



THE WITNESS • DEC. 2023

# Celebrate with us!

**DEC. 23:**     **4 p.m: Jazz and Vocal Christmas Program**, featuring Carolbeth True and TwoTimesTrue, Christmas cookie reception to follow

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**DEC. 24:**     **10:30 a.m.: Morning worship**  
**5:30 p.m.: Lessons and Carols and Candlelight**  
**10:30 p.m.: Special music**  
**11 p.m.: Lessons and Carols and Candlelight**

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## **HANGING OF THE GREENS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2**

Hanging of the Greens and Breakfast, Saturday, Dec. 2, at 9 a.m.

Please plan to join us Saturday from 9 to noon for A DELICIOUS breakfast, hot cocoa, Christmas music, and hanging the greens in the sanctuary. While you're at WGCC, you can also check out the great art and crafts at the Art for Epilepsy sale!

**ALSO:** Please bring a Christmas ornament to worship on Sunday, Dec. 3, to share on the sanctuary tree for this season.

**THANKS:** To all who are donating food and helping with decorating!

# Disciples Women: songs, service and more!

The Marthas met the second Thursday, November 9, at 12:30 in the Heritage Room. There were seven in attendance, gathering to eat their lunches and to enjoy good fellowship. Hostesses were Jane Martin and Anna Yount. The devotional was given by Anna Yount and the study on Moses by Bev Richmond. Co-leaders Alice Yount and Bev Richmond asked the group for ideas for the Christmas game in December.

It was decided to combine contributing to the Christmas gift tags from the sanctuary tree and guessing the name of beloved Christmas carols. Good conversations abounded!

Jane Martin spent some time presenting facts regarding the congregational vote on November 19. After the meeting, the Marthas proceeded to fill their five bags for the Webster - Rock Hill Ministries. They were wonderful huge Panera bags provided by Pat Roseman! Blessings to the families receiving Thanksgiving bags. We send them with our love and concern for a happy family Thanksgiving.

The Tabitha group met in the Heritage Room at 7 p.m. on November 9, with seven in attendance. The devotional was led by Susan Moore and the study by Sally Smith, with a delicious dessert provided by Janie Joplin. The study topic was grief, which led to a very deep discussion. The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. on December 14 at the home of Susie Burney. Everyone is asked to

bring a dessert or an appetizer. Anyone wishing to carpool should meet in the church parking lot at 5:40.

The next luncheon/general meeting will be held in the chapel at noon on December 7. We will be singing Christmas carols, playing games and decorating cookies!

Thanks to both groups, Martha and Tabitha, for giving so generously to the Webster-Rock Hill Ministries Thanksgiving Family bags. They were heavy with good food and produce.

Thank you for adjusting your December service giving to include shirts and long pants along with socks and underwear for our young friends at Meacham Park Head Start. Choose any of those items for your donations. Bring all your items to your Thursday, December 14 meeting. Please remove all pricing tags. Nothing needs to be gift wrapped. Leave items in the store bags and put the bags in the NOW room. The Tabitha group chose to give a pair of Christmas socks to each member of the Head Start staff (16) with Christmas tags made by Susan Moore. Our DW December service reaches out to many we do not know extending goodwill. As you see after-Christmas sales, keep in mind our January service will be for men at MBCC for socks, hats, gloves.

May your Christmas be as merry as those you have made by your giving!



**Place your  
poinsettia  
orders  
now!**

If you would like to order poinsettias this year in honor or memory of a loved one, please call Steve at the church office (314-961-3232), or email him at [admin@wgcc.org](mailto:admin@wgcc.org)

When you call or email, **please let Steve know whom the plant is in memory/honor of.** They can be taken home following the Christmas services on December 24.

The deadline for ordering is Thursday, Dec.14.

Poinsettias are \$10 each, and a portion of each purchase will go toward supporting the Shepherd's Center of Webster-Kirkwood.



At our special congregational meeting Sunday, Nov. 19, 94 percent of voters voted "yes" to sell the WGCC building and property to Westborough Country Club for \$2.9 million dollars.

# WGCC votes to sell its building and property to Westborough Country Club

## **What's it mean?**

Initial negotiations have included the provision that WGCC will stay in the building for up to 12 months after contract closing. Next steps will include final contract negotiations to determine the particulars of the sale. These will include questions about the memorial garden, artwork, glass, instruments, appliances, and furniture, among others.

## **What's next?**

After the first of the year, the WGCC Board will be working to engage the congregation in a process of discernment about possible locations and ministry models for the next season in the life and ministry of WGCC.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the process. Please continue to pray that we will listen closely to the Spirit and to one another as we move forward together.

### **WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:**

**Our mission: Following Jesus' teaching  
and sacrificially serving the people  
who are the most marginalized.**

# Advent giving for Project NOW

In the spirit of giving during the Christmas season, this unique advent calendar is an opportunity to share with others. Each day put the designated food item into a large box or bag. At the end of the advent season please leave the gift of food items at the Church for Project NOW. All the items on the list are foods that we use each month for the NOW families.

Project NOW is a nutrition on weekend's program affiliated with Webster Groves Christian Church. NOW provides a bag of food to 16 families every weekend. Questions? Email Julie DeKinder at [dekinderj@umsl.edu](mailto:dekinderj@umsl.edu)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Box of Macaroni and cheese	2 Canned vegetables
3 Box of granola bars	4 Box of fruit snacks	5 Box of cereal	6 Package of fruit cups	7 Box of multigrain bars (or breakfast bars)	8 Canned tuna	9 Microwave popcorn
10 Applesauce (plastic jar or individual containers)	11 Pretzels	12 Peanut butter crackers	13 Cheez-its	14 Box of Ritz-type crackers	15 Goldfish crackers (or similar snack)	16 Oatmeal, individual packages preferred
17 Package of pasta noodles	18 Canned spaghetti sauce	19 Canned chicken noodle soup	20 Canned tomato soup	21 Animal crackers	22 Pudding cups	23 Pack of Individual raisin packages
24 Canned ravioli pasta (or similar)	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28	29	30



JOIN US FOR OUR

# HOLIDAY CRAFT BOUTIQUE

DECEMBER 2ND, 10:00AM TO 3:00PM



WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1320 W LOCKWOOD AVE. 63122

ONLINE BOUTIQUE SALES - NOV. 15 - DEC. 1ST



20% OF SALES GO TO  
ART4EPILEPSY





# GO TELL IT!

Free Christmas concerts featuring Community Gospel Choir's 50 glorious voices, plus a full jazz ensemble and other special guests.



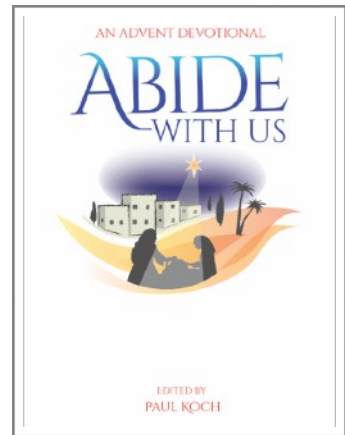
Sunday, Dec. 3, 4 p.m.  
Northside SDA Church  
9001 Lucas & Hunt Rd

Saturday, Dec. 9, 4 p.m.  
Kirkwood United Methodist Church  
201 W. Adams Ave.

Community  
*Gospel*  
Choir of St. Louis



\*With the financial support of the Regional Arts Commission and the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.



## Pick up your Advent devotional

### New for Advent 2023

Our God is always with us every time, even in the most unlikely of places.

*Abide With Us* is a daily devotional to walk us through the four weeks that lead to Christmas, reflecting on what we can do to create a welcoming space for God in our hearts and our world. Each devotion contains scripture, a short reflection, and a prayer.

Copies of the 2023 Disciples Advent Devotional are available in the church office area for \$5 per copy.

## Looking for Christmas gifts? Books make a great gift!

Get them directly from Devoree Crist for \$15 each, or a bundle of all three for \$35. You can order thru the church office by emailing or calling Steve.

Reviews:

2019 "Spirit Prayers is a treasure for those seeking deeper relationship with the Divine in real, practical and tangible ways."--ch

2021 "Author Devoree Crist is very gifted in bringing forth this jewel of a book of prayers for

these challenging times we live in."

2023 "This collection is appropriate for a devotion in a men's or women's group meeting, a daily personal devotion, or a sourcebook for prayer for a particular scripture. The book is a blessing."--bh

# Prayer concerns for WGCC

For 2 young students at Keiler Swartz's school, both of whom lost their fathers suddenly, and for a student of Robin Woodrome, who also lost his father suddenly

For the staff and residents of Doorways, as they continue to recover from a fire

For Molly Gibbon's mother, recovering from a TIA

For Max Ott, grieving the loss of a longtime friend to cancer

For Laura Stuetzer, having medical tests this week

For Molly, the daughter of Carolyn Dyess's friend, diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma

For all those traveling during this holiday season

For the Harders Family, as they deal with several health issues within their family

For Connie, a friend of Kay Love, dealing with health issues related to long-COVID

For the families (now 19 of them!) served by the NOW weekend nutrition program of WGCC

For Anna Yount's stepmother, awaiting test results on a large tumor

For the daughter of Carolyn Dyess's friend, who underwent surgery in Ecuador

For Denise Pahl's friend Karen, recovering from a bone marrow transplant

For Devoree Crist, recovering from back surgery

For the leaders of the church, local leaders, national leaders, and world

leaders as big decisions are being made

For Pat, a friend of Laura and Donna, recovering from a shattered femur

For Joe Kingston of MBCC, as he recovers from health issues

For Billie Swartz's friend, Nancy, recently diagnosed with brain cancer

For Jane Martin's nephew and his children living in Israel; the children are serving in the Israeli army, and for the family of her son, as they grieve the passing of his mother-in-law

For Laura Stuetzer's friends Brad and Linda, facing medical issues, and for her sister & brother-in-law, as her sister's memory issues worsen

For Jennifer, a friend of Billie Swartz, whose family is dealing with issues around suicide

For a student of Robin Woodrome, who is dealing with substance-abuse issues in her family

For the WGCC Board and Congregation, as they meet and make decisions involving the congregation's future planning

For Deb Trautman's son and his girlfriend, facing the loss of her brother, and having her mother in hospice

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, in hospice

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 (and all police officer'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

For Barb Merrell

For Bill Woodrome

For Pauline (Smith) England

For Shirley Arther

For Eva Moutrie

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

For DeVere and Bev Shoop

For Mildred Baker

For Bill Sullivan

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

(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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Saint Louis, MO 63122

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Lisa Cripe, Organist

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