

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JUNE 28, 2026
PRIDE SUNDAY
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS



**PRIDE
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

Chorale in E

C. Franck

*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

Mark Edwards, *Liturgist*

TOLLING THE BELL

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

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

based on Matthew 10:40

Jesus once said, “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” We are here together to enjoy the spiritual reward of unity with God.

Children, teenagers, young adults, middle-aged, and seniors, we lift our voices in thanksgiving for so many blessings gladly received and many yet still to come.

*GATHERING HYMN

Gentle, Angry People

Holly Near

**We are a gentle, angry people,
And we are singing, singing for our lives.**

We are a justice-seeking people...

We are young and old together...

We are a land of many colors...

We are queer and straight together...

We are a gentle, loving people...

*RITUAL OF APPROACH

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

Psalm 13:1-4

How long, my God? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider, and answer me, Sovereign God!

Give light to my eyes or I will sleep the sleep of death, and my enemy will say, “I have prevailed.”

My foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

*Silence for Personal Prayers

*Words of Assurance

Psalm 13:5-6

But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to my God, who has dealt bountifully with me.

**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*

SHARING THE WORD

From the Prophets

Jeremiah 28:6-9
The Inclusive Bible

Pew Bible, p. 717

From the Epistles

Romans 6:12-23
The Message

p. 1028

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

"Coming Clean"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Preparation

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
**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.**

Edwin Hatch

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

tr. Denoon

**Creator in heaven, your name is revered, your kin-dom rises,
your will is established. Make earth like heaven: satisfy our
needs abundantly, forgive us in the same way we forgive others,
and keep us from the time of trial, away from the evil one. May
your kin-dom and power and glory prevail, now and ever.
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)*

Gracious God, we would act for the sake of all the members of

your family who need your word and your love. We make our offerings, knowing that through you the unlikely becomes possible. Bless our giving, that it may be done according to your will and to the benefit of your work, in Jesus' name. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Introductions

Preface

**Affirmation of Faith*

based on *Our Creed*, 1901

Do you believe in the kinship of all people as children of God? **I do.**

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Way and the Truth and the Life? **I do.**

Do you believe in the clean heart, the unworldly life, and the service of love as Jesus taught and exemplified, and do you accept Christ's Spirit and Christ's teaching? **I do.**

**Questions of the Candidates*

**Raising the Covenant*

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.

**Welcome to the Church*

Chris von Weise, *Moderator*

We as members of this church, gladly welcome you to be a part with us in the hopes, the labors, and the joys of our mutual ministry. We promise to walk with you in Christian love and sympathy, and to promote, as far as in us lies, your growth in the Christian life.

***PARTING HYMN**

Church Is More than a Building

Amanda Udis-Kessler, words

Tune: HYFRYDOL

**Church is more than just a building,
More than wood or metal or brick.
Church is how we love our neighbor.
Church is how we tend to the sick
Feed the hungry and heal the suffering,
Welcome strangers, give to the poor.
All our service is as worship,
All our presence an open door.**

**We're the Church in the path we follow,
Showing care to those in pain.
In the midst of fear and sorrow,
We're the Church, and here we'll remain,
Seeking justice, showing kindness,
Singing praises in all that we do.
Church is more than just a building.
It's our work toward a world made new.**

***BENEDICTION**

***PARTING WORDS**

Our worship has ended.
Let our service begin.

POSTLUDE

MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

ARR. H. 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.

WE WELCOME TODAY into membership Natalie Brunk, Wayne Dierker, Phil & Liz Leffel, and Nathan Schmidt. If you are interested in exploring membership at First Church, please communicate this to the Pastor who will make sure that you are part of our next Inquirers Orientation.

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Globe Lighting

The globe is illuminated today in celebration of Rosemary Hensley's 80th birthday.

**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 Father's Day** (optional), and finally
5. Select up to ten names from the online **Members/Friends list** at **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.*

Independence Day Water Handout, July 4

As usual, First Church will hand out water to parade-goers at the Independence Day parade on Saturday, July 4. Contact Johari for more details or if you would like to volunteer.

Office Closure, July 6

As Independence Day falls on a Saturday, the office will be closed in observance on **Monday, July 6.**

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!

Ballot Issues Forum, July 12

The August 4 election contains several ballot measures that impact crucial aspects of Missouri life. Join Churches Together for Justice in Memorial Hall at 3PM on July 12 for a forum on these measures. Thank you to Doug Miller for bringing this to our attention and helping us to facilitate the forum!

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

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

July Birthdays

Connie Kitchen – July 2
Katie Hoeper – July 11
Barbara Krewson – July 12
Jeanene Harris – July 13
Sue Leary – July 18
Sophia Ferguson – July 20
Emma von Weise – July 29

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 28

Pride Sunday

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

Tuesday, June 30

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

Wednesday, July 1

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis

Saturday, July 4

Independence Day

Sunday, July 5

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

Monday, July 6

Office Closed



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.

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