

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JUNE 7, 2026

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE



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 *O Perfect Love* arr. Hal Hopson

*At this time, we invite you to complete an entry in the Friendship Booklet,
to silence the ringer on any cellular device you may have with you,
and to quiet yourself in preparation for worship.*

WELCOME Danny Smith, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

INTROIT *A Change Is Gonna Come* Sam Cooke
Kim Fuller Barnes

***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** *I Come with Joy* Brian Wren
No. 349 – *New Century Hymnal*

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

Invitation to Confession (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

Jesus, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.

But only say the word, and your servant will be healed.

Corporate Confession (Unison)

God of blessing, you call us to you, from wherever we are. But we must confess that we have been reluctant to follow. Though Matthew left his table and followed when he was called, we have often stayed put. Likewise, though Sarah and Abraham trusted you to do the seemingly impossible, we have not. And we have all sorts of excuses for why not – we are too ordinary, too ill-equipped, too unprepared, too busy, too old, too young. The truth is that to follow Jesus is to take up our cross, and we do love our comfort. Forgive us for failing to take seriously our responsibility to be a blessing to the whole world. Remembering Matthew's willingness, Sarah's trust, and Christ's obedience, we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silence for Personal Confessions

Words of Assurance (Responsive)

As weak and problematic people, we know our need for a God of grace.

And through an extraordinary work of grace, God meets us in our need.

In Christ we are forgiven.

In Christ we are freed to become agents of blessing to the world. Thanks be to God! 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!

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, Coordinator of Faith Formation

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

Romans 4:13–25

Pew Bible, p. 1027

From the Gospels

Matthew 9:9–13

p. 884

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Dinners with Sinners"

Rev. David Denoon, Pastor

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Opportunities to Give and Gather (with Interlude)

Interlude

I Wish I Knew (How It Would Feel to Be Free)

Billy Taylor

**Song of Praise*

Doxology

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)*

Blessed are you, God of growth and discovery; yours is the inspiration that has altered and changed our lives. Yours is the direction that has brought us this far. Now, hearing your call, we respond with these gifts so that your word and your will might go even farther in Jesus' name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE

**Prayers of Intercession (Joys and Concerns)*

If you choose to mention someone in prayer, please consider the privacy of those for whom you are praying, as this worship is being live-streamed.

**Invitation (Responsive)*

Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen Savior, who at table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

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 God thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sanctus (Unison)

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God most high. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Fraction

Acclamation

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer of Our Savior

Consecration

Communion

*Please, go forward to partake of communion when you are ready.
Bread is gluten-free. Wine is white; grape juice is red.
If you are unable to go forward to partake, please indicate this to an usher,
and the elements will be brought to you.*

Communion Hymn

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether
No. 337 – New Century Hymnal*

Percy Dearmer

Prayer after Communion (Unison)

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service
No. 495 – New Century Hymnal*

J. P. Huber

***BENEDICTION**

***WORDS OF PARTING**

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

POSTLUDE

Variation on "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright" Hal Hopson

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Cover Art

The Vocation of St. Matthew, by Juan de Pareja, who is pictured on the far left of his painting, and who was a Black artist and senior assistant to the famous artist Velazquez.

Lighting the Globe

Today, **Kin & Peggy Lavender** have asked that the Globe on the dais be illuminated in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary. As Margaret Lance and William K. Lavender, they were married in this church on June 4, 1966, and although removed by distance the two of them remain steadfast members of First Church!

If you would like to have the Globe illuminated in honor of a special someone or a special event in your life, please make a donation to the church and include a note, indicating your celebration. All donations are given to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, for aid to members and friends in need.

National Gun Violence Awareness Day, TODAY

This afternoon, 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. For more information, 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 and others in the film. -

www.ABlackHistoryTour.com

The 2026 Summer of Conversations Begins Soon!

Recruitment has begun for this year's Summer of Conversations! First Church has engaged in Summers of Conversations since 2021, to enhance our sense of the Spirit among us and to become better acquainted. If you want to be a convo initiator, then (in no particular order)

1. Watch Pastor Dave Denoon's 2021 message promoting the project, at bit.ly/FCCWG-Convos, then
2. Watch his training video at bit.ly/SoC-Training, and after that
3. Pick up a copy of the **Summer of Conversations Pledge Form** from the big narthex table on an upcoming Sunday, OR complete an online form,
4. Take part in the **Summer of Conversations Consecration on Fathers Day** (optional), and finally
5. Select up to ten names from the online **Members/Friends list** (Coming soon!).

In late September, the Pastor will host a gathering for everyone who has participated – Initiators and partners both – to consider together how the Holy Spirit is shaping us as a faith community. Hopefully, everyone will have a chance in some way, to take part in this year's Summer of Conversations!

We acknowledge that some may not be comfortable participating in the Summer of Conversations. If you do not wish to participate as either an initiator or partner, please let the Pastor know.

Inquirers Orientation, June 14

Next Sunday, the Pastor will conduct a Historic Tour of the First Church building, to acquaint newcomers with this church, Congregationalism, and the United Church of Christ. The session will begin at 11:20AM and finish before 1:00PM. Attendees will be invited to be part of our next reception of new members on Sunday, June 28. Please, contact the Pastor to register.

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/FCCWGREDBLOOD.

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.

Book Study: "What Is the Bible?" by Rob Bell

Starting on July 12, we will begin a 4-week study of Rob Bell's book, *What Is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything*. If you would like the church to order a copy for you, please contact the church office.

Memorial Services, this week

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.**

Read More in Covenant News

See this week's Covenant News at <https://conta.cc/3RG5mnM> for even more announcements, including the Webster Rock Hill Ministries Trivia Night, this Friday; and Racial Unity Week, June 13-20.

Connecting Remotely to Worship

To view worship livestream and videos online, go to [YouTube.com/@1stChurchWG](https://www.youtube.com/@1stChurchWG)

Wifi Available

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.
-



Sunday Volunteers – Sign up, today!

Liturgist – bit.ly/Liturgist-2026

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

June Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jenny Jones - June 3 | Andrea Metcalf - June 21 |
| Leon Burke - June 4 | Ernestine Carter - June 22 |
| Christy Hood - June 5 | Abigail Monaco - June 23 |
| Jared Cohen - June 7 | Kelsey Tolson - June 25 |
| Lauren Bakker-Arkema - June 11 | Theo Ferguson - June 28 |
| Laszlo Kopetti - June 17 | Rosemary Hensley - June 29 |
| Cliff Aerie - June 19 | 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

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, 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)

Monday, June 8

7:00PM Three Ministries - Hybrid

Tuesday, June 9

1:00PM Staff Meeting - Church Office

Wednesday, June 10

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

Friday, June 12

5:30PM Webster Rock Hill Ministries Trivia Night - Memorial Hall

Sunday, June 14

Third Sunday after Pentecost

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship - Memorial Hall

11:20AM Inquirers Orientation (Historic Tour) - begins in Narthex

3:00PM Screening of *A Black History of St. Louis* - Memorial Hall



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

Facebook

@FirstChurchWG

Instagram

@WebsterGroves_FirstChurch

YouTube

@1stChurchWG