

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

Welcome to the family, Jaxson Swartz!

Last month Keiler Swartz started a new chapter of his life: being a father!

“It was absolutely one of the happiest days of my life when I brought Jaxson Swartz home for good and I can’t wait to experience all of the adventures that we will go on together,” Keiler posted on Facebook.

We plan on celebrating with Keiler on Sunday, Feb. 6, in worship, and here’s how you can join in.

Keiler recognizes the value of books in a child’s life and he welcomes all books. Keiler’s son is 2 years old. Please consider age-appropriate books and also books that he can enjoy as he grows older.

If you choose to gift used books your family has read, they should be very gently used ones. We request on the inside front cover of your book-gift you write a short note to Keiler’s son.

There will be a gift table in the Art Gallery area to leave your book-gift OR give it to Keiler personally. **The book table will be available through the end of February.**

---Abbie Moore, Sally Smith, Pat Roseman, and Tabitha
group of Disciple Women



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

We will have an Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 2.

Our Card Makers have your Valentine ready

The Disciples Women had lots of action going on in January, though the General Meeting was not scheduled for January or February to help with containing the virus. The Tabitha Group met on Zoom with 10 women participating. They plan to meet again on Zoom in February. While the Lydia group did not plan to meet in January or February, we are sure that they were on the phone and email planning good work during these months. Three women from the Martha Group met in Fellowship Hall and enjoyed a devotional and study. The Martha Group will not meet in February, however they are scheduled to meet in March.



Amazing work was done by the Card Makers getting ready for you to come by and purchase your Valentine Cards. They are displayed in the hall where you can purchase your cards while being safe. Thanks again to Sally Smith for making the delivery of our gifts to Memorial Blvd. Christian Church. We are so thankful that Sally was able to make that delivery for us. Wonderful Work Disciples Women.

Regarding Service Projects, Janie Joplin and Pat Roseman are pleased to report that Julie Wood has told us our January donations to Neighborhood Fund is \$275 and still counting. Great job, Disciples Women. The wonderful thing about this donation is it will add to a fund that helps members of our congregation and more importantly, benefit those in need in our wider community.

Here comes one of our favorite service projects for February. Our goal is to help Promise Place, an arm of Kirkwood School District's Parents as Teachers, support families. Our donations will have a two-prong focus. We will buy a child's play/gym mat costing \$39.99 for a family requesting one. Our remaining donation will go to Promise Place for diapers to be used as needed. As you always do... put your HEART into your contribution. Thank you again Pat and Janie for your outstanding work as Co-Chairs of the Service Committee.

Respectively submitted by,

Jane Martin, Secretary

The following was received at our church from one of our Project NOW families.

It also included the hand prints of the girls, ages 1 and 4.

"I have 2 beautiful little girls. I am doing everything I can to keep their innocence. I am in no way perfect but I've been blessed by the Lord to raise these girls. I've so far done a great job but it's hard. We pray and struggle with a lot. I can say thank you 100X. But I don't think it would show enough gratitude. As I said before, we struggle - there is never enough money to pay all the bills. Never enough food to feed everyone. Your Blessing to us helps so much!!"



Live! From WGCC!

Thanks to all who have helped with moving WGCC into the digital/video age! Special thanks to our intrepid technicians and imagery volunteers for all of your great work. Anyone who is willing and able to learn to help with our worship imagery and livestreaming is encouraged to contact the church office or Pastor Jeff. We'll schedule training opportunities and add you to the team!





Honoring the life of Gabe Gerdes

It is with great sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of Gabriel Floyd Gerdes, 26, of Chicago, Ill., on Jan. 15, 2022. Gabe grew up in St. Louis where he was a devoted sports fan, faithfully cheering for the St. Louis Cardinals and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Gabe was the epitome of courage and an inspiration to all who knew him. As a gifted author he shared the challenges he faced with gender transition, not for himself, but to ease the path for others and to educate us on the impact and need of tolerance. He was a man of many passions: music, reading, military history, and travel to name but a few.

Our lives were made richer by Gabe, and his loss is unfathomable. While his time on this earth was short, his legacy is profound. He leaves behind his mother - Brenda; his dad and other mother- John and Lea; brother - Alexander; sister- Josephine as well as aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends too numerous to name.

We miss you Gabe; rest in peace.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to one of the following organizations which support transgender community would be appreciated:

*Metro Trans Umbrella Group: stlmetrotrans.org

*The Trevor Project: theTrevorproject.org

*Brave Space Alliance: bravespacealliance.org

*Transformative Justice Law Project: tjlp.org

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/>**

Bible study moves to Corinthians

Our Monday 3-4:30 PM Bible Study group has completed its study of Philippians, and will begin studying I Corinthians on Monday, February 7.

Topic: Corinthians 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:

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



Week of Compassion offerings Feb. 20 and 27

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your gifts to Week of Compassion bring hope out of despair, find blessings amid devastation, and help transform loss into new life.

Your contributions bring tangible relief and change the course of lives. When you give, you help rebuild communities recovering from disaster. You also empower farmers to grow new kinds of crops in a changing climate; you support refugees; you empower youth through education, and empower women through vocational opportunities.

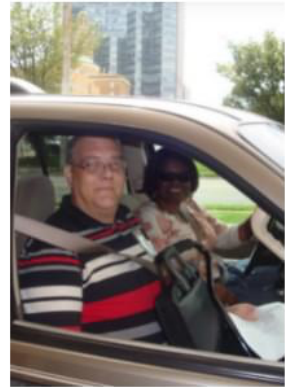
In so many different ways, your gifts of love have the power to transform lives. Love is shelter. Love is a listening ear. Love is community. Love is a hopeful future. Love is a path forward. When all else seems lost, love remains.

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 Susan and Michael Kramer
- For Susan Burney, who this week is undergoing hip replacement surgery
- For David Farmer's cousin, Wayne Dahmer, who was injured in a house fire that also took his son's life
- For the Gerdes family, as they mourn the sudden loss of son, Gabe
- For Pat Roseman's friend, being tested for liver cancer
- 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 Marcella Hoskins, as she mourns the death of her son, Charles
- For Chris Webb
- For Gilda Rzechowski
- For Laura Stuetzer
- 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 John Cowie, a friend of the Rose family who is battling cancer
- 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 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 Barb Farmer and her family
- For Tom Reece, who is facing a severe kidney, liver, and heart failure
- For Mildred Baker
- For Bill and Arlene Sullivan
- Analyn Howells is asking prayers for her twin sister, Evalyn Morrison, and her battle with

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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