

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

DEC. 17: 4 p.m.: Jazz and Vocal Christmas Program,
featuring Carolbeth True and TwoTimesTrue

Calling all cookie bakers!

With the return of our Christmas Jazz program we will celebrate with The Christmas Cookie Reception!

At church Sunday, Dec. 4, tell Sara Webb, Julie Wood or Pat Roseman what cookie you will donate. We are asking for 3 dozen. Bring them in a disposable container to the Art Gallery on Friday Dec. 16. We can't wait to see what wonderful Cheery Calorific Culinary Cookie Concoctions you will bake!

DEC. 24: 5:30 p.m.: Christmas Eve Family Service
11 p.m.: Service of the Carols and Readings

The NOW spirit of Thanksgiving

WGCC members donated pounds and pounds of fresh veggies and fruit as well as gift cards for Thanksgiving meals for 16 families for Project NOW, which provides nutritional meals and snacks for families in Meacham Park enrolled in the Head Start program for preschoolers.

Reminder: You can still donate through the reverse Advent Calendar; put aside a designated food item into a large box or bag each day during Advent.



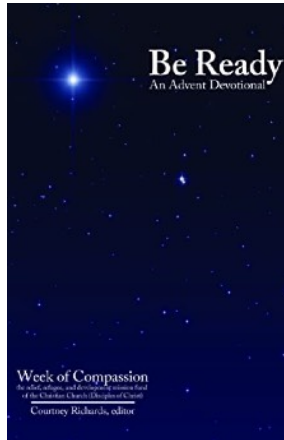
Be Ready: An Advent Devotional

Seasons of the year, of church, and of life can too easily flow right into the next. Taking time to mark occasions - stopping to look around - gives us the chance to breathe, see something new, and break the cycle of sameness.

Be Ready takes the heart of Advent - waiting, preparation, readying - to new places, engaging the spirit found within ministries of relief, refugees, preparedness, and recovery, alongside the sacred texts of the Advent season.

Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, each day's devotion includes an Advent scripture, reflection, and prayer, engaging the traditional themes of Advent—hope, peace, joy, love—paired with stories from those responding to issues of welcome and hospitality, hunger and food justice, disaster and recovery, rebuilding and resilience

A limited number of copies will soon be available for sale in the church office for \$4 each.



Enjoy a holiday evening of SoulCare

Join National Benevolent Association's Mental Health & Wellness Director, Joselyn Spence, along with other guests in sharing a moment to pause, process, and care for ourselves this holiday season. Grab your favorite mug, something soothing to sip, and a cozy chair as you prepare for an evening of SoulCare focused on wellness practices. Want to share the moment? Schedule a 'watch party' with your family, Bible study group, or congregation!

When: 7:30 p.m., Dec. 14

Please register below to receive the Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook links to watch live.

Register at: <https://www.nbacares.org/event/soulcare-warmth-wellness/>

Take a chance to energize your prayer life



Dr. Devoree Crist, one of the Spiritual Directors at Eden and an adjunct professor, is offering a course on ideas to energize and broaden prayer life.

The class will be offered from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, and is available online and in person.

Advent is a good time to reflect on our personal, home and church prayers. Come with an open mind and we will think outside the box to open ourselves to the One Who is inviting us into deepening relationship. What are we waiting for?

Who Should Take this Class?

All are welcome at LIFE! Students, pastors, laypersons and seekers from all denominations and walks of life are welcome to join the program to be enriched and inspired by LIFE. Join us!

The cost of the course is \$100 and you can sign up at <https://www.eden.edu/events/living-breathing-prayer/>

Disciples Women: The joy of fellowship returns!

The November Group meetings were well attended. The lessons were interesting and the members enjoyed being together.

On Thursday, Dec. 1, at noon, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for the General Meeting and Business Meeting, bringing our own bag lunch for the first time since COVID put the skids on our meetings. Tabitha group will be serving drinks and cookies. What a joy it will be to have some time together! The Tabitha women will also provide the program, which is music and games. We are in hopes that many will attend this meeting.

The Martha Group will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8, in the Heritage Room. We will bring our bag lunch and a drink. Coffee and cookies will be served. Each member will bring a small gift, about \$5 value, without a name on the package for the usual fun gift exchange. There will not be a study, but a devotional will be given. The Tabitha group will meet on Thursday, Dec. 15, at the home of Beth Cooley in Lafayette Square. We will meet at the church to carpool at 5:30 PM. Each member will bring either an appetizer or a dessert.



Thank you to WGCC member Marilyn Nennert, who knitted these wool caps for the children served by our NOW Program!

Happy Holidays from Janie Joplin and Pat Roseman, Service Coordinators who are reporting that our Webster Rock Hill Ministries November project gifts totaled \$382, and we are happy to have such progress on service. Our Service Coordinators send Christmas Blessings to all we serve.

The Service Project for December is the Church-Wide Adopt a Family Tree for Webster Rock Hill Ministries. It is all gift cards. The cards need to be turned into their office by December 15th. Send your donation to the church office and Sally Smith has volunteered to shop for the gift cards. Be sure to write on the memo on your check, December Service. Sally will be shopping for two families. One family has three adults and four children and the other is one adult and seven children, fifteen people all together. Please see Sally's article for more details.

In January, our Service Project will be the Neighbor Fund. Please make your plans to give generously to this project too.

May each of you be blessed during this Advent and Christmas season.

Submitted by: Jane Martin, Secretary

Help plan the road ahead for Pastor Jeff



As part of Pastor Jeff's 2023 Sabbatical experience, we are hoping to identify 3 Global Mission Projects in countries Jeff will visit – one from Africa, one from Europe, and one from Asia. We will learn more about these projects, pray for them, raise funds for them, and Jeff will try to schedule a visit with them when he is in their country. Please use the link below to review and suggest one project each from Africa, Asia, and Europe.

The countries from the lists that Jeff will be visiting include:

Africa: Morocco; Algeria; Tunisia; Egypt

Asia: Turkey; Lebanon; Jordan; Israel; Palestinian Territories

Europe: Italy; France; Hungary; Poland; Germany; Switzerland; Greece;

<https://www.globalministries.org/regions/mee/mee-projects/>

Giving tree returns to WGCC

It's been a few years now that we didn't have the traditional tree/ornament set up for the Adopt-a-Family tree. Well, things are changing again.

In a program with Webster/Rock Hill Ministries, we will be donating gift cards.

You can look for the tree in the hallway. Take an ornament and buy a gift card and return the card to the church by December 11.

Some of you have already bought a card. Sally Smith will match it up with an ornament. Others have given money. Sally will shop for cards with that money.

This year, we have two families. The first family has three adults and four children. The second family has one adult and seven children. That's 15 people in all.

You will be buying either a food gift card or a general gift card for each person. The details will be on the ornaments.

Thanks for helping these families!



Spread the cheer for Cooper House

Residents at Cooper House, Doorways' residential care facility for people living with HIV, have submitted their Christmas wish lists. Please consider choosing one or more residents and providing an item or two from the list. Items should be gift wrapped, and tagged with the resident's initials.

Gifts should be brought to the church office by December 15. Please contact Pastor Jeff for more information, and to coordinate choosing residents for whom to

Another way to help Doorways

Doorways is looking for volunteers to staff their Food Pantry at their new housing facility on North Jefferson Avenue. WGCC and several other congregations are being asked to provide volunteers on Thursdays between 10 AM and 4 PM. Volunteers will work in pairs, and will sign up for two hour shifts. Please contact pastor Jeff for more information or to sign up to volunteer.

RP: Blue tooth speaker, Blk. Size 12 tennis shoes

TS: Levis 36" waist, average inseam, Guess sweatshirt XL

ME: Walmart Gift cards

PH: Thermal pants and shirts 3X, 24 package soda

BW: Navy cologne, 2 pair brown jersey gloves. Irish Spring soap

CE: Pants 63x32, shirt xl, Sweater XL

AJ: Madea DVD collection, Coach fragrance

SL: 2 sweaters 2x

AF: khaki pants 32x34, T shirts Lg

DG: Amazon gift cards

KH: Amazon or Target gift cards

MH: gift cards from Amazon, Burlington Coat or Finish Line

TW: Gift cards from Amazon, Wal-mart or Kohl's

JA: Visa or Amazon gift cards

PL: jogging suit xl, Heavy Jacket 46L

MP: white or gold hoodie 5x, long-sleeved dress shirt 5x

WJ: socks size lg., underwear lg. slippers size 10

DD: Fuzzy robe and slippers lg., Bath and Body Works body spray

MM: pair of athletic tennis shoes size 9, cologne

BB: jeans 30x32, shirts large

JR: Tecovas boots 9 1/2, Macy's or Target gift card

TI: Jeans 34x32, Long sleeved shirt Lg

MC: Kohl's, Macy's or Target gift card.

TA: Roku ultra and HD antenna

HT: underwear and T-Shirts 2x, Hoodie 3x

JF: Cardinals Goldschmidt shirt

EJ: 5x sweater

TC: skull caps red and beige, Long John Set XL

MP: cologne

KMC: Seattle Seahawks shirt

TR: active wear shorts XL, bar soap and deodorant

HE: bath wash and shampoo

WGCC Board to vote on changes to Legacy Fund

At their last meeting, the WGCC Board voted to approve that undesignated testamentary funds from deceased individuals given to the church will be split 90%-10% with 90% going to the Legacy Fund and 10% to be tithed to Missions Outreach with the specific mission determined by the Church Board or their designee, eg. Missions Committee.

Currently 100% of such funds go to the Legacy Fund. If such funds donated to the church are designated with a specific purpose, 100% of those funds will continue to go towards that purpose as intended by the donor. As required by the Legacy Fund policy, this vote is only the first step to enact this policy change.

This notification to the congregation is the second step. In the final step, the board will vote again in two-weeks time and if 3/4 of the board votes to approve, this will become the distribution policy for all undesignated bequests left to Webster Groves Christian Church.

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/](https://www.facebook.com/WGCCDisciples/)**

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/1.0/NzQw/selection>

Family Connections meeting Dec. 13

There will be a Family Connections informational Zoom meeting at 6 PM on Tuesday, December 13. Please plan to join us and learn more specifics about the program from Holly Madden, one of the founders and coordinators of the program in Springfield.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87415071068>



WGCC Members **Carole Hughes** and **Bill Howells** are both performing in "Christmas Is." There are two St. Louis performances on **December 11 at the Pattonville Community Center.**

For info and ticket purchases, go to

<https://thurlowspurr.com/christmas-is-ii/>

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 Laura Stuetzer's stepdaughter, who recently lost her mother.

For John Dyess's friend Ray, who recently suffered a fall.

For Nina, the wife of Lisa Rothe's nephew, who is undergoing stem cell surgery.

For Penny, a 2-year old friend of Barb Merrell's, who was hospitalized with pneumonia.

For Analyn Howells, recovering from surgery.

For the friends and families of the shooting victims in Colorado Springs, Virginia, and Idaho.

For those traveling during this holiday week.

For Gregg Eilers, who is facing another round of chemotherapy in his battle with cancer.

For Molly Gibbons' father, battling an aggressive form of leukemia.

For Laura Stuetzer's stepdaughter Heather, and Laura's friend Alan

For Billie Swartz's co-worker, a doctor at MO Baptist Hospital, who suffered a major stroke.

For a student of Robin Woodrome's, who started back at school after receiving a new heart in May.

For the family and friends of Rebecca, a co-worker of Lisa Rothe, who passed away

For Bev Richmond, as she continues to recover at home from gall bladder issues

Prayers for Charlotte Pullen and her family following the sudden, unexpected death of her granddaughter, Dr. Jennifer Montague, in Denver.

Her funeral service was on Nov. 21 in Denver, and a memorial service was held at Asbury Church in Tulsa on Nov. 26.

For Marilyn Combs

For Susie Burney, recovering from her fourth surgery on the same hip

For Delcia Corlew, facing some health issues

For Vicki Ott's high school friend, struggling with homelessness

For Devoree Crist's brother-in-law, in hospice with a progressive palsy disease

For Laura Stuetzer's friend Cindy and her family, as they look forward to rehab

For Kay Love's friend Lauren, facing breast cancer treatments

For Gregg Eilers upon the passing of his friend, Jason.

For Chris and Sara Webb. Chris has been diagnosed with early stages of dementia, and was recently hospitalized

For Devoree's sister Rosemary, following a house fire

For Max's friend, Don, having tests for cancer.

For Barb Merrell, who suffered a heart attack and a fall resulting in a broken hip; she is recovering in rehab

Jesse Gibbons asks prayers for a friend of his in KC

For Harper, the 5-year old child of Billie Swartz's friend, who has an inoperable brain tumor

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 Lisa Cripe's neighbor, Kevin, at home now following a brain-bleed

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 Susan Burney's sister Carol, suffering from Alzheimers

For Gilda Rzechowski

For Laura Stuetzer's friend, Carm Matterna, battling ovarian cancer

For Deb Werner's niece-in-law, battling triple negative breast cancer. Recently declared cancer-free!

For Pauline (Smith) England

For Shirley Arther

For Eva Moutrie

For Gregg Eiler's sister-in-law, as she battles breast cancer.

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/>

Webster Groves Christian Church

1320 West Lockwood Avenue

Saint Louis, MO 63122

Phone: 314-961-3232 / Website: www.wgcc.org

Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore, Pastor

jeffmoore@wgcc.org

Robin Woodrome, Choir Director

Lisa Cripe, Organist

lisacripe@wgcc.org

Jeff Wolf, Lead Custodian

jeffwolf@wgcc.org

Gary Smith, Custodian

Steve Staicoff, Office Manager

admin@wgcc.org

Witness Articles

brosepd@hotmail.com