

# Help our youth as they help others

WGCC and MBCC youth and friends and family will be gathering later in August to assemble bags to give to community members asking for assistance near roadways. These bags will then be available for church members to take for distribution.

Anyone willing to donate items for the bags is encouraged to drop them at church labeled “youth bags,” or mark monetary contributions “youth bags.”

## **Needed items:**

- 100 gallon-sized ziplock bags
- Granola bars (non melting)
- Sandwich-size ziplock bags

## **Money for items to place in the bags:**

Bus tickets

Subway Gift cards

The bags will also contain face masks (we already have these) and phone numbers for housing hotline, etc.

Thank you!



**How does your garden grow?** Members of Memorial Boulevard and Webster Groves Christian Church pack watermelons for Project NOW.

## **Collecting for Church World Service**

Disciples Women will NOT be buying and sending supplies for school and health kits to Church World Service again this year. As we did last year, we will send a monetary donation to CWS. Details about collection will be in the September Witness.

If you have already bought school supplies, Webster-Rock Hill Ministries/WRHM is asking for donations. Supplies can be brought to WGCC.

- Janie Joplin and Pat Roseman

# Disciples Women plan for the year ahead

On Thursday, July 8, eight members of the Disciples Women Fellowship met to formulate the budget for the 2021-2022 church year.

The budget will be approved at the September general meeting.

The Disciples Women groups did an outstanding job of service throughout the Covid-19 year!

We met our budget for the 2020-21 year and collected a total of \$2,731.95 for the service projects.

Thanks to all of the women for their generous support.

We hope to be back to meeting in church in September.

- Sally Smith

## Budgeted Expenses

Disciples Mission Fund	\$2,000
Blessing Box	\$225
Church World Service(postage)	\$100
Mid-America Region	\$800
N.O.W. Fruit	\$350
Church Women United of Metro STL	\$125
Mailing Expenses	\$50
Misc Expenses	\$25
Year Book Materials	\$25
Total	\$3,700

## Budgeted Income

Group Offerings	\$3,000
Note Cards	\$460
Carryover from 20/21	\$240
Total	\$3,700

## April 24, 2021! Wedding Bells Rang! Let's Celebrate Erich and Beth!

Remember April 2021? We were sequestered in our homes, worshiping online, socializing on zoom. Attending a wedding of our friends was out of the question. Who was getting married, anyway?

Well..... BETH COOLEY AND ERICH BLAUFUSS DID! APRIL 24, 2021!

Since we didn't get to celebrate on April 24 with Erich and Beth and give them our congratulations, the Tabitha women of Disciple Women are inviting our congregation to a celebration reception following worship on Sunday, August 15.

In keeping with our Covid restrictions, refreshments will be served outside.

WEAR YOUR WEDDING MASK!



## Speaking of wedding bells ...

Adam Rose, son of Bob and Lori Rose, married Alexis Hamby on July 30 in St. Charles, Mo.

Adam and Alexis will be living in Columbia, Mo., where Alexis attends law school and Adam works as a project manager for Coil Construction.



The Disciples Virtual Gathering is an opportunity for Disciples to connect, learn, worship, and imagine new ways of gathering as church.

Our day together will focus on the covenant we share as Disciples and the promise of Romans 8:38-39 that nothing can separate us from the love of God. The program will consist of Bible lectures, educational workshops, and worship service, with invited speakers and presenters focusing on our theme.

Register today and see a schedule of events at:

<https://disciplesconnect2021.vfairs.com/>



### Yolanda Norton

Rev. Yolanda M. Norton is the founder and executive director of the Global Arts and Theology Experience (GATE). She has a long commitment to justice, especially as it relates to women and children, and she is excited about the possibilities for what God is doing in and through Black women in this season.

GATE is borne out of her creation of the Beyonce Mass, which has been featured in Essence, the New York Times, and HBO's VICE.



### Eric Smith

Rev. Dr. Eric C. Smith is Assistant Professor of Early Christianity and Contemporary Christian Practices at the Iliff School of Theology and Teaching Minister at First Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC) in Denver, Colorado. He is the author of several books and articles, most recently *Paul the Progressive: The Compassionate Christian's Guide to Reclaiming the Apostle as an Ally* (Chalice 2019).



### Terri Hord Owens

Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens currently serves as the General Minister & President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. She is the second woman and the first person of color to serve in this position. Terri believes that we must be the church we say are: a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, welcoming all to the Lord's table as God has welcomed us; an anti-racist, pro-reconciling church; and ultimately, bear witness to the limitless love of God.

*Shepherd's Center on the Move*  
**Grab & Go BBQ**

**Friday, September 17, 5:00-7:00**  
**Webster Groves Christian Church Parking Lot**  
**1320 W. Lockwood Ave., Glendale, 63122**

BBQ meals to go with all of your favorite sides will be  
available for curbside pickup

**Tickets on sale now, \$20/each**  
**go to [www.shepherdscenter-wk.org](http://www.shepherdscenter-wk.org) for online sales**

*All proceeds benefit the  
Shepherd Center's essential  
services for older adults –  
medical transportation,  
grocery delivery and more.*







## Meet our dynamic duo of Eden interns

**Joyce Haynes McCowan** is a student at Eden Theological Seminary and a new member at First Congregational UCC in Webster Groves.

She was formerly a member of Star of Grace Missionary Baptist Church, where she served as the Youth Pastor for 10 years and the Choir Director for 30 years.

She has been married for 25 years to Rev. Elston McCowan who pastored Star of Grace MBC for 15 years. Together they have nine beautiful children.

Joyce studied at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where she graduated with a BS in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Sociology and a minor in Theater.

The hobbies that she enjoys most include a love for art, dressmaking, gardening, and music, which she got to practice in her off season from school.



**Rev. Elston K. McCowan** was ordained as a Baptist Preacher in 2001. He is the Senior Pastor of Star of Grace MBC, a member of First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, UCC, and 3rd Year Master of Divinity Cohort at Eden Theological Seminary.

Elston is also the 1st Vice President of the St. Louis City NAACP where he chairs both the Environmental Justice and Prison Committees. Elston is looking forward to completing his Contextual Education (Internship) at Webster Groves Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) this school year.

Pastor McCowan served as the Moderator of the Fellowship Outreach District, Inc. of the General Baptist State Convention of Missouri from 2010 - 2018. Rev. McCowan currently serves on the Board of Directors for The Alliance of Parents & Children for Educational Empowerment, Inc.

As a lifelong St. Louisan and community organizer, McCowan is often seen advocating for the removal of toxins from City Neighborhoods, schools and other institutions. He also can be seen advocating for the humane treatment for prisoners in State Correctional Facilities and local jails and the eradication of food deserts that can mainly be found in North St. Louis City.

**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/>**

## **The Image Team could use your talents**

We hope you are enjoying the beautiful images that appear on the screen during our online and in-person worship services! It is a special joy to be able to share this way in the worship experience.

We are looking for folks who can donate their time to create presentations.

We are looking for more team members to share the weekly Imagery rotation. If you are handy with PowerPoint or Google Slides software, you have all the skills needed to create the worship presentations. We can guide you in the process we use and provide links to all our favorite resources.

To volunteer for the Imagery Team, email Laura Stuetzer at: [laurajunest@hotmail.com](mailto:laurajunest@hotmail.com)

Thank you for your consideration!

--John Pahl, Laura Stuetzer, and Robin Woodrome (your WGCC Imagery Team)



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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.**

### **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 Alice, Jane, and Anna Yount, and their family, as they deal with medical issues; Alice's brother (Anna's father) suffered a massive heart attack and is recovering.
- For Marilyn Stewart, recovering from a fall.
- For Lawrence Ludwig, recovering from hernia surgeries.
- For Bill and Arlene Sullivan as Arlene recovers from hip surgery.
- For Denise Pahl's mother, who was treated for pneumonia
- For Jane Yount
- For Barbara Merrell, as she awaits eye surgery at BJC Hospital.
- For John and James Burney as they recover from recent surgeries.
- For Michelle Fielden
- For Eva Moutree
- For Gregg Eiler's sister-in-law, as she battles breast cancer.
- For Devoree Crist's sister, Rosemary.
- For Laura Stuetzer's friend, Irene, recovering from a broken hip.
- Prayers for DeVere and Bev Shoop: DeVere's neurological condition has no cure.
- For Carole Hughes' neighbor, Russ Schultz, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.
- For Analyn Howell's twin sister Evelyn Morrison, whose cancer has metastasized to her lungs.
- For Marilyn Combs' sister, Kay Hartman, who is having continual severe spinal pain.
- For all health care "frontline" workers, and all essential workers.

## Open and affirming: We want to hear your stories

Thank you to WGCC members who have shared videos of their personal stories as we continue the process of discerning what it means to be a fully inclusive congregation!

Please contact Pastor Jeff if you are interested in contributing a video as a part of this process.

### 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**

1320 West Lockwood Avenue

Saint Louis, MO 63122

Phone: 314-961-3232 / Website: [www.wgcc.org](http://www.wgcc.org)

Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore, Pastor

[jeffmoore@wgcc.org](mailto:jeffmoore@wgcc.org)

Robin Woodrome, Choir Director

Lisa Cripe, Organist

[lisacripe@wgcc.org](mailto:lisacripe@wgcc.org)

Jeff Wolf, Lead Custodian

[jeffwolf@wgcc.org](mailto:jeffwolf@wgcc.org)

Gary Smith, Custodian

Steve Staicoff, Office Manager

[admin@wgcc.org](mailto:admin@wgcc.org)

Witness Articles

[brosepd@hotmail.com](mailto:brosepd@hotmail.com)