

WEBSTER GROVES
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE WITNESS • MAY 2024

A journey ahead for Pastor Jeff

Dear Members and Friends of WGCC,

It seems strange to be writing that I'm preparing to embark on my sabbatical journey. To quote Yogi Berra, "It's déjà vu all over again!" A lot has happened over the last couple of years. I ended up in the hospital with pneumonia, a heart infection, and sepsis just days before my departure for my planned 2023 sabbatical. Our congregation decided to sell our building and property, and to begin a new chapter in our mission and ministry. We have begun conversations with congregations that might be good places for a rental or nesting situation. As I am writing this, we still don't have a closing date for our sale, but the process seems to be moving toward closure.

My final pre-sabbatical Sunday with you all will be May 12, and my first Sunday back will be August 25. I am grateful that WGCC member Breona Hawkins will be our primary preacher and emergency on-call pastor while I'm on sabbatical. Breona's gifts and voice are a blessing to WGCC and the world. Breona has been approved for ordination by the Mid-America Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and we will be celebrating her ordination with her and the wider community on Saturday, September 7!



I am grateful to the committee that worked so hard over two years ago to write the grant application to the Lily Foundation for the funds that will support this sabbatical time. I am also grateful to serve a faithful and gifted congregation that will continue its ministry and witness while I rest, renew, travel, pray, and study for the coming months.

I have prepared a series of studies for use while I am traveling. The studies focus on some of the places on my itinerary, and they engage with biblical texts. I hope you will take time to engage these studies with one another. A link to an online version of these studies will be included

in the weekly email during the second week of May. I will be thinking about you and praying for you as I travel.

I am thankful for the ministry and mission we all continue to share in the name of Jesus Christ. Your faithfulness and witness are a testimony to God's Spirit in our midst. I am looking forward to a great summer of motorcycle travel and biblical and historical studies, as well as returning to our ongoing shared ministry as we journey together, trusting God, to discover the shape of our next season as Webster Groves Christian Church.

Peace,

Pastor Jeff

Have you ever had dessert for lunch?

Have you ever celebrated a

SUNDAE SUNDAY?

Say, You Haven't?

Then you need to be here on Sunday May 12, to partake in the first ever WGCC/Ted Drewes create-your-own sundae extravaganza to celebrate and bid farewell to Pastor Jeff as he leaves for his sabbatical.



The Details:

Following our worship service Devoree Crist and Breona Hawkins will lead the congregation in a sending prayer for Pastor Jeff. You will be invited to join in the laying of hands to bless him as he begins his sabbatical journey.

Afterwards gather in the Art Gallery area outside the chapel for some real treats and fellowship.

A full sundae topping bar with Ted Drewes frozen custard and other savory goodies await you.

The Fixins':

Can you bring one of your favorite sundae toppings to share? You can? Wonderful!

Nuts, cherries, blueberries, bananas, gummie worms, fudge pieces (Karl), shredded coconut, hot fudge syrup? Whatever.

Contact Carolyn Dyess and let her know what you can bring.

314-536-3557 or jcdyess@swbell.net

Would you prefer to prepare a delicious savory snack? You would? Great!

Contact Julie Wood and tell her what you can bring.

(314) 922-0734 or tcwoods@sbccglobal.net

KEY DATES AHEAD

MAY 5: Annual meeting

The Annual Meeting of WGCC is scheduled for **Sunday May 5, immediately following worship.**

Items to be voted on include:

2024-25 WGCC Proposed Budget and Slate of Board Nominees-- these documents will be made available to all as we get closer to the meeting date.

MAY 10: Doorways BBQ

Friday, May 10 - Annual Disciples BBQ for Doorways staff and residents at Cooper House. All are encouraged to consider donating desserts and volunteering to BBQ, serve, and help host the event. Please contact Pastor Jeff for more details.

MAY 19: Pentecost

Put on your **RED!**

Celebrate PENTECOST SUNDAY MAY 19!

Join us for BBQ! Burgers - Dogs - Brats!

Bring a Side! Bring a Salad! OR Bring a Dessert!

Outdoors weather permitting!

Lessons in ministry for Disciples Women

The general meeting of Disciples Women was held at noon on April 4. The guest speaker was Derek Bastian, director of Webster-Rock Hill Ministries. He shared that the ministry is narrowing its focus to providing food, which was its original mission. In February the Ministry provided food for 103 households comprising 297 individuals.

The Tabitha group met on April 11, with 7 in attendance. Diane Mark presented the study and Janie Joplin provided dessert. We will meet again on May 9 at 7 p.m. in the Heritage room.

The Marthas met the second Thursday, April 11 at the Heritage Room. There were six in attendance, gathering together to eat their lunches and to enjoy good fellowship. Hostesses Kitty Baumgarth and Lisa Wyatt provided delicious cream cheese pie, mixed nuts and little candies. Jane Martin brought a vase of gorgeous tulips from her garden. A devotional about the power of prayer was given by Bev Richmond. The study "Play, Pray, Rest, Work" was given by Carol Bachman.

Jane Martin shared news regarding her young great-grandniece, Melania and great-grandnephew, Elliott both drafted to fight in the Israeli war against Hamas. Although Elliott's tank was struck by a missile, no one was injured. Melania, through intelligence, was able to save a group of innocent people. Our prayer continues to cover them so they may do good things later in their lives. Also, prayers for Alice Yount, who has been having difficult health issues and being hospitalized. The Martha's special prayer list was updated and prayers were expressed.

Pastor Linda Clark Tobias from MBCC will be the speaker at the DW Luncheon May 2 at noon in the chapel. Martha Group will be Hostess. — Diane Mark

May Service: Promise Place

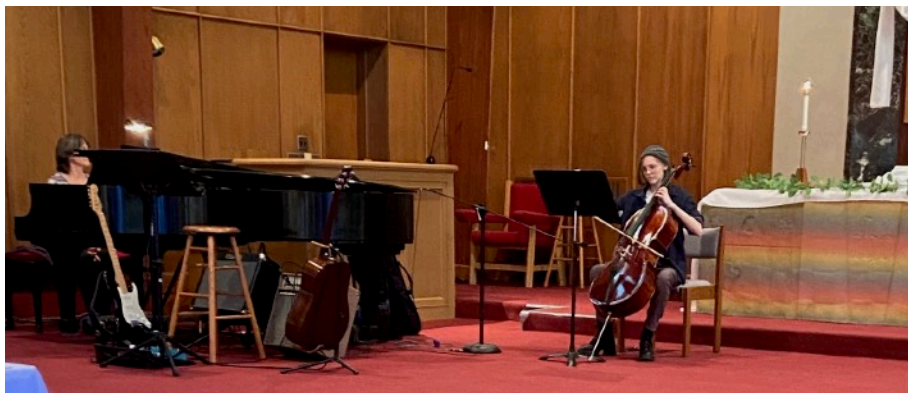
Remember April? First it was cool... and then it was warm...and then it was cool again! Well! May has arrived and we celebrate all the COOL service we provided through the WARM giving our DW members gave to April's service, Horizons STL in Kirkwood. Steve does not have a total for us yet. Come to our May general meeting to hear our April grand total.

Our May service will be monetary donations. Give through Givelify or a check to WGCC with "DW May - Promise Place" in the memo line. It will benefit families of Promise Place, a support arm of Kirkwood School District to aid families of young children.

AGAIN...another reason to come to our May meeting on May 2 to hear more about our May service project. ---Janie and Pat

Sharing our gifts

Kai Woodrome graced our congregation with a cello performance as part of the Sunday, April 14, worship.



SCENES OF CELEBRATION AT WGCC!



Maundy Thursday: Multi-congregational worship service.



Maundy Thursday: Dinner celebration



Easter Sunday:
Worship service



Fellowship lunch: Second Sunday Sandwich and Salad

Take us out to the ballgame!

Saturday, June 29th is the 32nd annual Christian Day at the ballpark, when the Cardinals will face the Reds. After the game, fans are invited to stay for a postgame program featuring current players, broadcasters, and featured guest speaker Isaac Bruce. Groups of 20 or more can receive special pricing. It would be really great for WGCC to show up in force wearing our church T-shirts! Information will follow soon on ticket prices.

Trivia lovers, mark your calendars!

The annual Webster-Rock Hill Ministries Trivia night will be June 14 at 7 p.m. at First Congregational Church in Webster Groves. It would be great if we could fill a table of 8! In addition to it being a lot of fun, Trivia Night is a major fundraising activity for the Ministry. Please contact Diane Mark if you plan to attend.

Wanted: Green Team Volunteers!

With the arrival of Spring comes the need at WGCC for volunteer lawn mowers! We've had a great team in place for many years, but can always use more hands to help keep the church grounds manicured, mowed, and looking their best.

If you are able to help, please let the church office or Jeff Moore know of your interest.

We are an equal opportunity "employer!"



Capping a career

Several members of Webster Groves Christian Church were on hand at Compton Heights CC in St. Louis on Sunday, April 7, to celebrate with Rev. Katherine Kinnamon who is retiring from active ministry.



WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

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

Prayer concerns for WGCC

For the family of Max Ott's cousin, who recently passed away.

For all students who are facing the challenge of final exams.

For Jenna Rose, facing surgery after a broken arm.

For Alice Yount, recovering from surgery in rehab

For Kay Love, recovering from surgery

For Laura Stuezter's friend Mary Jo and her wife Amy, as Mary Jo is in ICU with several health issues

For Donna Wolff-Crump's friend Sue in hospital

For Devoree Crist's friend Michael Boehm, facing cardiac issues

For John & Carolyn Dyess, as John recovers

For those struggling with mental illnesses

For Shah Smith's sister and her family, as she faces health issues and surgery; also for Shah's friend who is battling prostate cancer, and another friend facing cataract surgery

For John Gerdes' nephew Steve, fighting a severe infection which led to heart issues/coma

For the marginalized in the community of East St Louis

For James Burney, who was injured in the line of his police duties

For Sara Webb, and all who are grieving the passing of Chris Webb last week

For the Burney's niece, Kristin, whose cancer has returned

For Deb Trautman's Aunt Mary, having health issues

For Denise Pahl, facing an upcoming surgery

For Jeff Tedford, recovering from an injury

For Janice McFarland, recovering from severe burns and skin grafts

For Vicki Ott

For Breona Hawkins, as she continues on her pathway to ordination

For Tim and Kathy Carson, as Kathy continues to battle cancer

For the families (now 20 of them!) served by the NOW weekend nutrition program of WGCC

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

For Barb Merrell

For Bill Woodrome

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.

For all who are grieving



Celebrating the life of Darlene Goodrich

Please hold in prayer the family of Darlene Goodrich, who passed away on April 18. Darlene and her husband, Howard, served the Church in countless ways, including as Regional staff and through Global Ministries. They lived for many years in Mid-America but had moved to Indiana in retirement.

Darlene's Memorial Service will be at First Christian Church, 211 S. Walnut Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 11:00 am. Memorial gifts may be shared with First Christian Church, 211 S. Walnut Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 or Disciples Overseas Ministries, P.O. Box 1986 Indianapolis, IN 46206

Online condolence can be left at www.BurkhartFH.com

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

1320 West Lockwood Avenue

Saint Louis, MO 63122

Phone: 314-961-3232 / Website: www.wgcc.org

Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore, Pastor

jeffmoore@wgcc.org

Robin Woodrome, Choir Director

Lisa Cripe, Organist

lisacripe@wgcc.org

Jeff Wolf, Lead Custodian

jeffwolf@wgcc.org

Gary Smith, Custodian

Steve Staicoff, Office Manager

admin@wgcc.org

Witness Articles

brosepd@hotmail.com