

An announcement from the WGCC board

Webster Groves Christian Church has a long and rich history of welcoming all those who enter our doors to celebrate the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Throughout the many decades that our congregation has gathered, we have consistently sought to serve the most marginalized and disadvantaged persons in our world. As the years have progressed and the world has changed, so too have the challenges and needs which many marginalized communities face. Countless individuals have struggled to find a place where they are accepted for who they are and where they will be welcomed with open arms.

Today, the WGCC Board announces that we have unanimously approved a motion to hold a Special Congregational Meeting on November 7, 2021. At this meeting, a vote will be taken by the entire congregational membership present in order to determine whether Webster Groves Christian Church will officially adopt a policy of being Open and Affirming towards the LGBTQ+ community. As part of this policy, it will be proposed that our congregation adopt the following Welcome Statement, in addition to our current values, mission, and identity statements, which show clearly our belief in, and commitment to, making Christ's love available to all;

Webster Groves Christian Church proclaims that we are an Open and Affirming congregation.

Beyond celebrating the diversity of God's creation, we affirm that everyone is a child of God, worthy of love and grace, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, creed, class, age, gender, marital status, family configuration, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Vote will be take at a
Nov. 7 Congregational Meeting
to determine whether Webster Groves
Christian Church will officially adopt a
policy of being Open and Affirming
towards the LGBTQ+ community

All who seek to follow Jesus are invited to join in our common life and mission through participation and leadership in this congregation, and by fully sharing in the worship, rites and sacraments of this church.

This Welcome Statement was drafted after dozens of conversations, input from many in

our congregation, and following countless hours of faithful reflection on our collective values.

The WGCC Board has scheduled several opportunities for questions to be answered and for scriptural context to be given on the following dates;

October 3: Sermon Regarding Open and Affirming

October 31: Sermon Regarding Open and Affirming

October 31: Question and Answer Session

November 7: Special Congregational Meeting

*All Events/Opportunities Offered Virtually and In-Person

*Video Testimonials Available on WGCC YouTube Page

For many generations, the congregation of Webster Groves Christian Church has followed the teachings of Jesus Christ which center on love and acceptance above all. Now, over 125 years into our collective journey of faith, we seek to build on our foundational understanding of those teachings by proclaiming to the world that we are an Open and Affirming Congregation and that we welcome the LGBTQ+ community with the same love that we have found in Jesus Christ.

Sincerely
The Webster Groves Christian Church Board

Sanctuary closed Oct. 17 and 24 for asbestos work

The Sanctuary of WGCC will be closed on October 17 and October 24 because of scheduled asbestos abatement beneath the Sanctuary. There will be no worship service in the building on those two Sundays.

WGCC members are invited to worship online (Facebook), or at Memorial Blvd. Christian Church.

Calling all youth! (And parents too)

The MBCC and WGCC youth group will meet at Memorial Boulevard Christian Church at 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 17.

We will plan to eat, work on lunch for MBCC's Thursday Food Pantry, and share in Bible Study.

All youth, friends, and parents are invited to participate!

In-person kickoff for Disciples Women

The Disciples Women will meet in person for the October 7 meeting at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Though we will not be having lunch or drink together, we will be sharing a devotional, enjoy visiting, discuss our service projects, and Sally Smith will conduct the business meeting. Please note the new time. We will not have a speaker, however it will be a great time to catch up with our friends. We will be sitting at least 6 feet apart and will wear masks to enter the building.

The Lydia Group will meet at 11 a.m. on October 14 in the Church Chapel area. Thanks to the Lydia Group and Charlotte Pullen for sending the Bible Word Hunt Puzzle of 2 Peter 1:2-11. They are trying to mentally challenge us during our time apart.

Martha Group members will meet at 1 p.m. on October 14 in Fellowship Hall. The meeting will consist of a devotional and a Bible study. While we are not bringing in food or drink to the church, we will have a visit time and enjoy seeing each other again.

Tabitha Group meeting for October and November will be on ZOOM.

Good news from Pat Roseman and Janie Joplin regarding our Service Project. First, to give further explanation how important our donation of money for 19 health and school kits (\$285 for September) for Church World Service, the following is from their website as CWS celebrates 75 years:

CWS was born out of a desire to help the most vulnerable. To ensure that people everywhere had healthy food and water, a safe place to call home and the ability to fulfill their purpose. To do more together than we could ever do alone. After 75 years, our mission remains the same — and continues on — transforming lives in underserved communities in more than 65 countries.

Thanks for your generosity and prayers for the next 75 years for CWS. In October, DW service asks members to donate money for detergent for Webster-Rock Hill Ministries. As always, send your checks to Julie Wood.

In addition to that service, we have a need for our kitchen. Our towel supply is in sad condition. Could we have a WGCC Kitchen Towel Shower? They do not need to be new towels, but they could be! If you have a kitchen towel you could spare, out of your own kitchen, please drop it in the "Towels for WGCC kitchens" box near Steve's desk. Please DO NOT leave it in FH kitchen. Thank you very much for your contribution.

Just as the schools have "Kicked off" their football season with a lot of joy, let us "Kick off" our Disciples Women meetings with great joy, learning more about the scriptures and caring for those who are underserved.

Jane Martin, Secretary



Welcome Breona, our newest member

Please welcome our newest member of Webster Groves Christian Church. We have gotten to know Breona Hawkins from her year as one of our Eden interns. During last year she was a full time student, held a full time job and was our intern. It was a very busy year for her. At the end of the year she graduated with a Masters of Divinity and a Masters of Social Work. The degrees were through a joint program of Eden Seminary and Brown School of Washington University.

Some of us got to know her better through her work at Memorial Boulevard Christian Church and their lunch/food bank program. Nothing like getting to know someone over a hot stove! She continued to help over the summer with pulpit duties at MBCC.

Breona is employed at Beyond Housing in North County. She moved from South County to Granite City recently. It's a much shorter commute.

Breona is an Illinois girl through and through. She was raised in Murphysboro. Her family later moved to Carbondale. She did her undergraduate work at SIU-Carbondale.

During high school she helped with the youth at her Free Will Baptist Church, teaching Sunday School and leading the music with the children. She then became the youth minister, taking over the teaching duties and coordinating Youth Sunday. So she has been in this work for a long time.

At SIU she got involved with Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. She organized Black student Bible studies and worked for Intervarsity for two years after she graduated.

During this time of undergraduate and post-graduate work, she started getting the call to the ministry. Breona hopes to be ordained as a Disciples of Christ pastor. She is starting that process now. I hope we can help her on that journey.

I am so pleased that Breona has chosen to join us. I know you are too.

-Sally Smith



CROP Walk is back, with a twist

National Walk on
October 16 and St.
Louis Metro Walk
on October 24

Responding to a world of need takes money! And you can help! CROP is the fund-raising wing of Church World Service, an alliance of 37 denominations committed to working together to transform the world. Our local **St. Louis Metro CROP Hunger Walk** will be held on **Sunday, October 24** at Eden Theological Seminary, 475 E. Lockwood Ave. in Webster Groves. Check-in at 4:30 p.m., walk at 5:00, and an outdoor CROP Concert at 7:00 on the Eden field at the corner of Lockwood and Bompert Ave.

If you don't want to or cannot walk in person, feel free to register and solicit financial support as a virtual walker. In any case, please go to the following website for details, to register and solicit support from donors, to create or join a team, and/or to donate:

[https://
events.crophungerwalk.org/
2021/event/saintlouismo](https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/saintlouismo)

Bring a chair or blanket for the outdoor CROP and enjoy the music of several musicians, who, in church circles, are known locally, nationally (Christopher Grundy and Richard Bruxvoort Colligan),



and even internationally (Paul Vasile, Eden Director of Music)! The concert is free, but donations to CWS/CROP are welcome.

The CROP Concert/Festival of Psalms will also be the final installment of Eden Nights – a series of musical events on the Eden Field, beginning Thursday, October 14, continuing Thursday, October 21, and concluding on Sunday, October 24. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

25% of funds raised by the CROP Walk stays in the local area. Our local partners/beneficiaries this year are Circle of Concern, Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, and the Crisis Food Center in Alton, IL.

If you are not an online-person, donations can be made by writing a check to CWS/CROP. You may send them to Clint

McCann, 672 Marshall Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119-1922.

Questions? You may contact Clint at cmccann@eden.edu or 314-619-0599.

WS/CROP is also doing something new this year – that is, holding a **National CROP Hunger Walk on October 16**, which is World Food Day. Participants are invited to register, solicit financial support, and walk at their leisure and in their location on October 16 or sometime during the weekend of October 15-17. The distance is up to you, but CROP is suggesting 3.7 miles, which is the average distance that many women and girls walk daily for clean water.

To participate in the National CROP Hunger Walk as a walker or donor, go to:

www.crophungerwalk.org/usa



Food, fun & fellowship!

WGCC welcomed Memorial Boulevard Christian Church to a picnic featuring fried chicken, tasty sides and more on Sept. 26. The leftover Porters chicken provided Glendale firefighters with a Sunday dinner!



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/>**

Meet Mission Co-Workers Larry and Debbie Colvin

Mission Co-Workers Larry & Debbie Colvin will be sharing their message with us in October.

For the past two years, Larry served as professor at Peki Seminary located on the campus of the Evangelical Presbyterian University in Ho, Ghana. Before that he was a Regional Minister with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Mid-America, Larry was a Global Ministries mission co-worker for ten years as with the United Congregational Church of South Africa and the Kgologano College of Garborone in Botswana.



Over the past two years Debbie worked alongside other health care workers in providing medical care to the residents of Peki, Ghana at the Government Hospital and Dzake Health Clinic. She served in the outpatient ward and emergency room, doing whatever was needed. Debbie has worked in the medical field for over 30 years as a Medical Assistant, with the majority of her experience in Urgent Care and more recently in Nephrology and Dialysis.

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 WGCC and MBCC

- For Jeff Moore's nephew, Kevin, recovering from jaw surgery after being struck by a car.
- For Laura Stuetzer's stepdaughter, Heather, who has recently had her power restored after Hurricane Ida.
- For Vera Johnson
- For the family and friends of Rich Daugherty, who for decades tuned the Steinway piano in our Sanctuary. Rich passed away earlier this week.
- For the Savage Family, as they mourn the passing of daughter Jennie due to COVID.
- For Laura Stuetzer's stepdaughter, Heather, who has been in the path of the recent hurricanes
- For Rev. Jackie Foster, as she prepares to retire from her ministry at Compton Heights Christian Church.
- Barb Merrell asks prayers for Jim Mowrey, suffering from dementia
- For Pauline (Smith) England, who is suffering from advanced heart disease, and is living with her daughter in Springfield, MO
- For Devoree Crist's sister, Rosemary.
- For Shirley Arther, as she moves back to Brookings Park, near St. Luke's Hospital. Shirley has suffered 2 strokes recently
- For John Dyess, recovering from broken rib
- For Eva Moutrie
- For Gregg Eiler's sister-in-law, as she battles breast cancer.
- For Jane Yount, who was recently hospitalized
- For Barb Merrell's friend, Melissa
- Prayers for DeVere and Bev Shoop
- For all teachers, students, and school personnel, as a new school year begins
- For Barb Farmer and her family
- For Tom Reece, who is facing a severe kidney, liver, and heart failure. He has been given 6-12 months to live.
- For Kenneth Tate
- For Mildred Baker
- For Bill and Arlene Sullivan
- Analyn Howells is asking prayers for her twin sister, Evalyn Morrison, and her battle with cancer. She is dealing with side effects due to treatment
- For Carole Hughes' friend, Melody, who was diagnosed with cancer
- For Donna Wolff-Crump, as she grieves the passing of her cousin
- Dev Crist asks healing prayers for Teresa
- For all health care "frontline" workers, and all essential workers.
- For the families of WGCC Project NOW, KSD NOW program, and KAEChP.

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/>

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