



# WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

45 West Lockwood Ave. ♦ Webster Groves, MO 63119

314-962-9210 ♦ wgpc.org

Baptism of the Lord ♦ January 7, 2024 ♦ 9:30 a.m.

## Our Mission:

We seek to live Christ's love, welcome all people,  
and joyfully serve God.



*As the music begins, let us use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith as the people of God.*

✦ *When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

## Gathering for God's Word

PRELUDE

"We Three Kings"  
Worship Band

Brickman/Wingfield

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

### ✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the beginning,  
God created the heavens and the earth.  
The Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters;  
then God said: Let there be light,  
and God saw that it was good.  
At the beginning of his ministry,  
Jesus was baptized by John.  
The heavens opened, and the Spirit descended like a dove;  
then God said: This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

### ✦ OPENING HYMN #401

"Here in This Place"  
(See music in back of bulletin.)

GATHER US IN

### ✦ CALL TO CONFESSION

L: A prophet appeared in the wilderness,  
calling the people to repent, be baptized,  
and prepare the way of the Lord.  
We return to the water to confess our sins,  
giving thanks for the grace of Jesus Christ,  
the one who has come to save us.

✠ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray:

**P: God of all glory, you look from heaven  
and see us as we are -  
not worthy to kneel at your feet,  
not ready to welcome your way.  
Forgive us, gracious God.  
In Christ, stop down to save us;  
loosen the ties that bind us to sin  
and set us free to love and serve you;  
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

✠ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Hear the good news of the gospel:

As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so God says to each of us:

You are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

✠ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**P: And also with you.**

✠ RESPONSE #582

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

GLORY TO GOD

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

# Proclaiming God's Word

## SCRIPTURE CONVERSATION

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Greta Buck

L: Let us pray:

Send down your Holy Spirit, O God –  
tear open the veil of heaven  
and speak to us as beloved children  
so that we may hear and believe  
the good news of your Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1-5

Pew Bible pg. 1  
Greta Buck

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:4-11

Pew Bible pgs. 34-35

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

Rev. Ed Zumwinkel

# Responding to God's Word

## Ordination and Installation

### SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Matt Miller

*The moderator (M) addresses all present.*

M: There are varieties of gifts,  
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.  
There are different ways of serving God,  
but it is the same Lord who is served.  
God works through each person in a unique way,  
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.  
To each is given a gift of the Spirit  
to be used for the common good.  
Together we are the body of Christ,  
and individually members of it.

### STATEMENT ON ORDINATION

M: We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism,  
and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit.  
This is our common calling,  
to be disciples of Jesus Christ  
and servants of our servant Lord.  
Within the community of the church,  
some are called to particular service  
as deacons, as ruling elders, and as ministers of Word and Sacrament.  
Ordination is Christ's gift to the church,  
assuring that his ministry continues among us.  
Through ordination, God provides  
for acts of care and compassion in the world,  
for the ordering and governance of the church,  
and for the preaching of the word and celebration of the sacraments.

RE: Representing the one holy catholic and apostolic church, Scott Lyon, Ruling Elder  
the session of Webster Groves Presbyterian Church  
now ordains **Rebecca Lyon, Jonathan Martin, and Nelly Miyazaki** to ministry  
as deacons,  
and ordains **Margy Beggs-Irwin and Linn Smyth** to ministry as ruling elders,  
and installs them to active service in this congregation.

RE: The session also installs to active service those who have been previously ordained:  
**Deacons Kristy Anderson, Jane Fairbanks, Laurie Goodfellow,  
Donna Massow, and Karen Schneider;**  
and ruling elders **Todd Dillon, Leslie McCormick, Elizabeth Thompson,  
and Joanna Van Der Tuin.**

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH

M: As God calls some to particular forms of ministry,  
God calls us all to bear gladly the yoke of Christ  
given in the covenant of Baptism.  
Let us, therefore, reaffirm our baptismal vows,  
renouncing all that opposes God and God's rule  
and affirming the faith of the holy catholic church.

*The moderator addresses the congregation and candidates:*

M: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,  
do you turn from the ways of sin  
and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ  
and accept him as your Lord and Savior,  
trusting in his grace and love? **I do.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,  
obeying his Word and showing his love? **I will, with God's help.**

✠ M: Let us stand.  
With the whole church, let us confess our faith.  
Do you believe in God the Father?

✠ P: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

✠ M: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

✠ P: **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

✠ M: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

✠ **P: I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

M: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

M: Gracious and eternal God,  
with joy we give you thanks and praise.  
We praise you for leading your people Israel  
through the waters of the sea,  
out of bondage and into freedom in the land of your promise.

We praise you for sending Jesus your Son,  
who for us was baptized in the waters of the Jordan,  
and was anointed as the Christ by your Holy Spirit.  
Through the baptism of his death and resurrection  
you set us free from the bondage of sin and death,  
and give us cleansing and rebirth.

We praise you for pouring out your Holy Spirit,  
who teaches us and leads us into all truth,  
filling us with a variety of gifts,  
that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations  
and serve you as a royal priesthood.

We rejoice that you have claimed us in our baptism  
and anointed us for service in Christ's name,  
and that by your grace we are born anew.

By your Holy Spirit renew us,  
that we may be empowered to do your will  
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all glory and honor, now and forever. **Amen.**

M: Remember your baptism and be thankful.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

M: **Kristy, Jane, Laurie, Rebecca, Jonathan,  
Donna, Nelly, Karen, Margy, Todd,  
Leslie, Linn, Elizabeth, and Joanna,**

in baptism, you were claimed by the love of God,  
clothed in the grace of Jesus Christ,  
and anointed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit  
to share Christ's mission in the world.

Now you are called by God through the voice of the church  
for new service and ministry in Jesus' name.

In accordance with the Constitution  
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),  
show your commitment to this calling by responding to these questions:

Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ your Savior,  
acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church,  
and through him believe in one God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments  
to be, by the Holy Spirit,  
the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal,  
and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt  
the essential tenets of the Reformed faith  
as expressed in the confessions of our church  
as authentic and reliable expositions  
of what Scripture leads us to believe and do,  
and will you be instructed and led by those confessions  
as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ,  
under the authority of Scripture,  
and be continually guided by our Confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity,  
and will you abide by its discipline?  
Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them,  
subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.** *Continued >>*

M: Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ,  
love your neighbors,  
and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people  
with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

### *For Deacons*

M: Will you be a faithful deacon,  
teaching charity, urging concern,  
and directing the people's help  
to the friendless and those in need,  
and in your ministry will you try to show  
the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

### *For Ruling Elders*

M: Will you be a faithful ruling elder,  
watching over the people,  
providing for their worship, nurture, and service?  
Will you share in government and discipline,  
serving in councils of the church,  
and in your ministry will you try to show  
the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

### *For Deacons and/or Ruling Elders*

RE: Do we, the members of the church,  
accept these disciples of Christ as ruling elders and deacons,  
chosen by God through the voice of this congregation  
to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Scott Lyon, Ruling Elder

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them,  
to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us,  
serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

### PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

M: Gracious and eternal God,  
with joy we give you thanks and praise.  
Throughout the ages and in every place  
you have chosen servants from among your people  
to point the way to salvation by your grace.

*For Those Who Are to Be Newly Ordained*

M: Gracious God,  
pour out your Spirit upon your servants  
**Rebecca, Jonathan, Nelly, Margy, and Linn,**  
whom you called by baptism as your own.  
Grant them the same mind  
that was in Christ Jesus.

*For Those Previously Ordained, Now to Be Installed*

M: Gracious God,  
we also give you thanks for your servants  
**Kristy, Jane, Laurie, Donna,**  
**Nelly, Todd, Leslie, Elizabeth, and Joanna,**  
as they continue in the ministry  
to which you have called them.  
Help them to rely on the gifts of your Spirit  
and to follow Christ faithfully in this calling.

Gracious God,  
pour out your Spirit of power and truth upon the whole church,  
that we may be for you a holy people  
baptized to serve you in the world.  
Sustain your church in ministry.  
Ground us in the gospel, secure our hope in Christ,  
strengthen our service to the outcast,  
and increase our love for one another,  
offering a compelling witness in the world  
to the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

DECLARATION OF ORDINATION [AND INSTALLATION]

*For Deacons and/or Ruling Elders*

M: **Kristy, Jane, Laurie, Rebecca,**  
**Jonathan, Donna, Nelly, Karen,**  
**Margy, Todd, Leslie, Linn,**  
**Elizabeth, and Joanna,** you are deacons and ruling elders,  
ordained to ministries of service and governance  
in the church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation.  
Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life  
will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ. **Amen.**

WELCOME

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Let us pray to the Lord, saying,  
Give strength, O Lord, **and bless us with peace.**

All-glorious God,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
hear us as we pray:  
Give strength, O Lord.

**P: and bless us with peace.**

L: We pray for the world you have made . . . .  
Move again over these troubled waters,  
steeped in chemicals and stained with blood.  
Where carelessness and violence bring chaos  
restore order, goodness, and life.  
Give strength O Lord,

**P: and bless us with peace.**

L: We pray for the church you have redeemed . . .  
Renew in us the gifts of your spirit  
and the call to Christian discipleship.  
Where history and heresy have divided us,  
make us one in the baptism we share.  
Give strength, O Lord,

**P: and bless us with peace.**

L: We pray for the peoples you have created . . .  
Give to the leaders of all nations  
the wisdom to know what is good.  
Where people are poor and hungry  
provide justice and daily bread.  
Give strength, O Lord,

**P: and bless us with peace.**

L: We pray for the loved ones you have given us . . .  
Bless our families, friends, and neighbors;  
keep them safe from trouble and danger.  
Where there is sorrow, sickness, or suffering  
send your Spirit of comfort and healing.

**(JOYS AND CONCERNS)**

Give strength, O Lord,

**P: and bless us with peace.**

L: All this we pray in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
whose voice is our strength and salvation,  
whose breath is the Spirit of peace. **Amen.**

#### OFFERING INVITATION

Greta Buck

L: The earth belongs to God, our creator;  
every good thing is a gift from the Lord.  
Let us glorify God through the gifts of our lives.

OFFERING (For those not using the offering plate, your offering can be made  
by texting ALMS to 73256 or using the QR code to the right)



#### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Carol of the Baptism"  
Chancel Choir

George Brandon

#### ✦ DOXOLOGY

"With Grateful Joy"

Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

With grate - ful joy for you the source of all life,  
we raise one voice to you from whom all bles - sings flow.  
You are the Giv - er of life, you are the Lov - er of life,  
the Good Sus - tain - er of Life. We live in you.

#### ✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Greta Buck

L: Let us pray:  
We give you thanks, O God,  
for every blessing and spiritual gift you have poured out upon us.  
Let the gifts of our lives be a source of blessing in your world,  
all to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

## Sending

✠ CLOSING HYMN

"Light of the World"  
Diane Watson, cantor

Bergthold/Cash

*(Please sing refrain at hand motion of the cantor.)*

Sing hal - le - lu - jah, sing hal - le - lu - jah. Sing hal - le - lu - jah for the things He has  
done! Come and a - dore Him, bow down be - fore Him. Sing hal - le - lu - jah to the  
Light of the World.

✠ CHARGE

L: Go forth in the light and love of God,  
giving glory to God in all that you do.

✠ BLESSING

L: Beloved children of God  
(Spirit, Son, and Father),  
all the blessings of heaven are yours. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"I've Just Come from the Fountain"  
Shawn Portell, organ

Billingham

*You are welcome to stay for the postlude, especially when we have musical guests.  
If you would like to respond at the end, please do so with an "Amen."*

## Biographies

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### **Kristy (Kristyn) Anderson – Deacon**

Although I have attended Presbyterian churches for most of my life, I was pleased to become a member of WGPC in 2016. When one joins a congregation, one becomes part of a church family, and I am blessed to be a member of this family. I reside in Affton and am retired after working for ten years as an occupational therapist. I miss serving people in my profession, so I look forward to serving as a deacon for a second time and helping our church members in any capacity that is needed.

### **Margy (Margaret) Beggs-Irwin - Elder**

I grew up in Fulton, Missouri, and was an active member of the First Christian Church. I moved to St. Louis in 1985 and lived in the Shaw Neighborhood where I became a member of the Tyler Place Presbyterian Church. When my children started school, I moved to Glendale and joined WGPC in 1998. I served in many roles over those years: deacon, Sunday school teacher, usher and choir member. After my children were out of high school and I divorced, I pulled away from the church for a few years. My husband George joined the church earlier this year, and we couldn't be more thrilled to be a part of this community. I look forward to serving the church as an elder.

### **Todd Dillon – Elder**

My family and I joined the church back in 1992 having relocated to the St. Louis area from Cincinnati in 1986. Our young children were both baptized at WGPC shortly after we joined. Our kids participated in the various youth activities, including several Mission trips over the years. I have served on the Stewardship Committee and led the effort one year under the Carothers leadership. We have made many close friends at WGPC over the years, and I am looking forward to my second stint as elder and working with the team and staff at WGPC.

### **Jane Fairbanks – Deacon**

Jane Fairbanks has been a member of WGPC for five years. She and her husband Shane have a daughter, Lia, who is a sophomore at Webster Groves High School. Their son Peter, his wife Lydia, and children Isak and Lotte live in St. Petersburg, Florida. Jane has served as a deacon the past three years and as moderator of the deacons in 2023.

### **Laurie Goodfellow – Deacon**

Laurie has been a member of WGPC for over 35 years. She has served as an elder, trustee, and Stephen Minister and is currently on Environmental Stewardship Committee and serves as a deacon. She is married to Lafe Goodfellow and recently retired from a long real estate career.

### **Rebecca Lyon – Deacon**

Rebecca Lyon joined WGPC along with her husband Scott in October 2021. Together they have three cats, Miso, Mochi, and Russel. Rebecca is part of the Environmental Stewardship Committee and has served as an usher. Outside of church, she works as a senior account executive for Momentum, an advertising agency.

### **Jonathan Martin – Deacon**

Jonathan Martin has been a member of WGPC since the spring of 2023. He is a portfolio manager in commercial real estate banking and enjoys outdoor activities with his dog Millie. He is involved in the Iona young adult group.

### **Donna Massow – Deacon**

I have been a WGPC member for 33 years. During that time, I have served as a deacon twice and on Session once. My daughter Erika grew up here and enjoyed many youth activities. I am retired and live in Webster Groves and am looking forward to serving God and my Church as a deacon.

### **Leslie McCormick – Elder**

I am a child of this congregation having served previously as an elder and also as a trustee. Retired from Nestle Purina since 2019 and widowed in 2023, I am an avid cyclist, bridge player, reader, and a mediocre pickleball player.

### **Nelly Miyazaki – Deacon**

I became a member of WGPC last year (2023) after visiting with my now husband David Miyazaki since 2018, when we started dating. We got married in June 2023. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, I have a 28-year-old son of my own and two bonus daughters (David's kids). I work full-time for Washington University School of Medicine as an imaging research specialist.

**Karen Schneider – Deacon**

Karen Schneider has been a member of WGPC since 1974. She has served as a deacon several times and works with the Memorial Garden Committee. She and her husband Bruce raised two sons in the church, and she is now the proud grandma of four grandkids.

**Linn Jensen Smyth – Elder**

Becoming a widow was the final incentive to uproot from decades in Texas and make a last, forever home. Moving here in 2020 – smack in the middle of a worldwide epidemic – became an added, unexpected adventure. Finding (online) the vibrant community of WGPC was simply a joy! As health fears have eased, I have joined in the Thursday morning Disciples' Bible Study and have rediscovered playing handbells. Who can say "no" to the continuing, gracious outreach embodied in the warm hands that have met mine at WGPC? I hope my service as an elder can mirror such love.

**Elizabeth Thompson – Elder**

I started attending WGPC shortly after we moved to St. Louis in November 2021. I have served as a deacon and an elder in previous churches. I am delighted to be a part of this worshipping and witnessing community and feel honored to serve.

**Joanna Van Der Tuin – Elder**

Joanna is a current elder and serving on the Mission Commission and has formerly served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher. She has been a member of the church for 25 years. She is married to Gary Krautmann and has three grown children. She and Gary are retired and work part-time.

## Welcome to WGPC

- **FRIENDSHIP PADS:** Please sign the friendship pads located at the end of each pew.
- **CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN WORSHIP:** The nursery (designed for children from newborn through three) is open from 8:45 to 11:45 a.m. But if you need to step out of the Sanctuary, the new Gathering Spot (formerly the front office) will be open with a comfy place to relax with toys, books, coffee, and a live-stream of the worship service.
- **COMMUNION:** Everyone is invited to participate in Communion including children and the unbaptized.
- **ASSISTIVE DEVICES:** Hearing devices, large print hymnals, and cushions are available. One of our ushers will be happy to assist you.
- **WELCOME BAGS:** If you are a visitor or know someone who might be interested in WGPC, please pick up a red welcome bag at our Welcome Station in the main hallway or at the church entrances.

### Those Who Serve Today

Ruling Elder: Scott Lyon

Liturgist: Greta Buck

Greeters: Linda and Tom McNeely

Ushers: Donna Bellows, Vicki Lane, Bill Schwartz,  
and Allan Scott

Tech Team: Lia Fairbanks, Tom McNeely, Rob  
Meyer, Spencer Roudebush, Joey Stokes, and  
Dennis Wacker

Nursery Caregiving Team: Anna Stokes, Debbie  
Goss, Tammy Graning, Carrie Rao

Office Assistance: Leigh Porter



Online Worship: Our worship services are live-streamed and video recorded for viewing on our website ([wgpc.org](http://wgpc.org)) and YouTube pages. Children's participation in the Scripture Conversation indicates implied parental consent to be recorded.

Resources: Some prayers and liturgical texts for worship are provided by: Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1 © 2012; Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2 © 2014; Westminster John Knox Press from Book of Common Worship © 2018.

### Ministry Staff

314-962-9210

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Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Art Webster,  
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## January 7, 2024 Announcements

### MISSION

#### Thank You for Giving to the Giving Tree



Thanks so much to everyone who contributed to the Giving Tree this year! We sent:

- 28 comforters, three sets of pots, five pillows, a crock pot, a toaster, and a great variety of utensils and kitchen items to Home Sweet Home;
- 26 comforters to clients of EnergyCare;
- 42 toys, games, clothing items, and other gifts to teenagers living in foster care served by Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services;
- a car full of coats, pajamas, and underwear to children served by Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition;
- overflowing baskets of gifts and food to two single moms and their five kids served by Beyond Housing;
- funds for development projects in Nicaragua through CEPAD; and
- funds for food baskets for Webster-Rock Hill Ministries' clients.

Approximately \$8,000 worth of items and financial donations were shared, and we are grateful to you for helping to make a difference in the lives of those in need.

#### Help Un-hang the Christmas Greens!

*Today, January 7, following Worship*

If you have a little time to spare after Worship, please stay a few minutes and help us take down the Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary and outside. Many hands will make light work!

#### WGPC Advocacy Presents Representative Jo Doll on Legislative Issues

*Tuesday, January 9, 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge and by Zoom*

**Presentation:** "Upcoming Legislation, The Watch List and How to Navigate the Legislative System." Join the Advocacy Team as we hear State Representative Jo Doll discuss the state of Missouri's legislative climate and upcoming legislation to watch. Jo will also share how and where to navigate Missouri's government web sites to find out more about our legislators and upcoming legislation, as well as how to submit testimony for hearings. (If possible, bring laptops and iPads so that you can walk through the sites along with Jo.) For a Zoom link, see the Friday Flash.

**Action:** Sign up for the Rapid Response list to be notified of urgent upcoming legislative hearings and votes.



**Keep St. Louisans Warm!**  
**Agape Needs Donations**  
**of Gloves, Hats, and Scarves**  
**by Friday, January 12**



This year's Martin Luther King Day of Service project for our Agape youth is called "Keep St. Louis Warm" and involves collecting gloves, hats, and scarves for people who are unhoused to stay comfortable during our cold winter weather. Agape members will leave these items tied to posts and railings with a note stating: "I am not lost. If you are in need, please take me to keep warm." You can help with this project by donating adult-size mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats. Just place your donation in the bin marked for this purpose in the Mission Hub by Friday, January 12, at the latest. They will be distributed on Sunday, January 14. Thank you for helping our young people serve the community!



#### Last Chance: Holiday Light Recycling

*Ending Monday, January 8*

There is a bin outside of the Hale Entrance where you can drop your burnt-out bulbs! Let neighbors and friends know and help keep these items out of our landfills.

#### Calling all Unwanted 2024 Calendars

If you've received a surplus of calendars for the new year that you do not need, bring them the Gathering Spot to share with church members who may need one. There is a place marked on the counter where you can leave them (or help yourself to one)!

#### Prepare to Pack Some Meals with Rise Against Hunger!

*Save the date: Sunday, February 4, in Fellowship Hall following Worship*

Give your time to join the fight against hunger by packing meals with family and friends. This much enjoyed congregation-wide mission event will take place in Fellowship Hall after Worship where we will package 15,000 nutritious meals for distribution to children, families, and communities facing hunger around the world. Last year's meals were sent to Haiti – what a gift to know our efforts can help a community struggling from the devastating effects of earthquakes and hurricanes



## Give-A-Meal-A-Month January Menu

Help those served by Webster-Rock Hill Ministries by purchasing a bag of menu items and dropping it off in the Mission Hub. The GAMAM January menu is: canned pasta (ravioli, spaghetti with meatballs, etc.), canned mixed vegetables (low or no salt), canned peaches (lite or in juice), can of soup, and hot chocolate mix. Additional needs: diapers, baby wipes, diaper rash ointment.

## FAITH FORMATION

### FAITH FORMATION THIS WEEK

#### Sunday (January 7)

"Mindful Prayer Practice" 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday School for Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders  
(starts during Worship)  
Celtics 4:00 p.m.  
Agape 5:00 p.m.

#### Thursday (January 11)

Disciples' Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

#### Sunday (January 14)

Coffee & Conversation with the Lectionary 8:30 a.m.  
"The Historical Jesus and the Christ of Faith" 10:45 a.m.

*Detailed information about Faith Formation opportunities can be found online at [wgpc.org](http://wgpc.org) (click on the Ministries tab, then click on Faith Formation).*

## The Historical Jesus and the Christ of Faith:

### A Roadmap for the Confused Believer

*Sundays, January 14 and 21, 10:45 a.m. in the Parlor and by Zoom*

Dr. Ruben Rosario-Rodriguez will return to lead this intriguing class which will explore the interplay of history and faith in our knowledge of Jesus. Dr. Rosario is the Clarence Louis and Helen Steber Professor of Theological Studies at Saint Louis University. He is also an ordained minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and currently serves as moderator for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

### Bulletin and Friday Flash Deadlines

Announcements for the bulletin and Friday Flash are limited to **150 words or less**. They are due by the end of Tuesday prior to the desired Friday or Sunday. For the bulletin, email [baf@wgpc.org](mailto:baf@wgpc.org). For the Friday Flash, email [chb@wgpc.org](mailto:chb@wgpc.org). If you'd like the announcement to appear in both, please email to both addresses.

## Today's Adult Faith Formation . . .

### Mindful Prayer Practice

*10:45 a.m. in the Parlor and by Zoom*

Please join us to learn about praying with a labyrinth. Led by Jan Hanson and Meg Krejci, we will participate in guided meditation, learn about the history of praying with labyrinths in churches around the world, create tabletop labyrinths for use in personal prayer, and share ideas for walking meditation. If you attend on Zoom, please have paper and pencils or pens available, so you can draw a labyrinth. If you also have string or yarn and glue available, even better! In the chat on Zoom, we will post a link to Google Drive with the slides and handouts, including instructions for drawing a labyrinth. For those attending in person, we will have handouts and supplies available. For more information or questions, please contact Jan Hanson at [jhanson874@gmail.com](mailto:jhanson874@gmail.com) or Meg Krejci at [megkrejci@aol.com](mailto:megkrejci@aol.com).

# Here in This Place

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## Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.

Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,

we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.