

WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE WITNESS • JUNE 2023



Josie Gerdes honored with June England scholarship

The 2023 recipient of the June England Scholarship is Josie Gerdes. Josie is the third member of her family to receive the scholarship. She will be attending San Diego State University this fall. She is the 14th WGCC senior high school student to receive the scholarship.

Twelve years ago, Don England and the England family established the June England Scholarship in June's memory. June was a 45-year member of Webster Groves Christian Church and a strong advocate of our youth and education ministries.

We thank Don England and the England family for establishing the Scholarship giving our congregation the opportunity to help with financial aid for our seniors as they move forward in their educational career.

Josie, we wish you the best as you plan your future. Remember your roots!

June England Scholarship Committee.

What's up?

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A change of plans for Pastor Jeff

Please continue to hold in prayer **Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore** as he continues to be treated for pneumonia and septicemia in a Virginia hospital.

Here's the latest update from Susan Moore:

Jeff is still here in the hospital and is making progress, but we are still waiting for blood cultures to come back negative after 72 hours. Once that happens, we can return to St. Louis and he can continue IV antibiotic therapy at home. Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers. Jeff is also thinking about all of you and praying for you.

During this multiple week period of recovery Jeff will be on medical leave NOT on sabbatical. This means that Jeff may be engaging in some of his pastoral duties during this time depending on how he is feeling.

At the end of his medical leave period, Jeff will begin his sabbatical and anticipates being able to take his motorcycle trip, although it may have to be altered to some degree. The Lilly Grant has time built into it for unforeseen circumstances, and Jeff's motorcycle is safe in Germany until he can be there later this year.

As this affects Webster Groves Christian Church, the congregation was already fully prepared for Jeff's absence in the short term. Now that Jeff's sabbatical time has been bumped back a few weeks, Jeff and the Board will discuss plans for alternate pastor responsibilities for later in the year with Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise-Baker and other pastors in the community. The Sabbatical Committee will maintain in contact with the Lilly Foundation



Explaining WGCC's call for offers

Everyone in the WGCC congregation was recently "snail-mailed" an important letter from the Board-appointed committee that is evaluating WGCC's long range financial viability, projected financial scenarios, future maintenance needs, trends etc.

We are also making the documents available at the links below, to ensure that everyone receives them (sometimes the USPS has "issues").

Please take the time to carefully read/review the documents, and if you have additional questions, the committee members (Mat DeKinder, Laura Stuetzer, and Max Ott) would be happy to answer any questions you might have. Thank You!

May 10 2023 Letter to Congregation: <https://files.constantcontact.com/91e8228b201/1de20887-5976-47cc-97f0-1039106ffd48.pdf>

Public Call--1320 W. Lockwood: <https://files.constantcontact.com/91e8228b201/2186cfe9-3842-4e76-a739-46638dc755a0.pdf>

Disciples Women serving the many

The Disciples Women met in the Chapel in May for a beautiful presentation, "Divine Subjects: Images of Angels in Paintings," by Betsy Solomon, Executive Director of The Shepherd Center. We were delighted to see these images and hear of her research. This was the final General meeting of the Disciples Women until September.

The Tabitha and Martha Groups will meet on June 8 for their last meeting until September, which will be going out to eat instead of a picnic this year. Tabitha will meet at 6 p.m. at the Hacienda Restaurant for dinner and the Martha Group will meet at noon at the Shack Restaurant at Big Bend and Dougherty Ferry Road for breakfast or lunch. We encourage everyone to join these groups as we enjoy our final meetings this year.

From Pat Roseman and Janie Joplin, we have this Service Report;

Our collection for NOW /Nutrition on Weekends fruit is \$235. Thank you very much for the healthy fruit this will provide. SPROG was the focus for May. SPROG provides a summer camp program for underprivileged children in Kirkwood. The program now has a new name, Horizons, St. Louis in Kirkwood and serves the same population with the same focus. Our donations for SPROG/Horizons are \$270 and counting. Thank you for helping provide summertime fun and learning for these children.

Disciples Women's service for the year 2022-2023 benefited innumerable friends in six separate organizations to the grand total of \$2,407. Stand up and applaud your generosity and kindness helping others! Well done, DWers and thank you!

Janie and Pat are so proud to serve Disciples Women and we are pleased to welcome Anna Yount as she joins us as one of your Service chairs. Thank you as together we continue serving our Lord in 2023-24.

"Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

Once again, we wish to say thank you Pat and Janie for all the shopping that you have done for us selecting so carefully for the best items at the most reasonable price, the deliveries of your purchases to the proper organization, all the contacts you have made with organizations, the questions that you have answered for all of us and the many reports that you have written for the articles in the Witness and reports that you have provided at each meeting. May God bless all three of you as you continue your marvelous service work. Thank you to members who have once again given so generously to the service projects this year. You are truly awesome!

Submitted by Jane Martin



Celebrating the life of Marilyn Combs

The Disciples Women lost another of our fine leaders, Marilyn Combs.

We are thankful for her leadership in the church and the Disciples Women. She was a friend to many and gave her all to the Disciples Women. She not only served in every office of the church and Disciples Women, she was always cooking in the kitchen, making cards, teaching the Bible lessons and wherever there was work to be done. May God bless her family and friends as they grieve.

Marilyn passed away May 4, 2023, at the age of 88. She was preceded in death by Rev. William R. Moore and Albert C. Combs.

A service for Marilyn was held May 7 at Webster Groves Christian Church.

A month of celebration at WGCCC



May 7: We honored Pastor Jeff with a special outdoor service and barbecue. During the service, Riley Gibbons shared a special song. You can find some of Riley's work on Soundcloud or see Riley perform as part of a free Fathers Day celebration at 4 p.m. at Kirkwood Park.

From baptism to Pentecost, from new faces and old friends, the month of May brought special celebrations to Webster Groves Christian Church.





May 14: Anna Yount, the newest member of our congregation, was baptized into our faith.



May 21: Dr. Dietra Wise Baker celebrated her first service as Sabbatical Pastor for WGCC.



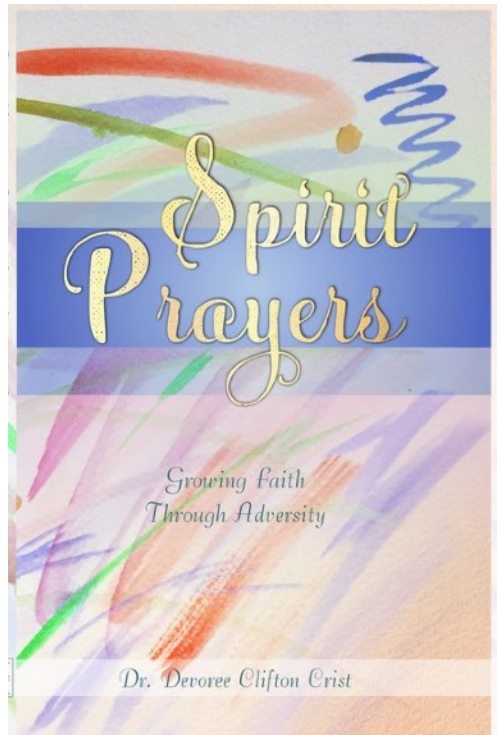
May 28: All were welcome as WGCC celebrated Pentecost.

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>



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023 Louisville, Kentucky JULY 29-AUGUST 1

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.

Save the date to join Disciples across the church as we gather in person and digitally.

For more info, including speakers and resources, click the link below:

<https://ga.disciples.org/>



Monday Bible Studies are back!

Monday Bible Studies will resume on June 5, 2023, led by student intern, Michael Scott. **The study starts at 3PM each Monday, and runs until 4:30PM**

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?>

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

Prayer concerns for WGCC

- For Gregg Eilers, as he continues to battle cancer and recover from surgery
- For Pastor Jeff Moore and his family, as he battles pneumonia and septicemia (see lead article above)
- For Pat Roseman and family, as they grieve the loss of Pat's sister, Bobbi
- 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 Dubai for work
- For Rev. Linda Tobias Doss of MBCC
- For the younger sister of student intern, Michael Scott. His sister is suffering from early-onset Alzheimer's disease
- For former WGCC member Janice McFarland, whose husband passed away last week
- For Robin Woodrome's former student, Brooke, as she moves to Texas
- Congrats to James Burney for being recognized by the prosecuting attorney of St. Louis County for exemplary police work
- For Jack Grisham, a friend of Laura Stuetzer, after emergency heart surgery
- Robin Woodrome asks prayers for a student Orry's father
- Lisa Cripe asks prayers for a school family whose house burned to the ground
- For Anna Yount, battling some back pain issues
- For Kai Woodrome, facing health issues
- For Karl Reinhardt, recovering from surgery
- For Deb Trautman, dealing with diagnosis of GI issues
- For the Lugas family--friends of Molly Gibbons
- For Susan Burney's sister in Colorado
- 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 friend Dana, in hospice with ovarian cancer
- 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 Nina Rothe
- 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. She is dealing with side effects due to treatment
- For the families of WGCC Project NOW program, and KAEChP
- For basic needs of food, shelter clothing and healthcare for all.

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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