

Welcome!

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



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

MAY 24, 2026

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

**“STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH” SPECIAL OFFERING
PENTECOST SUNDAY**



*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 *Majesty of Christ Asking for God's Glory* Olivier Messiaen
from *Ascension Suite*

*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*

TOLLING THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

INTROIT	<i>Veni Creator Spiritus</i>	Gregorian chant
<i>Veni Creator Spiritus, Mentes tuorum visita, Imple superna gratia, Quae tu creasti pectora.</i>		Come, Creator Spirit, Visit our minds, And fill them with the same heavenly grace You created within us.
<i>Qui Paraletus diceris Donum Dei altissimi Fons vivus, ignis, caritas, Et spiritalis unctio.</i>		You will be called the Paraclete, Gift of the Most High God Living fountain, fire, charity, And spiritual anointing.

***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** *Spirit of God* Steve Garnaas-Holmes
Tune: DOVE SONG

**Spirit of God, bright Wind, breath that bids life begin,
blow as you always do; create us anew.
Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!**

**Spirit of God, bright Flame, send us in your holy name,
the power to heal, to share your love everywhere.
We cannot fail or fall, or know defeat at all,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!**

**Spirit of God in all, we gladly hear your call,
the life in our hands that sings, the power of your wings.
Born of your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,**

held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

RITUAL OF APPROACH

Reading

Acts 2:1-21 (selected)

Pew Bible, p. 992

Prayer (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

Beloved God, we come before you this morning in celebration of the gift of your Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit opens our hearts to the bold sacrifices of love.

Let your Holy Spirit create a conversion within us that leaves us radically changed today.

We are open today to being renewed, rekindled, and revitalized.

Allow us to be made in the wonder of your image and to see with the greater grandeur of your vision.

We call upon the Christ within us to fulfill the work and witness of your Church.

On this day, show us the common life and community of your Church in a world that matters.

Your realm, O God, is the real world, and we choose to be a presence and power within it. Amen.

**Singing God's Glory*

Glory to God in the Highest

Trad. Peruvian

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!

THE WORD SHARED

From the Gospels

John 7:37-39

Pew Bible, p. 974

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ACTIVITY

“Fire Sticks”

Johari Hunt

Coord. Faith Formation

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“Fire and Water”

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation for Prayer

Spirit of God, Descend

George Croly

Tune: MORECAMBE

**Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
And make me love thee as I ought to love.**

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

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

Ritual of Farewell

Faye & Marshall Dyer

**Song of Praise*

Doxology

Thomas Ken

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

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

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

O God, as those gathered by your Spirit into this community, we offer gifts of substance and spirit, to celebrate your faithfulness toward us and people in every time, nation, and language. Please bless our gifts in Jesus' name. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
No. 286 – *New Century Hymnal*

James K. Manley

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

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

POSTLUDE

Toccatina
Anne Gerst, piano

A. Khachaturian

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.

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The Success of Gala 2026!

Guests of First Church were very generous in support of our partner agencies at this year's Gala of Grace! Net proceeds to our Benevolence Fund come to \$19,843!

Dyer Farewell and Card Shower, Today

Long-time members, Faye & Marshall Dyer, are moving to Massachusetts. There will be a special recognition during worship and special treats in Memorial Hall for Coffee Fellowship. Share your blessings and well-wishes for them with cards or notes as they start this new chapter in their lives. A basket in Memorial Hall is ready to receive your greetings.

Strengthen the Church Special Offering, Today

The Strengthen the Church special offering furthers the work of the UCC as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. Go to UCC.org/STC to learn more. *Please, plan to give generously today!* Envelopes for this purpose have been placed on the Narthex Table.

Sonya Vann Ordination, Today

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

Memorial Day Office Closure, May 25

The office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 25.

Lady Elect Potluck, May 26

You are cordially invited to the Lady Elect End-of-Year Potluck Dinner in the Inglis Room on Tuesday, May 26th, at 6:00PM. Jan Barnes will be doing a storytelling presentation. If interested, please text Marilyn at (314) 894-2046 and let her know whether you are bringing an appetizer, main dish, side dish, or dessert. Be sure to leave your name in the text.

Journeyman Spring Final Meeting, May 28

The Journeyman final spring meeting will be Thursday, May 28 at 9:00AM in the Parlor.

Rev. Marty Black to Preach, May 31

On May 31, Rev. Marty Black returns to the pulpit while Pastor Dave is away. She served as our 2024 Sabbatical Pastor, and we are always happy to welcome her back!

National Gun Violence Awareness Day, June 7

On June 7th, members and friends of First Church are invited to wear orange and take part with other local churches in a community march along Lockwood Avenue (check-in 1PM; step-off 1:45PM at WG Presbyterian Church; march ends at Emmanuel Episcopal). A rally at Emmanuel will begin at 2:30PM. **We are collecting used T-shirts in a variety of sizes in the Narthex** to be displayed along Lockwood to honor and remember the lives lost to gun violence in St. Louis this year. Questions or suggestions? Please contact Esmeralda Castelblanco or Annie Sampath.

A Black History Tour of St. Louis – Documentary Film, June 14

A Black History of St. Louis, directed by Tony West, and written and presented by Fr. Gerry Kleba will take place in **Memorial Hall, Sunday, June 14, at 3:00PM** (runtime 85 min.), Admission is free. Q&A afterward with Fr. Kleba. - www.ABlackHistoryTour.com

Red Cross Blood Drive, June 15

Our next community blood drive at First Church will take place, from 9AM to 1PM on Monday, June 15. Sign up at RedCrossBlood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=FCCWG.

Habitat for Humanity Workday, October 3

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

Pastor Dave's Historical Remarks about Bennie Gordon, Jr.

On Saturday, May 16, Pastor Dave Denoon was among the featured speakers at the dedication of the Webster Groves recreation complex, now named for activist, businessman, and native son Bennie W. Gordon, Jr. On our website, at FirstChurchWG.org/covenant-news, you can read the text of a handout Dave created and of the speech he gave.

Read More in Covenant News

See this week's Covenant News at <https://conta.cc/4nNZVPG> for even more announcements.

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**.



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

Slideshow Presenter – bit.ly/FCCWG-Slides • **A/V Volunteer** – bit.ly/SE-Corner

Lost and Found

Numerous items are waiting in the office for their owners. Please pick them up ASAP if they are yours. Contact Adam with any questions about the lost and found.

Attending from Home or Away

To view worship livestream and videos online, go to 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.

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
Jean Gray – May 19

Ruby Cohen – May 21
Mila Falconer – May 23
Sophia Monaco – May 23
Linda Kopetti – May 24
Leo Gomez – May 27

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

Sunday, May 24

Pentecost / All-Ages Worship
"Strengthen the Church" Special Offering
Memorial Day Weekend

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day - Office Closed

Tuesday, May 26

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

5:00PM Lady Elect - Inglis Room

Wednesday, May 27

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

Thursday, May 28

9:00AM Journeymen - Parlor

Sunday, May 31

Trinity 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
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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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