

# Welcome!

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



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

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026  
SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE**

*do* **JUSTICE**  
*love* **KINDNESS**  
*walk* **HUMBLY**  
*with your* **God**

Micah 6:8, NRSV

***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** *Adoration* Florence Price

**WELCOME** Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes, *Liturgist*  
*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.*

**TOLLING OF THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**\*INTROIT** *What Does the Lord Require of You?* Jim Strathdee  
Led by the Chancel Choir  
Basses

What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you?

Altos and Tenors in unison  
Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God.

Sopranos  
To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.

**\*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** *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* Spiritual  
No. 282 – *New Century Hymnal*

**\*RITUAL OF APPROACH**

*\*Unison Prayer*

**Holy One, your Spirit moves in provocative ways. Evil seeks  
false peace, but you shake things up. You turn things upside  
down. You leave us surprised and inspired. When we are  
confronted by the radical nature of your love, do not let us push  
you away or remain unchanged. Help us to embrace discomfort  
with joy, that we might be friends of justice and companions to  
peace. Amen.**

*\*Singing God's Glory* *Glory to God in the Highest* Tune: GLORIA (HAAS)  
*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

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

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

**SHARING THE WORD**

*From the Prophets*

Micah 6:1-8

Pew Bible, p. 850

*From the Gospels*

Matthew 5:1-12

p. 880

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*“What God Requires”*

Rev. Denoon

**WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS**

*Opportunities to Give and Gather*

\**Song of Praise*

*Doxology*

Tune: OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

\**Prayer of Dedication* (Unison)

**O Holy One, we have considered what it is that you require of us – justice, kindness, and humility. Bless the gifts we make of our labors and ourselves, so that in all that we do and all that we give we may be confronting the poverty of our world... and strive on, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF CHRIST’S TABLE**

\**We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God*

*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.*

\**Invitation*

\**Sursum Corda*

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God most high.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

\**Prayer of Thanksgiving*

\**Sanctus*

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty. The whole universe speaks of your glory. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest!**

*Fraction*

*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. 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.**

Communion

*Communion is served in the pews, first the bread and then the cup.  
The bread is gluten-free. Wine is white; grape juice is red.  
Each is consumed at the indication of the Pastor,  
unless this presents a hardship for the individual.*

\*Prayer after Communion (Unison)

**In gratitude, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us from this time to live as people changed because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. Thus, holy God, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.**

\*PARTING HYMN

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

Spiritual

I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work...

I'm gonna pray...

I'm gonna sing...

\*BENEDICTION

\*PARTING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE

*The Rejoicing*

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*

**The cross image now gracing the sanctuary vault** is our “Sumi Cross.” It was the symbol used for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and is a depiction of the three basic strokes in Japanese *sumi-e* painting. According to painter Chiura Obata, the brush strokes used in *sumi-e* represent physical reality (vertical), the passage of time (horizontal), and movement (circle). They closely resemble the Celtic cross in which the lines and circle are associated heaven (vertical), earth (horizontal), and eternity (circle). The Sumi Cross honors the membership of Mr. Obata and his family at First Church, from 1943 to 1945, when our Congregation participated in a faith-filled effort to relocate Japanese-American families from Western internment camps to Midwest homes.

The Sumi Cross installation was crafted by metal-worker Kem Williams and made possible by a grant from the Dr. Rodney M. Coe Memorial Fund. This laser-cut aluminum sculpture honors First Church’s historic commitment to racial equity and social justice.

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**Connecting Remotely to Worship**

To view worship livestream and 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

Take advantage of our hearing-assisted system! Simply 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 an attendant 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.



### Year-end Giving Acknowledgement Letters

Office Administrator Adam Levin has been at home sick with COVID for several days. Therefore, the donation acknowledgement letters that are generally sent out in late January will instead go out in early February. Thank you for your patience.

### 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).)

### 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-2026](https://bit.ly/Liturgist-2026)

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

### Midwinter Potluck Rescheduled

Our annual Midwinter Potluck, canceled due to severe weather last Sunday, has been rescheduled for February 8 after worship.

### Adult Education Today:

#### Webster Groves Community Land Trust

Our Adult Education session on Sunday, **February 1**, starting at **11:20** in **Inglis Room**, will focus on the **Webster Groves Community Land Trust**, a new community-governed nonprofit organization that helps create pathways to local homeownership for working families.

**Acting Executive Director Farrell Carfield** will explain how a community land trust balances the opportunity to build equity and wealth with keeping homes affordable and diverse for future generations. Learn more at [www.webstergrovesclt.org](http://www.webstergrovesclt.org).

### **Authentic Selves Exhibit, January 24 – February 8**

*Authentic Selves*, an exhibit of 20 portraits and stories of trans and nonbinary people, is being offered through the Family Diversity Project, through February 8, at Parkway United Church of Christ, 2841 N. Ballas Rd. 63131.

### **Amplify the Arch Conference, February 8**

Sisters of the Abbey of the Glittering Arch will host a one-day conference by and for Queer youth, **Amplify the Arch** at the Renaissance Airport Hotel, 9801 Natural Bridge Rd, St. Louis, MO 63134. This free event will include workshops, vendors, drag performers, and more. The point of the event is to connect people in an authentic way through community and connection.

### **Adult Ed, February 22: Home Repair Program**

Sunday, February 22, our Adult Education session, starting at 11:20 in the Inglis Room, will focus on a collaborative program between Churches Together for Justice (CTJ) and Rebuilding Together St. Louis (RTSTL) to repair homes for neighbors-in-need living in the 63119 ZIP code. Find out more about this exciting, collaborative effort!

### **Save the Date – St. Pat’s Dinner, February 28**

Samuel UCC will be hosting a St. Patrick’s dinner on February 28, 2026, from 4-7PM. All money goes to the UCC Habitat Build. A suggested donation of \$20 or more is suggested.

### **Opportunities at Camp MoVal (near Union, MO)**

Registration for SUMMER CAMPS is now open. **Go to [TinyURL.com/2ez3b8nz](https://www.tinyurl.com/2ez3b8nz) to learn more or register.** (Please note: Youth and child campers from First Church are provided with a **Christian Education subsidy** worth half their participation fee! So, be sure to **let Johari know** you’re signing up.)

If you’d like to volunteer your time doing various **odd jobs and repairs** with a wonderful group of others, sign up for Mission Mondays at MoVal, every fourth Monday in a month. For more information, contact Myron Ury, Volunteer Coordinator, 314-471-2349 (call or text) or [myronury@gmail.com](mailto:myronury@gmail.com).

### **Gateway ONA Convocation, March 7, 9AM – 3PM**

The theme of this year’s Gateway ONA Convocation is “Sacred, Seen, & Called.” Meet others from area UCC and Disciples of Christ churches finding their way forward to openness and affirmation. This event will take place at Parkway UCC, 2841 N. Ballas Rd. (63131). For more information about the Convocation and how to register, email [Register@GatewayONA.com](mailto:Register@GatewayONA.com)

### **Lost-and-Found Items**

There are several items still in our office that have not been claimed. These items include a walking cane, two sets of eyeglasses, a black women’s overshirt, and more. Please claim these items if they are yours. In early February, we will donate these to Webster-Rock Hill Ministries.

### **Rainbow Bench Progress Continues!**

We now have **254 pounds** of caps toward our final goal of 400 lbs! We need 146 pounds to reach our goal. Sharon Love is projecting that we will reach our goal by Summer of this year. We have St. Paul UCC and Compton Heights Christian Church collecting caps also.

### **February Meal-a-Month Shopping List**

Canned Tuna, packed in Water • Tuna Helper • Canned Carrots (low or no salt)  
Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Diapers • Diaper Wipes • Formula with Iron

## February Birthdays

Charlie Brader - February 5  
Sandra Hoffsten - February 5  
K Wentzien - February 6  
Mary Edwards - February 6  
Elyse von Weise - February 8  
Kathy Hill - February 11

Phoenix Hill - February 14  
Doug Barton - February 15  
Erick Falconer - February 16  
Pat Doyle-Grace - February 20  
Martin Mills - February 21

## 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, February 1

**Sacrament of Christ's Table**

**9:00AM** Brown Baggers

**9:15AM** Chancel Choir Warmup

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship w/ Rev. Jan Barnes

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:20AM** Adult Ed: "Webster Groves Community Land Trust"

### Monday, February 2

**7:00PM** Scouting BSA Troop 301 - Dickens Room

### Tuesday, February 3

**1:00PM** Communications Committee - Church Office

### Wednesday, February 4

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

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

### Thursday, February 5

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

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

### Sunday, February 8

**Scouting Sunday**

**Science & Technology Sunday**

**9:15AM** Chancel Choir Warmup

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Midwinter Potluck



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Webster Groves, MO 63119  
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www.FirstChurchWG.org

## Contact Information

Moderator – Chris von Weise  
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Weekend & Events Custodian –  
Onyeka Igboanuzue

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