

WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE WITNESS • AUGUST 2023

General Assembly paves the way for the Disciples road ahead

For the first time in four years, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada is gathering in person for its General Assembly. This year's gathering is in Louisville, Kentucky, and runs through Tuesday, Aug. 1.

The General Assembly receives and acts upon proposed policy and program, reports and resolutions, and other items of business presented during business sessions.

Among the resolutions addressed this year:

- A calling for the Church to oppose Christian Nationalism.
- An invitation to oppose anti-trans legislation and affirm the dignity of transgender and gender-diverse people.
- A resolution addressing food waste, food insecurity and environmental justice.
- A resolution building on our Church's commitment to faith-based investing.

See details at <https://ga.disciples.org/business/>



Julie and Tom Wood at General Assembly worship with 3,000 church members in Louisville, Kentucky, on Sunday.

See Sally about your yearbook updates

While Disciples Women did not have a general meeting over the summer, they continued their important support of the food bank. The Martha group met for lunch throughout the summer. The next general meeting and luncheon will be on Sept. 7.

Sally Smith will be assembling the new yearbooks soon, so any needed corrections must be sent to her by Aug. 14. Anna Yount has joined Pat Roseman and Janie Joplin as part of the service committee. They will be finalizing upcoming service projects at the September meeting.

-Diane Mark

BE A DIAPER DONOR!

AT WGCC,
AUGUST IS
DONATE FOR
DIAPERS MONTH!



Did you know an estimated \$100 each month is often spent by families for diapers? That's each child. Suppose there are two diaper-clad kiddos in the family! For a young family this is a necessary item in their struggling budget. It isn't that families have a choice on buying diapers. Diapers are a requirement at day-care. They are also a health-care necessity

According to a survey by the National Diaper Bank Network to meet the required number of diapers needed for day care, low-income families had to cut back on household expenses, often miss work or school due to the diaper issue and even give up meals to buy diapers.

At WGCC, our Disciples Women have donated diapers to Promise Place, which is Kirkwood Area Every Child's Promise/KAChP resource that helps low-income families.

BUT WGCC can do more! Each member of Webster Groves Christian Church can help! We suggest August as Donate for Diapers month. HOW DO WE DO THIS?

Since its founding in 2014, St. Louis Area Diaper Bank has accepted donations of money and diapers. Working with many organizations area-wide, the Diaper Bank distributes FREE diapers to low-income families. YOU can be a Diaper Donor by donating one of these ways:

- Givelify
 - Send a check (with DIAPERS in the memo line) made to WGCC, 1320 W. Lockwood, St. Louis, MO 63122
 - Donate in the collection basket during Sunday worship.
- Pat Roseman



Welcome back, Jeff!



Friendly faces welcomed Pastor Jeff back with a coffee fellowship in the Gallery Area following worship on July 16.,



Volunteer with refugees at HIAS Welcome Corps

HIAS is the oldest refugee agency in the United States. Today they work with refugees, volunteers, and community partners around the world from all faiths, nationalities, and backgrounds. They provide life-saving support to refugees in the U.S. and in 20 other countries; they have also been leading the work of private sponsorship with Afghan and Ukrainian newcomers in the last two years. They are currently looking for sponsor groups to participate in the new Welcome Corps refugee program. For context, Welcome Corps was recently launched by the U.S. government and allows everyday Americans to support refugees and help them build new lives in the U.S. Sponsor groups are composed of 5-8 people and welcome refugees by securing housing, greeting them at the airport, enrolling children in school, and helping adults find employment. Most importantly, sponsor groups offer a sense of welcome and inclusion for refugee families.

If that sounds like something you might be interested in, you can reach out to Charlotte Shurtz charlotte.shurtz@hias.org. She can discuss the details of the program, or schedule a short presentation on how your congregation might get involved now or in the fall.



WGCC UPDATES



Riley Gibbons performed her first professional singing appearance at Blue Strawberry in St. Louis on July 21. Riley was one of the guests of St. Louis favorites Katie McGrath and Carol Schmidt.



Celia Rose was married to Aaron Whited on July 14 in Pevely. Celia is the social media manager for the Ten Minute Bible Talks podcast. She and Aaron will be living in Prairie Village, Kansas.

What's cooking at MBCC?

Each Thursday, Memorial Boulevard Christian Church provides a hot lunch to people from their neighborhood, many of whom are clients for the food pantry at MBCC. WGCC members and friends provide money and people for this lunch on the *third Thursday* of each month.

WGCC members and friends are encouraged to contact the church office or Sally Smith if you are interested in helping with this program – either on the third Thursday, or any Thursday!





This little light of mine ...

Last weekend, WGCC hosted the Aligned Theatre Collective, a division of Over Due Theatre Company, for a presentation of art featuring the works of Stephen Sondheim.

The performances featured singing, dancing, acting, painting and more as a salute to one of musical theatre's most prolific composers.

Laura Stuetzer was visiting the sanctuary and loved the light on this work and was moved to take this picture.



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?pwd=MDN1NC9uMm5jRnB5cUdGLzltZmZLdz09>

Prayer concerns for WGCC

- For Laura Stuetzer's friend Regina, hospitalized with kidney and heart disease
- For Vicki Ott's health, and for all who are in need of prayer
- For Diane Mark's daughter, as she participates in a large bicycle race/trek across Iowa
- For Analyn Howells, dealing with salivary gland issues and facing surgery
- For a friend of Max Ott's daughter, having an MRI to help diagnose severe headaches
- For Robin Woodrome's stepdad, Bud, dealing with issues of low blood pressure
- For Robin's friend Dan, who has an inoperable GI tract cancerous tumor
- For a relative of Robin in Cleveland, battling long COVID and poor oxygen levels
- For Janie Joplin's brother in law
- For Susan Burney's sister, Carol, entering hospice
- For Rev. Linda Doss Tobias, as she recovers from a difficult surgery
- For the friends and family of Fran, who recently passed away
- For Lisa Cripe's coworker, Jen, who recently lost her husband to cancer
- For those struggling with mental illness, and the social workers who are trying to work with police to curb violence
- For Michael Scott's friend James, diagnosed with cancer
- For those 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 Susan Burney's niece Christine, diagnosed with cancer, and her niece, Lauren, who gave birth 9 weeks early
- 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
- For Lisa Rothe's niece, Rachel
- 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 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 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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