

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

JULY 5, 2026

INDEPENDENCE DAY WEEKEND
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 *Largo from “New World Symphony”* Antonin Dvořák
*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 Nancy Rudolph, *Liturgist*

TOLLING THE BELL

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP *Ring the Bells for Freedom* Rev. Dr. Chris Davies
A 4th of July Litany So. New England Conf., UCC
For this litany, your response will alternate between
Ring for Freedom! and Ring the bells for Freedom!
Watch the monitors, to be sure.

***GATHERING HYMN** *Lift Every Voice and Sing* James Weldon Johnson
No. 593 – *New Century Hymnal*

***RITUAL OF APPROACH**

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

**God of every generation, hear our prayers this day and bless us.
If we have acted as though our government had greater
authority or power than you in our lives, forgive us. If we have
deferred to any other majesty, we are heartily sorry and regret
our sin. Let us never lose our comprehension of your glory and
your grace to us as we have known them through our true
Sovereign Jesus Christ. Now and at our end, receive us into
your midst with the love and care of a parent for wayward
children who have come home. So may we ever rejoice in your
Spirit’s nurture and kindness and care. Amen.**

**Silence for Personal Confessions*

**Assurance of Pardon* (Responsive) from 2 Corinthians 12
God has said to us, “My grace is enough for you, because power is made
perfect in weakness.” Therefore, accept your weaknesses, for the sake of
Christ.

**For when we are weak to the world, then can we be strong
in Christ. Thanks be to God. 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*

*The 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 Epistles

Romans 7:15-25a

Pew Bible, p. 1029

From the Gospels

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

p. 887

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

*“American Christianity, Rev. David Denoon, Pastor
the Day after the Semiquincentennial”*

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.**

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.*

Introduction and Remembrance

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.**

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.*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have
known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ’s
gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,
and let us show forth your praise in our lives through Jesus
Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*PARTING HYMN

This Is My Song
No. 591 – *New Century Hymnal*

Lloyd Stone

*BENEDICTION

*PARTING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE

Allemande from “Pastorale”

J. S. Bach

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. To participate as a Conversation Initiator:

1. Watch the training video at bit.ly/SoC-Training,
2. Fill out a **Summer of Conversations Pledge Form** from the big narthex table, OR at bit.ly/Initiate26,
3. Select up to ten names from the online **Members/Friends list** at bit.ly/Names-2026
4. Take advantage of our **Helpful Tips & Reminders** handout at bit.ly/Convo-Tips

In late September, join Pastor Dave Denoon and other participants, 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!

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 section (there are four) 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!

Stevie Wonder Jazz Worship, July 19

A refreshing new setting for worship will take place on **Sunday, July 19**, when the Oikos Jazz Ensemble leads us in **Worship in the Key of Life!** Here’s a taste of what the selections for the morning will include: “You Are the Sunshine of My Life,” “Have a Talk with God,” and “Sir Duke.”

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/4p6EERW>

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

July Birthdays

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

July Meal-a-Month Shopping List

Canned Beef or Chicken • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)
Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Whole Wheat Flour • Cold Cereal (no sugar)
Plain Oatmeal (no sugar) • Sugar free juices in plastic bottles

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, July 5

Independence Day Weekend

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

Tuesday, July 7

1:00PM Communications Committee - Church Office

Wednesday, July 8

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

Sunday, July 12

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

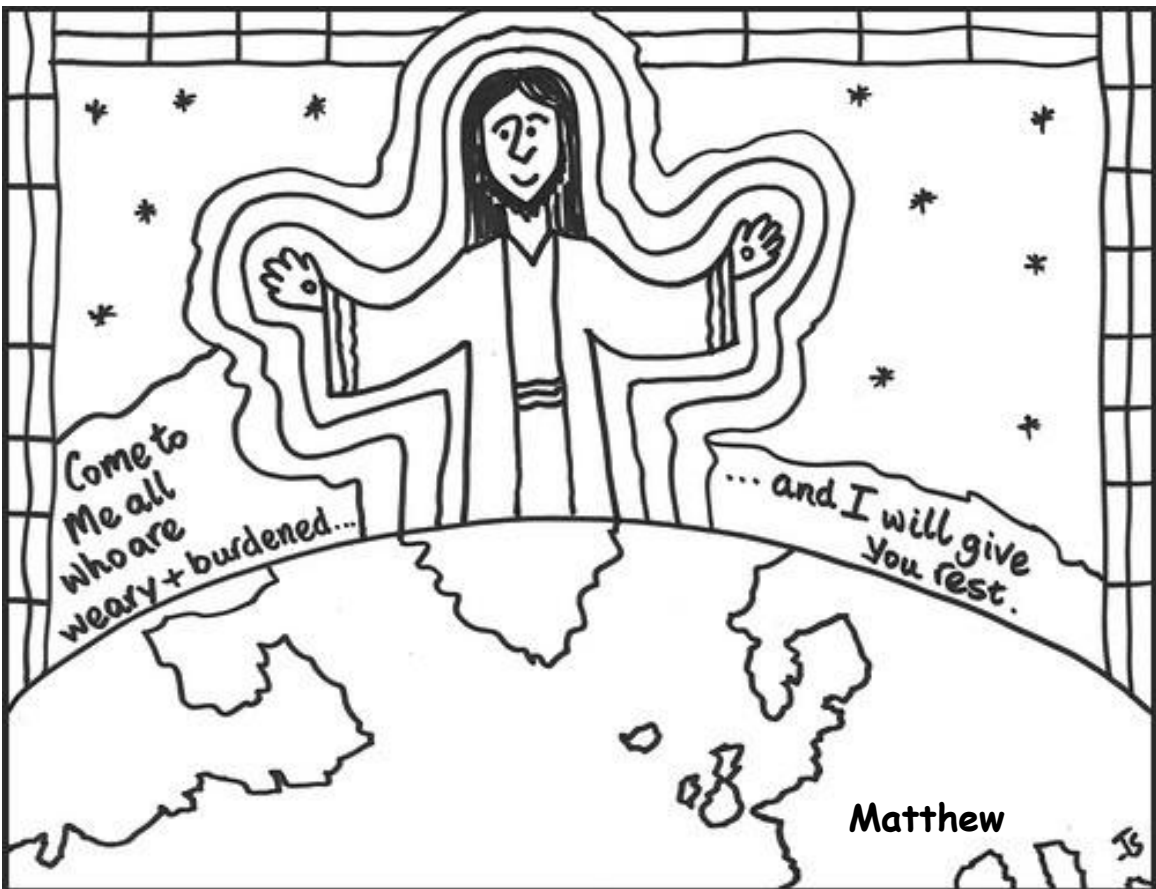
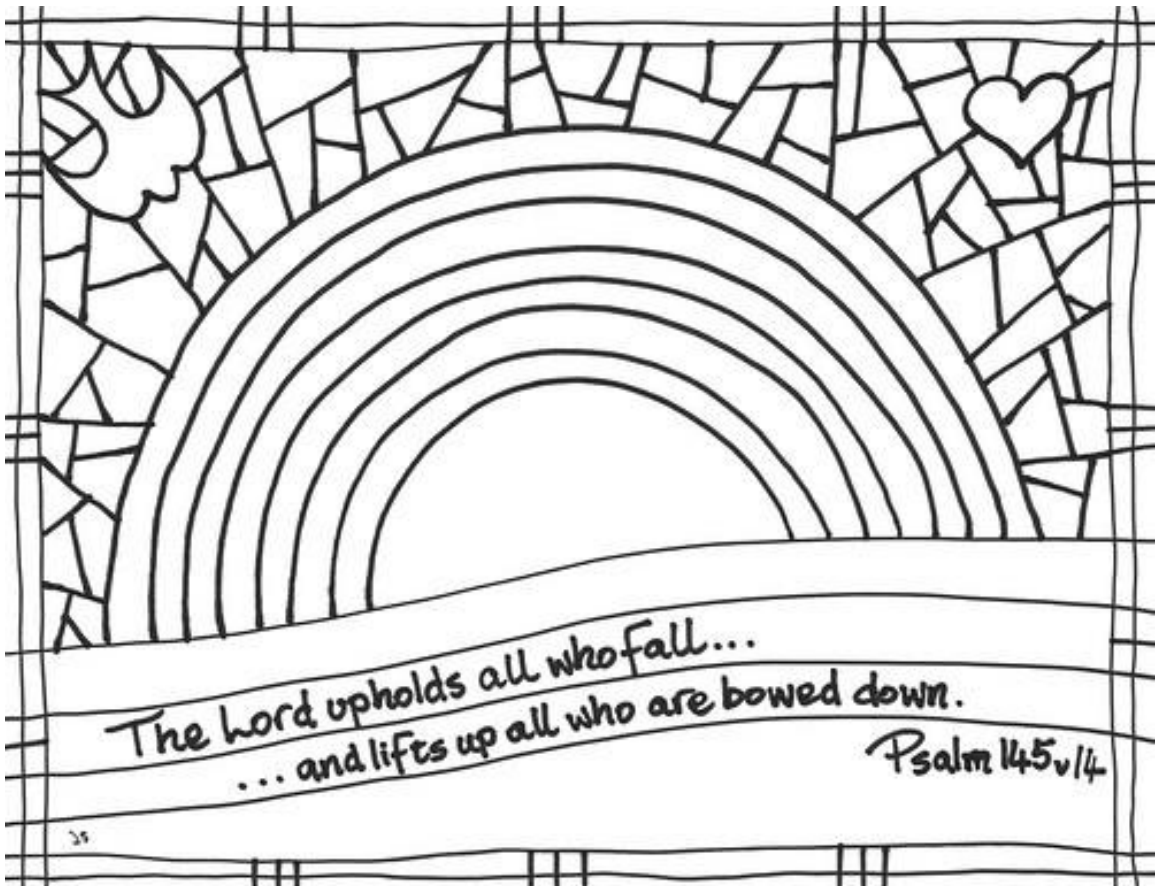
10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

11:20AM Book Discussion: *What is the Bible?* by Rob Bell

2:00PM Churches Together for Justice **Ballot Issues Forum** - Memorial Hall

COLORING PAGE





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