

## **WE HAVE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO GRADUATED!**

**Sam  
Fink**



**Xander  
Gerdes**



**Khotso  
Moore**



**Adam  
Orr**

Because the coronavirus caused us to limit our physical contact, close church and limit our communication to technology, we did not have the opportunity to give our blessings and congratulations to these four seniors whom we admire, enjoy, are so proud of and whom we have watched grow from boys to young men. We call them The December Boys. We were preparing a special send-off party on the front lawn on August 7 as they prepared for the college years.....

### **BUT RULES BANNING GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN 50 CANCELS OUR PLANS!**

Our congregation's intent is canceled following the recent ruling restricting size of group gatherings. This follows other decisions made for our congregation that prioritize safety for all of us. We regret losing this opportunity to gather as our church community.

Although our plans are put aside, Chris Webb refuses to comply!

Chris was planning to make cookies for the celebration. Instead he will be making cookies, decorating them with each college logo and delivering them to each of the graduates.

We ARE all in this together and Chris is BAKING sure of that! Thanks, Chris.

-Pat Roseman



**Love**  
is an Action Word:

**Avoiding Complicity with Racism**

INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION  
OGMP  
Office of the General Minister & President  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
in the United States and Canada

Reconciliation Ministry and  
the Office of the General Minister and President  
present a 7-part series "Love is an Action Word"

**July 30, 2020**  
7pm ET | 6pm CT | 4pm PT

**Invited Panelists:**

Margie Pride Glenn Miles Judith Guy Josh Toulouse

REGISTER IN ADVANCE  &   christianchurchdoc

## Love is an Action Word: Avoiding Complicity with Racism

When: July 30, 6:00 PM Central Time

Moderated by Andrew Packman and Christian Watkins. Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_2phMq5HWSRWzIH0kiOIVCw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2phMq5HWSRWzIH0kiOIVCw)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**Aug. 13 – Love is an Action Word: Indigenous peoples:** Disciples reflect on the policies, practices, and theology that shape our relations with Indigenous peoples, and their call to action.

**Aug. 27 – Love is an Action Word: NAPAD :** Disciples reflect on the policies, practices, and theology that shape our relations with the NAPAD community, and their call to action.

**Sept. 10 – Love is an Action Word: Latinx, Obra Hispana, and Just Borders:** Disciples reflect on the policies, practices, and theology that shape our relations with the Latinx community, and their call to action.

**Sept. 24 – Love is an Action Word: National Convocation, the Black Lives Matter movement:** Disciples reflect on the policies, practices, and theology that shape our relations with National Convocation and the BLM movement, and their call to action.

**Oct. 8 – Love is an Action Word: Race, Gender, and Sexual Identity.** Melissa Guthrie Loy, Luther Young

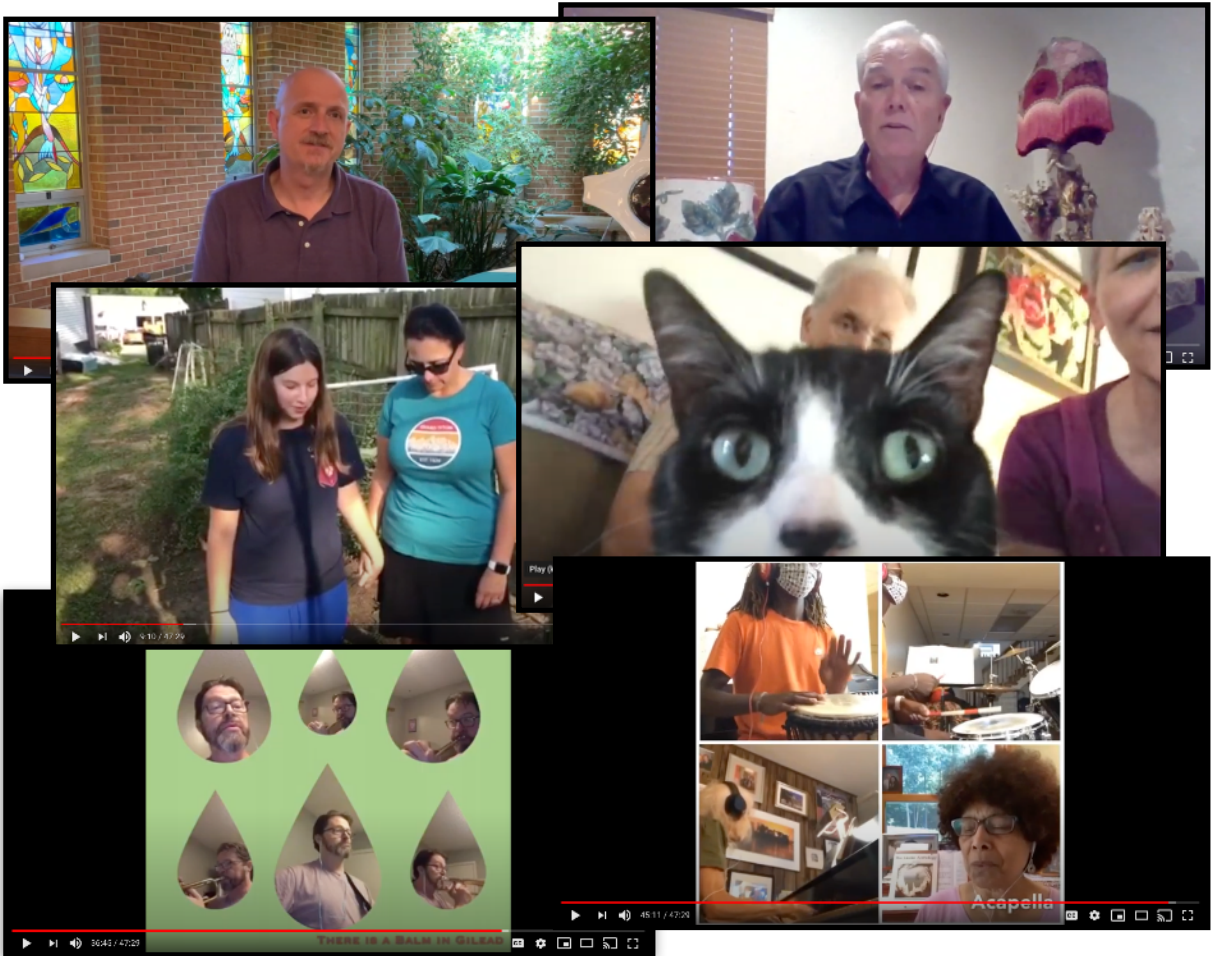
**Oct. 22 – Love is an Action Word: Puerto Rico, Imperialist ideology, and mission :** Disciples reflect on the policies, practices, and theology that shape our relations with Puerto Rico, and their call to action.

**Nov. 5 – Love is an Action Word: Identity, Theology, and Faithful care for the community**

A multi-racial, multi-cultural panel of Disciples talk about identity, theology, and how they live out the call to faithful care for the community.

**Sunday morning worship services will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome - please invite your family and friends to tune in!**

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



**After worship, you are invited for a special Zoom fellowship.  
It's a special WGCC "Community Time" at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday**

**Join us at:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89722013606>**

# Shepherd's Center takes a creative approach to service

The challenges presented by COVID-19 have brought many changes in our lives. Interruptions in the programs we enjoy, the volunteer activities we find important and our connections outside the home. Although this is a time of challenge, it is also a time of new opportunity and creativity. Shepherd's Center Board, staff and volunteer leadership continue to work diligently to develop new ways to keep us connected and to plan for bringing us together again.

Here are some important updates:

**Programs:** A selection of online classes (including exercise) are updated weekly on our website and in email blasts. Shepherd's Center directors across the country are working together to offer great choices that we can all share. Local program volunteers are also hard at work. We look forward to offering in-person classes again as soon as we can do so safely.

**New Services & Volunteer Opportunities:** Our Transportation service remains temporarily suspended but will be resumed very soon. Shepherd's Center drivers and riders will be notified about service re-start dates and new health safety policies. In the meantime, we have launched two new popular services:

**Phone Pals** – Shepherd's Center volunteers connect with clients living alone for friendly chats on a daily/weekly basis.

**Grocery Getters** – While they are at the store for themselves, Shepherd's Center volunteers help clients in need with shopping and grocery delivery. If you are in need of either of these services or if you would like to volunteer, call (314) 395-0988.

**Stay Updated:** If you need to join our email list, call (314) 395-0988.

Visit our website often – [www.shepherdscenter-wk.org](http://www.shepherdscenter-wk.org)

Like and follow us on Facebook – Shepherd's Center Webster/Kirkwood Giving Our mission is more important than ever and your donations go a long way.

We appreciate every gift we receive. I look forward to seeing everyone again soon. Take care,

Betsy Solomon

Executive Director

## Shepherd's Center Large Screen TV Raffle

Enter for your chance to win

**1<sup>st</sup> prize:** 55" QLED 4K Ultra HD  
TV with Bose Soundbar

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize:** 43" 4K QLED Ultra HD TV

**Tickets**  
**\$25**



**Chances of Winning 1/250**  
**Only 500 Tickets Will Be Sold**  
**Drawing Friday, September 11**  
**Do Not Have to be Present to Win**

**Purchase Tickets online**  
**[shepherdscenter-wk.org/chef-showcase](http://shepherdscenter-wk.org/chef-showcase)**



All proceeds benefit Shepherd's Center  
**(314) 395-0988**

# WGCC@125!



The WGCC Junior choir in 1961. Join us throughout 2020 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.

## Your support 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>

## Books of Luke and Acts Bible Study starts Aug. 10

Our Monday 3:00-4:30 Zoom Bible Study will begin the Books of Luke and Acts on Monday, August 10.

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.

### Bible Study

Mondays, 3 p.m. starting Aug. 10

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

Or dial in: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 381 789 752

### Koinonia Sunday School Class

Sunday, 8:45 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/652179864>

Meeting ID: 652 179 864

Password: 012104

## Brendan Tedford's (virtual) brush with greatness

Yes, that was WGCC's own Brendan Tedford you saw on Jimmy Kimmel last week, on a virtual speed dating segment featuring Kirkwood's own Nikki Glaser.

"I was playing a heightened, more ridiculous version of myself, otherwise I would have never made it on the air," Brendan explained in a Facebook post.





# Beacons of transformation and renewal

By Angel Luis Rivera-Agosto

This piece originally appeared in Witness For Justice, a weekly commentary from the United Church of Christ.

*"I appeal to you; therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may discern what the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect is." Romans 12:1-2 (NRSV)*

I have been living a fascinating paradox. My ministry requires me to travel regularly throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, visiting Partners, providing pastoral care and follow-up with mission personnel, and advocating for justice, peace, and reconciliation. COVID-19 placed me behind closed walls, as I am particularly vulnerable to it due to my asthma condition. Because of that, I kept myself quarantined, working from home, and connecting to the outside world through the Internet. In that stage of stillness, I have found the opportunity to connect and witness processes where people continue placing their bodies in danger for the common good. I followed the news regarding a Puerto Rican social leader who was arrested for defending the right to food during the COVID-19 pandemic. I witnessed the love and dedication of a group of farmers in Paraguay, who brought their products to market for distribution and used in the popular community pots in Asunción, the capital of that South American country. I acknowledged the work of an ecumenical religious leader who risked his own life and health to move dozens of families from the immigrant and refugee camps in Tijuana, Mexico, to protect them from the onslaught of the virus. It is the cry of thousands of young people around the U.S., bringing a powerful message to those in authority to overcome racism and systemic injustice, because "black lives matter."

The shared biblical text invites us to affirm the centrality of the subject as reason and motive for our struggles. According to Paul, it is our practice that comes from the pure love that puts us into a "giving of the body, a presentation of the living sacrifice." Out of our real human experience and felt needs, we are called to confront ideological speculation of structural injustice and neoliberalism. A second element comes from "resisting our conformity to this world and the renewal of our minds." It implies knowing the system, gathering information, and revealing the real agendas to pursue a change for the Common Good. A third element is based on that "good, pleasant and perfect will." It is simply not enough to denounce those who profit at the expense of the well-being of all. It is also necessary to give way to social projects that raise the ethical character of our societies. It is imperative to build, facilitate, understand, and strengthen the human and ecological development of our communities around the world.

I keep checking on the right time to travel again, always caring for my neighbor and me. When it happens, I want to be ready to face new times beyond COVID-19. Times inspired by the fullness of life, beyond nostalgic dreams back into a said "normality." It is time to move forward and to seek transformation and renewal.

*Angel Luis Rivera-Agosto is the Area Executive for Latin America and the Caribbean for Global Ministries, a common witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.*

Global Ministries is a joint witness in mission between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. Join us in our mission to receive and share the Good News of Jesus Christ by joining with global and local partners to work for justice, reconciliation and peace.

Updates: Be the first to get new resources and information from Global Ministries at [globalministries.org](https://globalministries.org)

## Recent prayer concerns

Prayers for Barbara Merrell's son-in-law Dave, who has many medical issues.

For Tom Wood and for Julie Wood, who is recovering from a fall.

For Eve Moutrie, who broke her ribs after a fall.

For Jeff Tedford, who is recovering from surgery.

For all teachers, students and parents, as they face the challenges of a unique school year ahead.

For Peggy Eskridge, who is recovering from surgery.

For all health care "frontline" workers and all essential workers.

For the families of WGCC Project NOW, KSD NOW program, and KAEChP.

For basic needs of food, shelter clothing and health care for all.

For Ken and Ginny Rainey

For Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, and their director, Ed Johnson.

All who have experienced loss or change in their work situations.

For all victims of COVID-19, especially the under-served and under-represented members of the community.

For Lisa Cripe's friends Mark and Lauren Donahue, and their daughter Hazel as they settle into a new situation.

For James Burney as he continues his work as a police officer in North County.

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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-america-disciples.org/>**

## **Webster Groves Christian Church**

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