

# Welcome!

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



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

**MAY 10, 2026  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME  
MOTHER'S DAY**



***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** *Bless This House* May H. Brahe  
*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** Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes, *Liturgist*

**TOLLING THE BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** From Ecclesiastes 24 Responsive – Liturgist; **People**  
Wisdom is telling her story in the midst of her people:  
“**I came forth from the heart of the Most High,**” she says.  
“Alone I searched for a place to rest.  
**I looked everywhere to find a place to live.**  
Then the Creator of all things instructed me:  
**‘Pitch your tent here in this place.’**  
So in the beloved community I took up residence.  
**I have taken root in these people.**  
I have grown as tall as an oak tree,  
**I have taken on many colors.**  
I have spread out my branches like a candelabra.  
**My blossoms bear the fruit of openness and care.**  
**Approach and take your fill.”**

**\*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** *O God, Whose Steadfast Love* J. L. Haddix  
No. 426, vv. 1,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

**RITUAL OF APPROACH** (Responsive)

**\*Invitation** (Responsive) 1 John 1:8-9  
If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in  
us.  
**But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will  
forgive us our sin and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.**

**\*Prayer of Confession** (Unison)  
**God of wisdom and wonder, unknowable in your completeness  
yet revealed to us in Jesus Christ, we confess that many idols  
made from the things of this world have kept our attention from**

**you. We have amassed property, possessions, and worldly successes. We have fixated on finance or fashion, scorecards or sales records, cruises or criminals, while leaving unspoken words of witness to your goodness, kindness, and saving love. We have complained about what life has not delivered rather than attended to that which we can give to life. Forgive and restore us, we pray, so that we may be sharing truly a faith born from your faithfulness and mercy. Amen.**

*\*Silence for Personal Confessions*

*\*Words of Assurance (Responsive)*

Know the good news: through the sacrifice of Christ we are assured forgiveness.

**Our nature and our world have been redeemed.**

And by Christ we have been set free from guilt and sin.

**What good news! Praise be to God. Amen.**

*\*Singing God's Glory*

*Halleluja*

Trad. Caribbean

No. 236 – *New Century Hymnal*

**NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY**

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

**THE WORD SHARED**

*From Christian History*

Acts 17:22-31

Pew Bible, p. 1010

*From the Gospels*

John 14:15-21

p. 983

*Response.*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*  
Canterbury Bells

arr. Lloyd Larson

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*"Always Mars Hill"*

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*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.*

*Prayer of the Day*

*Prayer of Our Savior*

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 BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS**

*Opportunities to Give and Gather*

*\*Song of Praise*

*Doxology with Alleluias*

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, above, you heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

**Creator, One God, Mother of us all, because of your compassion for us we offer these gifts; may your name be glorified and all your world be healed. With these signs of commitment to your call, we praise and thank you for the gift of kinship you have enabled in us through Jesus Christ our Brother. Amen.**

**\*PARTING HYMN**

*God, Bless Our Homes*  
No. 429, vv. 1,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

F. von Christiernson

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*PARTING WORDS**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Allemande from Pastorale in F*

J.S. 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.*

**Attending from Home or Away**

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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Gala 2026 A Success!**

With the help of First Church members and other guests, we managed to raise over \$20,000 for our partner agencies! Phil Shoulberg was nice enough to take some amazing photos. Take a look in the Covenant News.

**Graphic Designer Needed**

Sts. Clare & Francis is looking for a graphic designer to assist with a logo and brand re-design. Ideally this person would understand the marketing needs and challenges of a church. This is a paying job, and we will happily negotiate a fair wage with the designer. If you know of someone who would be a good fit, please reach out to Therese, at [churchoffice@scfecc.org](mailto:churchoffice@scfecc.org).

### **Yoga Schedule for May**

The yoga schedule for the next few weeks is: May 13 cancelled; May 20 and 27 at 9:30AM.

### **Canned Food Drive for WRHM, May 17**

First Church will collect canned goods for Webster Rock-Hill Ministries on May 17, especially:

Canned tuna, salmon, and chicken • Canned beans (black, kidney, garbanzo)  
Peanut butter/nut butters (in plastic jars) • Breakfast cereal • Powdered milk, shelf-stable milk  
Canned chili, stew, ravioli

In addition, please remember to pick up a slip to shop for Meal-a-Month, or keep handy the Meal-a-Month list in this issue of the bulletin!

### **Adult Ed, May 17: Provident Health on Elder Care**

After worship on Sunday, May 17th, a representative from Provident Health will present on navigating the complexities of elder care. The presentation will focus especially on the transitional care for seniors.

### **Strengthen the Church, May 24**

The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our conferences and the national UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided with 50% staying regionally within the Missouri Mid-South Conference and 50% supporting the National Ministries. *Please, plan to give generously, Sunday, May 24!*

### **Sonya Vann Ordination, May 24**

Sonya Vann, who served as Sabbatical Pastor during Pastor Dave Denoon's time away in the summer of 2017, will be ordained on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, at 3:00 PM at Kindred UCC, 2200 Bellevue Ave., Maplewood, Missouri.

### **Journeyman Spring Final Meeting, May 28**

The Journeyman will have their final spring meeting on Thursday, May 28 at 9:00 in the Parlor.

### **Rev. Marty Black, May 31**

While Pastor Dave Denoon steps away to celebrate his father's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (It actually happened in January, but travel was prevented by severe weather.), the Rev. Marty Black returns to the pulpit. She served for three months as our 2024 Sabbatical Pastor. We are always happy to welcome her back!

### **National Gun Violence Awareness Day, June 7**

On June 7th, members and friends of First Congregational Church are invited to join other local churches in a community march along Lockwood Avenue in Webster Groves. As part of this meaningful event, **we are collecting used T-shirts in a variety of sizes**, over the next couple of weeks. We welcome your support—please place donated shirts in the collection box located in the narthex. These shirts will be displayed along Lockwood Avenue to honor and remember the lives lost to gun violence in the St. Louis area this year. In addition, each church will help decorate a canvas banner to be displayed along Lockwood Avenue. More details forthcoming. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Esmeralda Castelblanco or Annie Sampath.

## Habitat for Humanity Workday, October 3

We need four workers for our fall workday on October 3. The sign-up sheet is in the office.

## Read More in Covenant News

See this week's Covenant News at <https://conta.cc/49yPh9c> for events in the wider community, such as the WG Community Dog Walk (May 23) and the Webster-Rock Hill Ministries Trivia Night (June 12).

## Thanks, Volunteers!

Many thanks to all the church members who volunteered as a hosting committee for the 2026 Spring Meeting of the St. Louis Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ. This denominational body met for dinner and a program at First Church on Thursday, May 7.

### 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](http://FirstChurchWG.org/donate)
- Scan the **QR code**.

### 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](https://www.fccwgstlmo.org)
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)

### New on Sundays – Door Security Policy

As part of our efforts toward greater safety and security, a new policy has been adopted by the First Friends. Almost all doors will now be locked at 10:00AM on Sundays. To access the building after worship has begun, please go to the Narthex entrance (east side of the building).

### Can You Offer a Ride?

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

### Lost and Found

Three pairs of glasses and other items have been in the office for several weeks. Please pick them up ASAP if they are yours. Contact Adam with any questions about the lost and found.

### **May Meal-A-Month Shopping List**

Canned Chicken • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)  
Canned Fruit in own juices  
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Pudding or Jello (fat free/sugar free)  
Shampoo/Conditioner • Soap • Deodorant

### **What's Going on at First Church**

**For a complete schedule of church events, observances, and building use,  
please visit our online calendar at**

**[FirstChurchWG.org/Calendar](http://FirstChurchWG.org/Calendar)**

#### **Sunday, May 10**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**Festival of the Christian Family**  
**Mother's Day**  
**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available  
**10:00AM** **Worship**  
**10:15AM** Kids' Church  
**11:20AM** Coffee Fellowship

#### **Monday, May 11**

**7:00PM** Three Ministries (Hybrid)

#### **Tuesday, May 12**

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

#### **Wednesday, May 13**

~~**9:30AM** Yoga with Jeanene - Cancelled~~

#### **Thursday, May 14**

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

#### **Sunday, May 17**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available  
**10:00AM** **Worship**  
**10:15AM** Kids' Church  
**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship  
**11:20AM** Adult Ed: "Changes in Senior  
Mental Health" - Inglis Room

#### **May Birthdays**

Dana Romeis – May 1  
Cathy Buerk – May 3  
Mark Edwards – May 3  
Melissa Hill – May 3  
Adrianna Hoepfer – May 4  
Tracey Harris – May 8  
Warner Prange – May 8  
Thomas Welnick – May 8  
Garie Perry – May 9  
Drue Hood – May 10  
Alayna Hoganson – May 12  
Kay Roush – May 12  
Peter Bakker-Arkema – May 17  
Jean Gray – May 19  
Ruby Cohen – May 21  
Mila Falconer – May 23  
Sophia Monaco – May 23  
Linda Kopetti – May 24  
Leo Gomez – May 27



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## Contact Information

Moderator – Chris von Weise  
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Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org

Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn  
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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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