

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves  
United Church of Christ



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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025  
REFORMATION SUNDAY  
UCC HIGHER EDUCATION SUNDAY

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes,  
faints for the courts of the LORD;

MY HEART AND  
FLESH SING FOR JOY  
TO THE LIVING GOD.

PSALM 84:1-2

*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** *A Mighty Fortress* Margaret R. Tucker  
*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*

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

**TOLLING THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Liturgist; **People**) from Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Mighty God!

**My soul longs, indeed it faints for your courts; my heart  
and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Here, even the sparrow finds a home,

**and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her  
young, at your altars, O Mighty One.**

My Mainstay and my God,

**happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your  
praise.**

**\*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** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* Martin Luther  
No. 439, vv. 1,3,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

**\*RITUAL OF APPROACH** (Liturgist; **East**; *West*; **ALL**)

*Bells side = West. Chancel Choir side = East.*

**L:** Glory to you, almighty God! You spoke, and light came out of darkness,  
order rose from confusion.

**E:** **You breathed into the dust of the earth, and we were formed  
in your image.**

**W:** *You looked on the work of your hands, and declared that it was all  
good.*

**L:** And still you speak, breathe, and look for us.

**E:** **We praise you!**

**W:** *Glory to you, Holy Spirit!*

**L:** You brooded over chaos, mothering and shaping God's new creation.

**E:** **You inspired prophets and evangelists to discover the right  
word for the right season.**

**W:** *You liberated the early church for mission, claiming all of life for  
the Sovereign over all.*

**L:** And still you brood over, inspire and liberate us.

**ALL:** **WE PRAISE YOU!**

*\*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*

**THE WORD SHARED**

*From the Gospels*

Luke 18:9-14

Pew Bible, p. 955

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*"The Meaning of Reformation"* Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Preparation for Prayer*

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Edwin Hatch

No. 292, v. 1 – *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* (Unison)

tr. Denoon

**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**

*Stewardship Moment*

John Paci

*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 Spirit, you have come to us with a word that embraces our need. We reply by working to fill others' needs. Accept and bless our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, O God, that they may fulfill your word; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PARTING**

*I Greet You, Sure Redeemer*

Strasbourg Psalter

No. 251, vv. 1,5 – *New Century Hymnal*

**\*BENEDICTION**

## \*PARTING WORDS

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

## POSTLUDE

*Seasonal Selection*

B. Pickett, L. Capizzi

Anne Gerst, piano; Leon Burke, vocalist; Johari Hunt, backup

*During the Postlude, children in the sanctuary will be trick-or-treating.  
Supplies of Halloween candy have been supplied as noted earlier in the service.  
If you are distributing candy, **please do not** give all your candy to just one child.  
Spread the joy!*

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## 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](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](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](mailto: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!

## Sunday Volunteers

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

**Liturgist** – [bit.ly/Liturgist-2025](https://bit.ly/Liturgist-2025)

**Slideshow Presenter** – [bit.ly/Slideshow-2025](https://bit.ly/Slideshow-2025) • **A/V Volunteer** – [bit.ly/SE-Corner](https://bit.ly/SE-Corner)

### **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 John Paci, introducing the theme of **“Dreaming God’s Dream: No Gift Too Small, No Dream Too Big.”** Pledge forms are available now, from the Narthex table and online [FirstChurchWG.org/Pledge-2026](http://FirstChurchWG.org/Pledge-2026)

### **Pastoral Relations Committee meets TODAY**

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 today. 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.

### **Updated CROP Walk Total**

Due to several recent gifts, the **updated amount our church raised for the CROP Walk is \$1,280.** Thank you! Thanks, too, to everyone who participated in the Dewey’s Pizza fundraiser for the CROP Walk on October 21.

### **Care Calendar for the Polaskes**

Emily and Marc Polaske and big sister Elle welcome their newest family member, Wally Nathan Polaske, this past Monday! Please consider surrounding them with loving support through meals and helping hands. You can sign up to help by visiting [www.carecalendar.org](http://www.carecalendar.org) and entering:

Calendar ID: 320859

Security Code: 9970

The Polaske family lives in O’Fallon, MO, so if delivering a meal isn’t convenient for you, consider sending restaurant e-gift certificates/cards or contacting a meal delivery service. Thank you for caring for the Polaske family during this blessed time!

### **Ertra’s Dental Fund**

Thanks to all of you who contributed so generously to the fund underwriting the extensive dental care our friend Ertra Mekonon needs. What a generous outpouring of support! If additional need arises, we will let you know.

### **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. RSVP at [bit.ly/FourETraining](http://bit.ly/FourETraining)

### **“Jesus Has Left the Building” Projects, November 16**

**Project 1. Assembling Care Bags** which can be given to folks on the street. This project is a suitable activity for adults and kids both. Donations of items to go in the bags are welcome. Please, go to [FirstChurchWG.org/covenant-news](http://FirstChurchWG.org/covenant-news) for a complete list of needs.

**Project 2. Worshipping with St. John the Beloved UCC.** Sign up for this event using the clipboard in the office, or in person with Jan Barnes through November 2, and indicate if you are willing to drive some of your FCCWG friends. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** There are no elevators or chairlifts at St. John, and there are stairs up to the sanctuary and down to restrooms.

### **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

### **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

### **Holiday Open House, November 9**

The Old Webster Trade Association will be hosting its annual Holiday Open House, Sunday, November 9. This includes a visit from Santa, trolley rides, music and lots of activities from various vendors. We have participated in this event for the past few years, but if we would like to do so this year, **someone will need to step up to organize it, as previous leadership will be hosting an event for the church at another location.** In the past, we have hosted the train and a booth with children's crafts, hot chocolate and water. Thank you! If you are interested in participating, contact Christian Education.

### **Metropolitan Congregations United Gala, November 13**

The Gala will raise funds for MCU's Tornado Relief Fund and sustain MCU's ongoing work in multiple areas of civic equity. Honorees include: Lisa Williams, Reverend Angela Tate, Calvina Brown, and Jamie Hasemeier. Keynote Speaker Jessica Mayr of the Migrant & Immigrant Community Action (MICA) Project. Live Music from Rev. Eric Moeller, UCC Pastor and Founder of All-In Music Project. **Dinner will be served, and tickets are tax deductible!** For more information, go to [mcustlouis.org](http://mcustlouis.org)

## **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, October 26**

#### **Reformation Sunday**

#### **UCC Higher Education Sunday**

**9:00AM** Canterbury Bells Warmup

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:30AM** Pastoral Relations Committee

### **Tuesday, October 28**

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

### **Wednesday, October 29**

**9:30AM** Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

### **Thursday, October 30**

**6:00PM** Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir – Sanctuary

### **Friday, October 31**

#### **Reformation Day**

**Happy Halloween!**

### **Saturday, November 1**

#### **All Saints Day**

**9:00AM - 12:00PM** FOUR E Intruder Training w/ Capt. McCoy  
- Inglis Room

### **Sunday, November 2**

#### **Remembrance Sunday**

#### **Sacrament of Christ's Table (Daylight-Saving Time Ends)**

**9:00AM** Brown Baggers

**9:15AM** Canterbury Bells Warmup

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship



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## 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

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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

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