

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025
NEWCOMERS' ORIENTATION
CHILDREN'S SABBATH



*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 *Prelude on "Bunessan"* Hal Hopson
*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 Linda Kopetti, *Liturgist*

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

TOLLING THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Leader; **People**) Kids Church Participants

Where are the teachers in our midst who will guide us as we learn?

We follow Christ's teaching, and learn from one another!

Where are Jesus' disciples, who thirst to know God's ways?

We follow Christ's example, and learn from one another!

Our Kids Church is this sacred space, packed with stories, lessons, and play.

We follow Christ's wisdom, and learn from one another!

Thanks be to God for our faith community, and for endless opportunities to learn together!

We follow Christ's joy, and learn from one another!

***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** *Blessed Be Children* R. Bruxvoort Colligan
Tune: BUNESSAN

Blessed be children, fruit of the world's love
Blessed be faces turned to the sky
Grow in us wonder as in a child's face
Gift us with love for hows and for whys

Open to myst'ry, mind of a new world
Open to questions having no end
Grow in us wonder as in a child's mind
Gift us with loving, free as the wind

Open to find love, tender as waking
Open to friendship, eager to play
Grow in us wonder as in a child's heart
Gift us with loving, tender as rain

Open to singing, sound of our passion
Open to crying, sound of our need
Grow in us wonder as in a child's voice
Gift us with love in full melodies

Blessed be grown-ups, fruit of the world's love

Welcome as children in tender arms
Grow in us wonder as in a child's life
Gift us with life in wondering love

Kids Church Participants

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

***Confession (Responsive)**

Rabbi, Teacher Jesus, you who taught thousands and yet were willing to learn from the least and the last, we confess that sometimes we pretend to know, when in truth we still wonder.

Forgive our pretense, that we may open ourselves to unexpected teachers, to fresh ideas, to one another, to you.

Vulnerable Christ, you who lived in generous love, we confess that we have closed ourselves off, that we have seen so much suffering we have sometimes stopped looking rather than see and respond to those in need.

Forgive our neglect that we may care for one another and follow in the example you set for us. In your name we pray. Amen.

***Silence for Reflection and Personal Confession**

***Words of Assurance**

Disciples, followers, students of the living Christ, know that we are forgiven always by a liberating and loving God.

We are freed to begin anew through God's everlasting compassion and grace.

***Singing God's Glory**

Glory to God in the Highest

Trad. 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 Prophets

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Pew Bible, p. 721

From the Gospels

Luke 18:1-8

p. 955

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

I Believe

Mark Miller

introduced by Jane Porchey; Mark Cereghino, soloist

I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining.

I believe in love, even when I don't feel it.

I believe in God, even when God is silent.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Love Letters"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Nothing Can Trouble
No. 772 – *New Century Hymnal*

Jacques Berthier

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

Stewardship Moment

Mark Edwards

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)

Gracious God, works of faith and labors of love have made possible our gifts to you. By your own faithfulness and love, bless these gifts, we pray, so that through your church your message and mission may be shared not in word only but in power and Spirit and with full conviction. Amen.

*PARTING HYMN

Sing Them Over Again to Me
No. 319 – *New Century Hymnal*

P. P. Bliss

*BENEDICTION

A Celtic Benediction

Thanks be to you, O Christ,

For the many gifts you have bestowed on us, each day and night, each sea and land, each weather fair, each calm, each wild.

Each day may we remember your mercy given so gently and generously.

Each thing we have received, from you it came; each thing for which we hope, from your love it will come; each thing we enjoy, it is of your bounty; each thing we ask, comes of your disposing.

O God, from whom each thing that is, so freely flows,

Grant that no tie over strict, no tie over dear, may be between ourselves and this world. Amen.

*PARTING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE

Chacone

Louis Couperin

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.

Cover Art

Today's cover art is by an unknown artist. It is a woodcut listing and characterizing the Ten Commandments. It may be found in a Catholic church in Paszym, Poland. Emphasis in Kids Church today is this passage of scripture (Exodus 20:1-17). Our reading from Jeremiah includes the line, "I will put my Law within them, and I will write it on their hearts." (31:33)

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!

Newcomers Orientation, Today

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!

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)

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. Today, we are hearing from Stewardship Committee member Mark Edwards, introducing the theme of **“Dreaming God’s Dream: No Gift Too Small, No Dream Too Big.”**

Last Chance for Day Lily Roots, Today

The last of the day lily roots will be available in the Conference Room after worship today. There is also a large quantity of Surprise Lily bulbs (a.k.a. ‘Naked Ladies’) available. Help yourself. Give to friends and neighbors.

Model Church Giveaway, Today

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 after worship** to take these free models (Recommended donation to Webster Rock Hill Ministries. A donation box will be available.)

Ertra’s Dental Fund

Consider helping immigrant and friend of First Church Ertra Mekonon with her dental bills by going to firstchurchwg.org/donate/ and selecting “Ertra’s Dental Fund” from the dropdown.

Pastoral Relations Committee, October 26

The Pastoral Relations Committee meets once every two months to discuss matters of joy or concern in our life together. They will gather next on October 26. 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.

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

Care Calendar for the Polaskes

Emily and Marc Polaske and soon-to-be big sister Elle are preparing to welcome their new baby! As they get ready to grow their family, we'd love to surround them with support through meals and helping hands. You can sign up to help by visiting www.carecalendar.org and entering:

Calendar ID: 320859

Security Code: 9970

If delivering a meal isn't convenient for you, gift certificates or Uber Eats are also greatly appreciated. Thank you for caring for the Polaske family during this exciting time!

“Jesus Has Left the Building” Outreach Effort, November 16

The Peace and Justice Team is busy, busy setting up Jesus Has Left the Building projects. On November 16th worship will be very brief, so that we can be working together to bring the gospel to our community. One of the projects is assembling Care Bags (suitable activity for adults and kids both) which can be given to folks on the street. Care Bags contents are needed; go to FirstChurchWG.org/covenant-news/JHLtB-2025 for a list of suggested items.

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 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

Monday, October 20

7:00PM Executive Ministry (Zoom)

Tuesday, October 21

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

4:00 – 9:00PM “Eat Pizza, Raise Dough” for CROP Walk - Dewey's Pizza, WG

Wednesday, October 22

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis

Thursday, October 23

6:00PM Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

7:30PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Sunday, October 26

Reformation Sunday

UCC Higher Education Sunday

9:15AM Canterbury Bells Warmup

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Inglis

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 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.

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