



THE WITNESS • OCT. 2023

9 A.M. SUNDAY, OCT. 8

Join us for a report from the Physical and Financial Evaluation Committee

Back in February of this year, the WGCC Board commissioned a new committee to obtain a full valuation of the church's liabilities and assets and to project the church's finances three-to-five years into the future.

The Physical and Financial Evaluation Committee (PFEC) consisted of members of the congregation who diligently evaluated the condition of the physical property and consulted with experts in valuing commercial property.

The PFEC has concluded its work and has issued a full report to the WGCC Board. The Board would like to share the committee's findings along with some potentially exciting recommendations for moving forward at a special congregational presentation on Oct. 8 at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Please make an effort to attend, as this presentation will be vitally important in the consideration of the future mission and ministry of Webster Groves Christian Church.

Board members will also be meeting with smaller groups in the church in the coming weeks to discuss the report and answer questions in greater detail.

While Webster Groves Christian Church is currently on solid financial footing for the current fiscal year, now is the ideal time to consider these issues as it may be difficult to maintain this posture in the future.

Again, it is important to note that the WGCC Board does not have the power to make major financial decisions on its own. Those decisions, as always, must be made by the congregation as a whole.

We look forward to seeing you on Oct. 8.

-- The WGCC Board

John Burney Beth Cooley Dev Crist Mat DeKinder John Gerdes Bill
Howells Kay Love Billie Swartz

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You are Invited to a

GOSPEL **CONCERT**

Featuring
Webster Groves Christian Church musicians,
Carolbeth True and the "Two Times True" band

Sunday, October 22, 2023
4:00 P.M.

Webster Groves Christian Church Sanctuary
1320 West Lockwood, St. Louis, MO 63122

A free-will offering will be taken, benefiting
the Shepherd's Center of Webster-Kirkwood
Refreshments will follow the performance!


WEBSTER GROVES
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
An Open & Affirming Congregation

Disciples Women give a big boost to NOW

The Tabitha group met on Sept. 14. Susan Moore presented the study on the book of Lamentations, which will be the theme throughout the year. The group meets every second Thursday at 7 pm in the Heritage Room and welcomes anyone to join us.

The Marthas had a wonderful meeting Sept. 8 in the Heritage Room. What made it so special for one thing is that Kitty Baumgarth was able to attend and we celebrated her 95th birthday! Members Shirley Arther and Eva Moutrie, although not in attendance, had September birthdays, also celebrating ninety-something years. We also remembered the life of Ibby Stern, our beloved long-time member, who was living in Florida with family.

There were nine in attendance, gathering to eat their lunches and enjoy good fellowship. Our devotional was given by Jane Martin and the study by Alice Yount. The meeting was led by co-leaders Alice Yount and Bev Richmond. The group unanimously voted in favor of the motion to spend \$500 to Blessing Box, \$50 to Gary Smith as an honorarium, and \$450 to Isaiah 58.

It was decided to invite the Isaiah 58 group to talk about their work in St. Louis for the October Luncheon. Y'all come! Helpers for the luncheon will be Julie Wood (dessert), Bev Richmond (decorations, napkins, grapes), Carol Bachman, Jane Martin, Anna Yount and Vicki Ott.

Introducing a new member to our DW Service Ministry: Anna Yount is joining Janie Joplin and Pat Roseman as co-chairs this year. Our September Service supported WGCC's NOW (Nutrition On Weekends) Project with money donated for fruit each month for 2023-2024. NOW volunteers deliver food boxes each month to YWCA Educare Head Start families. Each box includes fruit and vegetables. DW service donations combine with donations from Seekers and Koinonia Adult Christian Education Classes to purchase the fruit. As of earlier this week, the amount collected was \$585!

Our October service collection will benefit WGCC Neighbor Fund. The Neighbor Fund is disbursed at the discretion of our pastor, Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore, for emergency assistance within our congregation and the wider community. Please help our Neighbor Fund so Pastor Jeff can extend help to those who need it!

-Diane Mark

Recycling 101

The Disciples Women met on Sept. 7 and invited Jamie Hasemeier, a Friend of the Missouri Botanical Gardens, to speak about recycling.

Jamie belongs to the Holy Redeemer Church in Webster Groves, which runs a "no waste" fish fry during Lent. The rules change on what the different collection companies will take, but Jamie either knew the answer, or researched it and got back to us. We each brought something from home that we had doubts about whether it could be recycled or not.

The main take aways from her program:

- The best thing we can do is reduce our waste.
- Compostable cups and plates do not equal recyclable.
- Paper has to be the size of a postcard or larger to be recycled (shredded paper is a NO)
- Things to take to the grocery store bag recycle: closable baggies, stretchable plastic packaging around diapers etc, Amazon mailing plastic bags, sleeves from newspapers, popped packing pillows and bubble wrap.
- The recycle sign on packaging doesn't mean you can put it in your street side pick up. If it's a '6' it's Styrofoam -- that is a NO.
- Our communion cups are a NO.
- Cardboard used in frozen items (pizza, vegetables, ice cream) are a NO.
- Metals and glass are the best for recycling. They can be remade over and over. Plastic can only be recycled a few times.
- The items need to be CLEAN. If there is left over food still in it, it will weigh more and be rejected or tossed.

Jamie's final plea: "If in doubt, throw it out!"

- Sally Smith

YOU ARE INVITED
TO JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE
WITH GREAT JOY



THE ORDINATION
OF
REV. EDVONIA SCOTT, M.DIV.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023
3:00PM
AT
CENTENNIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE MEMBERS OF CENTENNIAL & WEBSTER
GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH SOLICIT YOUR
PRESENCE AND PRAYERS AS WE AFFIRM GOD'S
CALL ON EDVONIA TO ORDAINED MINISTRY

CENTENNIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
4950 FOUNTAIN AVE, ST. LOUIS, MO 63113
314.367.1818 / WWW.CCCSTL.ORG
REV. DERRICK L. PERKINS, SR, PASTOR

Reception to Follow

*To the leaders and members of WGCC;
On behalf of a grateful Region, thank you for
allowing us to use the beautiful office space
in your building. It is a joy to serve in
partnership with you.*

--The Mid America Disciples Regional Staff

The Gospel of John: What time works for **YOU**?

We'll begin a weekly study of the Gospel of John the week of October 16th. We'd like to learn whether changing our study time might allow more people to participate. Please see the Doodle Poll link below to select your availability.

We hope you'll consider joining us! Pastor Jeff is especially looking forward to this study. He has taught the Gospel of John multiple times at the Masters and Doctoral levels, and always finds new perspectives and surprising readings. Our Bible Studies are Zoom-based, 90 minutes long, and include detailed reading and group discussion of a biblical book. Our Gospel of John study will include a close reading of the gospel, discussion about John's presentation of Jesus, comparisons and contrasts with other biblical and extra-biblical gospels, and explorations of the gospel's meaning and impact on our discipleship, mission, and ministry.

Please use the link below to select either Mondays from 3:00-4:30 PM or Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 (or both, if you're available either time).

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/bmyAWwph>



STL Area Disciples **SEAFOOD BOIL** for Doorways Friday, October 20,

You are invited to come and help serve up and enjoy some great food and fellowship as we share with Cooper House residents and staff and our Disciples siblings from across the city. We need desserts, monetary contributions, **volunteer help on Friday beginning at 4:00 p.m., and servers from 5:00 to 6:30.** Let Pastor Jeff know if you can lend a hand and a smile!



Join the St. Louis Metro CROP Hunger Walk on Oct. 1

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 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.

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

Holiday Gifts for Cooper House

Again this year we have been asked to consider providing holiday gifts for residents of Cooper House, Doorways' residential care facility.

Cooper House residents have made wish lists, and we can provide these lists for anyone wishing to buy one or more holiday gifts for residents.

Please contact Pastor Jeff if you, your family, or your group are interested in purchasing holiday gifts for Cooper House residents.

Celebrating the life of Arlene Sullivan



We were saddened to hear of the passing of Arlene Sullivan, longtime member of WGCC, on Sept. 15.

Arlene is survived by her husband of 36 years, William Wallace Sullivan, MD., her daughters-in-law Ann Saliga Murphy and Lori Espy Murphy, step-daughters-in-law Tracey Sullivan Hammack and Kelly Sullivan Northcott, grandchildren Josh Hammack, Caleb Hammack, Andrew Murphy, Lauren Murphy and Laura Grace Northcott, nephews Michael Patrick Murphy, Mark Murphy and David Arst and niece Alisa Arst, great-niece Colleen Murphy Rull and great-nephew Ryan Murphy and many beloved friends.

Arlene and Bill enjoyed a good life together of travel, antiques, spending time with friends, family and her grandchildren, whom she greatly treasured. She was a faithful member of Webster Groves Christian Church. She always had a joke and was quick to help anyone in need.

The family wishes to extend much gratitude to the staff in the Route 66 wing of the Meramec Bluffs Assisted Living/Skilled Care facility.

Funeral services are pending. Memorial contributions can be made to Every Child's Hope (ECH), 8240 St. Charles Rock Road, St. Louis, MO 63114 or everychildshope.org/donate.

Since 1998, the Shepherd's Center of Webster-Kirkwood has helped older adults to find enrichment, maintain independence and stay socially active. Now reaching much farther than just the Webster Groves and Kirkwood communities, we serve over 1,300 older adults a year.



Join us for a luncheon celebration!

Friday, October 20, noon-2 p.m.

Kirkwood United Methodist Church

201 W. Adams, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Buffet Luncheon - Volunteer Recognition.

Tickets: \$50 can be purchased at:

<https://shepherdscenter-wk.org/home/25th-anniversary-luncheon/>

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,

Prayer concerns for WGCC

- For Vicki Ott's health, and for all who are in need of prayer
- For Susan Moore's father, as he moves to an assisted living facility in Chicago
- For the WGCC Board, as they meet and make decisions involving the congregation
- The people of Morocco and Libya, recovering from natural disasters
- For the Dyess's grandson, Dominic, who fell and broke his arm
- For Susie Burney and family, as she recovers from a TIA (mini stroke)
- 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 the family and friends of Laura's friend, Regina Meyer, who recently passed away
- For Deb Trautman, who has experienced some healing, and for her neighbor, Mrs. Taylor, who has been moved to hospice
- For Lisa Rothe, who had good results from her recent MR
- For Max Ott, in the loss of his cousin, and for Mat DeKinder's father, facing surgery
- For Max's friend, Carl Mack, battling cancer
- For Denise Pahl's friend Karen, battling leukemia and undergoing chemotherapy
- For Deb Trautman's son and his girlfriend, facing the loss of her brother, and having her mother in hospice
- 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 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 Karl Reinhardt, undergoing chemotherapy for cancer in his abdomen
- 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 Devoree Crist's brother-in-law, in hospice with a progressive palsy disease
- For Chris and Sara Webb. Chris was just moved to a facility in Valley Park, much closer to Sara
- 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 Sullivan
- For the families of WGCC Project NOW program, and KAEChP.
- For basic needs of food, shelter clothing and healthcare for all.
- For the MBCC Food Ministry, and neighborhoods of Memorial Blvd. Christian

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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Saint Louis, MO 63122

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