

Welcome!

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



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

OCTOBER 18, 2026

JESUS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING



*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

*This abbreviated worship is designed to prepare our hearts and hands for service.
Whether you are a member or a visitor today, we encourage you to take part
in any of our three outreach opportunities:*

- 1. Preparing meal bags here.*
- 2. Going with others to walk the Labyrinth at the Mercy Center.*
- 3. Traveling to north county to take part in a Seed St. Louis gardening project.*

An asterisk () indicates the Congregation standing in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE

*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

Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes, *Liturgist*

TOLLING THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

We always give thanks to God for one another and mention each other in our prayers.

**In this way we remember before our God and Maker our
work of faith and labor, of love and steadfastness of hope
in our Savior Jesus Christ.**

Siblings in Christ, beloved of God, you have been chosen because the good news is within you – not just in words but with power, by the Holy Spirit, and demonstrating full conviction.

**May we be recognized and remembered for our welcome
to all, and because we turned from worldly ways to serve
the living and true God who offers new life to all!**

*GATHERING HYMN

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

G. A. Studdert-Kennedy

Tune: MORNING SONG

**Awake, awake to love and work! The lark is in the sky;
the fields are wet with diamond dew; The worlds awake to cry
their praises to the Fount of Life; Christ Jesus passes by.**

**Come, let your voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of praise;
See how the giant sun soars up, God's gift for all your days!
So let the love of Jesus come and set your soul ablaze.**

**To give and give, and give again, as God's own grace is free;
To spend yourself nor count the cost; To serve most gloriously
the God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.**

PRAYERS OF THE DAY

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

Introduction

We Share Our Joys and Concerns

Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Our Savior (Unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name; thy
kingdom come; they 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH OTHERS

Stewardship Moment

Nancy Rudolph, *Stewardship Committee*

Opportunities to Give and Gather

**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.

***BENEDICTION**

The Trees of the Field

Ruben / Dauermann

**You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and thills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.**

**And all the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap-clap),
the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap-clap),
the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap-clap)
while you go out with joy.**

***PARTING WORDS**

Liturgist: Our worship has ended.

People: **Let our service begin.**

At the conclusion of the Parting Words, the Labyrinth and Garden folk (and the Confirmation Class) will make their ways to their vehicles, while a member of the Peace & Justice Team introduces the Bag Builders to their task.

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**“Jesus Has Left the Building,” Today**

“Jesus Has Left the Building” takes place at 10AM today. An **abbreviated worship service** is followed by three activities to choose from. One activity will be gardening with **Seed St. Louis** (waiver required – available from the Narthex table). There will also be a devotional **Labyrinth Walk at the Mercy Center** and a **Bag Builders meal prep** operation taking place here.

**Stewardship Season Begins Today  
Consecration Sunday, November 15**

This year's Stewardship theme is “There Our Hearts Will Be,” a reference to Matthew 6:21, in which Christ says, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Over the next few weeks, devotional inserts about the importance of Christian stewardship will be included in each bulletin, as well as an invitation to make a commitment to First Church for 2027. **Pledge cards** are available from the Narthex table. Or pledge online – go to **bit.ly/Pledge-2027** and

complete the form. Our hope is to have completed in-gathering with our Consecration Sunday service, November 15. Thank you for your generosity!

### **Chiller Is Here!**

We are thrilled to announce that our new chiller was installed this past week! There is even a video of the old chiller being lifted out via crane on our Facebook page! While the Chiller Fund Campaign raised over \$220,000 in commitments, Office Administrator **Adam Levin 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.

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

The October Ballot Issues Forum held at Webster Presbyterian on October 4 was extremely informative. The YouTube taping of the event is ready for viewing on WGPC's YouTube channel. The meeting starts at the 9:15 mark. 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*.

### **No Early/Appointment Voting Here**

While First Church IS a polling place for the November 3 election, it IS NOT a satellite site for early or appointment voting. To learn more about voting early or by appointment, see the County Election Board's website at [stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-government/board-of-elections](http://stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-government/board-of-elections).

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

We're within spitting distance of our goal for the Rainbow Bench! **If you can 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!

### **Rebuild St. Louis Bingo Night at Holy Redeemer, October 24**

Join Rebuild St. Louis at Holy Redeemer on Saturday, October 24 at 7PM (doors open at 6:15). Funds will go towards assisting local homeowners with repairs. Cash and other prizes available! Entry fee is \$30 per person and includes 10 games of bingo, soft drinks, and light snacks. For more information or to register to attend, call Julie at 314-496-4567.

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

Thanks to all who walked, tabled, and donated to the CROP Walk. We raised \$1,526! Three-fourths of that amount goes to the relief, development, refugee, and advocacy work of Church World Service; one-fourth 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 Coeur Dewey's Pizza on October 27 from 4 to 9 PM.** Order by phone at 314-779-3010, or online at [DeweysPizza.com/location/creve-coeur/](http://DeweysPizza.com/location/creve-coeur/) and be sure to include the words, **"Giveback Night,"** at some point in your order. To give directly to CWS/CROP, go to [CROPHungerWalk.org/saintlouismo](http://CROPHungerWalk.org/saintlouismo)

### **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.

### **“Empty Bowls” Returns, November 8 Fundraiser for Webster Rock Hill Ministries**

The Empty Bowls fundraiser for Webster Rock Hill Ministries returns, Saturday, November 8, from 4:30 to 7:00PM! Join other supporters of WRHM at the Webster Hills UMC Christian Life Center, 1333 W. Lockwood Ave., 63119. Tickets may be purchased in advance (at [WRHM.org/empty-bowls](http://WRHM.org/empty-bowls)) or at the door - \$25 for adults, \$10 for students (K-12), free for children under 5. Enjoy a keepsake bowl (while supplies last), a delicious bowl of soup (probably not in the keepsake one), and live music. All funds raised support food and other outreach programs at WRHM.

### **Save the Date! Yankee Swap, December 6**

Garie Perry's famous Yankee Swap will take place on Sunday, December 6 this year at 1PM.

### **More in This Week's “Covenant News”**

All these announcements and more are included in this week's Covenant News –  
<https://conta.cc/3TFTThQT>

### **Connecting Remotely to Worship**

Though an online video will not be available today, you can view worship livestreams and videos online, most Sundays. Just 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 at the entrance to Memorial Hall
- Send a check made payable to **First Congregational Church, 10 W. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119**
- Visit [FirstChurchWG.org/donate](http://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  
Anna Galloway - Oct 3  
Gabriel Cohen - Oct 5  
Patrick Byrne - Oct 7  
Wayne Dierker - Oct 9  
Rod Cooper - Oct 10  
Margaret Gustafson - Oct 15  
Emily Polaske - Oct 16  
Marilyn Claggett - Oct 18  
Wally Polaske - Oct 20  
Elston McCowan - Oct 24  
Braeden Hood - Oct 29  
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 18

#### **"Jesus Has Left the Building" Outreach Event**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM Worship (All Ages)**

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

### Monday, October 19

**7:00PM** Executive Ministry - Zoom

### Tuesday, October 20

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

**6:30PM** Confirmation - Parlor

### Wednesday, October 21

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

**7:00PM** Bible Journey - Library

### Thursday, October 22

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

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

### Sunday, October 25

#### **Reformation Sunday**

**9:45AM** Nursery Care Available

**10:00AM Worship**

*Trick-or-Treating in the pews during Postlude  
Candy provided!*

**10:15AM** Kids' Church

**11:05 AM** Coffee Fellowship

**11:30AM** Pastoral Relations Committee



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
[www.FirstChurchWG.org](http://www.FirstChurchWG.org)

## Contact Information

Moderator – Chris von Weise  
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Pastor – Rev. David Denoon  
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Coordinator of Faith Formation – Johari Hunt  
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Director of Music & Organist – Dr. Leon Burke  
[Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:Leon.Burke@FirstChurchWG.org)

Facilities Manager – Chip Isringhaus  
[ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto:ctil234@FirstChurchWG.org)

Events Coordinator – Alicia McMinn  
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Custodian – Stuart Chase

Lead A/V Technician – Mark Metcalf  
[Mark.Metcalf@FirstChurchWG.org](mailto: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](mailto: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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**@FirstChurchWG**

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**@WebsterGroves\_FirstChurch**

YouTube  
**@1stChurchWG**