutes is frequent. We have had people who have been “on call” to meet the occasional empty slot. But we have had some retirements lately, for a variety of reasons. So if you feel that you could help from time to time, please let me know. If you’d like to know more before deciding, I will be happy to give you more information.

Linda Kopetti. *First Friends Coordinator*

More Sunday Morning Volunteer Opportunities

Showing hospitality as a First Friend isn’t the only option for church members and friends on Sunday mornings. Please, also consider serving as

- a **Liturgist** (conducting different portions of worship and reading scripture); sign up at bit.ly/Liturgist-2025, and/or
- a **Slideshow Presenter** (advancing the slides displayed in worship); sign up at bit.ly/Slideshow-2025, and/or
- an **A/V Assistant** (working closely with Mark Metcalf, coordinating the sound in the sanctuary and the live stream of the service online); sign up at bit.ly/Audio-Video-2025

Questions? Contact the Pastor.

Birthdays Today – Jacquie Bryant, Ashley Merideth, Mark Metcalf

February Birthdays

Charlie Brader	February 05
Mary Edwards	February 06
K Wentzien	February 06
Elyse von Weise	February 08
Kathy Hill	February 11
Phoenix Hill	February 14
Doug Barton	February 15
Erick Falconer	February 16
Pat Doyle-Grace	February 20
Martin Mills	February 21

What's Going on at First Church

Sunday, January 26

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Midwinter Potluck – Memorial hall

11:20AM Presentation by Ugandan "Field for Humanity" Water Project – Memorial Hall

Monday, January 27

7:00PM Scout Troop 301 - Dickens Room

Tuesday, January 28

10:00AM Lady Elect - Inglis Room

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Office

Wednesday, January 29

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

6:00PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room

Thursday, January 30

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Sunday, February 2

Heritage Sunday

Sacrament of Christ's Table

9:00AM Brown Baggers

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship with Debbie Tolstoi – Memorial Hall

11:20AM Endowment Counselors Presentation – Memorial Hall

11:30AM Introduction / Orientation with Pastor Dave Denoon – Sanctuary

11:30AM Nominating Committee – Library

2:30PM "The Organ in a New Light," with John Powel Walsh



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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

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@FirstChurchWG

Instagram

@webstergroves_firstchurch

YouTube

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

