



THE WITNESS • FEB. 2024

# How you can help WGCC shape its future.

Please prayerfully consider joining one of the committees working to help WGCC faithfully navigate the next phase of our mission and ministry.

The Board has formed three committees to do the important work of helping to guide our transition as we prepare for the sale of our building and property. These committees need your help and input! Please contact the church office or Pastor Jeff if you are willing to serve on one of these committees:

**Nurture and History:** This committee will focus upon nurturing the congregation through this time of transition by planning and implementing community building events, suggesting and designing liturgies and worship experiences, and documenting and engaging with the important history of WGCC during our time at 1320 W. Lockwood.

**Building and Grounds:** This committee will be working to decide and implement the disposition of the contents of WGCC's building and grounds as we prepare to leave our building. This committee's important tasks will include inventorying WGCC's building contents (including furniture, supplies, appliances, documents and records, office and audio-video equipment, musical instruments, artwork, etc.); making recommendations for which items will be important to keep for the ongoing mission and ministry of the congregation; and guiding the process of donating, selling, or discarding items that the congregation will not be keeping as it moves into its next phase of mission and ministry.

**Future Mission and Ministry Locations:** This committee will be helping the congregation investigate and identify possible future worship and mission locations and arrangements. This committee will do the important work of considering various options for WGCC, their financial implications, their suitability for the worship, mission, and community life of the congregation, and making recommendations and suggestions for the Board to pass on for congregational consideration.

## **Lent begins on February 14, Ash Wednesday.**

There will be an Ash Wednesday worship service at the church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14.

Lenten Study books are available in the Narthex outside the Sanctuary. Suggested donation per book is \$5.

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### **Rest & Resilience: Following the Way of Jesus through Lent**

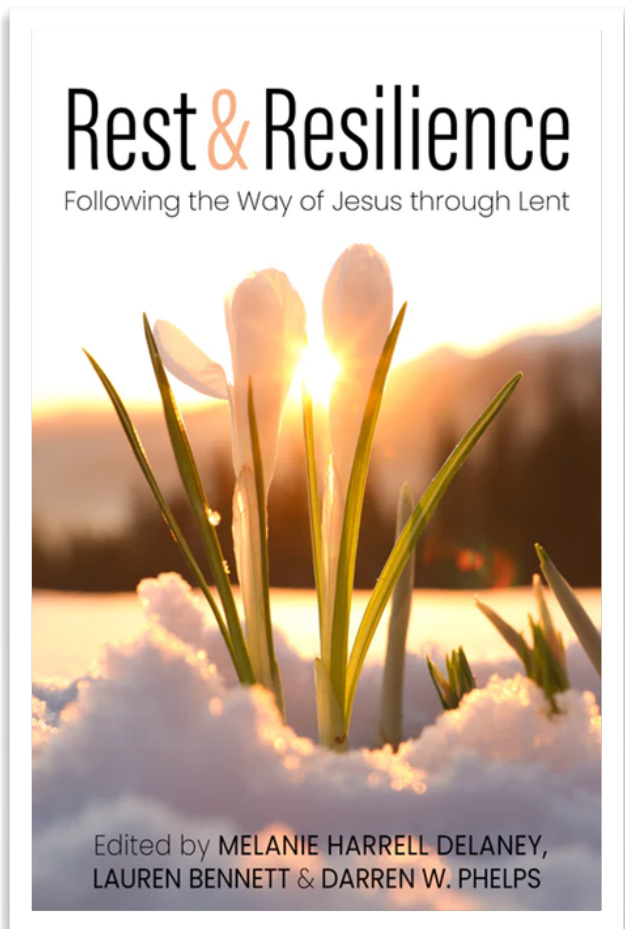
A daily devotional spanning Ash Wednesday through Easter guides readers through Lent with weekly themes of retreat, prayer, honest, compassion, creativity, and community

By The Bethany Fellows

Edited by Melanie Harrell Delaney, Lauren Bennett, and Darren W. Phelps

When Jesus was preparing for a new phase of his ministry — or experiencing the final week — he went to Bethany, his holy retreat. Following that tradition, The Bethany Fellowships, a ministry of support for young clergy and congregations, have cultivated an intentional rhythm of life and ministry that empowers community, creativity, prayer, and resilience. This six-week-long Lenten daily devotional follows practices and relationships Jesus models for us throughout his ministry, bringing us to the biblical town of Bethany to encourage retreat, prayer, honesty, compassion, creativity, and community. The diverse contributor base is comprised of ordained ministers in a variety of denominations and ministry settings, many of whom are in their first few years of congregational leadership.

*Rest & Resilience* was written and edited by Bethany Fellows, a mentoring and spiritual leadership ministry for young clergy in their first four years of congregational service. Originally based on a grant through the generosity of the Lilly Endowment, this work has now been extended as an ongoing response to the need for bright, healthy and spiritually savvy clergy to meet the challenges of today's and tomorrow's church and building a cadre of leaders for the wider church as well.





**Together  
in worship**



# Hats off for the Disciples Women!

The Marthas met the second Thursday, Jan. 11, at 12:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room. There were eight in attendance all enjoying good fellowship eating their lunches and Julie's cookies. Hostess was Julie Wood and the Devotional was given by Carol Bachman. The study on Moses setting up representatives to help govern the Israelites traveling to their Promised Land was presented by Bev Richmond with the help of Vicki Ott's very ample lesson notes. (Vicki was home sick.)

The Service Project was socks, gloves and caps for men to be given out by Memorial Boulevard Christian Church. There was a discussion about how coats were needed also and as a result several garments were promised. Blessings to all that have a need. May they stay warm this winter.

Janie and Pat will deliver your coat donations during February.

Tabithas met on Jan. 11 at church with seven attending. The next meeting will be on Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Heritage room. Denise Pahl is the study leader, with food provided by Susan Moore.

January DW Service was a warm benefit for our friends and neighbors at Memorial Boulevard Christian Church.

We sent many socks, gloves, hats and scarves to the guys in their community. In addition to that, Disciple Women are sponsoring a gently-used men and women's coat collection during the months of January and February. Check the Coat Collection article in this month's Witness for more details.

DW Service for February is MBCC's Welfare Fund (similar to WGCC Neighbor Fund). This fund helps many needing bus passes, help with rent, food, utility expenses and numerous daily living needs. Give generously.

Our prayers for those managing the dangerous cold in unheated homes.

There will be no luncheon this month. The next one is on March 7 at noon in the chapel.

-Diane Mark and Bev Richmond



## Won't you send our Valentines?

**A fine variety of Valentines and St. Patrick's Day cards are available for purchase at the Church office. Stop by and check out the selection!**



# Can you spare a coat for MBCC?



During the months of **January and February**, WGCC is collecting new or gently-used winter coats (men's/women's coats, not children's coats) for the folks served by Memorial Blvd Christian Church.

Our warm-coat giving members shook out their closets last Sunday and out flowed 10 more coats ready to keep our neighbors at MBCC warm. This is in addition to the 11 coats that previously had been donated.

If you are able to help with a donated coat or coats, they can be brought to the NOW room in the lower level of the church. You will find a specially-marked collection cart there.

Questions? See **Pat Roseman** or **Janie Joplin** for answers!

## WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

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

## What's cookin' on those third Thursdays?

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!



### Give us a like; drop us a follow!

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!

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

Make sure to "Like" the WGCC Page in Facebook, in order to receive all notifications of upcoming events!



Congratulations  
**Breona  
Hawkins**, who  
was approved for  
ordination by the  
Mid-America  
Region!! More  
details will follow  
at a later date.

# Prayer concerns for WGCC

- For all seeking shelter from the cold and wintry weather
- For Becky Piening and family, in the recent passing of Becky's father
- For Kay Love's friend, Bobbie Ruth, recovering from recent surgery
- For Kai Woodrome, who recently had seven teeth pulled, and for Robin Woodrome's father, who is going to have a heart procedure
- Congrats to Lisa Cripe on recently becoming a grandma!
- For Joe Kingston of MBCC (Janet's husband) who was recently hospitalized
- For Breona Hawkins, as she continues on her pathway to ordination
- For John Dyess, recovering from a fall, and recently in ER
- For Jeff Tedford and family, grieving the loss of Jeff's mother
- For a friend of John Smith, battling Stage 4 cancer; prayers for the family as well
- For Donna Wolff-Crump's friends, Michelle and Wayne
- For John Smith's friend, Carol, whose husband passed away unexpectedly
- For Bryan Williams, diagnosed with Stage 3 colon cancer
- For all who are grieving
- For Tim and Kathy Carson, as Kathy continues to battle cancer
- For Laura Stuetzer's neighbor, Marlene Otto, recovering from a heart attack, and preparing for hip surgery
- For Molly Gibbon's mother, recovering from a TIA
- For the families (now 19 of them!) served by the NOW weekend nutrition program of WGCC
- For Anna Yount's stepmother, who recently had a softball-sized tumor removed
- 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 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
- For the WGCC Board and Congregation, as they meet and make decisions involving the congregation's future planning
- For Max Ott's friend, Carl Mack, battling cancer
- For Denise Pahl's friend Karen, battling leukemia and undergoing chemotherapy
- For Robin's friend Dan, who has an inoperable GI tract cancerous tumor; and for a student, Nate, at her school
- For Karl Reinhardt
- For Barb Merrell's niece Regina, battling cancer
- For the safety of James Burney (and all police officers) 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 Eulalia (Lee) Arnold Will
- 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 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-americadisciples.org/>**

## **Webster Groves Christian Church**

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