

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

MAY 11, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD
FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME
MOTHER'S DAY



*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

Bless This House

May H. Brahe

*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

Cindy Matlock, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Prayer for Mothers African-American Lectionary
(Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

Mothers come in many different forms, and today we celebrate them all!

Thank God who is our Mother!

Everyone here is someone's child.

Thank God for my mother!

For those women who have joined God in heaven and whom we miss
dearly here on earth:

Thank God for the mothers of the past.

For every woman who is working day and night to raise her children right,
now:

Thank God for the mothers of today.

For all the women who are expecting, but aren't quite mothers yet:

Thank God for mothers-soon-to-be.

For those women who prayed for and received children as their own
through adoption:

Thank God for mothers-in-fact.

For the women who took in others' children through foster care:

Thank God for mothers with hearts so big.

For the women and girls who exercised the wisdom to recognize that
someone else needed to become the mother of the children they would
bear:

Thank God for brave birth-mothers.

For those women who have lost a child to death and must carry on:

Thank God for mothers who are so strong.

For all the women who wanted to have children of their own, but who
chose instead to mother everyone else, and for those mothers in our
chosen families:

Thank God for mothers in spirit.

We thank you, holy One, for the women who have influenced our lives in
so many ways.

We pray that we will honor them in everything we do.

Amen.

*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**

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

Our Mother in heaven, make your name holy. Reveal your love, and teach us your way. Make earth alike with heaven. Provide bread for today, so that we do not worry about tomorrow. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Keep us from things that would keep us from you, but deliver us from the evil one. For here is your love: where power and glory are shared, now and forever. Amen.

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)*

God from whom every family on earth takes its name, by our giving we offer thanks for the bounty of love you have made manifest in our homes. Receive and bless all that we offer in your name, so that this home of your people may be blessing other homes with good news from you. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Jean Janzen

based on words of Julian of Norwich

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,
grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one, in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow until I flow'r, until I know.

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

People: Let our service begin.

***POSTLUDE**

Postlude in F Minor

Leon Boellmann

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.

† Artworks featured onscreen in “The Word Shared” are from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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. Past worship and videos are also available for viewing. Go to 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.

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 Screens for the Sanctuary

Recently, thanks to donations to the “Wish Upon a Cloud” fund, we were able to purchase three 85-inch diagonal screens - two for the front of the sanctuary and one for the back. To see suggested placement of the two screens in front, go to the latest edition of Covenant News, or – to see where all three screens will go – stop by the church tomorrow night when we will have mock-ups mounted. The plan is to have all three installed by the end of May. **If you would like to contribute additional funds for this project**, please either use the “Wish Upon a Cloud” selection in our website's Donate page dropdown menu, or contact Office Administrator Adam Levin at ext. 15.

Do You Have a Story to Tell?

A couple of opportunities are arising, this summer, for members and friends to share stories about themselves – as testimony in worship and in one-on-one settings. Who we are as a faith community, of God's people in this place and at this moment in history, is a vitally important understanding for ourselves as faithful persons and people. To do this, we are reintroducing

two important efforts – “Stories Before God” and “A Summer of Conversations.” We began telling again our Stories Before God, during Lent. If you want to know more about this effort, go to FirstChurchWG.org/worship/the-case-for-sharing-stories-before-god/

If you would like to share a “Story Before God,” please go to bit.ly/Stories-2025 to signup. More information about the Summer of Conversations will be coming soon.

Father Dickson Cemetery Trivia Night, May 17

The Father Dickson Cemetery Foundation announces their “Back in Time” Trivia Night, Saturday, May 17, at 7:00PM – Woodard’s Event Hall, 9490 Watson Rd. This Foundation is the new caretaking organization created by volunteers serving and keeping the oldest historic Black cemetery in St. Louis County.

Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting, May 18

The Pastoral Relations Committee, which meets once every two months with the Pastor to discuss matters of joy or concern in our life together, will gather next on May 18. If you'd like more information about the committee's work, or if you have a matter you would like for them to talk about, please don't hesitate to contact one of them - **Sharon Love, Annie Sampath, Jared Cohen, Emily Polaske, Dana Romeis, Dan Claggett, Moderator Chris von Weise**, and, of course, **Pastor Dave**.

Cards for Jean Gray's 100th Birthday

Laura Cooper writes that her mother, Jean Gray, turns 100 on May 19th! There will be a small family gathering, but the family is asking church members to send Jean a card or note. Please write in a dark pen so she can easily read. Her address is: **505 Couch Ave., Apt. 2111, Kirkwood, MO 63122**. Thank you!

Webster Groves Community Dog Walk, May 24

Enjoy an easy walk with your best friend, Saturday, May 24, from Old Orchard Gazebo Park. Gathering begins at 7:45am, walking begins at 8:00. Free Starbucks Coffee and Pup Cups.

Lady Elect Potluck, May 27

Our Lady Elect End of Year Potluck will be on Tuesday evening, May 27th. We'll gather in the Inglis Room at 6:00 for social time, followed by dinner at 6:30. You may RSVP at marilynb665@gmail.com. Or you can also text (314) 894-2046 with your first and last name and your food item. All are welcome!

Race for Reconciliation, June 14, 8:30AM

Webster Groves Churches Together for Justice, Metropolitan Congregations United, and the St. Louis Reconciliation Network are seeking runners, walkers, and rollers for this year's Race for Reconciliation. This year's race takes place, the Saturday before Juneteenth. For more information, go to stlr4r.com

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. 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, to register or for more information.

Meal-A-Month May Shopping List

Canned Chicken • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)
Canned Fruit in own juices
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Pudding or Jello (fat free/sugar free)
Shampoo/Conditioner • Soap • Deodorant

May Birthdays

Dana Romeis	May 1	Drue Hood	May 10
Cathy Buerk	May 3	Kay Roush	May 12
Mark Edwards	May 3	Peter Bakker-Arkema	May 17
Melissa Hill	May 3	Jean Gray (turning 100)	May 19
Adrianna Hoeper	May 4	Mila Falconer	May 23
Warner Prange	May 8	Sophia Monaco	May 23
Thomas Welnick	May 8	Linda Kopetti	May 24
Garie Perry	May 9	Leo Gomez	May 27

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, May 11

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Christ the Good Shepherd
Festival of the Christian Home
Mother's Day

9:45AM Nursery Care Available
10:00AM Worship
10:15AM Kids' Church
11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

Monday, May 12

7:00PM Scout Troop 301 - Dickens Room
7:00PM Three Ministries (Hybrid)

Tuesday, May 13

10:30AM Staff Meeting – Church Office

Wednesday, May 14

9:30AM Yoga w/ Jeanene - Inglis Room

Thursday, May 15

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary
7:30PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Sunday, May 18

New Members Received

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

11:30AM Pastoral Relations Committee



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

Contact Information

Moderator – Chris von Weise
chrisvonyz@gmail.com

Pastor – Rev. David 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 and Stuart Chase

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

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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[@WebsterGroves_FirstChurch](https://www.instagram.com/WebsterGroves_FirstChurch)

YouTube
[bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](https://www.youtube.com/bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)