AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE WITNESS • OCTOBER 2024

Sign up today for our Homecoming Celebration!

RSVP by Oct. 1 at tinyrul.com/28cpr353 or by emailing keiler.swartz@gmail.com

See page 3 for complete details on Homecoming activities.

Disciples Women are good neighbors

Thanks to all of you for giving for the purchase of NOW fruit in September.

Disciples Women are collecting for the Neighbor Fund in October. Money from this fund helps our members and the public with financial assistance when they are going through difficult times. A note mentioning “Neighbor Fund” with your donation will be helpful. The pantry box is also in need of food and personal items. Looking ahead to November and Thanksgiving, DW will be providing 10 bags for Webster-Rock Hill Ministries. The shopping list will be in the November Witness. As you eat your fall apples, thanks again for the 20 bags of apples you helped buy for NOW!

The DW Lunch will be Oct. 3 at noon in the chapel. Church members, friends and guests are invited. The program will be Pastor Jeff talking about his Sabbatical trip around the Mediterranean Sea; it is a presentation that has been much anticipated! Bring a sack lunch; desserts will be provided. Martha Group will be the Hostesses.

The Marthas met Thursday, Sept. 12 in the Chapel. There were six members and one guest gathering for lunch and good fellowship. Hostesses were Bev Richmond and Anna Yount. The devotional was given by Anna, and the study "Loving because....." from last year's Just Women Magazine was given by Carol Bachman. Monetary contributions for the NOW Program were collected and blessed. The prayer list was updated, and those persons were held in prayer.

The next Martha Group program will be held in the Chapel on Oct. 10. The study will be presented by Bev Richmond, and the devotional by Jane Martin. Anna Yount and Julie Wood will be the hostesses.

Eight Tabithas met on Sept. 12 in the Chapel, where Sally Smith led a lively discussion of the Just Women Magazine program about being a good neighbor. Susan Moore then treated us to a yummy dessert.

Tabithas will move back to the Heritage room for the Oct. 10 meeting at 7 p.m. Diane Mark has chosen to present the program and provide the goodies!

-Susan Burney

Welcome to David Moss, Eden Seminary intern

In September, the congregation was introduced to this year's Contextual Education student from Eden Seminary, David Moss.

David is a first level, Masters of Divinity student at Eden Seminary, and will be participating in our church life and worship for this school year.

His goal is to be a Chaplain, once he retires from his career as an electrician. David is married with three grown children, and resides in Arnold.

Oct. 1 deadline to save your spot for our Homecoming meal

Hello Webster Groves Christian Church (WGCC) Members and Friends!

As we prepare to leave our current building at 1320 W. Lockwood, the Congregation has decided to host a Homecoming Celebration. This celebration will take place on Oct. 19 and 20 and will include many fun events intended to reflect on and celebrate our time in this building.

The events include, but are not limited to: a **Reunion Concert** at 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 19, as well as a **Special Homecoming Worship Service** at 10:30 am and a **Homecoming Meal** following the service at noon, on Sunday, October. 20..

These events will be open to all current and former members of WGCC, as well as family and friends of the congregation.

To adequately plan for this celebration, we ask that you kindly RSVP for these events by filling out this form (see link below).

https://bit.ly/wgcc-homecoming

Please note: DUE TO THE HOMECOMING MEAL BEING A FULL-SERVICE CATERED MEAL, IT HAS A LIMIT OF 120 AND SEATS WILL BE ENSURED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS. Additionally, the cost of this meal will be $23 per person.

Payment can be made directly to the Church office with check/cash (PREFERRED) at 1320 W. Lockwood Avenue or via the Givelify App. If paying by check, please indicate on the memo line "Homecoming Meal."

All RSVPs must be submitted no later than October 1, 2024.

With that said, we are very much looking forward to celebrating our time on West Lockwood and looking towards the future of our Church! We hope to see you at the Webster Groves Christian Church Homecoming Celebration!

--Keiler Swartz, Homecoming Committee

Doorways honors Pastor Jeff

Doorways congratulates The Reverend Dr. Jeff Moore for receiving The Michael Edlin Award on Tuesday, Sept. 12. Lila Daus was named Volunteer Of The Year, and Michael Brave was honored with its Generosity Award. Pictured alongside Pastor Jeff are Opal M. Jones, President and CEO, and Steven M. Scott, Board Chairperson who presented these well-deserved awards.

Doorways gives a big shoutout to all of its incredible volunteers (board and committee members, event volunteers, and regular program volunteers) - whose dedication and hard work are truly inspiring! Thank you for supporting our staff and furthering their mission every single day. Doorways couldn't be more proud of its honorees and all of its amazing volunteers!

Our Neighbor Fund helps neighbors near and far in a number of important ways! Please consider a generous gift to the Neighbor Fund during 2024.

NEIGHBOR FUND

The **Neighbor Fund** is maintained by our congregation, and is used at our pastor's discretion to aid those within our congregation and those from our wider community with one-time emergency assistance.

Our congregational budget includes money for the Neighbor Fund, but the majority of income from the fund comes from generous and faithful designated gifts by WGCC members. **In addition to your regular support of our budgeted mission and ministry, please consider a one-time or ongoing gift to the Neighbor Fund.**

A special celebration with Rev. Hawkins

On behalf of the Mid-America Region and the Regional Commission on the Order of Ministry, I want to thank you and the wonderful saints of Webster Groves for hosting the ordination service of Breona Hawkins on Sept. 7. It was indeed a grand day of inspiration and celebration and the generous hospitality of you and your congregation was on full display.

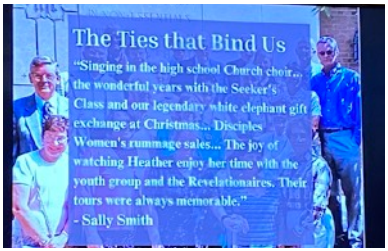
Perhaps it was so obvious because of the covenant of support and love you made with Breona to walk with her on her path to ordination. You and WGCC are both a stunning example of how to nurture someone's call to Christian vocation. Along with Breona's ordination covenant language, I will be sharing our experience with my colleagues in the Region as well as the wider church.

As you have been, and will continue to be, a bright light of justice, peace, love, and hope; may the richness of God's blessings fill your hearts and lives.

Rev. David Woodard, Associate Regional Minister Greater St. Louis & Interim Coordinator for the Regional Commission on the Order of Ministry

In honor of her ordination last month, **Rev. Breona Hawkins** is raising money to help a Kenyan woman (Annette W.) begin her educational journey.

There is a special fund set up in Givelify, or you can send a check to the church with a **note in the memo field** indicating it's for the "Kenyan Scholarship Fund."



A sneak peek at WGCC history

The WGCC Nurture and History Committee is producing a coffee table-style book and digital collection celebrating the many decades of worship and fellowship that we have all shared in this church.

Keiler Swartz has been updating the congregation with chapter-by-chapter sneak peeks of the book during worship service.

The September preview offered a look at fellowship in a chapter called "The Ties That Bind Us."

Stay tuned for more details about the book and the digital collection For questions you can email keiler.swartz@gmail.com.

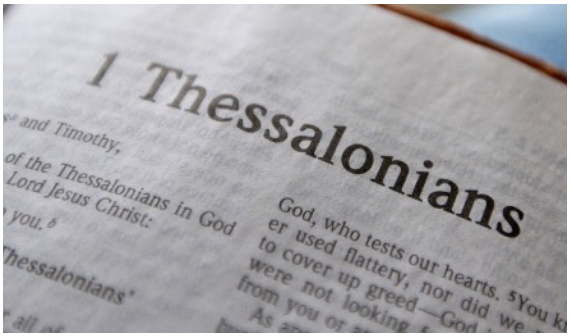
Support the WGCC team by walking or donating

The 2024 St. Louis CROP Hunger Walk is on Sunday, Sept. 29, at Eden Theological Seminary (475 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119). Registration/check-in is at 1:30 p.m. and the walk is at 2 p.m.

Lisa Cripe has registered a team for Webster Groves Christian Church.

Pre-register and join the team, and/or make a donation at https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/saintlouismo.

A 3-mile and 1-mile route will be available. As always, 75% of funds raised will be used internationally by Church World Service and 25% will stay in our local community. Local partners/beneficiaries are Circle of Concern, Webster-Rock Hill Ministries, and the Crisis Food Center (Alton, IL).



Join us for Bible study!

Join Pastor Jeff for Bible study each Monday, from 3:00 – 4:30 PM, with the book of 1 Thessalonians. We'll study Paul's letter celebrating a flourishing church - and maybe pick up a little bit of Greek along the way.

Here's a Zoom Link:

Time: Mondays 3 p.m.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83008148327

Prayer concerns for WGCC

For Rhonda Young, a friend of Vicki Ott living in Pennsylvania needing our prayers.

For Bill Howells' family as it faces end-of-life decisions for his mother, who is own life support.

For the family of John Smith's friend Pam, who passed away after battling pancreatic cancer.

For Clark Meiner, a friend of Keiler Swartz who recently lost his father.

For Lisa Rothe's brother Walter, who is healing after a skin cancer procedure.

For students and staff at Georgia's Apalachee High School.

For the congregation and staff at Webster Groves Baptist Church.

For Alice Yount, who has been dismissed from the hospital, and is going thru rehab

For Susan Burney's cousin, Diane, in California--evacuated from their home due to wildfires

Kay Love asks for prayers for her sister (recovering form COVID), her friend Debbie Bush, and safe travels for her uncle coming into town.

For the Haitian community of Springfield OH, currently under persecution

For the friends and family of Mary Jane Schultz, a frequent visitor to WGCC, who passed away on 8-31-24.

For "D", a student of Robin Woodrome's, suffering from mental issues. Prayers for all who are suffering, and for those who care for them

For Jeff Moore's mother, as she recovers from surgery, and for Jeff's brother, recovering from emergency appendectomy

For Donna Wolff-Crump's friend Camille, whose cancer has returned

For Max Ott's friend Ben Dempsey, who is doing well after surgery

For Max Ott's brother-in-law, following successful heart surgery

For Max's cousin David, recently diagnosed with ALS

For the family and friends of Max Ott's friend Patricia, who was killed in a car accident

For Craig and Donna Wood, recovering from COVID, and for Donna recovering from a physical injury

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

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 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 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-americadisciples.org/

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