

A letter from our pastor

Reflections on the road ahead

As I prepare to begin my time of sabbatical I want to thank you all for this opportunity to rest, study, pray, and prepare to engage in the next season of ministry in the life we share as a congregation. I am grateful for all of the ways that our congregation works together to live the mission to which we are called. I am confident that, led by our great musicians, lay participants, and Rev. Jody Clegg, you will share meaningful worship experiences for the next three months.

I know that you will continue to care for one another and engage in mission and service. I will be praying for all of you and for the mission and ministry of Webster Groves Christian Church.

I will be spending much of my time over the next three months in Bible study and research. My time will be mostly spent on the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation. As many of you know, I have been working on an interpretation of Revelation that engages with J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* as a conversation partner, asking how these two texts might inform one another and perhaps offer us some possibilities for meaning. As a part of that work I'll spend some time at University archives in Illinois (Wheaton College) and Wisconsin (Marquette University). Thanks to your generous gift during my 10th anniversary as your pastor, I'll also be traveling to Oxford University in September to study in archives there and participate in a conference.

While I am on sabbatical, Rev. Jody Clegg will be available for pastoral emergencies. Steve Staicoff in the church office and members of the WGCC Board will have his contact information. I am grateful for the ongoing work of our WGCC Visiting Disciples, coordinated by Julie Wood, and for all of the ways each of you share in the ministry of caring and presence in the life of our congregation. I wish you all a great three months, and I look forward to serving together, upon my return on October 1, in the ministry to which we've been called.

Peace,

Jeff

Preaching Schedule

(Worship will be in Love Chapel from July 1 through Sept. 2)

July 1: Jody Clegg

July 8: Jody Clegg

July 15: Pat Jackson

July 22: Jody Clegg

July 29: Jody Clegg

August 5: Jody Clegg

August 12: John Burney

August 19: Jody Clegg

August 26: Jody Clegg

September 2: Jody Clegg

September 9: Penny Ross-Corona

September 16: Jody Clegg

September 23: Jody Clegg

September 30: Jody Clegg



Help plan our retreat

Mark your calendars for Oct . 5-7 for the Webster Groves Christian Church all-church retreat at Camp Mo-Val in Union, Mo.

We will have a short planning meeting after service on July 15. We would like your input, even if you can't make it to Camp Mo-Val.

We are looking for some volunteers to join the organizing team.

See John Christensen if you can help. You can contact him at dwib@swbell.net

How to help Wilkens pursue his calling

Jn Baptiste Wilkens grew up in Haiti with his mother, father, and one sister.

He has always wanted to help people--a desire that is deeply rooted in his Christian faith. Because of this desire, he chose to become a doctor and enrolled in medical school in 2012. Doctors are critically needed in Haiti as most Haitians only have access to minimal health care if any at all. But because of many threats to Wilkens and his family, he is now studying pre-med courses at Meramec Community College.

Wilken's goal in this life is to help people, as Jesus asks us to do. It is not to be rich or pursue worldly goods. He wants to be a doctor (General Surgeon) for the poor.

If you are able to help Wilkens as he continues to pursue his education, you can make a donation to WGCC, and mark it as "Haitian Student Support." These funds have been used and will continue to be used for tuition, books, and legal support as Wilkens seeks asylum and a college degree.



July 8: Deadline to honor your pledge

As we approach the end of this fiscal year, just a reminder: if you would like to fully honor your pledge for this current "church" year, donations can be accepted **through Sunday, July 8, 2018** and still be applied to the 2017-18 fiscal year.

After that point, all contributions will be credited to the 2018-19 fiscal year. (Please mark on the check or envelope that is intended for the 2017-18 fiscal year—that will help our counters to classify it properly).

Thank you for your support of the mission and ministries of WGCC, and please do call the church office if you have any questions or concerns.

Koinonia class hits the road

On Saturday, June 23, Disciples from many Regions, including Mid-America, gathered at Cane Ridge, Kentucky, to honor and commemorate an important part of Disciples history. Members of the Webster Groves Christian Church Koinonia class made the trip.

The Cane Ridge meeting house – the site of the 1801 revival led by Barton Stone and several ecumenical colleagues – hosts this gathering of Disciples every year.

Participants came together in the old log structure to sing hymns, listen to guest musicians, enjoy a picnic lunch, and hear a lecture by the Rev. Dr. Richard Lowery, President of the Disciples Historical Society, and a sermon by former General Minister and President Sharon Watkins, who is now working with the National Council of Churches.

Lowery reminded the congregation that God is a God who liberates slaves, and Watkins assured hearers that God's power for sight can transform people even when they are blinded by social injustices and oppressive structures.

Both Lowery and Watkins spoke about the importance of the history of the Stone-Campbell



Movement, and our call to be open to the same spirit that empowered our forebears in the faith.

They reminded participants that our “movement for wholeness in a fragmented world” requires faithful decisions and difficult choices, but that we can learn from those who went before us – both their successes and their failures – about what it means to seek out and stand for justice for all people, and live the unity to which we are called as members of the Body of Christ.

**Mark your
calendars:**

**2 great
golf
tournaments
ahead**

Sept. 24:

The fifth annual Room at the Inn Golf Tournament will be held at Lake Forest Golf and Country Club.

For sponsorship and registration information go to <https://roomstl.org> and click on the events tab.

Oct 1:

The second annual golf tournament to benefit Kirkwood Area Every Child Promise will be held at Westborough.

Sign up to register, sponsor, advertise or donate: <http://bit.ly/golfkaechp>

Give Back Tuesday at Katie's Pizza & Pasta

Benefitting the Shepherd's Center

Tuesday, July 24, all day!

9568 Manchester Road, 63119

Every month, Katie's Pizza & Pasta Osteria (KPPO) is pleased to feature a local nonprofit and donate 100% of the earned profits from the entire day to the charity.

Tuesday, July 24 is Shepherd's Center day! Dining at KPPO Rock Hill on Tuesday, July 24 will directly benefit the Shepherd's Center.

KPPO is proud to be the only restaurant in St. Louis that donates the entirety of the profits from lunch, dinner, drinks, and carry-out in their fundraising efforts.

Since starting Give Back Tuesday in July 2014, KPPO has donated over \$175,000 for local nonprofit charities. We hope to see you July 24 @katiepizzaandpasta in Rock Hill!

Lisa Cripe will be setting the tone

Lisa Cripe will be attending the Association of Disciple Musicians Conference in Oklahoma City, OK July 15-20.

As a member of the ADM Planning Council, she will be helping set up for the conference a few days ahead of time.

The theme for the 2018 conference is "Telling the Sacred Story."

Lisa will serve as Worship Leader for one of the daily worship services, as well as Liaison for our Organ Clinician.

For more information about what Lisa will be up to, check out the ADM website at <https://www.adm-doc.org/>



Interfaith opportunity: The Sunken Cities of Egypt

Join Interfaith Quest for a unique tour of the special exhibit of "Sunken Cities of Egypt" at the Saint Louis Art Museum on August 26 at 3 PM. Docent Bill Sitzer will lead a tour that will explore ancient Egyptian faith traditions through an interfaith lens.

This individualized tour is only offered to Interfaith Quest and is limited to 20 people representing various faiths. The tour is free to members of the museum and is \$15 for non members.

For information, contact Beth Damsgaard-Rodriguez. CEO and Interfaith Consultant (314) 662-2928



Living your faith, one week at a time

Are you interested in another resource to help you more intentionally live and act on your faith? Rebecca Klemme Eliceiri's Think! Pray! Act! (<http://www.thinkprayact.org>) encourages and equips us to move from thoughts and prayers to ACTION!

It gets into the nuts and bolts of living an active and theologically informed faith life. OWAAT ("One Week at a Time") posts center around thought, prayer, and action; including a weekly listing of the TPA Bible in Three Years Reading Plan, accessible and reliable scholarly resources, the TPA calendar, and the Find Your FBCO map (our local FBCO, if you've ever wondered, is MCU - Metropolitan Congregations United).

Visit <http://www.thinkprayact.org> weekly and/or sign up for new post notifications at the site! BiblioMinistry (<http://www.biblioministry.org>) offers up some theory and more academic work on this and the role of congregational libraries in equipping Christians for active and vibrant faith lives.



Project NOW update: Watermelons and Walmart

There will be no food deliveries to our Nutrition on Weekends Families over the Fourth of July weekend, but the Project NOW volunteers would like to deliver watermelons to the 15 families served by the program.

You can help by 'sponsoring' a watermelon--simply write a check and put it in the offering plate (or drop off to Steve during the week), noting "NOW Melon" on the memo line.

Thanks!

Meanwhile: Check out the image below, which shows how we load the groceries from Walmart for NOW. Pretty easy, according to volunteer Laura Stuetzer. The Walmart person puts them all in the pick up vehicle.



There will be no Tuesday morning Bible study for July and August. Rev. Clegg will lead a Bible study on the book of James on September Tuesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30.

IN OUR PRAYERS ...

Recent concerns

- For the family of Tom Wood's brother, Frank, who passed away last week
 - Andy Lindberg, who has developed a wound in his other foot
 - Teddy Mark, who is moving to California
 - Analyn Howells, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery
 - For Don Lee, friend of Laura Stuetzer recovering from a stroke
 - Lauren, a friend of Gregg Eilers undergoing chemotherapy
 - For our middle school students, who are gathering to study C.S. Lewis and growing in their faith
- Layton Stewart, who recently had a pacemaker installed
 - Dick Savage, who continues to ask for our prayers
 - For Jane Yount
 - For Gloria Herr
 - For Norma Redstone
 - Bill Sullivan, as he continues to recuperate

Thanks for ...

- Lisa Cripe's son, Jon, who defended and passed his dissertation at LSU
- The outpouring of peace and unity felt during Pridefest
- The gifts and spirit of our musicians

Community

- For people who are recuperating after floods in Texas
- For refugees and immigrants
- For families who have lost children to domestic violence
- For participants in the Washington D.C. march for the poor and oppressed

Ongoing concerns

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

A message from Donna Wolff-Crump

I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers while I was sick and in the hospital.

And an especially big thank you for all the cards that I have received.

- Donna

WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission: Following Jesus' teaching and sacrificially serving the people who are the most marginalized.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**ACCESS THE CALENDAR
AT WGCC.ORG**

THROUGH JULY 8

John Dyess art show, The Gallery Within

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

10 a.m.: Shepherd Center line dancers

5 p.m. Room at the Inn

SUNDAY, JULY 1

9 a.m.: Christian formation

10:30 a.m.: Worship

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

Independence Day

THURSDAY, JULY 5

10 a.m.: Shepherd Center line dancers

SUNDAY, JULY 8

9 a.m.: Christian formation

10:30 a.m.: Worship

Deadline for pledge commitment

5 p.m. Room at the Inn

THURSDAY, JULY 12

7:30 a.m.: Foodbank run

10 a.m.: Shepherd Center line dancers

CWF group meetings

SATURDAY, JULY 14

7 p.m.: SPROG Kids Mixer, Kirkwood Comm. Center

SUNDAY, JULY 15

9 a.m.: Christian formation

10:30 a.m.: Worship

Retreat planning meeting

THURSDAY, JULY 19

10 a.m.: Shepherd Center line dancers

SUNDAY, JULY 22

9 a.m.: Christian formation

10:30 a.m.: Worship

TUESDAY, JULY 24

Shepherd's Center fundraiser at Katie's Pizza

THURSDAY, JULY 26

10 a.m.: Shepherd Center line dancers

5 p.m. Room at the Inn

SUNDAY, JULY 29

9 a.m.: Christian formation

10:30 a.m.: Worship

TUESDAY, JULY 31

Deadline for next Witness

Webster Groves Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

A Global Mission Congregation
1320 West Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis MO 63122



The SEGA connection newsletter is available at <http://www.mid-americadisciples.org/>

Webster Groves Christian Church

1320 West Lockwood Avenue

Saint Louis, MO 63122

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