

Welcome!

**First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ**



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

OCTOBER 11, 2026



*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

Canticle
Canterbury Bells

Douglas Wagner

*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

Jane Porchey, *Liturgist*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Philippians 4:8-9

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable:

**If there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.**

As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me,
do them.

And the God of peace will be with you.

*RAISING THE COVENANT

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

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing
No. 303, vv. 1,3,4 – *New Century Hymnal*

Charles Wesley

*RITUAL OF APPROACH

**Invitation*

**Prayer*

**Loving God, we live in a time when faith is tangled with empire,
religion with the state. We are weary from trying to follow you
in an environment that calls hate love and sin faithfulness. The
voices that claim to speak for you are so loud and often so cruel,
twisting your commandments to suit their whims. Help us stay
the course of loving our neighbors and seeing the Divine in all
people while also resisting injustice everywhere we encounter
it. Give us the courage and stamina to stand against systems of
oppression, as Jesus modeled for us. Be with us as we protest
the harms being done to people in your name. In Christ's name
we pray. Amen.**

**Singing God's Glory* *Glory to God in the Highest* *Peruvian melody*
The congregation repeats each line of the following after the Minister:
Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory in the highest!
To God be glory forever!
Next, the Minister leads the congregation in harmonizing the following:
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.

THE WORD SHARED
From the Gospels Matthew 22:1-14 Pew Bible, p. 900
Response.
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Total Praise* Richard Smallwood
Chancel Choir

MESSAGE OF THE DAY *"The Call To Resist"* Halley W. Kim, *Guest Preacher*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Preparation for Prayer *Nada Te Turbe* Jacques Berthier
Nada te turbe, nada t'espante.
Quien a Dios tiene nada la falta.
Nada te turbe, nada t'espante.
Solo Dios basta.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us.

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

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-
dom 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 kin-dom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

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! Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)*

You give to us so abundantly, most merciful God, not because we deserve it but because you love so deeply. Let these gifts be reflections of your love, and let the work of your church be blessed in Jesus' name. Amen.

***PARTING MUSIC**

Good Trouble

Jim Ford

***BENEDICTION**

Halley Kim

***PARTING WORDS**

Our worship has ended.
Let our service begin.

POSTLUDE

If I Had A Hammer
Jim Ford – Singer, Guitar

Pete Seeger

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON THE 2027 BUDGET

*This brief Congregational Meeting immediately follows worship.
We encourage visitors and guests to stay and watch Congregationalism at work.
But if you need to go, we understand. You'll miss Coffee Fellowship, though...*

WE WELCOME this morning Halley Kim, a writer and editor who also happens to have been our Pastoral Assistant from 2021 to 2023. Her articles and insights abound across the internet, and she is working on a book with the working title, *Maybe God Is a Midwife*. To learn more about her and her work, go to **HalleyKim.com**

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**Worship and Budget Meeting, Today**

It's a busy Sunday at First Church! **Canterbury Bells** and the **Chancel Choir** will be performing. Our friend **Halley Kim** will be leading worship. And special guest **folk musician Jim Ford** will offer a taste of the "Songs of Hope and Warning" concert on October 16.

And we'll decide on the 2027 Budget proposed by the Budget Committee and recommended by the Executive Ministry. Pick up a copy from the Narthex table. You can attend the **Congregational Budget Meeting** in person or virtually. Those attending virtually, keep watching our live stream. Instructions for virtual voting will be provided during the meeting.

**History of Nazism with Dr. Mark Ruff, Part 3 Today**

**Dr. Mark Ruff** is a professor of Modern European History at SLU. He will give the final in a series of three presentations on Nazism, its relationship to German churches, and parallels with the current situation in the U.S. Talk begins at 11:35 in the **Kishlar Room**.

### **Chiller Is Coming!**

We are thrilled to announce that our new chiller will be installed next week! It shouldn't take more than several days. While the Chiller Fund Campaign raised over \$220,000 in commitments, **Adam reports that \$24,500 of the 2026 pledges have yet to be turned in. If the 2026 portion of your commitment has not been submitted we encourage you to do so very soon.**

### **Bible Journey Restarts, October 14**

Bible Journey is a gathering on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, with the goal of exploring the entire Bible, from beginning to end. Bible Journey Guides are available from the Narthex Table. Our next series, on Exodus and Leviticus, begins with a kickoff gathering, October 14.

### **"Songs of Hope and Warning" Benefit Concert, October 16**

First Church will host a concert in our sanctuary this Friday, October 16 at 7PM, featuring nationally known folk artists Charlie King and Rick Burkhardt with special guests Good Trouble. Proceeds will go to Habitat for Humanity. Purchase tickets at the door, or at [www.habitatstl.org/charlie-king-benefit-concert](http://www.habitatstl.org/charlie-king-benefit-concert)

### **Five Pounds Left for the Rainbow Bench!**

We're within spitting distance of our goal for the Rainbow Bench! **If you are able to donate more caps for the Rainbow Bench, please do so!** We will accept more than 5 lbs. in order to have wiggle room. After we've reached our goal, Sharon Love will drive the caps to the factory where they are turned into benches!

### **Habitat Work Day Update from Phil**

We had a picture-perfect Habitat for Humanity Workday last week, working on a house at the corner of Park and Tucker, some eight blocks east of Lafayette Square. Most of the day was spent cutting, lifting and nailing down second story sub floor. Working directly with the future homeowner, Angela, it was difficult work, but everyone took it in stride and worked hard. I think if you asked our volunteers, they would confirm it was a rewarding day.

The house we worked on was one of ten in the "Pope Leo" Neighborhood. Approximately four of those dwellings are still under construction. Habitat is started an aggressive build project in an area that shares a northern border with University City. **Beginning on October 1st, they are building new forty houses in eighteen months!** You can support Habitat directly by attending the **Songs of Hope and Warning concert on Friday October 16 (details above).** Two nationally known folk musicians, Charlie King and Rick Burnhardt, will perform. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at the door.

### **"Jesus Has Left the Building," October 18**

Our next "Jesus Has Left the Building" event will take place at 10AM on Sunday, October 18. This will include an **abbreviated worship service**, followed by three activities to choose from. One activity will be gardening with **Seed St. Louis**. There will also be a devotional **Labyrinth Walk at the Mercy Center** and a **meal prep** operation taking place here. If you are interested in gardening with Seed, please take a moment to sign a waiver available from the big Narthex table.

### **CROP Walk Thanks & Dewey's Pizza, October 27**

Thanks to all who walked, tabled, and donated to the CROP Walk. We raised \$1526! 3/4 goes to the relief, development, refugee, and advocacy work of Church World Service; 1/4 stays locally with Webster-Rock Hill Ministries and two other nonprofits providing food to those without it! If you are interested in continuing to support Church World Service and CROP, **consider ordering from the Creve Couer Dewey's Pizza on October 27 from 4 to 9 PM.**

### **Ballot Info for November 3 election**

The October Ballot Issues Forum held at Webster Presbyterian on 10-4-26 was extremely informative. The YouTube taping of the event is ready for viewing on **WGPC's YouTube channel**. **The video starts at 9:15.n Meanwhile, Doug Miller has included a quick non-partisan guide from League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis about the ballot issues.** See it in this week's Covenant News.

### **Save the Date! CPR and First Aid Training, Sunday, November 8**

The Webster Groves Fire Department will offer CPR and First Aid Training on November 8th following worship. This basic class will not provide certification but offers helpful skills. First Friends team members are encouraged to participate, but the class is open to everyone. As it will last 2 hours, we suggest you bring a sack lunch or snack to eat between worship and the class. Please reach out to Sharon Love (314-691-0631) if you are interested in attending.

### **More in This Week's "Covenant News"**

There are still more announcements in this week's Covenant News – <https://conta.cc/4dtB8fG>

### **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: (next page)

- 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://FirstChurchWG.org/donate)
- Scan the **QR** code.



**Sunday Volunteers** – Sign up, today!

**Liturgist** – [bit.ly/Liturgist-2026](https://bit.ly/Liturgist-2026)

**Slideshow Presenter** – [bit.ly/FCCWG-Slides](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-Slides) • **A/V Volunteer** – [bit.ly/SE-Corner](https://bit.ly/SE-Corner)

### October Birthdays

Joyce Haynes McCowan - Oct 3  
Kathy Weyhrich - Oct 3  
Gabriel Cohen - Oct 5  
Patrick Byrne - Oct 7  
Wayne Dierker - Oct 9  
Elston McCowan - Oct 24  
Braeden Hood - Oct 29

Rod Cooper - Oct 10  
Margaret Gustafson - Oct 15  
Emily Polaske - Oct 16  
Marilyn Claggett - Oct 18  
Wally Polaske - Oct 20  
David Denoon - Oct 30

### October Meal-a-Month Shopping List

Canned Chicken & Dumplings (low salt) • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)  
Canned Fruit in own juices • Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Whole Wheat Flour • Peanut Butter • Real Fruit Jelly • Dried Fruits

## 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](http://FirstChurchWG.org/Calendar)

### Sunday, October 11

**Indigenous Peoples Holiday (Monday)**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship (Guest Preacher

Halley Kim)

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05AM** Congregational Budget

Meeting - Sanctuary

**11:15AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:35AM** Adult Ed: History of Nazism with

Prof. Mark Ruff - Kishlar

### Monday, October 12

**Indigenous People's Day**

**7:00PM** Three Ministries (Hybrid)

### Tuesday, October 13

**10:30AM** Staff Meeting - Church  
Office

### Wednesday, October 14

**9:30AM** Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis

**7:00PM** Our Bible Journey

### Thursday, October 15

**6:00PM** Canterbury Bells - Sanctuary

**7:30PM** Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

### Friday, October 16

**7:00PM** Habitat for Humanity Concert

"Songs of Hope and Warning" - Sanctuary

### Sunday, October 18

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM** Worship (Jesus Has Left The  
Building)

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:00AM** Confirmation Field Trip: Hindu  
Temple



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[www.FirstChurchWG.org](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

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Onyeka Igboanuzue

Director of Ministry of Imagination, Creativity  
and the Arts (MICA) – Rev. Cliff Aerie  
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**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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