

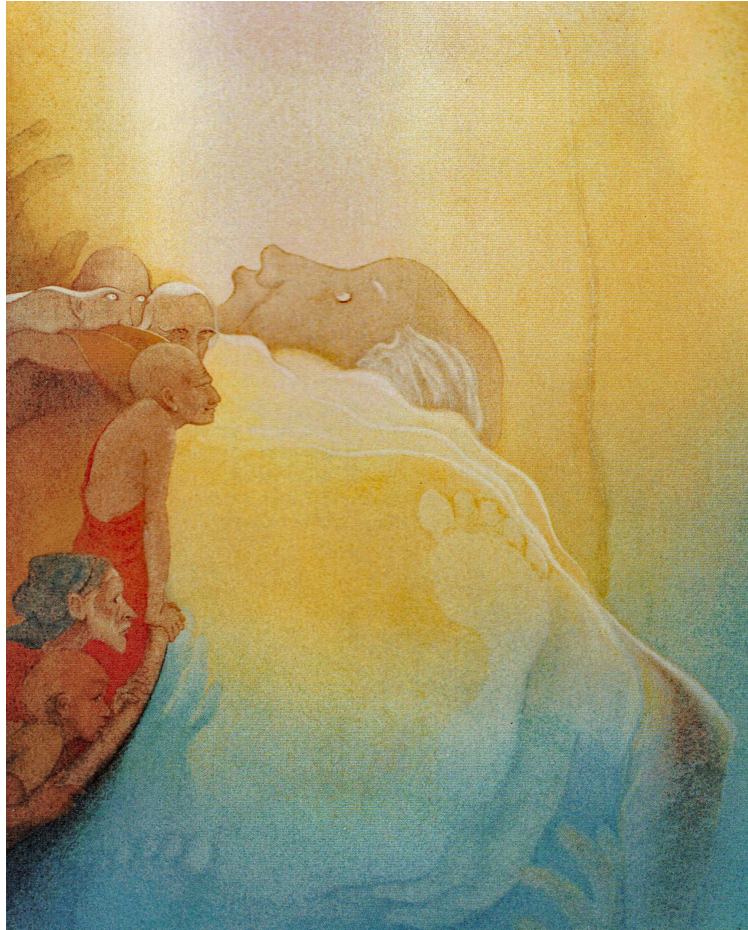
Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

AUGUST 9, 2026
ALL AGES WORSHIP



*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 *Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier (Chorale Prelude)* J. S. Bach
*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 Linda Kopetti, *Liturgist*

TOLLING THE BELL

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive – Liturgist; **People**) from Psalm 85
Let us hear what God will speak.

God will speak peace — to the people, to the faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and
righteousness will look down from the sky.**

***RAISING THE COVENANT** (Unison) *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** *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* William Whiting
(Great God in Heaven, Strong to Save)
No. 429 – Pilgrim Hymnal

In the interest of inclusive imagery, worshipers are invited to substitute the following words, which alterations will appear on the screens:

- *in the first strophe of verse 1, “Great God in heaven, strong to save”; and*
- *in the second strophe of verse 4, “Our kindred shield in danger’s hour”.*

*RITUAL OF APPROACH

**Invitation*

**Prayer of Approach (Unison)*

Loving God, it is often easier for us to trust our minds than our hearts. Sometimes we have faith in only what we can perceive with our senses. Yet we know that faith relies on more than proof. Open our hearts to be aware of Jesus — not merely the

man, the son of Joseph and Mary, the carpenter, the teacher and prophet. Let us know the Savior, the one who called Peter from out of the boat and then lifted him up from out of the sea. For without that Christ, we sink as well, and our deepest need can never be satisfied. Amen.

**Words of Assurance (Responsive)*

What does the righteousness that comes from faith say?

The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.

Yes, if we confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord and have faith in our hearts that God resurrected him, our salvation is assured.

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

**Singing God’s Glory*

Glory to God in the Highest

Peruvian melody

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!

SHARING THE WORD

From the Gospels

Matthew 14:22-33

Pew Bible, p. 892

Response

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

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY

“And Immediately”

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Lift Our Joys and Concerns

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

a poem by Dick Carfrae

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.

**Blessing of School Supplies*

**Prayer of Dedication* (Unison)

Our praises we lift to you, O God, for you have lifted us up out of situations we thought were hopeless. Receive and bless the offerings we make before you this day, that others may be lifted up as well, in Christ's name. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

I'm So Glad (Jesus Lifted Me)
No. 474 – *New Century Hymnal*

Spiritual

***BENEDICTION**

Love Lifted Me

J. Rowe, H. E. Smith

***PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

People: **Let our service begin.**

POSTLUDE

The Lord Is My Song

L. van Beethoven

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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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!

Our Bible Journey, Wednesday nights

Our Bible Journey is a weekly gathering on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the Church Parlor. The object of the Bible Journey is eventually to explore the entire Bible with others, beginning "in the beginning." If you would like to be part of Our Bible Journey but cannot attend in person, please contact the Pastor and he'll send you a link that you can use to take part. To see the reading plan we are following for this Bible Journey, pick up a copy from the big narthex table, and follow along with us.

Pastoral Relations Committee, August 16

If you have a matter you haven't been able to discuss with the Pastor – whether a concern or a joy – please contact a PRC member. They will be meeting on August 16. The Committee currently consists of *Dan Claggett, Sharon Love, Barb Moore, Emily Polaske, Dana Romeis, Moderator Chris von Weise*, and Pastor Dave Denoon. Meeting bi-monthly, PRC seeks to foster a healthy relationship between pastor, staff, and congregants; it is not a personnel or policy-

making committee. The discussions of the committee are confidential, thus allowing members the freedom to express varying views.

Facility & Finance Updates

After a couple months of fits and starts, we finally have the east parking lot work underway. Holes were filled, two coats of sealer applied followed by fresh stripping. It should be finished by the end of this week, assuming rain does not get in the way.

Chip has been hard at work in the kitchen installing trim pieces at the wall ceiling seam, around the light fixtures and air handler units. Check it out, it looks great! We hoping to get a new lessee in that space soon.

We had a plumbing issue two weeks ago. The kitchen ice machine drain was clogged. The remedy involved cutting out a portion of the Dickens Room ceiling and replacing the old cast iron pipes with PVC.

- Phil Shoulberg, F&F Chair

Memorial Snack Service – New Volunteers Welcome!

There is a group of women in the church who provide a very important service, but not very well-known. After every memorial service or funeral at church, we provide a reception of homemade cookies coffee, & drinks for the attendees so they can visit with family and friends. I don't believe it has been advertised for a long time. This is open to all members of the church, **Please contact Rosemary Hensley at 314-223-8274.** We would love to have you join us!

Cap Collection Almost Complete

Thanks to tireless work by Sharon Love and Phil Shoulberg, the Rainbow Bench honoring First Church's status as Open & Affirming (ONA) is almost complete! We have collected 370 lbs., and only need 30 lbs. more. Then, Sharon and ONA Coalition member Lorin Cope will drive the caps to Indiana to be made into the bench.

Confirmation Students and Mentors

A new Confirmation Class is starting in September. Especially for young people who rising 7th through 9th Graders, but also available to older youth who haven't gone through the Confirmation process yet, the class will meet on Tuesdays at 6:30PM, from September 8, 2026, through May 18, 2027 (with Confirmation Sunday on June 6, 2027).

As in the past, part of this Confirmation season will be the participation of **adult mentors** who will go with the students through the process, offering support and encouragement and even learning with them. If you would like to be considered for mentoring, or if you would like more information before deciding, please contact the Pastor.

Used Car Ministry

OK, so that heading is probably over-stating the situation, but the Pastor has become aware of a church member whose vehicle recently required Last Rites. If you have a good used car at a fair or even generous price, please contact the Pastor who can put you in contact.

Call for Home Repair Volunteers, Deadline August 10

Churches Together for Justice (CTJ), in collaboration with Rebuilding Together STL (RT) is expanding its Home Repair Program to two homes this fall on October 10. **We have only 2 volunteers from FCC. I am eagerly asking for more volunteers from FCC (up to 8**

total). If you are willing to help, please let Doug Miller know as soon as possible. Note also that the dates for signing up (and filling out the skills survey) have been significantly extended.

CROP Walk to End Hunger, September 27

The 2026 St. Louis Metro CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, September 27 at Eden Theological Seminary (475 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119). 1-mile and 3-mile routes are available around lovely Webster neighborhoods. Check-in/registration at 1:30PM and Walk at 2:00. To find out how to register, contact Laurel Hayes.

Professional Staff Times Away

Director of Music Leon Burke will be on vacation, conducting the Asunción (Paraguay) Symphony Orchestra, **August 24-September 3**. Pastor Dave Denoon will be away, **August 18-31**. Please contact the office if Pastoral Care is needed.

More in This Week's "Covenant News"

See all of the announcements in this morning's bulletin with accompanying graphics, as well as announcements from other churches and organizations about their activities, by going to this week's online newsletter - <https://conta.cc/4wicjAh>

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

August Birthdays

Peter Kalulu – August 3
Sue Stepleton – August 10
Luke Ferguson – August 13
John Paci – August 13
Gwen Denoon – August 14
Julie McHugh – August 20
Sharon Beal – August 23
John Claggett – August 30

August Meal-a-Month Shopping List

Canned Chicken • Brown Rice • Canned Soup (low or no salt)
Canned Corn (low or no salt) • Canned Fruit in own juices
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk • Diapers
Diaper Wipes • Formula with Iron

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, August 9

School Supplies Drive

All Ages Worship

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

Monday, August 10

7:00PM Three Ministries (Hybrid)

Tuesday, August 11

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

Wednesday, August 12

9:30AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis

7:00 PM Bible Journey - Parlor

Sunday, August 16

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Coffee Fellowship

11:30AM Pastoral Relations Committee



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 – Stuart Chase

Lead A/V Technician – 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

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YouTube
@1stChurchWG