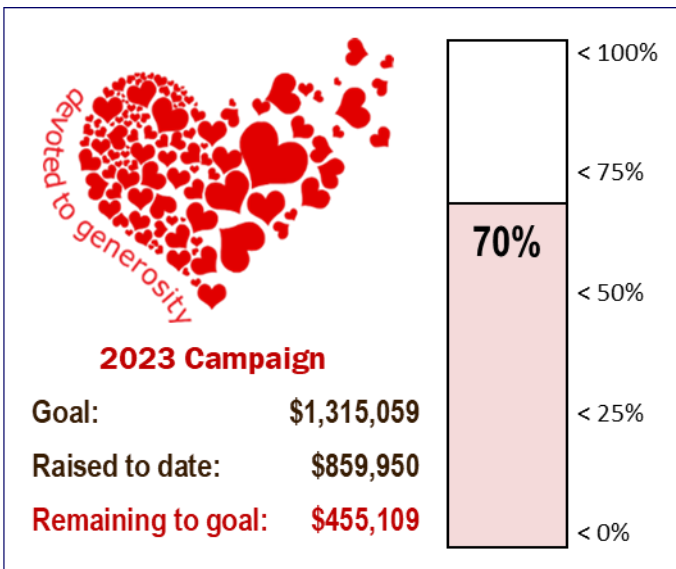


December 4, 2022 Announcements

WORSHIP

“Devoted to Generosity” Update

Our stewardship campaign is living up to its name with generous donors outpacing last year’s pledges at this time. We’re close to 70 percent of our goal for meeting next year’s planned budget with just over \$455,000 still sought. Such generosity underscores our members’ gratitude for God’s love and our quest to fulfill Jesus Christ’s call for caring for the least of us. Your donations will pay for our ministry, our missions, and our staff. Please submit your pledge during December by visiting wgpc.org/give/pledge-now/.



Poinsettia Orders Are Being Accepted! Now through Sunday, December 11

You have the option of ordering poinsettias for the Sanctuary or to be delivered to a WGPC member who is homebound. All poinsettias are **\$10**. They can be ordered online by visiting: wgpc.org > click “Give” at the top of the screen > scroll down and click the blue “Give” box (or use the link in the Friday Flash). Then, enter an amount, select “Flowers” from the drop down and enter “Homebound Member” or “Sanctuary” in the memo field. If you’d like your flowers to be given in honor or in memory of someone, please indicate “honor” or “memory” and the name in the field as well. Pick your poinsettias up after the 9:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve or after the 9:30 a.m. service on Christmas Day. Questions? Please contact Jamie Scott at mjscott81012@gmail.com.

Music in a Great Place, 2022-2023



“And There Was Light” Festival of Lessons and Carols by Joseph M. Martin

*December 18, 2022
9:30 a.m. Worship Service*

WGPC Chancel Choir,
Glendale Presbyterian
Chancel Choir, and guest
orchestra

This cantata is a celebration of light. Filled with time-honored carols and expressive original songs, this work will dazzle and inspire. The first half of the cantata is dedicated to hopeful prophecies associated with the coming “Light of the World.” With the birth of Jesus, the second part moves forward to declare the tidings of great joy. Jesus lifts us from our dust and darkness and at last we claim the dawn. “Let there be light,” the heavens shout! And there was light!



Upcoming Advent and Christmas Events

- December 7: Christmas Luncheon
- December 11: Children’s Pageant
Deadline for Poinsettia orders
Family Christmas Movie at 11:00 a.m.
- December 18: Lessons and Carols
Deacons’ Christmas Reception
Youth Christmas Party at 5:00 p.m.
- December 24: Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00 and
9:00 p.m.
- December 25: Christmas Day Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Pageant is Next Sunday!

Join us during worship on December 11 as we experience the Christmas story as told by WGPC children and teens. They have been practicing for several weeks, have terrific costumes, and made dazzling Sanctuary decorations. There will be congregation participation with the waving of “stars on sticks.” This is definitely a Christmas Pageant not to be missed. We hope you’ll join us!

FELLOWSHIP

Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 7, 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Everyone is invited to a Christmas event with food, fellowship, and entertainment by Webster Groves High School musicians, plus a Christmas carol singalong with Shawn Portell. Renew friendships and meet new members. We would love to see you there! **RSVP today** by signing up in Fellowship Hall or emailing Donna Bellows at leebellow@att.net.

Family Christmas Movie: *The Star*

Sunday, December 11, 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
After Worship and our Christmas Pageant, please join us for a viewing of *The Star* while munching on pizza and popcorn. This family film focuses on a small but brave donkey and his animal friends who become the unsung heroes of the first Christmas. Invite your friends and family. All are welcome!

MISSION

Our Bountiful Gift to Others



Thank you for the fresh produce! Through the generosity of our members, we collected 1,175.6 pounds of fresh produce to share with families served by Isaiah 58 Ministries!! Thanks to those who donated, to our children for gathering, to all who jumped in to help sort the items after worship, and to those who loaded and delivered it. Many other churches and families donated additional items, and on November 21, Isaiah 58 provided full Thanksgiving meals to over 250 families. We are grateful to be able to partner with such wonderful organizations to lift up our community.

Holiday Light Recycling

Now through January 8
Please bring burned out strands of Christmas lights to the Hale entrance bin for recycling. Let neighbors and friends know of our bin and help save these items from our landfills.

Brighten the Holidays for Others!

Our Giving Tree continues and there are still many ways that you can help! Take a look at our Giving Tree list on page 14 to see all of the needs and deadlines for giving, then visit wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links/ or use the link in the Friday Flash to help with a particular need. Purchased items for children served by Beyond Housing or the Presbyterian Children's Homes, please return your



unwrapped gifts to the bin in the Mission Hub **today, December 4.** Remaining items are due by Wednesday, December 21 and financial donations will be accepted through December 29.

Party Treats Needed for Our Afghan Neighbors

Our Welcome Neighbor sponsors will be hosting a holiday party for the Afghan families and their partner volunteers on Saturday, December 10. We have been asked to help provide refreshments such as cookies, cupcakes, etc. Sign up using the link in the Friday Flash or at wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links/. Donations can be dropped off at Sue Scott's house at 449 Reavis Place in Webster Groves on **Thursday, December 8, or Friday, December 9.** The sign-up page also shows other items needed by our family.

Social Justice Film Club: *The U.S. and the Holocaust*

Tuesday, December 13, 7:00 p.m. by Zoom
All are welcome to join the second discussion of the new three-part film, *The U.S. and The Holocaust*, by Ken Burns, Lynn Novick, and Sarah Botstein. Burns' film examines the rise Nazism in Germany, the eugenics movement in the United States, and race laws in the American south. The series can be streamed for free on pbs.org prior to the discussion. See the Friday Flash for a link to a reflection sheet to aid in conversation.

WANT TO CONNECT?

Sign up for our emailed Friday Flash at wgpc.org/announcements/ to learn more about upcoming events with access to direct links for sign-ups and other resources.

Please submit bulletin announcements by the end of Tuesday prior to the desired Sunday. For the bulletin, contact Barbara Fischer at baf@wgpc.org. For the Friday Flash, contact Cherstin Byers at chb@wgpc.org.

FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION THIS WEEK

(see event descriptions below)

Sunday	Tuesday	Thursday
<p>Coffee and Conversation 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>Sunday Adult Education – no class today</p> <p>Youth Sunday School – no class today</p> <p>Celtics 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Agape 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Men’s Bible Study 8:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Disciples’ Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p>

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION

Please note: See the Friday Flash for the current Zoom link for Sunday Adult Education classes.

Coffee & Conversation with the Lectionary

Sundays, 8:30-9:15 a.m. in the Parlor and by Zoom
Participants will consider Biblical texts used in the day’s worship and explore historical settings and the people and issues involved. Leaders: Jeff Buck, Deb Grossman, and Pete Putnam.

Advent through Poetry and Art

Sundays, December 11 and 18, 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. in the Parlor and by Zoom
We examine the stories of Joseph and Mary and Elizabeth through poetry and art. How do words and images help scripture come alive? (Bring your favorites with you!)

SUNDAY YOUTH EDUCATION

Sunday School

Sundays, 10:40-11:45 a.m. in Room 210
Children pre-k through 5th grade gather for “Follow Me,” a curriculum based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. Each week also features music that prepares the children to sing in worship services throughout the year.

Celtics and Agape

Sunday Evenings, Youth Lounge

- Celtics, (6th through 8th grade), 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- Agape (9th through 12th grade), 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Youth today are seeking answers. Centered in Jesus Christ, Celtics and Agape ministries provide safe space for spiritual discussion as well as fellowship and fun while developing friendships. From 5:00-5:30 p.m. each week, all youth come together to break bread with a meal provided by church members. Interested in providing a meal? Sign up at wgpc.org/get-involved/sign-up-links.

OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE WEEK

Disciples’ Bible Study

Thursday Mornings 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., in the Parlor and by Zoom

This lively and interactive group will explore the Gospel of Matthew. Facilitated by Rev. Susan Andrews.

Men’s Bible Study

Tuesdays: November 22 and December 6 and 20, 7:00-8:00 a.m. by Zoom

Facilitated by Rev. Dale Kuhn, former director of Care and Counseling. Contact Frank Bloemke at ekmeolb@gmail.com.

Wednesday Evening Book Study

3rd Wednesday of the Month, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., in the Parlor and by Zoom

A discussion of the book *Do I Stay Christian?* by Brian McLaren led by rotating leadership. Contact Rev. Susan Andrews at sra@wgpc.org.

Theology on Tap

Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 p.m., C.J. Mugg’s, 101 West Lockwood Avenue

Monthly informal conversations about faith and life. Facilitated by Scott Lyon. Contact Scott at sjlyon33@gmail.com.

FREE ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Stop by the table next to the Giving Tree in the hall to pick up “Attending to Advent: Poetry, Prose, and Prayer” for daily devotions published by the *Presbyterian Outlook*.



THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree offers members a way to give to those in need at Christmas time and make a difference in our community. There are three ways to give:

1 - Shop for a specific need

Select a “wish” from the Signup Genius on the church website to help:

- Children supported by *Beyond Housing*
- Children supported by *Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services*



Deliver unwrapped gifts to the Giving Tree bin in the main hallway
by the Mission Hub by Sunday, December 4th.

2 - Shop for a variety of items to be shared with clients of local agencies

- New pajamas, coats, and underwear for kids ages 3-18
Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition
- New kitchen utensils, pans and comforters (sizes twin or queen)
Home Sweet Home

Deliver unwrapped gifts to the Giving Tree bin in the main hallway by the Mission Hub
by Wednesday, December 21st.

3 - Make a cash donation

Your cash donations will help us provide:

- Faith-based training to people in rural Nicaraguan villages through programs in leadership training, sustainable agricultural practices, and economic development led by *CEPAD*
- Gift cards for neighbors served by *Webster-Rock Hill Ministries*
- Gift cards for teachers at *Urban Sprouts* to buy classroom supplies
- Comforters for neighbors served by *EnergyCare*
- Extra items for the organizations listed above in #1 & #2



Checks can be made to **WGPC** with “Giving Tree” and the agency in the memo, or by going to wgpc.org/give and selecting “Giving Tree” in the dropdown box.

Cash donations will be accepted through Thursday, December 29th.

Have questions? Contact Beth Kazlauskas at bok@wgpc.org.