

A NEW BEGINNING

Blessings to you! We are now officially into a new year, and with it will be new opportunities, new stories to share, and a new beginning. We pray that this will be your best year yet, and hope that you will take advantage of the start of the new year to become even more involved in our wonderful church family.

Come & Consider

Thinking about joining WGPC? Want to learn a little more about this congregation? Determined to finally know how to spell Presbyterian? Come & Consider with us on Sunday, January 13 from 12-2pm in the Parlor! We'll break bread together, talk about this church and denomination, get to know one another, and tour the building! Childcare is provided. Please RSVP to Pastor Hannah (hmd@wgpc.org) by Sunday, January 6 if you plan to join us.

WGPC Facebook

We are now updating our Facebook page and feed on a more frequent and consistent basis, and we would love for you to join us on our page and interact and share our posts. Please make sure that you have liked the WGPC page on Facebook. Our page is facebook.com/WGPCOnline.



Month of Grace & Prayer

Please consider participating in the Month of Grace + Prayer, a participatory exploration of prayer as a spiritual discipline. This is designed to be a retreat in everyday life – where you commit to pray at least 20 minutes a day – with weekly conversations with a trained Spiritual Companion. No previous experience expected. This is a fresh way to become more aware of God’s presence in your life.

OPENING WORKSHOP - January 13 – 2:30PM (90 minutes)

First Congregational Church (across the street from WGPC)

Led by Clarence Heller

(leader of over 100 retreats in the St. Louis area since 1955)

Weekly one-on-one confidential meetings on Tuesdays (January 15 – February 5th) Webster

Groves Presbyterian Church

With a trained Spiritual companion (no WGPC members)

At a time convenient for you (or by phone)

CLOSING CELEBRATION – February 10th – 2:30pm (90 minutes)

First Congregational Church

No registration fee (personal donations welcome). Brochures and registration forms are available in church, or contact Susan Andrews (sra@wgpc.org or 314-962-9210 X3210). Registration encouraged by January 4. Both Deb Grossman and Nancy Wagner are veterans of Month of Prayer and Grace, and are willing to share their experiences.





Shine bright

Donate Gently Used Items to Troop 300

The Troop 300 Savers Donation will take place on Saturday February 2, 2019. As you clean out after the holidays, save your items for the Troop. Please bring your gently used clothes, household items, or books to the church parking lot on February 2nd where members of Troop 300 can help you unload your car. We'll then bring the items to the Savers resale shop in Crestwood for donation and eventual resale.

Every wins with this event:

You win because unwanted stuff is out of your house

The troop wins because we'll turn your items into funds to support our scouts

Local charities win as they receive a donation from Savers

The earth wins as donated items won't get thrown out and end up in a landfill

Music in a Great Place

Sue Taylor, Harpist

January 27, 2019

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Sue Taylor teaches harp at Washington University, Webster University, and the Community Music School. She is harpist with the St. Louis Philharmonic and with other orchestras in the area. Dr. Taylor holds a Ph. D in musicology from Washington University where she teaches courses in music history. Her area of research is the use of the harp in orchestral music and opera, with focus on the writing for harp in the works of Gustav Mahler.





Begin at the beginning

WGPC Happenings

Special Thanks from Beyond Housing

We received a letter from Beyond Housing thanking us for the \$1,300 that we gifted them. With these funds, they will be able to revitalize Pine Lawn with a new park and 41 new affordable houses, which will help open doors to homeownership and economic security for hundreds of families.



Give-A-Meal-A-Month January Menu

Canned Pasta
(ravioli, spaghetti w/meatballs, etc.)
Canned Mixed Vegetables – low or no salt
Canned Peaches – lite or in fruit juice
Powdered Milk

Additional Needs: Diapers, wipes

Do You Want to Get Involved?

If so, then join us as we volunteer at Home Sweet Home on the first Friday of every month, 9- Noon. You don't need to commit to every Friday or for the entire 3 hours. Come when you can and work as long as you can. We'll be in the warehouse, sorting and displaying donations and shopping with clients. Dress appropriately (it can be cool in the winter and warm in the summer).

For planning purposes, sign up: www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054CA4AC2BA5FE3-home1. If you have any questions, call Sue Scott at 314-630-5662. January 4th is full, but we hope to see you on February 1st as we continue to kick off this exciting project!





Let them lead the way

Kids, Tweens & Teens

Annual Agape Pancake Breakfast Sunday, January 27

On Sunday, January 27, from 8:45 -10:15 a.m. (Agape members arrive at 6:45 a.m.), Agape will be preparing and serving their annual pancake, sausage and applesauce breakfast in Fellowship Hall to support their 2019 Mission Trip project to raise money to buy new mattresses for The Pilgrimage in Washington DC. You don't want to miss it!

While in Washington DC, Agape will participate in service learning through organizations serving the working poor, homeless, and hungry. It is a mission trip that will expose the group to life-changing experiences, because of the amazing ministry of The Pilgrimage. We are honored to be raising money to support them and all of the groups who come to visit them throughout the year.

A BIG Agape Thank You

Thank you for your support of Agape's Dinner Theater on November 18. The theme this year was "History". It was another successful evening showcasing the wonderful talent of our Youth. Through your generosity, we raised over \$2,500 toward our goal to purchase new mattresses for The Pilgrimage, the ministry we will be partnering with during Mission Trip 2019. We are so thankful for your belief in Agape's ministry!

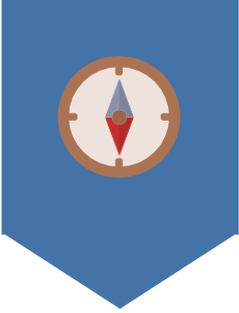
We are excited that this change to Dinner Theater was such a success and we look forward to doing it again next year.

Super Bowl Sunday of Mission Sunday, February 3

Agape and Celtics, along with their parents, will participate in a morning of mission on Super Bowl Sunday. We will be making 17,500 meals to be sent to the world's hungriest people with Rise Against Hunger. Be watching for more information but plan on helping to set up beginning at 9:20 a.m. and then staying to make meals or come for the second shift and help clean up. We hope the entire congregation will join us for this day of mission.

Winter Children's Offering

During January and February, the Children's Offering will go to the International Institute of St. Louis' monthly immunization clinic for kids. The offerings of our children will help ensure that refugee children in our region have snacks, juice boxes, and toys to comfort them as they get the shots they need to stay healthy.



Be an advocate for others

[Learn More About Advocacy](#)

...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

As we explore social justice and advocacy at WGPC, we know that we have many different perspectives and passions. We have many things to share and to learn from one another. The newly formed Advocacy Team has been working on a mission statement which will guide us on what we are called to do, how we will do our work and what we will do. We will be sharing this with the session in January. In the meantime, we continue to look for learning and advocacy opportunities that will meet people where they are on their own journey.

Interested in learning more about Advocacy activities and opportunities?

Please join our email list by sending your email address to Susan Andrews (sra@wgpc.org). We will send out emails about once a month with information related to our efforts and opportunities in the community which may interest you. Know of an opportunity we might be interested in? Please forward it to Julie Wood (juliewood66@mac.com) for inclusion in the Advocacy emails.

Sue Scott and Emmy McClelland – Co-Convenors

[We Would Love Your Change](#)

As the new year begins, we wanted to remind everyone that our congregation has an ongoing change collection to support our mission work. This program year's recipient is the International Institute of St. Louis and the programs that they have created for refugee and immigrant teens in St. Louis. International Institute's mission is "to help immigrants and their families become productive Americans and champion ethnic diversity as a cultural and economic strength." Their staff runs an after-school program for Roosevelt High School's foreign-born students who are new to the US. There they provide after-school tutoring and recreation programs. Your change is helping to support these programs by providing school supplies, books and sports equipment. Look for our collection jars in the narthex and Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings and drop in some change to help these kids! If you would like to make a donation by check, please make it to WGPC with Change4Change in the memo.



We thank you

Thanks for Giving to the Giving Tree

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the Giving Tree this year! We sent 65 pillows plus towels and silverware to those moving into homes and being served by Home Sweet Home, 35 wonderful comforters to clients of EnergyCare, 63 games and puzzles to teenagers living at Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services residential homes, scholarship money to students in Nicaragua and our preschool, gift cards and fleece throws to teenagers who are dealing with homelessness, pajamas/socks/underwear to children in foster care, and much more! Your gifts and financial contributions were so generous and we are grateful to you for helping to make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Get Involved with Winter Outreach

Are you worried about our un-housed neighbors staying warm and safe during these cold winter months? Did you know that St. Louis has no 24-hour shelter? Would you like to do something about it? Oak Hill Presbyterian Church (4111 Connecticut St.) works with St. Louis Winter Outreach, a group of concerned citizens who volunteer to provide emergency housing and help during the coldest St. Louis nights. Each Wednesday when the temperature is below 25F, we provide shelter for un-housed neighbors at the church. We are seeking volunteers! No experience required! We'll train you on the job! You don't need to be available every Wednesday, we'll be glad to take you whenever can make it. If you're interested in volunteering, or would like more information, please contact Dena Roper at dnmr-1@charter.net or at 314-562- 4533.



Epiphany Cafe: Prayer Tour

On Sundays January 6, 13, and 20, join us in Fellowship Hall at 9:30am for Epiphany Cafe! This will be a time of light refreshments, warm beverages, fellowship, and a chance to deepen your prayer life. Each week we will "tour" through three different types of prayer, offering an opportunity to experience and reflect on a wide range of ways of being present with God. All are welcome!

The Webster Presbyterian (USPS 671-120) is published, monthly from January 1 to December 31, each year by the Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 West Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, MO 63119. Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, MO. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Webster Presbyterian, 45 West Lockwood Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119.



WGPCONNECTOR

• • •

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church
45 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119-2931
(314) 962-9210 • Fax (314) 962-9214
www.wgpc.org

Periodicals
Postage
Paid at
St. Louis, MO



Articles for the February Newsletter
are due to Julie no later than 1/15.
Send to jab@wgpc.org