

# Welcome!

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



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

**MAY 31, 2026  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
TRINITY 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

*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

Nancy Rudolph, *Liturgist*

### TOLLING THE BELL

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

God sparks light...

**It is good.**

...and gentles darkness.

**It is good.**

And God spins dawning into dusking into dawning . . .

**...and all is very good!**

God shivers cold...

**It is good.**

...and kindles warmth.

**It is good.**

And breathes melting into freezing into melting...

**...and all is very good!**

God shouts noise...

**It is good.**

..and hushes silence.

**It is good.**

And God sings music into quiet into music...

**And all is very good.**

Let us worship surrounded by the goodness of God.

### \*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

*Sing a Happy Alleluia*  
See insert for lyrics

Shirley Erena Murray

**\*RITUAL OF APPROACH**

*\*Unison Prayer*

Nancy Rudolph

**Holy, holy holy God, you love us by calling us into life. You love us by giving us your Spirit-breath. You love us by journeying with us always. And so we come together giving thanks for our life in your beautiful creation, to sing out our happiness with joyous voices, and to journey with each other in peace. Amen.**

*\*Silence for Personal Prayers*

*\*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!**

**NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY**

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

**HYMN**

*Morning Has Broken*  
No. 38 – *Pilgrim Hymnal*

Eleanor Farjeon

**INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD**

Rev. Marty Black

**THE WORD SHARED**

Nancy and Friends

*A Creative Reading of Genesis 1:1 to 2:4A*

*Response*

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*“Chaos and Hope”*

Pastor Marty

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Preparation for Prayer*

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

Spiritual

**Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.**

*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*

*New Zealand Prayer Book*

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our**

hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

**WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS**

*Opportunities to Give and Gather*

Nancy Rudolph

\**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**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Reginald Heber

No. 277 – *New Century Hymnal*

\***BENEDICTION**

**PARTING WORDS**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*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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**Welcome, Rev. Marty Black!**

Today, 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 Tour 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](http://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 [bit.ly/FCCWGREDD](https://bit.ly/FCCWGREDD).

### **Habitat for Humanity Workday, October 3**

We are still seeking 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](http://FirstChurchWG.org/covenant-news), you can read the text of a handout Dave created and of the speech he gave.

### **Memorial Services in June**

**Helen Davis**, was an activist for civil rights, women's empowerment, and racial justice, and led the effort in 1976-77 to compose a Covenant for First Church which today is spoken in every worship service here and before practically every meeting. She was the Executive Director of the Washington University YMCA-YWCA, 1976 - 1995, and the Helen Davis Humanitarian Award, an annual recognition by the Office of Student Activities at Wash U, is named for her. This remarkable woman, a former member of First Church, will be remembered and her ministries celebrated in a worship service at Pilgrim (Congregational) United Church of Christ, 826 Union Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108, at **10:30 AM on Wednesday, June 17**.

**Carol Mallette** joined our church in 2010, after an exceptional career in liturgical music. In retirement she was our regular substitute organist when our Music Director was away and also provided music at Gerber Funeral Chapel. A service of remembrance will take place here on **Saturday, June 20, at 1:00pm**. Rev. David Denoon and Rev. James R. Tony, former pastor of John Calvin Presbyterian Church in Bridgeton, will partner in conducting the service. A reception will follow in the Inglis Room. Interment will be private.

### **Read More in Covenant News**

See this week's Covenant News at <https://conta.cc/4fiS0Yp> 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](http://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. Worship staff will provide training as needed!

**Liturgist** – [bit.ly/Liturgist-2026](http://bit.ly/Liturgist-2026)

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

## **June Birthdays**

Jenny Jones - June 3  
Christy Hood - June 5  
Jared Cohen - June 7  
Lauren Bakker-Arkema - June 11  
Laszlo Kopetti - June 17  
Cliff Aerie - June 19  
Andrea Metcalf - June 21  
Ernestine Carter - June 22  
Abigail Monaco - June 23  
Kelsey Tolson - June 25  
Theo Ferguson - June 28  
Rosemary Hensley - June 29  
Jane Bollinger Debnam - June 30

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

Boxed Whole Wheat Pasta • Pasta Sauce (Low salt and sugar)  
Canned Mixed Vegetables (low or no salt) • Canned Fruit in own juices  
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Baby Fruits • Baby Vegetables • Baby Cereal

## **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.

## **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 31**

#### **Trinity Sunday**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

### **Tuesday, June 2**

**1:00PM** Staff Meeting - Church Office

### **Wednesday, June 3**

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

### **Sunday, June 7**

#### **Sacrament of Christ's Table**

**9:00AM** Brown Baggers

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**1:00PM** Community Event: March to End Gun Violence

Registration at 1:00PM at WG Presbyterian Church

Gathering Worship at 1:30PM (WGPC)

Step-off at 1:45PM (WGPC)

Rally at 2:30PM (Emmanuel Episcopal Church)

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10 West Lockwood Avenue  
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## Contact Information

Moderator – Chris von Weise  
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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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