

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

BUDGET MEETING

ACCESS SUNDAY / DISABILITIES AWARENESS WEEK

And above all these put on

LOVE

which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Colossians 3:14

***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 *St. Anthony's Chorale* F. J. Haydn

*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 Cynthia Matlock, *Liturgist*

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

TOLLING THE BELL

OPENING WORDS

From the Epistles Colossians 3:12-17 Pew Bible, p. 1074

***RAISING THE COVENANT** *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** *This Is the Day* Traditional
No. 84 – *New Century Hymnal*

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

**Unison Prayer (follows a time of silence)*

God of love, we are humbled that you have chosen us, for we know that we have not always demonstrated the grace we have known with you. We have not clothed ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience; nor have we forgiven others as you have forgiven us. Reclothe us in love, we pray. Bear with us, so that we may bear with one another. Guide us into true community, beloved community, with all. We know that this is possible, for all things are possible for you, as we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**Singing God's Glory* *Glory to God in the Highest* Traditional Peruvian

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*

*Children are invited forward for a time of enrichment,
after which they may proceed to Kids Church or return to their seats.*

THE WORD SHARED

From the Gospels Mark 1:40-45 Pew Bible, p. 911

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Come, Dove of Heaven

Miller / Tice

Come, Dove of heaven, Breath of peace,
sing through us, we pray.

Come, Dove of heaven, Breath of peace,
sing through us, sing through us today.

Come, Light-Creator, Source of peace,
shine on us, we pray.

Come, Light-Creator, Source of peace,
shine on us, shine on us today.

Breath, Source, and Word, come, God of peace,
make us new, we pray.

Breath, Source, and Word, come, God of peace,
make us new today.

Come, Love, incarnate, Word of peace,
dwell in us, we pray.

Come, Love incarnate, Word of peace,
dwell in us, dwell in us, dwell in us today.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“The Sea, the Letter, and Then...”

Rev. David Denoon

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Nothing Can Trouble

Jacques Berthier

No. 772 – *New Century Hymnal*

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns

When you speak a prayer request aloud, please bear in mind the privacy of those for whom you are praying, as this worship is being live-streamed.

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

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 (Unison)*

Eternal God of Redemption, you bless your creation and it springs forth with beauty. You judge your people with righteousness and new life abounds. Receive, we pray, the fruits of our labors. Bless the work of our hands, so that what we do may reflect the radiance of your love. Fill us with the Holy Spirit, so that what we say may proclaim to all the people the new hope in Jesus. Amen.

*HYMN OF PARTING

I Love to Tell the Story
No. 317 – Pilgrim Hymnal

Katherine Hankey

*BENEDICTION

*PARTING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE

Finale

G.F. Handel

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Connecting Remotely to Worship

Sunday worship each week is streamed live. To view, go to [YouTube.com/@1stChurchWG](https://www.youtube.com/@1stChurchWG)

Wifi Connection

Please connect to the network **first_church_guest** using the passcode **firstguest**

Hearing-Assisted System

To take advantage of our hearing-assisted system, download the **Listen Everywhere** app from the App Store or Google Store. If your phone is incompatible with the **Listen** system, we also have stand-alone units. Please see Mark Metcalf at the A/V station in the sanctuary 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](https://www.FirstChurchWG.org/donate)
 - Scan the QR code.



Let Breeze Serve as Your Church Directory

If you would like to access the church directory 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:

- Download the Breeze app via the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play store (Android)
- The app will ask you to provide your Church ID, which is: **fccwgstlmo**
- Use your Username and Password to log into the app! (If you don't know your Username, contact Office Administrator Adam Levin at admin@firstchurchwg.org)

New Church Merch

We have First Church T-shirts! Adult shirts go for \$15, kids' go for \$10. Buy your shirt online at [firstchurchwg.org/donate](https://www.firstchurchwg.org/donate), and pick it up in the office, or buy yours after worship today!

Congregational Meeting on the Budget, Today

A Special Meeting of the Congregation to consider the 2026 Budget will be conducted immediately after worship, this morning. Copies of the Summary Budget are available from the Narthex Table. Attend in person or virtually (Zoom link - bit.ly/FCCWG-Meet2).

SAGE, Requiescat in Pace

Garie Perry would like to acknowledge the closing of SAGE, Social and Growth Experiences. Organized in 1976 by five couples too young to be members of the EC's (couples whom Rev. Ervine Inglis had married.), but too old to be in the Couples Club, SAGE met monthly for 44 years! We give thanks for all our years of SAGE! (Read more at bit.ly/SAGE-Farewell)

Children's Sabbath Opportunities

Next Sunday, October 19, First Church's young people are invited to take part in prominent parts of the worship service. If your child or grandchild would like to do a reading, say a prayer, lead a song, or offer some other expression of joy or reverence, please be in contact with Johari or Pastor Dave!

Commitment 2026: "Dreaming God's Dream"

Consecration Sunday will be taking place on November 9. Consecration Sunday is our opportunity as God's people in community together to commit ourselves to the support of First Church's ministries in the coming year. You will begin hearing from us on October 19, on the theme of **"Dreaming God's Dream: No Gift Too Small, No Dream Too Big."** More information coming soon!

CROP Walk Raises Over \$1,000

Thanks to our CROP Walk Team (Esmeralda Castelblanco, Lori Gavril, Laurel Hayes, Doug Miller, Jane Porchey, and Annie Sampath) and everyone who supported them. We have raised \$1,165 for the work of **Church World Service, Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, and other food pantries.** Thank you!

Day Lily Root Giveaway, Today

The giveaway postponed from last week will happen **today in the Conference Room.** The lily roots had to be separated into "give-away clumps." Stop in and find something to enliven your garden next summer!

Final "Inspired" Book Study Session, Today

Our final book discussion of *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*, by Rachel Held Evans, will take place after the Congregational Meeting, today. Even if you haven't attended this book study before, you are invited and encouraged to attend today.

Offering of Letters, Today

Globally, nearly 45 million children don't have enough to eat. More than one in five children in the US lives in poverty. Please join our church's Offering of Letters, writing to our US legislators and asking that they fund domestic and international food programs. Stop by the Offering of Letters table in the narthex and/or go to Bread.org/OL and look at "sample letters," for more information. **We will collect the letters on Oct. 19.**

"Igniting Joy" Concert, October 18

Eden Theological Seminary will host this folk concert benefitting Peace Community-Building, a new nonprofit, on Saturday, October 18 at 7:00PM. Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, CEO of the Children's Defense Fund, will deliver remarks. Suggested donation of \$20 at the door. Learn more at www.peacecommunitybuilding.org.

Walktoberfest Tabling, October 18

We're looking for a few volunteers to man (or woman) our 10 West Lockwood booth at the Old Webster "WALKTOBERFEST" on Saturday, October 18. Contact Phil Shoulberg if you're interested.

Model Church Giveaway, Today and October 19

Over decades, the Barnes family has collected **over fifty model churches**. Now they are moving to Bethesda Orchard and are giving these models away. These include models of famous locations like North Church in Boston. **Come to Memorial Hall today and next Sunday after worship** to take these free models (Recommended donation to Webster Rock Hill Ministries. A donation box will be available.)

Newcomers Orientation, October 19

If you're interested to know more about First Church, we will be conducting a **Newcomers Orientation** on Sunday, October 19 starting at about 11:20AM. This is a walking tour of the church that will last until about 1:00PM, so be sure to grab a snack in Memorial Hall and wear your walking shoes!

Eat Pizza, Raise Dough! October 21

If you dine in or order carry out from the Webster Groves Deweys Pizza (112 E Lockwood) and mention Give Back Night (or put GBN in the online order notes) on **Tuesday, October 21 from 4:00 to 9:00 PM**, up to 20% of sales will be donated to this year's CROP Walk (benefiting Church, World Service and local food pantries).

Safety Training, November 1

On Saturday, November 1, Capt. Jillian McCoy will hold a training session from **9:00 AM to noon**. Titled **"4-E Intruder Training,"** this presentation will help First Church members and friends identify security threats.

Sunday Volunteers

Please consider signing up for one or more of the following opportunities, by going to the links next to the volunteer roles. Worship staff will provide training as needed!

Liturgist – bit.ly/Liturgist-2025

Slideshow Presenter – bit.ly/Slideshow-2025 • **A/V Volunteer** – bit.ly/SE-Corner

October Shopping List

Canned Chicken & Dumplings (low salt) • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)
Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Whole Wheat Flour • Peanut Butter • Real Fruit Jelly • Dried Fruits

October Birthdays

Joyce Haynes-McCowan - October 3
Kathy Weyhrich - October 3
Linda Smith - October 5
Patrick Byrne - October 7
Rod Cooper - October 10
Emily Polaske - October 16
Marilyn Claggett - October 18
Judy James - October 19
Elston McCowan - October 24
Braedon Hood - October 29
David Denoon - October 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, October 12

Access Sunday / Disabilities Awareness Week

9:15AM Chancel Choir Warmup

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Congregational Meeting: Budget 2026

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Inglis

11:20AM Book Study: "Inspired" by Rachel Held Evans - Kishlar

Monday, October 13

Indigenous Peoples Day

7:00PM Three Ministries (Hybrid)

Tuesday, October 14

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

Wednesday, October 15

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis

Thursday, October 16

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Sunday, October 19

Children's Sabbath

9:15AM Chancel Choir Warmup

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Inglis

11:20AM Newcomers Orientation - Sanctuary



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 Custodian –
Onyeka Igboanuzue

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

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

Facebook

@FirstChurchWG

Instagram

@WebsterGroves_FirstChurch

YouTube

@1stChurchWG