

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves  
United Church of Christ



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

JUNE 1, 2025

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION (CELEBRATED)  
SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE



*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

*Rain*  
Anne Gerst, piano

Mark Kellner

*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

Jenny Jones, *Liturgist*

### TOLLING OF THE BELL

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

based on Psalm 47

Let all the people of the earth clap their hands and shout to God with loud songs of joy!

**Because God Most High is awesome, Premier over all the earth.**

God has gone up with a shout, the Holy One with the blast of a ram's horn.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises to our Sovereign  
whose majesty enthralls the whole world. Sing  
praises with a psalm.**

God holds sway over all the world from the seat of true authority, and earthly rulers gather as if they were descended from faithful ancestors.

**Because all earth's guardians are subject before our God  
who is exalted beyond all.**

### \*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

*God Reigns O'er All the Earth!*  
No. 21, vv. 1,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

Jane Parker Huber

### \*PRAYER OF APPROACH (Unison)

**We proclaim your power, O God. We are yours and you are  
ours. You created each and all of us for your glory and delight.  
So, we pray your forgiveness for those times when we have  
failed to uphold your glory and when we have, even  
unintentionally, supported systems that have oppressed or  
injured others. Forgive us for ignoring the prompting of your  
Spirit, for trivializing your purpose for our lives, and for placing  
our will above yours. Grant us courage to share in Christ's  
sufferings, to be his witnesses, and to carry your loving**

**compassion to a hurting world. By your grace and with your power, renew and restore as your people, your community, your church in Christ's name. Amen.**

**SINGING GOD'S GLORY**

*Halleluja*  
No. 236 – *New Century Hymnal*

Trad. Caribbean

**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.*

**SHARING THE WORD**

*From the Gospels*

Luke 24:44-53

Pew Bible, p. 964

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*A Pastoral History*  
Part 5: "Who We Might Become"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH OTHERS**

*Opportunities to Give and Gather*

*\*Song of Praise*

*Doxology with Alleluias*

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

*\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

**Gracious God, we seek to make our thoughts, words, and actions one with yours. Therefore, we bring our gifts as well. Bless them, we pray, to benefit the work of your Church. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE**

*Invitation*

*We Lift Up Our Joys and Concerns*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*Fraction*

*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.**

*Communion*

*Please, come forward to partake of communion.  
Worshippers approach the servers when they are ready.  
If you are unable to go forward to partake, please indicate this to an usher,*

*and the elements will be brought to you.*

*\*Prayer after Communion*

**We thank you, God for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PARTING**

*I'll Fly Away*  
No. 595 – *New Century Hymnal*

Albert E. Brumley

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*PARTING WORDS**

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

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Nocturne, op. 54, no. 4*  
Anne Gerst, piano

Edvard Grieg

*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.*

**Coming Next Sunday!**

**Sunday, June 8**, will be a big and important day for us. We celebrate **Pentecost**, the birthday of The Church (and you're encouraged to wear **red** in celebration), which is also the day we collect the "Strengthen the Church" special offering (see insert). Pastor Dave Denoon will be away for a family event, and we've asked **Pastor Maggie Gann** of Sts. Clare & Francis Ecumenical Catholic Communion to bring the Message of the Day. Our Eritrean friend **Ertra** – adept in the art of henna painting – will be here with her children **Abraham and Sarah** (see announcement). And the Peace & Justice Team will be **collecting non-perishable food items** to restock the shelves for a typically very busy summertime at Webster Rock Hill Ministries (see announcement).

**Newcomers Orientation**

If you are interested to know more about us, we conduct Newcomers Orientations seasonally. To find out when the next Orientation is being scheduled, please see the Pastor. Thank you!

**Connecting Remotely to Worship**

Sunday worship each week is streamed live on YouTube. We apologize in advance for livestream difficulties you may experience: Although we thought we had "worked the kinks out," some challenges remain. Past worship and videos are also available for viewing. Go to [bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)

**Wifi Connection**

Please connect to the network **first\_church\_guest** using the passcode **firstguest**

**"Listen Everywhere" Hearing-Assisted System Active!**

The **Listen Everywhere** system is our new accommodation for people who need assisted-listening. **Listen Everywhere** can be downloaded to your phone and can be used with or without hearing aids. If your phone is incompatible with the **Listen** system, we also have stand-alone units available. Please see Mark Metcalf, this Sunday, to get started using the **Listen** system, or email him at [markmetcalf@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:markmetcalf@firstchurchwg.org)

### **How to Donate 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**.



### **Let Breeze Serve as Your Church Directory**

**If you would like to access the church directory, change your listing there, or check on your donations, Breeze is the app for you!**

Here are a few simple steps to access info from and about the church on your personal device:

1. Download the Breeze app via the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play store (Android)
2. The app will ask you to provide your Church ID, which is: **fccwgstlmo**
3. Use your Username and Password to log into the app! (If you don't know your Username, contact the Church Office.)

### **Video Monitors for the Sanctuary**

New video screens have been mounted on the north wall, as you see above. Today is their first use! Their locations place them above most of the glare the perimeter lights ("candles") create and out of the reach of glare from the strip lights above, which illuminate the choirs. On the south wall, there is one screen only, located near the southwest corner of the Sanctuary, in clear view of the Chancel Choir and other worship leaders. A hearty thanks to the donors, installers, and everyone in the Congregation who made this possible!

### **Revised Annual Reports Now Available**

Our hardworking staff and officers put together informative reports on the state of First Congregational from 2024 to 2025. Unfortunately, departing Moderator Doug Barton's 2024 report was included, rather than the report for 2025. To see what he actually wrote for this year, get a new copy – online or in print. Paper copies are available from the Narthex table, or go to [bit.ly/2025-FCCWG-Reports](https://bit.ly/2025-FCCWG-Reports)

### **Relief from the May 16 Tornado**

St. Louis Magazine has compiled a list of resources to help victims at [bit.ly/STL-Tornado](https://bit.ly/STL-Tornado). The City of St. Louis offers a similar list at its website. And the group Action St. Louis has created a list of items needed (and not needed); please see the image after this article, or go to [ActionSTL.org/tornado](https://ActionSTL.org/tornado) where in addition to finding out how to make material donations you also can volunteer.

### **Do You Have a Story to Tell?**

**Summer of Conversations** – The purpose of the Summer of Conversations is to get better acquainted with others in your church. The program includes Congregation leaders and others visiting with as many as ten people, in one-on-one, 30-minute sessions that happen from June through September. Please, contact the Pastor if you would like to know more. If you are satisfied simply being chosen as someone's one-on-one conversation participant, just wait a while, and someone will call. (If you prefer not to participate at all in the "Summer of Conversations," that's OK too. Just let the Pastor know you don't wish to be included.)

### **Eritrean Family, June 8**

It has been several months since the Congregation received an update on Ertra and her two children, Sara and Abraham. To learn more, visit [bit.ly/Eritrea-Friends](https://bit.ly/Eritrea-Friends). The family will be visiting us

at Coffee Fellowship on June 8 to do henna hand painting. Donations for Ertra's dental work are welcome but not expected.

### **Strengthen the Church, June 8 (see insert also)**

The annual "Strengthen the Church" special offering takes place on Pentecost (next Sunday). The offering furthers the work of our regional conferences and the national UCC. Envelopes for STC are available from the Narthex table, today and next Sunday, or give via our Donate page.

### **Summer Food Collection, June 8**

When school ends, the need for food and other care items increases in the Webster Rock Hill Ministries service area, and this year it may be harder than ever. So, if you have something to share, please donate at this drive-through day of collections. Learn more at [bit.ly/Summer-Food2025](http://bit.ly/Summer-Food2025)

### **Food For International Students at Webster University**

Most of us look forward to long, summer days for swimming, family gatherings and picnics in a favorite park. But the international students at Webster University face the hard reality of limited food supplies. Their student loans cover tuition and books, but very little is left over for living expenses; and because there are very few summer jobs on campus, they cannot easily find work to help make ends meet. Learn how to help at [bit.ly/WebsterU-Food](http://bit.ly/WebsterU-Food)

### **Camp MoVal Summer Offerings – Register Today!**

Missouri Mid-South Conference Outdoor Ministries have announced the summer programs being offered at Camp MoVal. To register, go to [MissouriMidSouth/camp-moval](http://MissouriMidSouth/camp-moval). Also, please remember that the Christian Education Ministry offers scholarships for all our Kids Church and Youth campers. Ask Johari Hunt for more information.

### **Webster Rock Hill Ministries Trivia Night, June 20**

WRHM will host a trivia fundraiser, Friday, June 20, at 7:00PM, here in the First Church Memorial Hall. Registration is \$30 per person + a dry or canned good donation. Call 314-961-5082, or email [WRHM@WRHM.org](mailto:WRHM@WRHM.org), to register or for more information.

### **Rainbow Bench Coming Soon**

The Gateway Open & Affirming partnership (GONA) is a consortium of 25 area UCC congregations, including us. GONA serves as a resource for churches who seek to embrace the diversity of all sexual orientations and gender identities. GONA is currently promoting the placement rainbow-colored benches to demonstrate a continued outreach and support of the LGBTQ community. We are planning to install one of our own! Learn more at [bit.ly/ONA-Bench](http://bit.ly/ONA-Bench)

### **Meal-A-Month June Shopping List**

Boxed Whole Wheat Pasta • Pasta Sauce (Low salt and sugar)  
Canned Mixed Vegetables (low or no salt) • Canned Fruit in own juices  
Powdered Milk • Shelf Stable Milk • Soy Milk • Baby Fruits • Baby Vegetables • Baby Cereal

### **June Birthdays**

Donna Hull - June 1  
Jenny Jones - June 3  
Christy Hood - June 5  
Laszlo Kopetti - June 17  
Cliff Aerie - June 19  
Abigail Monaco - June 23  
Kelsey Tolson - June 25  
Rosemary Hensley - June 29  
Jane Bolliger Debman - June 30

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

For a complete schedule of all church events, observances, and building use,  
please visit our online calendar at  
**FirstChurchWG.org/Calendar**

### **Sunday, June 1**

**Feast of the Ascension (celebrated)**

**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

### **Tuesday, June 3**

**1:00PM** Communications Committee - Church Office

### **Wednesday, June 4**

**9:30AM** Yoga w/ Jeanene - Inglis Room

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

### **Sunday, June 8**

**Pentecost**

**"Strengthen the Church" Special Offering**

**Summer Food Collection**

**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](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

Moderator – Chris von Weise  
[chrisvonyz@gmail.com](mailto:chrisvonyz@gmail.com)

Pastor – Rev. David Denoon  
[DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:DDenoon@FirstChurchWG.org)

Office Administrator – Adam Levin  
[Admin@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Admin@FirstChurchWG.org)

Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt  
[Johari.Hunt@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Johari.Hunt@FirstChurchWG.org)

Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
[Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org)

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
[ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org)

Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn  
[Events@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Events@FirstChurchWG.org)

Custodian & AV Tech – Mark Metcalf  
[Mark.Metcalf@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Mark.Metcalf@FirstChurchWG.org)

Weekend & Events Custodians –  
Onyeka Igboanuzue and Stuart Chase

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity  
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie  
[Cliff.Aerie@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Cliff.Aerie@FirstChurchWG.org)

Chaplain, Stillpoint Campus Ministry  
Webster University – Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes  
[Laurel.Hayes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Laurel.Hayes@sbcglobal.net)

Director, Center for Counseling & Healing  
Rev. Linda E. Smith, BCRN, HTCP/I  
[lesrhs@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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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