



THE WITNESS • Dec. 2024

Webster Groves Christian Church began in a home in Webster Groves on Christmas Eve over 125 years ago.

**Our final worship service at 1320 W. Lockwood will be our Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons and Carols service at 11:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24.**

Special music will begin at 10:30 p.m. that evening.

We will have luminaries lighting the way as we announce the birth of the Christ Child, and as we embark on the next stage of our congregation's journey of discipleship. Our Quiet Christmas worship service on Sunday, Dec. 29, will be online. More information will be included in future Weekly Updates.

**Our first worship service at our new location, the Webster Groves Baptist Church building at 308 Summit Avenue, Webster Groves, 63119, will be Sunday, January 5, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**

Beginning in January, our new Sunday worship schedule will be 9:00 worship, and 10:00 Christian Formation classes and coffee fellowship.

**Key dates:**

**Nov. 30:**

Hanging of the greens

**Dec. 1:**

Advent workshop and chili lunch

**Dec. 14:**

Jazz and vocal Christmas

**Dec. 15:**

Deconsecration of Memorial Garden

**Dec. 24:**

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

**Jan. 5:**

First service at Webster Groves Baptist Church

**Details on Pages 2-3**

## **Celebrate the holidays with us!**

### **Nov. 30, Hanging of the Greens**

Advent begins Sunday, Dec. 1. If you would like to help decorate our sanctuary for our final Advent and Christmas season in the building, please



plan to join others beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 30.

### **Dec. 1: Advent Chili Lunch and Art Projects**

Please plan to join us in Love Chapel on Sunday, Dec. 1, following worship in the sanctuary, for a chili lunch and art projects. Artist Jim Frederick will be with us, and the projects will include painting wooden serving trays or festive glasses. All are invited!

### **Dec. 14: Jazz and Vocal concert**

Jazz and Vocal Christmas Saturday, Dec. 14, at 4:00 PM, featuring TwoTimesTrue and the WGCC Choir. Please plan to attend and invite family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors!

Our traditional homemade cookie reception will follow the concert in the Art Gallery. Cookies may also be purchased that evening.



## **Building Transition Process: Efforts to honor our history**

Special thanks to all who are working hard to provide for our transition to our new location. As Pastor Jeff announced in worship on November 24, we have learned that Westborough Country Club plans to demolish all parts of the church building except the Bell Tower, which contains cell antennae.

As we process this sad news, the Board and its committees are working diligently to discern an orderly process and clear procedures for determining what items we will take with us to our new location, and which items we will be able to share with members, mission partners, and to sell to possible buyers.

Every effort is being made to discover ways to conserve and honor those items, including art, that have brought great beauty and meaning to the life and history of our congregation. We are planning to safely remove and store (or possibly lend to a congregation or museum that can display it for the near future) the Hillis Arnold cross that hangs in the front of our sanctuary.

We are looking into possible processes for the safe removal of the stained glass in the sanctuary and the chapel. Unfortunately, due to the custom nature of this glass, and the fragility of these pieces, we will not likely be able to safely and affordably remove many of these fixtures. We will work to keep the congregation informed as we gain information and discern next steps.

## **Memorial Garden deconsecration service on Dec. 15**

As we prepare to leave 1320 W. Lockwood at the end of this year, we will have a deconsecration service for the Memorial Garden on Sunday, Dec. 15, at the completion of our morning worship service, asking God's blessing over us as we remember and honor those memorialized there, and thanking God for their lives and love.

Named stones and bricks will be removed and stored until the Memorial Garden finds a new home. Though no full cremains are interred in the WGCC Memorial Garden, many families have sprinkled and covered some ashes of loved ones in front of their stones. We will be removing and storing the topsoil in front of each stone as an acknowledgement and symbol of this important act.

Any families who would prefer to keep the stones and soil from the Memorial Garden instead of including them with the stones, soil, and bricks that will be stored, can contact Steve Staicoff at the WGCC office (314) 961-3232. Any stones that are currently damaged or that are damaged in the move, will be replaced and engraved.

Letters and emails will also be sent to families for whom we have current contact information.

We are grateful for the lives, love, and spirits of those who have gone before us, and we thank God for God's Presence, Grace, and Love.

# Holiday time for Disciples Women

The Disciples Women will be meeting on Dec. 5 at noon in the chapel. Bring your own lunch, please. Tabitha will be hosting as we sing carols and decorate our desserts. We all look forward to an “Ugliest Christmas Sweater Christmas Cookie” decorating contest!



Disciples Women Members: Thank you for the fully loaded Thanksgiving bags for Webster-Rock Hill Ministries. They were greatly appreciated by those distributing food to their families. For Dec. service we are focusing on the home of our NOW ministry-- Head Start in Meacham Park. The staff at Head Start tell us of their great need to provide dry underwear and pants for the little ones. The children wear them home and they often are not returned to the center. There are 20 NOW children; but the center has another 20 who are not in the NOW program. We will be providing these items for all 40 children, sizes 2T through 5T, boys and girls. Your generosity is needed and appreciated!



The Marthas met in the Chapel on Nov. 14 with nine members attending. Anna Yount and Bev Richmond were hostesses. It was a very special occasion to have Alice Yount back after months of illness and recovery and Alice was able to give the devotional! Bev gave the study, "The Five Daughters of Zelophehad Verses the People". There was a hearty discussion on this Bible Study and Women's Rights. This little remembered Bible story even has been cited in the United States Supreme Court! The women presented their Service Project of five Thanksgiving bags of groceries for WRHM. Bags were blessed and presented with the hope of a happy Thanksgiving meal for the recipients.

On Nov.7, nine Tabithas participated in Susan Moore's artful presentation of the study about "rest" from Matthew 11, verses 28-30. At this season of giving, (and all seasons) it is vital that we also "rest." We discussed how we each choose to take it easy. Then we learned about and tried some fascinating new art techniques. When we weren't resting, we were eating Diane Mark's chocolate pie while planning our future project: tasty cookies for the DW Dec. 5 noon luncheon (bring your own lunch, please) in the chapel (restful art surprise).

Please bring an appetizer or dessert and toddler clothes (service project) to our 6:30 meeting at Susie Burney's home on Dec. 12.

The Marthas will meet on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Bring a sack lunch; dessert will be provided. Hostess will be Jane; Bev will present the devotional. Instead of a study, we will play the Christmas Carol Game.

Our first 2025 DW lunch meeting will be in March in the new building!

Our group meetings will resume in January.

- Susan Burney

## WORSHIP AND SERVICE IN NOVEMBER!



### In All Things, Charity



Over 125 Years of Worship and Service With  
Webster Groves Christian Church

### A new shipment of WGCC memory books has arrived.

You can purchase a limited-edition, hardcover copy of WGCC's Memory Book at the church for \$25 each. Thanks to **Keiler Schwarz** for all of his hard work on this project, and to all who contributed photographs and memories!

# Advent Calendar of Giving for Project NOW

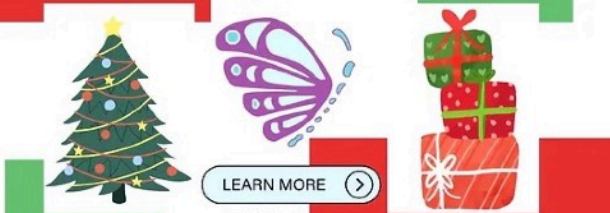
In the spirit of giving during the Christmas season, this unique Advent calendar is an opportunity to share with others. Each day put the designated food item into a large box or bag. At the end of the Advent season please leave the gift of food items at the Church for Project NOW. All the items on the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

Project NOW is a nutrition on weekends program affiliated with Webster Groves Christian Church. NOW provides a bag of food to 20 families every weekend.

Questions? Email Julie DeKinder at [dekinderj@umsl.edu](mailto:dekinderj@umsl.edu)

- Dec. 1-** Box of macaroni and cheese
- Dec. 2-** canned vegetables
- Dec. 3-** box of granola bars
- Dec. 4-** box of fruit snacks
- Dec. 5-** box of cereal
- Dec. 6-** package of fruit cups
- Dec. 7-** box of Nutrigrain bars (or similar breakfast bars)
- Dec. 8-** canned tuna
- Dec. 9-** microwave popcorn
- Dec. 10-** applesauce (plastic jar or individual containers)
- Dec. 11-** pretzels
- Dec. 12-** peanut butter crackers
- Dec. 13-** Cheez-its
- Dec. 14-** box of Ritz-type crackers
- Dec. 15-** Goldfish crackers
- Dec. 16-** oatmeal, individual packages preferred
- Dec. 17-** package of pasta noodles
- Dec. 18-** canned spaghetti sauce
- Dec. 19-** canned chicken noodle soup
- Dec. 20-** canned tomato soup
- Dec. 21-** animal crackers
- Dec. 22-** pudding cups
- Dec. 23-** package of individual raisin packages
- Dec. 24-** canned ravioli pasta (or similar canned pasta)

## ART4Epilepsy's Holiday Boutique



The **Art4Epilepsy Holiday Boutique** will be an online-only event this year. Please click on the link below for details on how to order holiday items.

<https://www.art4epilepsy.org/holidayboutique>

## Cooper House Christmas List

WGCC members are invited to sign up to provide wrapped gifts at church on Sundays or call and check with Steve.

To see the people and Christmas wishes go to:  
<https://bit.ly/cooper-list-2024>

Gifts are due to the church by December 15.

# Prayer concerns for WGCC

For Alice Yount, recovering at home

For Robin Woodrome's mother, Grace, recovering from medical issues

For Bev Richmond's son, Andy, as he undergoes open-heart surgery

For Laura Stuetzer's sister-in-law in Kentucky, being treated for multiple myeloma. Pray for friends and family.

For Carolyn and Joyce, friends of Laura Stuetzer, facing brain cancer and metastatic pancreatic cancer respectively

For the friends and family of the Dyess's friend Julie Shay, who recently passed away

Breona Hawkins asks prayers for the family of "Ron," who passed away, for her own family during this holiday season, and for herself, as she recovers from an ear infection

For Mat DeKinder, facing issues with his back

For Kay Love's friend Sarah, who had a tumor removed

For everyone traveling during this holiday season

For David and Dawn Ingram, as David faces some medical issues and procedures

For Tom Wood, recovering from surgery

For Becky Piening, facing an upcoming surgery

For John Burney's niece, battling an aggressive cancer, and for her husband, who suffered a heart attack

For Anna Yount's friend, battling liver cancer

For Jeff Tedford

For John and Carolyn Dyess as John continues to heal

For Vicki Ott's friend, Rhonda Young, and her family

For Vicki Ott, suffering from MS

For Lisa Rothe's friend Cindy, diagnosed with cancer, and her friend Susie, facing surgery for ovarian cancer

For all who are grieving, especially during this holiday season

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

For the 20 families served by the NOW weekend nutrition program of WGCC

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, and for WRHM as a helping organization

For the MBCC Food Ministry, and neighborhoods of Memorial Blvd. Christian Church.

## WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

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

## Monday Afternoon Bible Studies resume in Dec.

Please plan to join us, beginning Monday, Dec. 2, from 3:00-4:30 PM for a Bible Study on Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88675147326>

# 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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