

# Encountering Resurrection

**This year, we need the Easter encounter more than ever.**

As a child I always expected Easter. We knew it was coming. We knew the story from church and home. We knew there would be Easter Baskets, eggs to find, uncomfortable clothes, and worship. Easter was a part of our normal routine. As I grew older and began to appreciate Easter in (perhaps) more nuanced ways, one thing never changed – I still expect Easter. I expect to celebrate the glorious news of resurrection. I expect to especially celebrate this glorious news in the Spring of the year. I expect. I expect...

But that's not how it was for Jesus' followers just a few days after his crucifixion. Whether they should have or not, they weren't expecting Easter. They were, depending on the gospel you read, frightened, amazed, surprised, or incredulous. The reality of the resurrection encountered them in the midst of their grief at Jesus' death, and their uncertainty about how life would continue for them. Resurrection – the presence of the risen Jesus in their lives even after the horror and sorrow of his crucifixion – caught them unaware and changed their situation irrevocably.

I wonder if you're like me this year and can honestly say that we're approaching Easter in a situation none of us expected. The news has been filled with sickness and death, uncertainty, and even fear. We need the Easter encounter more than ever. We need to remember, celebrate, and share the Good News that even in the midst of death and sorrow, God is a God of life and love. We need resurrection to encounter us. My prayer for all of us is that we will encounter the Risen Christ in our moments of darkness, uncertainty, grief, and hope. I pray that as we worship online, and interact with those in our own homes, we'll be surprised by God's presence among us. I fervently hope that we'll remember the story, respond with thanksgiving, and share it with others. Most of all, in this season of both uncertainty and hope, I pray that resurrection encounters us and fills us with an awareness of God's powerful love – a love we are blessed to receive and called to share.

Stay well.

Peace,

Jeff

**JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL HOLY WEEK. DETAILS ON PAGE 3**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY  
7 PM**

**GOOD FRIDAY  
7 PM**

**EASTER SUNDAY  
10:30 AM**

## **Disciples Women: Just a phone call away for support**

The Disciples Women's meeting and group meetings will not be held in April due to the coronavirus threat.

The Card Group and the Sewing Group will not meet either. If it is possible, we will extend the meeting year, so we can complete our programs and Service Projects during the summer months if necessary.

Last month, our Service Project was collecting money for diapers for two organizations, Promise Place, KAEChP and the NOW Project for Head Start. We are pleased to have collected \$406 at our group meetings, and the Lydia Group did not get to meet. Thank you to all those who contributed.

We are thankful for the lovely March program presented by Denise Pahl. She opened our eyes to many aspects of the Border Program in which she is involved. She provided us with several volunteer opportunities.

May the Lord Bless and Keep you especially at this time of danger. Please continue to pray for miraculous healing of those who are ill and an end to the coronavirus. Also, remember that you are not alone. God is with you and your Disciples Women friends are just a phone call away for support and love.

Submitted by Jane Martin, Secretary



## **Order a virtual Easter Lily**

Because of the current pandemic, it is most likely that Easter will be celebrated in your homes, while watching the Easter service on Facebook. However, a "virtual Easter Lily" can still be ordered in honor or memory of a loved one by doing the following:

- 1) Make a \$10 contribution to Webster-Rock Hill Ministries through the "Neighbor Fund of WGCC." Make sure to note on your check or Givelify donation that your donation is for a lily.
- 2) Send an email to the church at [admin@wgcc.org](mailto:admin@wgcc.org), indicating for whom the "virtual lily" is in honor or memory of. The list of donated "lilies" will be read aloud during the Easter morning service and published in the weekly email blast.

## **June England scholarship for high school seniors**

The June England Scholarship, a memorial gift established by Don England and family to honor June, is awarded to Webster Groves Christian Church graduating high school seniors for higher education study. We encourage our high school seniors who are considering further education to submit an application.

Seniors may contact Steve Staicoff in the church office for applications.

Application and letters of reference may be returned to Steve in the church office. If you have questions, contact Pat Roseman.

Deadline is May 1.

## Join Us for FaceBook Live Worship during Holy Week:



*Praying at Gethsemane*  
James He Qi  
Courtesy of the artist

**Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.**

(Centennial Christian Church; Memorial Boulevard Christian Church; Union Avenue Christian Church; Webster Groves Christian Church)

**Prayer Vigil 8:00 p.m.**

**Good Friday 7:00 p.m.**

**Easter 10:30 a.m.**



Please tune into WGCC's Facebook page for our Holy Week Services listed above. Each of the services will be streamed on Facebook Live.

You do not need a Facebook account to view the services. You can watch or listen to the services from your computer, your tablet or your phone. If you are on Facebook, you can share virtual greetings and prayer requests during the service.

Communion is being planned as part of the Easter service, so if you have bread, crackers, etc. and juice or other liquid element on hand, keep it close by as the church joins in communion.

The link to the page is: <https://www.facebook.com/WGCCDisciples/>

## Drop off your items for Webster-Rock Hill Ministries

We pray that you are well and that you are finding safe and healthy ways to adjust to our new reality as we all respond to the Covid-19 crisis. Thank you for your care and support of the programs and

services of WRHM! Together we all make a difference in the lives of many members of our community.

**We will need volunteers from WGCC to help receive donations into our Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10am--2pm.**

**Please let Jeff Moore know if you can help!**

Because WRHM has increased need for specific items, as well as increased client requests at this time, we are instituting a new procedure for in-kind donations. Beginning Friday, March 27, 2020, we are asking that **all In-Kind Donations (see list below) be brought to Webster Groves Christian Church.**

Donors are asked to remain in their cars. Volunteers will unload and receive your donations and provide

you with an acknowledgement of your donation.

### **In-Kind donations will be accepted at the following times:**

Tuesdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Fridays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

We are not currently accepting in-kind donations at our Waymire location.

### **Urgently Needed Items include:**

Toilet paper

Personal hygiene items

Hand soap and hand sanitizer

Canned meat and vegetables

Dry food items

As always, we continue to need and appreciate monetary contributions. Please give when you drop off your in-kind donations at Webster Groves Christian Church or give online at [wrhm.org/help-us/](http://wrhm.org/help-us/).

Thank you for all you do to help strengthen our community!

Stay well.

Ed Johnson, Executive Director  
Mary Taylor, Board Chairperson

## How you can help Room at the Inn

Working in coordination with the Room at the Inn day site, it has been determined that Webster Groves Christian Church will not be hosting guests for the immediate future.

The spirit is willing, but it is simply too good a way to spread the virus. We'll want to contribute financially to help the day site keep up.

Contributions to the **Neighbor Fund of WGCC** can be funneled to Room at the Inn in order to help them to continue to provide their services. Please note on any checks/online contributions that your gift is for the "Neighbor Fund."

## **Your support for WGCC is crucial**

Just a reminder that even though WGCC's building is closed, **the financial needs of fulfilling our mission and ministry are still there.** Our ongoing faithful financial support of WGCC is still crucial. During these weeks when we are not physically gathering to worship together, please prayerfully and generously consider giving via check by mail, bank draft/direct deposit or through Givelify using this link:

<https://www.givelify.com/givenow/1.0/NzQw/selection>

# Koinonia class invites you to the 1619 Project

Koinonia is currently meeting via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. We would love for others to join our group. Zoom is accessible by computer or phone. Even a non-smartphone can be used to access the group with audio only. If you are interested, please contact Denise Pahl at (314) 651-1552 or [pahldenise@gmail.com](mailto:pahldenise@gmail.com) for details.

Our current study is *The 1619 Project* published by the *New York Times Magazine*. The goal of this project is to reframe American history by considering what it would mean to regard 1619 as our nation's birth year. This was the year that the first slave ship landed in Virginia, and 20 enslaved Africans were sold to the colonists. By

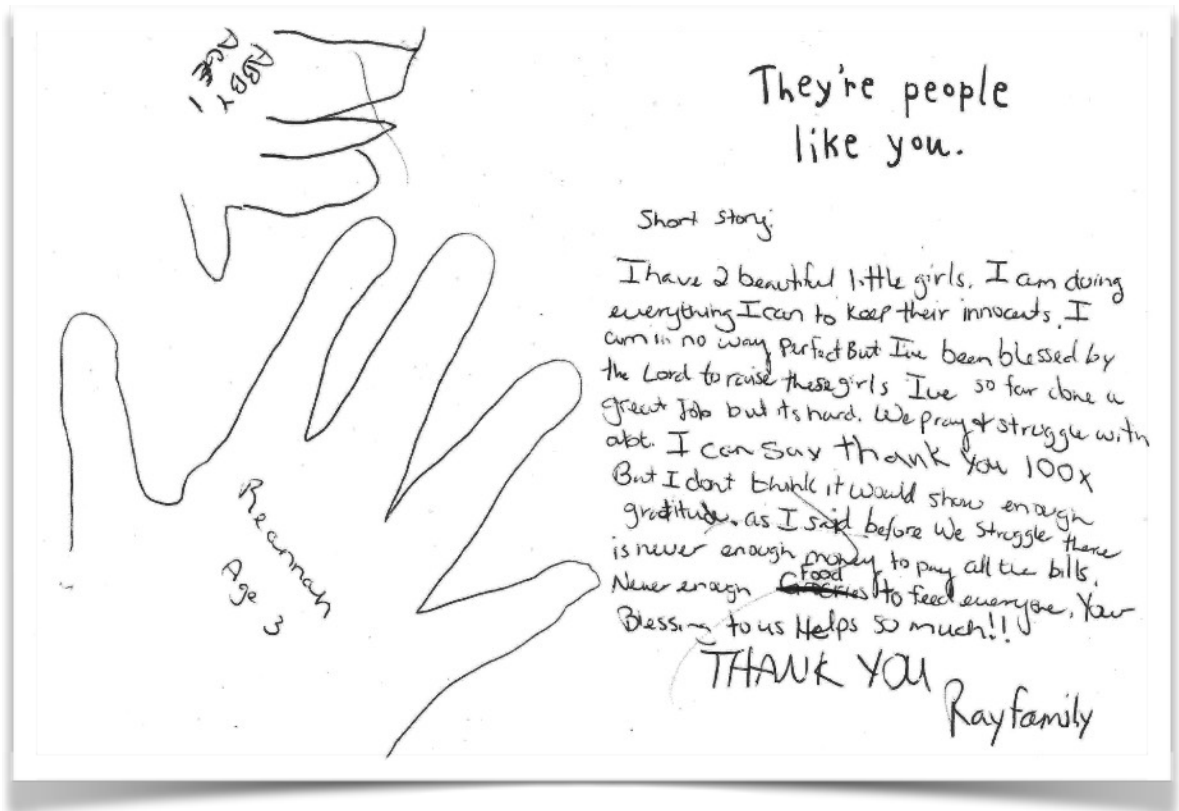
acknowledging history, and trying to understand its influence on the present, perhaps we can prepare for a more just future.

Access to these articles is free but requires creating an account with the New York Times. To access the list of essays online and create your account, go to <https://nyti.ms/3aCBZk>. Some group members have had problems accessing the essays. For that reason, we are sending out links to PDFs or documents of each article to be discussed the following week.

Please consider joining us! All are welcome!

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## A thanks from one of our Project NOW families





# WGCC@125!



The first worship service in the new sanctuary on Dec. 19, 1954.

Please join Webster Groves Christian Church throughout the 2020 year as we celebrate our 125th anniversary by remembering what has made us the strong community that we are today, and furthermore, what will make us even stronger in the future.

Please feel free to contact Keiler Swartz at [keiler.swartz@gmail.com](mailto:keiler.swartz@gmail.com) if you are able to assist with planning

## Join us on Zoom for our group discussions

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the church's regular gatherings are being held via the Zoom group discussion app. If you have a smart phone, it helps to download the free Zoom app, but the program will also work on most desktop computers if you have a camera and microphone installed.

### TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

10 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/381789752>

Meeting ID: 381 789 752

By phone: 312 626 6799

### WEDNESDAY LENT STUDY

6 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/439539886>

Meeting ID: 439 539 886

By phone: 312 626 6799

## This is how we worship!

Laura Stuetzer shares this image of her Palm Sunday worship at home, complete with communion.

Follow our livestream worship services on our Facebook page!



## Recent concerns

- For Andy Lindberg, who has contracted coronavirus at St. Luke's Surrey Place.
- For Doug and Bev Richmond. Doug was hospitalized earlier this week.
- For the family of Frances Head, who passed away on March 16.
- For the Swartz family. Steve's father William passed away last week.
- Donna Williams, who is in hospice care.
- Sue DeBerry, who recently died after a battle with cancer.
- For Kitte Baumgarth
- For Bill and Arlene Sullivan
- For Gilda Rzczowski
- For Charles Pointer, who is battling health issues.
- For Richard Mark.
- For Marianne and Ken, friends of Debbie Werner battling COVID-19.
- For Aubrey Wolfe, great niece of John and Susan Burney, who is four months old and on a feeding tube at home
- For Talicia, niece of Lisa Rothe, who is a recent medical school graduate in New York and who is assigned to care for COVID-19 patients.
- Dave Walters, who is going through therapy for Hodgkins's Lymphoma.
- For Jim and Bobbie Simpson as Jim faces ongoing cancer treatment.
- For Don Scott, who has been battling the flu.
- Karen Atkins' daughter, Susan, who needs eye surgery.
- For all health care workers.
- For the students of Robin Woodrome and Keiler Swartz.
- For Tom Wood, Susan Burney and Jeff Tedford, whose scheduled surgeries were put on hold.
- For the families of Project NOW and for the KSD NOW program.
- John Christensen's brother Walt, who is hospitalized with heart problems.
- For Michelle Fielden, who is facing difficult challenges.
- For Shirley Arther, struggling with back trouble.
- For Eva Moutrie, who asks that we keep her in our prayers.
- For basic needs of food, shelter clothing and health care for all.
- Bill Woodrome
- John Norris
- Kathy Carson
- Jane Michener

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### WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

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

# 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/>**

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