

# WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE WITNESS • SEPT. 2023

## Project NOW – new year starts Sept. 8

Project NOW will continue delivering large food boxes to 16 families at the Kirkwood Educare once a month beginning on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to deliver on the first Friday of each month. The online sign-up can be accessed from this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0945ABA722A2F85-volunteers>

**Birthday Bags** – We are requesting that our church family help donate to the birthday bags for Project NOW. Here are the list of birthday bag requests:

Foil Cake Pans

Cake Mix

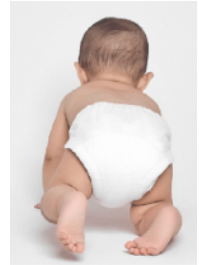
Cake Frost

Small container of oil

Candles

Please leave donations in the NOW room, at the back of the sanctuary or with Steve.

Please reach out if you want to get involved or have any questions. Julie DeKinder [dekinderj@umsl.edu](mailto:dekinderj@umsl.edu)



## And about those diapers...

Our August Diaper Donation totaled \$705 with 2 days to go.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who participated. Pastor Jeff is checking which organization will receive it but one thing we know.....MANY HAPPY BOTTOMS!!

Pat Roseman

## Can that be recycled?

Find out at a special  
Disciples Women  
program.

The next Disciples Women luncheon will be September 7 at noon in the chapel - and everyone is invited to attend!

The program will feature Jamie Hasemeier from the Missouri Botanical Garden. She will talk about recycling. We ask everyone to bring in ONE item that they aren't sure can be recycled — she will tell us.

Feel free to bring your own lunch. Beverages and desserts will be provided.

## Join us for a thank you to Michael!

Michael  
Scott, WGCC  
Student Intern, will  
finish his time with  
us **this coming  
Sunday,  
September 3.**

He will be  
preaching on  
Sunday, and all are  
invited to a  
reception in the  
Gallery  
immediately  
following worship  
to say "thank you"  
and "farewell" to  
Michael!



# Don't you wonder? Why do visitors choose to visit WGCC?

A conversation this past Sunday with visitors went something like this:

**Member:** We are glad to have you worship with us today.

**Visitor:** Thank you. Glad to be here.

**Member:** Where do you live?

**Visitor:** St. Charles

**Member:** That was a bit of a drive for you.

**Visitor:** Not bad. It didn't take us too long.

**Member:** How did you find us here in Kirkwood?

**Visitor:** Well, we went online searching for churches. We left a message for each church we were interested in visiting and your pastor was the only one who called us back...and here we are!

Thumbs up, Jeff, for returning your messages!





WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

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*Saint Louis Metro*  
**CROP HUNGER WALK**

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OCTOBER 01, 2023

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SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

## **Register for the St. Louis Metro CROP Hunger Walk**

Walkers are invited to gather at Eden Theological Seminary, 475 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO (63119) on Sunday, October 1 -- check-in at 4:30 p.m., walk at 5 p.m., and the CROP Concert in the Wehrli Chapel at 7 p.m.

Go to [www.crophungerwalk.org/saintlouismo](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/saintlouismo) to register as an individual, create a team, raise funds, and/or make a donation. As has been the case during the pandemic, virtual walkers or walk-on-your-own walkers are welcome -- register and raise funds here, and walk any time and place at your convenience.

The CROP Concert will again feature nationally known singer-songwriter Richard Bruxvoot Colligan (Google him!) and an array of local musicians, singing the Psalms (and other songs).

Our local partners again this year are Circle of Concern, the Alton (IL) Crisis Food Center, and Webster-Rock Hill Ministries. You are invited to bring non-perishable food items for the Webster-Rock Hill Ministries food pantry.

To learn more about the work of CROP/Church World Service, go to:  
[www.cwsglobal.org](http://www.cwsglobal.org)



# Rev. Terri Hord Owens re-elected as General Minister for Disciples

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) re-elected Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens to a second term as General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. She is the first African American and second woman to lead the denomination – and the first African American woman to lead a mainline Christian denomination.

Rev. Owens was installed and charged with continuing her ministry of visionary love, spiritual leadership, prophetic imagination, and ecumenical service. In her sermon during closing worship, she invited the General Assembly to “imagine new ways of being church and to stay at the table no matter what we face. Our commitment to staying at the table is grounded in our covenant relationship with God and with one another.”

Rev. Owens is regarded in the ecumenical world as “head of communion” and as the chief representative of the church in national and world



**“Let’s be the church  
we say we are. It is  
in being who we say  
we are that we  
actively bear witness  
to God’s limitless love  
for all.”**

**Terri Hord Owens**

ecumenical councils. In keeping with the Disciples’ historic commitment to Christian unity, she serves in leadership at the National Council of Churches as the Treasurer of the Governing Board and as a member of the World Council of Churches Central Committee. Her ecumenical and interfaith

collaborations also include the Faith Table, an interfaith social justice coalition.

Prior to being elected to serve as General Minister and President in 2017 she served as the dean of students for 12 years at the University of Chicago Divinity School, pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove in Illinois, and more than 20 years in corporate America leading diverse teams in data management.

In addition to collaborative service with the ministries that comprise Disciples Justice Ministries, she has been active in leadership in the Poor People’s Campaign.

# Celebrating the life of Ibbby Stern



**Elisabeth (Ibby) Ainslie Stern** passed away August 25, 2023, at 96 in St Petersburg, Florida. Wife of 65 years to George, mother to Chris (Karin Hannah), Mark (Lynn Thilman), Rick and Jennifer (Bob Quier), grandmother to 10, great grandmother to 1.

Ibby, the daughter of Dr. Peter and Mary Ainslie, grew up in Baltimore, graduated from both Goucher College and Smith College. After marrying George in 1951, she supported his military career, residing in Baltimore, Fort Knox and Berlin, before establishing roots in St Louis. She started a new career in real estate, enjoying her job until she was 80. Besides being an avid reader and supporter of the Kirkwood library, she loved playing bridge.

After retiring from real estate, she worked as a volunteer for the St. Louis Symphony, and was an active member of the Webster Groves Christian Church.

A celebration of life will be held in the future. In lieu of flowers please donate to the St Louis Symphony or the Webster Groves Christian Church.



## 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.**

## Join us for virtual worship!

WGCC Sunday morning worship services will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook every Sunday morning at 10:30AM (Central Time).

All are welcome--please invite your family and friends to tune in!

The link to the page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/WGCCDisciples/>

Make sure to "Like" the WGCC Page in Facebook, in order to receive all notifications of upcoming events! Past services are available to watch on WGCC's Facebook Page, website, and YouTube channel.

## Prayer concerns for WGCC

- For Vicki Ott's health, and for all who are in need of prayer
- For John Smith and Family, as John recovers from some heart issues
- For the residents and tourists of Maui, HI, specifically the town of Lahaina, as they continue recovery and rebuilding efforts following massive wildfires
- For those in Florida, facing a hurricane situation
- For Max Ott, in the loss of his cousin, and for Mat DeKinder's father, facing surgery
- Traveling prayers for Gregg Eilers and family
- For Karl Reinhardt, recovering from COVID
- For Dev Crist and Denise Pahl, as they undergo medical tests
- For all school/college personnel and students, as the new school year begins
- For Barb Merrell's granddaughter, Camryn, as she moves to Chicago to enter medical school
- For Denise Pahl's friend Karen, battling leukemia and undergoing chemotherapy
- For Lisa Rothe, as she prepares for an MRI
- For Deb Trautman's son and his girlfriend, facing the loss of her brother, and having her mother in hospice
- For a friend of Billie Swartz, who experienced a suicide in her family
- For Devoree's sister, Rosemary, recovering from successful knee surgery
- For Bob Heltibrand, and Dorothy, as doctors attempt to diagnose Bob's swallowing issues
- For Bev Richmond's son, Andy, struggling to recover from a stroke
- For Michael Scott's son, Michael, suffering from blood clots in his arms
- For Analyn Howells, whose tumor tested out to be benign
- For Robin's friend Dan, who has an inoperable GI tract cancerous tumor, and for a student, Nate, at her school
- For Susan Burney's sister, Carol, entering hospice
- For Rev. Linda Doss Tobias, as she recovers from a difficult surgery
- 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 all whom are suffering from anxiety and depression
- For Karl Reinhardt, undergoing chemotherapy for cancer in his abdomen
- For the younger sister of student intern, Michael Scott. She is suffering from early-onset Alzheimer's disease.
- For Jeff Tedford
- For Barb Merrell's niece Regina, battling cancer
- For James Burney's safety in the field
- For Diane Mark's friend, Jennifer, diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer
- For Molly Gibbons' father, Mark
- 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
- 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-america-disciples.org/>**

## **Webster Groves Christian Church**

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Robin Woodrome, Choir Director

Lisa Cripe, Organist

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