

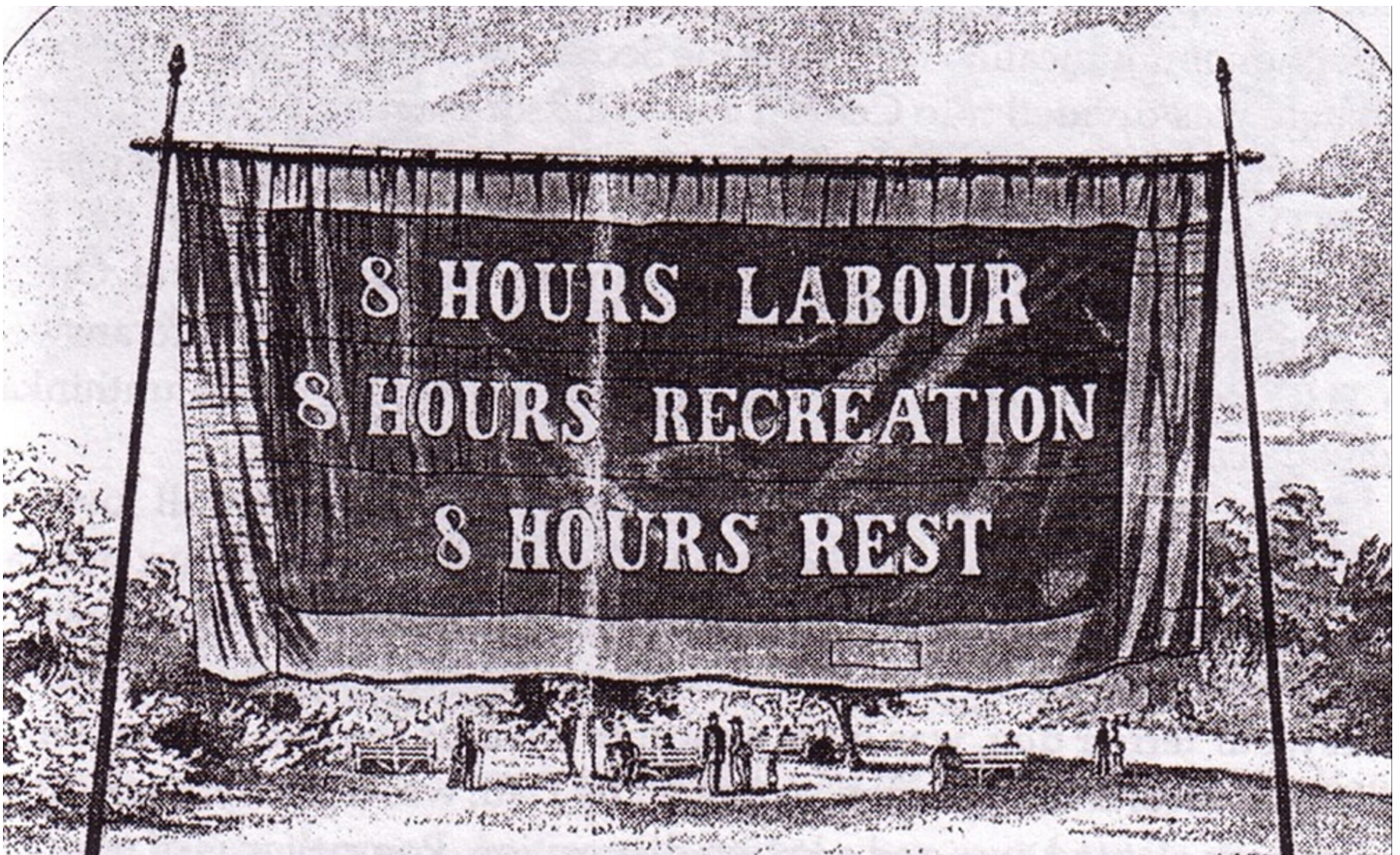
Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
WEEKEND OF LABOR DAY
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

*Theme from the Second Movement
of "The Kreutzer Sonata"*

L. van Beethoven

*At this time, we invite you to complete an entry in the Friendship Booklet
and to silence the ringer on any cellular device you may have with you.*

WELCOME

Linda Kopetti, Liturgist

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

TOLLING OF THE BELL

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

based on Exodus 20:8-11

Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest so
that you and all your household may be refreshed.

So our Sovereign God has instructed us.

Here is a day to rest as God rested,

**and here a place to take delight in all that has been made
and done.**

*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

*Jesus, Thou Divine Companion
No. 409 – Pilgrim Hymnal*

Henry van Dyke

*RITUAL OF APPROACH (Unison)

Invitation

Prayer

**Worker God, whose hands built the earth, molded our bodies,
and sowed the stars across the sky, we gather in your presence
this morning with praise and thanksgiving for your mighty
deeds. We temper our praise with confession, recognizing that
human work has also brought environmental crisis and climate
change. Forgive us, we pray, as we seek to make amends for the
wrongs we have done before you and to our world. And meet us
here, God the Worker; strengthen our hearts and our hands to
work with you in the building of a world filled with justice and
peace. Amen.**

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!

NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Johari Hunt, *Coordinator of Faith Formation*

Children are invited forward for a time of enrichment.

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

THE WORD SHARED

From the Epistles

Romans 13:8-14

Pew Bible, p. 1034

From the Gospels

Matthew 18:15-20

p. 896

Response

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

"No Victims"

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

WE SHARE OUR BLESSINGS 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.

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

We are your people, O God, offering up our prayers and songs to you today. You have done so much good for us; your grace astounds! Seeking to emulate that grace, in addition to our spiritual offerings we make these gifts to you. Receive and bless them, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S TABLE

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 Thanksgiving

Words of Consecration

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Percy Dearmer

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.

Sharing the Elements

Communion is served in the pews, first the bread and then the cup.

The bread is gluten-free. Wine is white; grape juice is red. Each is consumed at the

indication of the Pastor, unless this presents a hardship for the individual.

**Prayer after Communion*

We thank you, God, that you have set and provided the table where we have been enriched as the body of Christ. From this table of remembrance help us also to remember your gracious forgiveness and extravagant welcome. And let us practice your ways ourselves, to extend your realm on earth, to seek only your will and not our own, and to bring forth the healing and nourishment we have come to know through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***PARTING HYMN**

If I Had a Hammer

Pete Seeger

**If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the morning,
I'd hammer in the evening, all over this land.
I'd hammer out "Danger": I'd hammer out a warning.
I'd hammer out love between my dear, beloved siblings,
all over this land!**

If I had a bell, I'd ring it in the morning...

If I had a song, I'd sing it in the morning...

**Well, I got a hammer, and I got a bell,
and I got a song to sing, all over this land.
It's the hammer of justice, it's the bell of freedom,
it's a song about love between my dear, beloved siblings,
all over this land.**

***BENEDICTION**

PARTING WORDS

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

People: **Let our service begin.**

POSTLUDE

The Heavens Declare (Psalm 19)

Benedetto Marcello

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.

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Labor Day, September 7

The office will be closed tomorrow in observance of Labor Day.

Confirmation Begins, September 8

Mentors Sought

A new Confirmation Class is starting! Especially for young people who are **rising 7th through 9th Graders**, but also available to older youth who haven't gone through the Confirmation process yet, the class will meet, most **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.

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. Study schedules are available from the Narthex Table.

Jazz Worship & Fall Potluck, September 13

On Sunday, September 13 the Oikos Ensemble will once again lead the congregation in jazz worship. Afterwards, we will gather in Memorial Hall to celebrate our Fall Potluck. Patrick Byrne will again provide his delicious pulled pork and buns. If you plan to attend, you can bring a main dish (particularly ones suitable for **vegetarian** and **gluten free** diners), **OR** **salads** and **desserts**. Members of the Parish Life Ministry will accept your food offerings before worship. Please bring them ready to serve.

Troop 301 Open House, September 14

Troop 301 will hold an open house at 7PM on September 14 in the Dickens Room. Boys and girls ages 11 (entering 6th grade) to 17 are welcome to join the troop. Find out about the fun things Scouts get to do at the open house including how Scouts cook on a campout. For more information contact **Betsy O'Halloran** or **Denise Lee**. Their contact information is in the Covenant News.

Gabriel Requadt Ordination, September 20

Student Minister Gabriel Requadt has received a call to the pastorate of Immanuel United Church of Christ in Sedalia, Missouri. His first Sunday there will be on September 27. A service of ordination has been scheduled for Sunday, September 20 at 3:00PM, at his current home church of Parkway UCC. There will be a reception afterwards. RSVP for the reception (link in Covenant News) to let Parkway know how many to expect!

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.

Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast, October 2

The 68th annual Webster Groves Rotary Club pancake festival is returning to First Church after many years. The date is Friday, October 2, with the lunch 11:00 to 1:30 and dinner 4:00 to 7:00. All the pancakes you can eat plus eggs and sausage. One adult or two children 12 and under for \$10. Tickets are available from **Rod Cooper, Peter Kalulu or K Wentzien**. Alternatively, call **636-627-834**. Welcome back, Rotary!

Ballot Issues Forum, October 4

There will be a forum discussing upcoming ballot initiatives, amendments, etc., for the November ballot. The forum will start at 3pm on Sunday, October 4. Doug Miller will have details to share soon.

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.**

“Songs of Hope and Warning” Benefit Concert, October 16

We are excited to announce that First Church will host a concert on October 16 featuring nationally known folk artists Charlie King and Rick Burkhardt. Proceeds will go to Habitat for Humanity. The show will take place in our Sanctuary at 7PM. Purchase tickets through a link in the Covenant News. Low-income tickets available.

More in This Week’s “Covenant News”

See more by reading this week’s online newsletter – <https://conta.cc/4qUoV9n>

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](https://www.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

September Birthdays

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

Tuesday, September 8

10:30AM Staff Meeting - Church Office

6:30PM Confirmation - Parlor

Wednesday, September 9

9:30AM Yoga w/ Jeanene - Inglis

7:00PM Our Bible Journey - Parlor

Sunday, September 13

Jazz Worship

9:45AM Nursery Care Available

10:00AM Worship

10:15AM Kids' Church

11:05AM Fall Potluck



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.

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