



The NOW families were blessed this holiday season with two special events. The reverse Advent calendar food donation was an overwhelming success. Over 20 families or individuals participated. The food has been added to the packing shelves at the church and some has already been packed into the weekly snack bags. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Linda Taylor, friend of Lea Gerdes, organized a “shoe box” gift donation event for the children of the NOW families. Each child received a shoe box full of gifts. All the gifts were delivered to the Educare center prior to the holiday and distributed to the families with the final food bag of 2020. Additionally, the event raised almost \$300, which was added to the NOW account for food purchases. The community support for Project NOW has been an unexpected blessing through the years, and the numerous gifts provided by Linda Taylor and Color Art will help us continue into 2021.

Julie DeKinder

# Disciples Women: A month of giving

The Disciples Women hosted a virtual General Meeting on Zoom on December 3. The meeting was well attended and enjoyed by all who participated. That was the kick-off for a wonderful month of giving.

Many of the DW became involved in writing Christmas cards to church members, made by **Susan Moore**. We worked on the Adopt a Family Program, some bought socks and underwear for the Head Start Program, while others chose to support our December Service Project by contributing over \$300 for the purchase of socks, underwear and sleepers for Head Start. After spending over \$200 on those items, the remainder was given to help the Neighbor Fund. Some members joined the congregation in purchasing food for the NOW families, placed a grocery item in a box and prayed for the families each day during Advent. **Julie Wood** gave of her time to make baskets for our shut-ins and, along with Tom, delivered the gifts including an Advent booklet before Christmas. We are thankful for Julie's contribution to our shut-ins. **Janie Joplin** finished the last three of seventeen quilts that are to be delivered to Nurses For Newborns from our DW Sewing Group. We are so thankful for the contribution that the sewing group makes to our missions. Several ladies joined the congregation project of baking cookies, selling dozens of cookies and enjoying a wide variety of cookies for their families. This was a project to raise money for Heifer International, which is a church-wide project each year. This December service giving is typical of our DW donations in December and is greatly appreciated by the organizations receiving it. A tremendous thank you for the generous support all of you gave to the 2020 service projects in a year that called for many ways to offer hope and faith.

A virtual meeting was also held by the Tabitha Group in December with several people attending. The Martha Group continued to send Devotional and study materials to each member by email or mail.

In January, the General Meeting will again be held on Zoom on January 7. Information containing the link will be sent soon to each member. The Tabitha Group will hold their meeting on January 21 on Zoom.

The Service Project for January will be a collection for the Neighbor Fund. This is a very important collection, because we are now replacing the funds used to complete our gifts to the Adopt a Family Program in December. Now we need to repay that fund, so money will be available to help people who contact the church for help. There is always a need for money in the Neighbor Fund. We thank each member who contributes each month to our service projects, which is above the regular offering to meet our budget. Checks for your DW offering and the Service Project may be mailed to Julie Wood and made payable to the WGCC/DW. Be sure to write in the lower part of your check how you want the money divided between your regular offering the Service Project and any other that you choose.

Happy New Year from the Disciples Women of WGCC.

Submitted by: **Jane Martin**, Secretary



## Celebrating with Gloria Hutchings

The Disciples Women are thankful to know that **Gloria Hutchings** celebrated her 90th birthday on December 29th. She has been a marvelous member of WGCC DW and was looking forward to her 90th. She has adjusted to her new place and having a roommate.



# Scenes from our virtual Christmas

We were brought together this holiday season in  
new ways through song, spirit and prayer.





To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

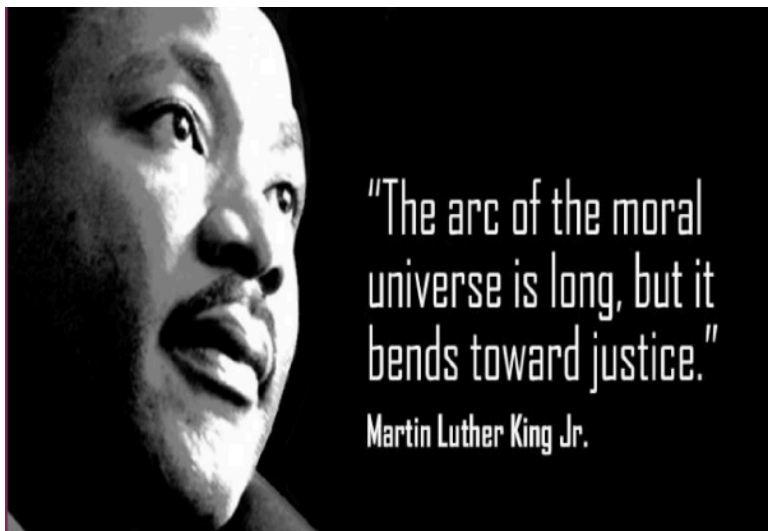
Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'



Dr. Martin Luther King's words are timeless and often apply to what we are currently experiencing. As we celebrate his life and legacy in January, remember his commitment to beloved community. Remember his commitment to justice. Remember his commitment to speaking on behalf of the marginalized and oppressed. Remember his courage to speak truth to power.

We are encouraged to reflect on his words, not only during the month of his celebration, but throughout the year.

Rev. Sheila P. Spencer Interim President, Disciples Home Missions

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We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.

The time is always right to do what is right.

Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better.

A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom. The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.

Cookie Makers • Cookie Buyers • Cookie Sellers • Cookie Eaters - Cookie Organizers

To all who contributed to the WGCC Advent Season cookie tradition of supporting Heifer International, all accomplished under the Covid-19 restrictions

**THANK YOU!!!!**

Thanks also to all who donated to Heifer through other WGCC opportunities!



### **... and a thanks from Webster-Rock Hills Ministries.**

Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who made our Christmas program possible. On Dec. 12, we shared gift cards for Christmas meal shopping and presents, a box of food from our pantry, facemasks, toys and hats and gloves for the family.

We were able to serve 130 families thanks to the generosity of our community.

### **Practicing hospitality: an interfaith study**

Join Interfaith Partnership in Spring 2021 for a 10-week virtual course exploring practices of the world's religious traditions. The course will be organized around a central theme, namely that there are certain human "practices," and that these differ among the religions of the world. For instance, nearly all world religions are committed to hospitality, but how they practice hospitality can be very different. Or again, religions of the world have an understanding of "dying well," but how this most human of activities is practiced differs widely. Each class will focus on a "practice" and look at the practice from the perspective of differing religious communities. Classes will take a comparative approach, but not a comprehensive one; although every class will not be able to discuss every major religion, we will seek to include a breadth of examples over the course of the semester.

Rev. Dr. David Greenhaw, an ordained Christian minister, is the recently retired president of Eden Theological Seminary. Prof. Greenhaw began his teaching career at Vanderbilt University and has lectured on five continents. He is currently the Chair of the Cabinet of Interfaith Partnership.

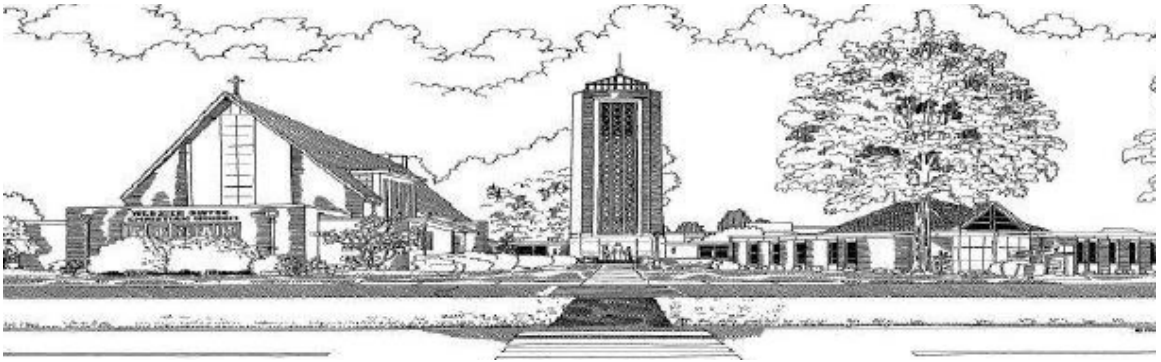
This course will be offered for free to ensure that cost is not a barrier. That being said, Interfaith Partnership relies on donations to survive; if you are able to donate, we would deeply appreciate your financial support.

Courses will stream through Zoom on Tuesday nights from 7-8:10pm, starting Jan. 26.

Sign up at: <https://interfaithstl.org/practicing-religion/>

**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/>**



## **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>

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## **Join us for our virtual Bible study or Sunday class**

**Join us on Mondays for our Zoom Bible Study on the Books of Luke and Acts.**

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.

<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

## Recent prayer concerns

- For Susan Burney, who has upcoming hip surgery.
- For WGCC member Don England, who was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor and is undergoing treatment.
- For Bob Rose's aunt Ceal, who was diagnosed with breast cancer.
- For Donna Wolff-Crump's friend, Michelle.
- For DeVere Shoop.
- For Carolyn Dyess and Denise Pahl.
- For Lori Rose's mother, Linda, who broke her wrist in a fall.
- For residents of nursing homes, who remain isolated due to COVID-19.
- For Shah Smith, who is recuperating from total knee replacement surgery last month and while getting better every day, has some complications that are not responding to different treatments.
- For the Burneys' former foster son, Shaun, and his family as they try to secure a safe place to live.
- For Ruth Anne, a friend of Vicki Ott's, who lives in Pennsylvania and is battling health issues.
- For Raymond Kolacek, friend of Max and Vicki Ott, who suffered a fall and a broken pelvis.
- For Eva Moutrie, who has been through rehab for a broken leg and is back at her place in Ellisville.
- For Jane Martin's friend Fran Effertz, recovering from serious surgery.
- For all health care "frontline" workers and all essential workers.
- For the families of WGCC Project NOW, KSD NOW program, and KAECChP.
- For basic needs of food, shelter clothing and healthcare for all.
- For Webster-Rock Hill Ministries.

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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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