

# Welcome!

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



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

JUNE 21, 2026

FATHER'S DAY

SUMMER SOLSTICE

DEDICATION - SUMMER OF CONVERSATIONS



*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

*Air*

G. F. Handel

*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

Joan Musbach, *Liturgist*

### TOLLING THE BELL

### LIGHTING THE CANDLES

### CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**)

based on Psalm 86

All the peoples created by God one day shall bow down before our  
Sovereign and glorify God's name.

**Our God is great and has done wondrous things, and is  
God alone.**

Let us seek God's grace and God's favor,

**for we have already come to know God's help and comfort.**

### \*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

*This Is My Father's World  
No. 485 – Pilgrim Hymnal*

Maltbie D. Babcock

### \*RITUAL OF APPROACH

\**Reading* (Responsive)

*Baptized into New Life*

Symeon the New Theologian, 949-1022

I waken in Christ's body as Christ awakens my body, and my poor hand is  
Christ.

**Christ enters my foot, and is infinitely me.**

I move my hand, and wonderfully my hand becomes Christ, becomes all of  
Christ (for God is indivisibly whole, seamless in the Godhead).

**I move my foot, and at once Christ appears like a flash of  
lightning.**

Do my words seem blasphemous? — Then open your heart and let yourself  
receive the One who is opening to you so deeply.

**For if we genuinely love Christ, we wake up inside Christ's  
body**

Where all our body, all over, every most hidden part of it, is realized in joy,  
**And Christ makes us utterly real,**

And everything that is hurt, everything that seemed to us dark, harsh, shameful, maimed, ugly, irreparably damaged, is in Christ transformed and recognized as whole, as lovely, and radiant.

**In Christ's light we awaken as the Beloved in every last part of our body.**

*\*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**

Marilyn Barton, *Christian Education Ministry*

*Children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.*

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

**SHARING THE WORD**

*From the Law*

Genesis 21:8-21

Pew Bible, p. 16

*From the Gospels*

Matthew 10:24-31

p. 886

*Response.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*"Call Me Ishmael"*

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Preparation*

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Edwin Hatch

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,**

**Fill me with life anew,**

**That I may love the way you love**

**And do what you would do.**

*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 GIFTS WITH OTHERS**

*Opportunities to Give and Gather*

\*Song of Praise

Doxology

Thomas Ken

**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)

**O God, from your bounty we all have received, and by your grace we all can give. As a simple sign of thanksgiving, for the sake of any of your little ones' thirsts being quenched, we offer our gifts and ourselves. Bless our offerings as you have blessed our hearts. Amen.**

**COMMISSIONING FOR SUMMER OF CONVERSATIONS**

*Introduction*

\*Dedication

As you go into the Congregation to meet intentionally with people, will you seek to be aware of signs of God's Spirit at First Church and in the people you meet?

**All: We will.**

As a community of faith, will you accept the invitation to share in sacred conversation this summer with other members of our community, so that together we can be aware of God's Spirit at work in our midst and in each other's lives?

**All: We will.**

\*Prayer

\*PARTING HYMN

*God's Eye Is on the Sparrow*  
No. 475, vv. 1,3 – *New Century Hymnal*

Civila Durfee Martin

\*BENEDICTION

\*PARTING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE

*Wachet auf*

J. G. Walther

*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.*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Consider Taking Part in  
the 2026 Summer of Conversations!**

Our annual Summer of Conversations enhances our sense of the Spirit among us and helps us to become better acquainted. Please consider becoming a conversation initiator. Here's how:

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** at [bit.ly/Names-2026](https://bit.ly/Names-2026)
6. Take advantage of our **Helpful Tips & Reminders** handout at [bit.ly/Convo-Tips](https://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.*

### **June Event Photos**

Phil Shoulberg was kind enough to take photos of the anti-gun violence march on June 7, and the showing of *A Black History Tour of St. Louis* on June 14. Check out Phil’s photos from the events, and their accompanying article, in this week’s Covenant News.

### **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!

### **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 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.

### **A Note of Concern from the NAACP**

Report from Rev. Elston McCowan, a First Church member and Vice President of the St. Louis NAACP: Governor Kehoe has until June 30 to decide whether to sign into law an elimination of Medicaid coverage for chiropractic services, acupuncture, and physical therapy. Healthcare for low-income children, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities is on the line. Missouri lawmakers have already approved the cuts to eliminate this coverage. To contact the Governor directly with your opinion, please go to <https://governor.mo.gov/contact-us/mo-governor#>

### **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.

### **More in This Week's "Covenant News"**

See all of the announcements in this morning's bulletin with accompanying graphics by going to this week's online newsletter - <https://conta.cc/4fZnQd3>

### **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](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)

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

### **Sunday, June 21**

#### **Father's Day**

#### **First Day of Summer**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

### **Tuesday, June 23**

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

### **Wednesday, June 24**

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

### **Sunday, June 28**

#### **Reception of New Members**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:30AM** Pastoral Relations Committee - Parlor



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## Contact Information

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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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