

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025
TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED
MAJESTY OF CHRIST SUNDAY

And let the
peace of Christ
rule in your hearts...
and
be thankful

Colossians 3:15



*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 *We Gather Together* arr. Lloyd Larson
Canterbury Bells

*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 Jennifer Jones, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**) from Psalm 100
Shout triumphantly to our God, all the earth.

**Serve the Holy One with celebration! Come before God
with great shouts of joy!**

Enter the gates with thanks; enter the courtyards with praise!

Thank God! Bless God's name!

***GATHERING HYMN** *Come, O Thankful People* Alford / Barbauld
No. 422 – *New Century Hymnal*

***RITUAL OF APPROACH** *A prayer of Robert Louis Stevenson*

Lord, behold our family here assembled. We thank Thee for this place in which we dwell; for the love that unites us; for the peace accorded us this day; for the hope with which we expect the morrow; for the health, the work, the food, and the bright skies, that make our lives delightful; and for our friends in all parts of the earth.

Let peace abound in our small company.

Purge out of every heart the lurking grudge. Give us grace and strength to forbear and to persevere. Give us the grace to accept and to forgive offenders. Forgetful ourselves, help us to bear cheerfully the forgetfulness of others. Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind.

Spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies.

Bless us, if it may be, in all our innocent endeavors.

**If it may not, give us the strength to encounter that which
is to come, that we be brave in peril, constant in
tribulation, temperate in wrath, and in all changes of
fortune, and, down to the gates of death, loyal and loving
one to another. Amen.**

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

*The children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.
Afterward, they may proceed to Kids' Church, or return to their seats.*

THE WORD SHARED

From the Epistles

Colossians 1:11-20

Pew Bible, p. 1072

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

BELL ANTHEM

Peals of Praise
Canterbury Bells

Karen L. Buckwalter

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Enduring Thankfully"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Jesus, Remember Me

Jacques Berthier

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God

Prayerful Testimony in Recognition of the Transgender Day of Remembrance

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

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 BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Opportunities to Give and Gather

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

God, we thank you: you have given us everything and received us as your own. Therefore receive our gifts that your majesty on earth may be firmly established, in Jesus' name. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

New Member Candidates Introduced

Preface

**Affirmation of Faith (Pastor; Congregation)*

based on *Our Creed*, 1901

Do you believe in the kinship of all people as children of God? **I do.**

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Way and the Truth and the Life? **I do.**

Do you believe in the clean heart, the unworldly life, and the service of love as Jesus taught and exemplified, and do you accept Christ's Spirit and Christ's teaching? **I do.**

**Questions of the Candidates*

**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.

**Welcome to the Church*

We as members of this church, gladly welcome you to be a part with us in the hopes, the labors, and the joys of our mutual ministry. We promise to walk with you in Christian love and sympathy, and to promote, as far as in us lies, your growth in the Christian life.

*PARTING HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

Martin Rinckart

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who from our parents' arms hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in good grace and guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ill in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God Creator now be given
With Child and Spirit, Three-in-One in brightest heaven!
The great eternal God whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore!

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

People: Let our service begin.

POSTLUDE

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

J. C. Bach

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.

We welcome into membership today **Esmeralda Castelblanco, Chelsea & Edward M. Hoganson IV** (with their daughter **Alayna**), **Ruthie Meyer, Alex Schubert** (with his son **Frank**), and **Daniel M. Smith**. Please, plan to remain after worship to greet them!

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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**
- 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 **signup 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).)

## **November Treasurer's Report**

Read Treasurer Jenny Jones' report through October 31 at [bit.ly/2025-Oct-Treasurer](https://bit.ly/2025-Oct-Treasurer).  
The report is a MS Word document. If you need a different format, please contact the office.

## **First Church Merch**

Consider giving the gift of First Church for Christmas!

Adult size tees are \$15, youth sizes are \$10. "Davis Stained-Glass Window" stickers are \$5 each.  
Contact the office, or a staff member, to get yours.

## **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)

## **F&F Workday, December 1**

Several members of the Facility & Finance Ministry are going to paint the kitchen walls on **Monday, December 1. If you would like to join us, we start at 9:00 AM.** For more information, contact Phil Shoulberg.

## **Pecans!**

Pecans are coming! In fact, they may already have arrived. If so, then you can purchase yours in person, today in the Narthex. Or, if you would like to reserve some for yourself, please go to [bit.ly/FCCPecans](https://bit.ly/FCCPecans) to place your order. We'll accept payment when you pick them up. FYI: Each one-pound bag of Mascot Mammoth Pecans costs \$15. Proceeds benefit the Minister's Discretionary Fund, offering assistance to people in need.

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

SNAP may be up and running again, but there will still be families needing assistance. If you can donate proteins especially – 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. A list of dinner items is available from the long Narthex Table. Deposit your food donations in the "Sharing Our Bounty" shelves. Rosemary Hensley has more information.

## **Bottle Caps / Rainbow Bench Update**

As you may be aware, we need 400 lbs of these to make our Rainbow Bench. We've received over 200 lbs, but there's a "lotta" caps left to go! If everyone participates, we can reach our goal. There's a deposit box in the Narthex. Cap specs at <https://bit.ly/BottlesFCC>

## **Webster Groves Community Thanksgiving Service, 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](mailto:PastorGlen@WebsterUM.org)) who will provide

further details. Offerings will be donated to Rosebud Indian Reservations, SD, and Project Hope Food Pantry at St. Andrew UMC.

### **Interfaith Thanksgiving Event, 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 December 6 from 8AM until noon. The sale will take place in the northeast corner of the east parking lot. If you would like to donate items, please bring them to the classroom off of the Dickens Room and Scouts will move them to their locker. Donated items should be in good condition (no electronics or liquids).

### **Yankee Swap, 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!).

### **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.**

Jazz Noel is offered free to the public. If you would like to support this year's Jazz Noel with a monetary donation, please go the [FirstChurchWG.org/Donate](https://www.FirstChurchWG.org/Donate), and select “MICA” from the dropdown menu. Or write a check payable to FCCWG with “MICA” in the memo line. Thanks!

### **November Shopping List**

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

### **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

### **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 23**

**Majesty of Christ Sunday**

**New Members Received**

**Thanksgiving Sunday**

**Transgender Day of Remembrance**

**9:00AM** Bell Choir Warmup

**9:30AM** New Members Rehearsal

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

#### **Tuesday, November 25**

**3:00PM Memorial Service:**

Philip Roush

#### **Wednesday, November 26**

**9:30AM** Yoga w/ Jeanene – Inglis

#### **Thursday, November 27**

**Thanksgiving Day**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

#### **Friday, November 28**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

#### **Sunday, November 30**

**Advent I / Blue Christmas**

**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.

## Follow us on

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