

VOL 50
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The Witness

WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

WGCC has begun livestreaming Sunday morning worship

Our Sunday morning worship services are now being livestreamed on Facebook at 10:30 AM. A great deal of work continues to go into providing in-person and online worship experiences that glorify God, share the Good News of Jesus Christ, and call people into lives of mission and ministry. Thanks to all those who have been hard at work with all the details of this transition! We'll have more information in February's *Witness* about all who've helped to make this possible, and the various resources that have contributed to this ministry.

Please contact the church office if you are willing to be trained as a volunteer to help with the livestreaming ministry.



Turning to a musical for inspiration

Disciples Women find 'A Little Christmas' from 'Mame'

Disciples Women Group Meetings for December included the Lydia Group meeting at Charlotte Pullen's home. They had a good meeting of business and study. "We Need a Little Christmas" lyrics and music by Jerry Herman for the musical "Mame" was the devotional. The study was lesser known facts about the birth of Jesus recorded by Matthew. Sarah Whitter was a guest.

Two members attended and it was the consensus of Lydia that they should forego the meetings for January and February. The Tabitha Group met at Daun Hashbarger's home with six members present. Tabitha Group will meet on Zoom in January.

The Martha Group met in Fellowship Hall with five members present. Vicki Ott led the study and gave the devotional. The Martha Group plans to continue meeting during January and February in Fellowship Hall.

The Disciples Women General Meeting will not be held in January or February.

The Card Making Group will meet on January 27. They did not meet in November and December. Now they will be busy making spring cards. Please join them if you would like to help. Thanks to Janie Joplin for delivering the food bank items to MBCC in December.

From DW Service, Janie Joplin and Pat Roseman want to thank all our DW members for their generous December giving in particular and thank all members for their devotion to DW Service in 2021.

Janie and Pat had great joy spending our dollars donated to help others. We are so grateful for their care in making the best selection with each dollar. In December, we joined with WGCC's NOW ministry led by Julie and Mat DeKinder to serve the Head Start NOW children. All of you DW Santas bought, wrapped and sent Christmas blessings to 42 children, all delivered by the DeKinder sleigh. Thanks to each of you Santas!

Also, to those of you who have dropped off at Steve's desk additional apparel for MBCC, thank you. We will let you know when MBCC has more needs. Prepare for January! Our service donations will go to the much-needed Neighbor Fund. This Fund is used at Pastor Jeff's discretion for those in need within our own congregation and those in our wider community needing one-time emergency assistance.

Respectively submitted by

Jane Martin, Secretary



WGCC steps up for Adopt-a-Family

This year's Adopt-a-Family was a BIG success. Everyone got gifts cards. We 'adopted' two families, total of 10 people, and sent gift cards for food and presents. All had to be turned in to Webster/Rock Hill Ministries by December 3.

Because of a minor mix up, we didn't know who our families were until November 30th.

The cards were all purchased on the Church's credit card. The total came to \$990.

Everyone was asked to send money to the Church to 'pay back' the credit card.

As of late December we had collected \$920!! We are only \$70 short!!

As usual, this Church and its members have been very generous! A big THANK YOU to all who have contributed!

Sally Smith

The feats - and feet! - of the DeKinder kids

Profile by Sally Smith

We wanted to keep you caught up on what some of the younger or newer members of the congregation are up to.

Today we catch up with Wayne and Athena DeKinder.

Athena was baptized in 2017 along with Riley Gibbons. Wayne was baptized in 2020 during the time that the Church building was closed because of Covid-19. Wayne and Kai Woodrome were taken into the Sanctuary for their baptisms. Only their families were allowed to participate in the ceremony.

Athena is now a freshman at Parkway North. She is already taking four advanced honors classes. She is looking ahead to college. She thinks she wants to be a clinical psychologist. She anticipates she will attend one of the schools in the University of Missouri system, since mom, Julie, works there and they will get a big break on the tuition.

Athena plays the violin at school, but her main interest is SWIMMING. She is on two teams, a club team and the school team. She started swimming in second grade. Grandmother Vicki Ott says she is really good, and we don't think she is just bragging. Athena swims freestyle, back and relays. She must be in the water almost every day! We need to keep a look out for her going to State competitions in the future.

Wayne attends North Middle School. He is a sixth grader. He also plays the violin - which he started in the third grade.

Wayne loves his SNEAKERS!! Apparently he has quite a collection. So next time you see him, look



**Athena DeKinder
joined by baptism
May 24, 2017**

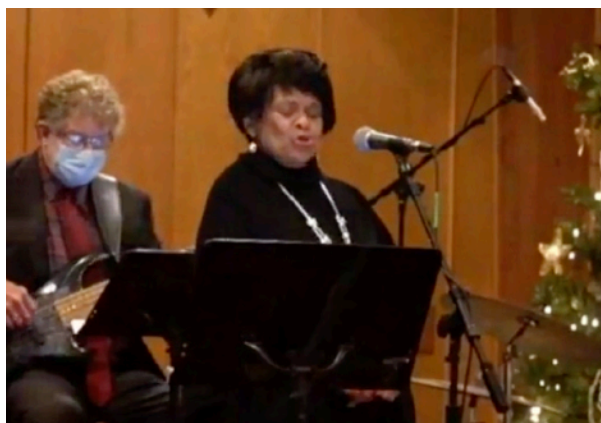
**Wayne DeKinder
joined by baptism
October 11, 2020**

at his FEET! This collection could get expensive, with him still growing!!

Wayne also loves his sports. He plays both baseball and basketball. His schedule right now is 4 nights a week for baseball practice and 3 night a week for basketball. Baseball is into winter training, lifting weights, etc. His positions are pitcher and first and second base.

He plays on two teams for basketball. He is a power forward. I don't see how he has any extra time, but he says he enjoys video games-- maybe during his DOWN TIMES?

Both Athena and Wayne help Mom and Dad pack the snacks for the N.O.W. (nutrition on weekends) families. They are in the basement once a month filling those bags. THANKS for your contributions!!



The Jazz Christmas service of lessons and carols featuring Two Times True was performed at Webster Groves Christian Church on Dec. 11. You can keep the spirit of the season alive by watching a replay of the livestream at <https://bit.ly/wgcc-carols>



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/>**

Join us for Philippians Bible study

Our Monday 3-4:30 PM Bible Study has completed Romans and will begin studying Philippians on Monday, January 17. Please plan to join us via Zoom as we explore Paul's letter to the Church at Philippi!

Topic: Philippians Bible Study

Time: Mondays 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/381789752>

ALLIANCE FOR INTERRACIAL DIGNITY AND
WEBSTER EQUITY BRIDGE PRESENT

COMMUNITYWIDE BOOK READ

A book study for parents, neighbors, and friends of 63119:
read and then join a discussion group or sponsor your own!

The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together

by Heather McGhee



Books are available at a 20% discount at Novel Neighbor and Left Bank Books

More information and
discussion group registration:
allianceforinterracialdignity.org
or
tinyurl.com/63119reads

Discussion Groups:

- Jan. 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Further dates will be added as necessary

An exposé after a visit to the Burney home

Editor's note. The following was shared by Pat Roseman and was written on a Sunday last month.

What does Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore do on a Sunday afternoon after preaching a powerful Advent sermon on a December Sunday morning? Here is the exposé, but first a little lead-in.

I had a delightful visit today with John and Susan Burney. John you know is recovering from knee replacement and Susan has continual strength issues with her hip. As we talked John was standing upright with a walker looking his usual sharp casual John but I will tell you Susan could use a little help in the kitchen. Don't tell her I said that. Their dog, Ella, joined us with tail wagging and hoping for a treat or a walk.

And then John spoke. When I heard these remarks from John and Susan, I knew they had to be shared and I asked them if I could write this exposé of pastoral behavior and they agreed.

John said, "Jeff drove out here after church Sunday just to walk Ella because he knew we couldn't do it. I told Jeff, 'just walk her around the block.' But, NO! Instead he walked her about 2 miles..... and Ella loved it."

You know the pastor. Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore. Raise your hand. How many pastors do you know would do this? Now you know what happens after worship in the Moore family!

But the expose' doesn't end there. Others are exposed. According to the Burneys, calls, prayers, and help have been received from WGGC members. The Burneys, John, Susan and James are very grateful and appreciate your friendship and kindness.

Make New Friends Hear Great Stories Drive for the Shepherd's Center

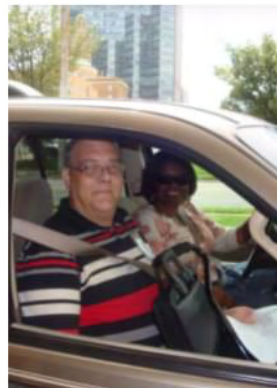
The Shepherd Center's free transportation service provides older adults in need with access to medical care. As more and more older adults in our communities receive vaccines, our requests for rides are increasing. We do not want to have to turn anyone away.

Please consider joining our volunteer transportation team. It's easy!

- Complete an application, online background check and attend one orientation meeting (in-person or via Zoom)
- Once approved, sign-up for rides using our online *RideScheduler* system (or via telephone if preferred)
- Minimum of two rides per month
- Call 314-395-0988 or email: kzelle@shepherdscenter-wk.org to get started.

"Thanks again for your service. I met a very nice lady. She took me to my appointment and we had a very nice conversation. I enjoyed her company."

"Your volunteers help me over and over again and could not be any kinder and nicer."



Recent prayer concerns for WGCC and MBCC

- For Robin Woodrome's mother, Grace
- For those who have suffered losses in the Colorado wildfires
- For Devoree Crist's brother, John, recovering from both COVID and pneumonia
- For Carolbeth True's bassist, Glenn Smith, who was injured following a fall
- For Pat Roseman's friend, being tested for liver cancer
- For Marcella Hoskins, as she mourns the death of her son, Charles.
- For Chris Webb
- For Gilda Rzechowski
- For Laura Steutzer
- For those recovering from COVID, and the effects of COVID, and for those who have lost loved ones to COVID
- For Diane Mark, John Burney, and Shah Smith--all recovering from surgeries
- For Susan Burney, as she undergoes medical tests
- For the people of Mexico
- For Molly Gibbons' nephew, recovering from surgery
- For John Cowie, a friend of the Rose family who is battling cancer
- For Susan Moore's family in Chicago
- For Laura Stuetzer's friend, Carm Mattera, suffering from bilateral kidney failure and ovarian cancer
- For Kay Love's friend, Britney
- For Deb Werner's niece-in-law, battling triple negative breast cancer
- For Lisa Rothe
- Barb Merrell asks prayers for Jim Mowrey, suffering from dementia
- For Rhonda Allridge and family
- For MBCC's Pastoral Search Committee, as they seek a new leader for their congregation
- For Pauline (Smith) England
- For Devoree Crist's sister, Rosemary.
- For Shirley Arther
- For Eva Moutrie
- For Gregg Eiler's sister-in-law, as she battles breast cancer.
- For Jane Yount
- Prayers for DeVere and Bev Shoop
- For all teachers, students, and school personnel, as the school year progresses
- 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.

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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