

# Welcome!

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



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

**JUNE 8, 2025**

**PENTECOST**

**“STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH” SPECIAL OFFERING**



*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

*Remember Your Love*  
Anne Gerst, piano

D. Ducote, G. Daigle

*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

Phil Shoulberg, *Liturgist*

### TOLLING THE BELL

### LIGHTING THE CANDLES

### OPENING WORDS

John 14:15-17, 27

Pew Bible, p. 983

### \*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

*O Spirit of the Living God*  
No. 263, vv. 1, 2, 5 – *New Century Hymnal*

H. H. Tweedy

### \*PRAYER OF APPROACH (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

Beloved God, we come before you this morning in celebration of the gift of  
your Holy Spirit.

**The Holy Spirit opens our hearts to the bold sacrifices of  
love.**

Let your Holy Spirit create a conversion within that leaves us radically  
changed today.

**We are open today to being renewed, rekindled, and  
revitalized.**

Allow us to be made in the wonder of your image and to see with the  
greater grandeur of your vision.

**We call upon the Christ within us to fulfill the work and  
witness of your Church.**

On this day, show us the common life and community of your Church in a  
world that matters.

**Your realm, O God, is the real world, and we choose to be  
presence and power within it. Amen.**

### \*SINGING GOD'S GLORY

*Glory to God in the Highest*

Peruvian melody

*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 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 Epistles*

Romans 8:14-17

Pew Bible, p. 1030

*From Christian History*

Acts 2:1-8, 12-21

p. 992

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

Rev. Maggie Gann, Pastor  
Sts. Clare and Francis E.C.C.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Preparation*

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Edwin Hatch

No. 292, v. 1 – *New Century Hymnal*

*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 SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH OTHERS**

*Opportunities to Give and Gather*

*\*Song of Praise*

*Doxology*    Tune: OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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 (Unison)*

**Holy One, thank you for the many ways we find connection in being church together. Whenever we feel alone, remind us of how we are a part of your vast creation. Let us find a sense of playfulness and joy in knowing our place in your world. May our joy turn to abundance as we share with one another resources that lead to the flourishing of all people. Come, Holy Spirit, and bless us we pray, Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*Spirit of God*

S. Garnaas-Holmes

Spirit of God, bright Wind, breath that bids life begin,  
blow as you always do; create us a new.  
Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!  
Alleluia, Come, Spirit, come!

Spirit of God, bright Dove, grant us your peace and love,  
healing upon your wings for all living things.  
For when we live your peace, captives will find release,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!  
Alleluia, Come, Spirit, come!

Spirit of God in all, we gladly hear your call,  
the life in our hands that sings, the pow'r of your wings.  
Born of your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!  
Alleluia, Come, Spirit, come!

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

People: **Let our service begin.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Gradus ad Parnassum*  
Anne Gerst, piano

Claude Debussy

*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.*

Rev. Maggie Gann joined Sts. Clare & Francis in January of 2023. Prior to coming to SCF, she served on staff at United Methodist, PCUSA, and Baptist churches. Pastor Maggie is a fan of liberation theologies; loves to grow tomatoes; is an unapologetic fat futurist; sings with the St. Louis Symphony's IN UNISON Chorus; and wants to pet your dog. She and her husband, Steve, live in University City.

**Today's Events**

It is a big and important day for us! We celebrate **Pentecost**, the birthday of The Church, 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, so **Pastor Maggie Gann** of Sts. Clare & Francis will bring the Message of the Day. Our Eritrean friend **Ertra** – adept in henna painting – will be here with her children **Abraham and Sarah**. And the Peace & Justice Team will be **collecting non-perishable food items** to restock the shelves for a busy summertime at Webster Rock Hill Ministries.

**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.)

### 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?

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.)

### Eritrean Family Visits Today

Ertra and her two children, Sara and Abraham, will visit us at Coffee Fellowship today to do henna hand painting! Donations for Ertra's dental work are welcome but not expected. To learn more, visit [bit.ly/Eritrea-Friends](https://bit.ly/Eritrea-Friends).

### **Strengthen the Church offering today (see insert)**

The annual “Strengthen the Church” special offering takes place on Pentecost. The offering furthers the work of our regional conferences and the national UCC. Envelopes for STC are available from the Narthex table today; or give via our Donate page.

### **Summer Food Collection Today**

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)

### **A Special Message From The Peace and Justice Team, June 9**

Doug has already collected preferences for Jesus Has Left The Building activities from 32 FCC members, and we love the Congregation’s enthusiasm! **At this time we would like to collect additional responses. Please lookout for an electronic survey arriving tomorrow.**

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

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.

### **Road Closures Before Worship, June 15**

Unfortunately, due to a local 5K, some road closures will take place on Sunday, June 15. GO! St. Louis, a local running organization, will be closing Lockwood Ave from Kirkwood to just west of N Gore Ave. The road closure will be from 7:00 am through 9:30 am. Elm will remain open and Lockwood Ave east of Gore will also remain open.

### **Seeking Assistance for Afghan Family**

The church has received a request looking for volunteers this summer, to help an Afghan refugee family residing in the Shaw neighborhood, with transportation and childcare (4 sons, ages 5 to 12). For more information, please contact the Church Office.

### **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 [VRHM@VRHM.org](mailto:VRHM@VRHM.org), to register or for more information.

### **Tornado Relief Benefit Concert, June 20**

Join UCC member First Congregational Church of St. Louis on Friday, June 20th at 7:30pm for a benefit concert to support those affected by the recent tornado in the area. This powerful evening of music will feature an orchestra of over 50 volunteer musicians conducted by Minister of Music, Tim Clark, as well as a moving choral piece performed by members of the church and the wider community. Admission is FREE, and monetary donations will be received to aid in tornado relief.

### **Rainbow Bench Coming Soon**

The Gateway Open & Affirming partnership (GONA) is a consortium of 25 area UCC congregations, including us. GONA is currently rainbow-colored benches to demonstrate a continued support for the LBGTQ community. We are planning to install one of our own! Learn more at [bit.ly/ONA-Bench](http://bit.ly/ONA-Bench)

### **Earth Walk, June 29**

FCCWG will hold its fourth Earth Walk on 6/29/25 at 3pm. It will include jazz music from The Oikos Ensemble as well as scientific interpretation and poetic reflection. The program will be followed by a Q&A with refreshments. This year's funds will go towards tornado relief.

### **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 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

#### **Monday, June 9**

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

#### **Tuesday, June 10**

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

#### **Wednesday, June 11**

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

#### **Saturday, June 14**

**2:00pm** Memorial Service: Virginia "Ginnie"  
Conlee - Sanctuary

#### **Sunday, June 15**

**Father's Day**  
**Trinity 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](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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