

Welcome!

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



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025

“JESUS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING” OUTREACH EVENT



JESUS

Has Left the Building

*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

Andrea Welnick, *Liturgist*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 12:4-6

Thank the Holy One, call on God's name.

Proclaim God's deeds among the peoples; declare that God's name is exalted.

Sing to God who has done glorious things; proclaim this throughout all the earth.

Shout and sing for joy, people of God, because the Holy One of Israel is great among you!

*GATHERING HYMN

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

Ruth Duck

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, list'ning Spirit we would live to God's delight.

THE WORD SHARED

From the Prophets

Isaiah 55:1-3, 10-12

Common English Bible

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

People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE DAY

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; they 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH OTHERS

Opportunities to Give and Gather

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.

BENEDICTION

The Trees of the Field

Ruben / Dauermann

You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap-clap),
the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap-clap),
the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap-clap)
while you go out with joy.

When the Benediction has ended, those who are attending St. John the Beloved Community UCC worship will exit to their vehicles. Those participating in the Care Bags project, please remain in Memorial Hall for instructions.

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### **Connecting Remotely to Worship**

Worship today is not being live streamed or recorded. To view other worship videos online, 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 receivers. Please see Mark Metcalf at the A/V station for assistance.

### **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 so:

- Take advantage of the brass offering plate on the small table in the Narthex
- Send a check made payable to **First Congregational Church, 10 W. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119**
- Visit **[FirstChurchWG.org/donate](https://www.firstchurchwg.org/donate)**
- Scan the **QR code**.



### **Can You Offer a Ride?**

If you can provide transportation to either of our newly non-driving church members, some Sunday soon, please find their sign-up sheets on clipboards in the office to volunteer a ride.

### **Let Breeze Serve as Your Church Directory**

**Access the church directory or check on your donations on the Breeze app!**

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 Office Administrator Adam Levin at [admin@firstchurchwg.org](mailto:admin@firstchurchwg.org).)

## First Church Merch

It's never too early to start Christmas shopping for Church Merch! We have First Church T-shirts! Adult sizes are \$15, youth sizes are \$10. Also, "Davis Stained-Glass Window" stickers for \$5 each. Contact the office, or a staff member, to find out more.

## 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)

## Churches Together for Justice Collecting Signatures against Redistricting

Margaret and Bill Rowe, friends of the church and volunteers for Churches Together for Justice, are collecting signatures for the redistricting referendum. The deadline for all signatures is soon. They plan to collect signatures from willing First Church congregants **on their way into the worship service today.**

## "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](https://FirstChurchWG.org/covenant-news) for a complete list of needs.

**Project 2. Worshiping with St. John the Beloved Community, UCC.** Sign up for this event using the clipboard in the office, or in person with Jan Barnes, and indicate if you are willing to drive some friends. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** St. John's building is not ADA compliant.

## Lost-And-Found Items

To get lost items to their owners in a more prompt and efficient way, I will now from time to time post the items currently in the lost-and-found. Currently, we have:

- A cane left in the kitchen for two weeks
- A women's black shirt
- An American Eagle bag with a beige sweater in it

Contact me with any questions via phone or email. Thanks! --Adam Levin, Office Administrator

## Facilities & Finance Update

F&F Chair Phil Shoulberg offers the following report for November:

- Several of us on F&F are going to paint the kitchen walls on **Monday, December 1. If you would like to join us, we start at 9:00 AM.**
- Our lawncare/landscaping will renew the **Jubilee Garden next spring.**
- **We've collected 211 lbs as of 10/29/2025!** We still need to collect 200 more pounds of caps for our ONA Rainbow Bench. That's a lot of baggies! If you're not already doing so, please contribute to this effort. The collection bin is in the Narthex. Please see this article in the Covenant News (<https://conta.cc/47tLK1Y>) for more information.

## Philip S. Roush Memorial Service, November 25

A memorial service in celebration of the life of Phil Roush has been scheduled for **3:00PM on Tuesday, November 25**, in the Sanctuary of First Church. A reception will follow in Memorial Hall. All are invited. Interment will be private.

### **Webster Groves Community Thanksgiving, November 25**

A Community Thanksgiving worship service will take place in the sanctuary of Webster Groves United Methodist (600 N. Bompert Ave.) on Tuesday, November 25th at 6PM, with a message from special guest, the Rev. Jacqueline McCall of St. Andrew United Methodist Church in north St. Louis County. The service includes music by an ecumenical choir made up of members from participating Webster Groves congregations. If you are interested in participating in the choir, please be in touch with Pastor Glen Connoley (PastorGlen@WebsterUM.org) who will provide further details. Offering will be donated to Rosebud Indian Reservations, SD, and Project Hope Food Pantry at St. Andrew UMC.

### **Interfaith Thanksgiving, November 25**

The Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis will host a Thanksgiving and Cultural Event on Tuesday, November 25 at 7:00PM, at the Frontenac Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (10445 Clayton Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131). For more information about this gathering from many traditions expressing gratitude through music and spoken word, and to register your attendance, please use the accompanying QR code.



### **Scout Troop 301 Rummage Sale, December 6**

The rummage sale will be 12/6 from 8AM until noon. We will hold the sale in the NE corner of the parking lot. If any congregants would like to donate items, they can be brought to the classroom off of the Dickens Room and we'll move them to our locker. We ask that people donate items in good condition and not to donate electronics nor anything liquid.

### **Yankee Swap Is Back, December 7**

On **Sunday, December 7, from 1:15 to 5:00**,  
there will be a potluck meal and a swapping of gifts.

Who? YOU!

Where? Mike Lenard's home

When? 1:15 to 5:00, December 7

What? Yankee Swap

Please bring the following:

1. a dish (main dish, salad, or dessert) for the table.
2. a homemade/handmade gift (one per person) (unwrapped) for the gift exchange.
3. a donation for Webster Rock Hill Ministries.

**RSVP before December 4** to Garie Perry (314-698-2614), or Jane Porchey (314-961-0283).

Mike's address is: 1467 Heritage Valley Drive, High Ridge. (Detour directions in the office!).

### **Webster Rock Hill Ministries Food Donations Needed**

Because SNAP benefits are still in limbo, there will be more families needing assistance. The St. Louis Area Food Bank donates up to 3 tons of food monthly to WRHM and other food pantries. Unfortunately proteins have been uncommon. If you can donate peanut butter (and jelly), cans of chicken, tuna, salmon and ham, it would be really helpful.

Also, Thanksgiving is coming, and it is a great time to provide food for a family. No list has been provided yet, but think about what a family would need, including mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberries, pumpkin pie filling, pie shells and all the regular dinner items. Bring your bag of Thanksgiving dinner food, and there will be boxes to put it in. Contact Rosemary Hensley for more information.

### **Hanging of the Greens, December 14**

Cathy Buerk will be tabling this Sunday for Hanging of the Greens. Make sure to stop by and sign up! This year's Hanging of the Greens worship will take place on **Sunday, December 14.**

### **Jazz Noel: 15th Annual Performance – “Seeking the Light” Sunday, December 21, 2:30PM**

Joining the *Oikos Ensemble* will be award-winning artist Michael Anderson who will paint on canvas during the concert, interpreting our theme, **Seeking the Light**. Our program will include actors portraying the tale of four shepherds who encountered the angelic proclamation. **And the Terra Nova Early Music Consort returns with a pre-concert at 2:30PM.**

For information about donating in support of this year's Jazz Noel, please see the acknowledgement announcement at the end of today's Order of Worship.

### **Laurel Hayes Retires**

After 23 years as a campus minister at Webster University, the Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes is retiring! We are happier to announce that on November 26, 2025, Laurel will celebrate her 30th ordination anniversary. Give her your regards when you see her.

### **November Birthdays**

Keith Moore - November 5  
Benton Prange - November 5  
Trina Hill - November 7  
Andrea Welnick - November 9  
Jan Ver Hagen - November 11  
Nina Thompson - November 12  
Joseph Weyhrich - November 13  
Marilyn Barton - November 15  
Carolyn Woodsmall - November 18  
Jennifer Monaco - November 19  
Chris von Weise - November 25  
Kristy Barton - November 27  
Pat Schutte - November 27  
Joan Musbach - November 30

### **November Shopping List**

Canned Salmon or Tuna (in water) • Canned Spinach (no salt)  
Applesauce (in plastic, no sugar added)  
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Soap • Deodorant • Toilet Paper

## **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, November 16**

**“Jesus Has Left the Building” Outreach Event**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship in Memorial Hall

**10:20AM** Outreach Projects

### **Monday, November 17**

**7:00PM** Executive Ministry - Zoom

### **Tuesday, November 18**

**10:00AM** Stewardship Committee - Library

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

### **Wednesday, November 19**

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

### **Thursday, November 20**

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

**7:30AM** Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

### **Sunday, November 23**

**Majesty of Christ Sunday**

**New Members Received**

**Thanksgiving 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

## 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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