

# Welcome!

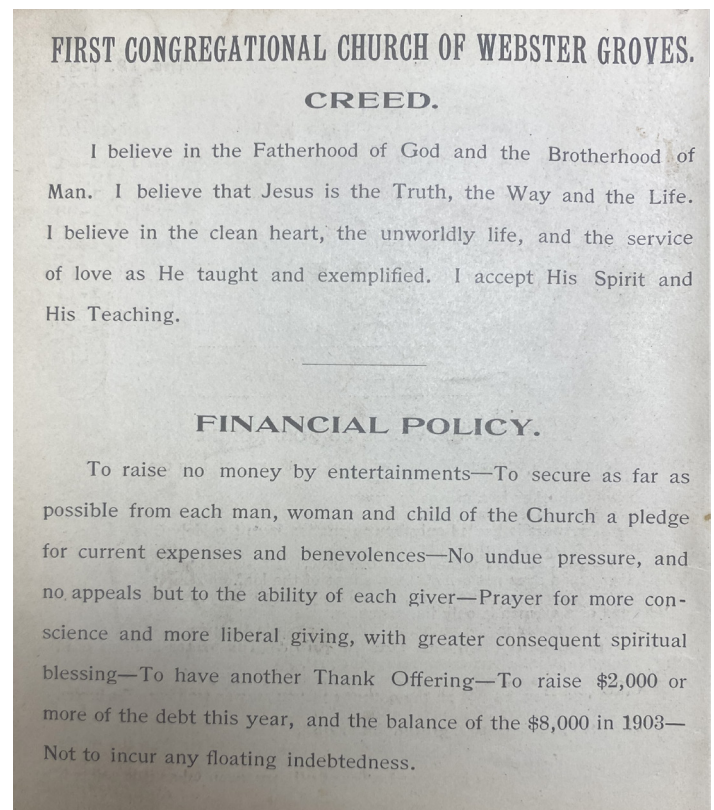
## First Congregational Church of Webster Groves United Church of Christ



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

**MAY 4, 2025**

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 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

*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

Jane Porchey, *Liturgist*

### TOLLING THE BELL

### LIGHTING THE CANDLES

### \*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

*Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*  
No. 230, vv. 1,3,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

St. John of Damascus

### NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

### SHARING THE WORD

*From Christian History*  
*From the Gospels*

Acts 9:1-6  
John 21:1-17, 19b

Pew Bible, p. 1000  
p. 939

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### MESSAGE OF THE DAY

*"A Pastoral History, Part 1  
Who Were We?"*

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)

**Thank you, God, for the gifts and ministries of your people.  
Grant that what we give, what we present in thanksgiving for all  
the grace we have received, will feed your lambs and tend your  
sheep; in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.**

## **SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE**

*\*Prayers of Intercession (Joys and Concerns)*

*\*Sharing the Story*

*\*Sursum Corda (Responsive – Minister; **People**)*

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Sanctus (Unison)*

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty. The whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.**

*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.**

*Invitation*

*Communion*

*Communion is served in the pews, first the bread and then the cup.*

*The bread is gluten-free. Wine is white; grape juice is red. Each is consumed at the indication of the Pastor, unless this presents a hardship for the individual.*

*\*Prayer after Communion (Unison)*

**With bread and cup we have shared the bounty of your welcome table, O God. Send us from this place, your disciples renewed and turned in spirit and substance. May this feast have made us ready to offer your Word anew to the world, that peace may be served and justice may prevail and that your hopes for us may not be disappointed, so that your love may spread and faith abound in Christ's name. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*  
*No. 173 – New Century Hymnal*

C. Gabaraín

**\*BENEDICTION**

from Revelation 21

**POSTLUDE**

*With the Postlude, worship will transition into our Annual Meeting, which we expect will be brief. If you are a guest or visitor today, we invite you to remain until the end and then join us for refreshments in Memorial Hall. Young people will be invited back to the Kids Church rooms until the end of the meeting.*

### **New Members Class Forming**

If you are interested to know more about us, we are hoping to conduct a Newcomers Orientation, soon. Attendees would be eligible to join the church on Sunday, May 18. Please go to [bit.ly/FCCWG-New](http://bit.ly/FCCWG-New) to let us know your preference of meeting dates and times. 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](http://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 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. The third screen will go over the double doors at the foot of the center aisle. 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.

### **Seeking Sunday Drivers**

A dear member has moved into a new assisted living environment in Webster Groves, about a block east of the church. With the move, she is no longer driving, but she would still like to attend worship regularly. If you would be available, some Sunday in the not-too-distant future to pick her up on your way to church, or to drop her off on your way home, it would be

greatly appreciated. A signup sheet for this purpose is mounted on a clipboard in the Church Office (to the left of the bank of mailslots).

### **Easter Flowers Available**

The remaining flowers from Easter are now available from the Conference Room, across the Narthex from the Sanctuary. Get them while they are still (relatively) fresh!

### **REMINDER: Room Setup Requests**

Moderator-Elect (and soon to be Moderator) Chris von Weise has been commissioned by the Communications Committee to remind members and friends who are organizing events, please, to use one of the **event worksheets on the door of the 10 West Lockwood office**. When you do so, you should also include a **room setup diagram** on the reverse of the worksheet. Your worksheet should then be turned in, to Facility Manager Chip Isringhaus's mailslot in the lower right corner of the mailslots in the Church Office.

### **Kids' Church Mission & Visioning, May 5, 7:00PM**

We have chosen a date and time for the mission and visioning meeting for Kid's Church! Help Johari and Christian Education guide the direction of religious education at FCCWG.

### **Facility & Finance Update**

F&F Ministry Chair Phil Shoulberg reports on Kitchen renovations, the lease of our west Parking Lot to the City of Webster Groves, and an Open House for event planners set for this Tuesday, as well as a new Dickens Room tenant in the current edition of the Covenant News – <https://conta.cc/3YtNWv8>

### **An AMAZING! St. Louis Black History Tour**

**Saturday, May 10, 9:45am – 2:00pm**

With the original date washed out, Father Gerry Kleba's St. Louis Black History Tour has been rescheduled! ***Very limited seating remains. Contact Doug Miller for more information.***

### **Sacred Grove Project Planting Day**

**Eden Theological Seminary**

**Saturday, May 10, 9AM – 12PM**

You are invited to join the students, faculty, and staff of Eden Seminary, along with neighbors, friends, local organizations and other congregations for a community planting day on May 10. Learn more at [bit.ly/EdenSacredGrove](https://bit.ly/EdenSacredGrove)

### **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.

### **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.

### **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](https://stlr4r.com)



## **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.

### **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](http://FirstChurchWG.org/Calendar)**

### **Sunday, May 4**

**Third Sunday of Easter**  
**Sacrament of Christ's Table**

9:00AM Brown Baggers  
9:45AM Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM Worship**

10:15AM Kids' Church

**11:05AM Annual Meeting**

11:20AM Coffee Fellowship

### **Monday, May 5**

7:00PM Scout Troop 301 - Dickens Room  
7:00PM Executive Ministry (Zoom)  
7:00PM Kids Church Mission & Visioning  
- Inglis Room

### **Tuesday, May 6**

1:00PM Communications Committee  
5:30PM 10 West Lockwood Open House

### **Wednesday, May 7**

9:30AM Yoga w/ Jeanene - Inglis Room  
10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

### **Thursday, May 8**

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

### **Sunday, May 11**

**Mother's Day**

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 – Doug Barton  
[iyell4@aol.com](mailto:iyell4@aol.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  
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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  
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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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