

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

AUGUST 30, 2026
WORSHIP WITH REV. MARTY BLACK
BACKPACK BLESSING



*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

Sarabande

David Ashley White

*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

Cindy Matlock, Liturgist

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

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

Cindy Matlock, Liturgist

Loves strong voice calls us to move beyond all that divides us one from another.

Come, let us follow Love's lead.

With generous grace, Love welcomes all that we are.

Come, let us follow Love's lead.

Love invites us to be enfolded into a community of mutual affection and respect.

Come, let us follow Love's lead.

Love's tender voice stirs within us a desire for harmony and peace.

Come, let us follow Love's lead.

Love makes us kin with one another and reveals how we are to live together.

Come, let us follow Love's lead.

Love creates space for worship so we can rest in Sabbath's time.

Come, let us follow Love's lead.

*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 *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

Peter Scholtes

See Insert for Lyrics

*RITUAL OF APPROACH

**Unison Prayer*

**God of all that is good, we acknowledge your presence among us
and give thanks for this time of worship. As your gathered
people, we open our hearts and minds to your loving Spirit.
May we receive the blessings of being a faith community in this**

time and place and may we be shaped in the ways of Jesus, the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**Silence for Personal Prayers*

**Singing God's Glory* *Jesus Loves Me* (verse 1) Anna B. Warner

**Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong, they are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me, The Bible tells me so.**

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY
Backpack Blessing

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*
Johari Hunt & Rev. Marty Black

HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise Transl. Landsberg & Mann

**The God of Abraham praise, all praises to God's name,
Who was and is and is to be, for-e're the same.
The one eternal God before what now appears
The First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years.**

**God's Spirit freely flows, high surging where it will;
God spoke of old in prophets' word; that word speaks still.
Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand,
Deep written on the human heart, in every land.**

**God has eternal life implanted in the soul;
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
All praise the living God! Extoll that hallowed name,
who was and is and ever shall be still the same!**

**The God of Sarah praise, all praises to God's name,
Who was and is and is to be, for-e're the same.
The one eternal God before what now appears
The First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years.**

THE WORD SHARED

From the Law

Exodus 3:1-15

NRSV Bible, pg. 49

Response.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY – PART 1 *"A Mutual Calling"*

Rev. Marty Black

THE WORD SHARED

From the Gospels

Romans 12:9-21

NRSV Bible, pg. 1034

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord.

Let our love and our living be genuine.

Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Let our love and our living be genuine.

Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be wiser than you are.

Let our love and our living be genuine.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Let our love and our living be genuine.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, ^[b] for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Let our love and our living be genuine.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY – PART 2 "A Mutual Calling"

Rev. Marty Black

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Marty Black

Preparation for Prayer Every Time I Feel the Spirit (Refrain) Afro-American Spiritual

**Every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.**

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

New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH OTHERS

Cindy Matlock

Opportunities to Give and Gather

Song of Praise

Doxology

Tune: Old Hundredth

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.**

**Litany of Dedication (Unison)*

Love responds to the call to seek liberation for all people.

Give us grace to follow love where it may lead.

Love rejoices with those who rejoice and weeps with those who weep.

Give us grace to follow love where it may lead.

Love contributes generously to those in need and extends hospitality to strangers.

Give us grace to follow love where it may lead.

Love gives its life to follow in the way of Christ.

Give us grace to follow love where it may lead.

Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

Take My Life, God, Let it Be

Francis R. Havergal

Take my life God, let it be consecrated faithfully.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.

Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.

Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.

Take my heart and by your grace, make of it your dwelling place.

Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.

Take me now and help me be part of Christ's community.

***PARTING WORDS**

Our worship has ended.

Let our service begin.

POSTLUDE

Organ Concerto in B-Flat

G.F. Handel

III. *Allegro*

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.

Thank you to Rev. Marty Black and guest organist Mary Beth Wittry.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Pool Party, Noon Today

We're celebrating the end of summer with a pool party! Join us after the Ice Cream Social at the **Webster Groves Pool** at **noon**.

Our Bible Journey, Wednesday nights

A weekly gathering on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the Church Parlor, the object of the Bible Journey is to eventually explore the entire Bible, beginning "in the beginning." If you cannot attend in person, please contact the Pastor for a link. To see the schedule for this Bible Journey, pick up a copy from the narthex table.

Confirmation Students and Mentors, starting September 8

A new Confirmation Class is starting in September, meeting 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**. If you would like to mentor, contact the Pastor

Fall Potluck, September 13

While it doesn't feel like fall yet, our Fall Potluck is two weeks away. On Sunday, September 13 we will gather together in Memorial Hall to celebrate our church-life together. Patrick Byrne will again provide his delicious pulled pork and buns. If you plan to attend, please bring more main dishes, particularly ones suitable for vegetarians and gluten free diners. The usual variety of salads and desserts will be appreciated. Members of the Parish Life Ministry will accept your food offerings before worship. Please bring them ready to serve.

Gabriel Requadt Ordination, September 20

Former Student Minister Gabriel Requadt was approved for ordination recently by the St. Louis Association, UCC. A service of ordination has been scheduled for **Sunday, September 20 at 3:00PM**, to take place at his current home church of Parkway UCC (ParkwayUCC.org) where he has been serving as their all-around Children, Youth, and Families pastoral assistant since 2024. There will be a reception afterward. RSVP by **September 17 via a link in the Covenant News**.

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. 1-mile and 3-mile routes are available around Webster Groves. Check-in/registration at 1:30PM and Walk at 2:00. To find out how to register, contact Laurel Hayes or see the latest Covenant News.

Serving Meals at St. Patrick Center, October 7

St. Patrick Center has offered ministries to the unhoused in the area, including housing, health services, employment services, and more, since 1983. **We are planning to bring dinner to the residents of the Center (around 25 people), on October 7.** You are invited to stay and share the meal afterwards. If you are interested, **please contact Pat Doyle-Grace or K Wentzien.**

More in This Week's "Covenant News"

See more by reading this week's online newsletter – <https://conta.cc/4y9rgzI>

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

September Birthdays

Laura Cooper - September 3
Bob Borutta - September 5
Doug Miller - September 6
Nancy Rudolph - September 13
Mark Cereghino - September 20
Elaine Coe - September 22
Christopher Hoeper - September 23
Jane Porchey - September 24
Wendi Butler - September 24
Chelsea Hoganson - September 25
BJ Kaul - September 25
Laurel Hayes - September 26
Kedra Tolson - September 26
Jacque Kempf - September 27
Jan Aerie - September 28
Jennifer Gomez - September 28
Lynn Hoganson - September 28
Beatrice Byrne - September 29

September Meal-a-Month Shopping List

Beef Stew • Canned Carrots (low or no salt) • Canned Fruit in own juices
Cornbread Mix (no eggs) • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk
Toothbrushes • Toothpaste • Dental Floss

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 30

Backpack Blessing

9:45AM Nursery Care Available
10:00AM Worship with Rev. Marty Black
10:15AM Kids' Church
11:05AM Ice Cream Social
12:00PM Pool Party - Webster Groves Pool

Tuesday, September 1

1:00PM Communications Committee - Office

Wednesday, September 2

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office
7:00PM Our Bible Journey - Parlor

Sunday, September 6

Sacrament of Christ's Table

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

Monday, September 7

Labor Day – 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 – 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

Facebook
@FirstChurchWG

Instagram
@WebsterGroves_FirstChurch

YouTube
@1stChurchWG