

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

WGCC receives sabbatical grant

WGCC has received a Clergy Renewal Sabbatical Grant from the Lilly Foundation. The grant, intended to support congregations and clergy through providing funds for clergy to pursue restful, engaging, and renewing sabbatical experiences, is for \$50,000, and includes approximately \$40,000 for Pastor Jeff's four-month sabbatical experience in 2023, and approximately \$10,000 for congregational costs and activities related to the sabbatical period.

Pastor Jeff will be on Sabbatical from May 21 through September 21, 2023, and he will be riding his motorcycle to 24 countries around the Mediterranean Sea, visiting sites related to biblical and church history. Pastor Jeff will share stories, pictures, and videos from his trip upon his return. WGCC members will be encouraged to help select one Global Ministries mission partner from each of the continents (Europe, Africa, Asia) Pastor Jeff will visit, and to learn about that partner. Jeff will schedule visits with these three mission partners while he is on his journey. A list of possible partners will be shared via Weekly Updates during October.

Special thanks to the congregation and WGCC Board for their support of the grant process, and to committee members who worked with Pastor Jeff to prepare the grant application: Carole Hughes, Keiler Swartz, Breona Hawkins, Robin Woodrome, Kay Love, Laura Stuetzer, Carolyn Dyess, and Pat Roseman!



Pastor Jeff, "Webster" and some of the committee members who helped prepare the sabbatical grant application.



Take a virtual trip with Disciples Women's group

Gerry and Kay love will be presenting photos from their summer travels at the CWF general meeting at 1 p.m. on Oct. 6 at Fellowship Hall.

Since many of us could not travel recently and Kay and Gerry have caught up on their postponed trips during COVID, they are willing to share travels with us. Gerry does great photography so we are sure to enjoy their program. You are welcome to bring guests!

Alice Yount will give a devotional and the Business meeting will follow the program.

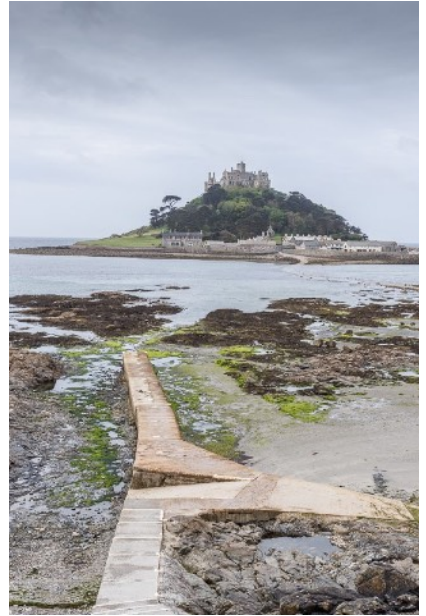
In September, Laura Stuetzer presented a game for the General Meeting participants. It was enjoyed by all. Thanks to the Tabitha Group for planning the meeting. The Tabitha Group met outside the church for their September meeting. Denise Pahl will present the Bible Study and Daun Hashbarger will be the hostess as Tabitha meets in the Heritage Room at 7 p.m. on October 13. The Martha Group will meet in the Heritage Room on October 13 at 12:30 p.m. Alice Yount will present her second Bible Study of the Year and Vicki Ott will do the Devotional.

A brief reminder from your service chairs, Janie Joplin and Pat Roseman. We are doubling up on September and October service. The October Service Project is the same as September. Donate money to buy detergent for Webster-Rock Hill Ministries.

If you gave in September, we thank you. Let's do it again in October. Let's fill their laundry with lots of suds! Your wonderful gifts are truly appreciated.

Please be reminded that we do not have a General Meeting in November, however the groups will meet as usual on the second Thursday.

Submitted by: Jane Martin



WGCC & service: Let's do this together!

We hear from our friends, acquaintances, fellow DOCers and those we chat with, that we at WGCC "do" so much in service.

To keep our congregation aware of areas and people needing our service, each month there will be a church-wide Service opportunity such as we did for the recent school supplies collection.

Some months our service may ask for an item or two; other months it may be a monetary donation; sometimes volunteers.

October Service is CROP as it was in September.

November Service is our traditional Thanksgiving bags. You can count on that!

Watch the *Witness* and Steve's Wednesday Alert for information on each monthly service opportunity and how to serve.

- Pat Roseman



Celebrating outside!

On Sunday, Sept. 11, WGCC members worshipped under the trees, and then spent time outdoors talking with each other and sharing together with a picnic on the WGCC lawn.



Oct. 2: Reconciliation Special offering

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations on the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity. These programs and efforts seek to reveal, re-educate, and remove systemic and structural barriers in our communities that serve to deny the image of God and human thriving based on race.

Oct. 9: Mission Sunday

October 9 will be a mission Sunday for WGCC. We will celebrate and give thanks for our shared mission and our mission partners, and will learn about an exciting new mission opportunity. We will also be preparing supply bags for members to share with people in the community who are asking for temporary assistance along the road. Please consider bringing these items to church by October 9:

- monetary contributions for bus tickets and Subway gift cards
- gallon size ziplock bags
- granola bars
- bottled water
- individual size Kleenex
- small umbrellas



Music + Tradition in artwork

Artist and WGCC member Erin King is shown here with a piece she created with weavings and pieces of a disassembled piano from Memorial Boulevard Christian Church. WGCC commissioned this piece, and it will be presented to MBCC as a gift honoring the special relationship between our two congregations and as a sign of transformation and hope for the future as they begin this new era of ministry with their new pastors, Rev. Dr. Linda Tobias-Doss and Minister Breona Hawkins.

Carole Hughes will be making arrangements soon to visit MBCC to present this gift on our behalf.

Doorways is having a seafood boil!

Doorways is an interfaith non-profit organization providing housing and related support services to improve quality of life and health outcomes for people affected by HIV/AIDS.

The organization is hosting a seafood boil for its members, and here's how you can help.

Donate a dessert: Leave your dessert at the WGCC church office by this Thursday.

Help serve food: We'll be looking for volunteers to serve on Friday from 4-6 p.m.

Interested in helping? Contact Pastor Jeff.



Walk to fight hunger this Sunday

The 2022 CROP Hunger Walk and Concert will be held on Sunday, October 2 at Eden Theological Seminary, 475 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119; and we hope that you will make plans to participate. Check-in is at 4:30 p.m., the Walk begins at 5, and the Concert is at 7 p.m. in the Wehrli Chapel in the Press Building on the Eden campus. As has been the case the past couple of years, due to the ongoing pandemic, participants may also walk virtually. For further information go to the following website:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/saintlouismo>

The CROP Concert is also the 11th Annual Eden Festival of Psalms, and it will again feature nationally known singer/songwriter/Psalm-writer Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, along with a host of other talented musicians. If you or your people don't do online donating, you may write a check to CWS/CROP and mail it to CROP Treasurer, Clint McCann, 672 Marshall Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119-1922. Questions or need hard copy materials? Contact Clint at cmccann@eden.edu or 314-619-0599. For details on the work of Church World Service throughout the world, including the very timely settling of refugees, see the following:

www.cwsglobal.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/>**

Repairs to West Stairs

We are currently receiving estimates for the repair of the steps from the West parking lot, and we hope to complete the repair soon. In the meantime, we apologize for any inconvenience, and encourage everyone to exercise caution when using these stairs.

Your support is crucial

Just a reminder that your ongoing faithful financial support of WGCC is still crucial. 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/>

WGCC's John Gerdes invites you to Porchfest, a fun and laid-back music event this Sunday from 3-5 pm.

The "stage" is 751 Atalanta - in Webster Groves

Lots of fun and rockin' tunes will be performed!



Join us for our virtual Bible study or Sunday class

Join us on Mondays for our Zoom Bible Study.

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

Prayer concerns for WGCC and MBCC

- For the family of Greg Eiler's friend Jason Johnson, who passed away last week.
- For Barb Merrell, who was recently hospitalized with fluids on her lung.
- For Jane Yount, who is back home from the hospital after a heart issue.
- For Eva Moutrie who recently suffered a fall.
- For Patrick Richmond, recovering from an infection after surgery.
- For Max Ott's neighbor, Jim Moore, who suffered a stroke
- For Chris and Sara Webb. Chris has been diagnosed with early stages of dementia, and was recently hospitalized
- For Laura Stuetzer's friend, Cindy, suffering from esophageal cancer
- For Devoree's sister Rosemary, following a house fire
- For Max's friend, Don, having tests for cancer
- For our public leaders
- Jesse Gibbons asks prayers for a friend in KC
- For Denise Pahl, who is recovering from surgery
- For Rev. Betsy Happel (Kirkwood UCC), in the loss of her husband Rick
- For Carol Meyer of Florissant Valley CC, whose son was murdered
- For Harper, the 5-year old child of Billie Swartz's friend, who has an inoperable brain tumor
- For Colin, one of Keiler Swartz's football team members, who suffered a broken back during a game
- For Marilyn Combs, as she recovers from medical issues, and for her youngest brother, Gary, who suffered a heart attack
- For Max Ott's friend who suffered a heart attack, but is recovering.
- For Lisa Cripe's friend, Gretchen, facing several health issues, and for Graham, the son of Lisa's friend, who is awaiting a heart transplant
- For the brother of Lisa Cripe, as he battles health issues
- For Susan Burney, as she continues to recover from hip surgery
- For Frank, the 17 year-old nephew of Robin Woodrome's co-worker, who had a heart transplant, but is still suffering medical issues
- For Deandre
- For Edvonia Scott and Breona Hawkins, as they seek ordination
- For Marilyn Combs, as she battles vertigo
- For the Burney Family
- For Robin Woodrome's mother, Grace, hospitalized with heart issues
- For the unhoused
- For Devoree Crist's brother, John, and sister, Rosemary
- For Devoree Crist's friend, Dev Ortega, who is starting chemotherapy
- For Susan Burney's sister Carol, suffering from Alzheimers
- For Gilda Rzczowski
- For Laura Stuetzer's friend, Carm Mattera, battling ovarian cancer
- For Deb Werner's niece-in-law, battling triple negative breast cancer. Recently declared cancer-free!
- For Lisa Rothe
- For Rhonda Allridge and family
- For Pauline (Smith) England
- For Shirley Arther
- For Gregg Eiler's sister-in-law, as she battles breast cancer.
- For DeVere and Bev Shoop
- 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 is battling cancer
- For the families of WGCC Project 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-americadisciples.org/>

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