

December 24-25, 2022 Announcements

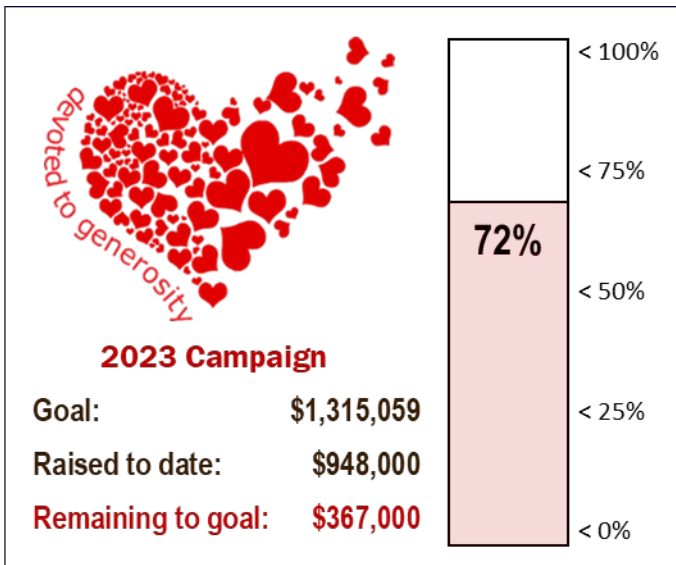
WORSHIP

Christmas Services

There will be a 9:00 p.m. service this evening (including the candlelight liturgy and communion) and a 9:30 a.m. service on Christmas Day. Please note: **The church nursery will not be staffed for the services on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.** Children are always welcome in worship! 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.

“Devoted to Generosity”

Our “Devoted to Generosity” pledge campaign for 2023 is continuing to outpace last year’s tallies, putting our church in a strong position as we seek to fulfill Jesus’ call to help those in need. A big “thank you” to all who have pledged so far. Members have submitted pledges totaling close to \$948,000. Just over \$367,000 is still being sought to meet our goal to fully fund the proposed 2023 budget, which pays for our missions and staff. Your generosity, especially during this busy holiday time, underscores our gratitude for God’s love and our quest to fulfill Jesus Christ’s call for caring for the least of us.



End of the Year Giving Reminder

Please send your End of the Year Giving to the Church Business Office by **Tuesday, December 27**, to be included on your 2022 statement. Your statement will be sent to you in January 2023. To check the status of your 2022 pledge payment, contact Joyce Kimmons at jlk@wgpc.org or Jan Scheurer at jls@wgpc.org.

FELLOWSHIP

“Women of a Certain Age” Group is BACK!

First Outing: Wednesday, January 18, 10:00 a.m.
What's a "certain age" for this fellowship group? Any age! The first outing of 2023 will be for a docent-guided tour at the St. Louis Art Museum. Join us to connect with old friends, meet new friends, and enjoy WGPC fellowship. Please sign up by Tuesday, January 17, using the link found in the Friday Flash. For more information, contact Michelle LePak at mml@wgpc.org.

Free MLK Concert at Powell Hall

Monday, January 16, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Powell Hall, 718 North Grand Blvd.

Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra at a free, one-hour, tribute concert with conductor Stephane Deneve and featuring the IN UNISON chorus directed by Kevin McBeth. Reservations are required and can be made by visiting shop.slsso.org/7439/7440. Parking at SLSO is \$20, but carpooling (leaving from WGPC at 6:45 p.m.) is being arranged by Julie Burchett who can be reached at burchett.juliekay@gmail.com. For more information, contact Janice Seele at seelest@aol.com before January 8 or Julie Burchett after January 8.

MISSION

Brighten the Holidays for Others!

Monetary donations accepted through Thursday, December 29

Thank you to all who have donated gifts through our Giving Tree to benefit our neighbors served by Beyond Housing, Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services, Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, and Home Sweet Home. Monetary donations will be accepted through this Thursday and used for faith-based training in the areas



of leadership, agricultural, and economic development in Nicaraguan villages; gift cards for clients of Webster-Rock Hill Ministries; gift cards for classroom supplies for Urban Sprouts teachers; comforters for those served

by EnergyCare; and other needed items. You can donate by check (noting “Giving Tree” in the memo) or online using the church website. Thank you!

Furniture Assemblers Needed

Sunday, January 8, 5:00-7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Do you love assembling IKEA furniture? Or just want a chance to partner with our youth? Then join us for our assembly event as we put together IKEA storage units for Home Sweet Home. We'll enjoy a pizza dinner together and then divide into small groups to work together on a fun challenge! Cloth bins will be added to make nice clothing storage units for children served by HSH. Sign up using the link in the Friday Flash. For more info, please contact Beth Kazlauskas at bok@wgpc.org.

Happy Holidays for Our Afghan Family



This past week, Welcome Neighbor held their “Baba Noel” party for families from Afghanistan and their American partners. The Welcome Neighbor organizers know capable women when they see them and so asked Sue Davis and Sue Scott to coordinate the food for a party of 300! We owe a huge thanks to all of our church members who generously baked cookies for the event. The abundance was notable and many families were able to take cookies home with them!

We Need Your Help

Those of us working with our Afghan family have a special request as we near our one-year anniversary of partnership. The program granting visas to Afghans who helped the U.S. Military is at risk of ending next year after an extension was left out of the annual defense policy bill. While we are working hard to get the family the status needed to continue on the path to U.S. citizenship, there are 60,000 Afghans in the same position and the government wheels turn very slowly. Please take a moment to contact our legislators and urge them to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act to allow the path to citizenship to move forward and the risk of being deported to cease. Their numbers are:

- Senator Josh Hawley (202) 224-6154
- Senator Roy Blunt (202) 224-5721
- Congresswoman Ann Wagner (202) 225-1621
- Congresswoman Cori Bush (202) 225-2406

December Give-A-Meal-A-Month

Give-A-Meal-A-Month provides a variety of healthy foods to create a meal for those served by Webster-Rock Hill Ministries. Donations can now be dropped off in the new Mission Hub! December's menu is: canned beef stew, canned peas (no or low salt), canned mixed fruit (lite or in fruit juice), box of au gratin potatoes, and hot chocolate. Additional needs: baby foods.

Holiday Light Recycling

Now through January 8

If you find burned out Christmas light strands this season, bring them to church for recycling. There is a bin outside of the Hale entrance marked for this purpose. Let neighbors and friends know about our community recycling bin, and together we will save these items from our landfills.

FAITH FORMATION

Sunday classes, Sunday School, Celtics and Agape will not meet again until Sunday, January 8.

Please note: The grief support group, Faithful Endings, Hopeful Beginnings, will not meet on Wednesday, December 28.

Holiday Hours and Staffing

From now through the holidays, WGPC staff coverage may be limited. Please call ahead before you visit. The WGPC offices will be closed on: Monday, December 26; Friday, December 30; and Monday, January 2.

Are You Connected with Us?

Stay “in the know” at WGPC by signing up for our emailed Friday Flash at wgpc.org/announcements for information about upcoming events with direct access to links for sign-ups and other resources. Just visit wgpc.org/announcements.

Deadlines for the Bulletin and Friday Flash

Please submit 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.