

Welcome!

First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United Church of Christ

Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

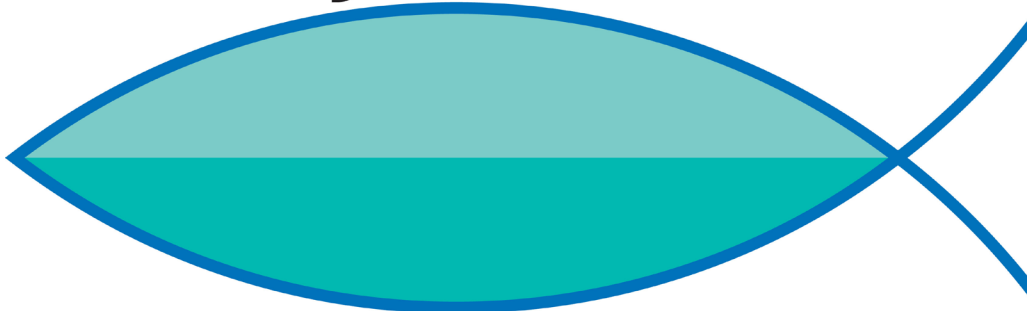


FEBRUARY 9, 2025

SCOUTING SUNDAY

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

“From now
on you will



be catching
people.”

LUKE 5:10, NRSV

*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 *Adoration* Florence Price

WELCOME Joan Musbach, *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 Philip O'Halloran, *Eagle Scout*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES Phoenix Hill, *Scout*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**) Thérèse Schuster
Eagle Scout, Patrol Leader

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the HOLY ONE setting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of God's robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above: each had six wings – with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said,

“Holy, holy, holy is our God who commands the heavenly forces; the whole earth is full of God's glory!”

The door frames shook at the voices of those who called, and the building filled with smoke. And I said,

“Woe is me! I am lost, for I have unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the Majesty, the HOLY ONE of heavenly forces.”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.”

Then I heard the voice of the HOLY ONE saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Hear am I; send me!”

***RAISING THE COVENANT** *Covenant of 1977* Jackie Hunt
Star Scout, Senior Patrol Leader

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** *Holy, Holy, Holy* Reginald Heber
No. 251, vv. 1,2,4 – *Pilgrim Hymnal*

***RITUAL OF APPROACH** Jackie Hunt
**Invitation* (Responsive)

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you;
But only say the word, and your servant shall be healed.

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)*

You, O God, are majestic in your glory. You revealed yourself to Isaiah – seated on the place of honor in and beyond creation; all the company of heaven adore you and sing your praises. To this vision and to your presence we have been called. But we can be reluctant when it comes to answering your call. We live lives based more on what's socially acceptable rather than on what you would want, and we tolerate a world that is filled with deeds and words so much less than what you dream for us. Out of your love, cleanse our hearts, take away our guilt, and blot out our sin. Free us to your service. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Confession*

**Words of Assurance (Responsive)*

1 Corinthians 15:1-3

Siblings, I want to call your attention to the good news that has been preached to you, which you received and in which also you are found.

God's saving grace is made evident in our living if we hold on to that good news. Otherwise, we have accepted it for nothing.

The good news is this: Christ died for our sins in keeping with the scriptures and was buried, then raised on the third day.

We are as we are by God's grace, and that grace hasn't been for nothing! 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 WORD SHARED

From the Gospels

Luke 5:1-11

Phoenix Hill

Pew Bible, p. 937

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.

ANTHEM

The Handiwork of God

Mark A. Miller

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Imposter Syndrome"

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.

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

Presentation of Scout Charter for 2025

Betsy O'Halloran, *Scout Committee Chair*

**Song of Praise*

Doxology

Thomas Ken

**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*

You have called us, O God, and we have answered: Here we are, send us. Our labors are yours, our possessions are yours, our lives are yours. Receive and bless, we pray, all we are and all we have, to continue the work which you've begun. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Here I Am, Lord

Daniel L. Schutte

Tune: HERE I AM, LORD

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain.*

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain.*

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

We offer our thanks to BSA Scout Troop 301, a troop for any young person age 11 to 17 years, for their assistance with worship today. The Scouts present with us, this morning, are listed with their assignments in the Order of Worship. Their adult leaders, in addition to Committee Chair Betsy O'Halloran, are Tracey Legg, Scout Master, and Denise Lee, Assistant Scout Master.

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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](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)

### **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](http://FirstChurchWG.org/donate)
- Scan the **QR code**.



### **Chocolate Sunday – TODAY!**

The Parish Life Ministry cares about our health! Were you aware of that? That is why they are hosting a **Chocolate Sunday on February 9<sup>th</sup>** – to take care of us. Advanced research says that chocolate contains more antioxidants than apples. Chocolate may help reduce stress. Parish Life members have found that to be true for them! There are other ways chocolate can benefit us, too. The fellowship around a chocolate fountain can lift our spirits, give us reason to smile and make us happy to be together. So plan to stay after worship for Chocolate Sunday, and enjoy time at the Chocolate Fountain. (For those seeking added or alternative sustenance, there will also be a make-your-own ice cream sundae station provided.)

### **Also TODAY after worship...**

#### **Adult Education Session: Kathy & Bob Hill in Mongolia**

What country has more animals than people? What country has the coldest desert in the world? What country is a nuclear free zone and hosts international meetings? What country has movable homes made from felt? What country does not have gun worries? Mongolia, of course.

Wait ... Mongolia? Find out today, during Coffee Fellowship, as Bob and Kathy Hill share their travel experiences in this fascinating country.

### **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, contact Linda Kopetti.

## Sunday Morning Volunteer Opportunities

Please, consider serving as

- **Liturgist** (conducting different portions of worship and reading scripture); sign up at [bit.ly/Liturgist-2025](https://bit.ly/Liturgist-2025), and/or
- **Slideshow Presenter** (advancing the slides displayed in worship); sign up at [bit.ly/Slideshow-2025](https://bit.ly/Slideshow-2025), and/or
- **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](https://bit.ly/Audio-Video-2025)

Contact the Pastor, to volunteer or to learn more about these jobs.

## Shirley Moore Memorial Service Monday, February 10, 10:30AM

The life of Shirley Moore (1931-2024) will be honored in a Memorial Service, Monday, February 10 at 10:30AM, in our sanctuary. Her family invites all her church friends to gather and celebrate with them. A service of committal will take place, immediately afterward, at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, where she will be laid to rest with her husband Bill.

## Donation Drive! Period and Diaper Supplies Sunday, February 23, 9am - 12 noon

The Peace & Justice Team is trying something new for their latest donation drive – conducting it on a SUNDAY. Donations benefiting the St. Louis Area Diaper (and Period Supplies) Bank will be accepted in the Narthex prior to the worship service, and from 9am to noon in front of the Memorial Hall external doors (drive-thru). Please contact Andrea Welnick to volunteer as a drive-thru donation receiver.

## Gala of Grace Returns Saturday, March 29th

Experience a fully catered, fine dining experience, plus the best desserts in town made by our very own First Church bakers. Stay tuned for more details!

With gratitude, your 2025 Gala of Grace Committee,  
Rebecca Novak, Jeanene Harris, Rosemary Hensley,  
Cathy Buerk, Laura Cooper

## Wandering Musicians Need Food & Shelter Overnight – April 5-6

The young handbell musicians from First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake, Illinois (UCC) are spending the weekend of April 5-6 in the St. Louis area, and **will be performing in our worship service on April 6**. We currently have sufficient accommodations for them to be spending the night with church families. Thanks to all those who said yes to providing these young people beds and breakfasts!

We'd also love to have backup homes, in case rearrangements should be necessary. Please contact the Pastor, if you are able to help in this way.

## 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** by asking businesses and friends for items. You can also help with administrative tasks from home. Please call or text Kirkwood UCC member Bob Steen at 314-980-7699 or email Bob at [AUCCTion4Humanity@outlook.com](mailto:AUCCTion4Humanity@outlook.com).

## **10 West Lockwood Seeks Additional Custodian**

Our 10 West Lockwood enterprise is seeking an additional **Weekend & Events Custodian**. This is a “gig” job, often only four hours at a time, offering assistance and housekeeping for groups that are taking advantage of our facility for parties and other gatherings. If you know someone interested in occasional extra income, please have them contact the Pastor (aka Head of Staff).

### **February Birthdays**

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Charlie Brader  | February 5  |
| Mary Edwards    | February 6  |
| K Wentzien      | February 6  |
| Elyse von Weise | February 8  |
| 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, February 9**

#### **Scouting Sunday | Racial Justice Sunday**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship (Chocolate Sunday!)

**11:15AM** Adult Ed: Kathy & Bob Hill's Trip To Mongolia

### **Monday, February 10**

**7:00PM** Scout Troops 30 – Dickens Room

**7:00PM** Three Ministries (Hybrid)

### **Tuesday, February 11**

**10:30AM** Staff Meeting – Church Office

### **Wednesday, February 12**

**9:30AM** **CANCELLED** Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

**6:00PM** Bridge Club - Inglis Room

### **Thursday, February 13**

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

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

### **Sunday, February 16**

#### **Science / Technology / Evolution Sunday**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
www.FirstChurchWG.org

## Contact Information

Moderator – Doug Barton  
iyell4@aol.com

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DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org

Office Administrator – Adam Levin  
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Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org

Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn  
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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  
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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>

