

WEBSTER GROVES  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE WITNESS • SEPTEMBER 2024



## The road ahead

WGCC negotiating a lease with Webster Groves Baptist Church

At a special meeting in August, Webster Groves Christian Church members approved moving forward with the negotiation of a 15- to 17-month lease with Webster Groves Baptist Church where we will nest temporarily and consider future options.

The current plan is to stay in our building until after the Christmas Eve services.

For details on why that site was chosen and what happens, next, see a Q&A on page 3

---

**SEPT. 7:** Ordination Service of Breona Hawkins. Page 2.

**OCT. 19-20:** WGCC reunion weekend. Sign up now. Page 4.

# A fruitful season for Disciples Women

Summer is ending soon and Disciples Women are looking forward to starting our fall schedule! The Martha group has been meeting all season, including a lovely lunch at Duffy's, while Tabithas took the summer off.

There will be many exciting and challenging changes in store for us as a group and a Church!

The September Lunch will be on September 5. We will meet in the Chapel at noon. (All of our group meetings will be in the Chapel and not the Heritage room from now on.)

Bring your sack lunch and the Tabitha group will furnish drinks and delicious desserts!

The program will feature Jeff Moore speaking about his Sabbatical experiences, the changes WGCC is facing, reminiscing about the past and enjoying each other's company. Hopefully we can answer any questions you have and make some plans. Our General Business meeting will follow.

Disciples Women are pleased to be presenting a gift for Breona's ordination. The funds for the gift are coming from the CARD MAKING profits.

---

As we prepare to get back in the NOW groove for Head Start, I want to remind you of the need to donate as you have in the past, in particular for fruit.

NOW fruit is Disciple Women's September service project. NOW fruit expenditures usually average \$70-75 each month. In past years the two Sunday school classes have donated once a month.

Checks and cash to WGCC with NOW fruit in memo line is the best way to support it. There is not a separate account for fruit; it all goes in the NOW account.

**Pat Roseman**

---

Laura Stuetzer and I put together the annual Yearbook. By now most of you should have your copy.

We know that we will be moving to Nest with The Webster Groves Baptist Church in January, 2025. There are many details to attend to, but we still will have the Thursday lunches on the first Thursday and our group meetings on the second Thursday. I hope you all are looking forward to the changes too!

The September meeting for the Marthas will be hosted by Bev Richmond and Anna Yount. Anna will give the devotion and Carol Bachman will lead the study.

The Tabithas' first meeting is not one to miss! I will be doing the study and dessert will be by Susan Moore!! We all know what that means...

**Sally Smith**

---

**WEBSTER GROVES CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH & AFFTON CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH CORDIALLY INVITE YOUR  
PRESENCE & PRAYERS |**

**SATURDAY 09.07.2024 @3PM  
WGCC:1320 W. LOCKWOOD AVE  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63122**

RECEPTION AT THE CHURCH FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

*Ordination  
Service of*

**BREONA S. HAWKINS, MSW, M.DIV.**

# Q&A: Why Webster Groves Baptist Church?

A special committee studying future mission and ministry locations has recommended Webster Groves Baptist Church as a short-term solution for the needs of Webster Groves Christian Church. WGBC also offers opportunities for future partnerships.

## Who was on the committee?

Lisa Cripe, Kay Love, Jane Martin, Max Ott, Denise Pahl, Pat Roseman, John Smith, Shah Smith, Kai Woodrome and Robin Woodrome

## Where is Webster Groves Baptist Church?

It is at 308 Summit Avenue, at Oakwood Avenue, just northeast of Eden Theological Seminary.

It's about a 3-mile drive from Webster Groves Christian Church.

## What were key reasons WGBC was selected?

A desire to share their space and make things work for us.

An eagerness to pursue partnerships.

The wish that their church to be used to serve the community.

Membership/attendance - WGBC has 20-40 on a Sunday morning

## What options were considered?

Rent independent space (storefront, building)

Purchase a building

Construct a prefab building on purchased land

## What sites were visited and considered?

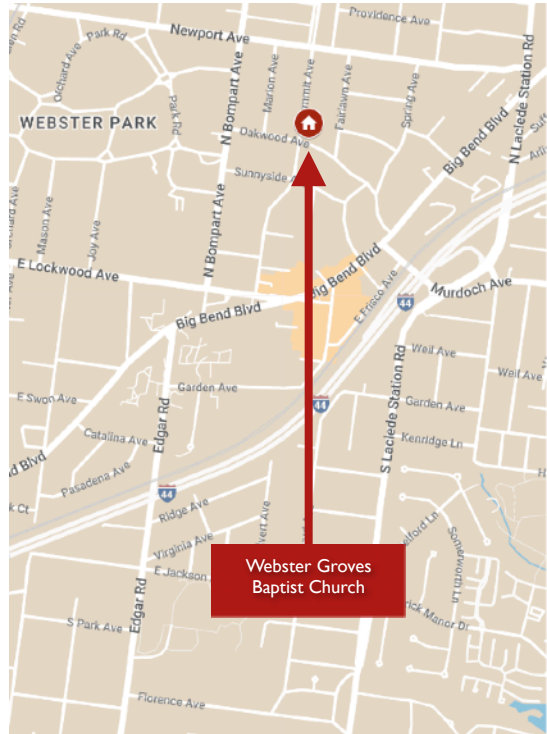
Glendale Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

Kirkwood United Church of Christ

Webster Groves Baptist Church (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship)

## What is their mission?

Our understanding of Baptist faith and practice is expressed by our emphasis on freedom in biblical interpretation and congregational governance, the participation of women and men in all aspects of church leadership and Christian ministry, and religious liberty for all people through soul, church, bible and religious freedom.



## What were the site parameters?

Location, Open & Affirming Congregation, Theology, Interest, Space, Cost

## What are the next steps?

Invite members of WGBC to visit WGCC to see which items we might bring and use or store

Kay Love and Jeff Moore have had an initial meeting with Webster Groves Baptist, and the two Boards will be following through over the next couple of weeks.

Move after Christmas

# Celebrate homecoming with us (and bring your friends and family)!

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 October 19 and 20, 2024, 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** on Saturday, October 19th, 2024, as well as a **Special Homecoming Worship Service** at 10:30am and a **Homecoming Meal** following the service at Noon, on Sunday, October 20, 2024.

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 W. 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



SCENES OF CELEBRATION AT WGCC!



## Be a part of 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.

A sneak peek at the book was given at worship in August, and more previews will come.

If you have any images, stories, testimonials, or anything else that you would like preserved in the form of this book and digital collection, please email it to [keiler.swartz@gmail.com](mailto:keiler.swartz@gmail.com) or mail it to the church office at 1320 W. Lockwood Ave, St. Louis, MO 63122. Thank you for your contributions to the project!



## Doorways to honor Pastor Jeff

# 2024 Annual Meeting

Please Join Us As We Celebrate and Honor Our Volunteers

**Michael Edlin Award Honoree**  
Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore

**Generosity Award Honoree**  
Michael Brave

**Volunteer Award Honoree**  
Lila Daus

Please consider making a gift in honor of an awardee by visiting [www.doorwaysdonate.org](http://www.doorwaysdonate.org)

**Tuesday, September 10, 2024**  
**6:00PM - 8:00PM**  
**Annual Meeting/Award Presentation at 7:00PM**

**Jefferson Avenue Campus - Community Room**  
**1101 N Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63106**

Hors d'oeuvres and wine/beer will be served. Dress code is business casual

Please RSVP to  
[jtimmerberg@doorwayshousing.org](mailto:jtimmerberg@doorwayshousing.org) or call (314) 328-2705

**SPONSORED BY**



Advisors

**Thank You To Our Underwriters**



**THANK YOU to all our volunteers at every level who have donated their time and spirit to support our mission!**



## Be part of the WGCC CROP walk crew

The 2024 St. Louis CROP Hunger Walk is on Sunday, September 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 2:00 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/saintlouism>.

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).

# Prayer concerns for WGCC

- For Alice Yount, who has been dismissed from the hospital, and is going thru rehab
- For safe travels for James Burney and Jared Joplin, as they embark on a trip
- For the Smith's friends Pam and Gary, as Pam enters hospice
- For Max Ott's friend Ben Dempsey, who has just finished a round of chemotherapy
- For Devoree's brother-in-law and his wife
- For the students at Keiler Swartz's school, facing harsh circumstances and grief
- For Susan Moore's brother, Mike, suffering memory loss
- For John Burney's cousin, having heart issues
- For Laura Stuetzer's friends Larry and Jane
- For Breona Hawkins and her family, grieving the loss of her 23-year old cousin, who was murdered
- For Diane Mark's brother Jeff, recovering from heart surgery and facing cardiac rehab
- For Max Ott's brother-in-law Steve, having a heart procedure
- For John/Shah Smith's friend Pam and her family, as Pam undergoes chemotherapy
- For Sara Webb's friend Teresa and her father, as Teresa battles blood cancer
- For Robin & Bill Woodrome, facing medical issues
- 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 Bill Howell's mother, who has a mass on her thyroid gland
- For Kay Love's neighbor, undergoing cancer therapy
- For Laura Stuetzer's sister Cathy, and her husband and for Laura as they confront the difficulties of dealing with her sister's dementia
- For the friends and family of Kay Love's friend, Kathy Flood Figs, who recently passed away
- 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/>**

## **Webster Groves Christian Church**

1320 West Lockwood Avenue

Saint Louis, MO 63122

Phone: 314-961-3232 / Website: [www.wgcc.org](http://www.wgcc.org)

Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore, Pastor

[jeffmoore@wgcc.org](mailto:jeffmoore@wgcc.org)

Robin Woodrome, Choir Director

Lisa Cripe, Organist

[lisacripe@wgcc.org](mailto:lisacripe@wgcc.org)

Jeff Wolf, Lead Custodian

[jeffwolf@wgcc.org](mailto:jeffwolf@wgcc.org)

Gary Smith, Custodian

Steve Staicoff, Office Manager

[admin@wgcc.org](mailto:admin@wgcc.org)

Witness Articles

[brosepd@hotmail.com](mailto:brosepd@hotmail.com)