

WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE WITNESS • JULY 2023



Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker is serving WGCC as Sabbatical Pastor while Pastor Jeff is away.

An update from Pastor Jeff

Dear members and friends of WGCC,

Thank you for all the prayers, calls, texts, cards, thoughts, food, and treats as I have been recovering from my illness. We have been home for just over a week, and I have about four more weeks of daily IV antibiotic therapy. With help and guidance from my doctors (and especially from Susan!), I am getting stronger every day, and I am hoping to slowly reintegrate into my pastoral work as the weeks unfold. Unfortunately, my sabbatical has been postponed, but we will be working to reschedule it - likely for next Summer.

You are all in my daily thoughts and prayers and I am grateful for the ministry we share. Special thanks to our WGCC leaders and staff, who always work with faithfulness and care.

I am grateful to Pastor Dietra for her leadership at this time, and to Michael for his presence among you.

Again, thank you all for your care and concern!

Peace, Pastor Jeff

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

**The Church Office will be closed on Friday, June 30,
and will reopen on Wednesday, July 5.
Enjoy the Independence Day weekend!**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

Louisville, Kentucky

JULY 29-AUGUST 1, 2023

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada is excited to announce the 2023 General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky, July 29-August 1!

It will be the first time in four years the church as a whole has gathered.

Registration and speakers at <http://www.ga.disciples.org/>

This four-day event will encourage Disciples who gather online and in person to celebrate the way that God's expansive love connects each of us as "kin" and to part of the larger Kindom of God. Get ready for worship, workshops, Bible study, opportunities to explore Louisville, mission, and the sacred work of the church for

children, youth and adults across the life of the church. The event will take place at the Kentucky International Convention Center, 221 S. 4th Street in downtown Louisville. Looking for housing? All housing information is provided upon completed registration.

**KINDOM
OF GOD
WITHIN US
AMONG US**

GENESIS 11:1-9 • LUKE 17:20-21 • 2 PETER 1:3

July 29 - August 1, 2023 - Louisville

Pitching in for Project NOW

Robin and Kai Woodrome were among those helping prepare for a monthly delivery of food for Project NOW at Webster Groves Christian Church. The 16 families receive food for all four weeks, plus fresh fruit and fresh vegetables! We will be delivering this month on **July 14**.

If you would like to volunteer to help pack the monthly boxes or deliver the boxes, please sign up by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0945ABA722A2F85-volunteers>



Remembering the Bottorffs

James William Bottorff, and his wife of 72 years, Anna Mae Bottorff (nee Evans), passed away a day apart, James on Monday, June 5, 2023, and Anna on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, both at the age of 91. They were longtime members of Webster Groves Christian Church.

James was a retired service technician for Southwestern Bell, and Anna Mae was a homemaker.

They were the beloved parents of Steven W. (Pamela K.) Bottorff, and Lisa R. (Debra J. Wolf) Bottorff; dear grandparents of Sean Christopher (Jenna Ann) Bottorff and Megan Renee Bottorff; loving great-grandparents of Michael Anthony, Miles Brady, and Jacobi Cooper Bottorff.



James is survived by a sister, Mary Ann Bryan, and is preceded in death by a brother Frank Bottorff, and a sister Bonnie J. Tennyson. Anna Mae is preceded in death by brothers Bob Evans, Russell Evans, sister Bonnie McWhorter, and an infant sibling.

Take a peek into a summer camp project... ... supported by our Disciple Women's Service!

On a hot June day, Daun Hashbarger, Janie Joplin and Pat Roseman toured Horizons STL in Kirkwood, based at Keysor School. Why are they there? WGCC Disciple Women's May Service donated \$300 to Horizons! We wanted to see our money in action! Daun brought SPROG/ Horizons to WGCC's attention about six years ago. Lakesha Robinson, Executive Director, was our guide and question answer-er.

A little background first. The 6-week program, created 53 years ago and then known as SPROG, is 70% dependent on private donations. The model for the national program states all teachers are certified, the ratio is 5:1, field trips are included and swim lessons are important. Forty-five minutes 3 days a week are devoted to swim lessons at Kirkwood High School's pool. Guided by national Horizons' standards, the program includes emphasis on reading and math, plus enrichment opportunities brought to Keysor by various groups, such as Powder Valley Nature Center and Missouri Botanical Garden, in addition to field trips out of the building.

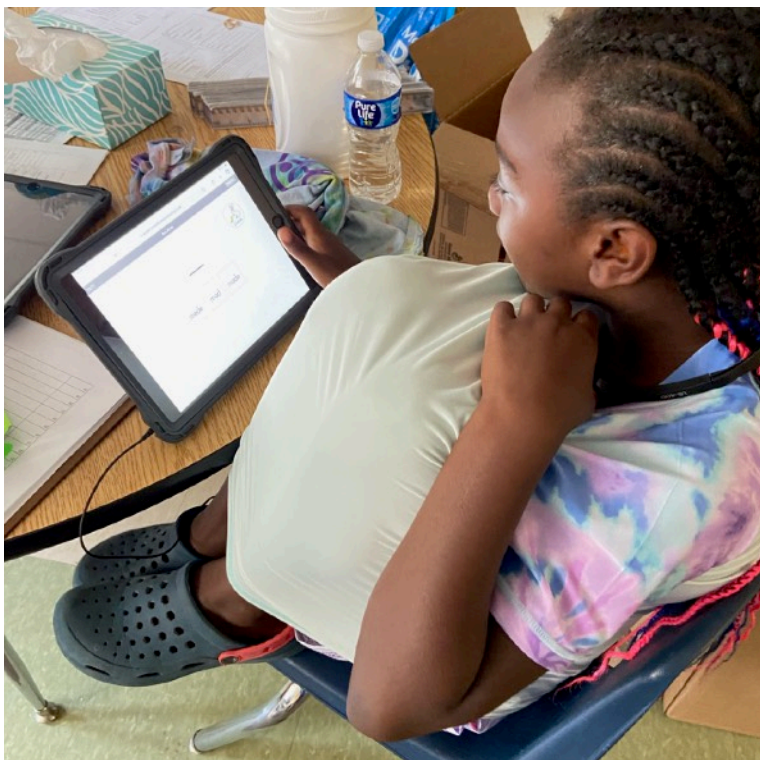
We start our tour! It's quiet! Serving an average of 80 K-7 children, QUIET is unexpected! And why is it so QUIET? Half of the children are on a specialty field trip to SLU focusing on science and math activities. Camp is in session 9 a.m.-3 p.m. with 1 hour each day focused on reading and 1 hour on math. It was interesting to learn how Horizons allowed a teacher's love of Legos to be introduced into the math lesson. Horizons uses STEAM - Science, Technology, Enrichment, Arts, Math - to guide their curriculum. We observed kindergarteners creating pictures to take home. All the kids wanted their picture taken with their art. One little girl said, "That's a heart! And that's a picture of my mom! I colored her face yellow." The three of us agreed. Enthusiasm abounds at Horizons through campers, teachers and especially Director Lakesha.

How is our \$300 being spent? Horizons' budget falls short providing meals for 80 hungry kids. Our donation helps provide a hot lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Cold lunches are reserved for Monday and Friday - ideal for field trip days.

Several years ago as WGCC met for strategic planning, supporting the young child caught our attention. Years later it still does and DW answered! Thank you, Disciple Women!

- Submitted by Pat Roseman





Disciple Women does not have a scheduled Service during July-August.

However, if the Service spirit moves you, please feel free to donate to Room at the Inn:

Donation Needs:

Household: Paper towels, Disinfectant Wipes, All Purpose Cleaner Spray, Paper Plates 9 or 10 inch, Detergent Pods

Clothing: Men's Sweat Pants, Boy's Sweat Pants, Boy's Pajamas, Men's Coats

Donations brought to the shelter may be placed in the red wagon in the entranceway.

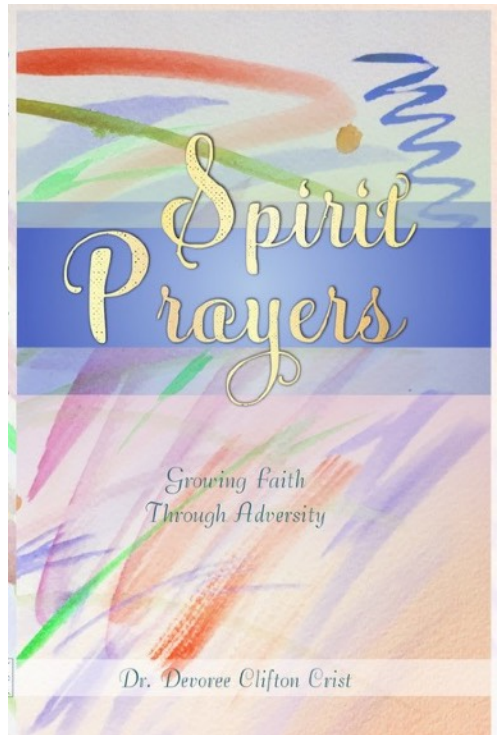
Call 314-209-9181 if you have any questions.

Spirit Prayers: Growing Faith Though Adversity now available

Devoree Crist has been given a third book for the Spirit Prayers series. It now feels complete.

Devoree reports it was a privilege and blessing to write prayers for the congregation. In writing the prayers there was no plan for a book. She put aside another project because she felt compelled to create this new book. It was the result of living through a pandemic and coming to realize that growth is always possible because God is in the midst of everything. She was not aware that her heart was writing the book until trying to find a theme. It was truly a gift of the Holy Spirit that this book came together. Everything was there, she just had to organize it.

Please check out the book on Amazon. \$16.99 (pre-order)
<https://www.amazon.com/Spirit-Prayers-Growing-Faith-Adversity/dp/1667898345>



Please support the Neighbor Fund

Our Neighbor Fund helps neighbors near and far in a number of important ways! Please consider a generous gift to the Neighbor Fund during 2023.

The **Neighbor Fund** is maintained by our congregation, and is used at our pastor's discretion to aid those within our congregation and those from our wider community with one-time emergency assistance.

Our congregational budget includes money for the Neighbor Fund, but the majority of income from the fund comes from generous and faithful designated gifts by WGCC members. **In addition to your regular support of our budgeted mission and ministry, please consider a one-time or ongoing gift to the Neighbor Fund.**

Monday Bible Studies are back!

Monday Bible Studies have resumed, led by student intern Michael Scott. **The study starts at 3 p.m. each Monday, and runs until 4:30 p.m.**

Please note new login information below for the Zoom-based Bible study:

Topic: S. Scott's Zoom Meeting

Time: 3 – 4:30PM Mondays

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88666559672?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88666559672?pwd=MDN1NC9uMm5jRnB5cUdGLzltZmZldz09)
[pwd=MDN1NC9uMm5jRnB5cUdGLzltZmZldz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88666559672?pwd=MDN1NC9uMm5jRnB5cUdGLzltZmZldz09)

Prayer concerns for WGCC

For Gregg Eilers, now cancer-free and recently retired!

For Michael Scott's friend James, diagnosed with cancer

For all whom are suffering from anxiety and depression

For Vicki Ott's friend, who recently moved back to Turkey

For Karl Reinhardt, undergoing chemotherapy for cancer in his abdomen

For Laura Stuetzer's brother in law, Alan Barker, recovering from a difficult surgery

For Pastor Jeff Moore and his family, as he recovers from pneumonia and septicemia, and as the family cares for him (SEE LEAD ARTICLE)

For Darlene Goodrich, recovering from an abdominal infection

For Susan Burney's niece Christine, diagnosed with cancer; and her niece, Lauren, who gave birth 9 weeks early

For Owen Crist, as he travels to/ from Costa Rica for work

For Rev. Linda Tobias Doss of MBCC, recovering from recent surgery

For Rick, a former classmate of Bob Rose battling leukemia

For the younger sister of student intern Michael Scott. His sister is suffering from early-onset Alzheimer's disease.

For Jack Grisham, a friend of Laura Stuetzer, after emergency heart surgery

Robin Woodrome asks prayers for a student Orry's father

For Susan Burney's sister in Colorado

Thank you for all the kind words, kind deeds, thoughts, and prayers

offered to our families when my sister, Bobbi; passed to her heavenly home.

Dunn and Roseman families

For Lisa Rothe's niece, Rachel

For Bev Richmond's son, Andy, who suffered a mild stroke

For former President Jimmy Carter; as he is in a time of hospice care

For Jeff Tedford

For Barb Merrell's niece Regina, battling cancer

For James Burney's safety

For Laura Stuetzer's friend Carm, whose ovarian cancer has returned

For Diane Mark's friend, Jennifer, diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer

For Molly Gibbons' father Mark

For Bev Richmond

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

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

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

For Chris and Sara Webb

For Barb Merrell

For Bill Woodrome

For Devoree Crist's friend, Deb

For Susan Burney's sister Carol, suffering from Alzheimers

For Pauline (Smith) England

For Shirley Arther

For Eva Moutrie

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

Prayers 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

For the families of WGCC Project NOW program, and KAEChP

For basic needs of food, shelter clothing and healthcare for all.

For the families served by Webster Rock Hill Ministries

For the MBCC Food Ministry, and neighborhoods of Memorial Blvd. Christian Church.

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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