

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

**JUNE 14, 2026
SUNDAY BEFORE JUNETEENTH**



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.



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

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, to silence the ringer on any cellular device you may have with you, and to quiet yourself in preparation for worship.

WELCOME

Jane Porchey, *Liturgist*

TOLLING THE BELL

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 116

I love my God, who has heard my voice and my supplications and has inclined an ear to me.

Let us call upon our God as long as we live.

What shall I return to for all the bounty I have received?

Let us lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of Yahweh, paying vows to God in the presence of the people.

O God, we are your servants, and you have loosed our bonds.

In the courts of God's house, even here, let us praise our 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

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In
No. 73 – New Century Hymnal

Louise Ruspini

*RITUAL OF APPROACH (Responsive)

**Invitation*

**Prayer of Approach* (Unison)

God of laughter, we see your playfulness in the world around us, in the zebra's stripe and the peacock's tail, in the smile of the rainbow, and the dimples of a baby. On the other hand, we have so often found ourselves burdened by the heaviness of life, the weight of responsibilities, the seriousness of rituals. Or when we have laughed, our laughter has been suspicious or cruel. So we thank you for your forgiveness, for you put a new wonder in our hearts, and a joy that overflows in laughter. You help us put sin and pain in the past. We know we may laugh, for we know

ultimately you have control of our world, and that you have won an unlikely victory for us, through Christ. Amen.

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

Congregation repeats after the leader:

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Congregation repeats after the leader:

To God be glory forever!

Congregation harmonizes at the leader's direction:

Alleluia, amen! Alleluia, amen!

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

Children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.

Afterward, they may proceed to Kids Church or return to their seats.

SHARING THE WORD

From the Law

Genesis 18:1-15

Pew Bible, p. 13

From the Gospels

Matthew 9:35-10:8

p. 885

Response.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Laughable"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Edwin Hatch

No. 292, v. 1 – *New Century Hymnal*

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 (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. 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 GIFTS WITH OTHERS

Opportunities to Give and Gather

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

Praise God above, you heavenly host –

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

Gracious God, we, who have been sent by Christ, act now on behalf of the members of your human family who are in need.

We present our offerings in response to the will of Jesus whose loving concern encompasses all, and who gave his life for all. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

For One Great Peace

Shirley Erena Murray

**This thread I weave, this step I dance,
this stone I carve, this ball I bounce,
this nail I drive, this pearl I string,
this flag I wave, this note I sing,

this pot I shape, this fire I light,
this fence I leap, this bone I knit,
this seed I nurse, this rift I mend,
this child I raise, this earth I tend,

this check I write, this march I join,
this faith I state, this truth I sign,
this is small part, in one small place,
of one heart's beat for one great Peace.**

***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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

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 today at 3:00PM** (runtime 85 min.). Admission is free. Q&A afterward with Fr. Kleba and others in the film. - www.ABlackHistoryTour.com

Inquirers Orientation, Today

Today, 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. Contact the Pastor to register.

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** (bit.ly/Names-2026).
6. Take advantage of our **Helpful Tips & Reminders** handout at bit.ly/Convo-Tips (also available from the Narthex table).

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!

*PLEASE NOTE: We acknowledge that some might 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.*

Dyers' New Address

We wish Faye and Marshall safe travels! Now that they have left St. Louis, if you wish to know their new address, log in to Breeze or contact Office Administrator Adam Levin.

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/FCCWGRED.

Memorial Services, Week of June 15

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**.

Juneteenth, June 19

The office will be closed in observance of Juneteenth on Friday, June 19.

Book Study: "What Is The Bible?", starting July 12

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. Otherwise, please read through the first of the four sections by July 12!

Habitat for Humanity Workday, October 3

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

Facility and Finance News

- We've had recent comments concerning the condition of the Jubilee Garden and the East Parking Lot "Island." We cut back our outdoor maintenance costs significantly in 2026. Unfortunately, that included new plantings. Our landscaper has been held up by the rainy weather, but did address the Jubilee Garden last week. He plans to come back soon and clean up, weed and mulch the parking lot center island. We'll see how it looks when he finishes. We may enlist churchgoers to come in one morning for a couple hours and do further clean up and planting soon. Stay tuned! We do plan to build in more plantings to next year's budget.
- Please notice the discrete signage next to the Narthex doors. Our Sts. Clare and Francis and AA lessees requested signs to direct their groups to the correct entrance.
- If you get down to the Dickens Room, check out the newly polished floor. The AA group did a wonderful job stripping and polishing. It needs several weeks to cure before it can be buffed. Mark tells me that Memorial Hall is soon to get the same treatment.
- **We now have 340 lbs of plastic caps! Just 60 more lbs. and we'll have our Rainbow Bench.** Huge thanks to Sharon Love for shepherding this project.

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
Leon Burke - June 4
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

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 14

9:45AM Nursery Care Available
10:00AM Worship
10:15AM Kids' Church
11:05AM Coffee Fellowship
11:20AM Inquirers Orientation - Narthex
3:00PM Film: "A Black History Tour of St.
Louis" - Memorial Hall

Monday, June 15

9AM - 1PM Red Cross Blood Drive -
Memorial Hall
7:00PM Executive Ministry - Zoom

Tuesday, June 16

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

Wednesday, June 17

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room

Friday, June 19

Juneteenth
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, June 20

1:00PM Memorial Service:
Carol Mallette

Sunday, June 21

Father's Day

9:45AM Nursery Care Available
10:00AM Worship
10:15AM Kids' Church
11:05AM Coffee Fellowship