

HOPE & Promise:

Called to Follow and Sent to Serve

In 2014 WGCC began a process of reflection, evaluation and transformation with HOPE Partnership, a ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that works with local congregations to help them clarify their mission and align their efforts and resources.

Our congregation knew that our building was underutilized and that we could serve our community better if we could identify and support mission initiatives that combined our resources and our wider community's needs.

Through that process, which included visits, interviews, presentations, retreats, community research and congregational meetings, we learned about the achievement and opportunity gap between African-American students and white students in our local school districts, and the importance of early childhood family support in the effort to help all children reach their potential.

The congregation decided to focus its local mission efforts on using and offering our building to increase and promote access to high-quality early childhood programs to ensure that all children and their families in our surrounding community have the resources they need to grow, learn and thrive. **Read more on Pages 4-5**

**What has been
done?**

**See some of the
initiatives already
underway**

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What can I do?

**Your role in this
important mission.**

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Sunday, June 4: Don't forget to wear your RED!

The annual WGCC Pentecost Picnic will be held on **Sunday, June 4**, on the church grounds **following worship**.

WGCC will provide the meat. Members are asked to bring side dishes to share.

In addition, members of the **Tamil Christian Fellowship** will be joining us and bringing foods of their culture to share.

Contact John Pahl or the office if you want to help barbecue. Show your support for the season by wearing something red.

WORSHIP NOTE:

**We will be worshipping
in Love Chapel for the
summer from Sunday,
June 11, until Sunday,
August 27.**

June means picnics for Disciples women

The June group picnics will be held on Thursday, June 8:

Lydia's will meet at Patty Siebert's house at 11 a.m.

Martha's will meet in the Heritage room at WGCC at 12:30 p.m.

Tabitha's will meet at Laura Stuetzer's house at 6 p.m.

The "Over and Above" meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 29, in the Heritage Room. All officers, group leaders and any other interested persons are invited. We will be setting up the budget for 2017/18 year, discussing programs and service projects, and distributing the extra funds from this year's budget. Please try to attend.

The women take a break for the summer, but the needs remain. The food bank is always in need of nonperishable food, even more so in the summer. Use your free time to buy dolls for the BRO toy distribution in December. Put together the school kits and health kits that are sent off to the Church World Service in September. For details on the items in the kits, look on page 9 in your C.W.F. directory or get a list from Pat Roseman or Beth Cooley. There are extra school kit bags in the C.W.F. closet on the second floor of the education building.

Have a wonderful summer. See you in September. — Sally Smith

June 8: Celebrate our relationship with Doorways

Webster Groves Christian Church and Union Avenue Christian Church are joining forces to host a celebratory BBQ lunch on Thursday, June 8, for our friends at Doorways' Cooper House.

It's a celebration to honor the 20th anniversary of Cooper House and to recognize the growing relationship between Doorways and our churches.

We need your help! We are asking for five to 10 people to volunteer to be present at the Cooper House in the Central West End on June 8 to help prepare BBQ and serve and welcome our guests. We also need people to volunteer to provide dessert (we are looking for 10 to 15 desserts).

Alex Cooper, the XPLOR resident we have helped to sponsor this year, serves at Doorways, and Pastor Jeff is on the Doorways board of directors.

If you have questions or want to volunteer (to host and/or prepare dessert), please contact the church office, or speak with Pat Roseman or Jeff Moore.

A thanks and goodbye from the Knuckles family

I want to extend my sincere thank you for being my church family for about 28 years. My family has grown up with your loving care. You have seen us through so many ups and downs, and you have been everything that we could have wanted in a church family. You are very much appreciated and will be very much missed. I will pray for your continued ministries. The St. Louis community is lucky that you are there, tending to those who need the most. I would mention names but I don't want to omit a name and I could say something nice about each person in the congregation. Please keep in touch through mail, email, facebook, or phone. I am also a short stop on the way to the beach!

May God Bless you always!

Diana Knuckles

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I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:4)

Celia Rose awarded June England Scholarship



Celia Rose, with scholarship committee members Charlotte Pullen and Pat Roseman

This year's recipient of the June England Scholarship is **Celia Rose**, daughter of Bob and Lori Rose, who graduated from Kirkwood High School this year. She will attend the University of Missouri in Columbia this fall, majoring in journalism

June England's life was centered on the Christian Church. During her 45 years as a member of Webster Groves Christian Church, June served in numerous ways: deacon, elder, Stephens Minister, teacher and, for many years, the Builders Class pianist. She also served as president of the Christian Women's Fellowship and as a church board member.

As a loving memorial after her death in 2009, her family established the **June England Scholarship** to help high school graduating seniors who are members of WGCC and plan to pursue formal post-secondary education. The scholarship is administered by WGCC.

CATCHING UP WITH PREVIOUS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Sidney Baker has been cast in Tent Theatre's production of *Three Musketeers* this summer. She is entering her sophomore year at Missouri State as a BFA acting major and Spanish minor.



Grace Garrow completed her sophomore year at Drury College in Springfield, Mo. This past year she spent time studying and traveling in England.



Becca Gerdes graduated on May 13, 2017, from SIU with a bachelor of arts in cinema and photography.



Billy Howells completed his freshman year at Whittier College where he is pursuing the study of kinesiology. Billy also ran track and cross country.



Abigail Moore graduated from Yale in 2015 with a BA in English and gender studies. She just completed her first year as a Jefferson Fellow, pursuing a PhD in sociology at Virginia.



Michael Moore completed his freshman year at Webster, and went to Meramec this spring. He plans to study French and graphic design at Truman State.



Daniel Moore graduated from Ranken Tech in 2016 with an associates degree in internet and web technology. He works as a web developer for Barry Wehmiller Design Group in Clayton.



Jenna Rose graduated from Mizzou this year with a degree in elementary ed. She'll attend a Bible study/discipleship program in Branson this fall as she explores youth ministry.



Adam Rose completed his freshman year at Mizzou where he is studying mechanical engineering. This summer he is working as a camp counselor at Kanakuk.



Keiler Swartz graduated from Missouri S&T with a degree in history and secondary education. He currently is the assistant director for summer programming at S&T.

What WGCC has done so far ...

Several important initiatives began through our participation in the HOPE Partnership process:

- WGCC adopted a new constitution, adapting our governance and ministry model to our congregation's present context.
- WGCC committed to a new statement of mission: "To follow the teachings of Jesus and sacrificially serve those who are most marginalized." We are "Called to Follow! Sent to Serve!"
- WGCC began a relationship with the EduCare Head Start Preschool in Meacham Park, including reading and learning with children in classrooms, serving coffee to parents once a month, and Project NOW (Nutrition On Weekends), a program to provide supplemental nutrition on the weekends for children and families with extremely limited resources. With generous community support and increased partners, Project NOW may be able to expand its reach to even more families.
- WGCC partnered with the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through its "Incubate" initiative, to begin to explore possible community partnerships. NBA's Incubate Initiative provided workshops, information, resources and consultations as we learned about ways we could partner with our community to serve with families with young children. NBA sponsored site visits and educational opportunities, as well as a connection to not-for-profit legal advice and services through the Washington University School of Law's Intellectual Property & Nonprofit Organizations Law Clinic.
- WGCC began a partnership with Kirkwood area community members and organizations to find ways to support and encourage families with young children and assure that every child has access to high-quality early childhood resources and experiences. Through this partnership a new not-for-profit organization, Kirkwood Area Every Child Promise (KAEChP), has been formed.
- WGCC has opened our building to Parents as Teachers, "Promise Place" resource center, KAEChP meetings and programs, and we are currently exploring ways to offer space in our building for literacy, community-building, healthcare, childcare, and preschool possibilities.
- Project NOW has provided weekend nutrition assistance through snacks and meals for 15 families, including 60 people, and has received partnership support from individuals and groups of WGCC, as well as schools, libraries, neighbors, civic, and faith groups through fundraisers, volunteers, donations, and food drives.
- WGCC will sponsor an annual golf fundraiser to help provide financial support for the additional use of our building (approximately 25% of annual golf proceeds) and to provide funding for the programs and initiatives of KAEChP (approximately 75% of annual golf proceeds).



Project NOW has received several donations over the last month. Robinson Elementary held a food drive for the second year in a row and donated 500 items! The Kirkwood Kiwanis made a monetary donation to NOW project. The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod donated around 200 bags of food.

Through its Board, committees, and connections, **Kirkwood Area Every Child Promise** has already gathered community members for monthly meetings at WGCC, fostered new community partnerships and awareness, raised over \$30,000 for preschool scholarships for 2017-2018, arranged dental screenings for all Kirkwood School District children, expanded Parents as Teachers program space to WGCC, opened "Promise Place" – a resource center providing new infant and toddler clothing, diapers, car seats, and cribs. WGCC hosted the Kirkwood Public Library's "Books for Babies" program while the library was renovating its children's facilities.

The Promise: Every child and family are prepared for success as they enter kindergarten.

What does it mean to be “prepared for success” in kindergarten? Our families must be connected to the basic resources necessary to have stability and hope. Our children must have access to the life and learning experiences that give context and meaning to new knowledge.

Our community will...

- Foster quality early childhood experiences for all children and families by providing supportive partnerships and financial resources.
- Ensure the health and mental health of all children and families by addressing barriers to access.
- Create systems to support the basic needs of children and families.
- Engage in activities, practices, and networks to promote the efforts of the KAEChP.



Some WGCC facilities are getting a facelift so they can better help serve community needs.

We will support young children and their families through programs, information, and resources for:

1. Early Childhood Experiences (high quality preschool and child care, Parents as Teachers, literacy, and community connections)
2. Health (information, immunizations, dental, vision, and hearing)
3. Mental Health and Social Emotional Development (screenings, information and services, community support)
4. Family Support (nutrition, housing, transportation, GED, etc.)
5. Public Engagement (fundraising, communication, outreach, partnerships)

What can I do?

There are many ways members and friends of WGCC can serve to foster our mission of care and partnership, including:

- Give or continue to give generously to WGCC to help us keep our building and staff active in providing safe space, leadership, and service for these initiatives
- Pray regularly for the families and children of our community
- Vote for candidates and initiatives that support and encourage wellbeing for young children and their families – especially those who have been marginalized
- Consider volunteering to read, serve, and learn through EduCare Head Start Preschool
- Volunteer to serve on the Golf Fundraiser Committee
- Recruit family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to participate or financially support our golf fundraiser
- Give items to the Promise Place resource center <http://bit.ly/wgccpromise>
- Offer your time and resources to Project NOW
- Attend KAEChP meetings at WGCC at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month



Pat Roseman delivers food for Project NOW

IN OUR PRAYERS ...

Recent Concerns

- Andy Lindberg, who is recovering from a broken hip
- Jane Martin, a year after the loss of her husband, Hank
- The brother of Laura Stuetzer's friend Sheri, facing medical issues
- Michelle Fielden as she continues recovery from a car accident
- Steve Smith, a friend of Greg Eilers, who is undergoing chemotherapy
- Kaitlyn, a former student of Robyn Woodrome, who is facing domestic violence issues
- For a co-worker's wife and a friend of Max Ott, each of whom is going through chemotherapy
- For family and friends of DeSmet freshman Ryland Kennedy, who recently took his own life
- Bill Brown, a relative of Robin Woodrome, who is in hospice care
- For the Piening family after the loss of Dave's father, Bob
- For Jane Yount, who recently was released from the hospital and now is in Manor Grove
- For Molly Gibbons' husband, who is recovering after a trip to the ER
- Kent Walker, a friend of Max Ott, recovering from cancer
- Deb Werner's nephew, Jacob Culp, who has been deployed to Afghanistan; pray for his unit, family and the people of Afghanistan

Thanks for ...

- The grandsons of Marilyn Combs who are each taking steps along the way of their medical and coaching careers
- The joy of having Brooke French, Billy Howells, and Amy Eskridge at a recent service
- Wilkins' successful completion of a first semester at Meramec
- The talents of Dev Crist, who recently had a chapter published in a Pilgrim Press release
- Wind of the Spirit and the diversity in the church music

- For the young people of our congregation, especially members of our baptism class
- The Kirkwood Rotary, Kiwanis and all the schools who have contributed to the NOW program

Community prayers

- For all who are traveling for summer vacations
- For the eradication of famine
- For refugees and immigrants around the world
- For families and others who have lost children to the hands of domestic violence

Ongoing concerns

- Bill Woodrome
- John Norris
- Doris Derickson
- Kathy Carson
- Michelle Fielden
- Hap & Jane Michener

UPCOMING EVENTS

ACCESS THE CALENDAR
AT WGCC.ORG

FRIDAY, JUNE 2:	7 p.m.: Burney/Staicoff concert
SUNDAY, JUNE 4	9 a.m.: Christian formation 10:30 a.m.: Pentecost Worship Noon: Church picnic
TUESDAY, JUNE 6:	6:30 p.m.: Painting group
THURSDAY, JUNE 8:	7:30 a.m.: Food Bank run Noon: Doorways luncheon CWF picnics
SUNDAY, JUNE 11:	9 a.m.: Christian formation 10:30 a.m.: Worship 5 p.m.: Room at the Inn
THURSDAY, JUNE 15:	9:30 a.m.: Stitch & Sew for BRO 7 PM KAACP (Chapel)
SUNDAY, JUNE 18:	Father's Day 9 a.m.: Christian formation 10:30 a.m.: Worship
TUESDAY, JUNE 20:	6:30 p.m.: Painting group
THURSDAY, JUNE 22:	9 a.m.: Cardmakers 5 p.m.: Room at the Inn
SUNDAY, JUNE 25:	9 a.m.: Christian formation 10:30 a.m.: Worship
TUESDAY, JUNE 27:	Deadline for next Witness
SUNDAY, JULY 2:	9 a.m.: Christian formation 10:30 a.m.: Worship

Steve and James at WGCC on Friday

Save the date!
James Burney and Steve Staicoff will be performing at WGCC at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 2.

Donations will be accepted to help the Burneys with the cost of adopting Zhao Bin Hang, a 2-year-old from China with special needs.

Living with Alzheimer's

This class is for people with early stage memory loss/dementia of all types. Friends and family attend also if possible. Fridays, June 9-June 30, 10 am - noon

Shepherd's Center at Webster Hills UMC, 1333 W. Lockwood.

Registration required, call 314-395-0988, class size limited, Free

Webster Groves Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

A Global Mission Congregation
1320 West Lockwood Ave.
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The SEGA connection newsletter is available at <http://www.mid-americadisciples.org/>

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